

## DECADES OF COMPASSION

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 8, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Avadele Short of Katy, Texas for receiving an Award of Distinction for her 34 years of dedicated service to the Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital.

Mrs. Short and her husband were two of the founders of the Memorial Hermann Katy Volunteer Auxiliary when the hospital opened its doors in 1981. Since then, Mrs. Short has given more than 9,000 hours of her time to the Katy community and is the only remaining original member of the Auxiliary. With her help, the volunteer program has expanded from 45 original members to 145 members today. Now 91, Mrs. Short still volunteers twice a week and brings smiles to all the patients and the entire hospital staff. Hospital staff and patients alike agree, it would not be the same place without her care and compassion.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Mrs. Avadele Short for more than three decades of volunteer service to the Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital. Thank you for all that you have done for our community.

## CONGRATULATING MADDY PETICOLAS

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 8, 2015*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Maddy Peticolas of Godfrey, Illinois, on achieving the Congressional Award Silver Medal.

The Congressional Award recognizes individuals for excellence in four areas: voluntary public service, personal development, physical fitness, and expedition. During her time at Principia High School, Maddy participated in a number of activities that helped to improve her community.

Maddy spent over two hundred hours volunteering at a local day camp, staffing events and led hikes for children. She also grew in her faith of Christian Science by reading "Prose Works", written by Mary Baker Eddy, a founder of the Church of Christ, Scientist. Additionally, as a ukulele player, Maddy worked to improve her memorization and sight reading skills.

She also spent many hours playing for her club soccer team, and began running to increase speed and confidence as a player. She climbed a 14,000 foot mountain and completed a ropes course during her time on a yurt campground where she was also in charge of meals.

In all these things, Maddy demonstrated determination in improving both herself and her community. Whether it was through volunteering, personal development, physical fitness, or expedition, Maddy impacted the lives of many and I am proud to represent individuals like her in my district.

Congratulations on earning the Congressional Award Silver Medal, Maddy.

## HONORING MR. JOSÉ DUEÑAS

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 8, 2015*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mr. José Dueñas, former President and CEO of the Alameda County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Known throughout the Bay Area as a fervent Latino community leader, Mr. Dueñas has left an undeniable mark on our community. With his passing on June 20, 2015, we look to honor the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Born in Mexico City, Mexico on February 24, 1952, Mr. Dueñas was raised in Oakland, California where he graduated from Fremont High School. He later attended California State University, Hayward and St. Mary's College of California. Upon receiving his Bachelor's Degree in Engineering, Mr. Dueñas went on to pursue a career in public service to develop and promote opportunities for the greater Bay Area community.

During the earlier stages of his professional career, Mr. Dueñas' determination and hard work led him to become a senior manager for the Port of Oakland, the fourth largest port in North America. Shortly after, he was chosen to lead the Bay Area World Trade Center as Chief Executive Officer where he coordinated trade missions to over 40 different countries.

Afterwards, the Alameda County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (ACHCC) hired Mr. Dueñas to represent and provide assistance to over 18,000 Hispanic owned firms. As President and Chief Executive Officer at ACHCC, he led the charge of building a sustainable economic and financial foundation for Latino businesses to grow and prosper in the Bay Area. During his tenure, he also helped create a Latino Political Action Committee to help promote Latino candidates and address key issues facing the Latino community and communities of color.

Furthermore, Mr. Dueñas also ran his own company, Global 8 Partners, which focuses on international trade, government affairs and Hispanic business marketing. He is survived by his two children, Nicolas and Annalisa, three sisters and one brother.

I will always remember José's resiliency, his charisma, and passion for serving his community. Some of my most memorable moments with José were traveling to Mexico and Africa on the trade missions he helped organize. He truly understood the importance of international trade to the Bay Area, and he shared his knowledge with policy makers and the private sector to help spur economic growth and create jobs. His larger than life spirit will live forever and will continue to give us hope for the future. I will be forever grateful for his wise counsel and friendship.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes an outstanding individual and leader, Mr. José Dueñas. Mr. Dueñas' contributions have truly impacted countless lives throughout the Bay Area. I join all of Mr. Dueñas' loved ones in celebrating his incredible life and offer my most sincere condolences.

