

outstanding achievements in the field of engineering. Dr. Holmes was honored in New York on October 13th with the 2015 Government Civil Engineer of the Year award. This award recognizes distinguished civil engineers employed in public service for significant engineering contributions.

Dr. Holmes earned a Bachelor of Science in 1987 and Master of Science in 1989 at the Missouri University of Science and Technology in civil engineering. Dr. Holmes continued his education earning a Ph.D. in civil and environmental engineering from the University of Illinois and began his teaching career soon after. He has taught as an assistant adjunct professor at the University of Illinois since 2006 and adjunct professor at Missouri S&T since 2008.

For over 28 years, Dr. Holmes has worked as a hydrologist and leading member of the United States Geological Survey. He currently serves as a national flood hazard specialist and the senior adviser on flood science and response for the United States Geological Survey. His United States Geological Survey colleagues have given high praise for his contributions to water resources engineering and flood hazards management during his time there.

Dr. Robert R. Holmes is a model of excellence in his field and it is my pleasure to recognize him before the United States House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEW MEXICAN ORGANIZATIONS RECOGNIZED AS "BRIGHT SPOTS" BY THE WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR HISPANICS

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three New Mexican organizations that have gone above and beyond in serving Hispanic students in my home state of New Mexico. Their outstanding work earned them recognition by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics as "Bright Spots." Bright Spots are described as organizations or programs that help to close the achievement gap.

A total of six organizations in New Mexico have been recognized by the White House and three of those organizations are located in New Mexico's third congressional district. The Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation (LANLF) encourages Hispanic academic excellence through the support of educational programs. LANLF created programs to support early childhood learning, STEM elementary education, as well as college/workforce development. The second organization in our district is New Mexico Highlands University's Achieving in Research Math and Science (ARMAS). ARMAS has increased the number of Hispanic students earning a Bachelor's of Science degree in a STEM field at the university level. The third organization to receive recognition within our district is (Santa Fe YouthWorks! This is a program dedicated to targeting at-risk youth in order to ensure that they have the educational, leadership and life skills to succeed and get ahead.

These programs help raise awareness about Hispanic education and the need to address the achievement gap while serving as models of best practices for successfully engaging our diverse population. Together, these programs have helped countless Hispanics achieve academic and social success. These organizations have had a tremendous effect within their particular communities and on New Mexico as a state, by increasing the number of Hispanic students who attain educational degrees. I applaud these outstanding organizations for contributing to Hispanic academic success in New Mexico.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL ROBERT SHOEMAKER OF THE U.S. ARMY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of General Robert Shoemaker of the U.S. Army. For more than 36 years Gen. Shoemaker served his country in many of our most trying times and has honored both his nation and the Army through his long and distinguished military service.

Robert Shoemaker hails from Almont, Michigan. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant upon graduation from West Point in 1946. Early troop assignments included Platoon Leader and Company Commander in Germany from which he went on to serve in Korea. General Shoemaker also served numerous tours in Vietnam and excelled through several echelons of Command.

His hard work did not go unrecognized. General Shoemaker rose to the highest levels of the military and was promoted to four star general and led the U.S. Army Forces (FORSCOM). This command consists of more than 750,000 soldiers, nearly 90 percent of the Army's combat power, and provides expeditionary, campaign-capable land forces to combatant commanders. Under his steady leadership, FORSCOM held fast and true to its motto as "Freedom's Guardian."

Life after retirement for Gen. Shoemaker continues to be one of humble service that feeds his passion to help his fellow man. Gen. Shoemaker has served eight years as the County Commissioner for Bell County, three years as the Heart O' Texas council for the Boy Scouts, and served on the Board of United Way for Texas. Today, Gen. Shoemaker's days are filled with regular attendance at extra-curricular activities in the Killeen-Fort Hood area.

