

of chapter development as shown through their recruitment and retention of new members. The chapter made presentations to area middle schools that feed into their high school and were able to sign up 88 new members for the introduction to agriculture class. Additionally, the chapter worked with over 1,000 elementary students to increase their agricultural literacy and reading skills.

Farmers across the United States are responsible for providing food to families around the world and Illinois is at the forefront of this driver to our economy. There are over 76,000 farms in Illinois and the state is ranked second in the United States for agricultural commodity exports with nearly \$4 billion worth exported to other countries annually. The FFA helps keep this critical industry going by inspiring our youth to consider careers in agriculture and developing their leadership abilities for all facets of life.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I am pleased to honor the Pontiac FFA Chapter for their impressive accomplishments and for receiving this distinguished award. I wish these students the best of luck in their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO TCL CHINESE THEATRE AND FENG XIAOGANG

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Creative Life (TCL) Chinese Theatre on hosting the Beijing Film Panorama in America Festival and recognizing acclaimed Chinese Film Director, Feng Xiaogang during a Handprint Ceremony.

TCL Chinese Theatre, formerly known as Grauman's Chinese Theatre, has long stood as a tribute to the great men and women of film and television. The iconic signatures, handprints, and footprints in cement that have graced the theater's entrance since the 1920's, are visited by millions of people every year. It is fitting as we witness the growth of Chinese film internationally, that Hollywood celebrates this achievement in the cinematic arts throughout the world.

To mark this auspicious occasion, Feng Xiaogang will be immortalized in cement with a Handprint Ceremony. Mr. Xiaogang is an accomplished Chinese film director whose comedic films have been box office hits in China over the last two decades, and who has recently begun making dramatic period films. As the first Chinese director to receive this honor, Feng Xiaogang will join Cecil B. DeMille, Ron Howard, Steven Spielberg, Gene Kelly and Clint Eastwood, among other great film directors whose handprint impressions remind us of the talent that has brought so many stories to life through film.

I ask all Members to join me in congratulating TCL Chinese Theatre and Mr. Xiaogang upon this historic occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2012-2013 UPPER DARBY HIGH SCHOOL LUNAR RESEARCH TEAM

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2012-13 Upper Darby High School Lunar Research Team on its second-place finish in the 2013 National Lunar Science Institute's national competition. The Upper Darby High School Lunar Research Team competed with colleges and universities from around the country. The student team members included Ranier Gran, Cuong Trihn, Joseph Dwyer, Mohammad Hossain, Kingson Lin, Omar Mukhtar, Evan Perotti, Evan Hunt, and Spiro Metaxas.

The team received tremendous support from its mentors Rosanne Burns and John Taffel, both Upper Darby High School teachers. It was an incredible accomplishment to finish second in the competition as a high school team.

The team researched the possibility of locating lava tubes (large underground tunnels) using temperature differences measured on the surface of the moon. It successfully confirmed the location of tubes at a number of suspected locations. These caves could someday be used as locations for lunar outposts.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the members of the Lunar Research Team, along with their parents and faculty mentors, for their hard work in the field of science and technology, and this well-deserved accomplishment.

GEORGE WELSH TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. George Welsh, current superintendent of Center School District in Colorado. His leadership and ability to think outside of the box has greatly benefitted the Center School District and provided students with opportunities to learn and achieve beyond ordinary expectations. Leading by example, through dedication to teaching and learning, Mr. Welsh has inspired teachers and students in the San Luis Valley to reach their full potential for over a decade.

Mr. Welsh was recently named "Superintendent of the Year" by the Colorado Association of School Districts, a well-deserved honor. Center School District has faced many challenges and headwinds, often operating with extremely limited resources. With Mr. Welsh's leadership, innovative use of technology and ability to maximize the resources available to the District, graduation rates in the Center School District have risen up to 93 percent, from 33 percent when he began in 1997. This is an extraordinary achievement.

In addition to being named "Superintendent of the Year" by the Colorado Association of School Districts, Mr. Welsh was also the recipient of the Demont Award from the Colorado Association of School Boards, naming him Outstanding Rural Superintendent of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. George Welsh for his dedication to education and leadership that has undoubtedly transformed many lives. Superintendent George Welsh is an incredible resource for his community, and I have no doubt that he will continue to have a significant impact during his education career, helping students and teachers reach their highest goals.

