

part of Cyprus one of the most highly militarized areas in the world. Thousands of Greek Cypriots are being denied their fundamental right to return to their homes. Greek Cypriot properties are constantly being confiscated or sold without their owners' consent. Freedom of worship continues to be restricted as access to religious sites are blocked and systematically destroyed. Furthermore, Turkey continues to obstruct the process of determining the fate of persons missing since the invasion by prohibiting the exhumation of remains from mass graves.

Thankfully, the Cyprus Government remains fully committed to the United Nations (U.N.) sponsored process to reach a sustainable settlement that would reunify Cyprus based on a bizonal, bicomunal federation in accordance with relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions. Additionally, the President of Cyprus has outlined several promising measures that contributed an atmosphere that would facilitate the negotiating process. In February 2014, the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities resumed formal negotiations. The promotion of security and stability in the region is a vital foreign policy issue to the United States, and the anniversary of the Turkish invasion should serve as a reminder that it is well past time to end the forcible division of Cyprus.

**PEARLAND FORCE WINS TEXAS
STATE TITLE**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pearland Force softball team for winning the Texas state title in their division of the Amateur Softball Association (ASA). The Pearland Force played hard and won seven consecutive games in a great display of teamwork and athleticism to win the championship tournament.

As a young fastpitch team that has already achieved so much, I'm excited to see their next accomplishments in both their community and athletic endeavors.

Congratulations to the Pearland Force coaches and players—Brent Marek, Stephanie Reyes, Pilo Garcia, Jr., Stephen Borden, Nichole Mann, Stephanie Lopez, Bayleigh Borden, Isabella Reyes, Erin Connolly, Kyla Sides, Holly Vollman, Katie Bishop, Grace Atchison, Mya Martinez and Karyme Garcia. I wish the Pearland Force the best of luck in their upcoming ASA tournaments. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to the coaches and players for this fantastic victory!

**RIVERSIDE KAYAK CONNECTION
RECOGNITION**

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give special recognition to the celebrated efforts of the Downriver Linked Greenways Ini-

tiative and in particular, its partner organization the Riverside Kayak Connection. The Riverside Kayak Connection, located in Wyandotte, Michigan, is a kayak and canoe shop that successfully launched as a result of the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative which began in 1999. This Riverside Kayak Connection is co-chaired by two very dedicated and community-oriented individuals who I am proud to call my friends: Marketing Director Anita Twardesky and Extension Educator Mary Bohling.

The ultimate objective of the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative and its partner organization, the Riverside Kayak Connection, is to create an efficient regional pathway system that will connect the twenty-one Downriver communities, Wayne, and Monroe Counties through a network of non-motorized trails and greenways. The Riverside Kayak Connection's Detroit River tours are immensely popular among citizens in the Downriver area of Michigan and have helped to create a greater sense of awareness as to the ecological and economic opportunities that are present in and around the watershed. Both Anita Twardesky and Mary Bohling have been invaluable in leading this environmental, community-driven effort. The Co-Chairs offer a variety of services to assist communities in their greenway and water trail efforts, including technical consultation, project management, meeting facilitation, and grant writing assistance.

Anita Twardesky is an accomplished and respected recreation and trails professional. She also serves as Public Relations & Community Outreach for Riverside Kayak Connection where she is responsible for promoting outdoor recreation, paddle sports, and the ecotourism in the area. Formerly, she served as Parks & Recreation Director for the cities of Woodhaven and Flat Rock. Her appointments include Co-Chair of the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative, Chair of the Trails Committee for the Michigan Recreation & Parks Association, and member of the State Wide Advisory Group Michigan Water Trails.

Mary Bohling, besides co-chairing the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative, is also Co-Founder and Board Member of the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, a non-profit organization created to support the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. She also chairs the Michigan Statewide Public Advisory Council as well, developing and implementing fisheries and wildlife habitat restoration projects.

The Riverside Kayak Connection has become an essential aspect of the Downriver community's effort to promote an efficient, environmentally friendly regional system that encourages a variety of travel options. I strongly appreciate and admire the hard work and dedication that the Riverside Kayak Connection has given to my district and the Downriver community in developing and encouraging diversity of travel. Today I express my sincerest thanks to the Co-Chairs of this great organization as they continue to make our waterways and greenways a treasure for generations to come.

**COMMENDING KENDALL
SHEFFIELD**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kendall Sheffield for being named the 2013–14 Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Kendall will be a senior at Thurgood Marshall High School in Missouri City, Texas this fall. This prestigious award recognizes Kendall both for being an outstanding student, as well as the top high school boys track & field athlete in all of Texas.

His track records place him in the top five high school showing of 2014, winning the 110-meter high hurdles (13.63 seconds) and the 300-meter intermediate hurdles (36.34 seconds) at this spring's 4A state meet. Kendall is also an asset in his community. He maintains a B average, is a member of the football team, is active in his church and volunteers with the elderly in his community and the local food bank.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Kendall Sheffield for winning the 2013–14 Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. We look forward to his continued success on and off the field.

**HONORING ABBVIE FOR ITS OUT-
STANDING COMMITMENT TO IM-
PROVE THE ACADEMIC OPPOR-
TUNITIES FOR LOCAL STUDENTS
FROM THE CITY OF NORTH CHI-
CAGO**

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I am most proud to rise today to honor AbbVie, a leading global biopharmaceutical company based in Illinois's 10th District, for its incredible commitment to enhance the educational opportunities available to local students in its hometown, the City of North Chicago.

In today's economy, education is a prerequisite for success, providing students with the tools and skillsets they need to climb the ladder of opportunity, realize their potential and accomplish their ambitions. We must dedicate ourselves to providing all children, regardless of zip code, with access to high-quality, affordable education so that they may fully develop their individual talents.

AbbVie recently launched its inaugural "Week of Possibilities," a volunteer service initiative focused on helping revitalize the City of North Chicago. Working alongside its nonprofit partner, Heart of America Foundation, AbbVie hopes to transform four North Chicago School libraries with innovative new layouts and refurbished interiors.

In addition, each library will receive nearly 2,000 new books and high-tech new equipment, including iPads. On the first day of school, all of the students will go home with seven new books of their own.

This effort shows the tremendous impact that successful businesses and business leaders can have by giving back to their local communities. Thanks to AbbVie's outstanding commitment to service, more children will have the opportunity to pursue their passions and achieve their dreams.

CONGRATULATING PEARLAND ISD
TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Taresa Jacobsen of Lawhon Ele-

mentary and Mark Lesmeister of Dawson High School for winning Pearland Independent School District's 2014 Teachers of the Year.

Mrs. Jacobsen has been a teacher for seven years, spending her last four at Lawhon Elementary. She has been a great asset for her students and works hard to keep their parents aware of their children's progress in the classroom. She takes the time to get to know her students well and incorporates that knowledge in her teaching.

Mr. Lesmeister joined the Dawson High School faculty in 2008 and is helping to design the physics program. Thanks to his passion for teaching, he encourages many of his students to consider a career in teaching themselves and strongly believes students should

graduate with a scientific understanding in order to make rational decisions.

I wish Mrs. Jacobsen and Mr. Lesmeister the best of luck in their teaching careers and thank them both for going above and beyond for their students. Great teachers help develop future leaders. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Taresa Jacobsen and Mark Lesmeister for their commitment to teaching and for earning the Pearland ISD 2014 Teachers of the Year!