

The Traveling Wall is a replica of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington and brings the names of the fallen to cities across our great nation. According to Mena VFW Post 4451 Commander Linda Johnson, "Bringing the Wall to communities across the country spreads its healing legacy to millions."

I want to thank Commander Johnson, members of VFW Post 4451, and the citizens of Mena for their leadership in bringing this important piece of history to the Fourth Congressional District of Arkansas. May the lives of those killed during the Vietnam War never be forgotten.

HONORING THE LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. JIM
PARDINI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, Jim Pardini of Pardini's Banquet and Catering for being awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Central California Restaurant Association—Fresno Chapter. For the past thirty-six years, Pardini's Banquet and Catering has dedicated their facility to providing the utmost exquisite food service to all in the community. Jim is a pillar in the Central Valley, known not only for his success as a restaurateur, but also for his generous and giving spirit.

Jim was born to Albert and Mary Jane Pardini in Santa Cruz, California. The Pardinis would make Fresno their home in 1952. Jim graduated from San Joaquin Memorial High School in 1964 and went on to earn his Bachelor's degree in Social Science from Fresno State in 1968. Following in the hard working footsteps of his father, Jim carried on the family restaurant business started in 1948 by Al. By 1981, Jim and his wife Marie opened Pardini's Banquet and Catering and went on to acquire a Rubio's and four Tony Roma restaurants. Over time, Pardini's Catering has become the well-respected caterer of the Big Fresno Fair, the Fresno Convention Center and Fresno State's Bulldog Stadium.

To further his statewide impact in the restaurant industry, Jim helped to create the restaurant Political Action Committee. Then, as the president of the California Restaurant Association, he aided in developing the Grass-roots Program. Jim's accomplishments created new ways for restaurant owners to truly connect with law makers in California.

In addition to his impact on the restaurant industry, Jim has dedicated his time to philanthropy work within the community. He is a longtime supporter of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program and the Boys and Girls Club. In addition, he was presented with the honor of the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Muscular Dystrophy Association. With his many accomplishments thus far, Jim's success was fittingly recognized when he was inducted into the California Restaurant Association Foundation Hall of Fame. Through relentless hard work and dedication, Jim Pardini continues to leave a substantial mark in the restaurant industry and within our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the lifelong achievements of Jim

Pardini. I congratulate Mr. Pardini for this great achievement and ask that you join me in wishing him and his family continued success.

IN HONOR OF GARY SCHNIEDERS

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable teacher and citizen from Waterloo, Iowa. Mr. Gary Schnieders has taught History, Social Studies, and Economics at Waterloo Columbus Catholic High School for 39 years. Over those 39 years, Mr. Schnieders has made an enormous impact on the lives of his students and members of the community.

Mr. Schnieders's devotion goes beyond the classroom with his annual trip to the hallowed ground of Europe's battlefields. This trip is no European vacation. Students walk the trenches of the Western Front and explore battlefields with a twelve-mile hike one day and twenty-mile bike ride another day. Prior to their departure, students are given reading assignments and must complete a 20-page essay. While in Europe, the students have nightly homework assignments. This annual trip is highly anticipated and one that many Waterloo Columbus students work toward their entire high school career.

The itinerary also includes visits to several American cemeteries and memorials honoring our fallen heroes, and a wreath-laying ceremony at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery. On the final day, the students visit the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial where they clean the grave markers, plant an American flag, and lay a rose on the grave of every Iowan. At the end of the day, students lay their final wreath of the trip at Normandy as Taps sounds in the background.

Upon their return to Iowa, the students give presentations to their families, fellow students, and residents of Waterloo and Cedar Falls, with a special invitation extended to the local Veteran community.

Over the past 39 years, Mr. Schnieders has shown his students what cannot be taught in a classroom—the meaning of sacrifice and love of country. Today, we honor his devotion that extends far beyond the classroom and helps to ensure the preservation of American values for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT ANDEWEG

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Robert Andeweg of Urbandale, Iowa, for being named the 2017 Forty under 40 Alumnus of the Year.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age

are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. Robert was a member of the 2002 class and has not only continued being an active member of his community but he has expanded upon it since being honored in 2002.

Robert is known for being a leader within his community, which is why in 2005 he was elected Mayor of the City of Urbandale. He has been committed to overseeing the economic growth and development of Des Moines' largest suburb. When Robert isn't busy leading his community, he works as a lawyer at Nyemaster Goode P.C. He also works to improve his community by dedicating his time and serving on the Greater Des Moines Partnership Board, the Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Bravo Greater Des Moines Board and the Metropolitan Advisory Council.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Robert in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Robert on receiving this outstanding award and wishing him nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on March 10, 2017, I was not able to cast my vote on final passage of H.R. 720. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted NO on H.R. 720—Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2017.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY G. BROWN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 159, YEA on Roll Call No. 160, and YEA on Roll Call No. 161.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. BRETT
FRENCH

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to recognize Mr. Brett French as this year's individual recipient of the Distinguished Service Award (DSA). The Lake Superior Community Partnership's Distinguished Service Award is extended to businesses and individuals who support economic development in Marquette County.