

Central Illinois an attractive place to live and work, and I wish them all the best as they move forward.

ARMY SERGEANT TIMOTHY L.
HAYSLETT

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Army Sergeant Timothy L. Hayslett who passed away on November 15, 2003, while serving with the United States Army in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Hayslett was born on May 17, 1977, to Guy and Mary Hayslett. After graduating from Big Spring High School in Newville, Pennsylvania, he enlisted and was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment of the 1st Armored Division, based in Friedberg, Germany. A husband and father of two daughters, Sergeant Hayslett planned to dedicate his career to the military. Prior to his passing, he had already spent eight years serving in the Army and had recently re-enlisted.

Sergeant Hayslett deployed to Iraq in May 2003. On November 15, he was patrolling the city of Baghdad when a grenade was thrown into his Humvee. Sergeant Hayslett and two other soldiers inside the vehicle were injured from the blast of the IED. Ultimately, Sergeant Hayslett perished from the wounds sustained in this attack. He had been scheduled to return to Germany in December.

Mr. Speaker, the men and women who serve in our Nation's armed forces provide an invaluable service to sustain our country's freedom. Therefore, for his dedicated service and sacrifice to protect our great Nation, I commend Army Sergeant Timothy L. Hayslett.

HONORING "DO THE WRITE THING
CHALLENGE" PARTICIPANTS IN
JACKSON, TN

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate students from Jackson, TN who participated in the "Do the Write Thing Challenge." It was an honor to have these students visit me in Washington, DC.

The "Do the Write Thing Challenge" Program is geared toward students during some of their most trying years . . . middle school. This Program gives middle school students the opportunity to discuss and write about the violence they see in their communities, for some in their own homes and neighborhoods, and understand how it affects their lives. The goal is to help students recognize the causes of youth violence and make a commitment to do something about the problem.

I commend the efforts of the Jackson community and school system for working together to combat the destructive effects of youth violence. I am especially proud of all the students who joined the discussion by participating in the "Do the Write Thing Challenge" and made

a commitment to be a positive force in their communities and pursue a path of success.

HONORING 11 CONGRESSIONAL
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT WINNERS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplished students who earned the Certificate of Congressional Merit for their exemplary citizenship and academic excellence. Eleven students from Minnesota's Sixth District were nominated by their schools for this prestigious award and it is a great privilege to be able to share their accomplishments with this Congress.

These students have shown that they can set and achieve goals, work as a team member or a leader, contribute to a larger cause, all while making time for study and friendships. They have made significant contributions to their schools and communities and stand out to faculty and staff as students that would never ask for recognition for their efforts.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to honor these eleven students for their successful high school careers and to wish them all the best in their bright futures: Alyssa Haus, Becker High School; Brianna Vickerman, Big Lake High School; Isaac Darland, Dassel-Cokato High School; Trey Soukup, Delano High School; Eric Rapheal, Forest Lake High School; Diane Wertish, Immaculate Conception Academy; Hannah Zipoy, Kimball Area High School; Emily Kirby, Legacy Christian Academy; Michael Witschen, Monticello High School; McKenzie van der Hagen, Rocori High School; Isaac Eickhoff, St. Cloud Christian School.

It was best said by beloved children's author, Dr. Seuss, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." These students are the bright future we have to look forward to in Minnesota and in our Nation. We are looking forward to the successes they will have and the dreams they will follow and the places they will go.

RECOGNIZING JORDAN

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, we were pleased to welcome the Hashemite King of Jordan, King Abdullah II bin al-Hussein to Washington a few weeks ago and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of our vital bilateral relationship. The United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan began their diplomatic relations in 1949, and have remained strong allies for over six decades. We collaborate closely with the Jordanians in multiple areas, including: security cooperation, economic development, humanitarian assistance and counterterrorism.

The timing of the King's visit is critical. The United States is working closely with Jordan to

address the humanitarian crisis in Syria, which becomes increasingly dire with each passing day. Jordan is hosting approximately 500,000 refugees, and that number grows by 2,000–4,000 refugees a day. Jordan faces tremendous economic and humanitarian pressures in the face of regional challenges.

