

been incredibly supportive of the program. Without their contributions, the program would be unable to maintain its strength.

For 75 years, the Nutley High School Crew team has been a staple of the Nutley community, allowing student athletes to compete and contribute. Their contributions are invaluable in making Nutley a dynamic, involved township.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring the Nutley High School Crew program as they celebrate their 75th Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO RYAN JENSEN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ryan Jensen for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

As Vice President of CBRE/Hubbell Commercial, Ryan continuously works hard to be one of the best, most recognized leaders within the real estate investment industry. He works tirelessly to provide accurate, high quality investment information for his clients and will take that expertise to start a new real estate investment platform later this year. Ryan is also passionate about giving back to his community and serves on the board of directors for Variety—The Children’s Charity.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Ryan in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ryan on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

RECOGNIZING PROFESSOR DONNA J. BON OF PENN STATE ALTOONA FOR HER ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2016*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Professor Donna J. Bon, of Penn State Altoona, for her commitment to bolstering the entrepreneurial spirit within Penn State Altoona and the Sheetz Fellows Program.

Founded by Steve and Nancy Sheetz to instill leadership and an entrepreneurial mindset in students studying business at Penn State Altoona, the Sheetz Fellows Program continues to make a positive impact in the lives of the committed Penn State Altoona student participants. While the generosity of the Sheetz family is worth highlighting, I believe Professor Bon also deserves appreciation for her role in making the program a continued success. As the Executive Director of the Sheetz Center for Entrepreneurial Excellence, Professor Bon has been instrumental in executing the program’s important mission of teaching and mentoring students to be tomorrow’s key decision-makers and to impart in them a strong sense of servant leadership.

On behalf of the 9th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I want to thank Professor Bon for her commitment to these high ideals and recognize her success in pursuing them. Thanks to her and her colleagues at Penn State Altoona, our community will continue to benefit from the actions and ideas of an ambitious student body.

STATEMENTS GIVEN AT “RESTORE THE VOTE: A CONGRESSIONAL FORUM ON THE CURRENT STATE OF VOTING RIGHTS IN AMERICA”

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2016*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, the statements found below were given during an event titled—Restore the Vote: A Congressional Forum on the Current State of Voting Rights in America. The forum was held on Saturday, March 5, 2016 in the Birmingham City Council Chambers located at Birmingham City Hall. The forum provided elected officials, community leaders, scholars, and the general public the opportunity to examine modern-day voting rights as well as discuss the current challenges and barriers facing equal access to the ballot box. Discussions also focused on how community leaders and average American citizens can galvanize support around ensuring every American is able to exercise their constitutionally protected right to vote.

The forum was hosted by Congresswoman TERRI A. SEWELL, and included special guests Rep. JOHN LEWIS, Rep. JIM CLYBURN, Rep. G.K. BUTTERFIELD, Rep. SHEILA JACKSON LEE, Rep. BARBARA LEE, Rep. HANK JOHNSON, Rep. KAREN BASS, Rep. MARC VEASEY, and Rep. STACEY PLASKETT, Birmingham Mayor William Bell, and Birmingham City Council President Johnathan Austin. The panelists included Jefferson County Clerk of Court Anne Marie Adams, President of Southern Poverty Law Center Richard Cohen, Metro Birmingham Branch NAACP President Hezekiah Jackson the IV, Calera, Alabama City Councilman Ernest Montgomery, and President of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies Spencer Overton.

STATEMENT OF COUNCILMAN ERNEST MONTGOMERY, THE CITY OF CALERA’S 2008 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

My name is Ernest Montgomery and I am a City Councilman, representing District 2 in the City of Calera Alabama. Our City is a

beautiful small city, strategically located in the south-central part of Shelby County. We had a population of 11,800 residents according to the 2010 census, but I believe thousands more today. Between the 2000 to 2010 census, our city was title as being the fastest growing city (percentage wise), in the State of Alabama.

This rapid growth is what led our City Leaders to have our district lines redrawn. The results of these new lines eliminated the sole minority-majority district in the city. Changing it’s minority voting percentages from about 69 percent down to about 28 percent.

After submitting these changes to the Department Of Justice for pre-clearance, they were rejected because the DOJ said it clearly disadvantage the African American Community. The City was in an election year and was order not to hold it election with these new changes by the DOJ. Yet the City Mayor chose to continue on with the municipal election.

In this election I lost my seat in my district, but learned two days later that the Department of Justice had filed a lawsuit against the city. Outrage was mounting because the African American Community said they had no chance of electing a candidate of their choice.

Changes were made to the city’s plans after meeting in Washington, DC with the DOJ and pre-clearance were granted. A new municipal election was held in 2009, resulting in me winning my seat again. I know without a doubt this would not have happened if the VRA, (especially the pre-clearance section), didn’t protect the most vulnerable.

STATEMENT OF J. RICHARD COHEN, PRESIDENT, SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

Good afternoon. The fact that we must be here talking about voting rights 51 years after Congress passed the Voting Rights Act is a national disgrace, one that dishonors the many who fought for the precious right to vote and the millions who were disenfranchised for decades in our country because of their race. It particularly dishonors the brave Americans who sacrificed their lives so that everyone, regardless of race, creed or color, could have a voice in our democracy—people like Jimmie Lee Jackson, Viola Liuzzo, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner.

A year ago at this time, we were celebrating the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday. And, of course, we will observe the 51 anniversary in two days. We all know that the events of that fateful day and the subsequent completion of the march to Montgomery led to passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, perhaps the crowning achievement of the civil rights movement—one that drove the final nail into the coffin of Jim Crow.

Forty-one years later, in 2006, when it re-authorized Section 4, Congress remarked on the tremendous progress that had been made under the Act to address first-generation barriers to voting—like literacy tests and poll taxes—that kept many minority voters from casting ballots.

At the same time, Congress noted that vestiges of discrimination continued in the states covered by the original Act in the form of second-generation barriers that diluted the voting strength of African Americans and other minorities. These included such practices as gerrymandering, at-large voting and the use of multimember legislative districts.

Today, 10 years later, we still have those second-generation barriers. For example, the Alabama legislature in 2012 passed a redistricting plan that packed black voters into legislative districts, thereby reducing their