

work and will carry her far in her future endeavors.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Evann on her second state FFA championship. Best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE ARTS COUNCIL OF FAIRFAX COUNTY AND THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2015 ARTS AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Arts Council of Fairfax County and the recipients of its 2015 Arts Awards. These awards recognize the extraordinary contributions of artists and arts organizations, as well as individuals and businesses in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Falls Church, that support the arts in our community.

Founded in 1964, the Arts Council of Fairfax County is a non-profit organization designated as Fairfax County's local arts agency. The Arts Council operates programs and initiatives that include grants, arts advocacy, education, and professional development opportunities for artists and arts organizations. In fiscal year 14, the Arts Council awarded more than \$500,000 in County, public, and private funds through competitive grants and awards to arts organizations and individual artists. These grants helped to fund approximately 13,000 performances, which were attended by more than 1 million people. I also would like to express my appreciation to the Arts Council for its steadfast support of the 11th District Congressional Arts Competition, which has helped make it one of the largest and most successful in the country.

The annual Arts Awards honor supporters of the arts in four categories: the Jinx Hazel Arts Award, the Arts Achievement Award, the Emerging Arts Award, and the Arts Philanthropy Award. It is my honor to submit the following names of the 2015 Arts Awards Recipients:

The 2015 Jinx Hazel Arts Award will be presented to Earle C. Williams, the former president and chief executive officer of BDM International, for his outstanding leadership and advocacy in the arts and in the Campaign for Wolf Trap.

The 2015 Arts Achievement Award will be presented to Rebecca Kamen, a contemporary visual artist, sculptor, and a pioneer of the STEAM effort to integrate Arts in the traditional Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, or STEM fields, for her outstanding achievements bridging the arts and education with chemistry, neuroscience, and astrophysics.

The 2015 Emerging Arts Award will be presented to the Vienna Jammers for providing exemplary outreach to area youth and participating in community building activities in the Town of Vienna and the Washington, D.C. area.

The 2015 Arts Philanthropy Award will be presented to Richard Hausler, co-founder and CEO of Insight Property Group, for his vision,

commitment, and leadership in establishing a new arts facility, the Workhouse Arts Center, in southern Fairfax County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2015 Arts Awards and in recognizing and thanking the visionaries, leaders, and supporters who help to make our Northern Virginia communities rich with cultural opportunities.

TRIBUTE TO ED AND LOIS FIGGINS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ed and Lois Figgins of Atlantic, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1965.

Ed and Lois' lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Figgins family that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of this great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

REMEMBERING FRANK HERHOLD

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a Fort Lauderdale resident who dedicated his life to serving his family and community: Frank Herhold, who passed away at the age of 76 on Saturday, December 5th.

Frank was a devoted family man and prominent member of the South Florida boating community. He started his career in the marine industry as the owner of the Anchorage Yacht Basin in Melbourne, Florida and later became the executive director of Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF), where he worked until he retired.

In his retirement, Frank's passion for boating continued. Prior to his passing, Frank attended the 2015 Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show and served on the city of Fort Lauderdale's marine advisory board. In 2010, Frank was the commodore of the Winterfest Boat Parade and recognized as "Citizen of the Year" by the city of Fort Lauderdale in 2007.

Frank is survived by many loved ones. I offer my condolences to Frank's wife Mary Jo, his daughter Pam, and all his friends and family. I know that his legacy will continue to live on and inspire future generations.

SERBIA STEPS UP AT A CRITICAL TIME

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Serbia's recent donation of \$5.4 million to the Bosnian town of Srebrenica, where thousands of Muslims were killed in the Yugoslav Wars, is a clear sign that the Serbian Government wants to do what they can to improve relationships with countries in the region. Mending these relationships is especially important as the Balkans are on the front lines of the refugee crisis. As of the beginning of November, the same month that President Vucic announced this large donation, over 300,000 refugees had flowed through the country since the beginning of the year. Most refugees are fleeing Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan and travelling to Europe to seek asylum. Serbia is doing their part to process and protect these people. In October alone, 180,307 refugees were processed compared to 51,048 in September because of Serbia's commitment to improving capacity.

It is critical for countries in the region to work together to process the influx of refugees while ensuring the safety of their own countries and the world. The Balkans are a transit region making it important for all the countries to have an open line of communication in order to ensure the ordered, safe, and peaceful flow of people and is especially important for bordering countries.

Serbia's gesture to Bosnia is hopefully a signal of relationships on the mend at this very tense time in the world. While the importance of Balkan countries working together cannot be underemphasized, it is also of utmost importance for all freedom-loving countries throughout the world to work together to fight ISIS, a big factor in the flow of migrants and a threat to our way of life, in which all lives are cherished. Every country must do their part. We must all come together and obliterate this scourge on our world.

As co-chair of the Congressional Serbian Caucus, I commend the Serbian Government for all that they have done to mend their relationships in the region and for their leadership during this incredibly trying time.

And that's just the way it is.

CELEBRATING BIRTH OF BLAKELY ELIZABETH HERBERT

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my Legislative Director, Jason Herbert, and his wife, Erin Kathleen Herbert, on the birth of their daughter, Blakely Elizabeth Herbert.

Blakely was born at 2:17 p.m. on Sunday, December 6, 2015. Miss Blakely weighed in at a perfect 7 pounds and 10 ounces.

As my Legislative Director, Blakely's father, Jason, has been key to my legislative operation. Jason's stalwart attention to details, and his remarkable ability to stay alert during long and late night Rules Committee hearings and floor debates will serve him well as a father.