

Hortica Insurance, I have no doubt that his commitment to community will continue unabated for years to come. For the past years of service, and for those to come, I offer my utmost thanks to Mr. Bob McClellan of Edwardsville, Illinois. Enjoy your retirement, Bob.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. AND MRS.
ROBERT MILLER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully request the attention of the House today to pay recognition to an important day in the lives of two constituents of mine, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller.

On June 28th, the Millers will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. The couple will gather with friends and family at the Townsend's Warehouse on the 28th to commemorate this special occasion.

I would like to congratulate Robert and Patricia for reaching this important milestone in their lives. They are shining examples of love and dedication for us all, and I wish them and their family all the best at this important occasion.

IN HONOR OF THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ypsilanti district library and to commemorate its 140 years of service to the Ypsilanti community. In 1868, only 31 years after Michigan became a State, a group of three women who were committed to promoting reading and literacy founded the library in the small room of a building on Huron St. It began with only 175 books, and today has expanded to three branches with a collection of over 300,000 volumes.

In addition to this impressive collection of reading material, the library provides other outstanding services to the community. It offers classes on computer skills and specific software programs, which provide participants with the tools they need to succeed in this technology-driven world. Last year, the library ran over 1,000 youth-oriented programs, which reached over 24,000 people in the Ypsilanti area. The Ypsilanti Library's "Tumblebooks" program provides animated picture books online for young children, which promotes early reading skills. Such services are invaluable in Michigan, as they help combat illiteracy while sparking a child's imagination and desire to continue learning.

Libraries offer themselves as a tremendous resource to those who are learning to read and those who love to read. Without libraries many young children would not have access to new books or computers with access to the Internet. I have always believed that teaching children to read provides them with an impor-

tant lifelong tool. The Ypsilanti district library should be commended for what it has done to further this cause.

I am proud of the Ypsilanti library's many contributions to Michigan's 15th Congressional district and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the library on 140 wonderful years of service.

CONGRESS MUST ACT TO HELP
SHRIMPERS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, the American shrimp industry is a textbook example of a great American business crippled by foolish government policies. Congress and the federal bureaucracy have burdened shrimpers with needless regulations and laws that dramatically raise shrimpers' cost of doing business while subsidizing American shrimpers' overseas competitors. Unless Congress soon reverses course and repeals these destructive government policies, many shrimpers will be forced out of business.

Congress's refusal to take any constructive action to address skyrocketing fuel costs has, in particular, hurt shrimpers. Some shrimpers are so desperate to lower their fuel costs that they are going to Mexico in search of affordable fuel. Think about this, Madam Speaker it is cheaper for shrimpers to travel to Mexico to buy gas than to obtain gas in the USA. Yet, Congress still refuses to take reasonable actions, such as expanding offshore drilling or repealing federal laws that delay the production of refineries, to expand oil supply and thus reduce the price of fuel.

The federal government has also imposed numerous regulations on shrimpers dealing with use of items such as bycatch reduction devices and turtle excluder devices (TEDS). Madam Speaker, it is common to speak of the negative effects of regulations as "unintended consequences." However, it is difficult to speak of the effects of the TEDS on shrimpers as unintended consequences when the National Marine Fisheries Service heard industry representatives and representatives of communities whose economies rely on a thriving shrimping industry present first-hand testimony on how these TEDS regulations would harm shrimpers.

The problems shrimpers face are compounded by foreign competitors who are taking advantage of the government-created vulnerabilities in the American shrimp industry. Adding insult to injury, the federal government is forcing American shrimpers to subsidize their competitors through international agencies such as the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the Export-Import Bank, and the International Monetary Fund! In fact, United States taxpayers have provided over \$16,500,000,000 to the home countries of the leading foreign competitors of American shrimpers since 1999.

In order to stop the federal government from punishing shrimpers with unfair regulations and forcing them to subsidize their major competitors, I introduced the Shrimp Importation Financing Fairness Act. This legislation would place a moratorium on any restrictive regula-

tions negatively impacting the shrimp industry and prevent any taxpayer money from going to any country that exported more than 20 million pounds of shrimp to the United States in the previous six months. However, Congress chose not to even take these simple steps to help the American shrimp industry.

Of course, American shrimpers, like all American businesses that compete in the global marketplace, also suffers from the weak U.S. dollar. Congress's fiscal irresponsibility is a major cause of the weakening U.S. dollar.

Madam Speaker, it is still not too late or Congress to help the shrimp industry. Congress should immediately end subsidies to American shrimpers' foreign competitors, place a moratorium on harmful regulations imposed on the shrimp industry, and take action to reduce fuel prices by expanding the supply of oil. I urge my colleagues to join me in working to fix the misguided government policies that are harming America shrimpers.

RECOGNIZING SEAN WARREN OF
VIRGINIA BEACH

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Ms. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding achievements of Sean Warren of Virginia Beach, and to commend him on becoming a Congressional Award Gold Medalist. This recognition by the United States Congress is the highest honor bestowed upon America's youth. It serves as a testament to Sam's strength of character and commitment to our national values of dedication to public service and the cherished qualities of personal growth, initiative, and achievement, all of which are cornerstones of the Congressional Award.

Sean's volunteer efforts are tremendous, speaking very highly of him and his level of commitment to the community and to public service. In earning the rank of Eagle Scout, Sean worked with the Lynnhaven Baseball Fields Executive Board to provide a children's playground area onsite. In addition, he continues to be active within the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Tidewater Council, serving as Junior Assistant Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader, completing the Venturing Scout program, receiving the BSA Tidewater Council Venturing Leadership Award, and participating in the Physical Fitness QUEST and Fitness for Life programs.

Sean has devoted time and energy to excellence in physical fitness, improving his running and weightlifting capacity for the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) and football at Princess Anne High School. He has engaged in opportunities also for advanced leadership experience, including his position as Cadet Athletic Commander for his NJROTC unit and as a member of the 2006 COPE Program. Sean has balanced the challenges of public service with his own personal welfare and developed a well-rounded persona.

Sean has become a role model not only his peers and teammates, but for the large community around him. Upon receiving the Congressional Medal, he joins a most elite group of our Nation's youth who have set and