

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF COTERIE

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Coterie organization as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. I have the privilege of representing this outstanding organization and many of its members, who are truly a great asset to our community.

Established in 1915 by a small group of African American women in Denver who had a great thirst for knowledge, the group has persevered for a century. Since their founding at a time when the Ku Klux Klan predominated and then through two world wars, the Great Depression, economic recessions and segregation, their tradition has endured. Each year, Coterie has investigated a new research topic, choosing subjects as diverse as the ages and interests of their members. Through the years, topics have included Milton and English Drama, Contemporary Women Meeting Today's Challenge of the Space Age, The World's Great Opera, and Spotlighting Colorado Afro-American Achievers.

Since Coterie members understand the value that education brings to a community, they have shared it with countless others over their 100 year history. Members have been mentors to others and have inspired young people to continue their education. The findings from their research will be stored at the Blair Caldwell African American Research Library, an appropriate depository of their work given, its mission of "sharing resources and services about African-American History." The preservation of their work will enable future generations to benefit from their efforts for many decades to come.

Coterie has been an important part of African-American culture in Denver, and many of their members have also served as community leaders. Some of their notable living members include Marie Greenwood, who is now 102 years old, joined Coterie in 1937, and is the first African American woman to receive a contract to teach with Denver Public Schools. Erma Ford, now 89 years old and a member since 1958, served as past president of the Colorado Association of Early Childhood Education.

Life, present and past, has been their teacher. Please join me in celebrating 100 years of Coterie in their dedicated pursuit of knowledge.

HONORING ANITA GERSON FOR  
RECEIVING THE 2015 DELORES  
BARR WEAVER ELDER ADVOCATE  
AWARD

**HON. ANDER CRENSHAW**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Macclenny, Florida resident Anita Gerson, recipient of the 2015 Delores Barr Weaver Elder Advocate Award from ElderSource, an organization devoted to helping seniors across North Florida live independent lives.

A dedicated volunteer, Mrs. Gerson, 87, has served the elderly since her youth with ElderSource as her latest focus. For the last 15 years, she has put the needs of Baker County, Florida elderly at the top of her list, serving on the ElderSource board of directors and ensuring organization services are efficient, effective, and meet client needs. Additionally, she brought her devotion to the Baker County Council on Aging, where she served on the board of directors for seven years and president for one year.

Mrs. Gerson has been described as a "woman of great passion, wisdom and humor"—qualities she embodies day-in and day-out as she cares for her community and those in need. She is a leader, a doer, does not shy away from hard work, and will stop at nothing to serve the elderly in her community. "Bloom where you are planted," her mother once told her, and make a positive difference in the lives of those around you. She has met that goal and then some throughout her entire life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to please join me in a very special Congressional salute to volunteer leader Northeast Florida resident Anita Gerson—an example for us all.

HONORING CHRISTIE RAMPONE  
AND CARLI LLOYD

**HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two remarkably talented women, Christie Rampone and Carli Lloyd of New Jersey's Third Congressional District, for their participation on the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team.

I am proud to have Ms. Rampone and Ms. Lloyd represent not only the United States and New Jersey, but the people of Ocean County and Burlington County, on an international scale. As 2 of the 23 elite players offered membership onto the team, Ms. Rampone and Ms. Lloyd are not only exceptional athletes, but extraordinary testaments to determination, commitment, and sportsmanship.

Ms. Rampone, of Point Pleasant, New Jersey, is a 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup champion and a three-time Olympic gold medalist, having won championship titles at the last 4 Summer Olympics. She has finished no lower than third place in each of the World Cup or Olympic tournaments in which she has competed while also being the mother of two young children.

Ms. Lloyd, of Delran, New Jersey, is a two-time Olympic gold medalist, scoring the gold medal-winning goals in the finals of both the 2008 and the 2012 Summer Olympics. She has also represented the United States at two FIFA Women's World Cup tournaments, winning bronze and silver respectively, and has scored over 50 goals in 190 games throughout her career on the U.S. Women's National Team.

Mr. Speaker, South Jersey applauds Christie Rampone and Carli Lloyd with tremendous pride and admiration for their achievements in soccer. It is my honor to recognize them before the United States House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING THE AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN FLINT BRANCH ON ITS  
95TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the American Association of University Women Flint Branch on the occasion of their 95th anniversary.

The AAUW Flint Branch was established in 1919 when 28 college-educated women formed a branch of the Western Association of Collegiate Alumnae. Throughout its history, the Flint Branch has actively supported regional, cultural, civic and educational programs and events.

The group gathers several times per year through membership meetings and book club gatherings. The meetings have consisted of guest speakers who educate members and initiate conversation around important issues affecting women and the greater community. Funds are raised through various initiatives allowing the branch to build awareness and advocate for worthy causes not just with its voice but also through financial support.

In 1922, an annual college scholarship of \$200 was established for worthy women students. This fund was continued for four years. In 1972, the Flint branch reinstated the annual merit scholarship bestowed to a female student attending a college or university in Genesee County. The award is now \$1,000 and is renewable one additional year to each recipient along with a new yearly recipient. The branch also provides financial support to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, the Legal Advocacy

● 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.

Fund, and the National Women's Council facilitated through the AAUW National office.

Throughout the years, the Flint branch has been a strong supporter of Title IX and would keep area schools and athletic associations apprised of issues at the national level. The branch also actively supports non-profit organizations in Genesee County such as Carriage Town Mission, Whaley Children's Center and UM-Flint's MPowering My Success program. In the 1960s and 1970s the Flint branch of the AAUW organized large book sales at the Genesee Valley Mall to promote literacy and generate funds for its philanthropic endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the work done by the AAUW Flint Branch and thank them for the service they have provided to the City of Flint and the surrounding communities.

TRIBUTE TO TAIWAN PRESIDENT  
MA YING-JEOU ON PEACE AND  
DIPLOMACY

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my unwavering support to the people of the Republic of China Taiwan. The United States and Taiwan are two like-minded countries. The Taiwanese people share our same cultural values of respect for individual liberties, freedom of speech, adherence to the rule of law, and support for human rights.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share a speech entitled "True Friendship Lasts Forever" delivered by Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou on June 2, 2015, at a video conference at Stanford University. In his speech, President Ma delineated the importance of future cooperation opportunities between our two countries. Below is the summary of President Ma's speech. For the full transcript, please visit the website of the office of the President of the Republic of China: <http://www.president.gov.tw>

"I am very happy to be here for today's videoconference. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, as well as the Republic of China's (ROC) victory in the War of Resistance Against Japan. In July 1937, two years before World War II broke out, ROC forces began fighting against Japanese aggression alone, and for four long years, they continued with virtually no outside help. It wasn't until the Pearl Harbor attack in December 1941 that the ROC joined forces with the Allies to declare war against Japan, Germany, and Italy.

Although the ROC and U.S. severed diplomatic ties in 1979, barely three months later, the U.S. Congress passed the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). Under that Act, Taiwan is treated as a foreign government for purposes of U.S. law and in U.S. courts. The Act also requires the U.S. to provide Taiwan with defensive weapons.

Since I came into office in 2008, mutual ROC-U.S. trust has been restored at the highest levels of government. And over the past two years, there have been frequent, reciprocal visits by high-level officials. In April 2014, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy visited Taiwan, and Charles Rivkin, Assistant Secretary of State

for Economic and Business Affairs is visiting Taiwan now. At the same time, heads of various ROC government agencies have visited the U.S., so there is a solid foundation of mutual trust there.

In addition to strong security ties, Taiwan-U.S. trade relations have also made significant progress over the last few years. In March 2013, after a five-year hiatus, we reopened negotiations with the U.S. under the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), a platform set up in 1994 to facilitate talks in trade and investment matters. We have continued bilateral consultations in a series of 12 work conferences, and have made significant progress. At the end of March 2015, the ROC is America's 10th largest trading partner, surpassing Brazil and Saudi Arabia, and the U.S. is Taiwan's third largest, after mainland China and Japan.

Let me turn to cross-strait relations. Over the past seven years, Taiwan and mainland China have signed 21 agreements. During that same period, visitors from mainland China have made over 14 million trips to Taiwan, almost four million of them in the past year alone. So the cross-strait situation is more stable and peaceful than it has ever been in the past 66 years.

