

and myself in recognizing Foster Farms for 75 successful years in business.

COMMENDING THE HONORABLE
TONY A. DEBRUM OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend my good friend, the Honorable Tony A. deBrum, who has served the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) with distinction and honor as Senator, Minister in Assistance to the President (Vice-President), Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Health and Environment, and in other notable capacities.

Senator Tony deBrum was born in 1945 and grew up on Likiep atoll at the height of the U.S. nuclear testing program in the RMI. From 1946–1958, the U.S. exploded 67 nuclear bombs in the Marshall Islands and, in 1954, detonated the Bravo shot on Bikini atoll. Acknowledged as the greatest nuclear explosion ever detonated, the Bravo shot vaporized 6 islands and created a mushroom cloud 25 miles in diameter.

In his own words, the Honorable Tony deBrum, states:

I am a nuclear witness and my memories from Likiep atoll in the northern Marshalls are strong. I lived there as a young boy for the entire 12 years of the nuclear testing program, and when I was 9 years old, I remember vividly the white flash of the Bravo detonation on Bikini atoll, 6 decades ago in 1954, and one thousand times more powerful than Hiroshima—an event that truly shocked the international community into action.

It was in the morning, and my grandfather and I were out fishing. He was throwing net and I was carrying a basket behind him when Bravo went off. Unlike previous ones, Bravo went off with a very bright flash, almost a blinding flash; bear in mind we are almost 200 miles away from ground zero. No sound, just a flash and then a force, the shock wave. I like to describe it as if you are under a glass bowl and someone poured blood over it. Everything turned red: sky, the ocean, the fish, and my grandfather's net.

People in Rongelap nowadays claim they saw the sun rising from the West. I saw the sun rising from the middle of the sky, I mean I don't even know what direction it came from but it just covered it, it was really scary. We lived in thatch houses at that time, my grandfather and I had our own thatch house and every gecko and animal that lived in the thatch fell dead not more than a couple of days after. The military came in, sent boats ashore to run us through Geiger counters and other stuff; everybody in the village was required to go through that.

Shaped by what he witnessed, Tony deBrum determined to become an activist.

I think that's the point that my brain was taught that. I did not consciously say at the time, I am going to now be a crusader. Just a few weeks after that, my grandfather and I went to Kwajalein, where they had evacuated the people of Rongelap, where they were staying in big large green tents being treated for their nuclear burns and exposure. All the while, incidentally, the United States government was announcing that everything

was OK, that there was nothing to be worried about.

Unconvinced, Tony deBrum not only became one of the first Marshall Islanders to graduate from college but he worked for 17 years to negotiate his country's independence from the United States. As an eyewitness to nuclear explosions, he also became one of the world's leading advocates for nuclear disarmament calling upon the parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to stop the spread of nuclear weapons and pursue the peace and security of a world without them. In 2012, Tony deBrum was awarded the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's Distinguished Peace Leadership Award. Previous recipients include Archbishop Desmond Tutu, His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama, King Hussein of Jordan, and Jacques Cousteau.

In April 2014, the Republic of the Marshall Islands filed the Nuclear Zero Lawsuits—unprecedented lawsuits against all nine countries that possess nuclear weapons for their failure to negotiate in good faith for nuclear disarmament as required by the NPT. The landmark cases signed by RMI Foreign Minister Tony deBrum are now pending before the International Court of Justice in The Hague and the U.S. Federal District Court in San Francisco. As a Pacific Islander and as the Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I applaud the RMI and especially Tony deBrum for taking a stand against the nuclear weapon giants. "No nation should ever suffer as we have," Foreign Minister Tony deBrum has stated, and I agree.

I also agree that we should spur greater commitments in international climate change negotiations, and I commend Foreign Minister Tony deBrum for galvanizing more urgent and concrete action on climate change. As an architect of the Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership, Foreign Minister Tony deBrum has been unrelenting in vocalizing his concerns. In 2013, he addressed the United Nations Security Council on the threat posed by climate change to the long-term viability and survival of the Marshall Islands. During climate talks at the United Nations, he stated that "we are not just trying to save our islands, we are trying to save the entire world."

