

HONORING KYLE ALLEN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 15, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Allen. Kyle is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Kyle has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle Allen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
NICOLE A. VILLARUZ**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 15, 2013*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Nicole A. Villaruz, who has served as a valued member of my staff for the past eight years. Nicole joined my staff during my first term in Congress and has since become my District Director. This month, Nicole will be leaving my staff to work for California State Senator Michael Rubio in Bakersfield, California. Nicole's years of service to the people of Central California in the 16th and 20th Congressional Districts, spanning from Kern County to Merced County, deserve to be commended. Her character truly exemplifies the spirit of the San Joaquin Valley. Her strong work ethic, coupled with her positive attitude and zest for life make her true champion for the people of Central California. It is only fitting and proper that she be recognized by my colleagues in Congress.

Nicole has a long history of community service and involvement. While attending Delano High School in Delano, California, Nicole was a member of the Key Club, the National Honor Society, and was a lifetime member of the California Scholarship Federation. Along with her academic pursuits, Nicole was also a member of the ASB Senate and was head cheerleader during her senior year. In 1996, Nicole was named Delano's Junior Miss for the Class of 1997. She went on to California's Junior Miss, where she received top ten honors. In 1997, she earned the Good Citizens Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution. Clearly, her many endeavors during her teenage years served as an indicator for her commitment to service and leadership.

Upon graduating from Delano High School in 1997, Nicole attended the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), the largest public university in the UC system, and one of the most prestigious. Nicole was a member of

Alpha Phi Sorority, where she held a number of leadership positions. She graduated in 2002 with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science.

In 2001, Nicole was named Miss Kern County with a platform promoting civic virtue. Shortly thereafter, Nicole joined my staff in Bakersfield, California as a District Representative. Nicole's passion has always been helping others. As a District Representative, Nicole met with a number of constituents and organizations, often recognizing their needs and working hard to resolve their problems—whether it meant cutting through red tape when dealing with federal agencies, or leading constituents to the correct branch of government.

Nicole became my District Director in 2011 and she relocated to my Fresno district office. Her years of expertise and knowledge were essential in guaranteeing the success of my District offices. Nicole served as a mentor to many members of my staff—her guidance often helping them reach their full potential and ultimately ensured the well-being of our constituents.

Nicole's work and service has been recognized by many organizations. Most recently, she was honored by the Delano Chamber of Commerce with their Hazel Boone Award for her superior service. She currently volunteers for Distinguished Young Women of California (formerly California's Junior Miss) and serves as a choreographer/dance instructor.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and pride that I recognize Ms. Villaruz today for her many contributions to my Congressional offices in Fresno and Bakersfield. It has truly been an honor to watch her grow professionally. She is an exceptional leader and will undoubtedly continue to do great things for our Valley.

HONORING DR. MARVIN E.  
ROBINSON**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 15, 2013*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Dr. Marvin E. Robinson in business leadership and community service.

Dr. Robinson received his undergraduate degree at Southern University, where he served as president of the student body and found great success in his athletic pursuits as the co-captain of the Jaguar Tracksters. He began his career with the Congress of Racial Equality, first working as Field Secretary and then serving as Southern Regional Director during the early 1960s. Dr. Robinson earned his juris doctor from Howard University School of Law in 1968.

Continuing his work for racial equality, Dr. Robinson assisted in the development of a high school specializing in business and management during the height of desegregation of the school system. As the first director of this school, he oversaw a student body of 1,500 youth.

Dr. Robinson's entrepreneurial spirit soon drew him to the Xerox Corporation, where he was responsible for the operations, telecommunications, and planning for Xerox's Office Products Division facilities across the na-

tion. Based on his success in this position, Dr. Robinson became Assistant to the President of Community Affairs at Xerox, responsible for the creation and implementation of a community involvement program. This program established Xerox as an excellent corporate citizen in Dallas.

Dr. Robinson moved on from Xerox in 1985 to purchase a Burger King Franchise. With his business acumen, he was able to increase the restaurant's gross income by over \$150,000 in just one year.

In 1988, Dr. Robinson was named the President and CEO of Accommodations, Inc., a concession management company. He purchased the company and became its sole owner in 1995.

Dr. Robinson is a pillar of the Dallas community not only because of his leadership in business, but also because of his community service. Dr. Robinson has been involved in the Dallas County Salvation Army, the Dallas Park and Recreation Department, the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce, the Advisory Council for Technical Vocational Education, and Dallas Dash with the Disabled, among many other local organizations. As a patron of the arts, Dr. Robinson served as the Board President of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre for twenty years. In 2007, Dr. Robinson received the Dallas Historical Society's Award for Excellence in Community Service.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the significant contributions that Dr. Robinson has made to the Dallas community. As a business and community leader for decades, he has worked hard to change Dallas for the better.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF  
INDIANOLA**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 15, 2013*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Indianola, Iowa, for earning the Connected program's Connected certification. Indianola is the first community in the state of Iowa and the third in the country to garner this technology designation.

The Connected certification is a title applied to communities that display top-tier proficiency in the access and utilization of broadband-supported technologies. This coveted certification is awarded by Connected Nation and its subsidiary Connect Iowa, who advocate for broadband access on the state and national levels.

