

of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. Professionally, Harris is charged with leading the state arts agency's staff, grant-making initiatives and programming while helping advance the agency's mission of enriching the quality of life in Iowa through support of the arts. Outside of work, Matthew is heavily involved with the Character Counts in Iowa program and the Les Hale Endowment Fund. In both facets of his life, Matt is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Matthew in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Harris for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Matthew on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING THE PEOPLE OF NAGORNO KARABAKH

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside my colleague, Representative DAVID VALADAO, to pay tribute to the people of Nagorno Karabakh.

Armenians have suffered some of the worst savagery of recent history, from the massacre of more than a million people in the Armenian Genocide, to the cruel repression of Soviet rule, to Azerbaijan's war against Nagorno Karabakh and the ongoing siege of that region. Through these trials and tribulations, the Armenian people have paid a steep price for their freedom. The hero's welcome Azerbaijan recently afforded to Ramil Safarov, an Azerbaijani military officer who murdered a sleeping Armenian officer during a NATO-sponsored program in Hungary, is a stark reminder of the unrelenting hostility Armenians face today.

In this year, which marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of another anti-Armenian atrocity—the Sumgait pogroms—we pay homage to the Armenian people and particularly the people of Nagorno Karabakh, who bravely struggle to maintain their right to self-determination.

COMMEMORATING THE EPILEPSY FOUNDATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Epilepsy Foundation and two remarkable constituents of New York's 19th Congressional District. Recently, Fiona Carroll of Averill Park and Angelina Dutcher of Glasco had the distinction of being named Northeastern New York's Winning Kids of 2013. This is a noteworthy accomplishment and shows their dedication to fighting epilepsy.

Every year, the Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York names two individuals

to represent all of the children throughout our region who suffer from epilepsy. Through this designation, Fiona and Angelina will attend special events and fundraisers to raise awareness of and to fight this terrible disorder. Additionally, both will receive a scholarship to the summer camp of their choosing.

These two young ladies are incredible individuals and should serve as role models for us all. Fiona is an avid recreationalist and nature enthusiast. She also participates in the Girl Scouts of America, the Averill Park Youth Soccer League travel team, and uses her spare time to try to help others who are less fortunate, including recently cutting and donating her hair to the charity Locks of Love. Angelina is also an unbelievably driven and hard-working individual. She plays various sports and trains in martial arts while attending the 4th grade at the Windham-Ashland-Jewitt School.

I am very proud to have such extraordinary individuals as constituents of the 19th Congressional District. Congratulations Angelina and Fiona. I look forward to working with you both and the Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York to combat epilepsy.

TRIBUTE TO CURTIS BROWN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Curtis Brown for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Curtis Brown lives in Ankeny, Iowa with his wife Rachel and sons Maximilian, Adrian Benet, and Jude, and serves as Economic Development Director for the city. Professionally, Curtis serves the people of Ankeny by building relationships with business leaders and economic development leaders. Privately, Mr. Brown is an active member of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception Church and volunteers as a Spanish interpreter for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Iowa. Both personally and professionally, Curtis is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Curtis in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Brown for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Curtis on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING LARRY DOBKIN AND "TUNED IN: THE LARRY DOBKIN MUSIC SHOWCASE"

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Larry Dobkin. The world sometimes has a cruel way of taking the best among us, and Larry was one of the best. In September, he succumbed after a noble battle with cancer. He left behind a wife, Nanci and three kids, Alex, Carlie and Sydnie. But Larry's loss was felt far beyond his immediate family. That was Larry's gift—we all felt like family.

Perhaps never have I met another person so fiercely loyal, devoted and loving. If you were a friend—and Larry considered pretty much everyone a friend—then Larry would work himself to exhaustion for you. He made a recruiting visit to his beloved University of Illinois law school even as he was battling late-stage cancer. From his hospital bed, Larry still advocated on behalf of young lawyers in his firm and the children of friends.

I had the privilege of knowing Larry through many lenses, from Aitz Hayam, to the Jewish Federation, to Response Center and Nachshon. His passion for Israel was second to none. On countless trips to Israel, Larry touched countless more people overseas. The Jewish community lost a giant. We all did.

He thought deeply about the world and religion and family and community. Conversations with Larry always sought the highest ground, and they always focused on making the world safer, making it better for the next generation.

One of Larry's greatest endeavors was his support for Response Center, which provides outreach, counseling and sexual health services to teens and their families. For those of us who knew Larry, this isn't a surprise: it's helping kids. In recognition of his peerless efforts, Response Center has created an endowment in his honor and—perhaps even more to Larry's liking—they renamed their annual teen music showcase in his memory. From this year forward, it will be "Tuned In: The Larry Dobkin Music Showcase."

Now, Larry will be responsible for helping support young people and their families. I can't think of anything he'd want more, and I know that somewhere Larry is bear-hugging everyone in sight, not because he's proud of a personal achievement, but because his mission continues.

