

built an indoor ice rink. He also founded the Southtowns Hockey Officials Association, and was a referee for 35 years.

Mr. Curley is married to Carolyn G. Curley, the father of Jennifer Curley Reichert, Brendan Curley, and Shannon Curley Tower, and the proud grandfather of eight grandchildren. He is known for his colorful attire and positive attitude. He is a loyal, a proven consensus builder, cohesive team player, and a fair and effective leader. He never missed a St. Patrick's Day parade in Buffalo or New York City, or a chance to sing "God Bless America."

Mr. Speaker, Pat Curley is a proud American and Western New Yorker. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. D. Patrick Curley and thanking him for 50 years of commitment to his community, family, and country.

HONORING TONY YOUNG

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember an extraordinary advocate for individuals with disabilities, Mr. Tony Young.

Tony dedicated his life to advocating on behalf of individuals with disabilities and more importantly—helping individuals with disabilities advocate on behalf of themselves. He was the founder and first executive director of the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia, a community resource and advocacy center run by and for persons with disabilities whose mission is to END dependence by empowering people with disabilities to live independently.

Tony also served as a senior public policy analyst with United Cerebral Palsy, Inc. He worked as the director of Residential Services and Community Supports for the American Rehabilitation Association in Washington, D.C. and served as president of Open Access, a consulting firm focusing on the design, development, evaluation and analysis of policies, programs and services for persons with disabilities.

For the past 16 years, Tony has held various positions at SourceAmerica where he led strategic and policy initiatives all with the singular goal of helping more individuals with disabilities to join the workforce.

Tony was a positive force in the lives of thousands, if not millions, of people with disabilities across the nation through his advocacy and the positive changes he supported. Tony passed away earlier this week at his home in the 11th District of Virginia. Although he will be greatly missed, his legacy will endure through those he touched, those he helped, and the societal changes he championed.

CONSTRUCT THE NATIONAL
EISENHOWER MEMORIAL

HON. MAC THORBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. THORBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Representative MIKE THOMPSON

and Representative SANFORD BISHOP to urge our colleagues in Congress to move towards the construction and completion of the National Eisenhower Memorial as a fitting tribute to the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe during World War II and the 34th President of the United States.

As admirers of Dwight D. Eisenhower and his impact on history, it has been an honor to serve on the Eisenhower Memorial Commission. It is our hope that Dwight D. Eisenhower and our country receive a memorial that properly commemorates his roles as General and President that helped shape our nation for the better. We believe the current proposed design achieves this goal.

For over ten years, the Commission has worked to develop a memorial that pays tribute to Eisenhower's achievements as both General and President. During this process, there have been some differences of opinion on how to best honor Eisenhower's accomplishments. Unfortunately, there has also been a fair amount of misinformation in many news stories and reports.

The Memorial was first authorized by Congress in 1999. Within the past few months, all final design and site approvals have been obtained under the process required by Congress from the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission.

Since its inception, the Commission has consulted with members of the Eisenhower family. David Eisenhower was an original member of the Commission from 2001 through 2011, during which time the architectural firm and Memorial design were approved by unanimous votes.

Time is of the essence for our remaining World War II veterans. Funding of construction in Fiscal Year 2016 will allow the Memorial to be completed by the summer of 2019, the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

Further delays would mean that those who fought under Eisenhower's command would not see its completion and call in to question whether the Memorial will ever be built. Now is the time to move ahead.

HONORING MAJOR KRYSYL WATSON'S
CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a member of my staff, Major Krystyl R. Watson, for her outstanding year as an Army Fellow in my Washington, DC office.

Krystyl, a Florida native, joined my staff last January as part of the Army Congressional Fellowship Program. Her extremely hard work and dedication has made her a vital part of my team that ensured that not a single day of her year in my office was wasted.

Before coming to Washington as a Fellow, Krystyl built quite the resume as a law enforcement officer in Florida. From her time as a Special Agent with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement in Tampa to her year spent deployed as a company commander

with the 912th Human Resources Company in Afghanistan, Krystyl brought a wide range of valuable experiences to Capitol Hill.

