

they continue to make a tangible difference in the lives of more than 46 million Americans who live in poverty. VISTA focuses on providing structural support for low-income communities in order to fight illiteracy, improve health services and foster economic development.

In Washington's 9th Congressional District, VISTA members work with several service organizations in the community. In partnership with the United Way of King County, volunteers help mentor students, advocate for the homeless and provide families with social services. Through their selfless service, VISTA members and volunteers have improved the quality of life for many in our community and continue to be a vital force in the fight against poverty.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize AmeriCorps VISTA for its fifty years of service to our nation. VISTA members have set the standard for meaningful volunteer mobilization. I look forward to hearing about the future progress and success of VISTA for many years to come.

CATHERINE "KAY" SANTANGELO
NEST

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2015

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Catherine "Kay" Santangelo Nest who will celebrate her 80th birthday and be honored for a lifetime of dedicated community service and accomplishments tomorrow, Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at the Fort Lee Senior Center in Fort Lee, NJ.

Kay Nest was born and raised in West New York, NJ where she learned the value of community and fighting for a greater cause. Kay's father was an attorney who often donated his services to those who couldn't afford them and her mother worked for the West New York Board of Health for over 50 years. Kay's parents devoted much of their time volunteering for charitable and political causes and always lending a helping hand to those in need, so it does not come as a surprise that Kay has become the outstanding individual that she is today.

I am proud to say that Kay and I share the same Alma Mater, Fordham University, where she graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Education. Soon after, she married her husband Richard A. Nest, the late Mayor of Fort Lee, and they had their first and only child Richard B. Nest.

Kay has been a past president of UNICO, Palisades General Hospital Women's Auxiliary, the Friends of Fort Lee Public Library, and the Lions Club. She also served as a Trustee on the Board of Palisades General Hospital, the Chairperson of the Fort Lee Democratic Municipal Committee, Vice Chairman of the Bergen County Democratic Organization, Chairperson of the Fort Lee Parking Authority, Director of Fort Lee Citizen Council, and Chairperson of Fort Lee Housing Authority. Moreover, while taking up leadership positions in different organizations Kay still found the time to help all people in need, regardless of their stature in society.

Kay's love for helping others is what motivated her to enter life in politics. However, she

did not intend to go into politics herself but rather, to make sure that those who were elected to office provided new programs that helped those who were less fortunate and served the people who elected them. Kay was the passionate voice that brought Fort Lee its first two Senior Citizen Housing Apartments and a fully operational Senior Citizen Center along with it, ensuring that the elderly receive the proper care they deserve.

Kay exhibits the qualities of an individual we all strive to be more like. Her philanthropic work in her community has been recognized and led to her being named the 2006 Person of the Year by the Fort Lee Rotary Club in honor of her dedicated and outstanding service to her community at large over the years.

Kay is someone everyone in society can aspire to emulate. I have known Kay Nest for many years as a friend and as a fellow public servant. I have always admired Kay and she has truly brightened our world with her compassion and kind nature.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of individuals such as Kay Nest.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Kay's coworkers, family and friends, all those whose lives she has touched, and me, in recognizing the work of Mrs. Catherine "Kay" Santangelo Nest.

THE AMERICAN HEALTH SECURITY ACT OF 2015

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2015

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the American Health Security Act of 2015, legislation to provide comprehensive health coverage to every American and recognize that health care is a human right.

The Affordable Care Act was a dramatic step forward in improving the health security of the American people. This landmark law has expanded access to coverage, improved the solvency of our public programs, and made numerous reforms that have saved consumers billions of dollars. As we look for ways to build upon and strengthen the law, we must recognize that millions of Americans continue to fall through the cracks in the private health insurance market. The only way to truly ensure that access to quality health care is a right enjoyed by every American is through a single-payer system.

The American Health Security Act builds upon the success of the Affordable Care Act by providing universal health coverage to all Americans. It creates a framework that allows states to administer their own universal health insurance systems, subject to rigorous federal standards. Benefits would be comprehensive, costs would be contained, and patients would have full choice of doctor and hospital. This universal model would put an end to the inequities that continue to plague our system and jeopardize the health security of American families.

A TRIBUTE TO MARK BAUDLER IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mark Baudler for being awarded the Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

Mark was selected for this honor because of his diligent work on a greenhouse for the Nodaway Valley High School. He planned, organized, fundraised and supervised the construction for separate Eagle Scout and FFA projects.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Award is a nationwide program honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism. I am proud to see such a strong volunteer spirit in the youth of the 3rd district of Iowa and applaud his parents, Ron and Susan Baudler, teachers and community members that have exemplified volunteerism to Mark.

I know that all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating him on being recognized with this award, and I wish him continued success in his future education.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2015

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to have it noted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that I was unable to vote on the Homeland Security Department Continuing Resolution last Friday night due to previously scheduled events held in my district in Houston.

One of my biggest priorities as a Member of this Chamber is being present for every vote. I hope that the majority will make sure that future votes are held during scheduled times.

If I had been available Friday evening, I would have voted "yea."

UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL—AND NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT IRAN'S MURDEROUS INTENTIONS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank my colleague, Mr. STEWART, for reserving this time to send a message of vigorous, unequivocal, and unflinching U.S. support for Israel.

Mr. Speaker, on the eve of Prime Minister Netanyahu's historic address, we have to join his efforts to set the focus on the existential, genocidal threat Iran poses to Israel.

We have to be realistic about Iranian President Rouhani because many in the media—and some in the administration—have been reluctant to do that. Rouhani has a long history of murderous anti-Semitism and anti-

Americanism. The corpses are all over the globe.

