

who is altruistic, balanced, calm, and a thoughtful role model for citizen involvement.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Preston Driggers for this well deserved recognition by Mayor Marjorie Sloan and the City of Golden. Thank you for your dedication to our community.

RECOGNIZING LEWIS UNIVERSITY'S AVIATION PROGRAM

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Aviation Department at Lewis University and Department Chair Bill Brogan for receiving the Loening Trophy, an award presented to the top collegiate aviation program in the country.

I am happy to see this outstanding program recognized nationally. Lewis University, which is located in my district, has seen significant growth in their aviation department over the past few years, and emerged as one of our nation's preeminent programs. On September 26, in a ceremony held on campus in Romeoville, Illinois, members of Lewis' Flight Team along with students and faculty from the Aviation and Transportation Department were on hand to receive the Loening Trophy.

I have visited Lewis University and the Aviation Department a number of times over the past year. I have been very impressed with the various aviation programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Aviation is a growing field and the program at Lewis provides students with an education and skills that will serve them very well.

Every year, the National Intercollegiate Flying Association considers aviation programs across the country and selects a recipient for the award based on intense evaluations. Since 1929, the recipient has represented the current benchmark for an overall outstanding aviation program. The hard work and dedication that Lewis University puts into its academics, community involvement, comprehensive safety programs, and a proactive enhancement of the future of aviation earned them the honor this year, setting their program apart as truly top-tier.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lewis University's Aviation and Transportation Department and congratulating them on this award. The Loening Trophy proves that Lewis continues to be a collegiate aviation leader not only in Illinois, but nationwide. May the students and faculty at Lewis enjoy this prestigious award and continue their work in the field of aviation.

REOPEN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution, along with Represent-

atives GEORGE MILLER and NITA LOWEY, which is designed to reopen the Federal Government.

House Republicans have shut down the government in an effort to push their reckless agenda, allowing a small group of Tea Party Republicans to hold the entire Federal Government hostage. And they think they can distract from that by cherry-picking pieces of government to re-open, and leave the rest of it to die on the vine. They are playing games with peoples' lives, leaving families, small businesses, veterans, and our economy to pay the price.

The fastest way to proceed is to vote on the clean Senate-passed bill to immediately reopen the government. The President has indicated he is willing to sign it tonight. Unfortunately, House Republicans have manipulated the rules to block democracy in the House, and will not allow an up-or-down vote on the bill.

So today, House Democrats are offering an alternate way to end this irresponsible shut-down and allow our public servants to return to the work of the American taxpayers. We are introducing a petition that will compel consideration of legislation to open the government. By signing this discharge petition, both Democrats and Republicans can finally stand up and demand a vote as early as October 14 on a short-term extension of government funding consistent with what the Senate has passed. This would allow Congress to finally get back to the work of boosting job growth and reducing our long-term deficit in a balanced way. And it would allow government to get back to the work of helping to keep our nation safe, fight and cure diseases, help veterans, and provide vital services that touch virtually every family in our country.

Speaker BOEHNER has made it very clear that he is afraid of democracy. But that is why we were all elected to the peoples' House. It's time to stop playing partisan games and stop this damaging shutdown.

HONORING MARIST HIGH SCHOOL IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marist High School in Chicago, Illinois. This September the high school celebrated its 50th Anniversary. Hundreds of students, alumni, and family members joined Cardinal Francis George in Red and White Stadium to celebrate an anniversary Mass, honoring Marist High School's past and future.

In 1963 this Roman Catholic high school opened its doors with the mission of granting students quality schooling, preparing them for higher education, and instilling in them the values of faith, family, and service. Achieving and maintaining a level of performance as high as Marist is not easy. The school has established an educational culture that creates structures, norms, and organizational support to sustain their improving trend toward excellence.

For half a century Marist High School has provided an innovative and demanding college preparatory curriculum, serving thousands of Chicago-area and suburban students. Today, the school continues to enhance its surrounding community. The hard work and dedication of all the staff at Marist High School has not gone unnoticed. Praise is due not only to the outstanding teachers, who work tirelessly for the benefit of their students, but to the administrative staff who also work relentlessly to provide the professional atmosphere and the materials necessary to let teachers do what they do best.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding faculty and students, both past and present, at Marist High School, and congratulating them on this special 50th Anniversary. May Marist High School continue to exhibit excellence and create an outstanding learning environment for our future leaders.

HONORING ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH SCHOOL FOR BEING NAMED A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Francis Xavier Parish School, an exemplary Catholic school in La Grange, Illinois, for receiving the prestigious 2013 U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School Award. Established in 1890, St. Francis Xavier Parish has been serving the entire community of La Grange through religious and academic education as well as community service.

In 1982, the Department of Education established the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program to recognize public and private schools boasting high or significantly improved achievement. The program's goal is to identify aspects of thriving American schools in order to replicate their success. I am proud that one of the exceptional schools being honored is not only located in my district, but sits only a couple of miles from my home. I enjoy participating in the annual Falcon 5k run and other events for the school.

The mission of St. Francis Xavier Parish School is to provide students with academic excellence centered in the Catholic values of prayer, learning, and service. Each student pledges to uphold these principles and be a citizen of the world and "represent the mission of my school with dignity and grace." Since 1917 when the school opened its doors, the faculty and staff have been providing an excellent education to students based on these founding values.

Today, St. Francis Xavier School offers programs from preschool through eighth grade and attracts students from La Grange, La Grange Park, and surrounding communities, currently enrolling more than 600 students. As

a proud graduate of Catholic and Jesuit schools, I understand the rigorous and engaging curriculum that emphasizes Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Technology, Language Arts, and Religion. The St. Francis Xa-

vier School offers challenging educational experiences that foster success, promote unity, and respect the individuality of each student.

Please join me in celebrating the accomplishments of St. Francis Xavier Parish School

and all the National Blue Ribbon award winners. Their pursuit of academic excellence is inspiring, and I hope that their success can serve as an inspiration for schools across the nation.