

Dr. Bhangoo is a specialist in plastic and reconstructive surgery and has a practice in Buffalo, New York. He has earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Cambridge and his medical degree from the University of East Africa, where he won the Mulgibhai Madhavani recognition which is awarded to the best student of the year. He completed his surgical training in England before coming to the Mercy Hospital of Buffalo to complete his residency in plastic surgery.

He has continued his distinguished academic record in Buffalo, where he has been published on subjects including wound healing and scar tissue and is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery at the University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

The history of Western New York is the story of immigrants who have brought their experience, training and drive to enrich our community, and Dr. Bhangoo's story is no different. Yet he has remained engaged with his native India. He travels often to conduct workshops and training for surgeons in India and has been recognized for his good work with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Association of Aesthetic Surgeons of India.

Through his hard work and generous spirit Dr. Bhangoo has changed the lives of patients and enriched the careers of surgeons on four continents. We are proud to have him in our community and look forward to many years of his continued service in Western New York.

RECOGNIZING THE 99TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 99th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, also known as the Meds Yeghern or "Great Crime," to those of Armenian descent.

In the wake of World War I, the Ottoman Empire launched a campaign of terror against Ottoman Armenians. From 1915 to 1923, forced deportations displaced 2 million Armenians. Unarmed men were separated from their families and were either forced into concentration camps or taken away to be executed. Innocent women and children were systematically stripped of their possessions and driven into what is now the Syrian Desert. During these "Death Marches" they were subjected to starvation, sickness, and abuse amid brutal conditions. In the end, nearly 1.5 million Armenians had lost their lives in what became the first genocide of the 20th century.

Although these atrocities occurred almost a century ago, it is imperative to remember the suffering that was endured as a result of unrestrained human malice. To acknowledge this truth is necessary, not just out of respect for our fellow citizens of Armenian descent, but also in hope that we can prevent such heinous crimes from occurring in the future. Very few survivors of the genocide are alive today, which makes preserving the memory and history of this crime even more important.

Today, I call on my colleagues to join me in somber remembrance of the 1.5 million Arme-

nians who perished during this dark period of history, and to honor the strength and resolve of the Armenian community still working to deal with this tragedy.

HONORING DR. ANNETTA CHEEK ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CENTER FOR PLAIN LANGUAGE

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Annetta Cheek on her retirement as Chair of the Center for Plain Language. Annetta has been a tireless advocate for plain language. She spent 25 years as a Federal employee witnessing firsthand the government's failure to communicate effectively.

While serving as a government employee, Dr. Cheek was the chair of PLAIN, a federal interagency plain language advocacy group. In her role as chair, Annetta administered the group's website, and taught courses on plain language to different government agencies. Annetta also spent four years as the chief plain language expert on Vice President Gore's National Partnership for Reinventing Government.

In 2003, Annetta founded the Center for Plain Language, a non-profit organization dedicated to plain language advocacy. Annetta has served as Chair of the organization since 2003. In her role as Chair, Dr. Cheek has urged both the Federal Government and the private sector to communicate in a clear and understandable way.

Dr. Cheek's biggest success was her work to pass the Plain Writing Act into law. I was honored to work with Annetta in writing this important legislation which requires government agencies to communicate in plain language. Thanks to her great work in getting the Plain Writing Act passed millions of Americans are now receiving easy-to-understand communication from the Federal Government.

I'm very proud of Annetta, and honored to call her a friend. I congratulate her on retirement, and wish her and Charles all the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO GAIL MAYFIELD HAMM

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Gail Mayfield Hamm.

Gail was a pillar of strength within San Pedro, California. She loved children, and for over three decades, she was a respected elementary school teacher at Barton Hill Elementary. She was also a long time volunteer at the Toberman Neighborhood Center, which offers beneficial programs to community including youth mentoring, a food pantry, legal services, and gang intervention. In fact, Gail was one of the founding members of the philanthropic Toberman Auxiliary, which raises money through a gift shop to fund Toberman programs.

Despite being so active in her neighborhood though, she cherished her time with her own family comprising of three surviving children, nine grandchildren, and six great grand children.

I had the honor of working with Gail while on the Los Angeles City Council and I found her dedication and good nature to be inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, ask that all the members of the House join me in a moment of silence to commemorate the life of Gail Mayfield Hamm.

CONGRATULATING THE SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Seattle Seahawks on being named the Washingtonians of the Year by the Association of Washington Generals. Given each year to those who have demonstrated leadership, selflessness, generosity, and compassion in their service to others, this award is a well-deserved recognition of all that the Seattle Seahawks have contributed to our community.

Though their work off the field may be less visible than their stellar on-field performances, it is no doubt equally as valuable. From individual visits by players and coaches to area hospitals, to the innovative work of the Seattle Seahawks Charitable Foundation, the team has contributed to the well-being of our community at all levels of the organization.

A shining example of this is the work of the Seattle Seahawks' "A Better Seattle" program. This program, in partnership with the YMCA and the City of Seattle, has invested in the future of our youth in powerful ways. Through their support of the YMCA's "Alive & Free" street outreach program, the Seattle Seahawks have helped to transform the lives of hundreds of youth in our area by ensuring a safer and more peaceful future. Combined with the many other youth and child focused efforts of the Seattle Seahawks, the Seahawks organization has solidified itself as one of the greatest advocates for the welfare of young people in our region.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Seattle Seahawks on their recognition as Washingtonians of the Year. They are richly deserving of this award, and I look forward to their continued excellence on and off the field.