In addition to seeking stable development in cross-strait and ROC-U.S. relations, Taiwan has also taken concrete actions over the past few years to be a regional peacemaker in both the East China Sea, and the South China Sea. Back in August 2012, I proposed the East China Sea Peace Initiative. That Initiative asks stakeholders to forgo conflict in favor of peaceful negotiations, and emphasizes cooperation in sharing resources. Eight months later in April 2013, Taiwan and Japan signed a fisheries agreement that embodies the spirit of that Initiative, and solved a fisheries dispute between Taiwan and Japan that has troubled both countries for 40 years. That agreement elicited widespread praise and support from the global community. Secretary of State John Kerry has publicly stated that the ROC-Japan fisheries agreement is a model for promoting regional stability, and that the principles at the heart of the East China Sea Peace Initiative apply to all of the waters in Asia.

In the East China Sea, the East China Sea Peace Initiative encourages stakeholders to shelve their disputes, and cooperate to create win-win situations. Its success makes it a model for peaceful development in the South China Sea. On May 26, 2015, I formally announced the South China Sea Peace Initiative, hoping that the relevant parties will: "shelve sovereignty dispute, pursue peace and reciprocity, and promote joint exploration and development." By upholding those principles, we hope that all the parties involved will work together to maintain regional peace and promote regional development. A U.S. State Department official stated that the U.S. appreciates the proposals in the South China Sea Peace Initiative. I sincerely hope that all of the outstanding scholars and experts gathered here will support the pursuit of peace."

Mr. Speaker, this tribute recognizes the importance of the relationship between the United States and the Republic of China Taiwan as strategic partners under the Taiwan Relations Act.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED  
SERVICE OF SENIOR JUDGE WIL-  
LIAM STAFFORD

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Judge William Stafford for his 40 years as a federal judge on the bench of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida. Since receiving his appointment by President Gerald Ford on May 30, 1975, Judge Stafford has worked tirelessly to uphold our Constitution, and his service is a true testament to his patriotism and commitment to justice.

Judge Stafford's service to our Nation began many years prior to his appointment as a federal judge, when, as a recent law school graduate, he joined the United States Navy, serving with honor and distinction until 1960. After nearly a decade in private practice, Judge Stafford served as a United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida from 1969 until he received his appointment to serve as a federal judge.

During his time on the bench, Judge Stafford has served in numerous important positions, including more than 10 years as Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida and nearly 20 years as Senior Judge. In addition, he also served for 7 years as a judge on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which helps ensure that our Nation remains safe from those who seek to do us harm.

As a result of his excellence on the bench, Judge Stafford has received numerous professional appointments and awards. He served nearly a decade on the Committees of Judicial Conference of the United States, a position appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in addition to myriad committee assignments with the Florida Bar, and a term as President of the District Judges Association of the Eleventh Circuit. Judge Stafford has also received recognitions including the Temple Law Alumni Achievement Award and the American Bar Association's Law Day USA National Speech Award, and his commitment to the legal profession saw him help found the American Inns of Court's Tallahassee Inn, which was renamed the William H. Stafford American Inn of Court in his honor.

Judge Stafford's commitment to service and dedication to his community extend far beyond his judicial service, and he has served both St. John's Episcopal Church in Tallahassee and Christ Church in Pensacola, in addition to service in the Brotherhood of St. Andrew and the Dioceses of Florida and of the Central Gulf Coast. As a leader in civic society, Judge Stafford is a longtime Rotary Club member, having served as President of the Tallahassee Rotary Club and received awards such as the Frederick Clifton Moor Award; served as President of the Tallahassee YMCA; and served on numerous Boards, including the Friends of Leon County Library Board, Sacred Heart Hospital of Pensacola's Board of Directors, as well as the Board of Directors of the Pensacola Symphony. He is also a longtime member of fraternal organizations and has received both the Grand Cross of Honour from the Scottish Rite and was named Grand Orator.

Our Constitutional system of government enshrined checks and balances and three co-equal but separate branches of government, and in order to uphold our Constitution, it is vital that we have honorable public servants like Judge Stafford willing to dedicate their professional careers to service in the judicial branch. On behalf of the House of Representatives, I am privileged to recognize Judge Stafford's 40 years on the federal bench, and my wife Vicki and I send our best wishes for many more years to Judge Stafford; his wife, Nancy; sons William III, Donald and David; six grandchildren; and the entire Stafford family.

HONORING THE UPCOMING WEDDING OF ALEX FERNANDEZ AND ROBERT WOLFARTH

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the upcoming nuptials of Alex Fernandez and Robert Wolfarth.

Robert Wolfarth and Alex Fernandez of south Florida will be getting married in the District of Columbia at the Florida House on Capitol Hill. Their wedding ceremony marks the first same-sex marriage at the Florida House following its lawful recognition in the state through judicial ruling.

Giving back to their community has been a centerpiece of Robert and Alex's professional lives and of their relationship. Robert, the grandson of former Miami Mayor William M. Wolfarth, and Alex, a public servant since the age of 15, met on September 25th, 2006 at Miami-Dade County Hall where Alex worked at the time as a Press Secretary. The two were immediately bonded by a shared passion for public service.

Alex proudly served as an aide to Miami Beach Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and was her liaison to the LGBT Affairs Committee playing an instrumental role in the inaugural Miami Beach Gay Pride. As a successful real estate entrepreneur, Robert's most cherished professional accomplishment has been hiring an undocumented immigrant, helping her become an American citizen, obtain a real estate salesperson license, and achieve the American Dream of homeownership. A member of the Miami Beach Hispanic Affairs Board, Alex has been an active advocate for workforce housing for residents being displaced from their homes and community by the rising cost of living and real estate values.

Among their many professional and civic endeavors, Robert and Alex are most proud of their mutual service to the communities they love, Miami-Dade County and Miami Beach. Whether it be through the rescue of their three dogs from the shelter, or the distribution of pumpkin pies to the less fortunate on Thanksgiving, or through their past service on the Planning, Affordable Housing, or Charter Review Boards, Robert and Alex find in each day of their relationship the opportunity to make a positive impact in the lives of others.

Through their marriage and the continued support of their friends and loved ones, Robert and Alex hope to demonstrate that as a nation, states, and communities we are strengthened through the contributions of countless

loving and committed American same-sex couples seeking the fundamental right to the pursuit of happiness.

On this special occasion, I wish Robert and Alex many continued years of love, health, and happiness as they enter this blessed new stage of their lives together.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF FRED MILLER

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the life of Fred Miller of Toledo, Ohio. Passing from this life at the age of 88, Fred lived life to the fullest.

Fred Miller was born on March 28, 1925 to Mattie and Roy Miller. A lifelong Toledoan, he graduated from DeVilbiss High School in 1943 and soon followed graduation with service in the U.S. Army Air Corps in Europe until after World War II. Upon his return home, he enrolled in the University of Toledo where he graduated in 1949 with a degree in electrical engineering. A few months later he married his wife Dorothy. Dorothy and Fred were married 64 years and together raised three sons.

Fred Miller built his career at the Toledo Edison Company, giving the company 38 years of service.

A man of faith and service to others, Fred was an active member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church where he served on the finance committee for many years. He also found time to serve as a Boy Scout leader.

Retirement saw Fred furthering his skills as an angler, fishing all over North America from Alaska to the Florida Keys. He and Dorothy were fortunate to travel the world. He was also able to indulge in his hobbies of photography and building model airplanes.

Fred Miller was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was a man who gave fully to his family, his faith and his community. May those who loved him find peace in the memory of his spirit and the imprint he leaves on their lives.

TRIBUTE TO CLINT CALLICOTT

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the Tennessee 7th Congressional District, home to Williamson County, was shaped in part by its long-time leader, and a dear friend of mine, Clint Callicott.

Mr. Callicott's time on Earth will be remembered by his service to others. During his time on the Williamson county commission, as county Mayor and in the Tennessee General Assembly, Clint served the people of his community with distinction and passion. He leaves behind a legacy of love; love for his family, community, and the land.

Mr. Callicott was considered the "father" of the Williamson County Agriculture Exposition Park, home to rodeos, trade shows, and the Williamson County Fair. In gratitude for his

work in establishing the Park, the facility's arena is named in his honor.

It is fitting that Clint Callicott spent his last hours on his family farm before joining our Savior in Heaven. I ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating one of Williamson County's greatest men. My thoughts and prayers are with his beautiful wife Carolyn, sons Claude and Clayton, and his extended family.

RIVERVIEW/VALLEYVIEW CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE CHURCH

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to congratulate the Riverview/Valleyview Christian and Missionary Alliance Church on the 100 year anniversary of their founding.

