

HONORING THE BRAVE FIRE-FIGHTERS WHO SAVED MAGNOLIA AND ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THEM

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2011*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women who answered the call when wildfires roared. Having survived Hurricanes Rita and Ike, my district and the people of Southeast Texas know and understand the devastation Hurricanes bring. This September we dealt with a very different kind of disaster in the form of massive wildfires.

Luckily for us, our September miracle was granted Labor Day weekend as fire crews from across Texas and in fact the entire country came to Magnolia to battle a three county blaze that threatened to consume well over ten-thousand homes and businesses in Magnolia as well as thousands more in neighboring Grimes and Waller Counties.

Having been out on the line with them to see for myself how the fire lines came right up to families' back porches—yet they saved home after home—it is impossible for me not to be in awe of these heroes. Their skill and dedication saved the town of Magnolia and I can't wait to join them this Saturday in Unity Park to honor their success and hard work.

Magnolia Volunteer Fire Chief Gary Vincent united over a hundred different fire fighting agencies by his side and with the help of our dedicated Sheriff Tommy Gage, his deputies, our constables, our police departments, our Fire Marshall Jimmy Williams, school districts, the Texas Forest Service and many others stepped up. California's Interagency Incident Management Team not only took our thanks back to the Golden State, they take back the model for how communities and first responders unite with charities from the United Way, Red Cross, local food banks, churches, YMCAs and Chambers of Commerce to provide a response that firefighters across this nation will be talking about for years to come.

If a firefighter was thirsty, three volunteers would rush over with water and there were likely two more behind carrying hot meals just in case that firefighter might be hungry as well. All the firefighters who came in from across the country could talk about was how well they were treated in Texas, God's country.

Today, it's an honor for me to be here on the House floor to honor my heroes who made it possible for thousands of families to have homes to go home to. This Saturday, our community will honor those who held the line by celebrating their service and by heeding their warnings that the fire danger remains extraordinarily high as the drought drags on.

RECOGNIZING AVON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF AVON, SOUTH DAKOTA FOR BEING NAMED A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

**HON. KRISTI L. NOEM**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2011*

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Avon Elementary School of Avon, South Dakota for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

This year the Department of Education named 305 schools Blue Ribbon Schools, Avon Elementary School was one of them. I would like to congratulate Avon Elementary School for its incredible academic achievements. This school reflects the attributes all American education institutions strive for: academic improvement and tangible results. These early successes will give students the ability to further their education and open doors to future opportunities. The commitment of students and staff to quality education and a high level of performance is commendable.

Again, congratulations to Avon Elementary School for being named a Blue Ribbon School.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2011*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measures. If I were present for rollcall votes, I would have voted "aye" for the following votes:

Roll 801, October 24, 2011: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 320: To designate a Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California.

Roll 802, October 24, 2011: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 1160: To require the Secretary of the Interior to convey the McKinney Lake National Fish Hatchery to the State of North Carolina, and for other purposes.

HONORING KEITH KIRBY AND CURBCO FOR 25 YEARS OF SUCCESS

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2011*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two great men and one great company.

As a young man Robert Matsko served in the United States Air Force. After leaving the military he earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from Michigan State University. Upon completion of his degree, Robert worked at A.C. Spark Plug for 7 years. In 1967 he began teaching at Randels Elementary in the Carman School District. Mr. Matsko found his calling as an elementary school teacher. He

taught at Carman for 27 years making a lasting impression on hundreds of young students, especially Keith Kirby. During his career, Robert Matsko was twice awarded "Who's Who of Teachers in America."

At the age of 11, Keith Kirby decided to start his own business. Keith began mowing lawns and that business became what is known today as Curbco. Curbco is a multi-million dollar business that has grown from lawn care to a full service maintenance company. They specialize in landscape, snow removal, street sweeping as well as paving and asphalt maintenance. Keith embodies the American Dream and the entrepreneurial spirit that makes this country great. His vision and investment have created jobs for many and helps provide for our community.

In his humble ways Keith credits much of his success to his 4th and 5th grade teacher, Mr. Robert Matsko. We all have a teacher that has changed us for the better and Keith thought it was important to highlight his teacher at Curbco's 25 year anniversary party.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Keith Kirby and Curbco on reaching the milestone of 25 years in business. Also, join me in thanking Mr. Robert Matsko for his years of dedication to the profession of teaching.

RECOGNIZING HAMLIN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL OF HAYTI, SOUTH DAKOTA FOR BEING NAMED A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

**HON. KRISTI L. NOEM**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2011*

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hamlin Junior High School of Hayti, South Dakota for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

This year the Department of Education named 305 schools Blue Ribbon Schools, Hamlin Jr. High School was one of them. I would like to congratulate Hamlin Jr. High School for its incredible academic achievements. This school reflects the attributes all American education institutions strive for: academic improvement and tangible results. These early successes will give students the ability to further their education and open doors to future opportunities. The commitment of students and staff to quality education and a high level of performance is commendable.

Again, congratulations to Hamlin Jr. High School for being named a Blue Ribbon School.

