

Rather than slander the names of two faithful men of God, China should take national pride that two of its own, neither of whom were political in either their message or their leadership of the flock, have had extraordinary impact far beyond the Chinese-speaking world.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the Chinese government today to release all those being held simply because of their faith in Christ and to abandon this national campaign to discredit and distort the record of two brave followers of the One who came with the message of salvation, forgiveness and peace, and instead, to celebrate with us the contributions of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee to believers the world over.

RECOGNIZING MASTER SERGEANT LANCE NELSON

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I rise to congratulate MSgt. Lance Nelson on being named the Howard O. Scott Citizen-Soldier of the Year. This award, given annually by the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber Military Affairs Committee and the Kiwanis Club of Tacoma, recognizes an individual who upholds his or her commitment to civic responsibility in an exemplary way. MSgt. Nelson has served his community and country in great measure and is truly deserving of this award.

During his time in the 728th Airlift Squadron, 446th Airlift Wing, MSgt. Nelson has personified what it means to be an airman. He not only serves as a flight leader in his squadron but also as the squadron's Self Aid and Buddy Care Instructor, a position that puts him in charge of conducting classes on battlefield first aid. Furthermore, MSgt. Nelson's commitment to service continues when he is off duty, where he is employed as a firefighter and EMT with West Pierce Fire and Rescue.

MSgt. Nelson has also shown enthusiasm for the potential of young people in our community. From starring in Fire Prevention Week assemblies and volunteering in classrooms, to leading Boy Scouts and coaching sports, MSgt. Nelson has consistently invested in the lives of children. As President of the Evergreen Elementary PTA and member of the Bethel School District Long Range Facilities Planning Team, he has been a dedicated advocate and resource for the Bethel School District.

Howard O. Scott, for whom this award is named, served America when called upon during World War II, and continued to serve the Tacoma community throughout the rest of his life, leaving behind an impressive legacy. MSgt. Nelson carries on the legacy of Howard O. Scott, setting an incredible example of what it means to give back to your country and community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I congratulate MSgt. Lance Nelson. I wish him well in his future endeavors, and thank him for his service.

RECOGNIZING PHILIP P. SMITH ON RECEIVING THE SUN SENTINEL'S 2013 EXCALIBUR AWARD FOR BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR IN BROWARD COUNTY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Philip P. Smith, the president and chief executive officer of Phil Smith Management, Inc., on receiving the Sun Sentinel's 2013 Excalibur Award for Business Leader of the Year in Broward County. Each year, the Sun Sentinel recognizes outstanding business executives who exemplify both business leadership and community involvement, and I can think of no one more deserving of this honor than Phil.

Well known as the founder of Phil Smith Chevrolet, a successful General Motors (GM) dealership in my Congressional district that serves the greater South Florida area from Palm Beach to Broward and Miami-Dade Counties, Phil bought into his first auto dealership 35 years ago. While finishing college at Florida Atlantic University (FAU), he started working at a Ford dealership in Pompano Beach. Owner Pete Menten saw Phil's potential, and not only kept him on the job after his graduation but later gave him the chance to buy into a small Toyota store in Homestead. With help and support from Menten, Southeast Toyota Distributors Chief Jim Moran, and others, Phil grew his business and now leads an auto-dominated group with 780 employees and about \$500 million in annual revenue.

With a direct hands-on sales and management approach, Phil has built his company from the ground up and now operates 17 auto dealerships throughout Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina, as well as the Coral Ridge Country Club in Fort Lauderdale. Just as in the very beginning, he remains true to the principles that have put him at the forefront of his business model: paying it forward and strong relationships with customers. Phil offers promising employees the same chance that he was given, to become a part owner in each of his auto franchises and pursue the American Dream through hard work and dedication.

Even with his great success, he remains grounded to the things that matter most. Phil is civically engaged and active in his community. In addition to his charitable giving, he serves on the boards for his alma mater FAU, the Orange Bowl Committee, and various nonprofits that focus on issues such as health and education. Phil also welcomes several high school teams to practice on the golf course at Coral Ridge Country Club without charge.

