

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ALEXANDRA NUNEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alexandra Nunez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alexandra Nunez is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alexandra Nunez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alexandra Nunez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO COURTNEY STRUTT
TODD

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Courtney Strutt Todd for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who 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 distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Courtney Strutt Todd is a shareholder attorney at Davis Brown Law Firm where she utilizes her talents to assist private colleges, hospitals and other nonprofit organizations obtain public financing for building projects. In the last three years alone, Courtney worked as bond, underwriter's and issuer's counsel on nearly \$1.4 billion in general government bonds. Mrs. Strutt Todd also volunteers her legal talents pro bono and was recognized in 2008 by the Polk County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project for providing more than 200 hours of volunteered legal services. Outside of work, Courtney is heavily involved

with the American Cancer Society, assists Urbandale High School as a volleyball coach, is a member of the Iowa Advisory Council for the Epilepsy Foundation of North/Central Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska, and is currently serving as treasurer of the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute board. Courtney has been married to her husband Matthew for six years, and they have two children, Bryson and Brinley. In every facet of her life, Courtney is an example of service and Iowa work ethic that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Courtney in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. Strutt Todd for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Courtney on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

RECOGNIZING MARY-DIANA POULI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mary-Diana Pouli as she is honored by the Amherst Museum's Women's Interclub Council. Few have been so generous with their time and talents as Mary-Diana. Her extraordinary legacy of service began during her adolescence, and has continued to this day.

A resident of Amherst since the 5th grade, Mary-Diana began volunteering with Amherst Youth Engaged in Service (YES), an organization founded to encourage community involvement and civic participation among children in Amherst from age twelve to twenty. It was through Amherst YES that Mary-Diana first became involved with the Amherst Youth Board, now the Amherst Recreation and Youth Department. She is one of the few people to surpass 1,000 hours of time spent volunteering with the organization, working with the department for over thirty years. Presently, she serves as the Recreation and Youth Director for the Town of Amherst.

Mary-Diana's dedication to the young people of Amherst extends to her long involvement with the Amherst Youth Foundation. She currently serves as assistant treasurer and as a member of the board of directors, yet is known to cheerfully help wash dishes, move office equipment, and assist office staff. No task is too large or too small for Mary-Diana.

Mary-Diana's good works have touched nearly every volunteer organization in the Town of Amherst. She is the former vice president and current treasurer of the Zonta Club of Amherst, a group dedicated to advancing the status of women and young people. Each December, the Zonta Club helps clothe 300

children through the Town of Amherst's Warm Clothing Project, of which Mary-Diana is a key part.

Mary-Diana's strong faith inspires her many good works. A lifelong Presbyterian, Mary-Diana is ordained as both a deacon and an elder in the Amherst Presbyterian Church, and has chaired their Mission Committee. Using her special connection to young people, Mary-Diana volunteers with their Youth Group to foster new faith. She has had the great honor of representing her denomination on a national level as a small group leader at various conferences, including serving as conference dean at the Presbyterian Youth Triennial, an event held every three years at Purdue University.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great appreciation that I rise to congratulate Mary-Diana Pouli as she is honored by the Amherst Museum's Women's Interclub Council. I am deeply grateful for her exceptional service, generous heart, and efforts that have bettered the lives of so many in Western New York.

A TRIBUTE TO BOLTON HALL'S
100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to Bolton Hall in Tujunga, California as it celebrates its one-hundredth anniversary.

Shortly after the turn of the century, the Glorietta Heights area of Rancho Tujunga came to the attention of Marshall Hartranft, a land developer who engaged William E. Smythe to publicize the upper slopes of the area. Mr. Smythe was the founder of the "Little Lands" movement, a utopian movement that believed that families settling on an acre or two of land could support themselves and prosper. Settlement of the lots by Smythe's "Little Landers" began in 1913 and in April of that year, Marshall Hartranft donated land and financed construction of Bolton Hall for the new colony. The edifice was designed by "Nature Builder" George Harris, who used rocks gathered from local hillsides and the Tujunga Wash to create a building that harmonized beautifully with its setting between the Verdugo Hills and the San Gabriel mountains. The structure was first called The Clubhouse, but was later named in honor of Smythe's friend, author Bolton Hall. Dedicated in August 1913, the hall quickly became the center of all community activities, including church services, dances, town meetings, socials, and the San Fernando Valley's second library.

Though the "Little Lands" movement declined by 1920, Bolton Hall continued to serve the community, becoming Tujunga's City Hall and town jail after the town was incorporated in 1925. Following the annexation of the city to Los Angeles in 1932, Bolton Hall housed Los

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Angeles' Department of Building and Safety as well as its Health Department and local police. The city eventually built a new municipal building, and the old stone structure was boarded up in 1957. For the next twenty years, members of the newly-formed Little Landers Historical Society and others fought to save the historic building from demolition and worked toward restoration. Starr Von Fluss, past president of the Little Landers Historical Society served as campaign chairwoman to raise funds for the restoration. With the acquisition of additional funds by Roberta Stewart and L.A. City Councilman Robert Ronka, the campaign to save and restore the building was a success, with restoration work beginning in February of 1980 and its official re-opening celebration held on June 27, 1981.

Today artifacts, photographs, documents and memorabilia of Sunland, Tujunga and the foothill areas are displayed, ranging historically from the village of the Tongva Indians, through the Mission and Mexican Land Grant periods, to the development of Sunland Tujunga and the rescue of Bolton Hall. The building also serves as the office for the Little Landers Historical Society. Along with John Steven McGroarty's home, now the McGroarty Cultural Art Center, Bolton Hall is one of ten historical monuments in the Sunland Tujunga area and is also included in the National Register of Historic Places.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in recognizing Bolton Hall's historical importance and celebrating its one-hundredth anniversary.

AARON ARVELLO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Aaron Arvello for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Aaron Arvello is an 11th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Aaron Arvello is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Aaron Arvello for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE MINOIA FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my congratulations to the Minoia Fire Depart-

ment on the occasion of its Centennial Celebration. I am honored to join the community in celebrating the Department on this historic occasion.

The Minoia Fire Department operates out of 2 stations. Station 1, located at 238 North Main S in the village, and station 2, located at 7036 Manlius Center Rd in Fremont. The Department currently operates two engines, two rescue pumpers, one brush truck, and one squad with a staff of 45 volunteers.

The Minoia Fire Department provides many emergency and non-emergency services including but not limited to, fire prevention, fire suppression, hazardous incident and material management, vehicle and other extrication and rescue, swift water rescue, ice water rescue, residential lock-outs, emergency vehicle lock-outs, commercial fire inspections and basic life support emergency medical services. Some members of the Minoia fire Dept. are specially trained and belong to special operations teams in Onondaga County including, Dive/Rescue, High Angle/Rope Rescue, Wilderness Search and Rescue and Hazardous Materials Response Teams.

