

Defamation League's Jerold Solovy First Amendment Freedom Award event.

A proud husband and father, Keith continues to pass along his spirit of service to his three sons and future generations. Keith Shapiro is a model public servant and is deserving of this prestigious honor. Congratulations, Keith.

EL CONCILIO'S 45TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 45th anniversary of El Concilio, Council for the Spanish Speaking. Since 1968, El Concilio has worked in Stockton, California, and throughout the San Joaquin Valley to provide assistance to the Spanish-speaking community. El Concilio offers programs that assist with a wide range of services, including immigration assistance, education, English language skills, and financial literacy.

El Concilio is the perfect example of an organization that is committed to working with and for the community to improve the lives of others. By partnering with local and corporate businesses and other organizations, El Concilio is able to engage with the public on a large scale and focus its efforts where they are needed most.

El Concilio's efforts and influence have been instrumental in assisting the Spanish-speaking community. El Concilio has helped unite neighborhoods, foster communication, and provide an anchor in the community where families can receive trustworthy advice and support. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing El Concilio and its staff for their invaluable contributions over the past 45 years.

HONORING THE WORK OF HARKER HEIGHTS, TX MAYOR MIKE AYCOCK

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Harker Heights, TX Mayor Mike Aycock. He's proudly carrying on his family's contributions to public service.

Harker Heights, just over 50 years old, is part of the larger Fort Hood community. One of the fastest growing cities in Texas, Harker Heights offers numerous recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

The son of Bell County Commissioner Joe Aycock, Mike is part of a proud family that's been in Bell County since after the Civil War. Mike settled for good in Harker Heights after college. Nurtured by citizen activists and former mayor Ed Mullen, Aycock rose to the mayor's post and has developed a reputation as a courteous and dedicated public servant who remains focused on doing what's right for Harker Heights.

The relatively young city of Harker Heights deserves a mayor with energy and enthusiasm to tackle the challenges of the future. It has

one in Mike Aycock. I'm glad he's there and I look forward to seeing great things happen for Harker Heights.

HONORING PALMER PLACE RESTAURANT & BIERGARTEN'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Palmer Place Restaurant & Biergarten in La Grange, Illinois on its 30th Anniversary. For the past three decades, Palmer Place has been the keystone of downtown La Grange as it has grown into one of the most vibrant communities in suburban Chicago. Since its founding, Palmer Place has served delicious food and quality beers in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

In 1982, Ruth Palmer returned home from a trip to Germany with the inspiration to open what would be the first Biergarten in Chicago's western suburbs. Despite the risky business circumstances, in 1983, Ruth and Mike Palmer founded Palmer Place Restaurant & Biergarten. In the past 30 years the Palmer family has been monumental in reviving downtown La Grange, and helping to make it the thriving business district it is today.

Though the restaurant has grown from 8 employees to 126, Palmer Place remains family owned and operated by Ruth Palmer, and after the passing of Mike Palmer in 1990, their sons Phil and Steve Palmer. Now, the third generation of Palmer's has begun work in the family business: Kyle Palmer, Merle Palmer, and Robert Palmer. The family's commitment to the community has been extraordinary over the past 30 years. In 2012 alone, Palmer Place donated over \$50,000 in gift-certificates to local charities in addition to the family conducting and contributing to numerous charitable events. The family's commitment is further illustrated in the active role they have played in the La Grange Business Association, West Suburban Chamber of Commerce, and the Illinois Restaurant Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Palmer Place Restaurant & Biergarten on its 30th Anniversary. The Palmer Family's flourishing restaurant is a shining example of the positive influence that local businesses can have on their communities. May it continue to thrive in La Grange and serve as an example to all small business entrepreneurs.

HONORING W. BARTON WEITZENBERG

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor W. Barton Weitzenberg, who, along with his law partners at Abbey, Weitzenberg, Warren & Emery, is a recipient of the Sonoma County Bar Association's 2013 Career of Distinction Award. This is the highest honor presented by the Association and it is, indeed, well deserved.