The Church was chartered by the Christian and Mission Alliance Organization in the Spring of 1915, in the Village of Endicott, New York. A church was built on the north side of the Susquehanna River and named "River-view Christian and Missionary Alliance." In the mid 1980's a new larger church was built on a hill across the river in Vestal, New York, and the name changed to Valleyview Christian and Missionary Alliance. On June 13, 2015, the congregation will celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the founding of their Church, under the current leadership of its pastor, Rev. David M. Murphy.

Valleyview Christian and Missionary Alliance has made a difference and is a valued institution for Christian stewardship.

HONORING MR. RICHARD K. UHLER

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Richard K. Uhler for his service and sacrifice during the Second World War.

Mr. Uhler, of Springfield, Pennsylvania, served in the United States Army as a Private First Class with Company H, 2nd Battalion, 180th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division. He served bravely in the Anzio campaign, where he was wounded by shrapnel. Despite his service and injury, he never received the Purple Heart.

Mr. Uhler was among the millions of veterans whose records were tragically destroyed by a fire at the National Personnel Records Center during the 1970s. After diligent investigation, I'm pleased my office was able to find documentation for his service and the injuries he sustained in battle. Mr. Uhler will now finally receive the commendations he earned more than 70 years after he was wounded in Italy.

Mr. Speaker, this week I had the chance to host Mr. Uhler while he was presented with the Purple Heart and Bronze Star he earned for his service. On behalf of the 7th District of Pennsylvania, I want to thank Mr. Richard Uhler for his service to our great nation.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,152,809,942,589.13. We've added \$7,525,932,893,676.05 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ALMA S. ADAMS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, on June 2, 2015, I was absent for recorded votes #270 through #273 due to the passing of my mother.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I were here:

On Roll Call #270, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll Call #271, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll Call #272, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll Call #273, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF ZNIN,  
POLAND**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone in the long life of the City of Znin, Poland, of which I am proud to be an honorary citizen. June 3, 2015 marks 25 years of local self-government for the nearly 15,000 people of Znin.

Znin, originating from the Polish word for harvest, is nestled on the river Gasawka in Poland. Though the region has been settled for far longer, the city itself is nearly 900 years old and was once a major town on the trade route known as the Amber Road. King Casimir the Great of Poland visited many times and it was also a favorite of bishops through the latter half of the 14th Century. Fires destroyed much of Znin in the later 15th Century, but the town was rebuilt and boasted the first windmill, orchards, breweries and businesses. The 17th and 18th centuries brought disease and more fires from which the town did not recover well. During the First Partition of Poland in the 1770's, Znin was annexed by Prussia. The town was liberated in 1794 through the Kosciuszko Uprising. It became part of the Duchy of Warsaw a few years later, but was returned to Prussia in 1815. The town's economy developed through the 19th Century, with modern infrastructure and its population growing to 4,500 citizens.

Znin's residents successfully participated in the 1919 Greater Poland Uprising. A new town council was elected and Polish was reestablished as the official language of the town's nearly 5,000 residents. Between the two World Wars, the economy perked up once again and Znin boasted two colleges and both daily and weekly newspapers.

On September 1, 1939, the Nazi Luftwaffe bombed Znin to start World War II. Nine days later, German troops overtook the town and once again Znin was wiped from the map of Europe. The Germans renamed the town and its streets, the children could not go to school and hundreds of people were deported or shot.

After the war, with Poland under the brutal thumb of the Soviet Union as a result of the Yalta Conference, the people of Znin again faced repression and fear. Soviet industrialization brought development to Znin, but its citizens were forced to live under the Soviet regime while Poland was under the sphere of Soviet Communism. The people of Poland never gave up, though, and the ensuing decades saw uprisings as the people tried to liberate themselves. Finally, a group of shipyard workers in Gdansk brought light to the people of Poland. Over the course of a decade between 1980 and 1989, Solidarity moved forward culminating in the election of its leader Lech Walesa in 1990 and a free Poland.

Thus, on its 25th anniversary of return to self-governance, the citizens of Znin look forward. The fires of the past drive them forth, but the light of the future carries them to new possibilities. I am so pleased to stand with my compatriots in Znin as together we celebrate 25 years of freedom. Naprzód!

RECOGNIZING LAWRENCE L.  
KITCHING, JR. AND TRUTECH  
HEATING AND COOLING**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Lawrence L. Kitching, Jr. and TruTech Heating and Cooling, the recipient of our 2015 District of Columbia Small Business of the Year award. The award is given to an outstanding D.C. small business every year at our annual Small Business Fair.

TruTech Heating and Cooling is a small business that was founded by Lawrence L. Kitching. Through hard work, determination, knowledge of his craft and excellence in performance, Mr. Kitching has grown his business significantly. Since opening in D.C. in 2012, TruTech Heating and Cooling has expanded its business into Maryland and Virginia. The business prides itself on quality craftsmanship, integrity and customer service. The technicians and professionals at TruTech Heating and Cooling are well-trained.

Mr. Kitching, a native Washingtonian and graduate of William McKinley Technical High School, learned heating, ventilation and air conditioning at Lincoln Technical Institute and received his diploma in 1997. After heading down the wrong path, Mr. Kitching decided to pursue a better life for himself and his son, and began working to improve his skills while

in prison. After his release, he worked at a prominent air conditioning company in the D.C. area for seven years. Then, he boldly followed his passion to become an entrepreneur and left his job to start his own company. Mr. Kitching and his company are certified by the North American Technician Excellence, and are recognized as professionals in the industry.

We are particularly proud that TruTech Heating and Cooling has provided such an essential service to the members of our community. Lawrence Kitching has succeeded in a tough, competitive business environment. In the process, he has become an inspiration not only to our local small businesses but also to anyone who has had a poor start in life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Lawrence L. Kitching, Jr. for recommitting himself to the pursuit of excellence and integrity and to TruTech Heating and Cooling, the District of Columbia 2015 Small Business of the Year.

HONORING LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE  
DISTRICT AS IT CELEBRATES  
100 YEARS OF OPERATION**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Lake Worth Drainage District, which is celebrating its 100th Anniversary of providing water management services to the Palm Beach County community.

For the past 100 years, the District has managed the surface water resources of southeastern Palm Beach County. Overseeing a complex system of 500 miles of canals and 20 major water control structures, the Lake Worth Drainage District has continued to protect our lands from the dangers of both flood and drought. Their tireless efforts have not only met the demands of our evolving urban and agricultural communities, but also bolstered employment and business growth opportunities. The amount of time and effort the District and its employees have expended for the betterment of their community is truly admirable and exhibits a level of commitment worthy of recognition. With their support Palm Beach County has remained the Winter Vegetable Capital of the United States.

I happily congratulate the District and its employees on a century of hard work and dedication to the urban and agricultural community of South Florida. It is with great pleasure that I honor them.

HONORING THE CAREER OF  
CAROLYN SIMS**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the career and celebrate the retirement of a dedicated and tireless public servant, Carolyn Sims, who most recently worked as Precinct Administrator for County Commissioner Gary Fickes of Tarrant County, Texas.

Carolyn was born in Dallas and built her career of local service on a strong educational foundation. At the University of North Texas she earned her Bachelors in Business Education and a Masters in Public School Administration, in addition to a vocational teaching certification and hours toward a counseling certification. After briefly beginning her professional life at a bank, she put her background to work in helping children. From 1973 to 1982 she served as an 8th grade teacher in the Irving and Grapevine-Colleyville Independent School Districts, teaching vocational subjects, including typing, and also serving as a counselor. Afterward, Carolyn worked for the latter as a volunteer coordinator.

She then ran her own secretarial business for several years and became a mother to Trey and Kate. With that business experience in hand, in 1989, Carolyn became the president of the Colleyville Area Chamber of Commerce, where she worked to advance the concerns and success of local business for six years. Afterwards, she became president of the Arts Council of Northeast Tarrant County from 1995 to 2002. Seeing her record of service, Texas Representative Vicki Truitt recruited Carolyn to serve as her chief of staff in Austin during the legislative session of 2003. Upon returning, she entered local government by becoming the director of marketing and public affairs for the Town of Westlake until 2006, and then worked into the next year as the executive director of the Northwest Independent School District Education Foundation.

Finally, Carolyn's record of leadership led her to becoming the Precinct Administrator, essentially a chief of staff role, for Tarrant County Commissioner Gary Fickes in 2007. In that position, she regularly worked with and served people from 17 cities.

