

Creamery Arts Center, and Drury University. He has also helped with public television shows in Branson, Missouri.

The Springfield community and surrounding area is lucky to have a neighbor like Chuck. He continues to provide us with great entertainment after more than 25 years of involvement in the arts.

I want to congratulate Chuck Rogers' 25 years at the Springfield Little Theatre and wish him continued success. Break a leg Chuck!

TYIA JOHNSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Tyia Johnson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Tyia Johnson is a 12th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Tyia Johnson 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 Tyia Johnson 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 her future accomplishments.

HONORING MR. FRANK EDWARD RAY

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor the life and legacy of San Joaquin Valley resident Mr. Frank Edward Ray. Mr. Ray will be remembered as a hero for the brave actions he took to rescue twenty-six young school children who fell victim to a school bus kidnapping plot while in his care.

Frank Edward Ray, or Ed as he was known, was born in Le Grand, California on February 26, 1921. As a boy, his family relocated to Chowchilla, California. After graduating from Chowchilla Union High School in 1940, Mr. Ray married his wife, Odessa, in 1942. The couple purchased a ranch in Dairyland, California on which they farmed alfalfa, corn, and raised dairy cows. In the early 1950's, Mr. Ray went to work for Dairyland Union School District as a bus driver.

While driving a busload of summer school students home in the summer of 1976, Mr. Ray's daily route quickly became anything but normal. As he drove the bus along a tree-lined avenue, he encountered a white van blocking the road. After Mr. Ray brought the bus to a stop to avoid a collision with the van, three armed men hijacked the school bus. The assailants forced Mr. Ray and the 26 school chil-

dren off the bus into cramped vans and drove 100 miles to a rock quarry in Livermore, California.

As part of an elaborate plot to obtain \$5 million dollars in ransom, the kidnappers forced Mr. Ray and the children into a makeshift bunker made from a moving van buried in the ground. Before leaving the scene, the kidnappers covered the roof of the van with steel plates, 100 pound vehicle batteries, and dirt. Despite risk of further danger, Mr. Ray and several of the older children in the group used materials found in the van to dig their way out. After 16 hours of clearing debris, Mr. Ray was able to help all of the children escape from the underground van.

Because of Mr. Ray's bravery, selflessness, and loving sense of responsibility for the children in his care, all 26 students escaped the kidnapping ordeal safely. He assisted in the apprehension of the kidnappers—all three of which are serving life sentences. His heroic actions and leadership in the face of uncertain danger established him as a hero in the Chowchilla community. In addition to local appreciation, his heroic efforts in the nationally renowned kidnapping became an example of excellence across America. Just two months after the crime, Mr. Ray resumed his route on the same bus. He retired from Alview-Dairyland Union School District in 1988, after 40 years of service.

Mr. Ray passed away in May 2012 at the age of 91. In the days preceding his death, he was visited by many of the students he saved 35 years ago. Mr. Ray is survived by his wife, Odessa, with whom he would have celebrated 70 years of marriage in June 2012. He is also survived by his two sons, Glen and Danny; his sister, Esther Danelli; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He will be missed by the close-knit community of Chowchilla.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in posthumously honoring Mr. Frank Edward Ray for his invaluable service to his community. His legacy will not soon be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING THE ROEBUCK FAMILY'S MILITARY SERVICE

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a proud American family with over one hundred total years of military service to this Nation.

In 1980, Violet I. Roebuck, originally from St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, moved with her family, to Lake Placid, Florida.

Harold Roebuck Jr., father to Carlos, Harold III, Venecia and Gisette tragically died shortly after the family's move to Florida during a return trip to St. Croix. their mother, Violet I. Roebuck had the difficult task of raising her five children, including her eldest son Wayne Moorehead, as a working single mother.

Of her five children, four served in the military, each for more than 20 years for a total of over 80 years of service. In addition, Violet's son-in-law Ira Wenzel served an additional 22 years.

