

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO DUSTIN PETERSEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Dustin Petersen 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.

Dustin Petersen has been a partner with McGladrey LLP since 2007. His roles at McGladrey certainly keep him busy as a national tax leader for the firm's consumer products group as well as a national practice leader for the alternative energy sector. In 2002, Mr. Petersen started a national renewable practice with McGladrey that today has clients across the country and the world. Outside of work, Dustin serves his community as the chair of Ankeny Economic Development Collaboration Start-up and Entrepreneurial Growth Group, as well as a board member for the Blank Park Zoo Foundation and the Blank Park Endowment Corporation. Raised on a second generation farm in northern Iowa, Dustin now resides in Ankeny with his wife Nicole and their three children, Alex, Megan and Zach. In all facets of his life, Dustin 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 Dustin in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Petersen 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 Dustin 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 DETECTIVE ELIZABETH CHASE BUTLER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Detective Elizabeth Chase Butler, a fallen Santa Cruz Police De-

tective who touched the lives of many through her commitment to service in her community.

Elizabeth was born on March 16th, 1974, in Boulder, Colorado, and moved to Santa Cruz, California, after the tragedy of 9/11. Elizabeth joined the Santa Cruz Police Department in 2003 and was constantly challenged to learn new skills and take on new roles within the SCPD. She took great pride in the work she did and wore many hats in her years with the department, serving as a patrol officer and bicycle officer, and also as a member of a special drug task force and hostage negotiation team. Elizabeth had a love of investigating and had earned the rank of Detective in charge of sexual assault investigations at the time of her tragic death. Her compassion for others and commitment to her community only grew as she spent more time assisting with and caring for child and female victims.

Elizabeth is survived by her long-time partner, Peter Wu, and their two sons, five-year old Joaquin, and two-year old Stellan. Her time with her family was filled with trips to the Santa Cruz beach, walks through Henry Cowell State Park, and visits to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. She and her family also traveled to Manzanita, Oregon, every summer to visit with extended family. Additionally, Elizabeth stayed very close with her long-time friends and college roommates, who had traveled to San Francisco for a twenty-year reunion the week before Elizabeth's passing. Detective Elizabeth Chase Butler will be remembered not only for her commitment to her family and her community, but also for her joyful spirit and love of life.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Detective Elizabeth Chase Butler's legacy as a kind-hearted and dedicated partner, mother, and community servant.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KAPPA OMEGA CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th Anniversary of the Kappa Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. The Kappa Omega chapter was the first chapter established in the South Atlantic Region, where it was chartered on March 1, 1923 in Atlanta, GA. The charter members include Founder Marie Woolfolk Taylor, Floy Brown, Eva Conner, Caroline Bond Day, Madeline Smith Davis, Adelaide D. Smith, Alice Rucker, Ruth Prince, Louise Shivery and Hattie Watson. I honor their commitment to their community, particularly to promoting and cultivating high scholastic achievement and social unity amongst girls and women of color.

For the past nine decades, Kappa Omega has distinguished itself as a guiding torch in

servicing others by implementing programs that impact communities around the world. Their current international program initiatives focus on Global Leadership through Timeless Service. The women of Kappa Omega certainly know leadership. Several notable chapter members have become leaders on the local, regional and international level. At the regional level, A. Cathryn Johnson, Sujette F. Crank, Dr. Mary Shy Scott and Dr. Lucretia R. Payton-Stewart have all served as South Atlantic Regional Directors, while Dr. Scott has also served as the 23rd President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Members of this chapter have also served on and chaired several international committees.

The members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority deserve to be commended for the thousands of hours of volunteer work they contribute every year. Their efforts at the local level to encourage young girls to go to college, and to help them succeed after they get in, are laudable and must continue. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to honor their hard work and service, and I encourage my fellow colleagues to do the same.

