

also an active member of the San Carlos Rotary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Beth Hunkapiller for her recognition by the Chamber of Commerce as Citizen of the Year. I couldn't think of a more deserving candidate. Beth is a beacon of public service and an inspiration to all of the residents of the City of Good Living, San Carlos, California.

#### CELEBRATING THE GRAND RE-OPENING OF THE VALLEY RANCH LIBRARY

#### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the completion of the Valley Ranch Library's renovation project. The library has been serving the citizens of Irving, Texas, since 1996 with an amazing collection of books, educational programs, and meeting spaces for community groups.

The history of the Valley Ranch Library begins in 1996 when it established its operations in a rental space no larger than 10,000 square feet. Following its opening, the library quickly became one of the busiest branches in the Irving Public Library system.

In June of 2006, the City of Irving initiated the construction project of a new 26,000 square foot library at 401 Cimarron Trail. In less than two years, the Valley Ranch Library celebrated its new facility at the grand opening ceremony in October of 2007. The new library brought new features to the community such as additional study rooms, public computers, and a café. Of the entire constructed facility, 5,000 square feet was left unfinished for future expansion.

In September of 2012, the citizens of Irving voted on a bond sale to complete the Valley Ranch Library, and in October of 2013, the library renovation project began.

The library expansion included more community meeting spaces, increased shelving by 20%, defined children's areas for a more comfortable experience of all ages, and the addition of a digital media lab.

The Valley Ranch Library is the second busiest and next-largest branch in the Irving Public Library system, after the Central Library. The library's surrounding community is composed of families focused on education; consequently, the library operates to meet and exceed the community's demand for educational resources and programs. The programs are often filled to capacity and patrons are known for maximizing their 50-book limit every three weeks.

Since the establishment of the facility in 2006, the Valley Ranch Library has grown significantly as demonstrated by the following statistics. The library has grown 72% in visitation, 26% in items checked out, 44% in collection size, 40% in reference requests, and 87% in public computer usage.

I am extremely appreciative of the City of Irving and the Irving Public Library system for continuing to address the needs of the community by enhancing the quality of their infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my

distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the City of Irving and Irving Public Library on the completion of the Valley Ranch Library's renovation project.

#### CHASE BANK LAKESIDE

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Chase Bank Lakeside for achieving 25 years of outstanding membership in the West Chamber serving Jefferson County.

Membership in a Chamber of Commerce comes with commitment, dedication and contribution to community. Chamber members are leaders in the community mentoring other businesses, creating positive environments for business to thrive. The West Chamber serving Jefferson County is a strong and vibrant organization today due to members like Chase Bank Lakeside.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Chase Bank Lakeside for 25 years of leadership and inspiration you provide in our community. I look forward to many more years of your service.

#### HONORING ANTHONY V. "TONY" HERZOG

#### HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Anthony Herzog, a member of my staff for the past two years who will be retiring from his position as a District Representative in my Hamlin Constituent Service Center. Tony, what most know him by, started in my office on June 2nd, 2012 and I was eager to put his knowledge and experience to use by helping me serve the people of Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District.

Tony has an extensive public service record including having served as Wayne County Commissioner for 24 years. As commissioner, he was instrumental in numerous projects in Wayne County including, construction of the Wayne County Operations Center, the Wayne County Correctional Facility, and also the Recycling Center. Tony also served as director for the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce and worked to acquire the BL-2 No. 54 Locomotive, a showpiece in Honesdale, while also establishing the Stourbridge Line Rail Excursions.

Tony has also been active in numerous organizations and has held leadership positions in most of them, including: the Honesdale Lions Club, Boy Scouts Troop 1 100th Anniversary, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Wayne County Family Center Board, NEPA Alliance, Wayne County Area Agency on Aging, Wayne County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Wayne County Conservation District and in 1998, Tony was appointed by the Governor to the PennDOT Transportation Advisory Committee. He also served as President of Herzog Trucking Company in Honesdale for 33 years.