Stability and peace in the Middle East hinges on a strong strategic alliance between the United States and Jordan. Jordan plays an important role in the Middle East peace process, having signed the historic Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty in 1994, normalizing relations between Jordan and Israel and establishing a partnership toward peaceful relations. Jordan is a strong advocate for moving the peace process between the Israelis and Palestinians forward, often reiterating the need for negotiations and offering to serve as a mediator and host for peace talks.

Under the leadership of King Abdullah II, Jordan is the voice of moderation and progress in the Arab world, and recently implemented economic and political reforms. Now is the time to reaffirm the United States' commitment to and friendship with the people and Government of Jordan. Therefore, I am pleased to submit a resolution to recognize and highlight the long-term partnership and friendship between the United States and Jordan, working together towards peace and security in the Middle East.

REINTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the contributions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

CITES was created in 1973 to ensure that international trade in wild plants and animals does not threaten their survival. Launched with a few signatory nations, CITES has now 178 parties that have an international obligation and responsibility to protect our planets' endangered animals and plants. Nearly 5,000 species of animals and 29,000 species of plants are protected by the Convention against over-exploitation through international trade. Adherence to these protective measures has benefited the conservation of animals and plants worldwide.

Unfortunately, more and more species are at risk of extinction and international trade, both legal and illegal, has exacerbated the dangers. International wildlife trade is estimated to be worth billions of dollars per year and to include hundreds of millions of live plants and animals and derived products such as food products, leather and fur, ornamentals, medicinal, and timber. Such high levels of exploitation of and trade in wild animals and plants, together with other factors

such as habitat loss, are capable of bringing some species close to extinction.

Every two to three years, the parties of CITES meet at the Conference of the Parties to review the status of species in danger of extinction and establish trade restrictions. The 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties was held in March 2013. Several proposals were submitted during the summit, some of them ensuring better protections for endangered species, others trying to downlist species and re-open trade. While proposals to up listing five valuable kinds of shark species were successfully adopted, proposals to establish stronger protections for the polar bear and other species were unfortunately rejected. I am saddened to see that economic interests have prevailed over species conservation, risking to bring species close to extinction. This is unacceptable.

My resolution will recognize the important contributions the Convention has made in regulating international trade in endangered species and protecting endangered species worldwide. It will also applaud the Convention's leadership in protecting the African elephants, five sharks and other endangered species. Lastly, the resolution will urge all parties to the Convention to collaborate effectively to curb excessive exploitation of species for international trade and to adopt stronger protections for several endangered species at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in South Africa in 2016.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has a moral obligation to protect endangered species and their natural habitat. Wild animals are a very important part of our commonly held natural resources and contribute to the diversity and stability of our environment. We must continue to maintain a balanced and healthy ecosystem that allows for the coexistence of both human beings and the world's most incredible species. It is essential to work with the international community to ensure the survival of these species. I believe that the stakes are too high to let national interests and differences hinder the future of our planet.

I urge my colleagues to join me in protecting wildlife and promoting environmental conservation across the globe by supporting this important resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 147—"yes", 148—"yes", 149—"yes."

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE GILMAN BROTHERS COMPANY ON RECEIVING THE PRESIDENT'S "E" AWARD FOR ACHIEVING SIGNIFICANT EXPORT SUCCESSSES

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Gilman family and the em-

ployees of the Gilman Brothers Company on receiving the President's "E" Award for achieving significant export successes.

The Gilman Brothers Company is based in Gilman, Connecticut and is one of North America's leading manufacturers of foambord products for signage, display, and graphics. Since its founding in 1897, the company has since been instrumental in developing and introducing innovative products that fit the ever-changing needs of the visual industries. With over a century of rich history, the Gilman Brothers Company has been able to produce world-class and high quality products that are also environmentally friendly. Over the past few years, Gilman Brothers has won assistance from the U.S. Export Import Bank to expand their export sales abroad. I was pleased to tour their factory in 2010, and later that year Gilman Brothers joined me on a Connecticut Trade Mission to Israel. Through the contacts the company made in Israel, Gilman Brothers has been able to increase significantly their exports to Israel and other Middle Eastern countries.

