

today. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Zach on competing in this rigorous competition and in wishing him nothing but continued success in his education and his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SEAMAN
1ST CLASS EDWARD SLAPIKAS

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the life and legacy of Seaman 1st Class Edward Slapikas, who has finally come home to rest almost 80 years after his heroic passing.

Seaman Slapikas was tragically killed in action at the age of 24 while serving aboard the USS *Oklahoma*. He was one of 429 crewmen who perished on December 7, 1941 during the attack on Pearl Harbor. Seaman Slapikas was interred in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, where his name was marked as "unidentified" on the Walls of the Missing.

Now, 77 years later, Seaman Slapikas' remains have been identified thanks to the combined efforts of the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency (DPAA) and Seaman Slapikas' surviving family members. Since 2015, the DPAA has provided closure to over 120 families of fallen servicemen killed aboard the USS *Oklahoma*.

The return of Seaman Slapikas marks a momentous occasion, not only for the Slapikas family, but also for the community of Wanamie, Pennsylvania. The bravery of Seaman Slapikas was commemorated through the establishment of the American Legion Post 971, named for Seaman Slapikas and Petty Officer Keith Jeffries, a fellow serviceman who perished aboard the USS *Arizona* during the same attack. Seaman Slapikas' niece, Ms. Leona Hotko, plans to ensure that her "favorite uncle" is laid to rest near his childhood home in St. Mary's Cemetery in Wanamie.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the heroic life of Seaman 1st Class Edward Slapikas, and posthumously thanking him for his service to our great nation.

HONORING PRESIDENT KEN
WOLLACK OF THE NATIONAL
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Kenneth Wollack, President of the National Democratic Institute (NDI), who is stepping down after a career in foreign affairs, journalism, and politics that has spanned 46 years.

An Illinois native and graduate of Earlham College, Ken broke into national politics as a member of the national staff of the McGovern presidential campaign in 1972. From 1973 to 1980 he was legislative director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). He then became a co-editor of the Middle

East Policy Survey, a Washington-based newsletter, and wrote regularly on foreign affairs for the Los Angeles Times.

Ken joined NDI as executive vice president in 1986 and was elected president by the Institute's board of directors in 1993. He has now led the Institute for more than two-thirds of its history, working on five continents to strengthen political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, promote citizen participation, and champion openness and accountability in government.

Through his years of service, Ken has testified before numerous congressional committees and has appeared on national television and radio as a trusted authority on world affairs. He has served on various task forces sponsored by the United States Institute of Peace, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Brookings Institution, the Bipartisan Policy Center, the Center for U.S. Global Engagement, and the Atlantic Council. He currently serves on USAID's Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid, sits on the Commission on Presidential Debates' Board of Directors, and was chairman of the development program of the U.S. Committee for the United Nations.

In a speech given at the 10th Anniversary of Georgetown University's Masters Program in Democracy and Governance Ken reflected, "I confess to be an incurable optimist who for 32 years has worked in the optimism business." His optimism and tireless dedication to promoting and protecting democracy, good governance, and human rights have earned respect and appreciation across the political spectrum in our country and abroad.

I have been honored to work with Ken and the entire team at NDI in implementing this hopeful vision through the bipartisan work of the House Democracy Partnership (HDP). From the time HDP began its work in 2005, NDI and its partner organization within the National Endowment for Democracy, the International Republican Institute (IRI), have been indispensable partners in strengthening legislative institutions in twenty emerging or re-emerging democracies—ranging from Indonesia and Kenya to Ukraine, Georgia, Peru, Tunisia, and Sri Lanka. HDP has engaged member-to-member and staff-to-staff, while NDI and IRI have helped us organize workshops and exchange visits and have carried out mentoring and consultation aimed at improved legislative practice day-to-day in our partner countries.

This work simply could not have occurred without steadfast leadership from Ken. We have learned a great deal from him and have been strengthened and sustained by his unfailing support. I will forever be grateful to him.

It is a pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to join with friends and colleagues in commending Ken for his remarkable career and for the commitment he has shown to our country's highest ideals and purposes. In turn, he has enjoyed the steadfast support and love of his wife Leslie, his daughters Lauren and Alison, and his grandson, Cooper.