The City of Indianola is one of more than 30 communities across Iowa actively participating in the Connected program, and the first to become formally certified. Indianola has a team in place that has developed a comprehensive plan to increase broadband access by assessing the broadband landscape, identifying gaps, and establishing manageable goals. Attaining the Connected certification adds to the long list of desirable attributes that make Indianola such a great place to raise a family or grow a business.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the City of Indianola for its commitment to embracing and efficiently utilizing technology for the benefit of its residents and businesses. It is a great honor to represent the citizens of Indianola,

and all of Warren County, in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating the City of Indianola in being selected to receive this certification, and I wish the city and its people continued success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP  
JONATHAN TATE, SR.

**HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 15, 2013*

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop Jonathan Tate, Sr., as he celebrates 50 years as pastor of The Anointed Temple Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God in Gulfport, Mississippi.

He began his work with the Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God as an elder, and soon emerged as the Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas District Overseer. After many years of dedication and commitment, he now serves as the Mississippi, Louisiana & Texas Diocese Bishop under Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God Presiding Prelate, Bishop G.W. Ayers.

Bishop Tate has served his Church and community in the highest regard and during that time has received numerous honors from local and national organizations, ranging from the NAACP to the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce. A scholar, he holds the degree of Master of Theology in Biblical Studies and is a Certified Counselor. Bishop Tate has been married for 56 years to Reverend Mother Shirley Tate, who has faithfully worked alongside him. They are the parents of seven children, seventeen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A notable spiritual leader in the South Mississippi, I am proud today to acknowledge Bishop Tate, Sr., and his many accomplishments. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Bishop Jonathan Tate, Sr., and congratulate him on 50 years as pastor.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE  
OF MIKE HIGGINS

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 15, 2013*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Michael R. "Mike" Higgins, a member of professional staff with the House Committee on Armed Services, for his retirement from his dedicated service in the House of Representatives, for safeguarding America families by promoting a strong national defense.

Mike has been an exemplary public servant who has demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism on a daily basis. His career in public service has been a testament to the importance of unselfish devotion.

I have had the pleasure of working with him throughout my 12-year tenure in Congress and I know firsthand of his professionalism. He has brought a variety of skills to his role

with the committee, including a bright intellect, a strong work ethic, and a deeply felt commitment to serve the United States and the service men and women of our United States military. He is truly an asset to the committee and will be sorely missed when he retires in February 2013.

Mike is a military personnel policy expert and it is no accident that people have been at the center of his professional life. His empathy for the needs of the people he serves and commitment to respond to those needs is evident in all that he does. As part of the committee staff, Mike has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of military members and their families. His record and reputation will remain vibrant long after his departure.

As Mike embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may recall with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment the outstanding contributions he has made to the United States House of Representatives and the people of the United States of America. I would like to send him my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors, and may his life be filled with health and happiness.

HONORING MAXIMILIAN E.  
GALLEGOS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 15, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Maximilian E. Gallegos. Maximilian is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Maximilian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Maximilian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Maximilian has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Maximilian E. Gallegos for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING BILL BARRS AS THE  
2013 DODGE COUNTY ROTARY  
FARMER OF THE YEAR

**HON. AUSTIN SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 15, 2013*

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize Bill Barrs as this year's 2013 Dodge County Rotary Farmer of the Year. It is certainly an honor that he richly deserves for his role in Georgia's agricultural community.

A native of Laurens County, Bill attended Abraham Baldwin College where he majored in plant science. After graduation, he worked

with the Griffin Warehouse until he began his farming operation in 2003. Since then, his farming operation has grown to 800 acres with cotton and peanuts as his primary row crops—two vital products of Georgia agriculture industry. He also cuts and sells quality hay from more than 150 acres of grassland. Married with two children, Bill and his family are active members of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, please join me, on behalf of the great people of Georgia's Eighth Congressional District, in recognizing Bill for his service to our community and our State.

IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH INTO  
THE EFFECTS OF CONTAMINATION  
ON REPRODUCTIVE  
HEALTH

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 15, 2013*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of federally supported women's health research; especially reproductive health research in regions of the country that have high contamination such as Superfund sites.

The reproductive health effects of environmental toxins can have significant ramifications for bone, cardiovascular, neurological, and sexual health, resulting in serious health conditions such as osteoporosis, heart attack, and stroke. In the state of Illinois, we currently have 70 Superfund sites that could pose a health threat to nearby communities. While the Federal Government supports a strong portfolio of research into the health implications of exposure to chemicals at these sites, there is a noticeable lack of reproductive health research in this area. It is essential that Congress supports this important area of research.

Northwestern University is developing one of the first major studies on the impact of Superfund contaminants on our reproductive health. The study will examine the reproductive health impacts of exposure to metals including zinc and lead that are present near a former zinc smelter site on the Illinois River near the Village of DePue, Illinois. The site is one of over 30 similar zinc and lead smelter sites across the country, so understanding the health impacts at DePue will help determine best practices for future disposal of those toxic chemicals.

Northwestern has also spearheaded an effort to update the scientific guidelines that the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, uses to determine the threat of environmental toxins to our reproductive health. The Guidelines for Reproductive Toxicity Risk Assessment have not been reviewed or revised since 1996. I strongly support their effort to ensure that the scientific guidelines adequately account for the reproductive health threats posed by toxins to both sexes and across the lifespan. This will help ensure that the EPA has the most comprehensive and up-to-date scientific guidance to assess the risks of chemicals in our environment on our reproductive health.

The environmental effects of toxins threaten the health of more than 10 percent of men, women, and children. It is critical that we increase support for research into the reproductive health implications of different environmental exposures.