Mr. Speaker, Phil Smith is not only an exceptional entrepreneur, but a community leader and dear friend. It is truly a pleasure to recognize him on receiving the Excalibur Award for Business Leader of the Year.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the theme of this year's National Day of Prayer,

"One voice united in prayer." Echoing that sentiment of unity, those of us who grew up reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at school every morning recall its stirring words with absolute clarity to this very day: "One Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Yet today in some schools, the Pledge has taken a back seat to busy class schedules and that crucial phrase, "under God," seems under constant fire by an unrestrained judiciary. National Prayer Day serves to remind us we need to regain our footing in this country again if we are to stand tall in His eyes among the brotherhood of nations.

My efforts in the Congress have long been to preserve our Constitutional guarantees of freely exercising our religion, and not vanquishing that right from the public square. Since the earliest days of our founding, and in the hearts and minds of those landing on our shores to settle a new world, hope endured through prayer.

I have again introduced a Constitutional Amendment to ensure voluntary prayer in public schools. H.J. Res. 42 reads: "Nothing in this Constitution, including any amendment to the Constitution, shall be construed to prohibit voluntary prayer or require prayer in school, or to prohibit voluntary prayer or require prayer at a public school extracurricular activity." In the past, I had jointly introduced this amendment with our late senator, Robert C. Byrd. And, I have co-sponsored H. Res. 547, supporting the 63rd annual observance of the National Day of Prayer on May 1, 2014, and urge all West Virginians to come together to pray and reaffirm the importance prayer has played in our nation's heritage.

As wise old Ben Franklin told his fellow delegates in calling for daily prayer at our Constitutional Convention, "the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?"

Being a firm believer in the power of prayer, I remain convinced that collectively, through the power of prayer, we can begin to heal our land. Because when we weigh what little our Lord asks of us—the faith of a mustard seed, the mere touch of a garment's hem—the return is nothing short of amazing grace.

The leadership of our pastors helps guide us to greater understanding and appreciation of that sound investment. I thank them for their compassion and for their continuing commitment to the power of prayer, and the strength and guidance it grants us to make the Lord's work here on Earth our own.

RECOGNIZING MRS. JENNIFER AINSWORTH

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of our nation's finest teachers, Mrs. Jennifer Ainsworth of Horry County, South Carolina.

Mrs. Ainsworth was recently named South Carolina's 2014-2015 Teacher of the Year for her exemplary work at Socastee High School,

where she teaches and mentors mild to moderate special needs students. Drawing from the inspiration of her late-mother, grandmother, and late-class assistant, Mrs. Ainsworth prepares her students for their future by teaching them life and work skills so they can be productive citizens.

Mrs. Ainsworth attributes her success to unconditional love, hard work, and her dedication to making a difference in her students' lives.

Too often, people focus on the broken portions of our education system. We must recognize and celebrate our educators that go above-and-beyond their job duties, like Mrs. Ainsworth.

Our nation's teachers, especially our special education teachers, dedicate their lives to enriching the lives of our children. Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mrs. Ainsworth, and all of our country's educators, for their selfless commitment to our country's future.

THE ARC THRIFT

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 the Arc Thrift Stores 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 not for 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.

The Arc Thrift is a 45 year old non-profit, with 21 stores across Colorado employing over 1,200 people. They are one of the largest integrated employers of people with disabilities in Colorado. The Arc Thrift Chapters provide the disabled community with help finding jobs, housing, medical assistance and services in schools. Also proving they are good stewards of the environment, last year the Arc Thrift organization diverted 20 million pounds of merchandise from Colorado landfills.

I congratulate the Arc Thrift stores for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by the Golden Rotary. I thank all the employees of the Arc Thrift for their continued commitment to the people they serve.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF GENERAL JOHN SHALIKASHVILI OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary life and achievements of General John Shalikashvili of Peoria, Illinois, who served as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1993 to 1997, and is being honored in a park dedication on May 17th.