When I reflect on the life and service of Gen. Shoemaker, I am reminded of an oft quoted passage by J. M. Barrie, "the life of every man is a diary in which he means to write one story, and writes another; and his humblest hour is when he compares the volume as it is with what he vowed to make it." I have little doubt Gen. Shoemaker will find any discrepancies when he compares his diaries.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT CARL DEAN CARR

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Carl Dean Carr of Boy Scout Troop 40 in Des Moines, Iowa, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the prestigious Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his project, Carl worked with the FOCUS program at Hoyt Middle School in Des Moines. FOCUS is a collaborative program between Des Moines Public Schools and Broadlawn Medical Center. They provide academic and counseling services for at-risk students between 3rd and 8th grade. Carl led a group of students that created signs with self-talk statements for a coping area in the school. Students are able to utilize this area when they are having a tough day so they can compose themselves and rejoin the classroom. The work ethic Carl has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent Carl and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating him on reaching the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him nothing but continued success in his future education and career.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF KEVIN MASON

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, Representative BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico and I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of Kevin Anderson Mason, who passed away October 1, 2015 at age 44.

Mr. Mason—a native of Altavista, Virginia who resided with his family in Clovis, New Mexico—was working in Afghanistan as a civilian contractor. On the evening of October 1, 2015, shortly after taking off from the Jalalabad Airfield in Afghanistan, a terrible tragedy occurred when a C-130J crashed, killing six United States airmen and five civilian contractors, including Mr. Mason.

Mr. Mason was a 1990 graduate of Altavista High School and honorably served in the

United States Air Force for ten years. He will forever be remembered by his classmates, teammates, and members of the Altavista community as a warm, welcoming, kind-hearted man. Mr. Mason was a star member of Altavista High School's basketball team, and school principal Ty Gafford and coach Dean Hubbard remember him fondly as a cornerstone of the Altavista community. He left behind a wife of nineteen years, Tammy, who he met while stationed at Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico, and their three sons, KJ, Brandon, and Devin, all of whom currently reside in Clovis.

We are forever grateful for Mr. Mason's years of service in the U.S. Air Force and his continued service and sacrifice in defending our nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Mason family, the Altavista and Clovis communities that mourn his loss, and with all of the families who lost loved ones in this tragic incident.

HONORING GIDEON R. BRADY

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gideon R. Brady from St. James, Missouri for his achievements as a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol. Gideon is set to receive the General Billy Mitchell Award for his service, one of the most prestigious honors that a cadet can earn. This award is only achieved after passing comprehensive leadership and aerospace exams, as well as a strenuous physical fitness test.

Gideon began his service in the Civil Air Patrol in 2013 with a deep interest in aerospace and rockets. An emphasis on service runs in Gideon's family, as his father Terry is a Chaplain in the Civil Air Patrol and proudly guides him as he progresses through the ranks.

Gideon has proven himself to be an exemplary cadet and it is my pleasure to recognize him before the United States House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO THE CORNING CENTER FOR THE FINE ARTS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Corning Center for the Fine Arts (CCFA) as they celebrate their 10th anniversary bringing art and culture to southwest Iowa.

CCFA, housed in a renovated and repurposed building in Corning, opened its doors on Sept 30, 2005. Its studio and gallery were modeled to create an attractive environment for its artist in residence program and has two renovated apartments above for those artists. Since 2006, the art center has been home to 16 artists that have come from the United States and abroad. CCFA also holds annual student art shows to encourage young people to explore their talents.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent the Corning Center for the Fine Arts and its hard

working employees and volunteers in the United States Congress. I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating them on their 10th anniversary and wishing them nothing but continued success.

HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR GUADALUPE LOPEZ, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished service in both the military and civilian life of Sergeant Major Guadalupe Lopez, U.S. Army, Retired. SGM Lopez has served with distinction as a guardian of this great nation for over 26 years. Today SGM Lopez continues his service to the country he loves in many capacities in the Killeen—Fort Hood community.