TRIBUTE TO ERIN ROLLENHAGEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Erin Rollenhagen of Entrepreneurial Technologies in Urbandale, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an

impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Erin in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Ms. Rollenhagen for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Erin on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOUSING FINANCIAL LITERACY ACT OF 2014

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, owning a home is the cornerstone of achieving the American Dream for many Americans. Homeownership is a source of pride and develops robust and stable communities. However, for many prospective first-time homeowners, the process of purchasing real estate may be confusing and daunting and may leave uninformed buyers victims of unaffordable or predatory loans.

I believe that we must support access to homeownership and the financial literacy necessary to become a successful first-time homeowner. That is why today I am introducing the Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2014 which would provide a discount on Federal Housing Administration, or FHA, upfront mortgage insurance premiums of 25 basis points to first-time homebuyers who complete a housing counseling program certified by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, or HUD. This bill would encourage first time homebuyers to take advantage of these critical counseling resources that can increase their financial literacy skills and capabilities.

Currently, HUD's Housing Counseling Assistance Program provides counseling to consumers on the entire spectrum of housing counseling needs: from finding and financing, to maintaining and owning a home. Studies have shown that homebuyers who receive pre-purchase housing counseling courses are nearly one-third less likely to fall behind on their mortgage, and that housing counseling can improve prospective borrowers' access to affordable, prudent mortgage loans. Consequently, an additional anticipated benefit is a reduction in delinquencies and defaults by better-informed first-time homebuyers that should serve to strengthen the FHA's Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund.

Mr. Speaker, for many Americans, their home is the largest financial asset they will ever own. Ensuring that first-time buyers have the knowledge and tools necessary to be successful homeowners is an objective that we can all share. My thanks goes out to the bipartisan group of original cosponsors who recog-

nized the importance of this legislation, including the Democratic and Republican Co-Chairs of the Financial Literacy Caucus.

I urge my colleagues to join in our efforts to increase financial literacy by cosponsoring the Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2014.

HONORING SGT. FELIX CONDE-FALCON

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero.

A native son of Puerto Rico, Sgt. Felix Conde-Falcon volunteered to join the Army in 1963 and was soon stationed in Texas at both Fort Bliss and Fort Hood. He settled in the Lone Star State with his wife and young family before answering the call to fight for freedom in Vietnam.

On April 4, 1969, while serving as platoon leader in the vicinity of Ap Tan Hoa, Vietnam, Sgt. Conde-Falcon showed extraordinary leadership under heavy fire as he took out multiple enemy positions. While his heroic actions saved the soldiers serving with him, he was shot and killed just as he eliminated the final bunker. He was laid to rest in Rogers, TX.

Nearly a half century later, Sgt. Conde-Falcon was awarded the Medal of Honor. Reserved for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty, it is our nation's highest military tribute.

Were Sgt. Conde-Falcon still with us, generals, admirals, and fellow warriors of all ranks would honor the hallowed custom of saluting him. This simple gesture of respect, admiration, and courtesy speaks volumes about the reverence shown to Medal of Honor recipients.

Were Sgt. Conde-Falcon still with us, he would know how grateful his nation is for his service, his heroism, and his commitment to duty. He'd know how admired he is by his fellow soldiers. Because of his valor, many of his platoon brothers were able to return home. Some would honor promises made in the jungles of Vietnam and spend decades tracking down Sgt. Conde-Falcon's family to let them know of his bravery, leadership, and the impact he had.

Were Sgt. Conde-Falcon still with us, he would have seen his family grow and prosper. His children carried on the tradition of proud service in the military. His son Richard would receive the Medal of Honor on his behalf.

Sgt. Conde-Falcon's name, like those of over 58,000, is enshrined forever in black stone at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Those extraordinary men and women, from a multitude of races, faiths, and backgrounds, fought for a country brave enough to confront its past imperfections and hopeful enough to embrace a better tomorrow. His story, like all of theirs, was one of sacrifice and devotion to freedom.

There is no more deserving recipient of the Medal of Honor than Sgt. Felix Conde-Falcon. Despite a life cut short, this brave warrior's patriotism, valor, and commitment to service reflect the very best of both America and Central Texas. May his legacy remind us of the values and freedoms we must never cease to defend.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE APRIL 18, 2014, AS NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call for designation of April 18 as a day of honor for Journeymen Linemen.

Accordingly, I have introduced a resolution to recognize April 18, 2014, as National Lineman Appreciation Day in order to honor these brave men and women for their contributions to protect public safety.

Linemen are often the first responders during a storm or other catastrophic event, which means these brave men and women are often required to make the scene safe for other public safety heroes. Linemen work with thousands of volts of electricity high atop power lines every day of the year in order to protect the nation from dangerous electrical currents.

The profession of Lineman is steeped in tradition and family, both professionally and personally. Generations ago, Linemen climbed poles using hooks and blocks, but as technology has grown through the years, inventive Linemen have pioneered advancements with innovative materials, altering the direction of line work for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the extraordinary commitment and courage demonstrated every day by the nation's Linemen.

CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 143RD ARBOR DAY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Arbor Day which in Illinois takes place on April 25th. This year will mark the 65th Arbor Day celebrated by the state and the 143rd in the United States. This event that is held each year to recognize and celebrate the critical role trees play in our communities and in our daily lives.

There are very few things as intrinsic to a nation as its land. Trees are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving strength to our people. That is why in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees. This holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska. Since then, Arbor Day has become a holiday celebrated throughout America and the world.

In addition to their magnificent beauty, trees provide vital ecological services to humanity. They reduce the erosion caused by wind and water on our precious topsoil, reduce heating and cooling costs, moderate the earth's temperature, and provide habitats for our wildlife. In addition, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper and wood for our homes. Our dependence on trees acts as a reminder that we are eternally reliant on nature and that we must do our best to pay back the debt we owe to our environment.