Mr. Weitzenberg has been a practicing attorney in Sonoma County for 35 years and he, along with his law firm, has won more large recoveries for his clients than any other attorney in Sonoma County. Mr. Weitzenberg specializes in representing individuals in their claims against insurance companies and large corporations.

For his work, Mr. Weitzenberg has consistently been recognized as a Northern California Super Lawyer. Super Lawyers is a rating service that selects outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The selection process is multi-phased and includes independent research, peer nominations and peer evaluations.

He is also recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America according to Best Lawyers, the oldest and most respected peer-review publication in the legal profession. A listing in Best Lawyers conferred on a lawyer by his or her peers is widely regarded by both clients and legal professionals as a significant honor.

Mr. Weitzenberg has served as President of the Redwood Empire Trial Lawyers Association, the Sonoma County Trial Lawyers Association, the Consumer Attorneys of Sonoma County, the Richard Sangster Inn of American Inns of Court and has been a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

He is an instructor in Trial Advocacy with the Stanford School of Law and the Empire School of Law in Santa Rosa, California.

Mr. Weitzenberg's community involvement includes board membership on the Sonoma County YMCA, the Redwood Empire Blood Bank and the California Water Fowl Association.

Mr. Speaker, Barton Weitzenberg has been an outstanding attorney in Sonoma County for 35 years. He is respected and held in high esteem by his peers as is reflected in the honor he has received from the Sonoma County Bar Association. It is therefore appropriate that we honor him today.

RECOGNIZING FARMEDHERE FOR BEING NAMED A TOP 10 "UP-AND-COMER" FOR THE 12TH ANNUAL CHICAGO INNOVATION AWARDS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize FarmedHere, a revolutionary vertical farming facility in Bedford Park, IL for being named a Top 10 "Up-and-Comer" for the 12th Annual Chicago Innovation Awards.

In March 2013, FarmedHere opened the world's largest indoor vertical farming operation. At a repurposed warehouse, FarmedHere uses cutting-edge technological advances in aquaponics and aeroponics to supply Chicagoland residents and restaurants with chemical-, herbicide- and pesticide-free herbs, vegetables, and fish. As FarmedHere's operation continues to expand and become more efficient, they are proving that sustainable urban farming is a viable option for Chicagoans.

In providing locally sourced food throughout Chicago, FarmedHere exemplifies environmentally responsible business practices. Instead of expanding horizontally over hundreds of acres, FarmedHere's fields are stacked on top of each other. This vertical growing technology coupled with local distribution reduces energy use, travel time, and costs. FarmedHere extends its green-thinking to its paper packaging, which uses 90 percent less plastic than traditional supermarket boxes. Recently, FarmedHere, in partnership with The Resource Center, a non-profit environmental education organization, established a program that allows FarmedHere to convert all of its organic waste into compost. This compost is then used at other urban farms throughout the Chicago area, helping these farms continue to grow and thrive.

In addition to providing residents with local and environmentally-friendly products, FarmedHere positively affects the Chicago community. FarmedHere provides life changing opportunities for non-violent ex-offenders by hiring and training them to work in their vertical farm. FarmedHere also aims to expand its operations and bring 200 new jobs to the Chicago community by 2014, which will help bolster the local economy.

I was pleased to hear that all of this great work has resulted in FarmedHere's recognition by the Chicago Innovation Awards. Each year the Chicago Innovation Awards recognize the most innovative new products and services in the region across all industries and sectors. By honoring Chicagoland's most creative, the Awards strengthen the region's economic future and spread the spirit of innovation. Chosen from a record-breaking pool of 562 applicants, FarmedHere was named one of ten "Up-and-Comer" award winners this year. The "Up-and-Comer" award recognizes Chicago's premier start-up organizations and provides these organizations with connections to capital, mentors, and business resources. FarmedHere's prizes include an invitation to ring the NASDAQ Bell in New York City, advertising exposure with the Chicago Transit Authority, invitations to attend meetings with Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Governor Pat Quinn, and a profile in Crain's Chicago Business. As the greatest source of new jobs for the U.S. economy, start-ups like FarmedHere deserve this praise and support.

