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TRIBUTE TO HANNAH INMAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Hannah Inman 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.

Hannah Inman serves as the Director of Communications for the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and is also the co-owner of two businesses—Maverly Lands, an agribusiness, and KDC Built, a home-building operation she owns with her husband of ten years, Mike. KDC Built was launched amid the fiscal crisis and has not only survived, but thrived as the business donates the proceeds from one house to charity. When Hannah is not juggling the responsibilities of her two businesses or the communications efforts for the largest conservation bond issue in Iowa, she also serves as a member of the Broadlawns Advocate Circle marketing committee, an executive committee member of the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute class of 2011, and is a mother to her and Mike's two young children, six-year-old Maverick and Everly, who will turn two later this year. In every facet of her life, Hannah is an example of service and Iowa work ethic that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Hannah in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. Inman for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Hannah 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.

CELEBRATING THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 34th anniversary

of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). Having served in this body during the passage of this historic legislation, I am happy to note the success that the Act has achieved.

When Congress debated the Act, it sought to protect the freedom and integrity of the people of Taiwan at a time when the island's future was uncertain. The TRA's success in helping to provide the climate for Taiwan's remarkable economic growth and its model democracy has proven beyond all doubt the merit of this particular agreement.

Today, Taiwan's people have one of the best health care systems in the world, which I believe we would be well-served to emulate. Its people enjoy a true democracy with all the benefits of a free people. Its economy is the envy of many nations around the world.

The Taiwan Relations Act continues to play an important role in maintaining peace in an important region of the world and I am certain that it will continue to do so for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT OF LAUREN ROJAS

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lauren Rojas, a seventh-grade student from Antioch, California, whose exceptional science experiment earned first place at the Association of Christian Schools International science fair for the Northern California region and gained the attention of the world.

Lauren launched a weather balloon 18 miles above Earth to gather atmospheric data from the troposphere. Her experiment on the air we breathe represents the benefits of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in our nation. She is a bright, dedicated young woman who is passionate about learning.

Unfortunately, less than 25 percent of all STEM jobs are held by women. We must prioritize investments in STEM education to facilitate more opportunities for women to close this gap. Lauren Rojas and her science experiment are an example of what can be accomplished if we commit to this goal.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lauren Rojas, her scientific achievement, and the upcoming generation of women scientists, engineers, and mathematicians.

DALE RUSSELL, MISSOURI SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dale Russell on his induction into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

Dale has seen success throughout his career, both on and off the basketball court. As a senior at Branson High School, he led the Pirate basketball team to a perfect 41-0 record, capped off by the 1955 Class B State

Championship. He was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

As a senior at Southwest Missouri State University, Dale and his teammates finished second in the National Division II Basketball Championship.

Dale went on to coach basketball for 24 years in Southwest Missouri, including his last 13 at Branson High. In addition to impacting our district's young people on the court, he taught science, health, and physical education classes.

The City of Branson, Branson High School, and the 7th District should be very proud of Dale's accomplishments. He truly represents us all in a positive manner.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dale, a phenomenal athlete, teacher, and coach on his impressive accomplishments.

ADRIAN MALFABON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Adrian Malfabon for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Adrian Malfabon is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Adrian Malfabon is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Adrian Malfabon for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO AIMEE STAUDT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Aimee Staudt 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.

Aimee Staudt is the Director of Development for Knapp Properties, Inc. where she

oversees all of the company's real estate development and construction activities. Mrs. Staudt's portfolio includes more than 5,000 acres of development ground that involves more than \$11 million in infrastructure, \$20 million in new construction, and \$16 million in tenant improvements. Aimee is also heavily involved in her community, where she has been on the Ankeny Plan and Zoning Commission, a previous president and vice president of the Home Builder's Association of Greater Des Moines' developers' council, a current board member and youth mentor of the ACE Mentor Program, and a court-appointed special advocate for children in need of assistance. Aimee resides in Ankeny with her husband Ryan and their three children. In every facet of her life, Aimee is an example of service and Iowa work ethic that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Aimee in the United States Congress and it with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. Staudt for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Aimee 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.

A BILL TO AMEND THE SIKES ACT TO PROMOTE THE USE OF COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS UNDER SUCH ACT FOR LAND MANAGEMENT RELATED TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE READINESS ACTIVITIES AND TO AMEND TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE, TO FACILITATE INTERAGENCY COOPERATION IN CONSERVATION PROGRAMS TO AVOID OR REDUCE ADVERSE IMPACTS ON MILITARY READINESS ACTIVITIES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced a bill to amend the Sikes Act to promote the use of cooperative agreements for land management related to the Department of Defense (DoD) readiness activities and to facilitate interagency cooperation in conservation programs to avoid or reduce adverse impacts on military readiness activities. The bill provides common sense reforms to the Sikes Act and DoD Readiness Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI). These reforms afford both programs with greater flexibility to leverage cooperative agreements and other federal funds to meet program requirements.

