

The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program provides teaching and research grants to distinguished U.S. faculty and experienced professionals. Dr. Cofer has no doubt played a major role in spreading American ideas and contributions in Brazil.

The Missouri State University community and Ozarks community at-large should be proud to have a scholar like Dr. James Cofer representing them abroad. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Cofer for his dedication to such significant research and for receiving this esteemed award.

HONORING MARIA HARRISON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Maria Harrison, an outstanding public servant who retired after over 41 years of dedicated service to the federal government.

On Monday, June 18, 1973, Maria Harrison began her career in government with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). She was one of many who benefited from Mayor Marion Barry's jobs program he so famously created. On January 3, 2015 Maria retired from the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) after 41 years and 6 months of service to our country as a federal employee. Except for 10 months at the Small Business Administration, her career was spent in the transportation field. Her exact sequence of service follows:

Department of Transportation/FAA 06/18/1973–07/30/1977.

Small Business Administration 07/31/1977–05/20/1978.

Department of Transportation/Office of the Secretary (OST) 05/21/1978–04/03/1982.

Department of Transportation/MARAD (Maritime) 04/04/1982–12/24/1983.

Department of Transportation/FAA 12/25/1983–06/04/1988.

Department of Transportation/Federal Railroad Administration 6/05/1988–11/03/2001.

Department of Transportation/OST 11/04/2001–Present.

Maria retired from the Office of Governmental Affairs at USDOT where she has been of assistance to my office and constituents numerous times. I can say with certainty that every office in the U.S. Senate and countless offices in the U.S. House of Representatives have benefited directly from her good work. As much as her colleagues at USDOT will miss her, she has earned the right to spend more time with her friends and family, especially her granddaughter whose pictures adorn the desk of her office. Maria has also earned the deepest gratitude from those of us in the U.S. Congress. Above all else she has earned the thanks of the country she has so unselfishly served for over 41 years. Thank you, Ms. Harrison.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in honoring Maria Harrison for her more than four decades of service to the federal government in the transportation field.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, since its enactment on July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has helped remove barriers to education, employment, and technology for people with disabilities.

For a quarter-century, this landmark legislation has enabled people with disabilities to have the same civil rights and public use enjoyed by other citizens in all areas of public life.

The signing of the ADA was a pivotal moment in history, not just for people with disabilities, but for all Americans.

The ADA protects individuals with disabilities from discrimination and allows them to participate fully in the workforce and in their communities.

Today, there are over 55 million people living with a disability in the United States.

In my home state of Ohio, the Ohio County Boards of Developmental Disabilities serves more than 90,000 children and adults in all 88 Ohio counties and many more receive services from nonprofit partners and organizations.

In the third congressional district of Ohio, we have outstanding centers, such as the Helping Hands Center for Special Needs, which strives to meet the educational and therapeutic needs of children with autism and other developmental disabilities.

As it did twenty-five years ago in 1990, the ADA continues to help individuals with disabilities achieve their goals, realize their dreams, and give back to their communities.

Today, I celebrate the strides we have made since the ADA's enactment and honor its goals of equality of opportunity, full participation, and high quality of life for Americans with disabilities.

TRIBUTE TO JILL SWANSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jill Swanson, from Adair County Health System in Greenfield, Iowa. Ms. Swanson was awarded the 2015 DAISY Award Friday, June 12, 2015.

Jill Swanson was recognized for her accomplishments during the Fourth Annual DAISY Award Ceremony at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa. The award is given to a nurse from each of their network's facilities to recognize their excellent work.

Jill is frequently requested by patients and families when they visit because of her attentiveness and willingness to go above and beyond what is expected for each of her patients. Throughout her 27 years of service, she has always been a team player who puts others before herself. Her genuine care for patients and hard work ethic make Adair County Health Systems proud to have her as a member of their team.

I applaud and congratulate Jill for receiving this award and for providing excellent patient care in Iowa's 3rd Congressional district. I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating her and wish her nothing but continued success.

