

to their parents. We can do something to prevent this from happening again, though. I feel that one of the first issues we should address to restrain this from occurring again is gun control."

"We have all heard the saying, 'Guns don't kill people. People kill people.' That may be true, but guns make it a whole heck of a lot easier. On the same day that Sandy Hook faced tragedy, 22 children in China were stabbed. Not one child was killed. If that man who stabbed these children had a gun, chances are the children would have been killed. We cannot just let anyone get their hands on guns, especially assault weapons. There should be stricter laws on who can obtain guns and who cannot."

"I feel that one of the ways to go about the stricter laws is by looking at a person's medical history before they obtain a gun. Furthermore, not only the medical history of the person wanting to own the gun should be looked at, but also the medical history of the people living in the house with them. If a mother has a gun in the house, a child, whether the child has mental health issues or not, could easily get their hands on it. We saw this example hold true with Adam Lanza. Though Adam Lanza's mental history was not known, it would have been a smart idea to keep all weapons of any kind away from him. By not having any kind of weapon around a person with a mental health issue, we will be able to decrease shootings of any kind. Therefore, the medical history of the person obtaining the gun and the people living with them should be looked at."

"Sincerely, Sophie Boucher, 9th Grader"

Like my colleagues, I always appreciate hearing from my constituents. I share this particular correspondence because it should serve us all as a reminder that there are many ways in which the Congress can act to address the issues surrounding gun violence—the point is we need to act.

HONORING TIMOTHY BOWMAN

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2013*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a young constituent, Timothy Curtis Bowman of Osgood, Indiana.

Curtis attended South Ripley High School and actively participated in the county FFA. He won numerous forestry awards at the state level, enjoyed deer hunting, and worked with his father in their tree trimming business.

We mourn a life that ended too soon and pray for understanding and comfort for family members and those in our community who knew and loved Curtis. While in times of turmoil we struggle to understand the unexplainable, may we find peace and joy in our religious faith and the memories of time shared with those we love.

Curtis will be forever remembered as a friend of his community. I ask the citizens of the 6th Congressional District to join me in keeping his parents, Tim and Pat Pennington Bowman, siblings, Keith, Michael, Tiffany, and Krista, and the entire extended Bowman family in our thoughts and prayers.

ANGELICA MOLINA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Angelica Molina for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Angelica Molina is an 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Angelica Molina 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 Angelica Molina for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

SUPPORT OF THE FLIGHT SCHOOL  
SECURITY ACT OF 2013

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the "Flight School Security Act of 2013."

This bipartisan legislation closes a known aviation security gap by requiring individuals seeking flight training on aircraft with a maximum certified takeoff weight of more than 12,500 pounds to be checked against the terrorist watchlist prior to receiving flight training.

I am proud to have the Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Transportation Security, Cedric Richmond, and the Chairman of the Committee's Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies, Patrick Meehan, as original cosponsors of this important legislation.

Under current law, a flight instructor, pilot school, or aviation training center are only required to check aliens—non-United States citizens—against the terrorist watchlist and receive a determination from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) as to whether that individual presents a risk to aviation or national security prior to providing flight training.

U.S. citizens who seek the same training do not undergo these simple checks.

As a matter of practice, daily checks against the terrorist watchlist are only undertaken for aliens and individuals who hold valid airman's certifications issued by the Federal Aviation Administration; TSA does not check the names of those seeking or undertaking flight training against the watchlist until after they have already been trained on how to fly a plane and are applying for a certificate to take their first solo flight.

The "Flight School Security Act of 2013" closes this security gap by requiring that any

individual seeking training in the operation of any aircraft having a maximum certified takeoff weight of more than 12,500 pounds, including a United States citizen, be checked against the terrorist watchlist to ascertain if the individual may pose a threat to aviation or national security and receive a determination from the Assistant Secretary that the individual does not pose a threat that warrants denial of access to such training.

The "Flight School Security Act of 2013" would subject individuals seeking flight school training to the same terrorist watchlist check that anyone taking a flight domestically undergoes.

It does not compel United States citizens to provide the exhaustive list of personally identifiable information, including fingerprints, which are required to be provided by an alien seeking flight training.

Mr. Speaker, the "Flight School Security Act of 2013" is a common sense, bipartisan bill, crafted in consultation with both TSA and stakeholders.

The bill is the product of the oversight work of the Committee on Homeland Security and represents a common sense solution to a glaring security gap.

Just last week, in an appearance before the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Transportation Security, the TSA Administrator, John S. Pistole, stated that this security gap is an issue that has to be addressed, that Congressional action would be welcome, and that checking those seeking flight training against the terrorist watchlist prior to them commencing flight training would be the best security.

I urge my colleagues to support the "Flight School Security Act of 2013" so that we can be secure in the knowledge that no person who poses a security threat that is significant enough to be blocked from boarding an aircraft is allowed to learn to fly one.

HONORING BRONZE STAR MEDAL  
RECIPIENT SPECIALIST BERNARD L. RUSTAD

HON. STEVE DAINES

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2013*

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Specialist Bernard L. Rustad, who will be awarded with the Bronze Star Medal on April 5, 2013, for his bravery and selflessness while serving in Vietnam.

Specialist Rustad served with the 1st Infantry Brigade, 5th Infantry Division during Combat Operation Lam Son 719. On April 6, 1971, Specialist Rustad's unit was providing security for the last withdrawing units from the Khe Sahn airstrip area, in the midst of heavy enemy fire. During this time, Specialist Rustad noticed that soldiers from the neighboring unit had been wounded and left unattended. With complete disregard for his own safety, Specialist Rustad ran to their assistance and saved the lives of these young men.