The President's "E" Award was created by Executive Order of the President on December 5, 1961 to recognize persons, firms, or organizations which contribute significantly in the effort to increase United States exports. As a recipient of this prestigious award, the Gilman Brothers Company has proven to be one of the top export leaders in the country. Deputy Secretary of Commerce Rebecca Blank will present Gilman Brothers with the "E" Award on May 20, 2013.

The success of small and family-owned business like the Gilman Brothers Company in the international market demonstrates the dynamism of our nation's economy. Small businesses are key to our economic recovery and the successes of companies like the Gilman Brothers help move our economy forward. The Gilman family and their employees are true assets to our region and our state, and I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Gilman Brothers Company on receiving this well-deserved award.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. LARRY RIVERS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Larry E. Rivers, the eighth president of The Fort Valley State University in Fort Valley, Georgia, who will be leaving after seven years as President of the school. He will be honored at a farewell reception on Saturday, May 18, 2013, at the C.W. Pettigrew Center on the FVSU campus.

Born in Sharon Hill, Pennsylvania, Dr. Rivers is an alumnus of Fort Valley State College (now University) with a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science Education. He also earned a Master's in History from Villanova University, a Doctor of Arts degree in History and Curriculum Development from Carnegie-Mellon University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in History degree from Goldsmith's College of the University of London.

Before he was the President of The Fort Valley State University, Dr. Rivers taught his-

tory at Florida A&M University for more than twenty years, ultimately achieving the rank of "Distinguished University Professor," one of only two on campus. He also held a number of administrative appointments and was selected as Dean of the FAMU College of Arts and Sciences in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Rivers has revolutionized The Fort Valley State University in many ways during his seven-year tenure as President. In the beginning, he certainly had his work cut out for him because the school faced budgetary issues, decreasing student enrollment, aging facilities and low staff morale. Today, a dramatic change can be seen throughout the school, particularly in increased enrollment numbers and several new completed construction projects.

Under Dr. Rivers' leadership, The FVSU has launched several projects including the construction of a \$16.8 million Academic, Science and Classroom Building; a \$9 million Wildcat Stadium; a \$6 million Student Amenities Building; a new seven-building residential complex, a State Animal Facility for Emergencies (SAFE) Center, and several renovations to existing buildings.

Georgia Trend magazine has highlighted Dr. Rivers' strong leadership and The FVSU's rapid growth by naming Dr. Rivers among the "100 Most Influential Georgians" and The FVSU among the "Best Places to Work in Georgia" in 2008. The magazine also named Dr. Rivers as one of "Georgia's Top 25 Leaders" in September 2010. Ebony magazine has recognized Dr. Rivers as one of America's notable black leaders as well. In addition, Dr. Rivers' Slavery in Florida, Territorial Days to Emancipation, published in 2000, won three national awards. His subsequent publications have also received scholarly acclaim and honors.

One of the many things I admire most about Dr. Rivers is his unfailing dedication to The Fort Valley State University. After graduating from the school in 1973, he came back years later to take on the difficult challenge of turning the school around. And what a difference he has made! Enrollment for the 2012-2013 school year has almost doubled since he arrived in 2006. Previously, The FVSU was unranked by the U.S. News Media group, but the University made the list of "America's Best Black Colleges" four years in a row and was recognized by the 2013 U.S. News and World Report as the top public historically black college and university in Georgia.

The city of Fort Valley has also felt the earthquake of change emanating from The FVSU campus. City officials are preparing for the growth of the town of 8,600 residents and existing infrastructure is expanding to accommodate new residents and businesses in large part because of The FVSU.

Pr. Rivers has achieved many things in his life, but none of it would have been possible without the grace of God and his loving wife, the former Betty Hubbard, who has been an extraordinary engaging and dignified first lady to the University. Together, they reared two exceptional sons, Larry Omar and Linje Eugene, who like their parents, are achievers in their own right.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Larry E. Rivers for his seven outstanding years as President of The Fort Valley State University. His energizing leadership has helped to transform this school