

against the Islamic State. The announcement indicates a substantial increase in cooperation with our longstanding NATO ally, the Republic of Turkey. The enhanced operations will include the direct involvement of the Turkish Air Force in conjunction with our own military.

In recent days, Islamic State terrorists have stepped up their attacks on Turkey. On July 20, a suicide bomber took the lives of 32 innocent civilians near a cultural center in Suruc, Turkey. On July 23, a non-commissioned Turkish officer was killed in an armed attack at a military border post at Elbeyli, Turkey. I wish to express my sincere condolences to our friends in Turkey for these losses, which provide further evidence of the barbaric nature of the terrorist forces now dominating much of Syria and Iraq.

It is more essential than ever that we deepen our cooperation with key allies like Turkey as we seek to bring peace and security to a troubled region. I wish to commend the continued cooperative efforts of the military leadership in both the United States and the Republic of Turkey. It is essential that this bond between our countries remains strong as we confront this strategic challenge.

TRIBUTE TO KATIE ROTH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Katie Roth for being named the 2015 Woman Business Owner of the Year by the award-winning central Iowa publication, the Des Moines Business Record.

Since 2000, the Des Moines Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a group of standout female leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities either personally or professionally, forging a path for other women to follow. The women given this prestigious award are individuals who have selflessly dedicated their time and proven their leadership abilities across a variety of professional fields.

Ms. Roth got her start in the news business after earning her Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Iowa. With hard work and her natural leadership qualities, Ms. Roth quickly worked her way up in the ranks, until ultimately she decided to open the doors of Portico Staffing. Since founding Portico Staffing, Ms. Roth has continued to grow the business through hard work and determination to succeed.

Ms. Roth has selflessly dedicated her time and talents to improving the lives of others. When she isn't busy expanding the size and scope of her business she invests her time in mentoring others, helping to foster the next generation of Iowa's leaders. Ms. Roth's high ethical standards and level of achievement have given her the necessary qualifications to receive this prestigious award.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Ms. Roth in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better the State of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Rep-

resentatives to join me in congratulating her on receiving this distinguished award, and wishing her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING BASF ON THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize BASF on their 150th Anniversary. Their longevity as a company is a testament to their innovative products, the drive of their leaders, and the hard work of their employees. BASF's presence in the United States goes back to the 1950s, and today they employ over 15,000 Americans in more than 30 states. They deserve to be commended for this milestone anniversary.

BASF is a pillar of our community in Southeast Michigan. Specifically, their plant in Wyandotte, Michigan employs over 1,000 people in good paying, high skilled jobs. Notable is their dedication to community relations and charitable activities. The company played a critical role in the founding of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, the only international wildlife refuge in this country. They worked to restore Fighting Island in the Detroit River so it is suitable for wildlife habitat, and they contributed to the trails in the Humbug Marsh unit, among numerous other activities. Their dedication to conservation, and giving back to the community, is to be commended.

When BASF was founded 150 years ago, nobody would have imagined how large the company would grow or the impact they would have on the world. Today, they continue to produce innovative products while also being responsible corporate stewards. This is significant in today's world and deserves praise. Congratulations to everyone at BASF as you celebrate your 150th Anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 150 years of success and community contributions of BASF.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, from Friday, July 24, 2015 through Tuesday, July 28, 2015, I was out of the country participating in the congressional delegation accompanying President Obama on his diplomatic visits to Kenya and Ethiopia. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

On Roll Call 467 I would have voted Aye (S. 1482, Need-Based Education Aid Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 468 I would have voted Aye (H.R. 1656, Secret Service Improvements Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 469 I would have voted Aye (Amendment to H.R. 2770, Keep Our Travelers Safe and Secure Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 470 I would have voted No (On Ordering Previous Question for H. Res. 380,

providing for consideration of H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 471 I would have voted No (On H. Res. 380, providing for consideration of H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 472 I would have voted Aye (H.R. 675, Veterans Compensation Cost of Living Adjustment Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 473 I would have voted No (Young Amendment to H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 474 I would have voted No (Smith of Missouri Amendment to H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 475 I would have voted Aye (Johnson of Georgia Amendment to H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 476 I would have voted Aye (Capps Amendment to H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 477 I would have voted Aye (Cicilline Amendment to H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 478 I would have voted Aye (Jackson Lee/Cicilline Amendment to H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

On Roll Call 479 I would have voted Aye (Nadler Amendment to H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

On Roll Call No. 480 I would have voted Aye (Pocan Amendment to H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

On Roll Call No. 481 I would have voted Aye (Motion to Recommit H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

On Roll Call No. 482 I would have voted No (On Passage of H.R. 427, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015).

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICAID AND MEDICARE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid.

In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Social Security Act into law—establishing the groundbreaking programs of Medicare and Medicaid and guaranteeing that a wide range of health and medical services would be available to millions of Americans previously ineligible or unable to attain basic healthcare.

