

he will study Business Administration and play for the Men's Lacrosse team.

Andrew's achievements set a wonderful example for his peers around him, and I am confident he will have continued success. I wish him the best of luck in all his endeavors, both on and off the field. Mr. Speaker, I ask those present today to join me in honoring Andrew Reid Bryan.

#### PEACE FOR THAILAND

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, at 1.8 million people, Thailand is home to the third largest ethnic Malay population in the world. Since 2004, extremists in the country have been fighting the government for an independent state for the ethnic group. This has been one of the bloodiest conflicts in Southeast Asia and has left nearly 5,000 people dead.

According to the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, in the past four years alone, more than 1,400 people have died and 3,200 have been wounded. The violence has killed indiscriminately. Fatalities have included soldiers, policemen, village leaders, monks, teachers, and innocent civilians. While most of those killed were the victims of shootings, there have also been nearly 600 improvised explosive device attacks and 40 beheadings since January 2009.

Thankfully, it is possible this cycle of violence could be coming to an end.

With the help of Malaysian mediators, the chairman of the Thai National Security Council and a representative of one of the Malay separatist groups active in the region, Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN), signed an agreement in February to formally begin peace talks. Reports indicate former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's started talks behind the scenes years ago that helped lead to this milestone agreement. He should be commended for those efforts.

Public peace talks between the government and the rebels will be a big step forward in solving the conflict in southern Thailand. While previous attempts have been made, this marks the first time that both sides have agreed in writing to hold talks.

Mr. Speaker, the progress that is slowly being achieved in southern Thailand is significant, and we should hope that it continues until there is lasting peace throughout the country. And that's just the way it is.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH CHICAGO AND THEIR 2013 HUMANITARIAN PATRIOT HONOREES

#### HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the outstanding community service of the Rotary Club of North Chicago and to recognize this year's recipients of their Humanitarian Patriot Award.

Each year the Rotary Club in North Chicago, home of Naval Station Great Lakes, recognizes their Humanitarian Patriot honorees for their service to veterans. This year's recipients have all demonstrated an incredible sense of commitment to the men and women of our armed forces. They understand that veterans have sacrificed greatly for this country and deserve nothing but our highest gratitude and respect.

The Rotary Club was founded on the principle of service, and the Humanitarian Patriot Award is an inspiring extension of that original mission.

It is entirely fitting that this year's ceremony will be held at the Lovell Federal Health Care Center—an institution dedicated to caring for the brave members of our armed forces, veterans and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate this year's recipients: Alan Belcher; Ken Duffy; Patricia Jones; Alain H. Oller, Donna E. King; Tom Marks; John Mrocza; the Navy League of the United States, Lake County Council; Paula Caraballido; William R. Beiersdorf; Gregory Padovani; Eli Williamson; Thomas Zengeler; and Jim Dolan.

But much more than that, I thank them for the incredible work they have done. Their service strengthens our communities, and I am grateful for the work of the Rotary Club of North Chicago and all of this year's honorees.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF ARLENE BILLAK

#### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the extraordinary life of my friend and supporter Arlene Billak who sadly passed away on April 21, 2013. Arlene was born January 13, 1949, in Sharon, Pennsylvania to her loving parents Stan and Marie Izenas. Arlene was a graduate of Sharon High School and retired from State Farm Insurance as an office manager.

Arlene was a devoted wife and mother who provided constant love and support and was always willing to sacrifice her all for her family. Arlene was a woman of strength and humility who never refused to give up after being diagnosed with cancer. She courageously fought until her final days, always making sure that she had a smile on her face. Her loving heart and spirit will continue to be felt everyday by those who loved her and those she loved.

I would like to extend my deepest and heartfelt sympathies to Arlene Billak's family: her husband Rick, her son Damian, her two brothers Paul and Bob Izenas, and her two sisters Kathy and Irene. Rest assured the love and devotion she had for her family and friends will never be forgotten.