Her admirable history of service to the community, however, does not end with her professional track. Carolyn is currently on the boards of the Tarrant County MHMR (providing practical help to people with mental health needs), the Northeast Tarrant County Chamber of Commerce, and the Northeast Leadership Forum. Over the years she has volunteered with and been an active participant in numerous civic organizations including: Community Enrichment Center, United Way, JPS, Southlake Toastmasters, Hugworks, Rotary Club, Hill Country Bible Church, Austin Aggie Moms, Alliance for Children, Women's Shelter, Metroport Cities Partnership, Southlake Business Women Organization, American Cancer Society, University of North Texas Alumni, and other Chamber of Commerce branches and school district education foundations. She has also had professional affiliations with Americans for the Arts, Texas Alliance for the Arts, Association of Fundraising Professionals, Texas Travel Industry Association, North Hills Hospital Board, and the Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives.

Suffice it to say, Carolyn loves to help others through her organizations and community service, listening to their concerns, sharing job opportunities, and providing means of assistance to those in need. She is the model of a citizen who dedicates her life to working hard for her neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in thanking Carolyn Sims for her years of service to Tarrant County, and various aspects of the

community within it, and in celebrating her well-earned retirement.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on June 3, 2015, because of the death of a close friend. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Roll Call #288—Aye  
Roll Call #289—Aye  
Roll Call #290—Aye  
Roll Call #291—Aye  
Roll Call #292—Aye  
Roll Call #293—Aye  
Roll Call #294—Aye  
Roll Call #295—Aye  
Roll Call #296—Nay  
Roll Call #297—Yea

#### RECOGNIZING MARGARET WUWERT'S LIFE OF SERVICE

### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life's work of Margaret Wuwert of Toledo, Ohio. After building the once-fledgling Children's Rights Council into the well-respected organization it has become, Margaret recently was retired from the organization which bears her imprimatur.

Margaret Wuwert joined the Children's Rights Council in 1995 and was appointed as Chapter Leader in Toledo, Ohio. In just five years, by 2000 she had implemented one of the best Supervised Visitation/Access Centers in the United States. So many families have been able to visit their children at these visitation/access sites. Margaret recruited and mentored many others to start sites in other communities. Always, with the goal of helping children and families, Margaret's enthusiasm for her work has been boundless and infectious.

Margaret has also been an honored member of the National Office in Washington, DC where her knowledge and experience have been much-valued at board meetings and conferences. Her passion is clear, endless, and passed on to everyone who met her.

With money often a concern in keeping sites open, Margaret "worked day and night trying to get grant money and many times she gave up her own salary in order to not close the doors to Children's Rights Council" according to one of her colleagues. Working with the family court system, Margaret developed relationships with judges, CASA volunteers and community leaders to move forward the goals of the Children's Rights Council. In her quiet and earnest way, Margaret was able to make the system of court ordered supervised visits work in the best way possible for children and parents.

As a colleague she mentored noted, "The world is a better place because she cared about these children who had no way to see

their other parent. There are not too many people like Margaret. If it were not for her. . . life would be so much more complicated."

Margaret Wuwert is a joyful soul who brought joy to families in tragic situations. Without her tireless efforts and dedication to her work, there would not be a Children's Rights Council able to offer the help to families it does today. For twenty years, Margaret Wuwert was the Children's Rights Council. She leaves shoes impossible to fill, but a strong organization which is integral to the needs of families who find themselves in the court system.

We thank Margaret Wuwert for her compassion, her spirit and her unending efforts as a leader with the Children's Rights Council. We wish for Margaret in retirement time to spend with those for whom she cares and doing that which she most enjoys.

#### HONORING THE AMERICAN LEGION, PASO DEL NORTE POST 58

### HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to recognize the American Legion Post 58 located in Northeast El Paso on Vulcan Avenue, also known as the El Paso Del Norte Post. I am pleased to recognize them as a distinguished Veteran Services Organization in my district.

As one of the largest VSOs in Texas, the Paso Del Norte Post's engagement with our veteran community is exemplary. Several of the officers at this post serve or have served on national committees and commissions of the American Legion. In the fall of 2014, a team from the American Legion national organization visited El Paso and worked with the El Paso VA to provide medical care to veterans in need. The visiting group of the American Legion, led by Verna Jones, Director of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division in Washington, D.C., also hosted a town hall at the El Paso Del Norte headquarters where over 400 veterans attended.

Post 58 further provided accommodations to their national counterparts for four additional days to assist veterans through their "Veteran Crisis Command Center" where a team known as a "triage team" was available to help veterans get access to the medical care they deserve. The American Legion Post 58's commitment to our community's veterans is remarkable and their team is comprised of dedicated veterans who volunteer their time to serve fellow veterans. The American Legion in my district is currently led by Richard Britton. I thank him for his leadership.

The American Legion Paso Del Norte Post 58 is an asset to our veteran community and El Paso. I thank Post 58 for their commitment to honoring our veterans and for helping strengthen the bonds in the El Paso community.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ALMA S. ADAMS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, on June 4, 2015 I was absent for recorded votes #298 through #308 due to the passing of my mother.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I were here:

On Roll Call #298 I would have voted No  
 On Roll Call #299 I would have voted No  
 On Roll Call #301 I would have voted Yes  
 On Roll Call #302 I would have voted No  
 On Roll Call #303 I would have voted No  
 On Roll Call #304 I would have voted No  
 On Roll Call #305 I would have voted Yes  
 On Roll Call #306 I would have voted Yes  
 On Roll Call #307 I would have voted No  
 On Roll Call #308 I would have voted Yes

**HONORING THE MICCOSUKEE INDIAN SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING FLEXIBILITY TO USE CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE STANDARDS**

**HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a historic chapter in Indian education. The Miccosukee tribe is the first tribe to receive flexibility from the Department of Education to use academic standards under the No Child Left Behind Act that reflect the unique culture of its people and needs of its children.

The standards developed for the Miccosukee Indian School integrate the tribe's culture and language while establishing tough academic standards that will promote college and career readiness.

Last Monday, Secretary of Education Arnie Duncan and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell hosted a ceremony to honor Chairman Colley Billie and Miccosukee Indian School Principal Manuel Varela for this unprecedented achievement.

These new standards will not only help the children of the Miccosukee tribe, but will pave the way for future work with other tribes.

Chairman Billie and I have been in conversations about establishing a 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project at the Miccosukee Indian School. It is our hope to make it a part of the My Brother's Keeper initiative.

Congratulations Chairman Colley Billie and the Miccosukee Indian School. Congratulations to all of the generations of Miccosukee children yet to be born. This school will make a huge impact on your lives.

## HONORING MR. TONY FRANSETTA

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Tony Fransetta who is retiring as the

founding President of the Florida Alliance for Retired Americans. Mr. Fransetta's thoughtfulness and devotion to addressing the needs of senior citizens has made him a trusted voice for seniors in my community and throughout Florida, and I laud his continued work on behalf of our nation's retired and aging communities.

Mr. Fransetta's efforts to support labor rights began during his work with the Ford Motor Company following his service in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. At Ford, Mr. Fransetta served as a leader for the United Auto Workers and represented 15,000 employees negotiating contracts and chairing programs such as quality control, insurance benefits, drug treatment, and employee education.

Following his retirement from Ford in 1990, Mr. Fransetta joined the National Council of Senior Citizens and was pivotal in transforming the council into the Florida Alliance for Retired Americans in 2002. For over 13 years, Mr. Fransetta has dedicated himself to advocating on behalf of aging Americans and has received many accolades for his tireless work, including a lifetime achievement award from the national Alliance for Retired Americans and the honor of being appointed as a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging in 2005.

Mr. Fransetta's passion to civic service is reflected as well in his work as the chairman for the local area Auto Retiree Council, the chairman of the U.A.W. Florida Retiree C.A.P., which represents 26,000 retirees in Florida, the Vice President of the Executive Board, A.F.L.-C.I.O. State of Florida, and a General Policy Board Member for the national Alliance for Retired Americans.

The amount of time and effort Mr. Fransetta has expended for the betterment of his community is truly admirable and exhibits a level of passion worthy of recognition. It is with great pleasure that I honor my dear friend, Tony Fransetta and I know that his passionate advocacy will continue to inspire Floridians to live by his example.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on Monday, June 1, 2015. Weather across the Midwest and eastern seaboard delayed my flight to Washington, DC until after votes had been called. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of the Dingell Amendment (Roll no. 264) and the Lowenthal Amendment (Roll no. 265). I would have voted against H.R. 1335 (Roll no. 267).