From day one, Krystyl dove right into the role of a legislative aide and was as meticulous as a seasoned staffer. There was never an issue she didn't care to learn, and her fresh perspective was invaluable. Her experiences in the U.S. Army Reserve and Florida Department of Law Enforcement were instrumental in helping me introduce important legislation to stop fraud against veterans and in securing critical funding for service members and veterans through the appropriations process.

With energy, optimism, and the unmatched work ethic of a soldier, Krystyl has helped make her year with my office one of my most productive yet. More than just helping with legislation, Krystyl has been an invaluable resource for the veterans in Florida's 17th Congressional District. Whether assisting with congressional inquiries or helping a veteran with a VA issue, Krystyl was always happy to take a veteran's phone call and find a way to help.

Over the last year, Krystyl was an outstanding legislative aide, earned her master's degree in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University, ran the Marine Corps marathon, and became an irreplaceable member of my team. Krystyl will be greatly missed, but I have no doubt that she will continue to set a standard of excellence in everything that she does.

RECOGNIZING GEORGE T. SAKATO

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of George T. Sakato.

George Sakato was born in Colton, California in 1921 and grew up in Southern California. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, his family moved from California to avoid the mass internment of Japanese Americans, and his family resettled in Arizona.

In 1944, at the age of 23, Mr. Sakato volunteered for the U.S. Army and joined the all-Japanese-American 442nd Regimental Combat Team. At 5 feet 4 inches, he was not your storybook soldier. What he lacked in stature, however, he made up for in bravery and devotion to his brothers in arms.

In October of 1944, Private Sakato's unit was sent on a mission to rescue 281 captured American soldiers in the Vosges Mountains of northeast France. In the firefight, Private Sakato's squad leader was killed after his unit pushed enemy German combatants from their defensive positions.

With no commanding officer, Private Sakato stepped up to lead his squad. He charged the enemy position. Singlehandedly, he killed 12 enemy soldiers and then, with the help of his unit, took 34 more as prisoners.

For his bravery, Private Sakato received the Distinguished Service Cross and was recommended for the Medal of Honor. Yet, like so many other Japanese-American soldiers during WWII, he was denied that honor due to deeply ingrained anti-Japanese racism.

More than a half century later, on June 21, 2000, Mr. Sakato and 21 other Asian-American veterans were finally given the recognition they had earned for their actions in combat and were awarded the Medal of Honor by President Clinton.

On Dec. 2nd, 2015, at the age of 94, George Sakato died in Denver, Colorado. George Sakato was one of the trailblazing men and women whose hands have shaped the United States into the great nation it is today. His example of bravery, humility, and love for his country is one to admire and emulate.

My condolences go to his daughter Leslie, and the rest of the Sakato family.

RECOGNITION OF KENTUCKY
VOLUNTEERS

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize two constituents from my district, Thomas Sullivan and Daniel Disselkamp, who spent three weeks in northern Haiti building and upgrading powerlines to help communities receive affordable, safe, and reliable electricity. The power linemen from Nolin Electric Cooperative were the second group to volunteer their services on this project.

The project is one to commercialize power from the Caracol Industrial Park generation station that is currently serving 8,000 consumers in Caracol and surrounding communities with electricity 24 hours a day. When the project is complete, a total of 10,000 consumers will have access to electricity. One of the major factors contributing to ending poverty and improving the quality of life for people around the world is access to affordable and reliable electricity.

Only about 13 percent of Haitians currently have access to electricity, so the services provided by these linemen will have a positive impact on thousands of lives. Obtaining electricity access is an important step toward achieving improvements in healthcare, education, and economic opportunity.

That is why today I would like to thank and recognize Thomas Sullivan and Daniel Disselkamp for their service.

RECOGNIZING COMMANDER CHAD
C. SCHUMACHER

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize those men and women who have served this great Nation with honor, men such as Commander Chad C. Schumacher, United States Navy.

For the past year, Commander Schumacher, a proud naval aviator and graduate of the United States Naval Academy, served on my staff as a Congressional Defense Fellow. During his assignment, he served as a senior member of my staff responsible for defense, veterans, foreign affairs

and intelligence matters. Commander Schumacher executed his work as a liaison to the constituents of the First District and the numerous defense installations in the First District with distinction. Furthermore, he provided exceptional support to me as my staff liaison to the House Armed Services Committee in my role as a Subcommittee Chairman and as the Co-Chair of the Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus.

