

Mr. Chaney has dedicated his professional life to preserving our nation's abundant beauty. His career has included service in several different parks, from Arkansas to Colorado, Kentucky, Utah and Northern California.

Mr. Chaney has served in many roles, ranging from park aid, to ranger, technician and superintendent.

As superintendent of Redwood National Park, Mr. Chaney has worked to protect and preserve the health of the vast forests and watersheds of Del Norte and Humboldt counties.

In his role as superintendant, Mr. Chaney has worked to support California State Parks to prevent the closure of one of three area state parks; he has prioritized relations with the Yurok and other local tribes; has improved the culture of safety at Redwood National Park; has addressed illegal and ecologically harmful marijuana cultivation on park lands; and has overseen the effort to improve the park's second-growth Douglas fir and redwood stands.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Steve Chaney for his dedication to our national parks and for his long record of service to our national park's visitors.

HONORING RTR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Russell-Tyler-Ruthton (RTR) Elementary School in Ruthton, Minnesota.

On September 7th, RTR Elementary School was named one of two schools from the First District of Minnesota to be designated as a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School.

This award recognizes exemplary schools like RTR Elementary School where students have consistently scored the top of assessment results. Recipients of this award truly exemplify the State of Minnesota's belief that every child has promise and must receive a high quality education.

As a teacher on leave from Mankato West, I know that achieving success for all students takes a commitment from the entire school, from the principal to the counselors to the teachers. When students see every adult in their school dedicated to their success and achieving a higher goal, they are motivated to do their best.

This is exactly what RTR Elementary has done for its students. Under the leadership of Principal Amy Christensen, they have focused on building relationships with every student, and executing the RTR Literacy Plan to ensure success in the English Language Arts. Their efforts have led to exceptional results.

This award recognizes what the RTR Elementary School community already knows—RTR Elementary is a place where every student, no matter their ability or background, can fulfill their potential. RTR Elementary is an outstanding model of achievement for schools across Minnesota and the country.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring RTR Elementary School for its dedication to the students of Ruthton.

RECOGNIZING THE BARTON FAMILY AS THE HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA, 2012 FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the Barton family for being selected as the 2012 Holmes County, Florida, Farm Family of the Year.

Ken and Rhonda Barton are Northwest Florida natives with a deep connection to the local farming community. Farming became a part of their childhood and way of life. Thirty-three years ago, they were married, and it then became a love they have since shared as husband and wife and one that they now share with their children and grandchildren. Together, they successfully operate a 1,200 acre farm, where they raise livestock and grow peanuts, cotton, oats, and hay. The success of the farm is largely due to the way in which the Barton family operates. Each plays a supporting role, while embracing the best management practices. It is through their tireless work and dedication that the Barton Family demonstrates a true love of agriculture and family.

Outside of the farm, the family plays an active role in the community. Ken and Rhonda are heavily involved in numerous state agriculture associations, including the Florida Peanut Producers Association, the Southern Peanut Farmers Federation, the Florida Cattle-men's Association, and the Florida Farm Bureau. In 2003, Ken became the Executive Director of the Florida Peanut Producers Association, where he proudly represents the peanut farmers of the state of Florida in both Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. He also dedicates his time to research, promotion, and education in Florida peanut production.

Their daughter Tonya is an elementary school teacher at Bethlehem School and is married to Kevin Amerson, who is a field representative with Dothan Livestock. They have instilled in their two young children, Kason and Kolton, a dedication and appreciation for farming, as they are always eager to assist with hay operations or working the cattle. And Ken and Rhonda's son, Chad, is an aircraft mechanic at Fort Rucker and is active with the row-crop operation of the farm. He is married to Ashley Miller who assists with the daily workings of the farm. One of the greatest joys of their two young children, Kenny and Kaylee, is spending time in the field or on a tractor with Ken and Rhonda.

In addition to their love for farming and love of family, as great stewards of the land, Ken and Rhonda are devoted Christians who are ever grateful to the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, our great nation was built by the hard work of farmers and their families. The Holmes County Farm Family of the Year Award is a true reflection of the Barton family's tireless work and dedication to country, faith, and family. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Barton family for this great accomplishment. My wife, Vicki, and I wish them the best for continued success.

TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in order to celebrate with the people of Taiwan as their National Day, October 10, 2012, approaches.

Earlier this year during the presidential and legislative elections, the Taiwanese people once again demonstrated to the world with a clear, ringing voice of freedom that they are a beacon of democracy to Asia and the world.

The United States and Taiwan continue to share a close partnership and an abiding friendship, and I congratulate the people of Taiwan on the occasion of their National Day.

I also would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Taiwan's representative to the United States, the honorable Jason Yuan, on being appointed to his new position as Secretary-General of Taiwan's National Security Council. He has served the interests of Taiwan with distinction during his time here in Washington, D.C., and I thank him for his service.

TRIBUTE TO EDNA KNUDSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Edna Knudson on the coming celebration of her 100th birthday. Edna will celebrate a century of life in less than one short month on October 21st, 2012.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Edna's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Edna has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-two Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Edna was born on October 21st, 1912 in Evansville, Minnesota and spent her early years in Minneapolis working for Honeywell, Inc. In 1945, Edna moved to Parkersburg, Iowa with her husband Howard. As the successful small business owners of the local Coast to Coast hardware store, Edna and Howard raised their two children in the apartment above the store.

