

I am proud that Mr. Kerr's outstanding years of service and dedication are being recognized with the National Wildlife Refuge Association's "Paul Kroegel Refuge Manager of the Year" award—one of the nation's highest honors given to conservation leaders.

While overseeing thousands of acres of marshes, grasslands, and oak savanna throughout Northern and Central Wisconsin, Mr. Kerr finds unique ways to engage his neighbors and to lend a hand to many bird species in the process.

I appreciate this opportunity to honor Mr. Kerr for putting conservation at the forefront in our community. On behalf of Wisconsin and this entire body, we thank him.

RECOGNIZING MS. SOFIA BILSKI

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize one of my constituents, Ms. Sofia Bilski of Windermere, Florida, for her acceptance to the People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. Ms. Bilski was selected for her academic excellence, leadership potential and exemplary citizenship.

The mission of People to People Leadership Ambassador Programs is to bridge cultural and political borders through education and exchange. To this end, People to People offers domestic and international educational programs that promote cooperation, cross-cultural understanding and leadership. It is my hope that Ms. Bilski benefitted greatly from her participation in the World Leadership Forum, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MACKENZIE ELLIS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mackenzie Ellis of Johnston, Iowa. Mackenzie will be representing the United States as an educational ambassador through the Ameson Year in China (AYC) program.

Mackenzie, a recent graduate of Iowa State University, will be traveling to China to spend a year teaching, studying, and working with public schools in an effort to make a difference. She will have the opportunity to learn new languages and immerse herself in the Chinese culture through a number of different programs offered through AYC.

I commend Mackenzie for seizing this opportunity to expand her knowledge of different cultures and explore what the world has to offer. I am proud to represent Iowans like Mackenzie in the U.S. House of Representatives. I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating her and wish her nothing but the best as she embarks on this new adventure.

HONORING MR. ARMAND CHARBONNET

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Armand Louis Charbonnet, the Vice President of Charbonnet-Labat-Glapion Funeral Homes, who passed away on July 9, 2015, at the age 84.

Mr. Charbonnet was a United States Army veteran, a lifelong Catholic, member of the Vikings Krewe, patriarch of his family, and a leader in the New Orleans community. He directed numerous funerals in New Orleans and surrounding parishes in one of the oldest continuously operating African-American funeral homes in the country. Known for its traditional jazz funerals, horse drawn glass hearses, and the famous saying "My Soul Goes to Heaven but take my body to Charbonnet," Charbonnet-Labat-Glapion Funeral Homes has served Louisiana for more than 132 years.

To honor Mr. Charbonnet, who was affectionately known by family and friends as "Big Daddy," today we recognize the fulfillment of his mission. In commemoration of his life and achievements we strive to put the needs of others first as he did for countless families through the painful process of laying a loved one to rest.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACH SAFE RELATIONSHIPS ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Teach Safe Relationships Act along with my colleagues SUZANNE BONAMICI and ALMA ADAMS.

Too often, young Americans engage in abusive, unhealthy relationships. In fact, young women between 16 and 24 years old are victims of intimate partner violence at three times the national average of all women. These statistics and the stories of sexual abuse and dating violence among teens and college students demand that we examine innovative approaches to curb unhealthy relationship behavior.

The Teach Safe Relationships Act, introduced by Sen. TIM KAINE of Virginia, takes a strong step to address this problem by ensuring that American students discuss safe relationship behavior as part of sex education. Through comprehensive curricula that use effective approaches to prevent teen dating violence, sexual assault, and harassment, we can ensure that our young people have the tools they need to make safe decisions in relationships and identify unhealthy or abusive behavior.

I am encouraged that key provisions of this legislation have been included in the Every Child Achieves Act in the Senate, and hope that my colleagues in the House will build on that momentum by supporting the Teach Safe Relationships Act.

TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS HALLMAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nicholas Hallman of Des Moines, Iowa for receiving a coveted Fulbright award during the 2014–2015 Academic Year. Nicholas is a recent graduate of the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies, History, and French. He will travel to Turkey in September 2015 and begin his work in one of the newly-established state universities.

While in Turkey, Nicholas will be teaching English and plans to establish an American film and television club. He hopes to bridge the gap and make comparisons between American and Turkish society. Nicholas would also like to spend time organizing relief efforts for war refugees and volunteer at refugee camps.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Nicholas today. It is the young people like him who are willing to work hard and make sacrifices for the betterment of society that will lead our future generations. I know my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Nicholas on this outstanding achievement and wish him nothing but continued success moving forward.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLEAN SLATE FOR MARIJUANA OFFENSES ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation that will allow certain federal marijuana offenders the opportunity to clear their record.

In 1973, Oregon became the first state to decriminalize the personal possession of a small amount of marijuana. Since then, an additional 15 states have adopted similar policies. 23 states, the District of Columbia and Guam have passed laws that allow for the use of marijuana for certain medical conditions. In 2012, Washington and Colorado legalized the adult use of marijuana and in 2014, Oregon and Alaska followed suit. Oregon also recently led the nation in passing legislation to reduce penalties for marijuana offenses and qualifying certain marijuana offenses for expungement that could not previously be expunged.

Under the Controlled Substances Act, however, marijuana remains a Schedule I substance, classified as severely as heroin and LSD and defined as having no medical value. As a result, at the federal level, possessing or distributing marijuana, regardless of the amount and regardless of state law, remains illegal.

While the current Administration's policy is not to prosecute those who are operating in compliance with state law so long as they meet certain federal enforcement priorities, this was not always the case and may not always be the case going forward. Until recently, too many people were wrongly caught

up in the conflict between federal and state law.

In 2013, after a state-legal marijuana industry began to emerge in Montana, a federal investigation responded with a series of 33 sentences against individuals, many who argued they were abiding by that system. The federal government also pursued drug trafficking charges against a family in Washington claiming to grow marijuana within the bounds of Washington's medical marijuana law. The \$10 million trial ultimately resulted in a manufacturing charge that will remain on their record.

In addition, while the federal government generally devotes more resources to large-scale drug trafficking and lets local jurisdictions enforce marijuana possession offenses, federal possession charges occur. Over the past 10 years, at least 1,100 people have been sentenced for marijuana possession at the federal level.

The Clean Slate for Marijuana Offenses Act of 2015 creates a pathway for two groups of federal marijuana offenders to expunge—or clear the criminal record of—their marijuana offense: those who were federally charged for activity that was legal in the state they were in at the time; and those whose offense was the possession of an ounce or less of marijuana.

A federal drug conviction, no matter how small, can follow a person for their entire life, potentially limiting education and employment opportunities. As more and more states legalize different uses of marijuana, no one should be saddled with a record for activities related to marijuana that were legal in their state.

In addition, the possession of a small amount should not ruin a person's chances at significant opportunities later in life. While the number of people charged with federal possession offenses is low, over seven million people have been arrested with marijuana possession when totaling state, federal and local law enforcement statistics over the past 10 years. This legislation sends a strong signal to state and local jurisdictions that allowing a pathway for expungement for certain marijuana offenders should happen at all levels of law enforcement.

TRIBUTE TO WHITEROCK CONSERVANCY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Whiterock Conservancy for the opening of their new Whiterock Conservancy Backcountry Trail.

At nearly forty miles, the Whiterock Conservancy Backcountry Trail is one of the largest destination trail systems in Central Iowa. After raising funds for seven years, 20 miles of the trail, two new campgrounds, and many other new visitor experiences are complete. Six miles of new equestrian trails will take riders to new vistas, and the double track trail now loops along both sides of the Raccoon River, providing all users, including the mobility challenged or drivers in low power ATVs, with a wonderful background for enjoying their leisure time. These trail improvements allow hikers, snowshoers, bikers, and nature lovers alike the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful landscape of central Iowa.