So much has changed over the past 100 years. In 1913, Woodrow Wilson was inaugurated as the 28th President of the United States, the 17th amendment calling for the direct election of Senators was adopted, and the first automobile road across the United States, the Lincoln Highway, was dedicated. In 1953, Mack Model 85 was the first green fire truck to come to Minoia, setting the precedence for a full fleet of green fire apparatus. In fact, Mack Model 85 was fully restored in 2009 and is currently used by the Department in ceremonies and parades. Minoia Fire Department's uniquely green fleet continues to this day and continues to be a source of pride for local residents.

Despite the dramatic changes that have taken place over the past 100 years, a few things remain the same. The Minoia Fire Department continues to this day to take great pride in being an all-volunteer department. The Fire Department continues to be a central part of life for residents. Furthermore, for 100 years Minoia's finest have dedicated themselves to protecting their fellow citizens and making the community a safer place to live.

We are grateful for the extraordinary service that the volunteers of Minoia Fire Department have provided to residents of our community over the past century. Once again, congratulations to the members and supporters of the Minoia Fire Department and good luck in the next 100 years!

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD TEMPERO

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Howard Tempero for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who 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 distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Howard Tempero has been with Spindustry Digital for five years and currently serves as the Experience Design Strategist, in which he works with clients on website design and digital promotional material, among other online messages. After professional stints in Chicago and New York, Howard chose to bring his skill and expertise back to his home state. Since returning to the Des Moines area, Mr. Tempero has generated millions of dollars for Spindustry Digital and remains heavily involved in his community through the Rotary Club of Des Moines AM. Last year, Howard was recognized as a finalist for the NOVA Award from the American Marketing Association for his outstanding professional efforts. Outside of the office, Howard enjoys spending time with his wife, Megan, and their two daughters, Isalucia and Aristella, and two sons, Rezin and Corbet. In all facets of his life, Howard is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Howard in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Tempero for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Howard on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

IN HONOR OF MR. WILLIAM H. REDD

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William H. Redd, a retired member of the United States Marine Corps who is receiving a lifetime achievement award for his service in the Montford Point Marines.

Mr. Redd was drafted into the Marine Corps during World War II where he was sent to Camp Montford Point, a segregated training camp in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Upon completion, Private Redd was stationed in Iwo Jima and Sasebo, Japan where he worked in Pacific Theater of Operations with the 66th Supply Platoon. He provided support, guard duty, and engaged in combat. Shortly after the bombing at Pearl Harbor, Corporal Redd was stationed in Hilo, Hawaii.

After four years of enlistment, Corporal Reed was honorably discharged and returned to his wife and children in Camden, New Jersey.

Mr. Reed was one of the nearly 20,000 Montford Point Marines who helped pave the way for African Americans in the United States Armed Forces. On June 27, 2012, Mr. Reed and his fellow Montford Point Marines received the Congressional Medal of Honor for their service.

Mr. Redd will be receiving his Life Time Achievement Award from Each One Teach Consultants at the 10th annual Black History in the Barbershop Program in Camden, NJ. The program is dedicated to preserving the historical contributions that African Americans have made to society.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH CALIENDO

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joseph "Joe" Caliando for his work on behalf of Monmouth County, New Jersey and to congratulate him on his retirement as Chairman of the Middletown Democratic Party.

Joe began his career in politics in the 1960s, first serving as a committeeman and then as Chairman. He has served as Chairman of the Middletown Democratic Party for 25 years. Throughout those 25 years, they had 10 wins and while they lost some elections, many were very close. Joe also currently serves as Sergeant-at-Arms for the Monmouth County Democratic Organization.

Not only is Joe active in the Democratic Party, he has also been a prominent labor leader for many years. He currently serves as a delegate on the Central Labor Council, President of the Retirees of IBEW Local 400 and Vice President of the State RAC. Joe continues to work to ensure the rights and benefits of the labor community.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Joe Caliando on his retirement and thanking him for his years of service to the people of Monmouth County. His leadership is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

ALYSSA MILLER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alyssa Miller for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alyssa Miller is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alyssa Miller is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alyssa Miller for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GROVER CLEVELAND MEMORIAL BIRTHPLACE ASSOCIATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Grover Cleveland Memorial Birthplace Association, located in Caldwell, New Jersey, as they celebrate their Centennial this year.

The Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association was incorporated in 1913 as a non-profit organization "to honor and perpetuate the memory of Grover Cleveland". Stephen Grover Cleveland rose from humble beginnings as the fifth of nine children to a Presbyterian minister in Caldwell, New Jersey. After serving several years as an apprentice clerk in a local law firm, Grover Cleveland passed the bar and opened his own firm in 1859. He soon became a rather prominent lawyer and Democratic politician, and in 1881, was elected mayor of Buffalo, New York. Grover Cleveland's career continued to ascend, and during his gubernatorial term in New York from 1883 to 1884, interest in preserving his birth site kindled. He then served a presidential term beginning 1885, and again beginning 1892, becoming the only president to serve two non-consecutive terms. The political prestige fueled the interest in the preservation of his Caldwell birthplace.

The site was originally erected as a manse by the First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell on the north side of Newark Turnpike. It housed Reverend Richard Falley Cleveland, his wife, Ann Neal Cleveland, and their ever-expanding family, when their fifth child was born on March 18, 1837. He was named for the church's first minister, Stephen Grover. During the ensuing years, the house and barn were enlarged and "modernized" to accommodate the family. In 1902, the Church began negotiations for the sale of the property at \$18,000, to only be used as a CFO COI memorial to Grover Cleveland, and in 1907, a committee of friends installed a bronze tablet in the room where he was born. The then 70-year-old Grover Cleveland wrote that he was profoundly moved by this event. Finally, in 1913, the Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association was incorporated with four officers and thirty-nine trustees, all prominent citizens throughout the country. The Association purchased the house and lot, as well as the lot along Arlington Avenue. However, they faced financial difficulties during the depression, and the State of New Jersey assumed ownership. Governor Moore appointed twenty trustees to oversee the property. Fortunately, in 1936 the house was restored to its 1870 appearance under a government Works Progress Administration program, and was placed under the Bureau of Historical Monuments (subsequently under the Department of Environmental Protection and Energy, Division of Parks and Forestry). The house is listed on both the National and New Jersey Register of Historic Places.

The Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association was reactivated in 1986 for the Sesquicentennial of Grover Cleveland's Birth (1987), and still functions today as a voluntary

auxiliary working in full cooperation with the state. It is an officially recognized Friends Organization. In 1990, the Mayor of Caldwell appointed a liaison with the birthplace, a GCBMA trustee, establishing direct contact with the Borough. The Association continues to promote greater interest and use of this national historic site, which hosts several period exhibits and activities from the lifetime of Grover Cleveland. Throughout their long history, they have worked to bring awareness to the site and the great history surrounding Grover Cleveland.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Grover Cleveland Memorial Birthplace Association as they celebrate their Centennial.