Edna's life has been defined by the hard work and commitment she has given to her family, community, and church. Edna has never lost her passion for fun and, when she's not on a golf course, you can find her at the card table playing games or telling stories with friends and family. Edna will celebrate this special birthday surrounded by friends and family, including her four grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Edna in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Ms. Knudson on

reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARRY
CONWAY'S RETIREMENT

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, on September 30, 2012 Barry Conway will retire as Commandant of the New Hampshire State Veterans Home after forty years of faithful service in health care administration. Mr. Conway began his career as a Corpsman with the United States Air Force serving from 1960–1964. Soon after leaving the Air Force, he pursued his post secondary education in Rhode Island, before beginning his work in health care administration working in long-term care facilities, ambulatory care centers and hospitals.

For the last twenty-three years, Mr. Conway has worked at the New Hampshire State Veterans Home, providing quality care and services to our state's aging and disabled veterans. Under his leadership the Veterans Home has become a sought after long-term care facility, focusing on the special needs of our veterans. The care provided to our veterans not only meets their specific challenges and needs, but honors both them and their service to our country.

Mr. Conway has also shared his expertise and experience in caring for the elderly, frail, and disabled veterans as a member of many associations including the National Association of State Veterans Homes, American College of Health Care Administrators, New Hampshire Health Care Association, and the American Legion. He has served New Hampshire and its residents well, especially our veterans community, and he will be sorely missed when he leaves the Veterans Home.

I congratulate Barry Conway on his well earned retirement and thank him for his outstanding support of our veterans here in New Hampshire. I wish both Barry and his wife Barbara continued success in their life together.

TRIBUTE TO SARAH DEMAREE

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, now that we have returned to our districts before the election, I'd like to highlight a valuable staff member of mine who recently left my office. I rise today to pay tribute and say thanks to Sarah Demaree, a member of my staff who dedicated herself to the people of Oregon's Second Congressional District for nearly three years in my Washington, DC, Office.

Sarah is a talented young woman who filled many different roles in my office, and was up to the challenge for each one. First joining the office as an intern after graduating from Colgate University, Sarah quickly stepped into the role of staff assistant and has continued to take on more responsibility as a legislative

correspondent and legislative assistant handling education issues.

Whatever she was asked to do—even if she wasn't asked directly to do it—Sarah was up to the challenge. When she was staff assistant, she went above and beyond to make all Oregonians who visited feel welcome. Each and every one came a long way, and she gave them some of the best Capitol tours on the Hill. As legislative correspondent, she helped me keep in close touch with all corners of the Second District.

Sarah adeptly handled complex policy issues as my education advisor. In that role, Sarah kept in close touch with teachers throughout Oregon and maintained a close relationship to teacher groups and education administrators.

Sarah also organized several visits from a group of special men and women, World War II veterans from Oregon as part of Honor Flight of Oregon and Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon. Each time a group travelled to Washington, Sarah would plan their visits for weeks to make sure each and every one of these heroes had a perfect trip to the nation's capital. She was known to rise early on Saturday mornings to go to the World War II Memorial to greet these veterans, and present them with flags flown over the Capitol. The organizers of these visits, Gail Yakopatz and Dick Tobiason, always singled out Sarah for her help, praising her dedication and Tenacity.

While not a native Oregonian, Sarah has deep ties to the state, whether through her annual family camping trip to Howard Prairie Lake outside of Ashland or her extended family in Portland. These deep connections to the state allowed her to connect with Oregonians from around the Second District.

While Sarah has dedicated herself to public service here in our nation's capital, she has headed back to her native Washington State to enter a new and exciting phase of her life. Sarah has given up the "maroon and white" of her alma mater, Colgate University, for the "purple and gold" of her home state University of Washington where she began law school this fall.

I'm sure that law school has been keeping Sarah plenty busy, but with her industrious work ethic, and desire to make the world a better place, I can imagine Sarah will soon be putting her energy into public service in Washington State. She's also closer to her mom and dad, Walt and Liz, and to her beloved Seattle Seahawks. I speak for all members of Team Walden when I say Sarah's dedication and talent have been missed, but we wish her best of luck as she begins her new life in "the other" Washington.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Sarah the best of luck as she returns West and pursues new personal and professional endeavors. Sarah, thanks for exemplary service to the Congress and citizens of Oregon.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT
WILLIAM M. HITTLE IV

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate William M. Hittle

IV of Nora Springs, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about 5 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 Project to benefit the community. The work ethic William has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of 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 demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent William and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House 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 FRIENDS OF
LIGHT RAIL AND TRANSIT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Friends of Light Rail and Transit as they celebrate their 25th anniversary. As supporters and members of this fine organization gather together to celebrate a quarter century of steadfast public transit advocacy, I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing them for their efforts to advocate for the improvement and expansion of bus and light rail service in Sacramento.

For the past 25 years, Friends of Light Rail and Transit has been a staunch supporter of public transportation in the Sacramento area. Since the inception of light rail in 1987, they have been instrumental in the growth and promotion of the public transportation system in the Sacramento region. With Friends of Light Rail and Transit's support, the Sacramento Regional Transit District has continued to expand light rail service in Sacramento and most recently add the new Green Line, which will eventually link Natomas and the Sacramento Airport to the rest of the light rail system. Friends of Light Rail and Transit has also fought for improved bus service for every neighborhood in the region.

Friends of Light Rail and Transit have hosted, sponsored and participated in countless community workshops for transit oriented planning projects across the region. They have pushed decision makers and policymakers to ensure public transit is at the forefront of their minds. Headed by Executive Director Seann Rooney and Board President Dain Domich, this great organization has been prominent in voicing their support for improved air quality, infill development, and congestion relief; consistently and tirelessly pushing for a better tomorrow.