

members include farmers, ranchers, and dairy producers who put food on Americans' dinner table every night. As a voice for agriculture, the organization has a goal of preserving California's fresh, local, and diverse agrarian culture for generations to come. It also leads the industry in addressing issues that result in long-term viability for agriculture through political action, community outreach, and public education. The Farm Bureau achieves their goal of advocating for the Central Valley by promoting economic vitality of the region through the work of its members.

The Fresno County Farm Bureau has been known to encourage all citizens to be supportive and appreciative of the incredible contribution farmers, ranchers, and farm workers make daily to the Central Valley community and economy.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Fresno County Farm Bureau on 100 years of contributions to our country and our Valley's agriculture industry. We commemorate the service of all the members of this organization who have worked collectively to improve, protect, and promote agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley, which has now become one of the breadbaskets of our nation. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the incredible contribution our farmers and ranchers make to the Central Valley community and our nation's economy.

HONORING NATIONAL PET DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Pet Day, which takes place every year on April 11th. While loving our pets is something we do every day, National Pet Day encourages us to give special care to pets who may not get that extra attention. This day was founded in 2006 by Pet and Family Lifestyle Expert and Animal Welfare Advocate Colleen Paige, to help raise public awareness about the plight of many different kinds of animals. This is a common sentiment among animal rights activists, and I want to give recognition to all the organizations we have worked with personally in the mission to protect our beloved pets. The Animal Hope and Wellness Foundation, the Humane Society of the United States, and Social Compassion in Legislation have worked extensively to better the lives of our four-legged friends. Together, we introduced H.R. 1406, the Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2017, which prohibits the slaughter and trade of dogs and cats for human consumption in the United States.

On January 6, 2017, I reintroduced H. Res. 30—Condemning the Dog Meat Festival in Yulin, China, and urging China to end the dog meat trade. This horrific festival dates back to 2009 through 2010, when it was launched by dog meat traders as a commercial enterprise to boost flagging sales of dog meat. More than 10,000 dogs are reported to be captured, transported and slaughtered every year for this Dog Meat festival, with more than 10 million dogs killed annually in China for the dog meat trade. Animal welfare groups have found that a number of these dogs are stolen pets

taken from their homes, still wearing their collars when they reach the slaughterhouse. Many dogs die during transport to the slaughterhouses after days or weeks without food or water, and others suffer illness and injury during transport, such as broken bones. These dogs suffer mentally from watching other dogs being disemboweled and blow-torched in front of them.

Yulin's dog slaughter takes place in residential areas and public marketplaces, imposing scenes of extreme animal cruelty on local residents, including young children who may, as a result, suffer psychological trauma and desensitization. The capture, transport, and butchering of dogs and the consumption of dog meat poses a risk to human health by exposing people to a multitude of diseases, including rabies and cholera. This practice, in my opinion, is completely unacceptable, and can be stopped by the diligent efforts of members of the Chinese government. Although the Yulin city government withdrew as a sponsor of the Dog Meat Festival, it has taken no meaningful action to enforce China's existing laws and regulations on animal disease control, food safety, trans-provincial dog transport, or youth protection, all of which are breached by the dog meat trade.

Activists from across the globe have continued the fight against this barbaric practice. I have been honored to work with Humane Society International, the Animal Hope and Wellness Foundation, the Vanderpump Dog Foundation, Duo Duo, the Animal Welfare Institute, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), Citizens Lobbyists for H. Res. 30, as well as countless other organizations to bring awareness and hopefully change to this inhumane practice and torture of dogs.

Next month, I will be introducing a resolution denouncing the global dog meat trade, by urging all countries that allow this cruel and barbaric practice to end it once and for all. Furthermore, in the lead up to the Yulin Dog Meat Festival and after the introduction of my global dog meat trade resolution, I do plan on holding another Congressional Briefing on Capitol Hill to provide an opportunity for animal rights activists to speak on behalf of the voiceless.

I also want to recognize and thank the animal welfare organizations in Palm Beach and Broward Counties, whose tireless efforts each and every single day are to be commended. In Palm Beach, the Animal Rescue Force South Florida; Peggy Adams; Palm Beach County Animal Care & Control; Justin Bartlett; Second Chance; Big Dog Ranch Rescue; Gaisha, Tundra & Spirit's Place Husky Rescue; Adopt a Cat Foundation; Tri-County Animal Rescue; South Florida Rabbit Rescue, and the Everglades Golden Retriever Rescue. In Broward County, the Florida Humane Society, Humane Society of Broward County; Broward County Animal Care and Adoption Center, Animal Aid, Inc.; and Abandoned Pet Rescue.