AARON LONG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Aaron Long for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Aaron Long is a 12th grader at Warren Tech North and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Aaron Long is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Aaron Long for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO TONY TIMM

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Tony Timm for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who 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 distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Tony Timm serves as the executive director for the largest shelter facility in the State, Central Iowa Shelter & Services. In addition to his day-to-day role of managing the organization,

Tony recently accomplished a \$15 million campaign to open a new facility that will help expand the cause of addressing homelessness in central Iowa. The new facility, which opened in September, consists of more than two hundred beds; includes emergency, transitional, and permanent housing options; and features an on-site health clinic, food pantry, clothing closet, classroom, and a resource center for homeless veterans and other veterans in need of assistance. Outside of CISS, Mr. Timm has been the president of the Des Moines Downtown Chamber of Commerce, appointed to the Iowa Council of Homelessness by Governor Branstad, a board member of the Greater Des Moines Partnership and the Downtown Community Alliance, and was the recipient of the 2012 Social Czar designation from the Des Moines Social Club. Raised in Tipton, Iowa, Tony now resides in the Des Moines area with his wife Channon and their two children, Charlie and Sophia. In all facets of his life, Tony is an example of hard work and service that our State can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Tony in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Timm for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great State of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Tony on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HARRIET TUBMAN'S DEATH

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join Auburn and the entire Central New York community in commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Harriet Tubman's death. Few Americans have fought so courageously for freedom and equality as Harriet Tubman. To pay tribute to her life and legacy, I introduced the Harriet Tubman National Historical Parks Act. This bill establishes two National Historic Parks in her honor: The Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn, NY and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

The proposed national park encompasses several of Auburn's important historical sites including Harriet Tubman's Home, the Home for the Aged, the AME Zion Church, and the cemetery where she is buried. The legacy she left in Auburn is one of America's lasting treasures and we should honor her as the first African-American woman to have a national park established in her honor.

Establishing this park is not just about our history and the past, it is also about the present and our future, particularly our economic future. This new park would be a significant piece of an emerging tourist region with both historical and natural attractions.

We must work together to preserve Harriet Tubman's legacy and promote Auburn's future. Her story is a lasting lesson that still resonates today. Tubman was not someone who

accepted the circumstances of her time—she fought tirelessly for freedom and progress and that legacy is one worth fighting for. There is still work to be done to make this idea a reality and like Tubman, we cannot stop now. I am committed to working with my colleagues in the House, my counterparts in the Senate, and advocates in this community and around the country to pass this legislation which is long overdue.

HONORING GARY CASERI ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights Gary Caseri on his retirement. He retired on March 2, 2013, after 37 years of valuable service to the agricultural and business community and five years as the Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights for Stanislaus County.

Mr. Caseri has been a committed member of the California Agricultural Commissioner and Sealers Association (CACASA) for over 12 years. He has enforced laws and regulations from a prospective of service and outreach to the agricultural and business communities.

Mr. Caseri provided equity in the marketplace through fair enforcement of weights and measures laws and regulations. He was instrumental in establishing the first grower-led spray safe workshop—an event designed to help pesticide applicators apply material in a safe manner.

Mr. Caseri served on the Agricultural Advisory Board providing valuable guidance on important issues that included the Agricultural and the draft Ground Water Export Ordinance. Through his leadership on the CACASA Seed, Apiary and Nursery Committee, he facilitated the standardization of colony-strength inspection procedures used during the important almond pollination season.

Mr. Caseri served on the Shell Egg Advisory Committee and was successful in establishing a model pilot retail egg inspection program, which will be used throughout the State of California.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights Gary Caseri on his retirement and in wishing him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE PEOPLE OF NAGORNO KARABAKH AND THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUMGAI POGROMS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the twenty-fifth anniversary of the pogroms against people of Armenian descent in Sumgait, Azerbaijan. This ungodly mas-

sacre in 1988 resulted in the murder of scores of Armenians. Tragically, women and girls were viciously raped and hundreds of Armenians were wounded. The chaos led to thousands of Armenian refugees who were left without homes or livelihoods. It was from the ashes of these terrible fires that arose the Nagorno Karabakh democracy movement that has, after many terrible years of Azerbaijani war, blockades, and aggression, resulted in hard-won freedom and democracy for the proud citizens of this ancient Christian land.

As we recognize this tragedy, it is also proper that we celebrate the courage of the people of Nagorno Karabakh as the first to rise up against the Soviet Union and to demand their right to freedom and self-governance. We celebrate the self-determination of the people of Nagorno Karabakh, their declaration of independence more than two decades ago, and their role in ending the Soviet threat to America. We should never forget the brave efforts of this small nation in sparking the democracy movement that ended decades of dictatorial rule in the USSR and eventually led to the fall of the Soviet Union.

Sadly, over the past quarter century, the Azerbaijani government has attacked the people of Karabakh with a clenched fist. Azerbaijan has consistently obstructed the peace process, walking away from its own agreements, and instead sought to incite hatred within its own population with anti-Armenian rhetoric and regular cross border attacks and threats of renewed war. Perhaps the most telling example was the President of Azerbaijan's decision to pardon, praise, and even promote Ramil Safarov, an Azerbaijani soldier who was sentenced to life in prison for the brutal murder of unarmed Armenian Army officer Gurgen Margaryan in Budapest in 2004.

Today, I ask my colleagues to stand with the proud people of Nagorno Karabakh because our two peoples share so many of the same foundational ideals including a commitment to the values of freedom, human rights, self-determination, and democracy.

CROWN CANDY KITCHEN

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the Crown Candy Kitchen restaurant in the great city of St. Louis. Since its founding in 1913, the Crown Candy Kitchen has become deeply intertwined into the community and continues to serve as an example of continued success in the Old North St. Louis neighborhood.

The story of the Crown Candy Kitchen is predominately an American story. The Crown Candy Kitchen was opened in 1913 by Harry Karandzieff and his best friend Pete Jugaloff. They were immigrants who brought their culinary skills from Greece, along with a dream of providing a friendly environment for diners to enjoy their unique dishes. During the early 50's Harry's son George took the business over and built the business into what it is today. Now George's three sons Andy, Tommy, and Mike run the business with a little help from the 4th generation.

Unique features of the Crown Candy Kitchen include homemade chocolate candy which

restaurant goers have enjoyed since the creation of the restaurant. Its decor is also unique. The restaurant has an old-fashioned decor with Coca-Cola memorabilia from the 1930s. Another impressive item within the restaurant includes the oldest operating soda fountain in the metro St. Louis area, and one of the oldest in the country.

A passerby may think the Crown Candy Kitchen's menu is simple. After a sampling of the menu they would quickly realize this "simple" menu is anything but. Its menu features sandwiches and is best known for its desserts, most especially for its malted milkshakes and homemade candy. Recently, the restaurant was featured on the Travel Channel's television series, *Man v. Food*. The show's host, Adam Richman, took on the Crown Candy Challenge, which is an attempt to drink five 24-ounce malts or shakes within 30 minutes. He was however, unsuccessful. In 2012, the restaurant was featured on another Adam Richman-hosted show, *Best Sandwich in America*, for its "Heart-Stopping BLT" sandwich. These accolades are a testament to the history and quality provided in the Crown Candy Kitchen.

Mr. Speaker, this remarkable accomplishment by the Crown Candy Kitchen is something that we can all take great pride in. It is a tribute to the people of St. Louis and the local community. It is a great honor to pay tribute to such an enduring and successful institution.

