

work and will carry her far in her future endeavors.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Evann on her second state FFA championship. Best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

# RECOGNIZING THE ARTS COUNCIL OF FAIRFAX COUNTY AND THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2015 ARTS AWARDS

## HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Arts Council of Fairfax County and the recipients of its 2015 Arts Awards. These awards recognize the extraordinary contributions of artists and arts organizations, as well as individuals and businesses in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Falls Church, that support the arts in our community.

Founded in 1964, the Arts Council of Fairfax County is a non-profit organization designated as Fairfax County's local arts agency. The Arts Council operates programs and initiatives that include grants, arts advocacy, education, and professional development opportunities for artists and arts organizations. In fiscal year 14, the Arts Council awarded more than \$500,000 in County, public, and private funds through competitive grants and awards to arts organizations and individual artists. These grants helped to fund approximately 13,000 performances, which were attended by more than 1 million people. I also would like to express my appreciation to the Arts Council for its steadfast support of the 11th District Congressional Arts Competition, which has helped make it one of the largest and most successful in the country.

The annual Arts Awards honor supporters of the arts in four categories: the Jinx Hazel Arts Award, the Arts Achievement Award, the Emerging Arts Award, and the Arts Philanthropy Award. It is my honor to submit the following names of the 2015 Arts Awards Recipients:

The 2015 Jinx Hazel Arts Award will be presented to Earle C. Williams, the former president and chief executive officer of BDM International, for his outstanding leadership and advocacy in the arts and in the Campaign for Wolf Trap.

The 2015 Arts Achievement Award will be presented to Rebecca Kamen, a contemporary visual artist, sculptor, and a pioneer of the STEAM effort to integrate Arts in the traditional Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, or STEM fields, for her outstanding achievements bridging the arts and education with chemistry, neuroscience, and astrophysics.

The 2015 Emerging Arts Award will be presented to the Vienna Jammers for providing exemplary outreach to area youth and participating in community building activities in the Town of Vienna and the Washington, D.C. area.

The 2015 Arts Philanthropy Award will be presented to Richard Hausler, co-founder and CEO of Insight Property Group, for his vision,

commitment, and leadership in establishing a new arts facility, the Workhouse Arts Center, in southern Fairfax County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2015 Arts Awards and in recognizing and thanking the visionaries, leaders, and supporters who help to make our Northern Virginia communities rich with cultural opportunities.

## TRIBUTE TO ED AND LOIS FIGGINS

## HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ed and Lois Figgins of Atlantic, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1965.

Ed and Lois' lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Figgins family that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of this great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

## REMEMBERING FRANK HERHOLD

## HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2015*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a Fort Lauderdale resident who dedicated his life to serving his family and community: Frank Herhold, who passed away at the age of 76 on Saturday, December 5th.

Frank was a devoted family man and prominent member of the South Florida boating community. He started his career in the marine industry as the owner of the Anchorage Yacht Basin in Melbourne, Florida and later became the executive director of Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF), where he worked until he retired.

In his retirement, Frank's passion for boating continued. Prior to his passing, Frank attended the 2015 Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show and served on the city of Fort Lauderdale's marine advisory board. In 2010, Frank was the commodore of the Winterfest Boat Parade and recognized as "Citizen of the Year" by the city of Fort Lauderdale in 2007.

Frank is survived by many loved ones. I offer my condolences to Frank's wife Mary Jo, his daughter Pam, and all his friends and family. I know that his legacy will continue to live on and inspire future generations.

## SERBIA STEPS UP AT A CRITICAL TIME

## HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2015*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Serbia's recent donation of \$5.4 million to the Bosnian town of Srebrenica, where thousands of Muslims were killed in the Yugoslav Wars, is a clear sign that the Serbian Government wants to do what they can to improve relationships with countries in the region. Mending these relationships is especially important as the Balkans are on the front lines of the refugee crisis. As of the beginning of November, the same month that President Vucic announced this large donation, over 300,000 refugees had flowed through the country since the beginning of the year. Most refugees are fleeing Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan and travelling to Europe to seek asylum. Serbia is doing their part to process and protect these people. In October alone, 180,307 refugees were processed compared to 51,048 in September because of Serbia's commitment to improving capacity.

It is critical for countries in the region to work together to process the influx of refugees while ensuring the safety of their own countries and the world. The Balkans are a transit region making it important for all the countries to have an open line of communication in order to ensure the ordered, safe, and peaceful flow of people and is especially important for bordering countries.

Serbia's gesture to Bosnia is hopefully a signal of relationships on the mend at this very tense time in the world. While the importance of Balkan countries working together cannot be underemphasized, it is also of utmost importance for all freedom-loving countries throughout the world to work together to fight ISIS, a big factor in the flow of migrants and a threat to our way of life, in which all lives are cherished. Every country must do their part. We must all come together and obliterate this scourge on our world.

As co-chair of the Congressional Serbian Caucus, I commend the Serbian Government for all that they have done to mend their relationships in the region and for their leadership during this incredibly trying time.

And that's just the way it is.

## CELEBRATING BIRTH OF BLAKELY ELIZABETH HERBERT

## HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2015*

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my Legislative Director, Jason Herbert, and his wife, Erin Kathleen Herbert, on the birth of their daughter, Blakely Elizabeth Herbert.

Blakely was born at 2:17 p.m. on Sunday, December 6, 2015. Miss Blakely weighed in at a perfect 7 pounds and 10 ounces.

As my Legislative Director, Blakely's father, Jason, has been key to my legislative operation. Jason's stalwart attention to details, and his remarkable ability to stay alert during long and late night Rules Committee hearings and floor debates will serve him well as a father.