The work that all of these organizations do for animals is truly heartwarming and the lengths that they go to ensure their welfare is inspiring. National Pet Day reminds us to do all that we can to make certain animals are taken care of everywhere. Whether it is taking supplies to animal shelters, volunteering, helping a friend with his or her pets who is recovering from an illness, or adopting a pet.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of National Pet Day, I once again want to reiterate my heartfelt gratitude to those who have dedicated their

lives to help, protect, and save animals not only here in the United States, but also across the globe.

MITCHELL MONTALVO INVITED TO JOIN NATIONAL SOCIETY OF COLLEGIATE SCHOLARS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mitchell Montalvo of Katy, TX, for being invited to join the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS).

Mitchell is studying computer engineering at the University of Houston, where he accepted a full scholarship from the U.S. Air Force. Membership to NSCS is by invitation only and based on a student's class standing and grade-point average. NSCS is part of the Association of College Honor Societies and is the only interdisciplinary honors organization for first and second year college students in the country. After graduating, Mitchell plans to enter the Air Force as a second lieutenant, specializing in cyber warfare.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Mitchell Montalvo for his invitation to join NSCS. We are very proud of him and look forward to his future service to our country.

HONORING WILLIE WHITE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Willie White, who is an Educator, a Leader and Public Servant.

Willie is a native of Canton, MS, where he and his older brother, Booker T. Jones, grew up and were raised by their grandparents. He is the second oldest child of Earl Jones and Lonnie B. White Bratton. In the late forties, both parents relocated to different Northern states, married and other siblings were born. The 68 year old, credits his stern grandparents for him becoming the man he is today.

After receiving his Elementary and High School education from the Madison County Public School District, he entered Alcorn State University in the fall of 1967 on a track scholarship. To avoid being drafted by the Army or the Marine Corp after receiving draft notices from both, he joined the Navy in 1970, where he served for twenty-one years on active duty and ten years reserved duty. During this time he served three tours in the Vietnam War. Because of his brave and heroic acts, he was inducted into the San Diego Aerospace Museum Hall of Champions in Balboa Park in San Diego, CA in 1989, along with receiving numerous other medals and awards.

Willie retired from the military in 1990 and began working as a Logistic Management Specialist for Naval Air Technical Data and Engineering Service Command (NATEC), which is a department of the defense supporting the war fighters. During this time, he graduated from Defense Acquisition University, San Diego, CA.

His tenure as an athlete, a high school, college and military track coach combined for more than forty years. He received all conference honors in football and track for the U.S. Navy, qualified in Track & Field for the U.S. Olympic team in 1972, but due to military obligations was unable to attend; California High School Coach of the year five times, and received the KGTV Channel 10 San Diego award in 1999 for outstanding citizenship in the community. He also served as chaplain and spiritual leader for the Mill Park Home Boys organization in San Diego, California.

In 1963 and 1966, Willie marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Canton, MS. In 2000 he was awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr. award in Canton, for his participation in these marches trying to ensure equal and civil rights for all mankind.

Since moving to Grenada, MS in 2011, where he now calls home, Willie has been very active in the community. He is continuing to use his knowledge and skills volunteering in various clubs, groups and civic organizations. He serves as president of the Male choir, an usher and on the Board of Trustees at Greater Pleasant Grove M.B. Church, Gore Springs, MS. He has membership in the following organizations: Grenada 100 Black Men of America, Inc., The American Legion and V.F.W. Post, Grenada Baptist District Association Men Division, Grenada Chamber of Commerce Smile Team, Montgomery-Carroll-Grenada County Alcorn State University Alumni Chapter, Alcorn State University National Alumni Association, Community Relations Council member for Finch-Henry Job Corps Center, and a board member of Central Mississippi Incorporated. Willie also volunteers at Grenada High School by giving assistance to the track coach and the ROTC program.

He is the father of four children, ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Willie is currently married to his college sweetheart Mildrette Netter White, a 1968 Olympic Gold Medalist. When he is not busy giving back to the community, he enjoys singing, listening to music, gardening, traveling and spending time with his family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Willie White, an Educator, a Leader and Public Servant, for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American Community.