IN CELEBRATION OF GREGORY KONDOS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Gregory Kondos, a friend and renowned artist, as we celebrate his extraordinary career and his upcoming 90th birthday. Gregory is often noted as one of the finest California landscape artists, receiving a number of awards for his exquisite ability to capture beauty. As his family, friends, colleagues and fellow artists all gather to honor his remarkable career, I ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to Gregory Kondos.

A resident of Sacramento for over eight decades, Gregory began his career and artistic training at Sacramento City College, later to receive both his Bachelor's and Master's in Art from California State University in Sacramento. He would later return to Sacramento City College to teach within the Art Department for 27 years, and served as the director of the campus gallery.

Gregory's art is simply breathtaking, capturing California's beauty like few others ever have. I have long been an admirer of Gregory's work, and am thankful to have one of his paintings of the Sacramento River in my office. In Sacramento our rivers are our identity and the painting reminds me of Sacramento's ties to water and the benefits and challenges that brings. His California and Sacramento landscape pieces are amazing works of art that truly capture the essence and beauty of the region. After decades of work, Gregory and his art continue to be great ambassadors for the Sacramento region.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

His collections have been on display in numerous museums including the Monterey Museum of Art, the Hirshhorn in Washington D.C., Yosemite Museum and the National Academy Museum and School of Fine Arts in Manhattan. Additionally, Gregory has been recognized by a number of awards and accolades including being elected to the National Academy of Design.

To celebrate Gregory's 90th birthday and his career as both an artist and teacher, the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento is displaying over 70 pieces of his work in an exhibit, "A Touch of Blue: Landscapes by Gregory Kondos."

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the many contributions made by Gregory Kondos to the people of Sacramento and our nation. As Gregory, his wife Moni, friends, and colleagues celebrate his achievement, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his contributions and in celebrating his birthday and exceptional artistry.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PHIFER
MIDDLE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in gratitude to the members of the Phifer Middle School student council, concert band, chorus and cheer squad for their welcoming reception during a recent visit. I enjoyed the cheer performance by Zoe Dillard, Irez Ramirez, and Jeanny Valerio Disla, as well as the assembly of talented young students who sang and performed music, making my visit quite memorable. As these Middle School students continue their education, I hope they choose to cultivate and develop their talents, as they have done at Phifer.

Participants in the assembly included members of the Phifer Middle School student council, made up of Davina Nguyen, Natalya Portobanco, Medina Talebi, Carmen Rosario, Alejandro Rodriguez, Franshayla Matias, Krystian Duong, Monica Van, Nicole Alfino, Michael Zuckerman, Zach DiPietro, Jennifer Luu, Grace Pietzsch, Kaitlyn McGowen, Maresha Morton, Kiara Banchs, Yesarie Rivera, Brianni Lugo, Daisy Anyanwu, Maryann Dwomor, Laura Espallat, Christina Van, Areli Olarte, Jasmine Magalong, Asia Davis, Michael Nguyen, Yasmeir S, Marcellus Edwards, Alyssa Edelman, Xavier Molina, Kyla Green, Emilie Reustle, Michelle Olivares, Christian Alvarez, DaJone Saunders, Alina Ayala, Selena Carter, Alyza Alix, Alexis Taylor, Angel Davis and Jadae Turlington.

Members of the 7th and 8th grade concert band, accompanied by the 8th grade chorus performed America the Beautiful, the Star Spangled Banner and "Plaza de Toros" by Mark Williams. Members of the 8th grade concert band include: Johnny Almonte, Isaac Amato, Daniel Ball, Nicholas Camacho, Michael Camacho, Asia Davis, Toni Deliso, Jude Dizon, Sarah Eisenhower, Kyle Faraghan, Emily Gmyr, Dimitri Hicks, Jose Jimenez, Ryan Lam, Nicolette Markakis, Xavier Martinez, Elijah Medina, Kristina Mitchell, Isaac Munoz, Christian Nicdao, Alexandra Pasamihalis, Talisa Prince, Irez Ramirez, Ali-

son Rosado, Mario Sagliocca, Micheal Sculley, Jake Urena, Vivian Vu, Aaliya Ware and Steven Williams.