RECOGNIZING THE ASIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND ITS HONOREES

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Asian American Medical Association, which hosted its 37th Annual Gala on Saturday, November 9, 2013, at Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. Each year, the Asian American Medical Association pays tribute to prominent, outstanding citizens and organizations for their contributions to the community. In recognition of their efforts, these honorees are awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe Award at this annual banquet.

The Asian American Medical Association has always been a great asset to Northwest Indiana. Its members have selflessly dedicated themselves to providing quality medical services to the residents of Northwest Indiana and have always demonstrated exemplary service through their many cultural, scholastic, and charitable endeavors.

At this year's Annual Gala, the Asian American Medical Association presented the Crystal Globe Award to one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Theresa Ann Mayerik. For her outstanding contributions to her community, she is to be commended.

In 1976, Theresa Mayerik graduated from the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne with a bachelor's degree in Spanish and Physical Education. She began her teaching career with the Centerville School Corporation in central Indiana. While working in Centerville, Theresa started the school's first women's basketball program. After two years, Theresa returned to her hometown of La Porte, where she spent seven years teaching in the La Porte Community School System. During this time, Theresa pursued a master's degree in Education from Indiana University in South Bend and also completed coursework for an administrative license in Education. In 1986, Mrs. Mayerik became the assistant principal of Morton High School in Hammond, and after three years in this position, she was named the school's principal, a title she would hold for the next eighteen years. During her time at Morton, Theresa was able to implement the Advanced Placement and the Project Lead the Way curricula, increase parental involvement, and develop the Freshman Academy. In 2007, she was named Director of Secondary Education for the School City of Hammond, and three years later, she became Chief Administrator for Academic Services and Secondary Education. Among her many accomplishments during her tenure, Theresa implemented the Project Lead the Way Pre-Engineering Curriculum in all of Hammond's middle and high

schools and assisted with the development of the Hammond Academy for the Performing Arts at Morton High School, as well as the Multimedia Broadcast Academy at the Hammond Area Career Center, and the Early College Program. In 2010, Theresa authored the Chinese Guest Teachers Grant, which assists with the salaries and recruitment of teachers for Mandarin Chinese programs in schools in the United States. This program has been a success and provides four teachers each year the opportunity to teach middle and high school students the Chinese language and culture.

Additionally, Theresa has selflessly given her time to various organizations and civic activities, including the Hammond Woodmar Kiwanis, the Hammond Education Foundation, and the Hammond YMCA.

Theresa's excellence in her field and commitment to charitable endeavors throughout the community is exceeded only by her devotion to her amazing family. Theresa and her husband, Daniel, have two adoring children and two beloved grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the members of the Asian American Medical Association, as well as this year's Crystal Globe Award recipient, Theresa Ann Mayerik, for their outstanding contributions to the community and beyond. Their unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the United States is truly inspirational, and I am proud to serve as their representative in Washington, D.C.

RECOGNIZING AUBURN HONOR GUARD

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the Auburn Area Honor Guard, who bring military honors to the memorial services of deceased service men and women in northern California. These patriotic volunteers present themselves, rain or shine, at funeral services and provide the traditional military farewell ceremony. This includes presentation of the American flag to next of kin, firing of three volleys, and playing "Taps" to honor those who have served our country.

The Auburn Area Honor Guard has presented the colors at more than five-hundred veterans' funerals. As word spreads about the Honor Guard, its services are in demand in an ever-larger geographic area. Demonstrating their never-ending commitment, the Guard has increased its scope to meet the demand. Thankfully, grateful citizens have stepped up and contributed funds to help the Honor Guard meet travel and other expenses.

Due to the ceaseless efforts of the dedicated and patriotic men and women of the Auburn Area Honor Guard, the friends and families of hundreds of veterans have seen their loved ones off with a proper military funeral. With the support of a grateful nation, the Auburn Area Honor Guard leads the way in providing a ceremony that honors and memorializes the service that military men and women have rendered to their nation.