I have known Arlene and Rick for many years. They have been active in politics for decades. They were always there to support and push their candidates and those issues that improve the quality of life for those who have the least. Arlene believed that politics could make a positive difference in people's lives, and she showed us all how one person can make a difference. I will always remember the example she set and how she constantly

shared her upbeat and positive demeanor with the world. Our community, and all that knew her, are better because we crossed paths with Arlene Billak.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JIM BRIDENSTINE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform the House of Representatives that on May 21, 2013, I was unable to participate in three recorded votes due to my participation, along with the entire Oklahoma delegation, in a tour of tornado affected areas in and around Moore, Oklahoma.

I wish to submit for the record a summary of these bills, as well as statement on how I would have voted on each had I been present. I would also like to note that these are the only votes I have missed so far as a Member of Congress.

H.R. 1412, the Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013, passed the House by a vote of 416–0. Had I been present, I would have voted for H.R. 1412. The bill incentivizes private sector companies to participate in Veterans Administration (VA) on-the-job-training (OJT) training programs by reducing the level of employer contributions. It also requires the VA to enter into OJT agreements with other federal departments and agencies, which will encourage the federal government to hire veterans by fully leveraging available authorities. Finally, H.R. 1412 offsets any additional costs by extending for one month the VA's authority to pay reduced pensions to veterans using Medicaid-approved nursing facilities. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), H.R. 1412 would reduce direct spending about \$14 million from FY14–FY18 and produce an “insignificant effect on discretionary spending.”

H.R. 1344, the Helping Heroes Fly Act, passed the House by a vote of 413–0. Had I been present, I would have voted for this bill. H.R. 1344 directs the Department of Defense to develop processes to expedite airport screening for severely injured and disabled service members and veterans.

H.R. 324, to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II, passed the House by a vote of 415–0. I co-sponsored this bill and I would have voted for it had I been present. The bill authorizes two Congressional Gold Medals for the First Special Service Force, a joint Canadian-U.S. special operations unit that served with distinction during WWII. The First Special Service Force was the precursor unit for both the U.S. and Canadian Special Operations forces.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF EXERCISE IS MEDICINE MONTH

#### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as Exercise is Medicine Month.

Physical inactivity is a fast-growing public health problem and contributes to a variety of chronic diseases and health complications, including obesity, diabetes, hypertension, cancer, depression and anxiety, arthritis, and osteoporosis. The Exercise is Medicine program seeks to reverse that trend. In addition to improving a patient's overall health, increasing physical activity has been shown to be effective in the treatment and prevention of chronic diseases. Beyond the benefits to individual health and quality of life, increased levels of physical activity are associated with lower health care costs, reduced environmental impact and other co-benefits.

Exercise is Medicine is an initiative focused on encouraging primary care physicians and other health care providers to include exercise when designing treatment plans for patients. Exercise is Medicine is committed to the belief that exercise and physical activity are integral to the prevention and treatment of chronic disease and should be regularly assessed as part of medical care. The U.S. Federal Physical Guidelines and many studies show that 150 minutes per week of moderate-intensity physical activity is required to achieve these health benefits.

During May, communities throughout the U.S. will hold activities that recognize physical activity and exercise—shown to help prevent and treat more than 40 chronic diseases—should be part of everyone's health care plan. Since 2010, Exercise is Medicine Month has been proclaimed by mayors, governors, Congress and the President. Individuals and organizations of all kinds, from youth groups to universities, churches, fitness centers, corporations and hospitals, hold events aimed at keeping people active and healthy.

I urge all Americans to recognize Exercise is Medicine month this May to build, support and advocate for physical activity as essential for global health and wellbeing by committing to action.

#### REMEMBERING ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE SARTELL VERSO MILL FIRE

**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of the upcoming one-year anniversary of the tragic Memorial Day explosion and fire at the Verso Paper Mill in Sartell, Minnesota. Jon Maus, a father of four from Albany, Minnesota was tragically killed during the accident. This mill has been a fixture in the community for nearly a century, and its destruction and ultimate closure were devastating for hundreds of employees and their families.

One year later, the community is still working to recover from this setback. While many of the former workers have found jobs elsewhere or have gone back to school, quite a few are still searching for full-time employment. Our heart breaks for their struggle. But remember that when times are tough, Minnesotans band together. It is because of the love, support and friendship within the Sartell community that I know that they will overcome this tragedy.