HONORING JERUSALEM OUTREACH CHILD & ADULT LEARNING CENTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Jerusalem Outreach Child & Adult Learning Center in Charleston, MS. It is locally referred to as JOCI (Jerusalem Outreach Center Incorporated).

JOCI was established as a nonprofit organization in the year 2000. JOCI was one of the partners in a countywide effort to provide service to citizens living in hard to reach and underserved communities in Tallahatchie County like Paynes and Glendora. JOCI's goal is to meet the educational and health and social welfare needs of both children and adults regardless of race. Their partner Glendora Economic and Community Development Corporation (GECDCo) focuses on the development needs of the communities like housing, recreation, jobs, and more.

In order to achieve the above goals JOCI hosts health fairs and provides a long list of services. The services include, but are not limited to: personal counseling, referrals to outside resources, depending on the issue; social therapy for special needs clients; child care; after school care and services; educational classes; tutoring; and more. Since 2000, JOCI's record of achievement has attracted new partners to their effort: Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute, Quality Stars, the Department of Human Services, and the Tallahatchie Early Learning Alliance (TELA).

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Jerusalem Outreach Child & Adult Learning Center in Charleston, MS for their work in those hard to reach communities in Tallahatchie County, MS.

STOP WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING IN ITS TRACKS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, The Wildlife Conservation Society is doing great work to save wildlife and wild places.

The public knows more about wildlife today than they have at any other point in history.

New technology like Go-Pro cameras can be put on top of birds to track their migration patterns and see how they deal with their young in the nest.

Scientists can dive deeper into the oceans than ever before and are discovering new species that have not been identified.

But with all this knowledge and fancy technology, in 2015 animals are still becoming extinct.

The situation for elephants and rhinos is bad.

The elephant population in Tanzania has dropped by 60 percent in just the last 5 years.

A total of only five northern white rhinos are left in the world today.

A big reason why is money. The black-market price of ivory in Africa is over \$1,000 per pound.

Rhino horn is now worth about \$27,000 per pound. That's twice the value of gold and platinum and more than cocaine or diamonds.

When a person lives on less than \$2 a day like many of the poachers do, that's a lot of money.

Poachers are willing to risk getting caught or even shot because the payday is just too big.

One rhino horn is enough for them to support their whole family for a year.

That might be why some locals in the community refer to "rhinos" simply as "billions".

In all, the illegal wildlife trade is estimated as a \$10–20 billion per year business.

It is not just low level poachers getting most of the profits.

Transnational criminal organizations and terrorist groups are getting billions of dollars a year from this business. Al-Shabab [al-Shab-Bob] and Joseph Kony's the LRA are two examples.

The same groups that traffick elephant ivory and rhino horn also traffick drugs and weapons. So this isn't just a wildlife problem. It is a national security problem.

Currently, I have been working with my colleagues on the Foreign Affairs committee to make sure the U.S. government is doing everything we can to stop wildlife trafficking.

Part of the solution is understanding the problem.

Ranking Member on my Terrorism Subcommittee, Mr. KEATING and I have amended the Intelligence Authorization bill to require the Director of National Intelligence to produce a report on wildlife trafficking, how terrorist organizations are involved, and its impact on U.S. national security.

In addition to this a GAO study is being conducted to evaluate the job being done so far at trying to stop wildlife trafficking. Both of these should help us understand the problem better.

I'm happy to be an original cosponsor of Chairman ROYCE's bill to encourage countries to work together on this problem and elevate wildlife trafficking as a predicate offense under racketeering and money laundering statutes.

It is a strong bipartisan bill that I hope is passed into law soon.

Working together will stop wildlife trafficking in its tracks.

In the 1950s there were only a few hundred white rhino left in the world. Thanks to the work of people like Ian Player, today there are over 15,000.

The threat has been beaten back before and it can be done again.

And that's just the way it is.

