

Mr. Speaker, I once again want to honor Mr. Samuel J. Sworn, Jr. for his dedication and commitment to education, our fraternity, his community, and most of all to his family. He was a kind human being whose legacy and memory will always live on. I was truly proud to call Samuel my friend and will miss him dearly.

CONGRATULATING DONALD  
"TRAE" SHEEHAN III

**HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 6, 2015*

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Donald "Trae" Sheehan III of Troop 165 of the Shenandoah Area Council in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. This accomplishment required leadership, service to his community, and a great deal of hard work. It makes me proud to see young West Virginians such as Donald work to better themselves and their communities as they prepare to become our nation's future leaders. I join with Donald's family and friends in congratulating him on becoming an Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO VAN CLARK JR.

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 6, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Van Clark Jr. for his retirement from Modern Optical in Des Moines after 43 years of dedicated service.

Van has spent his life helping his patients enjoy their lives to the fullest. His dedication to helping others is second to none. During his time at Modern Optical, Van would make special trips to nursing homes in the area to offer optical assistance to those who were in need. He now plans to spend as much time as possible with his family and travel with his wife.

Mr. Speaker, Van's selflessness and willingness to help others is a true embodiment of the Iowa spirit. It is an honor to represent him and Iowans like him in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating him on this momentous occasion and wish him nothing but continued success and happiness in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING PAULETTE PYLE

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 6, 2015*

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my very good friend, Paulette Pyle, for her many years advocating for Oregon's farmers, ranchers and foresters. Paulette is retiring from Oregonians for Food and Shelter where she delivered 35 years of historic serv-

ice as their Director of Grassroots, and is one of the most respected and expert advocates in the country in her field. Since many of my colleagues call Paulette a dear friend, I'd like to pay tribute to her numerous contributions to Oregon and its natural resource industries.

Born in Sioux City, Iowa and raised on a wheat and dairy operation near Cottonwood, Idaho, agriculture has always been close to Paulette's heart. As she has worked on behalf of Oregon's farmers for over three decades, Paulette became well known statewide for the passion for and commitment to the farm, ranch and timber families she worked for.

In 1972, after nearly a decade working in health care, Paulette made her first professional foray into politics, serving as district staff for Senator Steve Symms of Idaho during his time in the U.S. House. She campaigned her way from Idaho to Oregon. A tenacious and well-liked go-getter from the start, she was known to go door to door on campaigns with her twin baby girls—one on each hip.

Paulette took her grassroots experience to the newly formed Oregonians for Food and Shelter in 1980. Over the next 35 years, she became a beloved and relied upon household name for Oregon's farmers, ranchers and foresters as well as a highly regarded advocate around the state capitol and in the halls of Congress.

In that role, Paulette became an integral part of Oregon's natural resources community, tying together sometimes differing groups towards a common goal. If there was an issue heating up that affected the industry, you knew you'd find Paulette leading the charge to ensure progress.

Guided by what she knew was right and in the best interest of Oregon, Paulette knew how to get things done. At times when others may have been turned off by a defeat, Paulette just got creative. And this approach often led to success.

One example of Paulette's creative, can-do disposition is the time Paulette worked tirelessly to move a pesticide bill through the legislature, only to have the Governor veto it. Unwilling to give up on the effort, Paulette went to work again, getting the language attached to a bill referring a decision on a light rail project to the voters—a legislative vehicle that the Governor was eager to see approved. Left with a choice between letting the bill move forward with Paulette's language included, or vetoing his own legislative priority, the Governor signed the bill into law. Paulette scored a win on behalf of family farmers, and voters went on to vote down the Governor's project.

This tenacity and skill served Paulette well at the federal level too. Her grassroots efforts were integral as we worked to turn the heat up on the Senate and push the last major federal forest policy reform to become law, the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, across the finish line.

State legislators and members of Congress weren't the only ones leaning on Paulette for advice and assistance. President George W. Bush became fast friends with Paulette, and made sure she was included in any ranching, farming or forestry discussion affecting Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. The president's team would call me before one of his many visits to Oregon during his presidency to confirm that I had not forgotten to make sure Paulette would be available to join "43" when he visited our family farmers, ranchers and for-

esters. The Bush White House team soon learned that I did not need a reminder to include Paulette as I'd tell them she was always first on my call list.

In addition to Paulette's significant professional achievements, it is important to note that an even higher priority for her is her cherished family and the faith that guides her daily. Paulette and her husband Ken raised six outstanding children, who in turn are raising their 16 grandchildren. Paulette has led her family by love and Christian example, and this is very clear to all who know her.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, please join me in recognizing and thanking my good friend, Paulette Pyle, for her years of leadership and tremendous dedication on behalf of the natural resource industry. Oregon's farmers, ranchers and foresters have benefited in countless ways over the past three and a half decades thanks to Paulette. I wish Paulette and Ken the best for many years of good health and happiness in retirement and the years ahead. She will forever remain a very special friend.

CONGRATULATING THE 2015 HONOREES OF THE TOLEDO AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGACY PROJECT

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 6, 2015*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate thirteen community leaders who are being recognized as 2015 honorees of the Toledo African American Legacy Project. The Toledo African American Legacy Project is dedicated to bringing together people to document and preserve the history of northwest Ohio's African American communities and demonstrate the impact and influence of individuals upon Toledo and the greater world community.

This year's honorees are indeed a celebrated group. Elinor Allen is a retired school teacher who for 33 years served as an elementary teacher, Unit Leader, and reading teacher in Toledo Public Schools. Ronald Jackson, Sr., was appointed as the first African American Deputy Chief of the Toledo Police Department and also served as Executive Director of the Board of Community Relations. Theresa M. Gabriel has served in many capacities within the city government including Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry and Director of Department of Human Resources. She currently serves on Toledo City Council. John Moore is a consultant, motivational speaker and author whose current and past board memberships include Owens Community College and the College's foundation, Boys and Girls Clubs of Toledo and Hospice of Northwest Ohio. Doni Miller is the CEO of the Neighborhood Health Association, a federally qualified health center. She earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Toledo and has 25 years of experience in health administration in addition to hosting a local public affairs television program. Ben Williams has dedicated his life to youth. He is currently the Executive Director of the Ben E. Williams Youth Service, Inc., and was the first African American coach inducted into the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.