

CORAM FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 85TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members and leaders of the Coram Fire Department on the department's 85th anniversary.

The Coram Fire Department exemplifies bravery, selflessness, and a strong sense of community. For 85 years, its members have been willing to leave their homes and their families at any hour of the day or night, running toward danger to save their neighbors.

The department has grown with the community, expanding its services and its facilities to ensure the safety of Coram residents. It has opened its fire house to more than just fire-or department-related activities. Two civic groups meet regularly at the auxiliary fire house. And any time my office is in need of a meeting space, whether to honor our nation's veterans, to bring in banks to help homeowners with mortgage issues, or to celebrate our military academy nominees, the Coram Fire Department has welcomed us and provided the space with support for our events.

The Coram Fire Department is also proactive in its advocacy for the fire and emergency services. Whenever there is something that can be done to make the jobs of volunteer emergency service personnel easier, or the need to call our attention to something they feel makes it harder, the membership works hard to find ways to resolve the issue.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of the residents of the First Congressional District, and in particular the residents of Coram, I offer my thanks and best wishes to the Coram Fire Department. Here's to 85 more years of dedicated service to the community.

COMMENDING SUMMER BROWN ON EARNING THE GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Summer Brown on earning the Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest achievement a Cadette can earn. Summer, a student at First Colony Middle School in Sugar Land, achieved this honor through her accomplishments in leadership, advocacy, and dedication to improving her community.

Summer completed her Girl Scout Silver Award project by coordinating and leading a "Healthy Eating and Energy" workshop for elementary students. She led a team of volunteers to teach students how to lead a healthy lifestyle. This included helping students learn how to read and understand nutrition labels on food packages. Summer also conducted a fruits and vegetable taste test to help the students discover and experience healthy foods. Every parent knows that in itself is an accomplishment.

On behalf of all of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of

Texas, I'm pleased to recognize Summer's Girl Scout accomplishment and her contributions to help make her community a healthier place. We are all proud of Summer Brown.

WELCOMING PASTOR BENNY TATE

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Pastor Benny Tate, the Senior Pastor of Rock Springs Church in Milner, Georgia, for over 25 years.

When Dr. Benny Tate first arrived in Milner, Georgia, Rock Springs Church had just 60 members in its congregation. Today, that number has grown to more than 6,000.

Under the leadership of Pastor Tate, several ministries were formed at Rock Springs Church in order to meet the needs of the community, including:

The Rock Springs Medical Clinic to care for those who cannot afford medical insurance, the Potter's House, which ministers to women battling drug and alcohol abuse, Rock Springs Christian Academy, offering quality education to children K through 12, and the Impact Street Ministries, which helps the homeless by serving meals and providing clothing to those in need.

Psalm 68:5 says, "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling." Or James 1:27 says, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

Dr. Tate's work is a shining example of what scripture tells us the role of the church should be—to care for the poor, the fatherless, and widows.

Today, Pastor Tate and his wife of more than thirty years, Barbara, reside in Griffin Georgia, and are parents to their daughter, Savannah Abigail.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Pastor Benny Tate for his 25 years of outstanding leadership and service to his community at Rock Springs Church. I wish him many blessed years ahead as he continues to lead, serve, and further the gospel at his full service church.

DONNA PALERMO

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Donna E. Palermo on her retirement from the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce after 26 years of exceptional service.

Ms. Palermo began working for the Chamber as an executive secretary in 1988 and continued to move through the ranks of the organization, serving as an administrative assistant, vice president, and interim president. In May 2001, she became the first woman in the Chamber's 120-year history to serve as president, a position she held for 13 years.

Beyond her work with the Chamber, Ms. Palermo is an active member of the Hazleton

community, serving in numerous leadership roles including President of the Northeastern Chamber of Commerce Services Organization, Chair of the Luzerne County Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Chair of the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership. She is also a member of the Greater Hazleton Health Alliance (now Lehigh Valley Hospital-Hazleton), Leadership Hazleton, Lackawanna/Luzerne County Metropolitan Planning Organization, and CAN BE.

