

RECOGNIZING DON KNABE'S SERVICE TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Supervisor Don Knabe, who has served the County of Los Angeles for the past two decades.

Supervisor Knabe was first elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in November of 1996 and has represented the Fourth District, a uniquely diverse area that is home to over two million residents and includes two of the nation's largest economic hubs: the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and the Los Angeles International Airport.

Supervisor Knabe has spent much of his political career working to protect innocent and vulnerable children in Los Angeles County. He established the Safe Surrender program in Los Angeles County, which allows for the surrender of an infant within 72 hours of birth at a County hospital or fire station. Since 2001, over 140 babies have been safely surrendered in Los Angeles County. In 2015, Supervisor Knabe launched a scholarship program to benefit children who have been safely surrendered.

Supervisor Knabe also is a national leader on combating child sex trafficking. He launched a County-wide awareness campaign to bring attention to the heinous practice of young children being sexually exploited in southern California. In 2013, he testified on the issue of child sex trafficking at a hearing before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in Washington, D.C.

In 2007, Supervisor Knabe was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve on the President's Homeland Security Advisory Council, which worked with the White House to establish national programs to prepare and protect communities across the nation from terrorist attacks.

Supervisor Knabe has a passion for the arts and attributes his own personal success to an early involvement with music. His enthusiasm for the arts has led to the creation of several innovative youth programs, such as the Pediatric Arts Program at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center and the Arts Education Partnership Program that provides grants to schools and community-based organizations to fund visual art, dance, music, and theatre programs for students.

In addition, Supervisor Knabe has led the County's efforts to improve overall water quality, including 19 projects within the Fourth District that will lower pollution and divert storm water from the ocean, including the Dominguez Gap Wetlands Project that was completed in 2008. This also enhanced recreation opportunities for residents and visitors through environmental cleanup efforts, creating an open space habitat for the community.

Supervisor Knabe is an avid golfer and hosts the Knabe Cup in cooperation with the California Interscholastic Federation, a golf tournament for high school boys and girls. He also supports junior golf clinics for kids to develop a love for golf at a young age.

While these are just some of Supervisor Knabe's significant accomplishments, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles and the State of California, I want to extend my gratitude for his valuable contributions throughout his illustrious career to helping our communities. With sincere best wishes, I congratulate Supervisor Knabe upon his retirement from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and wish him and his wife, Julie, well as they enter this new chapter of their lives.

CONGRATULATING KELSIE ELTRINGHAM ON RECEIVING THE BRIGHTON ASSEMBLY OF GOD'S GOLD MEDAL AWARD

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kelsie Eltringham, who was recently honored with the Brighton Assembly of God's Gold Medal Award, the highest achievement in the Assemblies of God Girls Ministries program.

To be honored with the Brighton Assembly of God's Gold Medal is the culmination of a 13 year journey of devotion to God that begins in kindergarten and finishes at the end of high school. The Girls Ministries program strives to instill Christian values and virtues in the young women who will be the future of our nation.

To be honored with a gold medal, girls must go above and beyond the requirements for completing the five levels of clubs offered by the ministries. Medal awardees must also have read the Bible twice, the New Testament three times, memorized portions of scripture and have met weekly with a sponsor who helps to guide them spiritually.

Mr. Speaker, Kelsie Eltringham has not only displayed an uncommon level of spiritual devotion during her time in the Girls Ministries program, but also a measure of determination and commitment that will undoubtedly serve her well through her life. On behalf of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District, I urge my colleagues in congratulating her on this well-earned achievement.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF AVANTI'S RISTORANTE

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Avanti's Ristorante of Peoria, Illinois for celebrating their 50th anniversary.

Avanti's Ristorante first opened their doors in 1966. Founder and CEO Albert Zeller, by embracing the American entrepreneurial spirit, successfully expanded his business and now employs nearly 500 people and currently operates five Avanti's Ristorantes in the Greater Peoria area.

Avanti's Ristorante is known throughout Central Illinois for their famous Italian cuisine, from their pastas to pizzas and, most notably, the beloved Gondola sandwich. Zeller's fa-

mously delicious creation, the Gondola, a submarine-like sandwich, features freshly baked sweet bread only found in his restaurants. No party in Peoria is complete without a platter of Gondolas.

The Greater Peoria area has benefitted from Avanti's corporate goodwill and generosity. I extend my sincere congratulations to Avanti's Ristorante, Albert Zeller, and staff and I hope Avanti's keeps fulfilling the appetites of Central Illinoisans for another fifty years.

TRIBUTE TO BRADY KYNER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brady Kyner of Southeast Warren/Melcher Dallas High School for winning the Class IA, 120-pound bracket at the Iowa High School Athletic Association State Wrestling tournament on February 20, 2016.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Winning two state championships in a row is the culmination of years of hard work and commitment, not only on the part of Brady, but also his parents, his family and coaches.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Brady demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent his family and him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Brady on competing in this rigorous competition and wishing continued success in his education and high school wrestling career.

CONGRATULATING THADDEUS HUGHES

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Thaddeus Hughes on winning the 4-H Youth in Action STEM Award.

The 4-H Youth in Action Award honors 4-H'ers who have excelled in one of four areas: agriculture and animal sciences, citizenship, healthy living, and STEM. I'm very proud that, out of six million 4-H youth nationwide, Thaddeus was chosen as the Youth in Action STEM winner for his work to advance education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

In the past year, he spent over 300 hours volunteering and mentoring. He currently serves as a mentor for the FIRST Lego League and the Illinois State Robotics Competition. He also created the curriculum for Spinning Robots, a 14-week after school organization focused on engaging students who lack the resources for involvement in the STEM fields. Last year, Thaddeus was selected among twenty individuals to be named one of Illinois' High School Innovators of 2015.