Though we miss him with all our hearts, our lives are immeasurably better for having shared a lot of his life together. We have to dedicate ourselves to working tirelessly, every single day, working ourselves to exhaustion and beyond because there's a void that Larry left. As we continue to grieve, we continue to work. Larry never stopped and neither can we. Larry, I miss you. We all miss you.

TRIBUTE TO DESMUND ADAMS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Desmond Adams

for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Desmund Adams is the epitome of an "American success story." Once a high school dropout and later a graduate of Drake University Law School, Desmond has gone on to live his life as an example of what is possible through hard work and dedication. In 2005, he started his own executive search firm, AdamsDouglas, and today is accountable for more than half of gross revenues for the company. Desmond resides in Clive, Iowa with his wife Dr. Shondalette Adams and their two sons, Khalil Desmond Adams and Solomon Douglas Adams. Desmond's selection as a Forty Under 40 honoree by Business Record reflects what is possible when Iowa work ethic intersects with leadership and character.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Desmond in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Adams for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Desmond on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

IN HONOR OF K9 VETERANS DAY

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of K9 Veteran's Day. March 13, 1942 is the official birthday of the United States K9 Corps and many states across the country, including Pennsylvania, have officially recognized this date as K9 Veterans Day. For decades, military and police working dogs have served alongside our brave troops and law enforcement officers. They have sacrificed and lost their lives in the line of duty, and they deserve our respect and gratitude. It is important that we take a moment to remember those canines that have served diligently to protect lives.

HONORING SHEN YUN PERFORMING ARTS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Shen Yun Performing Arts'

upcoming visit to the tri-state area and the company's significant contributions to the advancement of the arts in the Philadelphia area.

Reviving the essence of 5000 years of Chinese culture, Shen Yun is a world-class dance company that has performed in cities across the United States and abroad. The company's performers practice the Falun Dafa spiritual discipline and are hosted by local Falun Dafa Associations around the world. Founded in 2006, Shen Yun has graced many of the world's greatest stages in its short tenure, including Lincoln Center in New York City, The Kennedy Center in D.C., Royal Festival Hall in London, and Le Palais de Congrès in Paris.

Philadelphia has been blessed with a vibrant and active Chinese community, one that has been bettered through the contributions of Shen Yun. I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues help me in honoring Shen Yun and their upcoming trip to the Philadelphia area. I am thrilled that my community will be able to enjoy the beauty of this dance company in the upcoming months.

TRIBUTE TO LAWRENCE CUNNINGHAM

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Lawrence Cunningham for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Lawrence Cunningham is the Director of Business Development at Catchfire Media, where he is responsible for adding \$2 million a year in new business. Outside of his career, Mr. Cunningham is heavily involved with a number of young professional organizations across the state. Lawrence resides in Urbandale with his wife Brandy and their two-year-old son Asher. In both facets of his life, Lawrence is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Lawrence in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Cunningham for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Lawrence on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

THE STANDARD DATA ACT OF 2013

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleague Mr. DOGGETT of Texas, to introduce the Standard Data and Technology Advancement Act of 2013, or the "Standard DATA Act." This legislation follows legislation previously introduced and championed by former Congressman Geoff Davis during his time as the Committee on Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee Chairman.

The Standard DATA Act builds on the progress that has been made to establish consistent requirements for the electronic content and format of data used in the administration of key human services programs authorized by the Social Security Act.

Human services programs serve overlapping populations and should, from an information technology standpoint, operate consistently within and across programs. By continuing the process of data standardization and the use of common reporting mechanisms, this bill will help achieve three goals: better prevent and identify fraud and abuse; increase the efficiency of administrative resources to serve eligible beneficiaries; and produce program savings for U.S. taxpayers.

This bill continues the efforts begun in the bipartisan, bicameral Child and Family Services Extension and Enhancement Act of 2011, which was the first effort at requiring a human services program to implement standard data elements and reporting. President Obama signed that bill into law on September 30, 2011.

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, signed by the President in February 2012, applied similar data standards provisions to unemployment insurance and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

This program-by-program approach has been useful, but the ultimate goal is to work across programs. The legislation being introduced today provides a path forward to cover additional programs under the jurisdiction of the Human Resources subcommittee, with the intention of moving to create a complete system of program information exchange.

As a member of the Human Resources subcommittee I commend these efforts and recognize the data provisions enacted in P.L. 112-96 are designed to be a catalyst for continued action.

Consistent with the bipartisan approach developed and maintained by former Subcommittee Chairman Geoff Davis and Ranking Member LLOYD DOGGETT, today I introduce this bill with the full support of the Human Resources Subcommittee, from both sides of the aisle.

Improved data standards will help increase the efficiency of data exchanges to use and reuse data within and across programs. That will allow States to automate the exchange of claimant data on work and benefit receipt, reducing delays and minimizing improper payments. It will also help to automate application forms by pre-populating them with reliable and verified data, which can reduce the manual burden on staff and allow them more time to engage beneficiaries, all while reducing error.