In addition to her involvement with many of the areas organizations and charities, she has undertaken several special projects, including an effort to bring back a health insurance program for the Chamber. As a result of her collaborative efforts, this health insurance program has grown beyond the Greater Hazleton Chamber to 17 additional Northeast Pennsylvania Chambers of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, having had the pleasure to work with Ms. Palermo on many projects centered on community service and economic development, I can attest to her integrity and strong sense of community pride. Therefore, I commend Donna E. Palermo for her years of committed service to her community and the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, and I wish her continued success in the future.

CONGRATULATING MR. NATHAN GIBBS-BOWLING ON HIS MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Mr. Nathan Gibbs-Bowling, a teacher from my district who has achieved recognition for being one of the nation's top educators. Mr. Gibbs-Bowling of Lincoln High School in Tacoma recently received the highly prestigious Milken Educator Award, which is given by the Milken Family Foundation to recognize excellence in teaching. Mr. Gibbs-Bowling, winner of the \$25,000 prize, was the only recipient this year from Washington State and one of only 35 educators honored nationwide.

Mr. Gibbs-Bowling teaches Advanced Placement Government and Advanced Placement Human Geography, as well as a senior seminar on applying for college and obtaining scholarships. He is an engaging teacher who sets high standards for his students while inspiring them with a creative classroom experience. He is known to have his classrooms debate Supreme Court cases and hold mock Congresses. As his students and colleagues will tell you, Mr. Gibbs-Bowling aims to instill intellectual curiosity and a mindset of life-long learning in all of his students.

Mr. Gibbs-Bowling grew up in Tacoma. After graduating from Foss High School in 1997, he earned an associate's degree from Pierce College, as well as a bachelor's and master's degree from Evergreen State College. Now, as a dedicated teacher, he is giving back to his community.

In addition to helping co-develop the curriculum on Tacoma history and the Washington State history curriculum he wrote from primary source materials, Mr. Gibbs-Bowling is the first teacher at his school to teach Advancement Via Individual Determination

(AVID), a program to improve study skills and college-readiness. He is also a founder of Teachers United, a network of teachers working with local unions to advance education policy.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate Mr. Gibbs-Bowling for winning the esteemed Milken Educator Award, and I would like to express how grateful I am to have him as a teacher in Washington State. It is an honor to recognize him for the passion and excellence he brings to the classroom.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. AGSHIN MEHDIYEV, AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Agshin Mehdiyev, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations since November 30, 2006, who also served with distinction on the United Nations Security Council from 2012 to 2013. While at the United Nations, he also was Azerbaijan's non-resident Ambassador to Cuba (since February 2007), Nicaragua (since June 2008), Jamaica (since September 2008), and Venezuela (since October 2008).

Ambassador Mehdiyev will shortly conclude his term at the United Nations and return to Azerbaijan. His dedication to his diplomatic craft and his contributions to the United Nations and to U.S.-Azerbaijan relations richly deserve to be recognized. In particular, he brought leadership and wisdom to his position in the United Nations and to the United Nations Security Council during a period of considerable turmoil and significant challenges.

Furthermore, Ambassador Mehdiyev has a long and distinguished record of serving his country. He first worked overseas at the USSR Embassies in Egypt (from 1971 to 1975) and in Yemen (from 1977 to 1982), and also in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan SSR in several capacities, including as chief of the Ministry's Information and Media Office (from 1975 to 1977). He returned to Yemen from 1987 until 1991, and from 1991 to 1992 was Azerbaijan's official Representative to the Republic of Yemen. Between 1993 and 2001, he was the Director of Europe, USA and Canada Department of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. And prior to his current position at the United Nations, he was Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Council of Europe from 2001 to 2006.

Ambassador Mehdiyev graduated from Azerbaijan State University in 1971 (from the faculty on oriental studies). Between 1969 and 1970, he studied at the Cairo University, and from 1985 to 1987, he studied at the Diplomatic Academy of the Foreign Ministry of the former USSR. Ambassador Mehdiyev holds a PhD degree in the history of international relations (1987) and is Honorary Professor of the Baku Eurasian University Academic Council since 2007. He also is the author of the book,

"Azerbaijan in the Council of Europe," published in 2011, as well as of many articles and other publications focusing on international affairs and political studies.