Commander Schumacher directly contributed to my goal of providing excellent constituent service to the people of the First District. He was responsible for bringing numerous constituent inquiries to a successful conclusion and he was able to leverage his personal and operational experience to respond to the most challenging inquiries.

In addition to his efforts on behalf of the First District, Commander Schumacher took on projects with regional, state and national implications, demonstrating his ability to view a challenge from many angles and develop innovative solutions often requiring collaboration across many levels of government.

Commander Schumacher's work ethic, duty to mission, and commitment to servant leadership is without equal. I believe that his personal drive to achieve excellence in his work has and will set a very high standard for his peers.

I would also like to thank Commander Schumacher for the service and sacrifice he has made, and continues to make, for our Nation and our great Navy. His keen sense of honor, impeccable integrity, boundless work ethic, humor and loyal devotion to duty earned him the respect and admiration of my staff and the First District of Virginia. As an F-18 Hornet pilot with 2000 flight hours and 400 arrested landings, Commander Schumacher completed multiple deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and served as an instructor at the United States Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN). Commander Schumacher is headed to the Pentagon where he will work in Legislative Affairs for U.S. Northern Command. I have no doubt that Commander Schumacher will continue to serve the Navy honorably and with distinction.

I wish him the best of luck as he continues his Naval career. It was an honor and a pleasure having him serve on my staff. We all can sleep soundly at night knowing that men and women like Commander Chad Schumacher are members of our all-volunteer force and they stand ready to defend our country and take the fight to our enemies; far away from their families and the comforts of the United States of America.

Commander Schumacher, thank you. Best wishes to you and God bless you, your family, and all the men and women in uniform. Fair winds and following seas.—and GO NAVY BEAT ARMY.

TRIBUTE TO LANDMARK INN
STATE HISTORIC SITE OF
CASTROVILLE, TEXAS

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Landmark Inn State

Historic Site of Castroville, Texas, on the completion of its extensive restoration efforts. The Landmark Inn State Historic Site, which is a Texas Historical Commission property, preserves an important part of Texas' history. The Landmark Inn not only protects the cultural and natural value of this area, but also ensures that future generations of Texans will be able to enjoy its rich history.

The Landmark Inn gives unique insight into the lives of Texas' earliest settlers. The city of Castroville was established on September 3, 1844, by entrepreneur Henri Castro and a group of settlers from the Alsace region of France. One of its earliest inhabitants was a man named César Monod, who was elected Mayor of Castroville in 1852 and built a combined home and store to serve travelers along the San Antonio-El Paso road. In 1853, a merchant named John Vance bought the property and built living quarters for his visitors onto the existing store, including galleries, a family residence, and even a multistory bathroom. This became the Vance Hotel. Several other entrepreneurs, including George L. Haass and Laurent Quintle, built a dam on the property that diverted water from the Medina River to power a gristmill. Finally, in 1925, Jordan T. Lawler converted the gristmill into Castroville's very first electric power plant. It is over a hundred years later in 1981 that the Landmark Inn was dedicated as a historically designated site.

The 23rd Congressional District of Texas stretches from San Antonio to El Paso, along over 820 miles of the border, and includes Castroville, a gem that is home to over 2,600 residents. The Landmark Inn provides an opportunity for today's Texans to deepen their understanding of Castroville's early pioneers. Those dedicated to the Landmark Inn's restoration emulate the hard work and values evident in this great city's founders. The level of excellence shown in preserving the rich history of this site is a reflection of the residents of Castroville and their values, and their devotion to tradition serves as a source of pride for the entire city and the 23rd Congressional District of Texas. It is my honor to represent Castroville, and I wish continued success to the Landmark Inn in its future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING THE FATIMA
HIGH SCHOOL COMETS FOR
THEIR 2015 MISSOURI CLASS 2
GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fatima High School Comets for their first place win in the 2015 Class 2 State Girls Cross Country Championship.

This team and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Fatima Comets for a job well done.