

plays softball and is an office aide and peer tutor.

Toneca is active in the community as a volunteer helping the Mid-South Food Bank hand out food to the needy in Quitman County. She participates in campus beautification, the MS Drop Out Prevention Campaign walk, sings in her church choir, and serves as a mentor for the youth of her church.

Toneca has scored a very high on her ACT and she plans to attend MS Valley State University and major in math. Her college admission is complete and she has been applying for scholarships to aid in her furthering her education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Toneca Pickens as a student who is goal oriented and making a difference in her community.

HONORING MARGIE WRIGHT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Margie Wright as California State University, Fresno (Fresno State) changes the name of Bulldog Diamond to Margie Wright Diamond. For nearly three decades, Margie dedicated her life as the head coach to the softball program at Fresno State. Her passion for the sport is truly exemplary, and she is more than deserving of this special recognition.

Margie was raised in Warrensburg, Illinois, and her extraordinary athleticism was evident at a young age. In 1974, she graduated from Illinois State University where she played on both the softball and basketball teams for four years as well as the field hockey team for three years. Upon graduation, Margie played three years in the Women's Professional Softball League.

Margie's career as a softball coach quickly took off. She began coaching at Metamora Illinois high school, and then continued on to become the assistant softball coach and the head volleyball coach at Eastern Illinois University. Prior to her arrival at Fresno State, Margie coached six years at Illinois State University.

The expertise and knowledge that Margie brings to the game of softball goes unmatched. Margie changed the dynamic of the game during her career at Fresno State. Her leadership and dedication to ensuring the success of her teams has led to increased attendance and revenue for the university. Margie has the most wins of any softball coach on the Division I level, and she has the second most wins among National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I coaches, regardless of sport.

In 1998, the Fresno State Bulldogs won the NCAA Women's College World Series under Margie's leadership, which was the first national team title won by the university. Margie also directed the program to three NCAA runner-up finishes while leading the program to 10 NCAA Women's College World Series appearances and 26 straight NCAA postseason appearances. Earning National Coach of the Year honors, she also led the program to 27 straight years ranked in the national polls and

captured 17 outright or shared conference titles. Margie has coached 16 Academic All-Americans, 53 NCAA All-Americans, 4 NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Award winners, two NCAA Top VIII Awardees, 15 Olympians, 8 professionals, and two No. 1 professional draft picks while averaging 48 wins a season. In addition, in 1996, Margie served as the assistant coach to the United States Olympic Softball National Team which won the gold medal in the inaugural year of the Olympic sport. Margie is undoubtedly a legend as she has been inducted into 14 halls of fame.

Most important are the lives Margie has positively affected through her dedication and work. Margie is a pioneer who fought for the rights of women. It is because of Margie's advocacy for equality that college campuses have grand stadiums, better salaries, and workable budgets for women's sports. The renaming of Bulldog Diamond to Margie Wright Diamond is a deserved tribute to her exceptional service at Fresno State.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize Margie Wright. Margie impacted the lives of many through her love of softball and has worked tirelessly for the advancement of women's athletics in California and the entire nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF RESTON, VIRGINIA AND THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF RESTON'S FOUNDER, ROBERT E. SIMON, JR.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of America's first planned community, Reston, Virginia, and the 100th Birthday of Reston's Founder, Robert E. Simon, Jr.

In 1961, Mr. Simon, a New York-based developer, sold his family's interest in Carnegie Hall to finance the purchase of 6,750 acres of farmland 20 miles west of Washington, D.C., and five miles east of Dulles International Airport, which was under construction at the time. Mr. Simon envisioned building a "New Town" based on the following seven principles:

1. That the New Town should provide a wide range of cultural and recreational facilities as well as an environment for privacy.
2. That by providing the fullest range of housing styles and prices, housing needs can be met at a variety of income levels and at different stages of family life.
3. That the importance and dignity of each individual be the focal point for all planning, and take precedence for large-scale concepts.
4. That the people be able to live and work in the same community.
5. That commercial, cultural and recreational facilities be made available to the residents from the outset of the development—not years later.
6. That beauty—structural and natural—is a necessity of the good life and should be fostered.
7. That Reston be a financial success.