TRIBUTE TO FELIX GALLAGHER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Felix Gallagher for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who 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 distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Felix Gallagher is the principal owner of his own company, PharmServ Solutions, which works to staff pharmacists in temporary and full-time positions in urban and rural communities. He arrived in the Des Moines area by way of a scholarship to play football at Drake University, where he captured three-time All-Conference and All-America honors and developed a strong desire to give back to his community for the help received along the way. In addition to owning his small business, Felix donates his time to mentoring high school youth from ethnically diverse backgrounds and passes on his skills and talents as a coach in a youth football league. He is also a past board member for the Alianza Business Association and is a current member

of the League of United Latin American Citizens of Iowa. In every facet of his life, Felix is an example of service and Iowa work ethic that our State can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Felix in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Gallagher for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great State of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Felix on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

ADRIANA GONZALEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Adriana Gonzalez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Adriana Gonzalez is a 10th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Adriana Gonzalez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Adriana Gonzalez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO HUMANITARIAN AND SPORTING LEGEND MUHAMMAD ALI

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to reintroduce legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Muhammad Ali in recognition of his contributions to our nation. I believe it is long past time to recognize and honor an American civil rights activist and sporting legend with Congress' highest honor. Over the course of his illustrious career, Muhammad Ali has produced some of our nation's most lasting sports memories. From winning a Gold Medal at the 1960 Summer Olympics to lighting the Olympic torch at the 1996 Summer Olympics, his influence as an athlete and a humanitarian has spanned over fifty years.

Despite having been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in the 1980s, Ali has devoted his life to charitable organizations. Ali and his wife, Lonnie, are founding directors of the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center and Movement Disorders Clinic in Phoenix, AZ and have

helped raise over \$50 million for Parkinson's research. In addition to helping families cope with illness, Ali has led efforts to provide meals for the hungry and has helped countless organizations such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Special Olympics.

Muhammad Ali's humanitarian efforts go beyond his charitable activities in the United States. In 1990 Muhammad Ali travelled to the Middle East to seek the release of American and British hostages that were being held as human shields in the first Gulf War. After his intervention, 15 hostages were freed. Thanks to his devotion to diplomatic causes and racial harmony, Ali is the recipient of many accolades, including being chosen as a "U.N. Messenger of Peace" in 1998 and receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2005.

Through his unyielding dedication to his sport and to struggling populations around the world, Muhammad Ali serves as an example of service and self-sacrifice for generations of Americans. The Congressional Gold Medal is a fitting commemoration of his life and work, for which he is deservedly known as "the Greatest."

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing one of our nation's most lasting and influential figures by signing on to this important legislation.

HONORING KARL SHARP

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a constituent and friend, Karl Sharp of Centerville, Indiana.

Karl was actively involved in Wayne County political life, serving as an election official in Hagerstown and later in numerous posts in the City of Richmond, including as a member of the Richmond City Council from 1999 to 2007. A life-long Republican, Karl also served as Chairman of the Wayne County Republicans from 1989 to 1993 and as a delegate to the 1992 Republican National Convention.

Outside of politics, Karl was a man of faith and forty-year active member of the Central United Methodist Church of Richmond. In addition, Karl was a leader in the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce, the Yokefellows at Earlham College, and the local United Way Board.

Karl and his family's dedication to the people of Indiana will be forever appreciated. I will forever appreciate his friendship and ask the citizens of the 6th Congressional District to join me in keeping Karl's wife, Marjorie, children, Terry, Gail, and Karen, and the entire extended Sharp family in your thoughts and prayers.

GLENDALE SWIM TEAM, MISSOURI STATE HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING CHAMPIONS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Glendale Girls Swim Team for

winning the Missouri State High School Swimming Championship.

The team included sisters Nikki and Kaylee Sisson, Madeline Nelson, Lauren Beatty, Emma Chadwell, Tori Harmon, Hannah Leif, and Macie Beairsto. It was through their hard work and dedication that they took overall first place with a score of 190, beating the runner-up by nearly 40 points.

I would also like to commend Nikki Sisson on winning the 50-yard freestyle, as well as the 200 and 400-yard freestyle relay teams for also taking first place.

Head Coach Steve Boyce and Assistant Coach Robert Muench should also be proud of their accomplishments in guiding this group of talented athletes. I commend them all on a job well done. The Springfield community is justifiably proud of the extraordinary accomplishments of these young ladies. This is the first swim team from Southwest Missouri to win the championship.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Glendale High School State Champion Girls Swim Team.

ALINA TRUJILLO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alina Trujillo for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alina Trujillo is an 11th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alina Trujillo is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alina Trujillo for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO ANGELA DETHLEFS-TRETTIN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Angela Dethlefs-Trettin for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who 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 distinction,

which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Angela Dethlefs-Trettin has been an active member of the philanthropic community in Iowa and across the country for nearly her entire life. Originally from Waterloo, she first served on the foundation board Teen Trust as a high school student. She went on to work at the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa and helped to establish community foundations in many of the rural communities in that part of the state, working with local citizens to capture charitable dollars that will positively impact important community projects for generations to come. Her passion led her to the Iowa Council of Foundations, where she worked with grantmakers across our great state, and ultimately to her new role as Director of Community Investment and Initiatives at the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines. Angela continues to volunteer her time for various philanthropic initiatives throughout her community and was recently named to the National Standards Board for U.S. Community Foundations. Outside of her personal and professional philanthropy efforts, Angela's focus is on her husband, Matt, and her son, Henry. In every facet of her life, Angela is an example of service and Iowa work ethic that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Angela in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. Dethlefs-Trettin for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Angela on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MEL PARIS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mel Paris, an American veteran from Illinois, who recently passed away on March 3rd, 2013. Mel was best known as a dedicated community leader, as well as an ardent public servant, and his loss is felt throughout the community.

Mel was truly a friend and advocate of working men and women across our state, along with those less fortunate. He held several positions throughout his career with the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW), including President of his local union. Mel also served as a Winnebago County Board member, where he tirelessly worked for the betterment of his community.

Even after his retirement, he continued a life of service to others. Mel was elected as President of the UAW Rockford Area Building association where he continued to serve the members of the UAW, until his untimely passing. Mel touched everyone he met, and was some-

one whom you could always turn to with your personal or professional problems.

Mr. Speaker, I am forever grateful for Mel's contributions as a serviceman and leader in his community, and am deeply saddened by his passing. I offer my sincerest thoughts and prayers to his wife Charlotte, the rest of the Paris family, and the entire Rockford community.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL EARL C. ACUFF USA (RET.) THE FORMER COMMANDANT OF THE VIRGINIA TECH CORPS OF CADETS

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brigadier General Earl C. Acuff, USA (Ret.), the Commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets from 1973 to 1980, who passed away on February 13, 2013. A native of Iowa, Earl Acuff learned to box as a young boy and became a Golden Gloves champion while in high school; he earned a full football scholarship to the University of Idaho, where he met his wife, Mary-Low, and enlisted in ROTC. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Earl Acuff was shipped to the Aleutian Islands in Alaska, where he served as the executive officer to the 1st Intelligence Combat Platoon. He provided strong leadership as the unique unit scouted Japanese forces in the Aleutian Islands without resupply or personal contact with the outside world; after the war, the unit mapped the entire western coastline of Alaska.

