

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said:

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated. That is why today I rise to pay tribute to eight extraordinary young persons for their service to my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and to the American people. They are:

Christopher Lange from the University of California at Berkeley and the United States Air Force;

Earl King from North Carolina Central School of Law;

BerThaddaeus Bailey from the University of Oklahoma;

Jesse Guadiana from the University of Texas;

Ashley Melero from Texas Tech University; Cassie Gianni from the University of Houston and the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas;

Aisha Yaqoob of the University of Georgia; Aaron Richards of St. John's University; and Asad Moten from Harvard University and the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism these wonderful young people brought to my office and those interning in the offices of my colleagues help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like them the future of our country is bright and its best days lie ahead. I wish them all well.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great, good, and forever young.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALLYSEN LOVSTUEN, A 2015 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING RECIPIENT

### HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 31, 2015*

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Allysen Lovstuen, a constituent from

Waukon, Iowa and a 2015 recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

On July 1, 2015, President Obama honored Ms. Lovstuen, a mathematics teacher at Decorah High School in Decorah, Iowa, with the award for Excellence. Awarded annually on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the National Science Foundation (NSF), this Presidential honor recognizes outstanding teaching contributions in the fields of math and science in K–12 education.

For her contributions to curriculum development and mathematics instruction, Allysen will receive a signed certificate from President Obama, along with a \$10,000 award from the NSF. Additionally, she will travel to Washington, D.C. for an official awards ceremony hosted by the Administration where she will have the opportunity to meet and collaborate with the 107 other award recipients from across the country.

I want to thank Allysen for her commitment to her students at Decorah High School and congratulate her on this honor.

CONGRATULATING THE ROBERT E. SIMON JR. CHILDREN'S CENTER ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 31, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Robert E. Simon Jr. Children's Center on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary and its relocation to a new facility.

The education and well-being of our children are among the highest priorities that we as a community share. The Robert E. Simon Jr. Children's Center provides a safe, nurturing, instructional atmosphere that promotes creativity, curiosity, independence, and cooperation.

The Simon Center is a nonprofit organization located in the 11th Congressional District in Reston, Virginia, and named after Mr. Robert E. Simon, the founder of Reston. The Center was founded in 1990 as part of the Reston Area Child Care Consortium. The consortium was made up of employers, community residents, parents, educators, and professionals concerned about child care needs in our community. The Simon Center fulfilled Mr. Simon's original vision for providing quality childcare in his master plan for Reston.

Mr. Simon's original plan placed the Center adjacent to an elder care facility to add an "inter-generational" component. That feature was part of the Center's original space as it was connected to a rehabilitation center and a close walk to an assisted-living facility. For 24 years, this arrangement flourished and both the children and the senior citizens in the neighborhood benefitted greatly.

The Simon Center is dedicated to meeting the emotional, social, physical, and intellectual needs of children aged three months to five years in a safe, child-oriented environment. Since 2000, the Center has held an advanced accreditation by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs, a division of The National Association for the Education of Young Children.

The Simon Center prides itself on helping children grow through the exploration of their environment and the community. Its caring and highly qualified staff, low teacher turnover, parent-run board of directors, and low children-to-staff nursery ratios create a stable, nurturing environment for our children. The Center provides families greater flexibility with a year-round program and convenient hours with minimal closings.

The benefits of quality early education programs are indisputable. The Center for Public Education has conducted extensive research into both the short term and long term effects of Pre-K educational programs. In every measurable area including kindergarten readiness, high school graduation rates, test scores at various points throughout elementary and high school, average income at age 40, even in home ownership rates, children who had participated in Pre-K programs fared much better than their counterparts who did not.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Robert E. Simon, Jr. Children's Center on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary and commending its staff and supporters for their unwavering devotion to our children.

RECOGNIZING MR. ALEX SANCHEZ'S LIFETIME OF SERVICE

### HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 31, 2015*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Alex Sanchez, a public servant and long standing friend who most recently retired as Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara. It is my great pleasure to commend Mr. Sanchez for his lifelong commitment and dedication to providing affordable housing opportunities for Californians. The reach of his legacy has gone even further, as he has also tirelessly and very effectively advocated for the development and promotion of national housing policies to serve all Americans in need.

I have had the honor of working with Mr. Sanchez for over a quarter of a century to promote housing policies at the State and federal level to assist lower income households in Silicon Valley. The task has been incredibly daunting, given that we serve the most expensive region in the country.

I first met Mr. Sanchez in 1988, when I was asked to join the American Leadership Forum (ALF) as a representative of the educational sector. ALF/Silicon Valley was just forming and a group of local leaders were asked to serve as Class I, which included nearly 30 individuals representing business and local governments, educational institutions and nonprofits.

At the time, I worked for a local school district and also served on a Board of Education for a different school district. Mr. Sanchez had just been named Director of Housing for the City of San Jose. He and I spent many months together and discussed our visions and plans for bettering our community.

One of the most significant moments was to take a two week trip with the ALF group to Colorado Springs, Colorado to discuss the value of community and the need to work together. During this two-week period, we became very close and ultimately helped each