HONORING THE TWENTIETH CENTURY CLUB OF BUFFALO

**HON. KATHLEEN C. HOCHUL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2011*

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas: The Twentieth Century Club of Buffalo is located in the City of Buffalo in Erie County; and

Whereas: The Twentieth Century Club of Buffalo was founded in 1894 by Miss Charlotte Mulligan and other graduates of the Buffalo Seminary to promote cultural pursuits; and

Whereas: The Twentieth Century Club of Buffalo is considered to be among the oldest clubs for women in the United States; and

Whereas: The Twentieth Century Club of Buffalo played an important role during the Pan American Exposition and serves as an important reminder of the City of Buffalo's outstanding architectural history; and

Whereas: The Twentieth Century Club of Buffalo remains a vital and forward thinking club which is consistent with the sophisticated elegance that has defined the club for over a century; and

Whereas: The Twentieth Century Club of Buffalo has been designated a National Historic Landmark as a result of the support, energy and steadfast commitment of its members; be it further

Resolved; That we pause in our deliberations to honor the Twentieth Century Club of Buffalo on their designation as a National Historic Landmark and their service to the Western New York Community.

#### CONGRATULATING TOM TEMPLE

#### HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2011*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to congratulate my good friend Tom Temple on his upcoming retirement from the Iowa Pharmacy Association. Tom has served in his current role at the Iowa Pharmacy Association since 1980, and has become a friend and adviser to me.

Tom has dedicated his life to medicine, and has been a leader on pharmaceutical issues across the state of Iowa. He has served as CEO of the Iowa Pharmacy Foundation and the Collaborative Education Institute. He has assisted numerous professional organizations including the American Pharmacists Association, the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations, and the American Society of Association Executives.

Tom has also been active in the higher education community, advising universities on current issues affecting the pharmaceutical industry. He served on the Advisory Committees for Drake University, the University of Iowa, and the University of Illinois College of Pharmacy.

Tom has been a tremendous advocate for Iowa pharmacists. When I was traveling in Afghanistan earlier this year, and came across a tiny pharmacy in a village there, my first thought was, "wouldn't Tom Temple get a kick out of this?"

Tom will be missed very much by his colleagues and peers in the coming years, but his influence and leadership will never be forgotten. I congratulate him on all of his success and wish him a rewarding and relaxing future.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

#### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2011*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, as we honor National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, I rise to call upon my colleagues to join me in stressing the importance of getting regular mammograms. Regular mammograms are crucial for early detection of this terrible disease. The earlier breast cancer is detected, the better chance there is of winning the fight against breast cancer.

Every two minutes, a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer, making this the most frequently diagnosed cancer among women in the United States. While traditionally thought of as an older woman's disease, breast cancer is found in women of all ages. The likelihood of diagnosis increases with age, but breast cancer is today being found more and more frequently among women in their 20s and 30s.

Today, the two and a half million breast cancer survivors living in the United States are a testament to the courage and perseverance of the Americans who have faced this condition. These survivors are also living reminders about the importance of breast cancer awareness, following recommended screening guidelines, ensuring that those affected receive treatment, and continuing to fund groundbreaking and innovative research.

Breast cancer does not discriminate; this deadly disease affects everyone regardless of age, wealth, or status. I stand in support of all of those who have been affected by breast cancer and encourage all available steps be taken to detect early and defeat this disease.

#### RECOGNIZING SHARON F. DELZER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF ESTELLINE, SOUTH DAKOTA FOR BEING NAMED A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

#### HON. KRISTI L. NOEM

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2011*

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sharon F. Delzer Elementary School of Estelline, South Dakota for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

This year the Department of Education named 305 schools Blue Ribbon Schools, Sharon F. Delzer Elementary School was one of them. I would like to congratulate Sharon F. Delzer Elementary School for its academic achievements. This school reflects the attributes all American education institutions strive for: academic improvement and tangible results. These successes will give students the ability to further their education and open doors to future opportunities. The commitment of students and staff to quality education and a high level of performance is commendable.

Again, congratulations to Sharon F. Delzer Elementary School for being named a Blue Ribbon School.

#### A TRIBUTE TO PASTOR LESTER CHARLES SMITH

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Pastor Lester Charles Smith for his leadership in guiding the New Jerusalem Holy Church towards participating in a community of building God's Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven.

Pastor Smith has a proven track record of accomplishments and over the years has led his congregation through the integrity of his heart. While his ministry has often been tested, Pastor Smith has stayed his God given course and kept the mandate of his divine assignment. With such leadership, the New Jerusalem Holy Church has its principles firmly rooted in the belief that we must appropriate the great salvation of God through commitment and excellence.

Pastor Smith understands that our personal lives, family lives, and church lives should always be a reflection of the stability we have with God. He has built an organization that strives everyday to spread the word of God while demonstrating excellence in all that they do. As is preached by Pastor Smith the congregation is called to demonstrate, to a world in search of truth, the wisdom rooted objective in submission to their Heavenly Father.

Pastor Smith has transformed the mission of the church and has pushed for many programs to be implemented under his leadership. Pastor Smith has partnered with the Brooklyn AIDS Task Force and Feed the Children at New Jerusalem to provide food for the community throughout the holidays. Along with the Brooklyn AIDS Task Force, Pastor Smith has offered advice and techniques for childcare, development and health news for parents.

Pastor Smith is expanding his vision to include the establishment of a Community Development Corporation which will provide an ongoing GED program, an after school program for youth, and a job training program. Currently Pastor Smith is training to become a certified chaplain with the New York State Chaplain Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Pastor Lester Charles Smith for his leadership at the New Jerusalem Holy Church and the unrelenting hope he has for his congregation, community and fellow man.

#### HONORING MARY FRANCES BLEY ON HER RETIREMENT FROM CRS

#### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2011*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a longtime Arlington, Virginia resident, Mary Frances Bley, who will retire from the Congressional Research Service (CRS) on October 31st. During her 28 years of service with CRS, Ms. Bley distinguished herself by passionately and diligently working to ensure that congressional needs for research were responded to promptly and with the best information and analysis available.