Rouhani chaired Iran's National Security Council from 1989 to 2005—the years when Iran plotted the 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish cultural center, which killed 85 people in Buenos Aires. The 1996 attack on the Khobar Towers was also under his tenure—this one killed 19 U.S. servicemen in Saudi Arabia. He continues to support the global terrorism of Hezbollah.

Likewise, Rouhani's defense minister, Hossein Dehghan, participated in plotting the 1983 U.S. Marine barracks bombing in Beirut—this crime took the lives of 241 Americans, including Paul Innocenzi from my district. His Justice Minister, Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi, played a role in 1988 and 1998 in the summary executions of Iranian political prisoners and killings of intellectuals, as well as assassinations abroad.

Mr. Speaker, this is the man that our government and Prime Minister Netanyahu are dealing with. For 16 years Rouhani ran Iran's nuclear program. He has boasted openly of his success in using negotiations as a tool to buy time to advance his program.

The question before us is whether the agreement President Obama is trying to close with Rouhani is yet another deal favorable to the Iranian government, allowing it to move the hand on the nuclear clock yet closer to midnight.

There are many signs that this is the case. Most reports on the negotiations are that the administration is not trying to prevent a nuclear Iran, but only to preserve some "break-out time"—yet will not require the kind of transparency to make even that a remotely reliable measure. Even worse, it seems the administration is prepared to accept a "sunset clause"—a date after which Iranian nuclear arms would be completely legitimated. And the deal being crafted reportedly ignores Iran's ballistic missile program.

All this amounts to a potential catastrophe. Unfortunately, the administration seems to have telegraphed its determination to get a deal with Rouhani—almost any deal—and to shut Congress out. This is why I am concerned, and why we in Congress and the American people need to hear all the more from Prime Minister Netanyahu.

Let's let the Prime Minister know that Congress and the American people stand with Israel, without any 'ifs,' or 'buts,' or 'so long as,' or any other qualifiers, and without any illusions about the murderous and manipulative intentions of Rouhani. I'd like to close by thanking Speaker BOEHNER for inviting Prime Minister Netanyahu.

A TRIBUTE TO ALEX THOMSEN IN THE FIRST SESSION 114TH CONGRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alex Thomsen, a freshman at Underwood High School for winning the Class IA 113 pound bracket at the Iowa High School State Wrestling tournament on February 21, 2015.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs in our state, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Winning a state championship is the culmination of years of hard work and commitment, not only on the part of Mr. Thomsen, but also his parents Aric and Debbie Thomsen, his family and coaches.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this student-athlete demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent him and his family in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating Alex on competing in this rigorous competition and wishing continued success in his education and high school wrestling career.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWNSVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2015

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Brownsville Independent School District (BISD).

In March 1915, the Texas House of Representatives and Senate both approved a measure transferring control of the city's public education to the newly created BISD. Prior to the establishment of a school board, the City of Brownsville maintained control of the school system. The Brownsville Board of Trustees met for the first time on March 25, 1915, and was presided by Board President Dr. J.L. Wortman.

The newly established Brownsville Independent School District included Brownsville High School, City Grammar School, the Blalack School, the Las Matanzas School, the Media Luna School, the Nopalita School, the Linero School, and the West Brownsville School. Superintendent of Schools Lizzie M. Bardour and several trustees continued their service as the schools transitioned from city to board control, and the board instituted a new curriculum that included the creation of a department of domestic economy and an improved science department complete with a full skeleton.

Today, BISD is made up of 58 schools serving 50,000 students and employing 7,200—making the school district the largest employer within a 95-mile radius in the Rio Grande Valley. Of the 58 schools, there are 7 high schools, 11 middle schools, 37 elementary schools, and 3 alternative schools. One of the schools, Filemon B. Vela Middle School, was named after my father who was a Brownsville native and served as a U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of Texas. The school district maintains a rich cultural heritage and prepares graduates to pursue higher education and careers including medicine, engineering, science, technology, mathematics, and law enforcement.

BISD is also an active member of the U.S. Chess Federation, and is nationally recognized as one of the top chess programs in the nation. Several years ago, BISD students were featured on HBO's "Real Sports" with Bryant Gumbel showcasing the program. The school district is a powerhouse, taking stu-

dents of all grade levels to compete in tournaments around the nation.

Through rigorous academic programs such as early college high school, extracurricular activities ranging from band to studentina to actors guild, and highly competitive sports—whether football, soccer or swimming—BISD is leading its students, faculty and staff to new heights. BISD is a trailblazer in its own right and worthy of recognition as it reaches this important milestone.

The continued growth in the student population and number of schools has not changed the original mission of BISD, which is to help students become better stewards of society. Mr. Speaker, this month Brownsville Independent School District celebrates its 100th Anniversary and prepares for the next 100 years with continued dedication to providing all students with a high quality education.

A TRIBUTE TO CHASE SHILTZ IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Chase Shiltz of Creston, Iowa for winning the Class 2A 160 pound bracket at the Iowa High School State Wrestling tournament on February 21, 2015.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs in our state, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Winning a state championship is the culmination of years of hard work and commitment, not only on the part of Mr. Shiltz, but also his parents John and Dorie Shiltz, his family, and coaches.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this student-athlete demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent him and his family in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating Chase on competing in this rigorous competition and wishing continued success in his education and high school wrestling career.

CONGRATULATING THE PORT HUENEME CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2015

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and congratulate the Port Hueneme Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of its 75th anniversary. Since its inception on September 24, 1956, the Port Hueneme Chamber of Commerce has played a vital role in the growth and advancement of the City of Port Hueneme's business community.

The Port Hueneme Chamber of Commerce is a nonprofit California corporation, organized for the purpose of advancing the commercial,