I declare my sincere and heartfelt commitment to a nuclear-free world and a world committed to putting climate at the top of its diplomatic agenda. In so doing, I honor Tony deBrum as a leader, activist, friend and brother by placing his name and work in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for historical purposes.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM THE CITY OF MANASSAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety agencies and their commitment to the community. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will recognize 25 individuals, one investigative team, and one Operational Task Force in a variety of categories including, the Silver or Bronze Valor Award, the Merit Valor Award, and the Investigative Merit Award.

Two members of the City of Manassas Police Department are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I submit the names of the following award recipients:

2014 Merit Valor Award: Officer Trey Cram and Police Officer First Class Brett Stumpf.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2014 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who served in the City of Manassas Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of citizens of Prince William County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

A TRIBUTE TO ANDREW JOON-HAO TAN FOR HIS WINNING ESSAY DEMOCRACY: COHESION BETWEEN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrew Joon-hao Tan, a student at La Entrada Middle School in Menlo Park, California, for his First Place Award in the 2013 Making Democracy Work Student Essay Contest held by the United States Capitol Historical Society. His extraordinary essay, entitled Democracy: Cohesion Between People and Government, follows.

"What political power could ever carry on the vast multitude of lesser undertakings which the American citizens perform every day, with the assistance of the principle of association," wrote French philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville when he visited the United States to observe American government. Tocqueville evaluates the American governance and decides that for democracy to be effective in America, citizens and organizations must actively participate in the government. After the American Revolution, representatives from each state met together to write the Constitution, an American standard for how democracy would function. Recently, however, the government has been less productive than in the past. Some have begun to question if democracy can remain an effective form of government in the current era. Democracy has the potential to be a flourishing style of government, but is predicated on the protection of individuals' rights and liberties, people's access to education and information, and actively participating citizens, all of which, they claim, are resting on shaky grounds.

First and foremost, individual liberties must be guaranteed to everyone in a democracy. This provides protection to minority groups whose rights may otherwise be construed upon. Civil liberties can be encroached upon during times of national crises. A recent example of this is the Patriot

Act, which was enacted after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Even though reining in civil liberties seemed appropriate for national security reasons in the immediate aftermath, there have been unintended consequences whereby our basic civil rights have been infringed. The debate over the role of the National Security Agency is currently being adjudicated in federal courts because many people feel that their fourth amendment rights are being violated. The expansion and retraction of our rights must continually be examined, and the government must provide enforcement of these rights to all citizens to create a bond of trust between the people and the government.

Secondly, education should be available to all citizens, policies must be transparent, information should be widely accessible, and diverse points of views should be encouraged. When citizens in a democracy are educated, democracy functions much more effectively. Across countries, education and democracy are highly correlated. In other words, those who receive poor education are less likely to be politically active. Also, less educated people are more vulnerable to propaganda and false information, leaving them susceptible to vote based on the influence of others. Citizens also deserve access to uncensored information. In regimes where information is tightly controlled, citizens are restricted from developing their own opinions and this limits their capacity to fully engage in the political process. It is the government's responsibility to provide basic education and ensure freedom of the press so that citizens are engaged and empowered to play a part in a successful democracy.

Finally, citizens must fulfill their civic duties in a democracy. These include voting and jury duty but can also be as simple as staying updated on current issues and obeying the law. Unfortunately, many of these simple duties are commonly overlooked. Even in the last presidential election in 2012, where there was a record voter turnout only about 60% of registered voters voted. Thus, the voice of around 40% of people was not heard in the ballot. Similarly, fulfilling civic responsibilities is necessary for democracy to work well. For example, jury duty has been difficult to implement. According to Sun Sentinel, in South Florida about two of every three people skip jury duty with or without being exempted. Jurors in South Florida have only a 41% response rate and 3,000 people must be requested to fill 1,000 jury spots because of the high rejection rate. This may be an extreme case, but the lack of commitment to civic responsibility is not unique to Florida. Complacency in civic involvement ultimately leads to erosion of democracy and make our system stale and unsustainable.