FarmedHere and vertical farms alike are beneficial for the economy and the environment, and I am proud that this one-of-a-kind facility is located in the 3rd District of Illinois. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the entire FarmedHere family on their recent honor and to wish them many years of continued success.

RUNAWAY REPORTING IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that each year in the United States 1.6 million children and youth run away or are thrown out of their homes. Every child reported to have run away is required by law to be listed in the National

Crime Information Center (NCIC) database as a missing person. This cooperative effort of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies aids in information-sharing and promotes cooperation in investigating and resolving multi-jurisdictional cases. The NCIC database is an important part of the puzzle because it can be accessed by virtually every law enforcement officer in the United States. Without an NCIC entry, officers in one part of the country have no way to know that a child is missing at all.

Sadly, an estimated 16 percent of reported runaways are never entered in the NCIC database as missing persons. Without an NCIC entry, law enforcement officers will not share information or resources, and are far less able to discover or protect a missing child because law enforcement doesn't know to look for him or her.

To help address this problem, my colleague Rep. TED POE and I are introducing the Runaway Reporting Improvement Act. This legislation would require law enforcement agencies to certify that they are complying with the law and entering all runaway children into the NCIC database. Additionally, agencies would be required to give parents or guardians of missing children information about the help available through the 24-hour, toll-free phone numbers for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the National Runaway Safeline. These two organizations provide referral services and counseling to the parents or guardians of missing children.

The necessary resources are already in place. We simply must do better by our children. The Runaway Reporting Improvement Act will help ensure that existing processes are used to find and protect those most vulnerable.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF SUPERSTORM SANDY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today as our nation commemorates the one year anniversary of Superstorm Sandy, we remember the 117 victims and their loved ones. Countless lives were affected by this storm, as well as homes, and businesses that were ruined all along Mid-Atlantic shores. Thousands of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut residents were displaced, and to this day they are still working very hard get back on their feet.

For many, it may still feel like it was just yesterday that Superstorm Sandy made landfall, wreaking havoc along its path. I am proud to say that during the immediate aftermath many people, especially in our congressional district, pulled together to help provide aid to all those who were hit the hardest. There are still many families who have not fully recovered from the damages that were incurred and need assistance. Last year, I, along with members of state and federal legislators, came together to push forward the Hurricane Sandy Tax Relief Act of 2012, which was a big step forward on a long road to restoration. We will continue to work hard to ensure the recovery of all those affected by the storm.

Many thanks go out to the rescue workers and first responders who worked around-the-clock to save lives, restore power, and deal with the aftermath of the storm. I know we are a resilient nation and hope for a swift recovery for all those affected by Hurricane Sandy.

IN HONOR OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere congratulations to the students of the Montgomery County School District for their academic achievement, as evidenced by their top 12 percent ranking in Kentucky's Unbridled Learning assessment and accountability system.

I would also like to congratulate the leadership of this school district, the principals, the teachers, and the involved parents for a job well done. They are a true example of a public school system that is working to the best of its abilities.

I know how hard everyone involved labored to improve their District, and now, their dedication to reforms and unprecedented approach to student achievement has produced incredible results.

This achievement is an example of the leadership and determination that proves Kentucky to be a Commonwealth of Excellence.

It is truly an honor to serve as their Congressman in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Keep up the good work, Montgomery County!

IN RECOGNITION OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR WILLIAM ZITO JR., UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of the forthcoming retirement of Command Sergeant Major William Zito Jr. on January 31, 2014.

CSM William Zito Jr. has served the United States Army with honor and distinction for 22 years. A career of such longevity in support of our national security is, in itself, an accomplishment worthy of recognition. In the case of CSM Zito, his stoic demeanor masks the extraordinary achievements accumulated during an exceptional career that demands more than simply the recognition of a grateful nation. He has earned the respect of thousands of soldiers who have directly benefited from his leadership and the adulation of millions whom he has never met, but profited from his wisdom nonetheless.

William Zito's combat arms occupational specialty took him directly into harm's way numerous times, deploying to the most dangerous battlefields of his generation. As First Sergeant, he deployed first to Kuwait for Operation Enduring Freedom in 2002 and the invasion of Iraq in March of 2003, then returned