My entire staff has awaited this good news with eager anticipation of Jason and Erin becoming parents. Blakely is fortunate to have such a loving father and mother.

Congratulations and best wishes to Jason and Erin and their entire family on this wonderful addition.

**CONGRATULATING THE LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL COUGARS FOR THEIR 2015 MISSOURI CLASS 2 VOLLEYBALL 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 Lutheran High School Cougars for their first place win in the 2015 Class 2 Volleyball State 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 Lutheran High School Cougars for a job well done.

**TRIBUTE TO CHET ROED**

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Chet Roed of Mount Ayr, Iowa, for being selected as a member of the Mount Ayr Community Hall of Fame.

Chet taught industrial arts at the Mount Ayr school system for over 30 years. He is credited by many in the community for teaching them how to take care of their homes, and to this day, years after his retirement, Chet remains highly respected by his former students for the knowledge he imparted onto them. He not only contributed to the Mount Ayr community in the classroom, but also in athletics. For years he led the track and football teams to postseason success.

Mr. Speaker, Chad's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him, and Iowans like him, in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Chet for his achievements and wishing him nothing but continued success.

**DEMANDING A MEANINGFUL STRATEGY TO DEFEAT ISIS**

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2015*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, the President has repeatedly underestimated ISIS, and under-responded to the threat they pose. The American people have lost confidence.

For months we have heard the same refrain from the White House. They say, "We will degrade and ultimately destroy ISIS."

There has been little progress, if any. Top U.S. military officials have confirmed that ISIS is far from contained.

When the President addressed the nation from the Oval Office on Sunday, Americans needed to hear a real strategy to eradicate ISIS. The speech came just days after an act of terror here at home. Instead of a plan, our Commander in Chief delivered the same empty rhetoric.

The United States must show our international partners that we are committed to defeating ISIS. The first step is for the President to outline a plan to destroy them . . . not degrade them.

Until that point, the vacuum of American leadership will continue to grow, and so will the influence of ISIS.

**IN HONOR OF TOM AND CHARLOTTE OLEINIK'S GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2015*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if there was a first couple of servant leadership and a model for a successful marriage, it would be Tom and Charlotte Oleinik of Huntsville, Texas. Today, I have the pleasure of honoring them on their Golden Wedding Anniversary and sharing just a bit of their half a century long love story.

Tom was born the fifth of 12 children in Rosholt, Wisconsin, worked on his family's dairy farm and attended a one-room schoolhouse. He served his country in Korea, at Fort Devins, and Fort Drum, before returning to the farm and then applying to protect and serve as a member of the Wisconsin Highway Patrol.

Native Texan Charlotte Fisher was a Christmastime gift to her parents, who ran a Goose Creek rice farm where she grew up with her two younger siblings. She went to work and then college in Florida after graduating from high school. That decision to attend Florida College and to spend a summer in Wisconsin with her roommate would change the course of her life forever.

That summer Charlotte worked days at American Motors and nights and weekends, she waitressed at the Timber Ridge Café where little did she know then a 50 year love story was about to begin when a handsome young state patrolman walked through the door.

Tom, being a very smart man, asked the beautiful waitress on a date, but after a few dates, Charlotte took ill and needed surgery. While she was hospitalized, a certain man in uniform was a frequent visitor, often arriving with flowers.

According to Tom it took a lot of proposing—and a lot of no's—to get a yes from his beloved Charlotte. Charlotte remembers it a little differently, but after Tom was baptized in 1965, this happy young couple got engaged and wed in Kenosha, Wisconsin on December 17, 1965.

They went back to Florida College together and then moved to Texas where Tom worked

with Charlotte's father while waiting to attend and graduate from the Academy. After receiving his badge as a Texas trooper, Tom and Charlotte settled in Corrigan, Texas, where they raised three boys of their own and took in many troubled teenagers in a home full of love and operated a family business in addition to their full time jobs.

After a transfer to Brazoria County, Charlotte worked in the Angleton School District while their boys finished school. Then Tom retired and Huntsville won the lottery when this wonderful couple chose to call the town home.

Charlotte and Tom's impact on Walker County has been lasting, after moving to Huntsville they created the HEARTS Veterans Museum, a gem for the Texas 8th and continue to this day to be pillars in the community. Their servant leadership in our Lord's name and the love they radiate has set an amazing example for us all.

And I believe their 3 children, 17 grandchildren, a great grandson and the many troubled teens they have cared for would agree. The U.S. House congratulates you on celebrating your 50th wedding anniversary.

**EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1217 "PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS PROTECTION ACT OF 2015"**

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2015*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the past few months have been marked by senseless violence and tragedy across the globe and in our own country from Tuscon, Aurora, Sandy Hook, Charleston, Chattanooga, Roseburg, and now most recently in San Bernardino, California.

It is past time that we come together united by our common humanity and with this simple message: the violence must stop.

The senseless mass shooting in San Bernardino reminds us of the imperative of ending gun violence in our country.

And there are actions that can be taken to reduce gun violence beginning with the enactment of the bipartisan "Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act of 2015" (H.R. 1217).

This bipartisan legislation, which I am proud to be an original co-sponsor, will help prevent guns from falling into the hands of criminals and reinforce the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners.

Expanding the existing background check system to cover all commercial firearm sales, the Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act of 2015 ensures that criminals and the dangerously mentally ill cannot slip through background check loopholes that endanger the safety and rights of every American.

H.R. 1217 greatly reduces the number of places where a criminal can buy a gun.

Right now a criminal can buy a firearm in the parking lot of a gun show, over the internet, or through a newspaper ad without needing a background check.

The bill closes these loopholes while ensuring that background checks are conducted in the same way federally licensed dealers have for more than 40 years.