The "lesser undertakings which the American citizens perform every day" are essential in a democracy because government cannot fulfill all the needs of citizens. In a successful democracy individual rights and liberties must be applied impartially, education and current information must be readily available, and the citizens must do their part to allow the law to be applied fairly. America has survived and struggled through adversities to become one of the longest living democracies in the world because of its strong commitment to the Constitution, impartial application of the law and unrestricted information from varying political opinions. Democracy is an active and dynamic process, and flourishes with self-examination and engagement of its citizens, but languishes with complacency.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House to join me today in honoring Andrew Tan, an extraordinary young man, for his deep understanding

of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in our nation, and for his ability to write about it in a cogent, understandable and inspiring style. He is an inspiration to all of us and he is an eloquent statement about the youth of our nation.

RECOGNIZING CITIZENS STATE BANK NORWOOD YOUNG AMERICA ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 100 years of business by the Citizens State Bank Norwood Young America in Minnesota.

In 1914, Peter Effertz opened the bank on 214 Elm Street where it remained for its first seventy years. Albert Kehrer acquired the bank in 1930 followed by Donald Kehrer beginning in 1952. Later, during the time when Clinton Kurtz and Leonard Lano owned the bank (1979–1999), it was moved to its present location on US Highway 212. The bank is now under the ownership of Paul Pieschel who continues to lead it with the original philosophy of wanting to make a difference in the everyday lives of the people it serves.

Over the last 100 years, this community bank has worked hard to meet the needs of its customers—from a place to tie off a horse or park a Model T Ford to on-line banking and ATMs. Their motto is "Person to person. Neighbor to neighbor. Yesterday, today and tomorrow." and they take pride in going above and beyond what their customers expect.

The stability of both its ownership and leadership, and the sincere interest the employees have in each unique customer situation has provided genuine person-to-person connections with their customers for 100 years. As their recent newsletter states, "Our long-term philosophy creates trust and motivates our customers to refer their neighbors and friends to the bank."

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body join with me in honoring Citizens State Bank Norwood Young America upon reaching this noteworthy centennial milestone and to wish them continued success in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAMPHILL SOLTANE

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Camphill Soltane of Chester County, Pennsylvania on its 25th anniversary of exemplary service in providing educational, vocational, and residential services for young adults with developmental disabilities. This is a great milestone and a considerable accomplishment and I take great pleasure in being able to honor the men and women of Camphill Soltane for their dedication and outstanding service.

For 25 years, the men and women of Camphill Soltane have dedicated themselves

to enabling young adults and adults with special needs to identify and pursue their interests, exercise their talents, and develop their skills that they may enjoy a rich and satisfying life and make valued contributions to the world. A member of the international Camphill Movement, which began in Scotland 70 years ago, Camphill Soltane continues the Movement's tradition of approaching the individual with special needs as a valued member of society worthy of love, dignity, and the opportunity to realize goals and dreams.

Camphill Soltane's varied residential settings on its 52 acre Glenmoore site, and affiliated houses in Phoenixville, provide opportunities for individuals with special needs to live as independently as possible within a supportive community environment. For the last quarter century, this groundbreaking model has served to foster relationships based on mutual respect while encouraging the ongoing development of life and social skills.

Mr. Speaker, in light of its 25 years of outstanding service, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Camphill Soltane for its invaluable contributions to the quality of life of the citizens of Chester County, Pennsylvania.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM THE TEAM INVESTIGATING THE CASE OF ARSON AT MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce.

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The 12 members of the team investigating a case of arson at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I submit the names of the following award recipients:

2014 Investigative Merit Award: Lt. Dave Cooper, Lt. Brad Miller, and Lt. Angel Tyson of the Fire Marshal's Office; Supervising Special Agent Steve Avato, Special Agent Chad Campanell, and Special Agent Paul Parisi of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; Detective Saemi Kitchens, Detective Maria Cervantes, Crime Analyst Supervisor Dawn Locke-Trillhaase and Detective Jason Callahan of the Prince William County Police Department; Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Claiborne T.