We thank Ken Wollack for his exemplary service and wish him and his family well as he begins the next chapter in his life.

TRIBUTE TO TODD PEVERILL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Todd Peverill of Glenwood, Iowa for being selected by the Glenwood Area Chamber of Commerce as their Citizen of the Year. Todd received this award for his many years of coaching successful cross country and track teams at Glenwood Community High School.

Todd has coached track since 1992 and cross country since 1998. Through his coaching and leadership skills he has led the Glenwood High School Rams to several team and individual championships and honors. Todd has been active in the Glenwood community by developing and maintaining cross country trails at Glenwood Lake Park and he has been an advocate for high school athletes and outdoor exercise enthusiasts.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Todd in the United States Congress. It is with great pride that I recognize him for his selection as the Citizen of the Year by the Glenwood Area Chamber of Commerce and for his commitment to his community and school. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Todd on receiving this award and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Republic Day of Azerbaijan, and to convey my congratulations to the Republic of Azerbaijan and to all Azerbaijanis.

On May 28, 1918, the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was founded, becoming the first Muslim democratic state and gaining their independence from the Russian Empire for the first time. While that independence was initially short-lived, taken away when Russia invaded in 1920, Azerbaijan again became an independent nation on October 18, 1991, and has since been an increasingly important ally for the U.S. in the South Caucasus.

Like the city I represent, Houston, Azerbaijan's impressive economic growth has been driven by the oil and gas industry and shaped by adapting to the evolution of that industry. A number of American and international energy companies thrive in Azerbaijan and the Caspian Sea. Azerbaijan's rapid development of its energy infrastructure and expertise has helped it play a crucial role in protecting European energy security and U.S. geopolitical interests by ensuring a stable and sufficient flow of energy to Europe.

As a secular Muslim country, Azerbaijan was a pioneer in extending equal political rights to women, becoming the first Muslim country to give women the right to vote in

1918. After 9/11, Azerbaijan was and continues to be an important counterterrorism partner for the United States, participating in coalitions combating international terrorism and sending its own troops to support U.S.-led military efforts in Afghanistan, Kosovo, and Iraq.

Azerbaijan is an important actor for the advancement of global security and diplomatic engagement on the world stage. It holds observer status in the World Trade Organization, was a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council from 2012 to 2013, and is a member of the NATO Partnership for Peace Program and the OSCE.

I congratulate the people of Azerbaijan on their centennial celebration, and wish them many centuries more of prosperity and success.

IN RECOGNITION OF TEKISHA LEE
FOR BEING NAMED A WOMAN OF
ACHIEVEMENT BY THE KAPPA
FOUNDATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tekisha Lee and her acknowledgment as Ypsilanti's Woman of Achievement by the Kappa Foundation. Ms. Lee founded DiverseNote, a career management social network for professionals within an all-inclusive community of professionals.

The Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti-Inkster Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity was established on December 6, 1958. The organization was founded in order to foster relationships between Michigan Kappa Alpha Psis, provide leadership to current students at Michigan universities and mentor youth in suburban Detroit. Since its founding, group members have come together to serve the local community in a variety of ways including golf tournaments, college fairs, pancake breakfasts, Meals on Wheels programs and robust scholarship programming. In addition to their myriad civic endeavors, the fraternity's Kappa Foundation honors female leaders in southeast Michigan annually at their "Women On Achievement" event. This year's honorees include Tekisha Lee, a well-respected leader and businesswoman in our community.

A graduate of Howard University, Ms. Tekisha Lee has turned her lifelong passion for educating and mentoring the next generation of leaders into a successful career. She is the Founder and CEO of DiverseNote, a career recruitment and retention platform that connects candidates with organizations, recruiters, Fortune 500 companies, colleges, universities and alumni associations seeking top talent across the United States. Ms. Lee was also selected as a U.S. Department of State Delegate to the Maghreb region of Africa to advise on job creation and economic development and serves in leadership positions on various non-profit boards including Jobs for Michigan Graduates, the state's top workforce development organization. Ms. Lee has devoted her life to helping others succeed, and she is truly deserving of the Kappa Foundation's recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Tekisha Lee for being named one

of The Kappa Foundation's Women of Achievement. She has distinguished herself with her entrepreneurship and service to the state.