Specialist Rustad's actions demonstrated true bravery—and also stand as an example to all of us as what true selflessness looks like.

It is an honor to present Specialist Bernard L. Rustad with the Bronze Star Medal, and I thank him for his service and sacrifice.

ARACELI MEDEL

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2013*

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

The dedication demonstrated by Araceli Medel 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 Araceli Medel for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING MN STATE COMMANDER OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, ROBERT J. ERICKSON

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2013*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Robert J. Erickson, upon the completion of his term as the State Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Minnesota (DAV MN). Commander Erickson has been committed to fulfilling the primary mission of DAV MN and honoring the promises our nation made to the brave men and women who have served America in uniform. I am honored to call him a personal friend.

From the broadest vision to the smallest detail serving disabled veterans, Commander Erickson has been intimately involved in the various ways the DAV MN accomplishes its mission. He has visited all 31 state chapters, from Rochester, to Fergus Falls, to Hibbing, Minnesota, and witnessed firsthand how veterans are served—and how many veterans still serve through volunteering. Under his direction, DAV MN has several unique programs to serve specific needs of Minnesota's disabled veterans. Minnesotans love the outdoors, and DAV MN organizes hunting and fishing trips to allow all veterans to continue to access these wonderful opportunities. Commander Erickson speaks proudly about the joy he sees in the hundreds of volunteers and veterans who participate in these outings.

Under Commander Erickson's leadership, DAV Magazine recently highlighted the DAV MN Donor Connection program, which has provided approximately \$400,000 in donated equipment for disabled veterans. Another source of pride is the partnership with the Minnesota Twins: the MN Twins/DAVMN Winter Warm Up Coat Drive that collects new and gently used coats for disabled veterans and

their families. None of these commendable efforts would be possible without Commander Erickson and his tireless team.

Commander Erickson has left a lasting mark through his leadership role on the board of the DAV MN Foundation, the charitable arm of the organization which supports projects by chapters, units, and partner organizations throughout the state. The DAV MN Foundation provides clothing and emergency assistance to homeless veterans, assists in funding the five state veterans homes, provides funds for various camps and lakeside retreats that allow veterans safe and accessible places to enjoy the outdoors, and assists with other equipment and needs for veterans living in our MN Veterans Homes. The DAV Transportation Network also serves a critical link, providing veterans with free transportation to and from VA medical facilities. Commander Erickson has helped to lead these critical programs and more as part of repaying the debt owed to our disabled veterans.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Robert Erickson's service as Commander of DAV MN, I am pleased to submit this statement recognizing the achievements of this dedicated servant to our disabled veterans and this nation.

CONGRATULATING WAYNE SAWTELLE

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2013*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Wayne Sawtelle on his retirement from the Marshalltown Fire Department. Wayne has served his community honorably for almost two decades as a Lieutenant with the Fire Department.

Lieutenant Sawtelle has dedicated his life to the protection and safety of his fellow community members. His first day on the job in 1994 found him putting out a fire at the Sutherland Coal Plant. After 19 years, he has become a friend and mentor to his colleagues at the Fire Department. His experience and wisdom will surely be missed by his fellow firefighters.

Wayne has also been a leader and active member of the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) and the Iowa Federation of Labor (IFL). Wayne served as Vice President at Large for the IFL as well as President of the IAFF Local 16. He has been a strong advocate for better safety and working conditions for his fellow firefighters.

Lieutenant Wayne Sawtelle has put his life at risk to protect members of his community and I'm honored to represent him in Congress. I congratulate him on his retirement. I wish him and his wife Ann all the best in their future plans and endeavors.

ASHLYN CARMOSINO

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ashlyn Carmosino for receiving the Arvada Wheat

Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Ashlyn Carmosino is a 7th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ashlyn Carmosino 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 Ashlyn Carmosino for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

**HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2013*

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 50th Anniversary of the St. Clair County Bar Association, in St. Clair County, Illinois.

Prior to 1963, there were two bar associations in St. Clair County, the East St. Louis Bar Association and the Belleville Bar Association. East St. Louis was, at that time, the most populous city in St. Clair County and Belleville, just to the east, was the county seat. A review of the Illinois Court System that led to the current judicial structure also prompted the East St. Louis and Belleville Bar Associations to combine and form the St. Clair County Bar Association.

The stated purpose of the St. Clair County Bar Association is "cultivating the science of jurisprudence, promoting reform in the law, facilitating the administration of justice, elevating the standards of integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession, encouraging a thorough and liberal legal education and cultivating and cherishing a spirit of camaraderie among the members thereof." They accomplish this through a number of programs and initiatives that extend the benefits of the organization beyond its members to include their entire community.

The Bar Association fosters and promotes continuing legal education and its mentoring program takes advantage of the wealth of experience within its membership to assist newer members.

The St. Clair County Bar Association Foundation is the charitable arm of the Bar Association and channels a number of assistance and charitable initiatives back to the community, including extensive pro bono legal assistance. The Bar Association's Law Day Run, now in its 12th year raises money for the Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, which assists low-income residents with obtaining legal services. Their participation in the Lawyers Feeding Illinois initiative has brought in tremendous support to help provide nutritional assistance for the hungry within their community.

The St. Clair County Bar Association has grown to approximately 700 members and is