I applaud and congratulate Whiterock Conservancy for achieving their goals and opening this wonderful destination for Iowans and all Americans to enjoy. I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Whiterock Conservancy and their board of directors and wishing them all continued success in the future.

CLASS 6A PLAYER OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kourtney Coveney of Katy High School for being named Class 6A Player of the Year by the Texas Sports Writers Association.

Kourtney led her team to the first state softball title in district history. Throughout the season she had a 3.32 earned run average as well as 79 strikeouts in 135 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings. Not only is she an excellent pitcher, Kourtney's batting average is .511 with 17 doubles, a home run, and 54 runs batted in. She will continue her softball career at West Texas A&M University. Kourtney has made her parents, coaches, and the town of Katy proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Kourtney Coveney on all of her achievements. We look forward to hearing more about her continued success.

REMEMBERING LOU LENART

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a true hero of the United States and Israel, Lou Lenart. I would like to recognize his heroic efforts and great sacrifice in keeping both countries safe during World War II and Israel's War of Independence.

Lou began his incredible journey as Layos Lenovitz in a Hungarian village near the Czech border. When he was 10 years old, he moved with his family to the United States in order to escape increasing anti-Semitism. At age seventeen, Lou enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps where he became a fighter pilot. He served in the U.S. military valiantly, flying in the Battle of Okinawa and other engagements in the Pacific.

After the war, he learned that fourteen of his relatives who had remained in Hungary had been killed in Auschwitz. This prompted him to join a clandestine effort to smuggle surplus American aircraft into Israel. He also helped recruit other war veterans like himself to fly for the Israeli Air Force (IAF).

After surviving the treacherous journey smuggling aircraft into Israel, Lou led his comrades Ezer Weizman, Eddie Cohen, and Modi Alon in the IAF's first mission. On May 29th, 1948, two weeks after Israel declared its independence, Egyptian soldiers and tanks were advancing to Tel Aviv. With Lou at the helm, the secretly assembled IAF was able to force the Egyptian troops to retreat. This mission gave Lou the most accurate nickname I have ever heard, "the man who saved Tel Aviv."

Lou served bravely throughout Israel's War of Independence and later participated in Operation Ezra and Nehemiah, which airlifted Iraqi Jews to Israel. After leaving the military he became a pilot for El Al Airlines and a film producer.

Lou passed away on Monday of this week at age 94, but his life will forever be remembered as one of exceptional service and commitment to both the United States and Israel. His sacrifices and achievements are great, and I hope Lou's heroic efforts will serve as a reminder to us all that one individual can truly make a difference.

LIVING WATER INTERNATIONAL'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Stafford, Texas's own Living Water International on its upcoming 25th anniversary. Over the last 25 years, Mike Mantel and his team have drilled over 15,000 wells and provided clean water to people in more than 23 countries.

After taking a water well drilling trip to Senegal, Mike was inspired to provide clean water to people around the world. To Mike, getting people water was the foundation for a successful life. A life where agriculture could develop, people would be healthier, and women could spend less time hauling water and more time in school. Living Water International's mission to share the love of God and provide access to clean drinking water to countries around the world is inspiring. As a community, we are humbled and grateful by the work Mike and his team at Living Water International are doing.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, we thank you for 25 years of dedication to bringing clean water to people around the world.

DODD/FRANK 5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in recognition of the five-year anniversary of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. This critically important piece of legislation has strengthened oversight of the financial sector, given regulators the tools to end the era of "too big to fail," and has eliminated loopholes that allowed risky and abusive practices to go unnoticed and unregulated.

As we mark this five-year anniversary, we must recognize that the "Great Recession" of 2008 did not occur naturally as a part of the regular financial cycle, but as a result of the lack of transparency and accountability in the financial sector.

During the "Great Recession" the American economy lost over 4 million jobs, 13 trillion dollars in household wealth and approximately