**RECOGNIZING JAYNE BACON GARRISON**

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a lifelong servant of Pennsylvania.

Jayne Bacon Garrison began serving her community in 1955, helping prepare Delaware County students to enter the workforce at the Pennsylvania Institute of Technology, an accredited junior college founded by her husband, Walter. Together, Jayne and Walter have built P.I.T. into the school it is today, with 800 students and more than 150 faculty members. Jayne continues to serve as the school's Chief Operating Officer and a member of its Board of Trustees.

But Jayne's contributions to her community expand far beyond P.I.T. She's long been active in a wide variety of philanthropic endeavors, including the Boy and Girl Scouts of America, the American Red Cross, the Delaware County Historical Society and the Elwyn Foundation. Jayne has focused particularly on serving our veterans, aiding efforts to ease their transition to civilian life.

Over the years, Jayne has been recognized by many organizations for her persistence and dedication. Last week, she added to that list as she received the 30th Anniversary Pearl Award from the Delaware County Women's Commission. It's a fine honor, and one she well deserves.

**THE OCCASION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL**

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very important milestone in the life of a church community in my District. Exactly 100 years ago today, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church was incorporated. On June 27, 2015, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of America, will lead the congregation and our community in Holy liturgy to celebrate the occasion.

Toledo, Ohio rose up as a city of immigrants. The city's Greek Americans arrived in Toledo in ever increasing numbers as the 20th Century dawned. These early settlers recognized the need to establish a church community. Bonded through faith and tradition, the community had been holding services in different locations in North Toledo. Upon incorporation, the move to build a church of their own began in earnest. In October of 1915 a house was purchased on the same lot on which the current church still stands. The remodeled house served as the church until a new church building was constructed. A splendid building in a Byzantine style, the church is truly magnificent. On Christmas Day 1920, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated for the first time in Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

The Cathedral itself serves to anchor the heart of Toledo in its near north end. Along the Cathedral's perimeter, visitors from near and far are welcomed to Toledo in sculpted letters carved into the landscape and a light shines forth from its entry foyer both day and night. Holy Trinity's congregants have built an institution worthy of its founders and vital to our community's character.

Through the coming decades the church community grew. Even in the hardship years of Depression and Wars, the members of the

church soldiered on. They sacrificed and prayed and the church thrived. As the years continued and the church grew, the Greek American Progressive Association organized a chapter named Parmenides Lodge No. 136, auxiliaries were formed, and federations including Pan-Arcadian, Tenedian, Cretan, Samian, Corinthian, and Sterea-Elias came together to preserve the culture. The ladies of the church organized under the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society. The Daughters of Penelope reactivated Dodona Chapter No. 24. World War II brought the formation of chapters of the Greek War Relief Association to help those suffering in Greece.

The post-war years saw progressive leadership and a renewed spiritual activity. Choir and Sunday School were re-energized, The Hellenic Youth Organization was formed followed by the Greek Orthodox Youth of America. This time also brought a realization of the need for new church structures. Ground was broken in October 1951 for a new Education Building which was dedicated on September 13, 1953. In 1958, adjacent land was purchased. Improvements continued in the church culminating in a major renovation in 1966. The newly refurbished church was consecrated on May 22, 1966. With this consecration, a dream conceived so many years before became a reality.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church continued to grow and has been woven into the fabric of our community. It remains in Toledo's older North End near downtown and draws our entire community to its renowned festival each September. In 1987, the parish was elevated to a Cathedral. As the 20th century came to a close and a new century dawned, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral and its members remained integral to Toledo. Today, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral serves 450 families. The cathedral is part of the Metropolitan of Detroit, of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. It serves as a beacon of light to the faithful and fulfills the promise in Ephesians 2:20–22, "Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit." I join with the members of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral as well as our larger community in celebrating a century of faith.

HONORING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SANTA BARBARA AND VENTURA COLLEGES OF LAW

**HON. JULIA BROWNLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and congratulate the Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law for their many years of outstanding leadership in education and remarkable services to the Central Coast community.

The Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law have educated over 1,800 graduates who

today serve in leadership positions in legal practice, government, business and non-profit organizations.

For over 45 years, the Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law have provided numerous opportunities and access to legal training in the practice of law through its Juris Doctor and Master of Legal Training degree programs. Through legal clinics, public service programs, and the work of its students as interns for governmental entities and non-profit organizations, the Colleges of Law have further reinforced the rule of law and access to legal services. Furthermore, these colleges have been active stewards of the community by providing space, sponsorship and support for local law-related activities, including those of judiciary, bar associations, bar foundations, schools and other groups throughout the region.

On the occasion of its 45th anniversary, it is my sincere pleasure to honor the Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law for its contributions to academic excellence in the teaching of law and to the service and community leadership provided by its graduates.

A TRIBUTE TO ERIN HAMMOND

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate an accomplished Iowa high school graduate, Erin Hammond of Polk City, Iowa, as she prepares to embark on a journey overseas to fight hunger and help those who are most in need.

The World Food Prize Borlaug-Ruan International Internship Program offers a number of Iowa high school graduates the opportunity to travel overseas and participate in efforts to fight hunger in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. This program was created by Dr. Norman Borlaug and John Ruan, Sr., to create interest in the agricultural sciences and give young people valuable experience in global food security jobs and research.

Erin will be spending her time at the SM Sehgal Foundation in Gurgaon, India. She will be conducting research on nonprofit organizations and how to optimize the benefits they provide to those who are less fortunate. Erin's passion for helping others is what inspired her to apply for this program.

It is with great pride that I recognize and congratulate Erin as she celebrates this great accomplishment. I commend her for her hard work and dedication to ending world hunger and her commitment to improving the lives of others. I wish her nothing but the best moving forward.

HONORING BOB DICKERSON

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of an amazing Washingtonian—Bob Dickerson. Bob died of cancer last week, something he had been dealing with for years,

but, during all the ups and downs, that was never what defined him. Instead, he was a champion for those in need. Bob volunteered with the RESULTS organization, which works to reduce poverty and child mortality. Bob's advocacy was unparalleled; I met with him many times, both in my district office and in DC. Each time, I was impressed and humbled by his passion for helping others, by his commitment to service. He had a heart for the world, doing everything within his power to improve the lives of each and every person in this world. My prayers are with Bob's family and the RESULTS team as they learn to live with Bob's memory rather than his person, and I suggest to all of us, that we take Bob's passion and service to heart, and put it before us as an example.

A TRIBUTE TO SAMANTHA  
MAGNUSON

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding commitment Samantha Magnuson demonstrates to her community of McClelland, Iowa. Samantha and her family have deep roots in McClelland. She has a strong record of volunteer service to her community by helping with the annual City-Wide Cleanup Day, the Children's Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween Party, and assisting with the Christmas program, along with many other activities throughout the year.

Samantha will be graduating this year from Underwood High School in Underwood, Iowa. She has been awarded the \$16,000 First Generation Scholarship from the Iowa West Foundation. She is planning to attend Iowa Western Community College and focus on a general education. Her future plan is to pursue a degree in engineering.

Samantha Magnuson is an active member of her community and is making a difference by helping others. It is with great honor that I recognize her today. I know that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring her accomplishments. I thank her for her service to the McClelland, Iowa community and wish her and her family all the best moving forward.

TRIBUTE TO ED BORCHERDT

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Ed Borchardt. He was a leader and entrepreneur. Mr. Borchardt attended Stanford University and received his BA and MBA there. He was the president of his own company, Borchardt & Co.

Mr. Borchardt served his country as a USMC Infantry Officer during the Korean War and later became a founding and vital member of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation. He also served on the board of the Devil Pups Youth Program for America. Mr. Borchardt was twice appointed by President Reagan to serve on the Board of Visitors of the Naval Academy.

As Chairman of the Great Falls Memorial Committee, Mr. Borchardt tremendously helped his community. Previously, he was the President of the McLean Rotary Club and founded and served as the President of the Northern Virginia Brittany Club.

Mr. Borchardt, known for his optimism, emphasized his motto: "onward and upward". He will also truly be remembered for his countless and endless service to his county and his community. I am confident that his passion and love for his country will serve as an inspiration for millions of people.

A TRIBUTE TO RICHARD AND  
JOAN MADISON

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Richard and Joan Madison on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Richard and Joan's lifelong commitment to each other and to their many children and grandchildren truly embodies our Iowan values. I salute this devoted couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF  
ARCELLE DANESE THOMAS

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Arcelle Danese Thomas, who passed away peacefully on April 7, 2015, at the age of 99.