Mr. Simon and his team produced a plan considered quite radical at the time because it

consolidated residences, industry, commerce, schools, places of worship, cultural institutions, natural resources, social, and recreational facilities in an integrated and independent community. Many of its features were inspired by great European cities and the Garden City movement of early 20th century America and serve as models for mixed-use development today. Indeed, the key innovation and lasting success of Reston lies in the way its buildings, infrastructure, and the natural environment have been arranged in ways that encourage a sense of community.

Reston also became a pioneer for civil rights. Although racial deed restrictions were very common in Virginia in 1964, to Bob they were "inconceivable." Many lenders refused to finance the first integrated community in the south, but he persevered despite tremendous personal financial risk. As a result, numerous African Americans and others seeking diverse neighborhoods chose to live in Reston in its early years.

Today, Reston is home to nearly 60,000 people in approximately 27,000 households as well as 3,000 businesses, several non-profits, and numerous federal, state, and local government agencies employing approximately 60,000 people. People visit from around the world to tour Reston's public art, world-class architecture, festivals, and innovations in environmental stewardship.

The socioeconomic diversity, vibrant aesthetics, economic success, and natural beauty we see in Reston today are direct results of the wisdom and courage Bob Simon brought to Northern Virginia 50 years ago. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone for Reston and in wishing Robert E. Simon, Jr. a very happy 100th birthday.

HONORING THE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act, which established the Cooperative Extension Service. The Cooperative Extension Service is a state-by-state network of educators who research and provide educational outreach to farmers and local communities. Today, it continues to address a wide range of agricultural issues in both urban and rural areas.

North Carolina's agricultural industry is very diverse and poses a unique set of challenges to our farmers. The Cooperative Extension Service's educational programs have been essential to addressing these challenges by providing the necessary research to assist farmers across the state. Their research has increased the productivity of farmers, and has allowed rural and family-owned farms to keep up with changing technologies across the industry.

The Cooperative Extension Service has also been active in land-grant colleges and universities throughout the nation. Its work promoting agricultural knowledge in young adults will help the entire industry continue to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, as the centennial date is celebrated on May 8, 2014, we should all be

thankful for the resources that the Cooperative Extension Service has provided our farmers and our communities. I am proud to congratulate the Cooperative Extension Service, and wish them many more years of success.

CONGRATULATING JUDY SHERMAN

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Judy Sherman, a diligent and steadfast defender of oral health, on the occasion of her retirement from the American Dental Association, ADA, after more than 29 years.

Judy's singlehanded contributions to improving oral health in this country are far-reaching. Those who don't know her would be astounded after hearing her accomplishments, but those of us who do know her, and have seen her effectiveness first hand, understand how she has made such an impact.

She has made a career of fighting for dental priorities, like boosting dental residencies, and was instrumental in the "Collins-Feingold" law which funded special state dental projects and dental residencies. She played a central role in efforts to boost dental divisions and research across the spectrum, including at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and the Indian Health Service. She has been involved in nearly every issue impacting the oral health of our children at the federal level for the last several decades.

After graduating from the University of Michigan, Judy taught junior high school in Michigan for 12 years before coming to Washington, DC to work as a Legislative Aide to Senator Carl D. Pursell. She made her way to the ADA in 1985, and eventually rose to become ADA's Director of Congressional Affairs in 2007. She was also President of the Coalition for Health Funding, which works to strengthen public health investments.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here today and recognize the achievements and career of my good friend, Judy Sherman. I will miss her constant presence, and her unwavering and loyal support. The entire oral health community will miss her dedication and commitment. We all have a lot of work to do to fill her shoes. Though she is now going to be spending more time with her husband Brad, and her two Golden Retrievers, I hope and expect that we will still see her from time to time, walking the halls of Congress, and continuing to advocate for dentists and oral health.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF TOM RICHARDS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Richards for his years of service as Board Chair of the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board, FRWIB. Tom's

commitment and dedication to ensuring the success of FRWIB must be commended.

