

Angelique Alexos on technology; Foster Graf on courage; Chapin Grumhaus on community cooperation; Heather Knobel on dyslexia; Luke Maggos on stereotypes; Olivia Maggos on Russian adoption; Tyler Medvec on unsung heroes; Calvin Osborne on NASA; Charlie Shattock on optimism; Lily Silvester on baking; Scotty Skinner on Falling Whistles; Kimberly Stafford on underdogs; and Chloe Whelan on what is normal.

Since the Annual Robbie Bermingham Speaking Contest is, in fact, a competition, special recognition must go to Chloe Whelan, who took First Place, to Tyler Medvec for a Second Place finish and to Heather Knobel and Chapin Grumhaus for jointly taking Third Place.

These students, their enthusiasm, their eloquence and their vision truly inspired me and gave me hope for our future.

I am grateful for the lasting impression that young Robbie Bermingham has left on Lake Forest Country Day School, its faculty and students, and I am glad that they carry on that legacy of public speaking excellence today. Congratulations once again to all 13 finalists, and thank you for bringing us hope and perspective.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 204 held on May 7, 2014, I intended to vote "no." I oppose H. Res. 565, "Calling on Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., to appoint a special counsel to investigate the targeting of conservative nonprofit groups by the Internal Revenue Service," and support the ongoing efforts of the Justice Department to investigate the alleged targeting of both conservative and liberal groups.

#### HONORING BATTALION SGT. MAJOR ROBERT J. BLATNIK

#### HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize Battalion Sgt. Major Robert J. Blatnik for his exceptional service to our country. He joined the US Army's 1st Battalion, 26th Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, on October 19, 1938, and would remain in this unit for the entirety of his time in the service. He saw combat during WWII in North Africa, Tunisia, Sicily, Germany, and France. On June 6, 1944 he took part in the first wave of the invasion of Normandy at Omaha Beach—Fox Red 1. Mr. Blatnik earned 4 Purple Hearts, the Silver Star, 5 Bronze Stars, and several other medals.

Mr. Blatnik remains a true patriot, and last summer, he was among six Normandy vets from Texas selected to go back to the beachhead where so many gave the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of freedom. Humbly, I echo the words of President Ronald Reagan, "We will always remember. We will always be

proud. We will always be prepared, so we will always be free." And humbly, I offer my sincere gratitude to Battalion Sgt. Major Robert J. Blatnik for his service and acts of bravery that allow us the freedoms we enjoy today.

#### REQUESTING AN EXPEDITED ACCREDITATION PROCESS FOR COMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, on August 22, 2006, Compton Community College lost its accreditation. Because it is a core educational institution for students from Compton and neighboring cities such as Carson, Lynwood, Paramount, Watts, and North Long Beach, I would like to take this time to recognize its excellence and request an expedited accreditation process.

Compton Community College has a proud history of being a primary provider of high quality post-secondary education for persons of color in the greater Los Angeles County region from 1927 until 2006. Not only is it a source of community pride and positive stimulus for students and families, but it also supports the continued development of the surrounding communities.

Since 2006, the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees, under the direction of the highly regarded Dr. Keith Curry, have partnered Compton Community with El Camino College, an accredited school of good standing in order to offer accredited courses to 6,780 students.

El Camino College's involvement have kept the higher education alive in Compton, however the people of Compton deserve a college to call their own. Compton Community College served as a source of community pride, a positive stimulus for students and families, and supported the continued development of the surrounding communities.

Therefore, I am introducing a resolution to urge an expedited accreditation process for Compton Community College. I stand with the faculty and students of Compton Community College, and look forward to Compton College once again leading the young people of Compton through their pursuit of higher education.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE DRUG POLICY COMMISSION ACT OF 2014

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission Act of 2014, a bill that will create an independent commission to evaluate U.S. policies aimed at reducing drug production and trafficking in the Western Hemisphere. A similar bill passed the House of Representatives unanimously on December 8, 2009 with a bipartisan group of 30 cosponsors.

I thank my good friend and colleague Congressman MATT SALMON, the Chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, for being the lead Republican sponsor of this legislation. I also thank Representatives SIREN, ROSELEHTINEN and O'Rourke for being original cosponsors of the bill.