Arcelle moved to Los Angeles in 1937, and remained a resident of the county for the rest of her life. After graduating from California State University Los Angeles, she worked as a teacher for the Los Angeles Unified School District and spent 30 years teaching children general education at South Park Elementary School. Outside of the classroom, Arcelle worked to improve childhood education by serving as the President of the American Childhood Education Institute.

An active member of the community, Arcelle became a lifetime member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. Even in her later years, she led her senior citizen's center community group, which further demonstrates her initiative and commendable leadership qualities.

Arcelle was one of ten brothers and sisters. While she was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, she spent the majority of her life in Southern California where she raised a family with her husband of 63 years. She is survived by her sister, daughter, and loving grandchildren.

For her contributions to the community and for her many other achievements, I would like to honor Arcelle Danese Thomas and her family.

A TRIBUTE TO DON AND JOANNE  
JORGENSEN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Don and Joanne Jorgensen on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary.

Don and Joanne were married on April 9, 1950. Their lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowan values. I salute this devoted couple on their 65th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

A TRIBUTE TO THE ENDURING  
U.S./TAIWAN FRIENDSHIP

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call for greater support for closer U.S./Taiwan relationship. Taiwan is an important economic and security partner, and as an advanced industrial economy, has much to contribute to the world. I would also like to take this opportunity to share a speech entitled "True Friendship Lasts Forever" addressed by Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou on June 2, 2015, at a video conference at Stanford University. In his speech, President Ma delineated the importance of future cooperation opportunities between our two countries. Below is the summary of President Ma's speech. For the full transcript, please visit the website of the office of the President of the Republic of China: <http://www.president.gov.tw>.

Summary of President Ma's remarks:

"This year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. In July 1937, two years before WWII broke out, ROC forces began fighting against Japanese aggression alone, and for four long years, they continued with virtually no outside help. It wasn't until the Pearl Harbor attack in December 1941 that the ROC joined forces with the Allies to declare war against Japan, Germany, and Italy.

The United States proved to be a staunch friend. The most notable example of that friendship was the American Volunteer Group (AVG), organized in 1941 even before the Pearl Harbor attack, a group that became legendary by their nickname: The Flying Tigers.

During the Cold War period following World War II, the friendship between the ROC and the U.S. flourished, as the U.S. continued to help us militarily while providing economic assistance. Between 1950 and 1965, that assistance included U.S. \$1.5 billion in economic aid, which is probably worth at least 12 billion now.

Although the ROC and U.S. severed diplomatic ties in 1979, barely three months later, the U.S. Congress passed the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). Under that Act, Taiwan is treated as a foreign government for purposes of U.S. law and in U.S. courts. The Act also

requires the U.S. to provide Taiwan with defensive weapons.

Since I came into office in 2008, mutual ROC-U.S. trust has been restored at the highest levels of government. And over the past two years, there have been frequent, reciprocal visits by high-level officials.

In April of last year, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy visited Taiwan, and Charles Rivkin, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs is visiting Taiwan now. At the same time, heads of various ROC government agencies have visited the U.S., so there is a solid foundation of mutual trust there.

The ROC is also gaining more support in Congress. Just last month during deliberations on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2016, the House and Senate Armed Services Committees both passed initiatives that call for increased U.S.-ROC military exchanges.

In addition to strong security ties, Taiwan-U.S. trade relations have also made significant progress over the last few years. In March of 2013, after a five-year hiatus, we reopened negotiations with the U.S. under the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), a platform set up in 1994 to facilitate talks in trade and investment matters. We have continued bilateral consultations in a series of 12 work conferences, and have made significant progress. As of the end of this March, the ROC is America's 10th largest trading partner, surpassing Brazil and Saudi Arabia, and the U.S. is Taiwan's third largest, after mainland China and Japan.

Let me turn to cross-strait relations. Over the past seven years, Taiwan and mainland China have signed 21 agreements. In April last year, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Russel said in Congress that "As a general matter, we very much welcome and applaud the extraordinary progress that has occurred in cross-strait relations under the Ma administration."

In addition to seeking stable development in cross-strait and ROC-U.S. relations, Taiwan has also taken concrete actions over the past few years to be a regional peacemaker in both the East China Sea, and the South China Sea. Back in August of 2012, I proposed the East China Sea Peace Initiative. That Initiative asks stakeholders to forgo conflict in favor of peaceful negotiations, and emphasizes cooperation in sharing resources. Eight months later in April of 2013, Taiwan and Japan signed a fisheries agreement that embodies the spirit of that Initiative, and solved a fisheries dispute between Taiwan and Japan that has troubled both countries for 40 years. Secretary of State John Kerry has publicly stated that the ROC-Japan fisheries agreement is a model for promoting regional stability, and that the principles at the heart of the East China Sea Peace Initiative apply to all of the waters in Asia.

On the 26th of last month, I formally announced the South China Sea Peace Initiative, hoping that the relevant parties will: "shelve sovereignty dispute, pursue peace and reciprocity, and promote joint exploration and development." By upholding those principles, we hope that all the parties involved will work together to maintain regional peace and promote regional development. Immediately, a U.S. State Department official stated that the

U.S. appreciates the proposals in the South China Sea Peace Initiative. I sincerely hope that all of the outstanding scholars and experts gathered here will support the pursuit of peace that I've presented today."

Mr. Speaker, I highly recommend that all of my colleagues review President Ma's important remarks and that we continue to work to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the people of the United States and of the ROC.

A TRIBUTE TO ERICKA ABELL

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ericka Abell for being awarded the Hawkeye 10 All-Conference Character Award.

Ericka was selected for this honor because of the exceptional character she displayed throughout her years at Creston High School. This award is only given to students who demonstrate good character in Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, Citizenship, Overcoming Obstacles, Making Difficult Choices, Generosity, Self-Sacrifice, and Community Service. She is the daughter of Scott and Mendy Abell of Cromwell, Iowa.

It is with great pride that I represent outstanding Iowans like Ericka in the U.S. House of Representatives. I know that all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating her on being recognized with this award. I wish her and her family nothing but the best moving forward.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS HARBOR

**HON. JULIA BROWNLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Channel Islands Harbor on the occasion of the harbor's 50th anniversary as a premier harbor along the Central Coast.

In the 1940's, the United States Congress directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to address the issue of beach erosion affecting the Naval Bases on the Ventura County coast, as well as communities and wetlands south of Port Hueneme. A location was recommended by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a sand trap and breakwater in Hollywood by the Sea, and authorized by Congress in 1954.

Construction of the sand trap and entrance to Channel Islands Harbor began in 1959 for the purpose of preventing coastal erosion and providing boating and other recreational opportunities to residents of Ventura County. The development of Channel Islands Harbor was an example of cooperation among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Navy, the County of Ventura, and businesses investing in the harbor. That cooperation continues to this day.

Since the County of Ventura held the grand opening of the harbor in May of 1965, Chan-

nel Islands Harbor has been serving the citizens of Ventura County and visitors alike as the first recreational harbor in the region. Visitors can enjoy numerous outdoor venues including several beach-lined parks and coastline for picnics and surfing, as well as nearby biking and walking paths. The harbor offers a number of restaurants and a diverse collection of shops to stroll.

For fishing enthusiasts, there are sport fishing excursions throughout the year. And from December through April, daily tours can offer a glimpse at the majestic whales that traverse the waters off our coastline. The harbor is also a departure point for voyages of exploration to the remarkable Channel Islands.

Though initial development included only a small portion of the current harbor area, Channel Islands Harbor now includes over 300 acres of land and water, including 2,200 boat slips, two hotels, two yacht club buildings, two boat yards, three shopping areas, two free-standing restaurants, a Maritime Museum, and over 100 condominiums and 400 apartments, providing both a thriving community and a recreational destination along the Central Coast of California.

For these reasons, it is my sincere pleasure to offer my congratulations to the Channel Islands Harbor on its 50th anniversary and its countless contributions to the region.

A TRIBUTE TO GARY BUCKLIN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gary Bucklin for a wonderful career as KSIB radio's sports director in Creston, Iowa.

For the past 30 years, Gary has been the man on the microphone for all local sports coverage on KSIB radio. He received his first job in broadcasting announcing the fourth grade talent show in his hometown of Bayard, Iowa, and by driving the streets of Bayard in a speaker car announcing the grand opening for a local gas station. Since that time, Bucklin served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War, worked in retail, but always retained the radio "bug". He came to work for KSIB in 1985, becoming a part of not only the Creston community, but of every community in the area where he would broadcast their ballgames. He will be remembered for his deep commitment to the communities, the coaches and the students he so passionately spoke about.