Prior to this law, over half of our nation's seniors did not have access to health insurance. Yet one year after its establishment, 19 million seniors and disabled individuals were provided coverage. That figure has grown dramatically; for the last half century, Medicare and Medicaid have provided vital healthcare

services to countless seniors, individuals with disabilities and low-income families. By 2014, 54 million Americans relied on Medicare for quality health care and economic security, while 69 million—including one in three children—are benefited by Medicaid and its services.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid. I look forward to continuing to strengthen and protect Medicare and Medicaid to ensure that the promise of health and economic security will be there for generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 469 my flight was delayed due to weather. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

CONGRATULATING FIVE STUDENTS FROM THE 24TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS FOR RECEIVING FULBRIGHT AWARDS DURING THE 2014-2015 ACADEMIC YEAR

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Andrew Hasson of Coppell, Afshan Kamrudin of Carrollton, Matthew Lenzen of Farmers Branch, Abhishek Raj of Carrollton, and Amanda Kathleen White of Farmers Branch, who were selected to be 2014-2015 Fulbright Grantees. This is an incredibly illustrious achievement, and I am honored that these came from my Congressional District in Texas.

The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 by Congress. These five join the already 360,000 past participants over seven decades in the Fulbright Program, a prestigious group selected through open, merit-based competitions. Their destinations and universities are as follows:

Andrew Hasson to Malaysia through the University of Pennsylvania. Afshan Kamrudin to South Africa through Southern Methodist University. Matthew Lenzen to Taiwan through Texas A&M University. Abhishek Raj to Germany through the University of Texas at Dallas. Amanda Kathleen White to Japan through the University of North Texas.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring Andrew Hasson, Afshan Kamrudin, Matthew Lenzen, Abhishek Raj, and Amanda Kathleen White for this tremendous achievement.

HONORING H. GRAYSON COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR JONATHAN SWEET

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Grayson County Administrator Jonathan Sweet, who was recently named 2015 County Leader of the Year by Penton Media's "American City and County" magazine.

As is noted in the magazine's story, "Sweet started his professional career as the Director of Economic Development of Carroll County, Va., and then served Danville, Va., in their office of economic development. Sweet then moved to Bland County, Va., to become County Administrator at the age of 24—one of the youngest in the state to hold that position. However, he was tied to Grayson [County], where many of his friends and family lived. It's where he felt most at home."

Jonathan returned to Grayson in 2009 to serve as County Administrator and began addressing several difficult challenges, among them returning financial stability to the county and encouraging the growth of jobs and the economy. "As the furniture industry shrank and textile jobs moved overseas, the county really began to suffer, ultimately hitting an unemployment rate of 14.6 percent," Derek Prall wrote in the magazine. "By the time Sweet came on board, the county had taken on \$18.3 million in debt, and was relying on credit to stay afloat."

He immediately began working at the tasks at hand. In part because of Jonathan's efforts, "Grayson county went from one of the most financially challenged and distressed counties in Virginia, to becoming one of the most financially stable and well managed in the region," David Sexton, Chairman of the Grayson County Board of Supervisors, told the magazine. Further, the magazine notes, "The unemployment rate now stands at 6.9 percent, less than half of what it was at its peak."

Jonathan Sweet is a hardworking, dedicated, and passionate public servant, and I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him on being named the 2015 County Leader of the Year. I commend Jonathan for his accomplishments and for his ongoing efforts to make Grayson County a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE OPEN AND TRANSPARENT SMITHSONIAN ACT OF 2015

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Open and Transparent Smithsonian Act of 2015 to further ensure that the Smithsonian Institution is accountable to the public for the taxpayer funds it receives. The bill provides that, for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Privacy Act, the Smithsonian should be considered a federal agency. This bill is necessary because

there is no reason why the Smithsonian should not be accountable to the public for the annual federal appropriations it receives, which account for 70 percent of its budget. Although the Smithsonian was created by Congress as a federal trust, it receives the great majority of its funding from the federal government, much like federal agencies, and has always been treated as a federal agency except for FOIA and other open government laws. In the 1990s, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit found under the current act that the Smithsonian is not a federal agency for purposes of FOIA and the Privacy Act. The Smithsonian's website states that it is "not an Executive Branch agency, and FOIA does not apply to the Smithsonian."

This bill would amend FOIA and the Privacy Act to apply to the Smithsonian, which would require the institution to make administrative staff manuals, interpretations of law or regulations, final opinions, policies, and other records available to the public. The bill would also require the Smithsonian's Board of Regents and other boards to hold meetings to the public.

The current absence of transparency at the Smithsonian should be of concern, particularly in light of its recent history of secrecy and corruption. In 2007, an independent review found that the Smithsonian Board of Regents had violated many principles of good management. Regents during the tenure of Lawrence Small as Secretary of the Smithsonian. The report indicated that the Board had failed to provide the needed oversight, had over-compensated the Secretary, and had allowed the creation of an "insular culture." The report further found that the Smithsonian's deputy secretary and chief operating officer, Sheila Burke, was frequently absent from her duties because of outside activities, including service on corporate boards, for which she earned more than \$1.2 million over six years. Importantly, the report indicated that Smithsonian leaders took great measures to keep secret these missteps and mismanagement.

While the Smithsonian has since had new leaders, who are moving away from the mistakes of the past, Congress has not ensured that the Smithsonian is a transparent entity, which should not depend on who is in charge. An entity supported primarily by federal funds must be accountable to the American people.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD J. TRACY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Donald J. Tracy of Cedar Park, TX. A pillar of this bustling community nestled in the heart of my congressional district, Donald recently resigned from the Cedar Park City Council to start a challenging doctoral program at Texas State University.

Daily life in Cedar Park rests upon the shoulders of dedicated public servants like Donald Tracy. First elected to the City Council in 2010, Donald served as mayor pro tem and as a critical member of several city committees. Widely admired and respected for his