Earl Acuff briefly left the military, working as a bush pilot, a big game guide, and a high school teacher in Anchorage before he was asked to rejoin the United States Army to teach Arctic survival skills. General Acuff went on to serve as commander of the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry, 7th Infantry Division, and led the fight to defend Hills 255 and 266 during the Korean War. His extraordinary valor resulted in his being awarded a Purple Heart, second Combat Infantryman Badge, a Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, and a Bronze Star with four Oak Leaf Clusters and V for Valor. He was a Master Parachutist who provided important insight as the United States Army reevaluated its Ranger training program; in 1965 he became the oldest man to successfully graduate as a United States Army Ranger at the age of 47.

Earl Acuff then earned a master's degree from George Washington University and worked for the United States Department of State before rejoining the battlefield as commander of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division Republic of Vietnam, where he earned his third Combat Infantryman Badge. In 1969 Earl Acuff became the Deputy Post Commander at the U.S. Army Infantry School.

One year later, he joined the faculty at Virginia Tech as a military science instructor. In 1974 Earl Acuff was promoted to Brigadier General and became the commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, where he continued the proud tradition of training young men and women to become the nation's military leaders.

Earl Acuff also began a competitive career in racquetball, earning 20 gold medals at major national and international tournaments and induction into several halls of fame.

Brigadier General Acuff was predeceased by his wife, Mary-Low, and son, William, and will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his children, Thomas, Dan, Ardis, Rodney, Janice, Teresa, and Dawn, and their families; and numerous other family members, friends, and admirers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Brigadier General Acuff and his dedicated service to the nation.

CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Township of Bloomfield, located in Essex County, New Jersey, which is celebrating its Bicentennial Anniversary.

Bloomfield has a rich history that dates back to pre-revolutionary days. The land that would become Bloomfield was bought by English settlers from the Yantecaw Indians, a tribe of the Lenni Lenape, in the 1600s. In 1812, the town which was part of Newark, broke off and was incorporated as the Township of Bloomfield, taking its name from the historic Presbyterian parish in town named for Joseph Bloomfield. At that time it covered a vast 20.52 square miles, though many of the outlying towns soon would become their own municipalities. That same year, a Justice of the Peace and four constables were elected, as well as a Township Committee formed. By 1816, Bloomfield had opened a post office. In the following years the township government became further formalized.

As Bloomfield developed, so did its system of education; a characteristic that it takes great pride in today. The first school was set up in 1758, and more followed. In addition to this, by 1810, a notable private school named Bloomfield Academy was established. Later, in 1868, the building was taken over by the German Theological School of Newark, the forerunner of Bloomfield College. A special school law was passed for the Township of Bloomfield in 1849, establishing the public school system. Though rejected by social circles for its "proletarian atmosphere" at first, the school system grew in popularity and educational facilities. Today it comprises 11 schools, including Bloomfield High School, with over 6,000 students.

A very important facet of Bloomfield's history is the congregation of Old First Church. Formed in 1796, it was named to honor the Revolutionary War general Joseph Bloomfield. This building is still standing, now called the Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green, and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. Another aspect of Bloomfield's history is the first newspaper, the Bloomfield Gazette, published in 1872. Later, in 1883, this became the Independent Press, which is still published in Bloomfield to this day.

By the 19th Century, many changes had taken place. The Newark and Pompton Turn-

pike (now Bloomfield Ave), allowed Bloomfield to become a commercial center, housing many industrious mills and factories. Additionally, with the opening of the Morris Canal in 1831, commerce increased and provided recreation for the inhabitants. By the end of the century, many other amenities had reached Bloomfield; a railroad, streetcars, banks, telephone service, mail service, and lastly, electricity and sewage lines.

The industrious town of Bloomfield played a part in American history, most notably during the Civil War, as well as World War I and II, providing many vital materials and aid. Set up in 1830, the Oakes Mills provided the town with yarn and cloth, but after being rebuilt due to a fire, the mill then specialized in flannels. During a period of financial crisis, the people of Bloomfield kept the Mill alive, and in turn, the Oakes Mills again flourished, producing tweeds and wools. During the Civil War, Oakes Mills provided a great deal of the indigo blue cloth for the Union uniforms. Later, they provided most of the material used in making fire and police uniforms. In addition to the contributions of the Oakes Mills, during the World Wars, the Township of Bloomfield held many drives to collect essential materials needed by the troops, such as metals, bandage linens, and other commodities. Despite its closure in 1945, the Oakes Mills remain an important facet of Bloomfield's history.

Today, Bloomfield boasts a rich history, alongside its diverse population and culture. Its close-knit community atmosphere is a defining feature of the town, as has been maintained since the early years. Bloomfield is home to a middle and working class population, and also boasts many organizations, such as those in the cultural arts, and civic and neighborhood associations, with which many residents are involved. The Township of Bloomfield is proud to celebrate its history and looks forward to its future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Township of Bloomfield and its residents as they celebrate their Bicentennial Anniversary.

ALYSIA MORA-PINA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alysia Mora-Pina for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alysia Mora-Pina is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alysia Mora-Pina is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alysia Mora-Pina for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO LORI GELHAAR

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Lori Gelhaar for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who 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 distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Lori Gelhaar serves as Kaplan University's Director of Career Services and Corporate Relations, where she manages all aspects of the Career Services department after redeveloping the entire department from scratch. Under her tenure, Kaplan University has seen career placement for graduates spike to an average of 94% as she coordinates and markets all employer relations events. Her work at Kaplan University has earned herself, her college, and her department numerous awards at the state and national levels. Outside of work, Lori is the chair of the Employers' Council of Iowa, on the board of directors for the Urbandale Chamber of Commerce, and founded Keeping Educated Youth in Des Moines. Lori has been married to her husband Gerry since 2003, and together they have three children: Tyler, Devin, and Madison. In every facet of her life, Lori is an example of service and Iowa work ethic that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Lori in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. Gelhaar for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Lori on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING JAMES H.
DRUMWRIGHT, JR.

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special World War II veteran, Mr. James H. Drumwright, Jr. of Richardson, Texas. Recently, Mr. Drumwright, along with three other North Texas veterans, received France's highest distinction, the Legion of Honor, for their extraordinary service on the French battlefield. During the ceremony, Frederic Bontems, consul general of France in Houston, pinned the Knight in the French Order of Legion of Honor on these four

men for their notable actions to combat tyranny across the globe.