Over the past four years, Tom has worked tirelessly to carry out FRWIB's mission to be a catalyst for mobilizing and integrating public and private partners to effectively educate and train individuals with the necessary skills to fulfill employer needs. As Board Chair, Tom strives to increase the number of job opportunities available to unemployed and underemployed residents in the region. He plays an integral role in advancing vocational education opportunities directly related to job placement. Businesses and individuals throughout the community have benefited immensely from Tom's business insight and civic interests.

Tom's leadership expands beyond FRWIB. He is a leader for our entire community, and he strives every day to ensure the success of our city, state, and nation. He is the past chair of the Planning Council that developed the 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in the City of Fresno. Tom was also instrumental in the planning and funding of Terry's House, a hospitality home for families who have loved ones who are in the hospital. Tom has overseen dozens of successful projects, and he has proven to be an effective leader. He is an individual of outstanding character, and I am proud to have him as a friend for more than 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tom Richards for his service as Board Chair of the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board. Tom's vision, passion, and persistence have led to improvements in the region's economy. As Tom steps down as Board Chair, we can still expect him to be an advocate for businesses and residents throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

HONORING KHADIJAH GRIFFIN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a goal oriented student at Madison S. Palmer High School.

Khadijah Griffin is the daughter of Derrick and Cynthia Griffin of Lambert, MS. She was chosen Miss Madison S. Palmer High 2013–14 Queen and Student Council President by her peers. She is active in school in that she plays softball and was the Drum Major for the band. She communicates well with everyone. She plans to attend MS State University and has completed the paperwork for admission, been accepted, has taken the ACT and received a scholarship to aid her financially. She plans to major in Mass Communication and is a member of the High School Journalism Class and Newspaper Staff.

In the community, Khadijah has participated in campus and community cleanup-beautification campaigns, breast cancer awareness walks, worked as a volunteer helping the Mid-South Food Bank hand out food to the needy in Quitman County, has participated in the MS Drop Out Prevention Campaign Walk, and is Vice-President of her church youth department as well as a choir member.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Khadijah Griffin as a student who is goal oriented and making a difference in her community.

RECOGNIZING THE U.S. CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 2013 MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST SENIOR DIVISION WINNER RICHARD ALEC MERSKI

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Richard Alec Merski, a resident of Virginia's 11th District and the senior division winner of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society's 2013 Making Democracy Work student essay contest.

The Historical Society is a congressionally chartered educational organization founded in 1962. Its mission is to inform the public about the rich heritage of the Capitol and the Congress. This nationwide contest is open to all students in two categories: a junior division contest for students in grades 6–8 and a senior division contest for students in grades 9–12.

The 2013 contest asked students to consider the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and the corresponding duties that citizens owe to implement and protect those rights. Essays addressed questions such as how these rights and responsibilities affect students, their families, and the importance of being aware of one's own rights and responsibilities. Students were required to cite sources such as the U.S. Constitution, books, and articles from magazines and newspapers. Entries were judged on the depth of their content, the mastery of the topic, and the skill with which they are written.

Mr. Merski is a senior at James Madison High School in Vienna, Virginia, where he will graduate in June. An Honor Roll student, Alec previously attended the Nysmith School in Herndon and Landon School in Bethesda. An avid language student, Alec was one of two students at Landon taking two languages in addition to his courses. Alec spent two summers living with host families in Spain and China in an intensive language program to hone his language skills. He was also the recipient of the Excellence in Foreign Language Award. He served as the President of the China Roundtable of Washington, an annual forum held at the Chinese Embassy allowing experts on China to address current economic, cultural, and educational changes in China.

Alec was an active member and officer of Model UN and served as the President of the Environmental Club. Last summer, Alec interned with the United States-Asia Foundation and the International Trade Commission. He plans to major in International Relations and Economics when he enters college this fall.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Alec Merski on this outstanding achievement and in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors. I am confident that this accomplished young man will be successful in whatever path he chooses to follow.