Tony's influence can also be found in area sports as he is a strong supporter of both recreational and organized sports in Wayne County. He has been a player, coach, umpire and sponsor as his company, Herzog Trucking Company, sponsored numerous teams throughout the area. He was a member of the volunteer group that built Honesdale High School's first ever football field and bleachers in the 1970's and he assisted in the improvement of the County Sports Complex in Beach Lake, Pennsylvania.

Tony currently resides in Cherry Ridge Township with his wife, Sharon. They have two children: Andrea and Steven and three grand-children: Emma and Brady Herzog and Heather O'Hara.

Words cannot express how thankful I am to have had Tony as a member of my staff and how sad I am going to be to see him go. He has left a lasting impression and he will be truly missed by me, members of my staff, and the people of Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District.

#### HONORING MANUFACTURING MATTERS

#### HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the first graduates of Manufacturing Matters, a fast track training program in Richmond, Indiana.

The collaborative program is being spearheaded by Ivy Tech Community College WorkOne, and the Economic Development Corporations and Chambers of Commerce from Wayne, Rush, and Fayette counties to provide individuals the skills to succeed in the manufacturing industry. I am proud to announce that twelve people became the first graduates of this program on January 31, 2014. The first class includes Jarrod Andrews, Mary Ann Frazier, Bob Harding, Mark Hawkins, Marc Lechuga, Dylan McLemore, Darren McEwen, Rita Robinson, Chris Studt, Randy Tucker, Wilmi Vizcaino, and Kenny Warner.

Manufacturing Matters aims to cultivate a skillset that program participants can apply to future manufacturing jobs. The program provides hardworking individuals the opportunity to develop a comprehensive understanding of manufacturing processes, safety, quality, and leadership.

In addition to the technical skills learned, the program participants attended a job fair to connect with potential employers. Manufacturing Matters has partnered with several organizations in Indiana from leading energy groups to local governments in an effort to employ the program graduates. The job fair matched employers with applicants who were ready for on-the-job success.

This program equips individuals with the tools to work and provides competent staff to businesses in the manufacturing industry. As a Member of Congress, I strongly support programs like Manufacturing Matters that strengthen the American manufacturing industry.

HONORING TECHNICAL SERGEANT  
JOSHUA COOMER

**HON. JASON T. SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Technical Sergeant Joshua Coomer of Summersville, Missouri for his outstanding achievements and exemplary years of service to our Nation. Technical Sergeant Coomer first enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in May of 1999. During his career he served in two deployments, his first to Kuwait in 2000 and then to Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia in 2002.

On August 1st, 2014, Technical Sergeant will retire from the U.S. Air Force after honorably serving for 15 years. Throughout his career he has been recognized on numerous occasions for his distinguished leadership and commitment to uphold standards. He was named Military Training Leader of the Year in 2005, 2009, 2011, and 2012 in different groups for his outstanding performance in preparing future military personnel.

His superior officers speak very highly of him and I thank Mr. Joshua Coomer for his service to our Nation. It is my pleasure to recognize his achievements before the House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING RICKY REGAS

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ricky Regas, a junior at Cinco Ranch High School, on bringing home a gold medal from the University Interscholastic League State Wrestling Championship. Ricky is one of the 28 talented wrestlers from Katy, TX, to qualify for the state tournament.

Ricky captured this year's gold medal in the 182 lb. bracket after a hard-fought final match. Ricky finished the year with a record of 34-0, an undefeated season. I hope to continue to see great things from Ricky in his senior season.

Texas is home to many outstanding athletes, and becoming a state champion is not an easy feat. On behalf of all residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Ricky's accomplishment. Our community is proud of Ricky Regas.

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM IN HUNGARY AND AROUND THE WORLD

**HON. ANDY HARRIS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Memorial Day for the Victims of Communism in Hungary. On this day in 1947 the Soviet authorities occupying Hungary illegally arrested Bela Kovacs, the general sec-

retary of the Independent Smallholders' Party, who, after being deported to the USSR and spending almost a decade in prison and labor camps died at the early age of 51. The arrest of this fellow Hungarian politician marked a new era in Hungary where the elimination of political opponents soon led to one-party dictatorship, and his fate symbolizes the tragic destiny of hundreds of thousands in Hungary whose rights were denied and whose lives were crushed by the evils of Communism.