Mr. Drumwright, born and raised in Norfolk, Virginia, made the courageous decision to serve his country at the early age of 17. In 1939, he volunteered into the National Guard, and in February 1941 he joined the 29th Signal Company of the Army's 29th Infantry Division. With his companions and approximately 160,000 other Allied forces, he stormed the beaches of Normandy, France on D-day. At Omaha Beach, Drumwright courageously fought to liberate St. Lo, a key city to opening the Falaise Gap, which allowed the Allied forces to expel the Nazi Germans from northern France. Early in the invasion, Drumwright was injured and evacuated to England for treatment, but only a short five months later, he was back in the thick of battle with the 29th company.

At the end of World War II, he returned to Norfolk, Virginia where he received his graduate degree in Architecture in 1949. Throughout his studies, he remained in the Army Reserve until 1953 when he was called back into active duty during the Korean War. After retiring from the military, Mr. Drumwright began the next phase of his life working at DuPont, one of the largest chemical companies in the world. At Dupont, he met his wife, Amy Wright, and they now have two children, James and Kelley. Throughout recent years, Mr. Drumwright has remained active in various organizations recognizing veterans, such as Veterans of Foreign Wars and Boy Scout Troops of America, and has enjoyed traveling with his wife all across the globe.

Mr. Drumwright served our country with distinction, and I thank him for his sacrifice. Our country is blessed to have men like Mr. Drumwright who put their lives on the line to protect our freedoms and democracy across the world. His courage is a testament to the American spirit: a spirit of bravery, selflessness, and commitment to freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an American patriot, Mr. James H. Drumwright, Jr. We honor your achievements and sincerely thank you for your service. God Bless you and God Bless America.

RECOGNIZING PRESTON "PRES"
HENNE

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Preston "Pres" Henne, who will culminate a truly outstanding 44-year career in the aerospace industry when he retires from Gulfstream Aerospace on March 31, 2013 as senior vice president for Programs, Engineering and Test.

During Pres' 19 years with Gulfstream, he was responsible for leading the teams which designed, developed, tested and certified the Gulfstream V and G550 aircraft, which earned the Robert J. Collier trophies from the National Aeronautics Association in 1997 and 2003, respectively. The trophy is awarded annually for the greatest achievement in aeronautics and astronautics in North America.

Under Pres' direction, Gulfstream developed and certified six new aircraft—the G650,

G550, GV, G450, G280 and G150. In conjunction with these new products, Pres was also responsible for launching a number of industry-leading product enhancements, including the Gulfstream Enhanced Vision System and Synthetic Vision-Primary Flight Display.

Most recently, Pres oversaw the development of the company's much-anticipated G650, one of the world's most sophisticated business-jet aircraft. The G650, which entered service in 2012, was designed with technological advances such as a digital fly-by-wire system, triplex flight management systems, auto emergency descent and enhanced and synthetic vision systems. Pres also supervised the design and development of the G280, an aircraft that has been noted for its best-in-class performance, cabin comfort and technology.

Pres was also instrumental in the establishment of a strong engineering organization and a Research and Development Center campus with four office buildings and a state of the art laboratory building. All of which reflected Pres' extraordinary vision for the future of Gulfstream's product development.

Pres earned a bachelor's degree in aeronautical and astronautical engineering with highest undergraduate honors from the University of Illinois in 1969 and a master's degree in engineering from California State University at Long Beach in 1974.

Pres is a Fellow of the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and a member of the National Academy of Engineering. His awards include the AIAA 1996 Engineer of the Year Award, the AIAA 2001 Hap Arnold Award for Excellence in Aeronautical Program Management, the 2005 University of Illinois Alumni Award for Distinguished Service, a 2012 Living Legend of Aviation Award from the Kiddie Hawk Air Academy, the AIAA 2012 Reed Aeronautics Award and a 2012 Aviation Week Laureate Award.

SUPPORT OF TIFA WITH TAIWAN

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to endorse the resumption of Trade Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) negotiations between the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan). After five years of inaction, I was pleased to see these important talks get underway once again.

I believe that much progress was made during the previous rounds of TIFA talks and that improvements were made in intellectual property protection in particular. Furthermore, I am aware that many other challenges, including the need for even stronger intellectual property protection safeguards and market access for many American products, need to be resolved.

I have had the pleasure of meeting with many officials of the Taiwanese government, and I am pleased to hear of their willingness to come forward and resume talks to improve our mutual trading relationship. Many of these trading differences can be best resolved through the resumption of active bilateral negotiations.

Taiwan currently serves as our 10th largest goods trading partner, and has been a long-

standing political ally and partner to the United States. Bilateral goods and services trade totaled \$85 billion in 2011. Increased economic relations between the United States and Taiwan will provide significant economic advantages to both countries.

I am proud to express my strong support for strengthening the bilateral relationship between the United States and Taiwan. Taiwan is an important ally and trading partner, and we must continue to further our relationship.

ALLY BUCKNER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ally Buckner for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Ally Buckner is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ally Buckner is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ally Buckner for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO NIKKI SYVERSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Nikki Syverson for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who 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 distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Nikki Syverson is the Event Director at the Des Moines Wine Festival Foundation where she has helped grow the event from three days to eight days and add monthly wine tastings. The extended festival format was such a success in the previous year that event organizers are doubling down on their efforts this year. Nikki volunteers her exemplary event planning skills by planning ChildServe's Bubble Ball Gala and the Des Moines Community Playhouse's Hollywood Halloween

fundraising event. Mrs. Syverson is a Drake University alumnus where she met her husband, Jay, with whom she is expecting her second child. In every facet of her life, Nikki is an example of service and Iowa work ethic that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Nikki in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. Syverson for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Nikki on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

THE 38TH ANNUAL LABOR AND COMMUNITY AWARDS RECEPTION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate several of Northwest Indiana's most devoted and proficient workers. The Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor, American Federation of Labor—Congress of Industrial Organizations, recognized several individuals for their dedication during the 38th Annual Labor and Community Awards Reception, which was held at Duneland Falls Banquet and Meeting Center in Chesterton, Indiana on Thursday, March 7, 2013. These individuals, in addition to the other Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor members who have served Northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long period of time, are the epitome of the ideal American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hardworking.

At this year's event, several individuals and organizations received special recognition. Thomas Conway Sr., United Steelworkers International Vice President, Administration, received the Service to Labor Award for assisting organized labor to improve the quality of life of workers throughout Northwest Indiana.

The Union Label Award was presented posthumously to William Cantrell and Steven Skvara, retired members of United Steelworkers and Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR), for their unselfish devotion to the Labor Movement through its promotion in all areas of endeavor: social, civic, education, and political.

Michael Flores, of Teamsters Local 142, and Eric Jania, of Carpenters Local 272, received the George Meany Award for their significant contributions to the youth of their communities through their involvement with the Boy Scouts of America.

Brenda Bowler, of United Steelworkers Local 6787, was honored with the Community Services Award for her exemplary service to her community and to the enhancement of the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana.

Ray Jackson, Treasurer, United Steelworkers Local 6787, is this year's recipient of the President's Award. Mr. Jackson was honored for enhancing the well-being of workers throughout Northwest Indiana through countless contributions to further the philosophy of the Labor Movement.

The Industrial Sector Award was presented to Michael Young, Vice President, United Steelworkers Local 6103, for his leadership and support of working families throughout Northwest Indiana.