With \$15.7 billion spent on counternarcotics programs in Latin America and the Caribbean between 1980 and 2012, it is important to take stock of what has worked, what has not worked and what future U.S. drug policy should look like. This independent commission will be required to submit recommendations on future U.S. drug policy to Congress, the Secretary of State and the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy 12 months after its first meeting.

The time to examine U.S. drug policy is long overdue. While billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars have been spent over the years to fight the drug trade, illegal drug use in the United States remains high. In 2012, there were an estimated 23,900,000 illicit drug users in the United States. In particular, I am concerned by the dramatic increase in heroin use in our country. Attorney General Eric Holder recently noted that heroin overdose deaths in the United States increased by an alarming 45 percent between 2006 and 2010.

On the supply side, nearly all cocaine consumed in the United States originates in South America while most of the heroin consumed here is from Colombia and Mexico. In addition, Central America and the Caribbean are key transit regions for drugs entering the United States.

To tackle our nation's horrific drug problem once and for all, we must have a better sense of what works and what does not work. Our partners in the Americas, who have worked closely with us in fighting drug trafficking for years, and the citizens of our great country, who deal every day with illegal drugs on their streets, deserve no less.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF EDWARD IWANICKI, SR.

#### HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the State of Connecticut lost one of its great sons with the passing of Edward Iwanicki, Sr., a leader who served Connecticut through a long and distinguished career in public service.

Mr. Iwanicki, one of ten children born to Polish immigrants Konstanty and Mary Pauline Boczkowska Iwanicki, was born and raised in Meriden, Connecticut. A talented athlete, he excelled at sports, even being named All-State Quarterback in 1937. He went on to share his passion for athletics with younger generations of Meriden youth, serving as a coach and umpire for city baseball and football teams.

When the United States entered World War II, Mr. Iwanicki served his country as an infantryman in the U.S. Army.

Following World War II, Mr. Iwanicki returned to Meriden and began his 35-year career at New Departure, which was then part of

General Motors. Mr. Iwanicki was a proud member of the United Auto Workers and spent much of his life fighting for the rights of workers everywhere.

Mr. Iwanicki devoted his entire life to serving his community. He was the Boy Scout Master of Troop #31, President of the Meriden Um-pires Association, President of Father's Club of Meriden Girls Club, and participated in many other cultural organizations.

Mr. Iwanicki continued his service to his country and his community when he got involved in Meriden and Connecticut politics. He served as Treasurer of the Meriden Democratic Party, Alderman in the City Council, and was then elected State Representative from the 79th Assembly District.

Edward Iwanicki, Sr.'s life embodied the spirit of civic engagement that strengthens our communities and makes our country a better place. His contributions to the City of Meriden, the State of Connecticut, and to the United States will not be forgotten.

#### RECOGNIZING MAY AS ALS AWARENESS MONTH

#### HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it's estimated that each year 5,600 Americans are diagnosed with ALS—or Lou Gehrig's Disease. A disease that occurs throughout the world with no racial, ethnic or socioeconomic boundaries.

For one young man in my district in Pennsylvania, those stats hit close to home when a close family friend received the diagnosis.

Nine-year-old Jared Laff wasn't satisfied with just sitting by, though. He set out to earn his Junior Black Belt in karate—dedicating months of hard work and training to his friend Ron. Through his perseverance, Jared was awarded his belt in March as well as raising \$2,200 for the fight against ALS.

Jared's commitment and compassion are an example to all who want to make a difference.

May is ALS Awareness Month, but thanks to people like Jared the goal of drawing attention—and funding—to the fight against ALS is a year-round effort.

#### HONORING CLAUDINA MCCAMMACK

#### HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my friend and one of my constituents, Claudina McCammack, of Muncie, Indiana.

Claudina was a longtime resident of Muncie and active community leader. She served as District Secretary for former Congressman David Dennis, as Delaware County Commissioners Secretary, part time in Voters Registration, and as a Republican Precinct Committeewoman. Claudina, whose faith was so central in her life, was also an active member of the Full Gospel Temple in Muncie.