I know that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mr. Gary Bucklin on his well-deserved retirement and wish him the best in his future endeavors. I consider it an honor to represent him in Congress.

JOSEPH C. BELL TRIBUTE

**HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute today to Joseph C. Bell, a visionary at-

torney who recently received one of Poland's highest awards in recognition of his efforts to build a new economy from the rubble of communism.

Mr. Bell received the Polish Commanders Cross in Warsaw on May 13, 2015, to honor his dedicated service, over a quarter century ago, "in furthering Poland's systemic and economic transformation." Working with the Polish Ministry of Finance under Leszek Balcerowicz, Mr. Bell stepped forward to help build a new and robust free-market system in the wake of the 1989 elections that saw Solidarity leader Tadeusz Mazowiecki named prime minister.

The goal under the first non-communist government in the post-World War II period was to accomplish what had never been done before—to build new capitalist institutions in record time to stir the Polish economy from decades of mismanagement and integrate the nation into the economies of Western Europe.

As a partner at the Washington firm of Hogan & Hartson with over 20 years of regulatory and commercial experience, Mr. Bell ably served as pro-bono counsel to the Polish Ministry of Finance in the critical years of 1989 to 1990, when the government launched reforms through "shock therapy" changes to Poland's economic system.

His experience in project finance and as a leading advocate of introducing competition into closed energy markets in the U.S. was invaluable in taking on the challenges of creating capital markets, a stock exchange, a convertible currency, orderly privatization and other features of a free-market system. The rapidity and scope of the changes were nothing less than a leap of faith into uncharted legal and economic waters.

The challenges were immense: Poland was suffering acute hyperinflation, falling productivity, huge foreign debt and shortages of consumer goods. As part of an intrepid team of advisers that included economist Jeffrey Sachs, Mr. Bell's tireless work helped usher in breathtaking reforms that stemmed inflation, attracted foreign investment, relieved Poland of its debt burden, and increased productivity.

The miracle turnaround of Poland's economy, coupled with the rise of democracy, paved the way for the nation to secure NATO membership and join the European Union.

Mr. Bell returned full-time to his law practice in Washington, D.C., in 1990 but that didn't end his commitment to helping emerging nations. His expertise has taken him to Mongolia, Liberia, Sao Tome & Principe, among others, to help structure extraction systems that work for the benefit of the many rather than enriching the few.

Currently serving Of Counsel to Hogan Lovells, Mr. Bell's work to shape mining and energy policy in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East—including the management of extraction revenues and general issues of transparency and governance—will have a lasting impact.

Mr. Bell's career milestones also include serving as general counsel to Citizens Energy Corporation, which my father founded to use successful energy ventures to generate revenues to help the poor, from its inception up to 1989; working as Assistant General Counsel in the Federal Energy Administration; serving on the Duke Law School faculty and as an attorney in the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Justice Department.

Since 2001, the 1968 Yale Law School graduate has also been associated with the

International Senior Lawyers Project, which provides volunteer legal services to promote the rule of law, economic development and human rights in developing countries.

Between his legal expertise, dedication to public service, advocacy for human rights and social justice, and broad range of volunteer experience, Mr. Bell embodies the tradition of the "Wise Men of Washington"—in the best sense of the term.

Mr. Speaker, I once again want to congratulate Mr. Bell for the honors accorded to him by the Polish government and to thank him for a long career of service to our nation and the international community.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ASHLEY HARRIS

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ashley Harris for being awarded the Hawkeye 10 Conference Academic All-Conference Award.

Ashley was selected for this honor because of her commitment to academic excellence, maintaining a high grade point average throughout all four years of her education at Creston High School. She also received a 29 or higher on her ACT. Ashley is the daughter of Rod and Becky Harris of Creston, Iowa.

It is with great pride that I represent Iowans like Ashley in the U.S. House of Representatives. I know that all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating her for being recognized with this award. I wish her and her family nothing but continued success in the future.

#### AZERBAIJAN

### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to the attention of my colleagues the 97th Anniversary of the Republic Day of Azerbaijan.

Republic Day celebrates Azerbaijan's declaration of its independence from the Russian Empire on May 28, 1918, becoming the region's first Muslim democratic secular republic in Central Asia.

While that independence was short lived, from 1918–1920, the young Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan made tremendous strides, granting women the right to vote long before most Western democracies and laying the foundation for architecture and formal education for future Azeris.

Two years after independence, Azerbaijan was occupied by the Soviet Union, losing the hard-won independence, and was forced to become a republic in the U.S.S.R. In 1990, as the U.S.S.R. crumbled, Azerbaijan regained its independence from the Soviets after seventy years. On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament restored their nation's independence for the second time in a century, and weeks later, adopted their Constitution.

A valuable international ally, Azerbaijan was among the first nations offering unconditional

support to the United States in the war against al Qaeda, having provided a safe transit route to resupply our troops in Afghanistan. Azerbaijan leads the Central Asian area in regional economic cooperation, and is a crucial in European energy security matters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in thanking the people of Azerbaijan for their friendship, and in congratulating Azerbaijanis around the world on the anniversary of Republic Day.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE BETH EL JACOB SYNAGOGUE

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a great Iowa Synagogue, Beth El Jacob Synagogue in Des Moines, Iowa, as they celebrate the incoming of their New Torah.

Originally formed in 1881, Beth El Jacob Synagogue was created by a group of Lithuanian Jews. The first permanent congregation started in 1885 at the corner of East Second and Walnut Street in Des Moines. Throughout the early 1900s Beth El Jacob called a number of locations in Des Moines home. It wasn't until the mid-1900s that the congregation built their permanent location, the Beth El Jacob Synagogue.

It is with great pride that I recognize Beth El Jacob Synagogue today as they celebrate this momentous occasion. I commend them for their support to the Des Moines community and their commitment to improving the lives of others. I wish the entire staff and congregation nothing but the best moving forward.

#### RECOGNIZING DR. TRUDY TUTTLE ARRIAGA

### HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Dr. Trudy Tuttle Arriaga, a supportive, encouraging, and inspirational educational leader and advocate in Ventura, California.

After earning a Bachelor's and Master's degree, teaching credentials, and a Doctorate from the University of Southern California, Dr. Arriaga worked as a paraeducator at Ventura Unified School District for two years beginning in 1974. She returned to Ventura Unified in 1981 to begin her teaching career. She taught special education at Mound Elementary School and from there transferred to Balboa Middle School where she taught general education and the deaf/hard of hearing program. She then became an itinerant teacher specialist at Elmhurst and Loma Vista Elementary Schools. Dr. Arriaga continued her career as a teacher and assistant principal at De Anza Middle School and later became principal at Sheridan Way Elementary School. She also served as principal at El Camino High School and Pacific High School. In July of 2001, Dr. Arriaga became the superintendent of the

Ventura Unified School District, becoming the first woman to serve in the position.

During her tenure as superintendent, Dr. Arriaga was able to enhance the quality of education at the district. Seventeen of Ventura Unified School District's 27 schools have achieved an API score of 800 or above, drop-out rates throughout the district have decreased as attendance rates have increased. She also brought a focus on schools of choice and helped new elementary and middle schools focus on Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), leadership and the arts. Dr. Arriaga also brought a dual language program to the district and greatly encouraged the program. Now, many students are learning new languages and graduating with a multilingual seal.

For over three decades, Dr. Arriaga has dedicated her career to the education and academic success of countless students. She is a passionate advocate for children and continually demonstrates her support and encouragement of students. When making important decisions, Dr. Arriaga considers every angle, striving for the most beneficial solutions.

Following her retirement from Ventura Unified School District, Dr. Arriaga will continue her service and work for students and education at California Lutheran University, where she will soon serve as a full time instructor and as the administrator of the Education Leadership Doctoral and Master's Program. She has also accepted a contract from Corwin Press Publications and will be co-authoring a book on cultural proficiency.

Dr. Arriaga's passion for education for all students is unquestionable, and it is my sincere pleasure to join the Ventura Unified School District in honoring Dr. Trudy Tuttle Arriaga for her 35 years of dedication, passion, leadership and service for the students and community of Ventura. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

#### A TRIBUTE TO JEFF HARMSEN

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding heroism displayed by Jeff Harmsen, of Des Moines, Iowa.

