

The Kerbela Shrine Temple recently celebrated its 100th Anniversary on February 18, 2015.

For the past century, this group has touched the lives of needy children in my District in many positive ways.

On Thanksgiving Day 1950, the Knoxville Kerbela Shriners began a paper sale to benefit the East Tennessee Crippled Children's Fund, raising \$19,000 the first year.

Over the next 75 years, with the help of the Blue Lodge Masons, the Kerbela Shrine Temple raised \$13 million for handicapped and burned children through this one tradition.

Mr. Speaker, even in a state known for its Volunteers, the Kerbela Shriners stand out as an example of community service and charity. I call this important work to the attention of my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD and wish them a happy 100th anniversary and many more years of success in serving our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during roll call vote numbers 77, 78, 79, and 80 on February 12, 2015, and roll call vote numbers 81, 82, and 83 on February 13, 2015, because I was participating in a cybersecurity summit with the President in my Congressional District.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted:

On roll call vote no. 77 I would have voted NO.

On roll call vote no. 78 I would have voted NO.

On roll call vote no. 79 I would have voted YES.

On roll call vote no. 80 I would have voted NO.

On roll call vote no. 81 I would have voted YES.

On roll call vote no. 82 I would have voted NO.

On roll call vote no. 83 I would have voted YES.

CALLING UPON HOUSE LEADERSHIP TO PASS CLEAN DHS FUNDING BILL

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, our hearts and prayers are with the victims of the Metrolink train crash that took place this early morning in Oxnard, California.

As of right now, there are no confirmed casualties and I pray that it stays that way and all of the injured have a speedy recovery.

I also wish to commend the first responders who arrived at the scene so rapidly to treat the victims of the crash.

The nation can be proud of the first responders at the local, state, and federal level who selflessly answer the call to service and risk their lives to keep us safe.

Mr. Speaker, first responders ask little in return for the risks they willingly incur.

All they ask is that we support them and provide them the resources needed to protect the homeland.

That is why it is absolutely critical that Speaker BOEHNER bring to the floor immediately a clean Homeland Security funding bill.

House Republicans should stop risking the security of the homeland to appease the Tea Party extremist wing of their conference.

Mr. Speaker, there are only 4 days remaining until funding for the Department of Homeland Security runs out.

If House Republicans were to let that happen, DHS would be required to shut down much of the homeland security infrastructure put in place in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Although some DHS employees would continue to work in the event of a shutdown, they would be forced to do so without pay, creating significant disruptions and dealing a blow to morale.

Among those who would be expected to protect Americans without getting paid would be:

1. More than 40,000 Border Patrol agents and Customs and Border Protection officers;

2. More than 50,000 TSA aviation security screeners;

3. More than 13,000 Immigration and Customs Enforcement law enforcement agents and officers;

4. More than 40,000 active duty Coast Guard military members;

5. More than 4,000 Secret Service law enforcement agents and officers.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for House Republicans to stop politicizing the funding of this most essential function of the federal government and bring to the floor for debate and passage of a clean DHS funding bill so that we can keep our homeland safe.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROLLING MEADOWS, ILLINOIS

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the incorporation of Rolling Meadows, Illinois.

From its early origins, Rolling Meadows has been a model for other cities and towns to follow, through its continued dedication to building a friendly and welcoming community for residents and visitors alike.

In the years since its founding in 1955 by Orrin Ford, Rolling Meadows has become a center of culture and commerce, serving as a home to families, businesses, professionals, churches and organizations that have made this a vibrant and thriving community. Over the years, Rolling Meadows has developed a well-deserved reputation as a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family.

Rolling Meadows has a lasting legacy of service and prosperity. On this special occasion, in addition to celebrating the incorporation of their town, the community will also be honoring 60 original residents and two local businesses that have operated for the entirety

of the last 60 years. This impressive milestone is a testament to the strong foundation built at Rolling Meadows' founding and maintained still today.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing the 60th anniversary of the incorporation of Rolling Meadows, Illinois and wishing her residents a very successful year ahead.

KAISER PERMANENTE COLORADO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kaiser Permanente Colorado for their outstanding service and commitment to the community.

Kaiser Permanente Colorado is the state's largest nonprofit health plan, proudly working to improve the lives and health of Colorado residents for more than 45 years. As one of the largest businesses in our community, Kaiser Permanente Colorado provides comprehensive health care services to 630,000 members through 29 medical offices and a network of affiliated hospitals and physicians.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kaiser Permanente Colorado for their honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt they will exhibit the same commitment to healthcare and service to residents in the future.

SUTTON NORRIS APPOINTMENT TO UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to congratulate Mr. Sutton Norris on his appointment to the United States Military Academy.

Mr. Norris is an incredibly accomplished young man from Athens, Georgia. Sutton is the son of Tab and Elizabeth Norris, and will graduate from the prestigious Prince Avenue Christian School. During his time there, Sutton has exhibited his dedication to leadership while attending the Summer Leadership Experience at USMA and was awarded the Outstanding Leader Award.

Among his many accolades, Sutton also showcased academic prowess while serving as the president of the National Honor Society and the National Junior Honor Society.

Mr. Speaker, Sutton Norris is also a young man who is also dedicated to improving his community through service. Sutton organized Prince Avenue Christian School's initial participation in Relay for Life, an organization dedicated to raising awareness about cancer and funds to combat the disease.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I understand that Mr. Norris is no stranger to the rigorous work ethic required to be considered as a candidate for the United States Military Academy. With several family members serving in different branches of the armed services, I am confident that Sutton will accomplish his ultimate

goal of serving his nation as a United States soldier.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Mr. Sutton Norris.