General Shalikashvili was born in 1936 in Warsaw to Georgian exiles. His family sur-

vived the German occupation of Poland and the destruction of Warsaw during WWII and in 1952, when he was 16, he moved with his family to Peoria. When he arrived, speaking little English, he would leave Peoria High School at the end of the day and visit the local movie theater to help himself learn the language. In 1958, after Shalikashvili graduated from Bradley University in Peoria with a degree in mechanical engineering, he received his draft notice. He entered the Army as a private before attending Officer Candidate School (OCS) and embarking on a distinguished career that would span almost 40 years.

Under President George H.W. Bush, Shalikashvili served as NATO's Supreme Allied Commander. After the first Gulf War, he served as Commander of Operation Provide Comfort, the peacekeeping and humanitarian action in northern Iraq. In 1993, General Shalikashvili was appointed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by President Clinton, where he served until his retirement in 1997. He was the first foreign-born man to hold the position, as well as the first draftee to ever rise to become Chairman.

General Shalikashvili passed away in July, 2011, and was honored by the Presidents he served under and his fellow military leaders. President Clinton remembered that "he never minced words, he never postured or pulled punches, he never shied away from tough issues or tough calls, and most important, he never shied away from doing what he believed was the right thing."

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to commend Peoria for recognizing Shalikashvili's patriotism and dedicated service, and I hope those who visit General Shalikashvili Park continue to be inspired by his incredible story.

HONORING THE WORK OF CLAIRE THOMAS

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Claire Thomas. Claire Thomas established The Root Connection in 1987 as the first Community Supported Agriculture farm in Washington State.

She started with a quarter acre of rented land in the Sammamish Valley between Woodinville and Redmond, just 18 miles from downtown Seattle. She improved soil, purchased land, and increased acreage until she now farms 20 acres.

Claire's farm is organic, and applies the same intensive growing techniques used by many home gardeners. The result is enough for about 600 families, a production rate six times that of farms using normal commercial agricultural practices.

The Root Connection provides its members a close connection to the land that grows their produce. Families pick up their produce at the farm, and can go out into the fields to harvest herbs and flowers.

In 2012, King County Executive Dow Constantine and Councilmember Kathy Lambert awarded Claire the King County Rural Small Business of the Year Award.

In addition to The Root Connection, Claire manages 47 acres of farmland and water

rights, advocates for farmland preservation, and helps run a non-profit that obtains fresh produce weekly from four local farms and distributes it through local food banks.

I want to honor Claire's commitment and drive to overcoming food insecurity by creating a means to get healthful food directly from farms to the homes that need it most.

HONORING ISABEL MARIE ZUREK

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, we honor Isabel Marie Zurek, one of the many women who rose up to help the wartime effort during WWII. Ms. Zurek is proudly recognized as a "Rosie the Riveter" who worked in one of the many factories in Detroit during the war. Now celebrating her 90th birthday, we honor the life and accomplishments of Isabel Marie Zurek.

HONORING MR. ED VAN BUREN

HON. TED S. YOHO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Ed Van Buren, an American hero and Army veteran from back in my home district in Florida who recently passed away. Mr. Van Buren was a patriot and family man who constantly strove to help his fellow veterans. I have had the privilege and distinct honor of speaking with his wife and son, Vickie and Ben, and learned just how great of an American he was. I would like to share his story.

Ed was proud not only to have served his country, but he was honored to have been both the son and father of a veteran. After Mr. Van Buren left the military, he continued to serve his nation in the General Services Administration as a computer specialist. These principles of service and education are ones that we must pass on to the next generation of Americans.

After retirement, Mr. Van Buren never faltered from his sacred mission of assisting veterans any way he could. He commanded American Legion Post 16 and was a member of the American Legion honor society. As the Chairman of the Veteran's Advisory Board, Alachua County is indebted to the service of Mr. Van Buren. In all of his roles, he championed assisting and advocating for his fellow veterans and their families.

About a year ago, Mr. Van Buren was diagnosed with lung cancer, but his commitment to improving the lives of others never wavered. Though Ed lost his battle with cancer, the impact he has made in the life of each and every veteran he helped will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to recognize the life of a distinguished citizen patriot, Ed Van Buren.