Claudina could always be counted on as a strong advocate for the people and policies in

which she believed. She was leader in the Delaware County Republican Party and in the city of Muncie. Much of her life was spent in the service to others. Claudina received numerous awards and recognition for her work, including a key to the city of Muncie. Perhaps her greatest legacy is the impact she had on so many lives in east-central Indiana. Countless people can recount the help they received from Claudina, who always possessed a commitment to serve and had a smile on her face.

I ask the entire 6th District to keep Claudina's children, Randall, Beth, and Kaye, along with the entire extended McCammack family, in your thoughts and prayers.

#### HONORING YEOMAN 1ST CLASS ANDREA JEAN SMALL

#### HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize Yeoman 1st Class Andrea Jean Small for her exceptional service to our country. In April of 1943, at the age of 23, she joined the Navy in lieu of nursing school. Mrs. Small completed her basic training in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Upon completion, she moved to Washington, DC to begin her service.

As one of the first WAVES—Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service—Mrs. Small left her childhood home of Peoria, Illinois, was among the first women to serve our country in a military capacity during WWII. Due to the scarcity of manpower and the urgency of protecting our nation, nearly 400,000 women took on new roles in all military branches during the war.

At the age of 95, Mrs. Small can still remember many of the experiences she had prior to and during her service in Washington. She can recall hearing about the attack on Pearl Harbor just as she was leaving church on that cold December morning, and the funeral procession of Franklin Delano Roosevelt on April 14, 1945. Perhaps the fondest memory was the night she met the man who would later become her husband of 29 years, Yeoman 1st Class Joe Breithaupt, at a Navy USO party. The two were married on July 13, 1945, just three months after they had met. After completion of their service, the two made their home in the Corsicana area, where they raised three sons. Following Joe's death from cancer, Jean later remarried to Mr. Marlyn Small, and they were married for nine years until his passing.

Humbly, I echo the words of President Ronald Reagan, "We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we will always be free." And humbly, I offer my sincere gratitude to Yeoman 1st Class Andrea Jean Small for her service and acts of bravery that allow us the freedoms we enjoy today.

SOUTH CAROLINA'S SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS A "PURPLE HEART DISTRICT"

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to South Carolina's Second Congressional District as home to recipients of the Purple Heart. So many of its residents have honorably served our nation in its time of need—all gave some and some gave all. As a reflection of the Midlands of South Carolina's pivotal role in war efforts past and present, and the deep personal sacrifice of so many of its residents, I stand to proclaim that South Carolina's Second Congressional District should be recognized as a "Purple Heart District."

As you know, The Purple Heart is one of the oldest and most recognized American military medals, awarded to service members who were killed or wounded by enemy action. In 1782, George Washington created the Badge of Military Merit to reward "any singularly meritorious action" displayed by a soldier, non-commissioned officer, or officer in the Continental Army. This award was intended to encourage gallantry and fidelity among soldiers. General Douglas MacArthur (then Army Chief of Staff) revived the award on February 22, 1932, the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth. Since its inception and through several wars and conflicts, the Purple Heart has been given to more than a million wounded or killed while serving our nation.

South Carolina is home to a proud military tradition, from Fort Moultrie to recent deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Because of its unique location to include Fort Jackson and North Air Force Auxiliary Field, with adjacent Shaw Air Force Base, McEntire Joint Air Base, Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort Naval Hospital, and Fort Gordon, the Second Congressional District of South Carolina is an ever-expanding center for military life. I am honored to represent these valiant men and women.

Mr. Speaker, South Carolina has dispatched thousands of its sons and daughters to fight the enemy, many have sacrificed their health and many have sacrificed their lives. We will never forget their sacrifices and are grateful for the valiant men and women who have been harmed defending their country and our freedom.

I ask that my colleagues to join me in recognition and appreciation of South Carolina's Purple Heart recipients past and present. Now, in the spirit of that appreciation, let it be known that South Carolina's Second Congressional District should be recognized as a "Purple Heart District."

#### CELEBRATING ROYCE SCHERTZ

#### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Royce Schertz who will graduate as