The Maus Family and all those affected by the explosion and fire remain in my prayers. My staff and I will continue to work with local leaders and community members to make sure that they receive the support they need to get back to work.

#### NORTH KANSAS CITY SCHOOLS CENTENNIAL

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating North Kansas City Schools for celebrating 100 years of providing exceptional education to our youth.

The North Kansas City School District 74 was founded on March 14, 1913. During the district's inaugural year, it employed a principal, an assistant, and taught 32 students in grades one through nine. By 1917, the school district was home to grades 1–12. As enrollment increased, the district voted to build a high school building that was dedicated on January 24, 1926.

After World War II, the district passed bond issues for long-range building programs. The enrollment swelled to 17,273 in 1963 due to the arrival of the baby boomers. Currently, the North Kansas City School District is home to 21 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, and 4 high schools. The newest of these is Staley High School, which was added in 2008.

North Kansas City Schools is a state and nationally accredited school district, and they are known for innovation and excellence. For example, they were the first local school district to provide laptops to their students and offer Apple technology-powered classrooms. They offer outstanding educational programs that no other area school district provides, including the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in applauding North Kansas City Schools for celebrating their 100th anniversary of providing extraordinary educational experiences to students in Clay County, Missouri. North Kansas City Schools is a true community partner, and I wish them 100 more years of greatness to come.

#### RECOGNIZING THE NORTH SYRACUSE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my congratulations to the North Syracuse Fire Department on the occasion of its Centennial Celebration. I am honored to join the community in celebrating the Department on this historic occasion.

The North Syracuse Fire Department has changed significantly over the past 100 years. From having just two hand drawn chemical carts, to now operating with over a dozen fire and rescue vehicles, the North Syracuse Fire Department has been able to adapt to the

changing times. The North Syracuse Fire Department Operates out of two stations: Station 1, located at 109 Chestnut Street, and Station 2, located at 70 General Irwin Boulevard, both in North Syracuse, New York.

In 1913, a group of citizens living in the village of North Syracuse presented a petition to the Board of Supervisors of Onondaga County, asking that a fire district be established in North Syracuse. As a result, the North Syracuse Fire Department was founded and began its extraordinary service to the residents of North Syracuse. In 1950, the department moved to its new quarters in the old trolley station at the corner of South Bay Road and Church Street. In 1983, a new building was built on Chestnut Street. This was the first building in fire department history built solely for fire department use.

Despite the dramatic changes that have taken place over the past 100 years, a few things remain the same. The North Syracuse Fire Department continues its mission of Fire Prevention and Education, Fire Suppression, and the prevention of the loss of life. This mission continues that the department shall assist in any disaster, emergency, or occasion for which it is properly equipped. The Fire Department continues to be a central part of life for residents. Furthermore, for 100 years North Syracuse's finest have dedicated themselves to protecting their fellow citizens and making the community a safer place to live.

Mr. Speaker, we are grateful for the extraordinary service that the volunteers of the North Syracuse Fire Department have provided to residents of our community over the past century, and I ask this Honorable Body to join me in congratulating the members and supporters of the North Syracuse Fire Department and wishing them good luck in the next 100 years.

#### HONORING OFFICERS OF THE ST. PETERSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE U.S. MARSHAL'S SERVICE FOR RECEIVING THE CONGRESSIONAL BADGE OF BRAVERY

**HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2013*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Jeffrey Yaslowitz, Sergeant Thomas Baitinger, Sergeant Karl Lounge, Officer Timothy McClintick, Officer Max McDonald, and Officer Douglas Weaver of the St. Petersburg Police Department and U.S. Deputy Marshal Scott Ley for being awarded the Congressional Badge of Bravery.

The Congressional Badge of Bravery was established to honor exceptional acts of bravery in the line of duty by federal, state, and local law enforcement officers. In award year 2012, only 16 Badges of Bravery were awarded.

On January 24, 2011, Officer Yaslowitz, Officer McClintick, and Marshal Ley attempted to apprehend a violent fugitive in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Officer Yaslowitz and Marshal Ley courageously engaged the suspect, who was hiding in an attic. While attempting to handcuff the suspect, Officer Yaslowitz was shot and killed. Marshal Ley was also shot and severely