Thomas Williamson, Business Agent, Ironworkers Local 395, was the recipient of the Building Trades Award, which was bestowed upon him for his many years of service to the Labor Movement and his outstanding dedication to his fellow union members.

David Sikes, Director of Allocations/AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison for the Lake Area United Way, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his many years of Labor activism and his commitment to his community. For the exceptional service he has provided to the people of Northwest Indiana, he is worthy of our admiration and respect.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These individuals are all outstanding examples of these qualities. They have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and self-sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, honorable, and exemplary citizens, as well as all of the hardworking union men and women throughout America. They have shown commitment and courage toward their pursuits, and I am proud to represent them in Washington, D.C.

COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF ELLA HAVER

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the centennial of Miss Ella Haver, a lifelong resident of Franklin Township in Hunterdon County.

Ella Haver, whose 100th birthday was on February 21, has been rightfully recognized many times for her contributions to the local community as educator and civic leader.

Miss Haver's public service includes a long tenure as a schoolteacher and as a community volunteer. Ella Haver began her teaching career in 1935 in a one-room schoolhouse in Hamden, Clinton Township. She then taught in North Branch, Green Brook and North Plainfield. She was a science teacher at Cranford High School from 1945 to 1965, and finished her career with five years at Warren Hills Regional High School.

Ella Haver has also served for many decades as a Sunday school teacher at Clinton United Methodist Church and as a volunteer income-tax preparer.

She also volunteered as Franklin Township's senior citizen coordinator and today remains the active president of the Jennie M. Haver Scholarship Fund. The fund, named in memory of Ella's aunt, has given more than \$1.4 million in scholarships to nearly 500 Hunterdon students since 1956.

To commemorate the 100th birthday of Miss Ella Haver, her family's historical artifacts spanning more than 200 years were recently on display at the North County Branch Library in a rare exhibit of the Haver family's rich and distinguished history in Hunterdon County.

A 100th Birthday Gala is planned for Friday evening, March 15, at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. I am proud to be among those joining Miss Ella Haver in celebration of her many years of public service and accomplishments. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in wishing Ella Haver a happy birthday.

CONGRATULATING POLICE CHIEF ROLANDO BANASCO, RECIPIENT OF THE 2013 GRADUATE RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE, ACHIEVEMENT AND TALENT AWARD

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Police Chief Rolando Banasco of Mascotte, Florida for being one of six recipients to receive the 2013 Graduate Recognition for Excellence, Achievement and Talent (GREAT) Award. This annual award is presented to successful and hardworking college graduates who have each overcome many obstacles while achieving their educational goals.

Chief Banasco has been a dedicated servant to our community throughout his 20 year law enforcement career. After receiving his Master of Arts in Criminal Justice from Keiser University, he was able to advance his career and was promoted to Chief of Police for the City of Mascotte, Florida, in December of 2011. He is the first Hispanic-Latino to serve as Police Chief in Lake County Florida. Due to the flexible nature of education provided by Keiser University, he intends to continue his education by pursuing a Doctorate in Business Administration.

On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I congratulate and applaud Police Chief Banasco for his diligence, commitment and leadership to his community and for his educational achievements. He is highly deserving of the 2013 GREAT Award. I wish him much success as he continues his studies, and may his investment in hard work and perseverance inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

AARON CISNEROS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Aaron Cisneros for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Aaron Cisneros is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Aaron Cisneros is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Aaron Cisneros for winning the Arvada Wheat

Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO HANNAH INMAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Hannah Inman for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who 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 distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Hannah Inman serves as the Director of Communications for the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and is also the co-owner of two businesses—Maverly Lands, an agribusiness, and KDC Built, a home-building operation she owns with her husband of ten years, Mike. KDC Built was launched amid the fiscal crisis and has not only survived, but thrived as the business donates the proceeds from one house to charity. When Hannah is not juggling the responsibilities of her two businesses or the communications efforts for the largest conservation bond issue in Iowa, she also serves as a member of the Broadlawn Advocate Circle marketing committee, an executive committee member of the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute class of 2011, and is a mother to her and Mike's two young children, six-year-old Maverick and Everly, who will turn two later this year. In every facet of her life, Hannah is an example of service and Iowa work ethic that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Hannah in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. Inman for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Hannah on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

CELEBRATING THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 34th anniversary

of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). Having served in this body during the passage of this historic legislation, I am happy to note the success that the Act has achieved.

When Congress debated the Act, it sought to protect the freedom and integrity of the people of Taiwan at a time when the island's future was uncertain. The TRA's success in helping to provide the climate for Taiwan's remarkable economic growth and its model democracy has proven beyond all doubt the merit of this particular agreement.

Today, Taiwan's people have one of the best health care systems in the world, which I believe we would be well-served to emulate. Its people enjoy a true democracy with all the benefits of a free people. Its economy is the envy of many nations around the world.

The Taiwan Relations Act continues to play an important role in maintaining peace in an important region of the world and I am certain that it will continue to do so for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT OF LAUREN ROJAS

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lauren Rojas, a seventh-grade student from Antioch, California, whose exceptional science experiment earned first place at the Association of Christian Schools International science fair for the Northern California region and gained the attention of the world.

Lauren launched a weather balloon 18 miles above Earth to gather atmospheric data from the troposphere. Her experiment on the air we breathe represents the benefits of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in our nation. She is a bright, dedicated young woman who is passionate about learning.

Unfortunately, less than 25 percent of all STEM jobs are held by women. We must prioritize investments in STEM education to facilitate more opportunities for women to close this gap. Lauren Rojas and her science experiment are an example of what can be accomplished if we commit to this goal.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lauren Rojas, her scientific achievement, and the upcoming generation of women scientists, engineers, and mathematicians.

DALE RUSSELL, MISSOURI SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dale Russell on his induction into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

Dale has seen success throughout his career, both on and off the basketball court. As a senior at Branson High School, he led the Pirate basketball team to a perfect 41–0 record, capped off by the 1955 Class B State

Championship. He was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

As a senior at Southwest Missouri State University, Dale and his teammates finished second in the National Division II Basketball Championship.

Dale went on to coach basketball for 24 years in Southwest Missouri, including his last 13 at Branson High. In addition to impacting our district's young people on the court, he taught science, health, and physical education classes.

The City of Branson, Branson High School, and the 7th District should be very proud of Dale's accomplishments. He truly represents us all in a positive manner.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dale, a phenomenal athlete, teacher, and coach on his impressive accomplishments.