SGM Lopez entered the U.S. Army in September 1954. While he served in a multitude of capacities, his fondest memories are of the tour he served in Vietnam. SGM Lopez spent most of his time planning tactical operations against the enemy on the front lines. While in Vietnam, SGM Lopez was awarded the Bronze Star for his heroic actions on Nov 20, 1969 when his helicopter came under heavy fire.

SGM Lopez retired in March of 1980. While the days of a regimented life in uniform have passed, he still finds ways to serve his fellow soldiers. SGM Lopez served as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of America Post Commander for four years. Today SGM Lopez serves as a member of the Ft. Hood Retiree Council, a position assumed in 2008.

SGM Lopez is also well known for his work as the co-chairman of the Killeen Veteran's Day Parade and the Memorial Day Ceremony held at the Central Texas Veteran's Cemetery since 2007. While the long list of accomplishments and service rendered to his fellow soldiers is too lengthy to be enumerated here, I will use SGM Lopez' own words to convey the sense of dedication he has to his friends and veterans: "We are soldiers for life; we hung up only the suit, we're still connected."

I commend SGM Lopez for his selfless service to his nation and to the United States Army. His leadership has positively impacted soldiers and families that he has served. May we all strive to live a life full of service such as his.

TAKING ACTION ON EUROPE'S WORST REFUGEE CRISIS SINCE WORLD WAR II

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday I convened a Helsinki Commission hearing to scrutinize the European refugee crisis and help determine the most effective ways in which the U.S., the European Union, and the OSCE can and should respond.

The Syrian displacement crisis that has consumed seven countries in the Middle East has become the biggest refugee crisis in Europe since World War II. At least 250,000 people have been killed in Syria's civil war, many of them civilians.

The security forces of Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad's security forces have been responsible for many of these killings, targeting neighborhoods with barrel bombs and shooting civilians point-blank. ISIS has committed genocide, mass atrocities, and war crimes, against Christians and other minorities, and likewise targeted, brutalized and killed Shia and Sunni Muslims who reject its ideology and brutality.

Fleeing for safety, more than four million Syrians are refugees, the largest refugee population in the world, and another 7.6 million Syrians are displaced inside their home country.

Syria's neighbors—Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, and Egypt—are hosting most of these refugees. Before the Syria crisis, these countries struggled with high rates of unemployment, strained public services, and a range of other domestic challenges. Since the conflict began, Syrian refugees have become a quarter of Lebanon's population, and Iraq, which has been beset by ISIS and sectarian conflict, is hosting almost 250,000 refugees from Syria.

Until this past summer, few Syrian refugees went beyond countries that border their homeland. Syrian refugees and migrants from a range of countries have since come to Europe in such large numbers, and so quickly, that many European countries, especially front-line entry points like Greece, transit countries like Serbia, and destination countries like Germany, have been challenged to respond.

The UN High Commission for Refugees, UNHCR, reports that more than 635,000 refugees and migrants have arrived in Europe by sea in 2015. Fifty three percent of these people are from Syria, sixteen percent from Afghanistan, six percent from Eritrea, and five percent from Iraq. Notably, only fourteen percent of them are women, twenty percent are children, and the remaining sixty five percent are men.

The European crisis requires a response that is European, national, and international, and the United States is essential to it. There must be effective coordination and communication directly between countries as well as through and with entities like the OSCE and European Union. Individual countries also must have the flexibility to respond best to the particular circumstances in their own countries.

The response must address "push" factors, like economic challenges and aid short-falls in countries like Syria's neighbors that have been hosting refugees. It must also address "pull" factors, like decisions individual European countries have made that have attracted refugees.

There is real human need and desperation. Refugees are entrusting themselves to smugglers and where there is human smuggling there is a higher risk of human trafficking. I am especially concerned about the risk of abuse, exploitation, and enslavement, of women and children. Already we are hearing reports that some European countries are failing to protect women and girls from sexual assault and forced prostitution. The lack of separate bathroom facilities for males and females, rooms