For his distinguished career and contributions to Azerbaijan, Ambassador Mehdiyev was awarded a medal on the occasion of the "90th anniversary of Azerbaijan's diplomatic service," at which time he also received the Foreign Ministry's "Honor Award" and an order for "Service to the Fatherland." Ambassador Mehdiyev was born in 1949. He and his wife Sevda have three children.

Mr. Speaker, on March 23, 2014, I attended a farewell reception and dinner in New York in honor of Ambassador Mehdiyev and Sevda. The event was hosted by my friends Ranju Batra, Chair of the Diwali Stamp Project and former president of the Association of Indians in America NY, and Ravi Batra, an accomplished attorney who is the Chairman and CEO of Greenstar Global Energy Corporation and Chair of the National Advisory Council on South Asian Affairs. Their son Neal Batra also was there. The gathering also was attended by numerous UN Ambassadors with spouses, including by U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative Rosemary DiCarlo and the Permanent Representatives from Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Honduras, South Korea, Finland, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, and inter alia, Somalia. Also attending were senior members of the UN Secretariat, including Won-soo Kim and Ion Botnaru, and members of the judiciary, local elected officials, Rabbi Yitzchok Waldman, who is the Director of the Laniado Hospital in Israel, Martin and Grace Riskin, and my dear friend and colleague Representative CAROLYN B. MALONEY, in whose district the event was held. Numerous other officials and prominent individuals sent their greetings and good wishes.

I mention this not only to thank the Batras for their incredible warmth and hospitality, but also to demonstrate the great respect and affection with which Ambassador Mehdiyev is held by his colleagues and acquaintances. Diplomacy at its most basic level is about building connections between people, and the attendance of so many prominent individuals, from all walks of life, is a testament to Ambassador Mehdiyev's character and skills. He is a true professional in every sense of the word and I am pleased to pay tribute to him today.

HONORING THE MISSOURI ARBORETUM AT NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Missouri Arboretum at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri, on their 20th anniversary of being recognized as the official Missouri Arboretum by the Missouri State Legislature.

Northwest Missouri State University's tradition of tree management extends back towards the earliest days of the school. Groundskeepers brought a mixture of beauty and shade to the campus by mixing tree spe-

cies, which continues to this day with over 125 different species and more than 1,300 trees on campus. This commitment to biodiversity and care for the trees earned the Arboretum the 2000 Communitree Award from the Missouri Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council and the Missouri Department of Conservation. The City of Maryville has also maintained an active Community Forestry program and earned the designation as a Tree City USA in 1998.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me, along with the great State of Missouri, in recognizing the Missouri Arboretum at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri, on their 20th anniversary.

BOB'S ATOMIC BURGERS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Bob's Atomic Burgers (BABS), for receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

The Ethics in Business award was established by the Golden Rotary to honor for profit and non-profit businesses. The recipients of this award must maintain integrity, conviction and demonstrate high ethical standards, demonstrated by treatment of customers, employees, community, and the environment.

Bob's Atomic Burgers' treatment of their employees, customers, the environment, and the greater community is exemplary. BABS believes paying employees a livable wage helps them lead healthy and stable lives, which results in no turnover and their ability to deliver a consistent product and service to their customers.

Environmental sensitivity is a core value at Bob's Atomic Burgers. Recycling, composting, and creating as little waste as possible is a constant effort. You can even see the upcycling in the décor of the shop where local relics are on display from the Colorado School of Mines Science department. Bob's Atomic Burgers is very active in the community, fundraising for several schools, the Golden and West Metro Fire Departments, the Golden VFW, the Golden rescue fund, and the Golden backpacks program. Additionally, Bob's participates in numerous community events.

Bob's Atomic Burgers is a model for outstanding ethics in business. It is an example for all businesses in America to emulate. Congratulations on receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award, and thank you to all the individuals who make Bob's Atomic Burgers the success it is today.

HONORING MR. RICHARD G. HADLEY ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rich Hadley, who is retiring after over twenty years of service in Washington State. As the President and Chief