LEW WILLIAMS

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the outstanding and invaluable contributions of African Americans during Black History Month and all year long. I am proud to pay tribute to African American men and women who exemplify the spirit of selfless and patriotic service.

I rise today to honor the life of a true champion of education, Lew Williams. His 36-year career in public service and his tireless efforts to improve the lives of children will be remembered forever. Born in Baker County, Georgia, Mr. Williams grew up in poverty and knew education was his ticket to a better life. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina and his Masters Degree from South Carolina State University. He married his beloved wife, Arthurene Sims and they had two children: Brandi, a literacy specialist at Melrose Elementary, and Brandon, a student at Stetson University College of Law.

In 1970, Mr. Williams began his career in education as a social studies teacher at Dunedin Middle. He soon rose to be principal of Fairmount Park, South Ward, Dunedin Elementary, and Seminole Middle as well as Pinellas Park High. He became the Director of School Operations in 1987 and was promoted to Associate Superintendent for Pupil Assignment and Area II Superintendent of Pinellas County Schools before his retirement in 2005. Mr. Williams was elected to Pinellas County School Board in 2010.

Although Mr. Williams was a soft-spoken man, when he spoke people listened. In his tireless dedication to his students, he wanted not only to educate them through books, but to equip them with life skills to succeed. He recognized the challenges that low-income and minority students faced, so he worked tirelessly to build relationships and connect with children and their families. He constantly pushed to create opportunities for those students some may have forgotten.

Mr. Williams always seemed to have the pulse of the district's needs and how to address them. He faced budget crises head-on while closing the achievement gap between races and income levels. He saw the need and spearheaded an effort to implement measures that dealt with chronically disruptive students in ways that integrated rather than alienated. He strived to give parents the tools they need to help their children succeed in academics and life.

After his retirement in 2005, he and his wife ran a preschool and he subsequently won the School Board seat. His slogan was "Keep the main thing the main thing." And that philosophy defined his approach of always putting children first regardless of status or race. Mr. Williams passed away December 3, 2011 but his legacy will live on through the many student's lives he has changed for the better.

TRIBUTE TO AUTUMN GADOUA

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special 7th grader from Hamburg, Iowa, located in the 3rd Congressional District which I represent. Autumn Gadoua is the statewide winner in the Iowa League of Cities 5th Annual "If I Were Mayor" essay contest.

This annual essay contest allows students to form and express ideas regarding citizenship and leadership. Autumn and the other district winners are being recognized today at a ceremony at the Iowa State Capitol Building in Des Moines.

In her essay Autumn wrote that if she were mayor of her hometown she would pursue policies that preserve the town's history and the historical brick buildings for current and new businesses. She notes that this policy would connect the past to the present and promote growth for the future.

Mayor Gadoua would also work for opportunities to help businesses thrive, bring new businesses and families to the town, promote green solutions, recycling, and support police officers and firefighters to keep them and the citizens of the community safe.

Autumn concluded her essay by saying, "I would visit the school in my community to teach children the responsibilities of a mayor and give examples of good citizenship. To help children grow and learn, I would establish an after school youth club. Being mayor is a big responsibility, but one that is rewarding and important to me."

I applaud and congratulate Autumn for her award winning essay and for proving that the next generation of leaders in Iowa and this nation are already preparing for their time of service. I am proud to represent Autumn and her family, her teachers and fellow students in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Autumn Gadoua and wishing her well and continued success in the future.

HONORING ADAM CEARLEY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional young man whose financial acumen just made his college expenses less of a burden. In the process of doing so, he's learned some valuable life skills.

Round Rock High School freshman Adam Cearley was awarded a \$20,000 scholarship after ranking sixth among 11,000 students nationwide in the H&R Block Budget Challenge. This innovative two-month, in-school simulation tasked students to manage money online based on a fictional profile. Students received a virtual salary, which they used to pay bills, invest in retirement, and manage loans to get points. Adam took to the challenging project early on, impressing both his peers and his teachers with his sound money management.

Not only does the simulation serve as a fun activity to ease students into business lessons, it's important for teenagers to learn financial lessons early. The skills teens like Adam learn from this will serve them well throughout their lives.

Young leaders like Adam Cearley show that the future for our nation is a bright one. I congratulate him on his great achievement and wish him nothing but the best in the years ahead.

JIM AND KATE CURTIS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jim and Kate Curtis for their outstanding dedication to their local community.

Owners of the Village Roaster since 1979, Jim and Kate Curtis have been proudly providing Jefferson County and Lakewood residents with some of the best coffee, tea, spices and gift selections from around the world. In addition to running the Village Roaster, the two have worked to support their community for their entire lives continually giving of themselves and their coffee.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jim and Kate Curtis for their honor as Members of the Year by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt they will exhibit the same community service and dedication in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRANSIT
TAX PARITY ACT OF 2015

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Transit Tax Parity Act of 2015. The bill would expand federal commuter tax benefits for transit and make them equal to those for parking. Currently, the transit benefit is half the level of the parking benefit. This bill would permanently raise the transit benefit to equal the parking benefit for commuters, in an effort to equalize the commuter options and to reduce congestion and pollution.

This bill would encourage commuters to use transit by equalizing tax benefits for mass transit and parking benefits at a time when transit systems have precipitously lost riders because of the inequality in benefits. Congress did the sensible thing when it increased the commuter benefit cap to be the same as parking in previous years, but when that parity ended, transit benefits decreased to \$130, just over half the benefits for driving. The decrease in transit benefits has led to a striking reduction in transit system ridership across the country. For example, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), the second largest transit system in the nation, runs throughout the national capital region and has seen a 25 percent decrease in Metrorail commuters, with riders switching to alternative means of commuting once they reach the