

in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. After his military service, he earned his bachelor's degree in education at the University of Hawaii.

As a school teacher and principal, he encouraged the use of the Native Hawaiian language and culture in schools and worked tirelessly to create some of the first Head Start programs in the State. The education of children, especially the Native Hawaiian children, was extremely important to him because he knew that increasing access to opportunity would improve educational outcomes among children.

First elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976, he served there for 14 years until he was elected to the Senate, where he served until he retired in January 2013. Senator Akaka fought endlessly to advocate on behalf of Hawaii, particularly Native Hawaiians, and his work on the Veteran's Affairs Committee combating PTSD and unemployment among Soldiers has had a profound impact on our country.

His commitment to a lifetime of public service in the military, as a teacher and as a United States Senator should be an inspiration and motivation to us all.

We wish Senator Akaka the best for the coming year. Happy Birthday (Hau'oli lā hānau), Senator Akaka.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF CHRIS MINTZ

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chris Mintz—an Army veteran who answered the call when our nation needed him and again when a heartless gunman threatened a community in Oregon.

As a high school football star from North Carolina and a 10-year army Veteran, Chris is known as a tough guy. According to those who know him best, he's always one to "cow-boy up."

And one week ago, on October 1, Chris did more than that. He didn't wake up planning to be a hero, but that's what he became.

When he heard gun shots at his school, he ran towards them, pulling fire alarms and fighting to save others. With dogged determination, he fought to block the shooter from entering a classroom and was shot seven times.

It's clear his incredible bravery and selfless actions saved lives and prevented a far worse tragedy. I applaud Chris for his integrity, self-sacrifice and valor in the face of such evil, and my wife Renee and I send our thoughts and prayers to him and his loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues, as we continue to mourn the dead in Oregon, let's put politics aside and take heart in the heroic acts of this American hero. Chris Mintz deserves our utmost gratitude and respect. Let's give it to him.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HEROIC ACTS OF MR. SAMUEL SELL

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Samuel Sell of Bainbridge Township, Ohio for his heroic actions on September 13, 2015. Samuel was fishing with his cousin at the LaDue Reservoir when he observed an occupied vehicle go into the water, trapping the driver inside. When no one got out of the car, Samuel swam 100 feet toward the car while he asked his cousin to call 911 immediately. He brought a fishing knife out with him to help free the passenger, which he then gave to the emergency responders when they reached the car. Due to his quick thinking and heroic bravery he helped save a man's life. Along with all of the residents of the 14th Congressional District, I commend him for his actions and wanted to record his feat so that it is enshrined for all future generations.

HONORING OCTOBER 8TH AS NATIONAL HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELL DAY

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a House resolution expressing support for today, October 8th, as National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day.

Although we are just now developing and implementing new applications for hydrogen fuel cells, this technology has a long and proud history that goes back to the Apollo space missions.

Fuel cells utilize hydrogen without combustion to generate electricity in a way that is clean, efficient, and quiet.

Today, mobile and stationary fuel cell systems produce clean power for vehicles, forklifts, utilities, businesses, and homes.

Stationary fuel cells provide resilient backup power sources for institutions that cannot afford to lose power, such as hospitals. They are increasingly being used as primary electrical sources as well.

Air Products and Chemicals, located in my district, is in the process of deploying 40 hydrogen fueling stations to support the recently announced rollout of hydrogen powered vehicles from several major auto manufacturers.

I have had the opportunity both to drive and fuel these vehicles, and I can say from experience that the process is safe, easy, and surprisingly unremarkable. It's just like driving a traditional car, except the only emission it produces is water.

In closing, I am proud to stand with the innovators of this growing industry as we recognize today as National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID KEPLER

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to David Kepler, Chairman of the United Way's Alexis de Tocqueville Society, upon receiving the 2015 Distinguished Citizen Award.

A valued member of the community involved in many civic organizations, David Kepler joined the Dow Chemical Company in 1975. He went on to serve as Dow's Executive Vice President for Business Services, its Chief Information Officer and Chief Sustainability Officer. David is currently a board member of the Midland Baseball Foundation, Momentum Midland and chairman of the MidMichigan Innovation Center.

The Distinguished Citizens Award is given to an outstanding individual who shows consistent Scouting values and provides distinguished service to both youth and community. David lives in Sanford and has been a community leader who has had a positive impact throughout the region.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to recognize David Kepler for his service to the Boy Scouts of America and his contributions to the Midland community.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR JOE BENNETT OF THOMASVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joe Bennett, Mayor of the City of Thomasville, located in the 8th Congressional District of North Carolina. Mayor Bennett has been a tireless advocate for the people of Thomasville, and has fully earned the admiration and gratitude of his fellow North Carolinians.

A native of High Point, North Carolina, Mayor Bennett served the Duke Power Company for 36 years before retiring and pursuing a career in public service. After his retirement in 1998, Mayor Bennett ran for and was elected to the Thomasville City Council, where he served two terms before being elected Mayor of the City of Thomasville in 2003.

During his tenure, Mayor Bennett has made job creation and infrastructure development two of his highest priorities. After a period of rapid manufacturing and furniture building job loss in the area, Mayor Bennett was successfully able to bring jobs back to the city with the opening of a large manufacturing facility. Mayor Bennett also led a city-wide initiative, known as "Children at Play," designed to upgrade local playgrounds in order to combat childhood obesity. I have also been told that if there was a celebration in the city of Thomasville, whether it is a large parade, a small church ceremony, or an individual's 100th birthday celebration, Mayor Bennett was there with a smile on his face.