**VARTEGA CARBON FIBER
RECYCLING**

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vartega Carbon Fiber Recycling for winning the 2016 Innovative Technology Award from the Jeffco EDC.

The award recognizes a company that is on the forefront of new and advanced technologies and show leadership in the industries of aerospace, aviation, bioscience, energy, photonics, nontechnology or the like.

Founded in 2014, Vartega is a technology development company specializing in the carbon fiber-reinforced plastic recycling process. Repurposing scrap materials, their innovative technology and processes enables them to

provide low-cost carbon fiber for mass-market applications while maximizing the environmental benefit of carbon fiber. Using low-cost recycled carbon fiber, the Vartega process helps to reduce fuel consumption and waste, and it diverts thousands of tons of waste from landfills each year.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Vartega Carbon Fiber Recycling for this well-deserved recognition from the Jeffco EDC.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE WHITE
HOUSE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR
LANGUAGE DIVERSITY ACT**

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, in January, I wrote to President Trump requesting information about why the Spanish language option on the White House website was deleted. Although the White House did state that a Spanish option was under development, in the almost two months since I wrote the letter, I have not received a response nor has an official White House Spanish website been published.

As I stated in my letter to President Trump, there are many taxpayers whose first language is not English. Spanish along with Chinese, Tagalog, and Vietnamese are the most commonly spoken languages in the U.S. Constituents benefit tremendously from having language options to access their government and receive information that may impact their lives. This is why it is imperative that the White House and federal agencies continue to be accessible to all taxpayers.

It is vital for my constituents and all Americans to be able to follow issues that affect their lives. I will continue to work to ensure that more taxpayers have access to information in the language they choose to utilize at home and in their communities.

Therefore, today, I am introducing the White House Accountability for Language Diversity Act. This legislation will require the White House and federal agencies to establish Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, and Vietnamese language options for their official websites. This will ensure that millions of taxpayers have the option of accessing up-to-date information in their preferred language.

**CONGRATULATING NYC HEALTH +
HOSPITALS WOODHULL**

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate NYC Health + Hospitals Woodhull on their recognition from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) for an outstanding commitment to LGBTQ healthcare equality.

In the HRC's Healthcare Equality Index, Woodhull earned the distinction of being a Leader in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality. When compared with other hospitals, Woodhull exemplifies fair practices and policies towards the LGBTQ community.

This honor reflects Woodhull's deep and unwavering commitment to serving underrepresented communities with the utmost professionalism and care. To ensure cultural competence, staff at Woodhull have undergone comprehensive training to meet the needs of the LGBTQ community.

Woodhull has a proud history of serving the residents of North Brooklyn, regardless of their ability to pay. Many of these residents are my constituents and one of my top priorities is making sure that our diverse community is treated with the respect and dignity they deserve.

When it comes to receiving healthcare, no individual should fear discrimination based on sexual orientation. It is crucial that all Americans receive high quality care and I applaud Woodhull for their inclusivity and dedication to serving the LGBTQ community.

**HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM
QUALIFIES FOR ROBOTICS
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cinco Ranch High School Robotics Team 624, CRYptonite, of Katy, TX, for qualifying for the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Competition World Championship.

To qualify for the FIRST World Championship, CRYptonite had to win the Chairman's Award, which goes to the team that best emulates the goals of FIRST. FIRST's mission is to inspire students to be tomorrow's science and technology leaders through engaging and innovative programs and competitions. To earn the Chairman's Award, CRYptonite had to demonstrate excellence over several years, by doing robot demos in schools, businesses and public venues. CRYptonite also played a big part in the building of the Robert Shaw Center for STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math), which has raised awareness and interest in robotics competitions in the Katy Independent School District. CRYptonite will compete in the FIRST World Championship in Houston this April 19 through 22.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to CRYptonite for qualifying for the FIRST Robotics Competition World Championship. We wish them good luck and look forward to seeing their future success.

**HONORING HENRY "LIL SONNY"
NICKSON, JR.**

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tunica County Board Supervisor Henry "Lil Sonny" Nickson, Jr.

Supervisor Nickson was born to Mary and Henry Nickson, Sr. He has one sister, Sharla Brown-Nickson and was raised in Tunica, MS. Mr. Nickson is 40 years old. He is an 8th