

for the colonies in the British parliament. These universal founding principles of representation and equality have become the basis of American government. Democracy upholds these principles in the government. The government is indirectly ruled by the people through representatives. These representatives are responsible for directly seeing to the needs of the people who live in their specified region. The government's job is to accommodate the needs of the citizens. American government is "for the people, by the people". The power of the government is limited by its citizens. This is self-government in its truest form.

The government is also responsible for creating an organized society. People pay taxes to the government so that the government can generate revenue and maintain its operations. In return, the government should be responsible for providing various services to the people. The government should provide fundamental services such as basic infrastructure, security and a stable economy. A country cannot support itself without a solid infrastructure. Therefore, the government should provide adequate facilities for their citizens. They should be responsible for providing urban infrastructure such as water supply, electricity and roads. It is the government's duty to effectively utilize the resources within a country for development. This means that the government should also be able to provide other services. Tax money should be used to create better education, health facilities and social security. The American government has always provided the best safety for its citizens. A government should always protect its citizens, because they should come first. Lastly, the government is responsible for keeping a stable economy. Without a stable economy, the people cannot survive.

The American government was established to serve the best interests of its people. Its role is to provide for them. It should provide an organized society and a good government. The government's main role is to serve its people.

ROW4RICE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Rice University Rowing team has taken a step to further rowing sports in the City of Houston. To help raise the funds needed to build a water sports facility on Buffalo Bayou in downtown Houston, two of the teams coaches will row 3,000 miles across the Atlantic in the Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Challenge. Coaches Mike Matson and David Alviar, attempting to be the first Texans to complete this feat, will begin this massive undertaking in the Canary Islands, and finish on the Caribbean island of Antigua.

The duo will take this challenge in a boat named after Ann McCormick Sullivan.

Ann Sullivan was a firefighter with Station 68 in Houston when on May 31, 2013 a 5-alarm fire at the Southwest Inn took the lives of 4 brave men and women, including Ann. This deadly fire completely shook the community. Ann was just 24 years old.

Coach Mike Matson was a volunteer firefighter in the City of Stafford and had the opportunity to run calls with Ann. Ann, nicknamed "mighty mouse," was a strong, resilient

firefighter, who was never afraid to step into danger to help others. Mike recalls training days when Ann would extend the heavy hose full of water to its full length, a task difficult even to the largest men on the squad. Ann lived up to this name, never wavering in her determination.

Coach Mike felt that it was fitting that the boat be named after one of Houston's heroes who truly represents the spirit of resilience needed for this race. Under the name Row4Rice the two coaches will raise money to build proper facilities to host rowing, kayaking, canoeing, and other water sports. They have pledged to donate \$5,000 to the Ann McCormick Sullivan Foundation to support women in firefighting. Mike, David and the rest of the Rice rowing team are to be congratulated as they begin this massive undertaking in the spirit of one of Houston's heroes.

And that's just the way it is.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STATE
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM EN-
HANCEMENT ACT OF 2015

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the National Guard State Partnership Program Enhancement Act of 2015, which strengthens this critical "soft power" global partnership program. The National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP) provides unique capacity building capabilities to Combatant Commanders and U.S. Chiefs of Mission via 68 comprehensive partnerships between National Guard units across the United States and 74 partner nations with the potential for further development.

For over 20 years, the SPP has directly supported the broad national interests and security cooperation goals of the United States by engaging partner nations via military, socio-political, and economic conduits at the local, state, and national levels. The program's public diplomacy effectiveness lies in its ability to leverage the full breadth and depth of U.S. defense and interagency capabilities from within the state-country relationship.

The value of the SPP lies in its ability to concentrate a small component of the U.S. defense structure—a state's National Guard—on a single country or region in support of U.S. Government policies and objectives that are coordinated between the Combatant Commander and U.S. Chief of Mission. This concentrated focus supports the development of long term personal relationships and interagency coordination mechanisms that would not otherwise exist. By its nature the National Guard is uniquely positioned within the military to develop these long term relationships.

The SPP is becoming an increasingly more important tool for Combatant Commanders and U.S. Chiefs of Mission in achieving long-term U.S. strategic objectives. The program has developed from assistance and partnership with primarily Eastern European nations to a program that supports all the non-CONUS combatant commanders. Recently, the long-term benefits of this program became evident. In particular, I highlight the 22-year relationship between the California National Guard

and Ukraine. When the instability in Ukraine began the California National Guard got some of the clearest insight we had into the situation by virtue of the long term relationship they had forged with Ukraine's military and civil institutions.

Of additional interest to me are the opportunities that SPP poses for our rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region. I believe the SPP will further expand and strengthen relations with many Asian and Pacific nations. The program clearly demonstrates the U.S. commitment to the region and our allies. In fact, one of the newest partnerships was established last year between Tonga and the Nevada National Guard. These types of partnerships help to develop critical capacity building capabilities for allies in this critical region of the world.