In particular, section 1 of the bill would provide additional enhancements to the authorities provided to DoD under the Sikes Act and parallels a similar amendment made in the FY 2012 National Defense Authorization Act to the REPI program. Specifically, the provision would authorize DoD, pursuant to a cooperative agreement under the Sikes Act, to provide funds for the long term maintenance and improvement of natural resources on non-DoD lands without first having to protect such lands through acquisition of easements. This will

greatly enhance the ability of DoD to take action to relieve or eliminate current or anticipated challenges that could restrict, impede, or otherwise interfere with, whether directly or indirectly, current or anticipated military activities. For example, this provision would help DoD meet its obligations under the Endangered Species Act and other applicable statutory and regulatory requirements through actions on non-DoD lands pursuant to a cooperative agreement with a state or local agency or a private landowner. This authority would help avoid or reduce the need to restrict training and testing activities on DoD lands.

Section 2 of the bill would help DoD better protect military installations and ranges from encroachment under REPI and the Sikes Act by enhancing cooperation with the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior. Sustainability and the long-term viability of many DoD installations and ranges continue to be threatened by incompatible development and loss of habitat in areas in the vicinity of, or ecologically related to, those installations and ranges. Current law allows funds from non-DoD federal programs to be used by REPI partners as contributions under a REPI agreement. Greater partnership and cooperation is enhanced under this provision by allowing funds provided by the DoD to protect bases from encroachment to qualify as match or cost share in the conservation programs of the Departments of Agriculture and Interior. For example, prior to the 2008 Farm Bill enactment, DoD, through the REPI program, was able to protect installations in Oklahoma, Kansas, and South Carolina from encroachment while at the same time assisting state and local governments and willing landowners in meeting the matching funds requirements of the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP, now the Farmland Protection Program (FRP)). However, technical changes to this program in the 2008 Farm Bill had the unintended result of terminating the authority for DoD funds to be used as matching or cost-share requirements for that program. The provision reverses that unintended consequence and addresses the broader issue of allowing the DoD funds to be used as a match to other federal programs to help address encroachment issues at military installations. This provision is important to improving the readiness of our forces and ensuring their installations and ranges can be sustained.

Again, the bill is a common sense approach to better enabling DoD to meet its conservation goals and requirements while protecting its ability to meet readiness requirements. In a time of fiscal austerity, it is important for Congress to provide the Administration with the tools and authorities to be flexible and adaptable to challenges with innovative thinking and minimal investment. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

WILDLIFE SERVICES INVESTIGATION REQUEST AND AGENCY RESPONSE

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, on November 30, 2012 I sent a letter to the U.S. Secretary

of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack, requesting an investigation into Wildlife Services and the conduct of its employees. Mr. Vilsack responded to my letter on February 1, 2013 and my office received this letter on February 13, 2013. I intend to monitor this situation closely and look forward to seeing the results of the internal investigation that is currently taking place of WS employees and their compliance with state and federal anti-cruelty and animal protection laws.

NOVEMBER 30, 2012.

THOMAS VILSACK,
Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY VILSACK: We are writing to request a thorough audit of Wildlife Services, especially its lethal predator control program, by the USDA Office of Inspector General (OIG) regarding the culture within Wildlife Services.

As you know, recent news reports indicate that Jamie P. Olson, a Wildlife Services employee working in Wyoming, may have apparently committed acts of animal cruelty that appear to violate Wildlife Services' Directives and Wyoming state law. If it is found that Mr. Olson committed these acts, it would bring disrepute to the Wildlife Services' program and the federal government at a time when Wildlife Services, and in particular its lethal control of predators to protect livestock, labors under heavy criticism for unnecessarily killing wild animals and lacking transparency and accountability. We urge you to be thorough in your investigation because these alleged acts clearly violate standards of human decency.

However, we are gravely concerned that photographs, published on Mr. Olson's Facebook in an album labeled "work" and since removed, do not represent an isolated occurrence, but may reflect a deep-rooted problem within the Wildlife Services program that allows for, and encourages, inhumane lethal methods of predator control. According to a recent Sacramento Bee article, Gary Strader, a former Wildlife Services trapper in Nevada, "was not surprised to learn about the controversial photos. That is very common," Strader wrote in an email. (Toni Knudson, U.S. wildlife worker's online photos of animal abuse stir outrage. Sacramento Bee, Friday, November 2, 2012).

We look forward to seeing the results of your investigation, and thank you for your attention in this important matter.

Sincerely,

JOHN CAMPBELL,
Member of Congress.
PETER DEFAZIO,
Member of Congress.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, DC, Feb. 1, 2013.

Hon. PETER DEFAZIO,
U.S. House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN DEFAZIO: Thank you for your letter of November 30, 2012, regarding allegations of animal cruelty by an employee with the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Wildlife Services (WS) program. I apologize for the delayed response.

I, and other USDA officials, take this matter very seriously. USDA does not condone any form of animal cruelty and holds all employees responsible for adhering to Departmental and Agency standards and directives. WS personnel are expected to use approved and humane methods to euthanize captured or restrained animals whenever practicable, and in accordance with American Veterinary Medical Association guidelines. WS employees are also required to comply at all times with applicable State and Federal laws.