25 YEARS A PRIEST: FR. PAVONE'S
LEADERSHIP TRANSFORMA-
TIONAL IN DEFENDING VUL-
NERABLE PEOPLE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, some of the many friends of Fr. Frank Pavone are tonight in Staten Island, New York, celebrating a significant milestone in the life of this extraordinarily brave and compassionate priest—his 25th year since ordination and 20 years at the helm of Priests for Life.

Fr. Pavone was ordained in 1988 by Cardinal O'Connor. By 1993 he became National Director of Priests for Life. His faith, determination and leadership ever since has been transformational in the cause of defending vulnerable people from violence, hatred and indifference.

Fr. Pavone's passionate defense of the child in the womb is rivaled only by his compassion and outreach to post-abortive women—the other victims. His homilies are not only incisive and well composed but extremely sensitive to the pain and agony unleashed by abortion. He is the author of two books: *Ending Abortion, Not Just Fighting It* and *Pro-Life Reflections for Every Day*.

Fr. Pavone has persistently called on us all to recognize, ask and receive the unfathomable love, reconciliation and divine mercy readily available from God. Priests for Life ministries—Rachel's Vineyard and the Silent No More Awareness Campaign—provide a roadmap for recovery and healing for many. Even Norma McCorvey, the "Jane Roe" of the Supreme Court's infamous 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* abortion decision, called Fr. Frank "the catalyst that brought me into the Catholic Church."

Underscoring the importance and relevance of Fr. Pavone's Priests for Life, last October twelve bishops and three cardinals, including Cardinals Schonborn, Martino and Keeler wrote: "His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has stated that the Church is called to advance the common good and to show respect for the persons who are most defenseless, starting with the unborn." The letter continued: "Throughout the world, one of the ways the Church is responding to that mission is through the work of Priests for Life, which encompasses an entire family of ministries involving both clergy and laity. This ministry, which includes education, parish activation, training in pro-life spirituality, promotion of faithful citizenship and healing of women and men after abortion deserves the support of the entire Church . . . Established in 1991, Priests for Life has enjoyed strong support at every level of the Church . . ."

Fr. Pavone radiates the love of Christ to the weak and disenfranchised yet shows no malice whatsoever to those who oppress and snuff out the lives of the littlest humans. Those in the abortion industry must be encouraged to rethink and reject the horror they do. They too are in need of God's amazing love, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Join me today, Mr. Speaker, in giving thanks for the extraordinary commitment, faith and works of this tenacious priest.

HONORING THE FFA'S 2013 AMER-
ICAN STAR FARMER AWARD
WINNER

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tyler Loschen from Cullom, Illinois for being named the 2013 American Star Farmer at the Eighty-Sixth National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

Tyler embodies the spirit of the American Farmer. After joining FFA as a freshman at Tri-Point High School, he bought 40 acres of farmland, a combine, tractor, planter, and other harvesting equipment. His story highlights the importance of the FFA program. This enterprising individual applied what he learned in the classroom to the field, started a business, and made financial decisions with his first-hand knowledge. I applaud his determination and I hope his experience will be an inspiration for others.

The American Star Farmer award is one of the highest honors that a FFA member can receive from the national organization. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Tyler Loschen for all of his hard work and I wish him continued success.

HONORING KEVIN COHN ON HIS
RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S.
NAVY

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kevin Cohn on his retirement from the United States Navy. Kevin is one of the quiet, unsung heroes who makes life better for everyone he meets. I first met Kevin in the Office of the Attending Physician in the U.S. Capitol. Kevin helped me recover from a significant injury, but he became more than a health care provider, he became my friend.

Kevin has dedicated himself to improving the health and quality of life of countless patients, and brings passion and excellence to his work. Kevin and his colleagues often work long hours in stressful conditions and have to be prepared to deal with all types of medical emergencies on a moment's notice. Whether it's responding to the needs of a heat-stricken tourist, standing by on full-alert during the State of the Union address, or dealing with accidents and injuries that are commonplace when thousands of people crowd the Capitol grounds, Kevin always exudes confidence and grace under pressure.

Kevin also knows the value of public service. During his career in the Navy, he has cared for men and women in uniform of every rank and has taken care of members of Congress. He has seen the world and walked the halls of Congress. He has missed important events in the life of his family to serve his country. But Kevin doesn't just serve by treating. He serves by caring for the people he works with and making an effort to understand