With such a strong commitment to this Nation, it's really no surprise that the patriotism Violet had instilled in her children was passed

on to a second generation of her family who have now begun their proud and faithful service to this Nation.

Today, Harold Roebuck IV and Eddie Moorehead are following in the footsteps of their parents in proud service to this Nation.

It is important to always remember that families like Violet Roebuck's are clear examples of what makes this Nation so great.

Today, I am humbled to have the opportunity to bring the attention of this house to a family of true American heroes.

To the Roebuck family, God bless you and your family's brave service to this Nation.

With that, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring the achievements of this patriotic American family.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTER AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, which is celebrating 100 years since its establishment on the island of Puerto Rico.

The Inter American University of Puerto Rico was founded in 1912 as the Polytechnic Institute of Puerto Rico, by Reverend John Will Harris. At the time they offered elementary and secondary education in the town of San German. In 1944, the university was accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, making it the first liberal arts college to be so accredited in Puerto Rico.

Over the last century, the Inter American University of Puerto Rico has greatly expanded, educating thousands of students pursuing their studies in the humanities, social sciences, and hard sciences. Under the leadership of University President Dr. Manuel J. Fernos, today the Inter American University of Puerto Rico has more than 50,000 registered students at eleven sites, including schools specializing in optometry and law. As the only optometry school in Latin America, it is the main provider of bilingual optometrists in the world.

The university also stands out for its extensive offering of online courses, making it a leader in distance learning. The Inter American University of Puerto Rico prides itself on their international partnerships with other prestigious universities located in Spain, England, Italy, Mexico, China, and the Dominican Republic. The university also maintains a large number of partnership programs with schools located in the 50 States. These partnerships and programs expand the knowledge and experiences of the university's students, and have made the Inter American University of Puerto Rico a recognized cultural bridge between North America and Latin America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of this historic institution of higher education, which has made a lasting impact on students in Puerto Rico and throughout the rest of both the United States and Latin America.

TESLA MILLER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Tesla Miller for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Tesla Miller is a 12th grader at Arvada West High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Tesla Miller 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 Tesla Miller 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 her future accomplishments.

HONORING ARLENE LOWENSTEIN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Arlene Lowenstein began volunteering for Jewish causes as a pre-teen by standing outside of E.J. Korvettes on Central Avenue in Scarsdale, collecting funds for Israel during the Six-Day War. She has not ceased her support of Israel.

Arlene is now Fleetwood Synagogue's Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair. Fleetwood Synagogue is an organization that relies almost entirely on volunteers and Arlene's duties include many that are normally done by an organization's staff, including billing members, paying bills, banking, reporting tax and donation information, and maintaining the synagogue's contact lists.

She treats her volunteering activities with absolute seriousness, and ensures that whatever tasks she undertakes are done accurately and in a timely manner. She does not limit herself to just the financial aspects of the synagogue. She has worked on the dinner committee for years, and is particularly adept at editing written material sent out by the synagogue.

During the ten years her daughter Tovah attended Stein Yeshiva, Arlene served as the PTA President. In 1993, Arlene and her husband, Jack, were the first parents ever honored at the school's testimonial dinner.

Arlene was also active in Rena Hadassah in Mount Vernon, where she chaired the annual Camp Fair which was the organization's most successful fundraiser. She received the "Hands of Healing" award from the Westchester Hadassah Region in 1993.

Arlene grew up in Yonkers, and is a product of Lincoln Park Jewish Center. She spent a year studying at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and is a graduate of Barnard College. After graduate school at CUNY, she worked

as a computer programmer and a proof reader, before her current profession—Travel Agent. She is the manager of Transland Travel Bureau, a family-owned business. Arlene's husband is Co-President of Fleetwood Synagogue. Her daughter is an English teacher at the Moriah School in Englewood, New Jersey. Arlene's dedication to Fleetwood Synagogue is apparent to all who know her.

I join with Fleetwood Synagogue in honoring Arlene Lowenstein for the good work she has done in the community for so many years. She is a living mitzvah.