THE IRAN DEAL: A DANGEROUS GAMBLE FOR THE U.S. AND OUR ALLIES

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the administration's nuclear deal with Iran.

Earlier this year, over 350 Members of Congress—myself included—wrote the president with objectives that a deal must reach before we'd consider sanctions relief. We said there must be anytime, anywhere site inspections. Above all, it must stop Iran's march toward a nuclear weapon.

The deal before us does not meet these objectives. Yet, it gives Iran upwards of 100 billion dollars in sanctions relief almost immediately. Money it can use to finance the spread of terrorism and violence.

This agreement is a dangerous gamble. The security of America and our allies is on the line, and the deck is stacked in favor of a sworn adversary to the United States.

I will be voting to reject this bad deal. I encourage all my colleagues to do the same.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF BRIAN SILAS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brilliant career of Brian Silas, a renowned pianist from India. Mr. Silas is beloved by many, not only for his music but for his dedication to humanitarianism.

Mr. Silas' passion for the piano began early in his life. He was raised in Kanpur, where he was immersed in music and tradition, leading him to his affection for the piano. His instinct and desire to perform drives his musical proficiency. Mr. Silas' talent has led him to some of the world's largest stages and venues, without any formal training.

Mr. Silas' desire to share his gift of music has allowed him to perform his life's work at various venues across the globe. During his career he has packed auditoriums, theatres and runways from the United States to Mauritius. No matter the venue, Mr. Silas' performances are met with the highest of praise. One of his highest honors was in 1998, when Mr. Silas was invited to perform at the United Nations to celebrate India's 51st year of independence.

Mr. Silas' gift to the world does not stop behind the piano. He donates his time to multiple charitable organizations, who aid the underprivileged, sick and neglected. Mr. Silas is deeply involved with the "Artists of Empowerment" who provide gender bias rehabilitation for victimized women. He has striven to help those affected by HIV by endorsing organizations such as "CORE" who strive to educate police personnel on the virus. Mr. Silas also frequently fundraises for organizations such as "Prayaas" who provide homes for the homeless.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me to honor Mr. Brian Silas. I ask my colleagues to

join me in extending the highest regards and wishes for continued success. Mr. Silas' passion for music and humanitarianism will surely continue to touch lives for years to come.

2015 NATIONAL SEAPERCH CHALLENGE MIDDLE SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to celebrate the accomplishment of the Egg Harbor Township Police Athletic League's SeaPerch Challenge Middle School Team. The Submersibles placed first in both the obstacle challenge and the finesse course of the 2015 National SeaPerch Middle School Championship.

This is a remarkable accomplishment stemming from months of hard work and determination and one in which these bright young men can feel proud. Their accomplishments this year, as well as their first place finish in the 2014 championship, are certainly deserving of this special recognition.

On April 24, 2015 the team won the Philadelphia SeaPerch Regional competition at Drexel University giving them the opportunity to compete at The University of Massachusetts in Dartmouth on May 29th and 30th. At the national championship, the team defeated 71 other teams nationwide to secure their second national SeaPerch title in 2 years.

SeaPerch is an innovative underwater robotics program that equips teachers and students with the resources to build an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). The program provides students the opportunity to learn about robotics, engineering, science, math, teamwork, leadership, and public speaking while competing against their peers at a national level.

The National Championship team includes: Jhadyn Seward (Egg Harbor Township), Aidan Himley (Egg Harbor Township), James Massey (Egg Harbor Township), Brandan Kusnirik (Hamilton Township), Anakin Leatherwood (Egg Harbor Township), Luke Williams (Northfield), and coaches Mike and Denise Massey.

Again, I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to the Submersibles and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CHANDRA McCANN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Chandra McCann, from Greenfield, Iowa for her retirement from the Adair County Courthouse after 35 years of service.

Through her countless years of dedication to the citizens of Adair County she was able to provide valuable services to those who passed through the Adair County Courthouse. She always came to work with a smile on her face and a willingness to serve.