

HONORING DIRECTOR ELIZABETH
JOYCE FREEMAN

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Congressman MCNERNEY and Congressman SWALWELL to acknowledge and honor Director Elizabeth Joyce Freeman for her many years of service to the Palo Alto Veteran Affairs health care system. Director Freeman has worked nobly in serving veterans since 1983, and after 33 years of honorable service to the VA she has announced her retirement on June 7, 2016.

Graduating from the University of Notre Dame in 1983, Ms. Freeman obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. She returned to school in 1987 at Louisiana Tech University where she graduated with her Master's Degree in Business Administration.

In 1983, Ms. Freeman's began her extensive career with the VA as a Resident Engineer at the VA Medical Center in Oklahoma City. She moved up the ranks quickly and became the Senior Resident Engineer in Oklahoma City and later moved to Shreveport, Louisiana. Other positions she held with the VA include the following: Project Manager of the VA Central Office Southern Region; Health System Administrator Trainee of the VA Palo Alto Health Care System; Chief Operating Officer of the VA Sierra Pacific Network Office in San Francisco, California; Associate Director of the VA Palo Alto Health Care System; and Director of the VA Palo Alto Health Care System.

In 2001, Ms. Freeman was appointed to Director of the VA Palo Alto Health Care System, and since then has efficiently and successfully overseen the complex organization. In her capacity as Director she is tasked with overseeing an annual budget of over \$1 billion, a capital portfolio of \$2.6 billion, and more than 7,000 staff and volunteers.

In addition to Ms. Freeman's numerous professional achievements, we would like to highlight some of the work that Ms. Freeman did outside the VA Office. She served on many boards and committees, such as the Palo Alto Veterans Institute for Research and the Quality Board, Patient Care, and Patient Experience Committee of the El Camino Hospital Board. She was a member of the California Hospital Association's Santa Clara County Section, and served on the Board of Directors for the Hospital Council in 2006. She should be commended for her outstanding involvement in the community.

The abundance of awards Ms. Freeman has received demonstrates her exceptional leadership and proven work ethic. Ms. Freeman received the Presidential Rank Award at the meritorious level in 2005 and the distinguished level in 2009, she was a recipient of the Leadership VA Senior Executive Leadership Award, she received the VA Alumni Association's Honorary Leadership Award in 2005, and was named one of the top 100 influential women in Silicon Valley.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and recognizing Director Elizabeth Freeman's leadership that brought invaluable institutional knowledge to the VA Palo Alto Health Care

System. We thank her for her unwavering leadership, devoted service and contributions on behalf of the community and the Nation.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT BRYCE
NORMAN BERTHUSEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bryce Norman Berthusen of Waukee, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Bryce is a member of Boy Scout Troop 178. The Eagle Scout designation is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Approximately two percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Scout Project to benefit the community. For Bryce's project, he designed and constructed outdoor fitness stations at the local Waukee Y.M.C.A. Bryce is a freshman at Waukee High School with a great interest in science, engineering and music. He is also on the Waukee High School baseball team and spends time with his church's youth group.

The work ethic Bryce has shown in his Eagle Scout Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes about his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family and community demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent Bryce Norman Berthusen and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE FELLOWSHIP
CHAPEL

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fellowship Chapel on their 50th anniversary. The accomplishments of this long-standing institution exemplify the importance and strength of community, fellowship, and service.

Founded in 1966 by Reverend James E. Wadsworth Jr. and around one-hundred founding members, Fellowship Chapel came from humble beginnings at a small funeral home. Through tireless service, its membership and ministries have continued to grow, making it necessary to repeatedly expand. In January of 2002, members and friends of Fel-

lowship Chapel fulfilled Reverend Dr. Wendell Anthony's vision of a new village with the historic groundbreaking for the present church building on West Outer Drive. The building was dedicated on June 5th, 2005, as thousands marched from the old location to the new, demonstrating the significance of Fellowship Chapel within the community.

Fellowship Chapel has a strong and growing congregation built on a foundation of faith and trust which has been built through the years under the visionary leadership of Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony. Along with faithfully leading his congregation, Reverend Anthony is a powerful voice for positive change in Metro Detroit. As the President of the Detroit Branch NAACP, Reverend Anthony has led the fight for civil rights, good jobs, and safe communities in Detroit. As Reverend Anthony has fought hard for social change, Fellowship Chapel has become a place where members of the community gather to discuss the important issues whether they are on a local, state, or national level, to ensure members of the community have a better understanding of what is happening and how to engage to make our world a better place. In that way, Fellowship Chapel is a powerful symbol for what we believe and what we should strive for as a people.

Fellowship Chapel's leaders and volunteers have continued to faithfully provide much-needed services to the local community, including full-time outreach ministry programs, computer programming, adult education, Narcotics and Alcoholics anonymous, homeless assistance, and standardized test-coaching for college-bound students. For 50 years, Fellowship Chapel has held itself to the highest standards to ensure that local residents would always have somewhere to turn during both good times and bad. As a sanctuary of spiritual and social progress, it has served as a pillar of the local community for half a century, and will continue to do so for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Fellowship Chapel on their 50th anniversary and wish them many more years of success.

MARIYA PEREZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mariya Perez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Mariya Perez is a 12th grader at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mariya Perez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mariya Perez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.