As a son of an immigrant from Hungary who fled the same brutal regime that eliminated Bela Kovacs, I know there are few among us who can give a firsthand account of the horrors of the soul-crushing Communist system. It is therefore all the more important that we officially remember the immeasurable damage caused by totalitarian regimes worldwide, and recognize that too many people of influence still subscribe to these same deadly ideas. Nostalgia toward Communism and the whitewashing of history is deplorable, and crimes committed during those times should never fade from our memory.

No leader in Europe today is a more outspoken advocate of remembering the crimes of the Communist system than Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who himself was instrumental in the underground movement that helped bring down Communism in Hungary. Hungary's leadership in facing and condemning its Communist past is exemplary. Hungary was first among the nations of Central and Eastern Europe to institute a memorial day for the Victims of Communism, and soon many nations followed.

The Hungarian Parliament has set out to remove the last vestiges of communism and open a bold new chapter defined by its own history and its own national sovereignty—which was dictated by outsiders for far too long.

Hungary's new Constitution declared that the crimes committed against the Hungarian nation under communist dictatorship has no statute of limitations, and it rejects the authority of the country's communist constitution of 1949—which made a mockery of the rights and freedoms it claimed to enumerate for its people.

Since last December, former victims of the state-party intelligence service now have the right to go public with the names of their surveillance agents and search the formerly closed archives. In a society plagued by the secrets of the Communists' crimes, truth is the only antiseptic, and it is the only source of reconciliation.

Inaugurated by the Orbán government more than decade ago, the House of Terror in Budapest, the former headquarters of the Communist State Police and a place synonymous with the brutalities of the dictatorship, today is one of the most visited museums in the world showcasing the everyday horrors of a dictatorial regime.

Overcoming the damages caused by 45 years of totalitarian Communism is not easy, but Hungarians are on the right path. In an era of political correctness which too often refuses to shame the shameful and to elevate selfless heroes, Hungary's leadership should be applauded.

COLORADO COMMUNITY MEDIA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Colorado Community Media for achieving 25 years of outstanding membership in the West Chamber serving Jefferson County.

Membership in a Chamber of Commerce comes with commitment, dedication and contribution to community. Chamber members are leaders in the community mentoring other businesses, creating positive environments for business to thrive. The West Chamber serving Jefferson County is a strong and vibrant organization today due to members like Colorado Community Media.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Colorado Community Media for 25 years of leadership and inspiration you provide in our community. I look forward to many more years of your service.

HONORING MARK ALLAN SEGAL

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Allan Segal, one of the founding fathers of the gay rights movement and possibly the person most responsible for bringing national attention to that group's quest for acceptance and respectability.

By the age of eighteen Mark was an activist and founded Gay Youth, the nation's first organization to deal with the issues of gay teens and endangered LGBT youth. Then, realizing the gay community needed to be brought out into the open, Mark created the Gay Raiders and took his fight national by breaking into television newscasts and nationally broadcast live programs, always espousing gay rights. These break-ins were known as "zaps" and succeeded in making people aware of a part of our society that did not have equal rights under the law. The last known "zap" was one that took place on the CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite, and strange as it seems, Mark Segal and Walter Cronkite became and remained friends until Mr. Cronkite's passing in July of 2009.

Mark founded the Pride of Philadelphia Election in 1989 to build a coalition of gay activists and allies. He raised over \$30,000 during the primary, waging a television ad campaign to defeat then City Councilman Francis Rafferty in order to elect allies to Philadelphia City Council, including then candidate for Mayor, Ed Rendell. Mark was also instrumental in obtaining funding from the late Congressman Thomas Foglietta in order to purchase a permanent home for the William Way LGBT Community Center, located in the heart of Philadelphia's "Gayborhood".

Mark is the founder of the Philadelphia Gay News and has become a respected journalist with his newspaper winning numerous awards. He is a tireless champion for his community making it his duty to make people understand