Members of the 7th grade concert band include: Carlos Acevedo, Ariana Alameda, Nicole Alfano, Briana Allende, Jonathan Almonte, Tyler Barrett, Karoline Cedano, Nicole Chin, Desiree Colon, Angel Cruz, Megan Flaherty, Joshua Hall, Destiny Hernandez, Jonathan Hernandez, Paige Hickman, Eric Hoang, Kaitlyn McGowan, Jamil Morris, Gabriella Pavel, Jesse Pringle, Deanna Rodriguez, Serenity Sanders, Sydney Slaton, Gina Stone and Irene You.

Members of the 8th grade chorus include: Dezeray Adams, Amanda Alicea, Alina, Ayala, Irisell Baetz, Teyonna Balkman, Michelle Bello, Selena Carter, Flarissa Crawford, Angel Davis, Courtney Dixon, Josh Echeverria, Janiskaliz Espada, Lucas Figueroa, Jurnee Gabri-El, Toni Glatz, Bobbi-Sue Godwin, Michael Hartka, Vivian Hnyh, Elias Horiates, Krystiana Jalosjos, Talia Johnson, Taylor Johnson, Kayli Jones, Alexis Laboy, Kimani Lawson, Tyler Lee, Zephenia Lindsey, Saniyah Mack, James Marchese, Kinaya McEady, Emma Muller, Kiara Munoz, Jessica Ngeth, Areli Olarte, Hannah Pietzsch, Kaitlyn Pratt, Jose Ravelo and Tyiya Richards.

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW OSTANIK

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Matthew Ostanik 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.

Matt Ostanik is the President of Submittal Exchange LLC, his own online construction communications software company he founded in 2003. Today, Matt has overseen Submittal Exchange grow to 40,000 users and 35 employees with an annual year-over-year revenue growth rate of 350 percent over five years. Architecture is one of Matt's passions, as he helps others grow professionally through his business and his roles on the board of directors for the American Institute of Architects' Iowa chapter and with the Iowa Architectural Foundation. In all 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 Matt in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Ostanik 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 Matt

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 NAGORNO KARABAKH

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, peace and stability in the Caucasus is in the national interest of the United States and our European allies. That means achieving a peaceful resolution to the rising tensions between the peoples of Armenia and Azerbaijan. A final status of the Nagorno Karabakh dispute must be achieved without resorting to war and must be in keeping with democratic principles, the rule of law and the protection of individual human rights.

Decades of Soviet rule and the continuing dispute over Nagorno Karabakh have decimated the economy of Armenia. In stark contrast, Azerbaijan now enjoys a growing economy from the extraction of natural resources. This economic imbalance is further aggravated by the fact that both Turkey and Azerbaijan have sealed their borders with Armenia, with Azerbaijan pursuing an aggressive military build-up.

The United States must continue to press for resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh dispute through the good offices and mechanisms of international actors such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. We must be ever vigilant in decrying actions that undermine such efforts. I concur with the Obama administration's demand for an explanation of Azerbaijan's pardoning of Ramil Safarov. Azerbaijan's decision to pardon Ramil Safarov after he was convicted by a Hungarian court for the murder of an Armenian soldier while participating in NATO's Partnership for Peace program is not only unconscionable, it is a direct affront to NATO and its efforts to bring peace and stability to conflict regions through the Partnership for Peace program.

FIRST THE SATURDAY PEOPLE
THEN THE SUNDAY PEOPLE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from Lebanon and Egypt where I met with State Department officials, civil society actors, including prominent religious leaders and humanitarian aid organizations, and Syrian refugees. The trip (February 18–21, 2013) came at a critical time, as events in the broader Middle East over the last two years have been both historic and tumultuous.

One of the main purposes of the trip was to spend time with the Syrian Christian community. As a brutal civil war, which has taken nearly 70,000 lives, rages in Syria the plight of the sizable Christian community is often overlooked. While from the outside it appears as though President Bashar al-Assad's brutal regime will ultimately fall, the eventual outcome,