HONORING ETHEL HEDGEMAN
LYLE

HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I, Congresswoman FEDERICA S. WILSON, from the 24th district of the great state of Florida, along with my colleagues and Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority sisters Congresswomen ALMA S. ADAMS, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, TERRI A. SEWELL, and BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN, rise today to acknowledge and honor the 110th anniversary of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and the contributions of its founder, Ethel Hedgeman Lyle. Ethel Hedgeman Lyle was a visionary ahead of her time, an advocate for women's rights, and a dedicated community servant.

We stand to bring witness that Ethel Hedgeman Lyle deserves to be commemorated by a U.S. postage stamp in support of her many achievements.

Mr. Speaker, we are especially honored to be joined by our international president Dr. Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, to validate our efforts. She has been on this mission for a long time. It is a journey she hopes to see to fruition.

Mr. Speaker, we are beaming with pride and overflowing with excitement because we are on the verge of making history by bestowing an honor that is about 110 years overdue.

Mr. Speaker in recognition of her great achievements, Ethel Hedgeman Lyle deserves to be commemorated with a United States postage stamp.

Mr. Speaker, Ethel Hedgeman Lyle founded Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in 1908 on a cold January day on the campus of Howard University during a time when Jim Crow laws segregated African-American women and prevented us from joining established Greek organizations. Undeterred by the obstacles of race and gender, she created a legacy of sisterhood that continues to inspire millions of women to devote their lives to community service and activism. She deserves a stamp.

Mr. Speaker, Soror Ethel Hedgeman Lyle cut through the bitter cold of that winter day like a ray of hope, a guiding light, if you will. And, today we have an opportunity to propel the initiative to further immortalize her impeccable character and extraordinary achievements through her commemoration on a U.S. postage stamp.

Mr. Speaker, today, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, is an international service organization with more than 300,000 members in more than 1,000 graduate and undergraduate chapters across the globe. The sorority is headquartered in Chicago and oversees the operations of two charitable foundations. Alpha Kappa Alpha, Incorporated, has inspired millions of women to dedicate their lives to realize its motto, "Service to All mankind." These accomplishments were made possible by Ethel Hedgeman Lyle's vision to

combine scholastic merit, personal achievement, and the rich historic African-American culture to create a women's collegiate-service based organization that has lasted 110 years. She deserves a stamp.

Mr. Speaker, as members of Congress and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, we are humbled to be able to support this effort. Thousands of our members across the globe have signed letters in support of the initiative She Deserves a Stamp. Just making that statement puts me in awe of how incredible Soror Ethel Hedgeman Lyle and her classmates really were.

You see, when they agreed to come together to make history by doing what had never been done before, African Americans and women didn't have the right to vote.

African Americans couldn't even share a lunch counter or schools with whites in 1908.

But, today, 49 African Americans are serving in Congress . . . and seven of them are members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Mr. Speaker, I think Soror Ethel Hedgeman Lyle knew that one day African Americans and women would be able to vote. She knew that one day African Americans would serve in Congress. And, I strongly believe she knew that if given the opportunity, African-American women would become the most educated demographic in America. She knew this at a time when most women were denied an education. She deserves a stamp.

She is a "Guiding Light." She still shines on the path others didn't know existed.

Her work has lighted a path for many social and academic organizations that tear down the walls of racial and gender inequality. Her work has lighted the path for millions of women to attend college. Her work has shone brightly to highlight how living a life that is dedicated to "Service to All Mankind" can change the world in ways we never thought possible. She deserves a stamp.

Mr. Speaker, now, she needs our support. We have to be a part of this movement. This is our chance to give back to someone who has given the world so much, and continues to give through her legacy. To paraphrase an African proverb, "We are, because she was." And, if anyone has ever deserved to be on a stamp, it is the prestigious, wonderful, visionary Ethel Hedgeman Lyle, the founder of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the first African American Greek Letter Sorority. She deserves a stamp.

TRIBUTE TO KYLE BISCOGLIA

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kyle Biscoglia of Waukee High School for winning the Class 3A, 120-pound bracket at the Iowa High School State Wrestling tournament. This is Kyle's third straight championship.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Kyle contributes his success to years of hard work and commitment and the support of his parents, family, coaches and fellow teammates.