ADRIAN MALFABON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Adrian Malfabon for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Adrian Malfabon is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Adrian Malfabon is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Adrian Malfabon for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO AIMEE STAUDT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Aimee Staudt for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who 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 distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Aimee Staudt is the Director of Development for Knapp Properties, Inc. where she

oversees all of the company's real estate development and construction activities. Mrs. Staudt's portfolio includes more than 5,000 acres of development ground that involves more than \$11 million in infrastructure, \$20 million in new construction, and \$16 million in tenant improvements. Aimee is also heavily involved in her community, where she has been on the Ankeny Plan and Zoning Commission, a previous president and vice president of the Home Builder's Association of Greater Des Moines' developers' council, a current board member and youth mentor of the ACE Mentor Program, and a court-appointed special advocate for children in need of assistance. Aimee resides in Ankeny with her husband Ryan and their three children. In every facet of her life, Aimee is an example of service and Iowa work ethic that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Aimee in the United States Congress and it with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. Staudt for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Aimee on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

A BILL TO AMEND THE SIKES ACT TO PROMOTE THE USE OF COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS UNDER SUCH ACT FOR LAND MANAGEMENT RELATED TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE READINESS ACTIVITIES AND TO AMEND TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE, TO FACILITATE INTERAGENCY COOPERATION IN CONSERVATION PROGRAMS TO AVOID OR REDUCE ADVERSE IMPACTS ON MILITARY READINESS ACTIVITIES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced a bill to amend the Sikes Act to promote the use of cooperative agreements for land management related to the Department of Defense (DoD) readiness activities and to facilitate interagency cooperation in conservation programs to avoid or reduce adverse impacts on military readiness activities. The bill provides common sense reforms to the Sikes Act and DoD Readiness Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI). These reforms afford both programs with greater flexibility to leverage cooperative agreements and other federal funds to meet program requirements.

In particular, section 1 of the bill would provide additional enhancements to the authorities provided to DoD under the Sikes Act and parallels a similar amendment made in the FY 2012 National Defense Authorization Act to the REPI program. Specifically, the provision would authorize DoD, pursuant to a cooperative agreement under the Sikes Act, to provide funds for the long term maintenance and improvement of natural resources on non-DoD lands without first having to protect such lands through acquisition of easements. This will

greatly enhance the ability of DoD to take action to relieve or eliminate current or anticipated challenges that could restrict, impede, or otherwise interfere with, whether directly or indirectly, current or anticipated military activities. For example, this provision would help DoD meet its obligations under the Endangered Species Act and other applicable statutory and regulatory requirements through actions on non-DoD lands pursuant to a cooperative agreement with a state or local agency or a private landowner. This authority would help avoid or reduce the need to restrict training and testing activities on DoD lands.

Section 2 of the bill would help DoD better protect military installations and ranges from encroachment under REPI and the Sikes Act by enhancing cooperation with the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior. Sustainability and the long-term viability of many DoD installations and ranges continue to be threatened by incompatible development and loss of habitat in areas in the vicinity of, or ecologically related to, those installations and ranges. Current law allows funds from non-DoD federal programs to be used by REPI partners as contributions under a REPI agreement. Greater partnership and cooperation is enhanced under this provision by allowing funds provided by the DoD to protect bases from encroachment to qualify as match or cost share in the conservation programs of the Departments of Agriculture and Interior. For example, prior to the 2008 Farm Bill enactment, DoD, through the REPI program, was able to protect installations in Oklahoma, Kansas, and South Carolina from encroachment while at the same time assisting state and local governments and willing landowners in meeting the matching funds requirements of the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP, now the Farmland Protection Program (FRP)). However, technical changes to this program in the 2008 Farm Bill had the unintended result of terminating the authority for DoD funds to be used as matching or cost-share requirements for that program. The provision reverses that unintended consequence and addresses the broader issue of allowing the DoD funds to be used as a match to other federal programs to help address encroachment issues at military installations. This provision is important to improving the readiness of our forces and ensuring their installations and ranges can be sustained.

Again, the bill is a common sense approach to better enabling DoD to meet its conservation goals and requirements while protecting its ability to meet readiness requirements. In a time of fiscal austerity, it is important for Congress to provide the Administration with the tools and authorities to be flexible and adaptable to challenges with innovative thinking and minimal investment. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

WILDLIFE SERVICES INVESTIGATION REQUEST AND AGENCY RESPONSE

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, on November 30, 2012 I sent a letter to the U.S. Secretary

of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack, requesting an investigation into Wildlife Services and the conduct of its employees. Mr. Vilsack responded to my letter on February 1, 2013 and my office received this letter on February 13, 2013. I intend to monitor this situation closely and look forward to seeing the results of the internal investigation that is currently taking place of WS employees and their compliance with state and federal anti-cruelty and animal protection laws.

NOVEMBER 30, 2012.

THOMAS VILSACK,
Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY VILSACK: We are writing to request a thorough audit of Wildlife Services, especially its lethal predator control program, by the USDA Office of Inspector General (OIG) regarding the culture within Wildlife Services.

As you know, recent news reports indicate that Jamie P. Olson, a Wildlife Services employee working in Wyoming, may have apparently committed acts of animal cruelty that appear to violate Wildlife Services' Directives and Wyoming state law. If it is found that Mr. Olson committed these acts, it would bring disrepute to the Wildlife Services' program and the federal government at a time when Wildlife Services, and in particular its lethal control of predators to protect livestock, labors under heavy criticism for unnecessarily killing wild animals and lacking transparency and accountability. We urge you to be thorough in your investigation because these alleged acts clearly violate standards of human decency.

However, we are gravely concerned that photographs, published on Mr. Olson's Facebook in an album labeled "work" and since removed, do not represent an isolated occurrence, but may reflect a deep-rooted problem within the Wildlife Services program that allows for, and encourages, inhumane lethal methods of predator control. According to a recent Sacramento Bee article, Gary Strader, a former Wildlife Services trapper in Nevada, "was not surprised to learn about the controversial photos. 'That is very common,' Strader wrote in an email." (Toni Knudson, U.S. wildlife worker's online photos of animal abuse stir outrage. Sacramento Bee, Friday, November 2, 2012).

We look forward to seeing the results of your investigation, and thank you for your attention in this important matter.

Sincerely,

JOHN CAMPBELL,
Member of Congress.
PETER DEFAZIO,
Member of Congress.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, DC, Feb. 1, 2013.

Hon. PETER DEFAZIO,
U.S. House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN DEFAZIO: Thank you for your letter of November 30, 2012, regarding allegations of animal cruelty by an employee with the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Wildlife Services (WS) program. I apologize for the delayed response.

I, and other USDA officials, take this matter very seriously. USDA does not condone any form of animal cruelty and holds all employees responsible for adhering to Departmental and Agency standards and directives. WS personnel are expected to use approved and humane methods to euthanize captured or restrained animals whenever practicable, and in accordance with American Veterinary Medical Association guidelines. WS employees are also required to comply at all times with applicable State and Federal laws.

At this time, the Administrative Investigations and Compliance Branch (AICB) of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is engaged in an ongoing investigation of this matter. In response to a previous request to initiate an investigation into these allegations, USDA's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has deferred to AICB's

active investigation. However, OIG officials have requested that AICB report its findings to them once the investigation has been finalized. In the meantime, WS officials are also taking this opportunity to reaffirm to program staff their ethical obligation to uphold professional standards and their responsibilities to the American public.

I appreciate the opportunity to address your concerns. I assure you that USDA remains steadfast in its commitment to responsible oversight and stewardship with regard to the WS program. I am sending a similar letter to Congressman Campbell.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK,
Secretary.