PEARLAND ISD SECONDARY  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR—MELISSA WARD

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 8, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Melissa Ward of Pearland's Dawson High School for being named Pearland Independent School District's 2015 Secondary Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Ward has always had a gift and talent for teaching. After receiving degrees in both sociology and psychology, she sought a career where she could help people and found a passion for teaching. In addition to her classroom excellence, Ms. Ward also coaches girls' cross country, track and field, and basketball. She often takes time out of her day to attend her students' cheer, band, or sporting events. She has also implemented the Student Training in Teacher Leadership Program, which provides mentoring for students who are considering teaching for a career at Dawson High School. Her dedication to Dawson High School doesn't stop.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Melissa Ward for winning the Pearland Independent School District's 2015 Secondary Teacher of the Year Award.

## HONORING THE COUNTY OF NAPA'S IF GIVEN A CHANCE PROGRAM

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 8, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the valuable and tremendous work of the Napa County organization, If Given A Chance. For two decades, this group has provided scholarships and resilient high school graduates to overcome extraordinary challenges and troubled pasts.

Since 1995, the If Given A Chance program has provided young people that have faced tremendous difficulties the opportunity to continue their education after high school and gain the work experience they need to succeed. With support from local businesses and philanthropic organizations, the program awards more than \$100,000 in scholarships, and graduates have gone on to get Masters and Ph.D. degrees at schools such as UCLA, UC Davis, and Stanford University.

If Given A Chance has supported hundreds of Napa Valley students in their efforts to pursue college and vocational education. The remarkable young people that participate in If Given a Chance have overcome gang affiliation, addiction, injury, abuse and disease, and this program provides them the opportunity to make a better life for themselves and their families. If Given A Chance is a testament to the significant and positive impact young people can have on their communities, and a true demonstration of the qualities that make our country great.

Many have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of If Given A Chance, and none

more-so than Jim King, the program's founder. His legacy continues, and the board of directors has continued the tradition of exceptional work in support of Napa County's youth.

Mr. Speaker, If Given A Chance has helped to engage and support so many students in the Napa community. I celebrate them for devoting themselves to the success of the next generation and wish them good fortune in their next twenty years of service.

#### HONORING SCENTSABILITY MICRO-ENTERPRISE, INC.

### HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 8, 2015*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of ScentsAbility Micro-Enterprise, Inc. as they are awarded the Platinum Business Award at this year's Connections luncheon, an annual awards ceremony sponsored by Career Source Broward and Palm Beach Counties. This award, presented by the South Florida Business Leadership Network, recognizes employers for disability-friendly practices and their commitment to training disabled Floridians for employment opportunities.

ScentsAbility has made it its mission to do exactly that. Under the guidance of ScentsAbility employees, disabled Floridians craft and sell homemade candles as well as learn important vocational and leadership skills that will allow them to succeed in a variety of workplace settings. ScentsAbility's care and commitment to this work has enabled countless Americans with special needs to live independently and with confidence. Too often, Americans with intellectual and physical disabilities are unable to find meaningful employment and earn a living. As a nation, it is important we recognize and enable organizations, such as ScentsAbility, that raise awareness of these critical issues and prioritize the diverse needs of our community.

It is with great pleasure that I honor ScentsAbility and its director, Ms. Bonnie Schmidt.

#### IN HONOR OF THE GREATER TOMBALL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 8, 2015*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor the 50th anniversary of The Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce of Tomball, Texas.

There is no doubt that the Tomball area is experiencing exciting economic growth. The area, once known for agriculture, oil, and the railroad is now a bustling corridor home to tech start-ups and manufacturing firms. Throughout this growth, one thing has stayed constant—the Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce's small town friendliness.

Although the Chamber was not formally incorporated until 1965, it was first organized in the 1920s when a group of local businessmen identifying themselves as the chamber sent a

telegram to a Marshall, Texas doctor to entice him to move to the area.