IN HONOR OF MASTER SERGEANT CHILDS

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. ROSS of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true patriot who died in service to this great country. On May 4, 2012, Master Sergeant Gregory L. Childs died of a non-combat related illness at the age of 38 in Kabul Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Master Sergeant Childs was raised in Warren, Arkansas, where he graduated from Warren High School in 1992. After graduation, he joined the United States Army where he served his country with honor for 20 years, traveling to Bosnia, Germany, Columbia, and two tours to Afghanistan. He excelled through the ranks of the Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Corps and earned the rank of Master Sergeant (MSG), one of the highest ranks you can receive in the U.S. Army NCO Corps. At the time of his death, Master Sergeant Childs was assigned to the Defense Logistics Agency, Administrative Support Center, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Although I never had the honor to meet Master Sergeant Childs, on behalf of the State of Arkansas, I extend my sincere condolences to his family, friends and all who knew him for this devastating loss.

Master Sergeant Childs is survived by his daughter, Kourtlan Iman Childs of Arlington, Texas; his mother, Eula Childs of Warren, Ark.; his brother, Shawn Childs of Little Rock, Ark.; a grandmother, Maola Jones of Hermitage, Ark.; a fiancée, Jewele Johnson of Columbia, SC; best friends Chad Mingo of Shreveport, LA, and Alonzo Hampton of Bowling Green, KY, as well as a host of other relatives, friends, and soldiers.

When we think of true heroes, we think of brave Americans like Master Sergeant Childs who risk everything to defend freedom and serve this great country. We will always be grateful for his selfless sacrifice and he will be deeply missed by all who knew him. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends during this very difficult time. We are who we are as a nation because of patriots like Master Sergeant Childs.

Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Master Sergeant Gregory L. Childs and his legacy, as well as each man and woman in our Armed Forces, and all of those in harm's way, who give the ultimate sacrifice in service to this great country. We owe them our eternal gratitude.

HONORING WILLIAM EDWARD SAXTON

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary life of William Edward Saxton and to mourn him upon his passing at the age of 86.

Born in Hazel Park, Michigan on March 14, 1926 to Dean and Margaret Saxton, Bill graduated from Plymouth High School, where he met his future wife Valerie, in 1944. He served honorably in the U.S. Navy during World War II and went on to study business management and engineering at the University of Michigan, graduating in the late 1940's. Bill and Valerie married in the summer of 1947. Taking the reins from his father, Bill became the owner and operator of Saxton's Garden Center, an 83-year-old family business in Plymouth, Michigan. A historical cornerstone of Plymouth's pedestrian friendly downtown located at Ann Arbor Trail and Penniman, the former Saxton's Feed Company once served as a stop on the Underground Railroad.

Under Bill's knowledgeable and forthright leadership, Saxton's Feed Company transitioned from farm-supply and livestock feed to Saxton's Garden Center as farms gave way to subdivisions. Bill became active in the Plymouth Community and the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce. Saxton's is a perennial sponsor of the Plymouth Ice Festival, Art in the Park and many other downtown events. Kellogg Park borders Saxton's just to the west and has become a focal point of the community thanks to the generosity of patrons like Bill Saxton.

Sadly, on June 4, 2012, Bill succumbed to his second battle with cancer and passed from this earthly world to his eternal reward. He is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 65 years, Valerie and his precious children Alan, Craig and Christopher. Reuniting in eternity with his adored daughter Karin, Bill will long be remembered by grandchildren Nichelle, Lauren, Christopher and Sarah. He leaves a legacy in his cherished great grandchild Connor and will be sorely missed by his treasured siblings Dean and Margaret.

Mr. Speaker, William Saxton will be long remembered as a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, veteran, legendary businessman, philanthropist, community leader and above all as a friend. Bill was a man who deeply treasured his family, friends, community and his country. Today, as we bid Bill Saxton farewell, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and honoring his unwavering patriotism and legendary service to our community and our country.

SHYANNE SWARTWOOD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

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