In the early morning hours of May 8, 2015, Mr. Harmsen was taking his normal morning commute when out of the corner of his eye he noticed his longtime neighbors home up in flames. Without hesitation, he parked his vehicle and ran to the backside of the home. It was then that he dialed 911 and made his first attempt at alerting the homeowners. He proceeded to pound on the home's door, successfully alerting the owners inside. Because of his heroics he was able to safely rescue his neighbors and their pets without any serious injuries.

I would like to thank Mr. Harmsen for this selfless act and I ask my colleagues to join me recognizing his heroics and bravery. I'm proud to represent Iowans like Mr. Harmsen in the U.S. House of Representatives and I wish him nothing but continued success in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO NEIL MCCOY

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Neil McCoy of Villisca, Iowa, for being selected as the recipient of the 2015 Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame Award. Iowa State 4-H and the Iowa 4-H Foundation sponsor the 4-H Hall of Fame recognition award for volunteers and staff who have selflessly given their time and talents in promoting the Iowa 4-H program.

Mr. McCoy has been an active member within 4-H throughout his distinguished career. He served as Page County Boys 4-H President in 1967. After graduating from high school, Mr. McCoy attended Iowa State University and returned to Page County to farm with his father. That is when he began volunteering with the 4-H program. He is a Page County Honorary 4-H member and a supporter of the Iowa 4-H Foundation 400 Club.

4-H has been a long tradition in the McCoy family. Mr. McCoy's passion for 4-H is derived from his grandfather Ralph and his father Malcolm who played major roles in his devotion to 4-H. Mr. McCoy has enjoyed the many pleasures of helping his children Jeromy, Katina, and Dustin participate in 4-H activities. He says his success in 4-H comes from the support he has had from his wife, Becky, and attributes his accomplishments to her unwavering support. Their family has shared many special memories through their years of involvement in 4-H.

Mr. McCoy is an Iowan who has made a difference and makes our state proud. He has dedicated his life to helping young people in 4-H and serving his community. It is with great honor that I recognize and congratulate him today. I know my colleagues in the House join me in honoring his accomplishments. I thank him for his service and wish him and his family all the best moving forward.

LAQUITTA DEMERCHANT  
COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Laquitta DeMerchant for receiving one of the World Youth Foundation's 2015 Community Impact Award thanks to her work as CEO of Fuzion Apps and dedication to her community.

Ms. DeMerchant has numerous accomplishments and shows tremendous enthusiasm for her community. She won the Women Innovation Mobile Award and the grand prize in the Department of Labor's Equal Pay App Challenge. Laquitta speaks at universities and high schools around the Houston area to increase awareness of wage gap issues and supports initiatives for working families. Laquitta also mentors young programmers and software developers in competitions throughout the nation. A member of her team at the Essence Festival YESWECODE hackathon went on to win the biggest international impact award for devel-

oping an anti-human trafficking app. We are proud of her accomplishments on behalf of our community.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Laquitta DeMerchant for receiving the Community Impact Award. We appreciate your dedication to strengthening our community.

ALLIANCE WORLD CHAMPS

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Clear Creek Independent School District's (CCISD) robotics team and their robot, Empire, for being named Alliance World Champs at the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Competition Championship.

The Robonauts is made up of students of all ages from around CCISD. Together these students worked hand in hand with mentors from NASA's Johnson Space Center to build their robot, Empire. The team travelled to St. Louis where they competed against 600 other engineering teams from around the globe. The Robonauts really had to put their engineering skills to the test. In St. Louis, Empire succeeded in each competition, allowing the Robonauts to take home first place. Congratulations to all of Robonauts' team members and mentors for their victory. We are excited to see all that you accomplish in the future.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the CCISD Robonauts for being crowned the Alliance World Champs.

COMMEMORATING THE 95TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE JONES ACT**HON. DEREK KILMER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important milestone in maritime history.

On June 5, 1920, the landmark Merchant Marine Act became law, establishing the importance of maintaining a strong domestic maritime fleet.

That law, known as the Jones Act, was the anchor that allowed the United States to launch a highly trained and skilled group of mariners who can serve to protect our nation in times of national emergency. It supports our shipyard industrial base and preserves our capacity to defend our homeland, patrol the seas, and promote American jobs.

Ninety-five years later, it's clear that the Jones Act has stood the test of time.

General Paul J. Selva, the Commander of U.S. Transportation Command, recently said, "I can stand before any group as a military leader and say without the contribution that the Jones Act brings to the support of our industry there is a direct threat to national defense, and I will not be bashful about saying it and I will not be silent."

I couldn't agree more.

General Selva doesn't stand alone in defending the Jones Act from its critics.

In fact, Congress passed one of the strongest statements of support for the Jones Act last year as part of the National Defense Authorization Act, recognizing that it promotes "a strong domestic trade maritime industry, which supports the national security and economic vitality of the United States and the efficient operation of the United States transportation system."

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues to maintain the Jones Act for a new century, fight for our domestic maritime industry, and make sure that high quality, American-made vessels are being piloted by American mariners.

KATY HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL  
STATE CHAMPIONS**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Katy High School Lady Tiger softball team for winning the Texas 6A State Championship. This incredible team is now the best in Texas!

With a young team, the Lady Tigers had a lot to prove. The team reached the second round of the playoffs last season and was determined to perform better this season. This resilient team certainly rose to the challenge this season. In the state tournament, the Lady Tigers ousted the powerhouses of Alvin, Brazoswood, and The Woodlands before defeating Lewisville in the championship game. We are proud of the entire team and coaching staff for their immense dedication to each other and to the sport.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Head Coach Kalum Haack and the Katy High School Lady Tigers softball team on their State Championship. Thank you for bringing the gold back home to Katy.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RE-  
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 3, 2015*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2577) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my strong opposition to H.R. 2577, the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Act.

This legislation is severely underfunded. Considering declining Federal Housing Administration receipts and increased Section 8 renewal costs, this year's THUD bill is funded at

\$1.5 billion below last year's level. The overall appropriations levels for all domestic discretionary programs and priorities is lower than at any point in more than a decade. That is the root cause of the problem, and until the reckless budget sequester is lifted, the priorities that Americans care about will not get the support they need. We must end sequestration now.

But the specific cuts in this bill are also a concern. H.R. 2577 imposes devastating cuts on housing priorities. It would impose a more than 10 percent cut in public housing management. It would also significantly underfund supportive housing for seniors, with that funding below last year's level and almost 10 percent below the President's request. Those cuts will have devastating impacts on Americans struggling to make ends meet.

As has been highlighted by many of my colleagues, this bill also fails to make rail infrastructure, high speed rail, and positive train control a priority. Experts say that positive train control could have prevented the tragic Amtrak train derailment north of Philadelphia, but Congress continues to shirk its obligation to adequately support it. That failure is inexcusable.

Finally, H.R. 2577 does not make the investment in auto safety oversight that the last year has proven we need. 2014 was the year

of the recall, almost doubling the previous record. We're on pace to break the record again this year. Yet, this bill funds the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration—the agency responsible for monitoring and improving auto safety—just 1 percent above last year's level. That is less than inflation. While I supported the amendment my colleague, Rep. MICHAEL BURGESS, successfully added to increase NHTSA funding by \$4 million, that is just a drop in the bucket in terms of what is needed. It is also unfortunate that this bill cuts the Office of the Secretary of Transportation—4 percent below last year's level and more than 10 percent below the President's request—in order to slightly increase NHTSA funding. We need to consider legislation like H.R. 1811, the Vehicle Safety Improvement Act, which would more than double NHTSA funding for its important work through a new \$3 fee on new vehicles. We need to ramp up resources, authority, and other support for NHTSA in order to significantly improve auto safety and save lives. I will continue to work with Mr. BURGESS and others to get that done.

These are just a handful of the overwhelming number of reasons I oppose H.R. 2577. I am glad that the President has issued a veto threat on the bill, and I will continue to work to ensure that it is never enacted.

NEEDVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STATE  
SOFTBALL

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Needville High School softball team for completing their season as Class 4A Texas State Runners Up.

After a history-making season, the Lady Blue Jays finished strong with a 33–8 record. They were led on and off the field by two outstanding young pitchers, Victoria Moreno and Micayla Orsak, who received great encouragement from Coach Amber Schmidt. The Lady Blue Jays demonstrated immense dedication to the sport and remained motivated throughout the championship game. They fought hard until the very end! We are extremely proud of the entire Needville High School softball team and coaching staff.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the entire Lady Blue Jays softball team on an incredible season. We look forward to seeing everything this team accomplishes.