Built upon a mission to provide resources and foster relationships that empower businesses to prosper, the Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce is truly the model of excellence for all Chambers.

The Tomball Chamber's great success is due in no small part to the local business leaders who over the years have worked so hard to make Tomball the great community it is today.

Those men and women have been supported by a tremendous group of Chamber executives including Pete Still, Doris Johnson, Diane Holland and Bruce Hillegeist.

I had the privilege of working firsthand with Diane and Bruce as a chamber executive myself in nearby Montgomery County. Diane not only led the Tomball Chamber for 20 years but was the first woman to hold the post of Chairman of the Board of the Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives. Bruce, who currently serves as the Tomball Chamber's President, held that same post in 2010 and is widely respected for his vision, energy, and leadership.

Continually advocating on behalf of its members, the Chamber was a driving force in the creation of the Tomball Tollway which has brought much needed relief from congested roadways.

Additionally, the Chamber was a key player in bringing the community college to the Tomball community. Now known as Lone Star College—Tomball, the college has become an integral part of the Tomball economic infrastructure with an enrollment of over 12,000 students.

Today, I want all of America to join with us in celebrating 50 years of excellence. I cannot wait to see what the future holds for the Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce.

#### PEARLAND ISD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR—TAMMY NORMAN

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 8, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tammy Norman of Pearland's Rogers Middle School for being named Pearland Independent School District's 2015 Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Throughout her childhood, Ms. Norman was inspired and encouraged by her teachers. Today, she strives to have the same effect on her students by helping them grow academically and being a positive influence. Ms. Norman creates an engaging learning environment by supplementing her lessons with technology, humor, and fun activities. Ms. Norman is truly making a lasting impact on the lives of her students.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Ms. Norman for being named Pearland ISD's 2015 Elementary Teacher of the Year.

ANTHONY JOSEPH NARUTOWICZ

### HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 8, 2015*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the life and legacy of Anthony Joseph "Tony" Narutowicz, a local business owner, U.S. veteran and active community leader, who passed on October 14, 2014, at the age of 81.

A life-long resident of Baltimore County, Mr. Narutowicz attended Saint Joseph Academy in McSherrystown, Pennsylvania, Leonard Hall Academy in Leonardtown, Maryland, and Mount Saint Joseph High School in Baltimore. He served in the U.S. Merchant Marines for two years before joining the Army for another two years during the Korean War as a corporal.

Mr. Narutowicz worked several jobs before landing in the family business, a tavern and package store called Mickey's of Edgemere, in 1963. He was eventually named president of the company and managed it until his retirement in 2001. Among his many claims to fame, he once successfully fought two armed robbers outside a local bank.

An extremely active and loyal Democratic leader, Mr. Narutowicz was a founding member of the Baltimore County Seal Democratic Club, serving several terms as president. He also served on the Democratic State Central Committee from 1991 to 1998 in addition to launching his own bid for the Maryland House of Delegates.

A prominent business owner, Mr. Narutowicz sat on the Board of Directors at Bay-Vanguard Federal Savings and Loans for 25 years. He also donated time as a member of the Edgemere-Millers Island Businessmen's Association for a decade.

Giving back to his community was always a top priority for Mr. Narutowicz. An active parishioner at St. Luke Catholic Church, he was an avid supporter of church and community programs that benefitted children and worked for many years as treasurer of a charity golf tournament to provide scholarships for local high school students. He was also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows North Point Lodge 4, an organization that operates under the principles of friendship, love and truth.

A dedicated family man, he was married to Verna Moore Narutowicz for an incredible 53 years. Together, the couple had four daughters, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor the life and memory of Mr. Tony Narutowicz. He was a valued member of the Baltimore County Community who will be sorely missed but never forgotten.

#### RECOGNIZING WARREN E. MOTTS AND THE MOTTS MILITARY MUSEUM

### HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 8, 2015*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Warren E. Motts, the founder of the