In addition to his service as Mayor of Thomasville, Mayor Bennett has earned his title as

a "civil servant" through his various charitable and volunteer roles. To highlight a few of these roles; he delivers "meals on wheels," serves on the Economic Development Commission of Davidson County, serves on the Community General Hospital Board, and is an active member in the Rotary Club of Thomasville.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in thanking Mayor Joe Bennett for his esteemed service to the City of Thomasville and congratulating him on his well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I voted for H.R. 3192, the Homebuyers Assistance Act, which will delay enforcement of the Mortgage Disclosure Rule until early next year. While I understand concerns about this legislation and delaying enforcement, even the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which drafted this regulation, has delayed the rule and acknowledged that further improvements need to be made. The Motion to Recommit would refine this legislation by ensuring that the path towards legal redress is not blocked for our most vulnerable homebuyers like veterans and seniors, which is why I voted for it as well as the underlying bill. Going forward, it's my hope that the Senate will continue to improve the Homebuyers Assistance Act. The underlying objective of securing a more transparent and consumer-friendly process for home ownership is deeply important. The rule would increase transparency for mortgage lenders and reduce confusion for homebuyers seeking a mortgage, strengthening critical consumer protections. That's why it is necessary to get this right, even it takes a few more months.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROTARY CLUB OF HANFORD

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Rotary Club of Hanford in honor of its Seventy-Fifth Anniversary.

The Rotary Club of Hanford (RCH) was chartered on October 6, 1940 in order to serve the community of Hanford, California. Since its establishment, the RCH has been a pillar in its community and spearheaded many events. Specifically, the Chapter has helped acquire playground equipment for multiple parks, rebuilt the Babe Ruth Baseball Field, sponsored numerous Little League teams, assisted with highway cleanup, conducted holiday food drives, sponsored foreign exchange students, and administered a Job Shadow Program. The RCH has also been active internationally and helped to establish two orphanages in Mexico, schools, health clinics, and clean water projects in Guatemala, and build Hope High School in Kenya.

Over the past seventy-five years, the RCH has helped Hanford and its residents thrive.

We are fortunate to have such a committed Rotary Club in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the Rotary Club of Hanford's Seventy-Fifth Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL HAYES

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michael Hayes, president and chief executive officer of the Midland Center for the Arts, in recognition of his five years of service to the Center and his many contributions to the community.

An influential member of the Midland community for more than forty years, Michael Hayes originally moved to Midland to work in the Midland County Courthouse. He went on to serve four terms in the Michigan House of Representatives, work as the vice-president of executive relations at the Dow Chemical Company, and founded Main Street Consulting. Before his selection as CEO of the Midland Center for the Arts, Michael Hayes served on the board of directors for the Center and on the Matrix:Midland advisory board.

During his tenure as president and CEO, Michael Hayes brought in exciting exhibits, enhanced the Operating Philosophy and Core Values of the Midland Center for the Arts and oversaw the highest earned revenue season in MCFTA history. In his five years at the helm of MCFTA, Michael truly helped to change lives through the arts, sciences and history.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to recognize Michael Hayes for his service to the Midland Center for the Arts and his contributions to the Midland community.

WELCOMING SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT PARK GEUN-HYE TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Northern New Jersey's vibrant Korean American community. I would like to welcome the long awaited visit of South Korean President Park Geun-hye to the United States.

I want to express my deepest condolences to President Park and the people of South Korea for the deadly Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) outbreak, which infected 186 people and tragically claimed 36 lives.

As we mourn this heartbreaking loss, I was encouraged to learn that the last South Korean patient previously diagnosed with MERS has tested negative for the virus and has showed a complete recovery from the disease.

It is my hope that this visit will provide a venue for our countries to find new areas of cooperation in protecting our environment, improving global responses to health crisis, and for continued engagement on regional security that will bolster our nation's relationship in the 21st century.

I am proud to represent one of the largest Korean American communities in Congress because they have made significant contributions to the success of our nation and have enriched our heritage through their unwavering patriotism, strong values and entrepreneurial spirit.

I look forward to President Park's visit and will continue to be a strong advocate for my constituents so we can make New Jersey and our nation a better place for all.

INTERNATIONAL PLASMA AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, International Plasma Awareness Week will occur October 11 to 17, 2015. Around the world, there will be observances to raise global awareness of the crucial need for plasma to create lifesaving therapies, recognize that plasma donors contribute greatly in saving and improving lives, and increase understanding of the many rare diseases and plasma protein therapies that help to treat them.

Plasma-derived therapies and recombinant blood clotting factors, collectively known as plasma protein therapies, are unique, biologic medicines that are either infused or injected to treat a variety of rare, life-threatening, chronic, and genetic diseases including bleeding disorders, immune deficiencies, pulmonary disorders, neurological disorders, shock and trauma, liver cirrhosis, and infectious diseases such as tetanus, hepatitis, and rabies.

Plasma-derived therapies save and improve lives of individuals throughout the world, including in emergency and surgical medicine. Plasma protein therapies have significantly improved the quality of life, markedly improved patient outcomes, and extended the life expectancy of individuals with rare, chronic diseases and conditions.

Healthy, committed donors provide the plasma essential to manufacture these lifesaving therapies; and there are more than 450 plasma collection centers in the U.S. that have demonstrated their commitment to plasma donor and patient safety and quality by earning International Quality Plasma Program (IQPP) certification.

I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me and rise in commemoration of International Plasma Awareness Week, honoring those committed donors and collection centers who make and collect needed and lifesaving contributions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 540 on final passage of H.R. 3192, the Homebuyers Assistance Act, I would have voted "Aye," which is consistent with my position on this legislation.