Most importantly, the bill I introduce today eliminates the 2016 termination of the program. Additionally, it removes the program restriction to be primarily a humanitarian and emergency response force and expands it to support the national interests and security cooperation goals and objectives of the United States. Elimination of this restrictive language helps to recognize the true nature of SPP and acknowledges broader partnerships that already exist. Requiring the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to develop "core competencies" will help the Combatant Commanders and U.S. Chiefs of Mission more effectively use, develop and maintain partnership programs.

Further, the bill ensures that Department of Defense, a state National Guard and Department of State's equities are considered in the context of broader program goals and lays out the roles of the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of State, and Chief of the National Guard Bureau in managing the program. The bill puts in place critical oversight mechanisms to establish metrics through which to analyze the impact of the program. Lastly, this bill creates an accounting line within DoD that allows National Guard funds to be used in support of the program and ensures accountability of the funding. Funds for the program currently come several separate Service, Department of Defense and Department of State accounts. The Congress needs more visibility on the use of these funds and establishing a central account is critical to this endeavor and is similar to how the counterdrug program resources its activities.

The capabilities and missions outlined in this legislation leverage the capabilities inherent in the National Guard and will strengthen our relations with allies and nations across the globe. The dual role of the National Guard provides them a unique opportunity to support Combatant Commander as well as an Ambassador's needs in a given country. I believe this legislation is necessary to codify current practices and enhance the program's positive impact worldwide.

I thank Congressman TIM WALZ of Minnesota; Congressman JIM BRIDENSTINE of Oklahoma and Congressman DOUG LAMBORN of Colorado for being original co-sponsors of this legislation. Our efforts highlight the bipartisan support for SPP and need to enhance this critical capacity building tool. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this critical legislation.

HONORING MICHAEL BRENNAN

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Michael Brennan attends Seven Lakes High School in Katy, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

The debate on the role of government has raged in politics since the very first inception of government in Sumeria over 5500 years ago. Today's society is certainly a far cry from those long-gone times, but the discussion on governance still continues on in our very own Congress to this day. The exact issues have changes with the times, but general views on the matter can be split into two groups: those who see the government only as a stabilizing political and economic entity, and those who also see it as a tool for significant change.

Regardless of the merits of either side, there are many purposes of government which many consider inherent to its existence and for which it was originally established. In exchange for the ability to tax citizens for the money required for its operation, the government provides the critical services of public defense and order—police forces, military, civil courts, and so on. The government is usually also responsible for the universal system of standards (or at the very least, adopting and enforcing standards set by the ISO) as well as creating and maintaining transportation, a monetary system, and upholding private ownership (at least in a capitalist system). There are also a number of societal industries and organizations which could be left alone to their own mechanisms (by means of ultra-conservative laissez-fair policies), but governments usually take an active role in at least rudimentary regulation such as professional certification, education, basic human rights and labor laws, and controlling or mitigating the natural ebb of flow of an economy. Indeed, many of the aspects of government which allow higher society to function are great and necessary positives—the conflict arises in questions on using the government's greater powers.

The unfortunate reality of the ideological divide between so called "conservatives" and "liberals" is that neither side is particularly more correct than the other (regardless of how much they may deride each other). However, it is well known how dangerous great power can be, and it follows from this that the society-changing power that a government has should be used sparingly. The government should use its "social" power when there is little other choice due to deep-rooted ideologies which directly contradict the concept of equality or threaten the safety and well-being of citizens, as in the 1960s when segregation had to be forcibly abolished or when government intervention

seemed like the only way to pull the US out of the Great Depression. Most every individual has compassion for his common individual, but "compassion" cannot simply be legislated through extensive social programs, using money from people who may not even agree with these programs. In all cases, when so much money and so many lives may be at stake, caution must necessarily trump passion.

AIDAN CLARK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Aidan Clark for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Aidan Clark is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Aidan Clark is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Aidan Clark for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO JENNA EKSTROM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jenna Ekstrom for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Jenna has the determination and drive to be successful in all that she does, and her exemplary work with the Des Moines Art Center is a testament to that. As the Manager of Membership with the Des Moines Art Center, Jenna is passionate about her work and it shows. Jenna is an active volunteer, giving her time to support worthy causes such as the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute, Junior League of Des Moines and Housing Tomorrow. In all aspects of her life, Jenna's example of hard work and service makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jenna in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jenna on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

HONORING THE TREVINO FAMILY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Trevino family of Zapata, Texas. Six brothers—Teodoro, Antonio, Anselmo, Filiberto, Jr., Leopoldo, and Jose Manuel—proudly served the United States of America in World War II. Combined, the brothers served a total of fifteen and a half years, and by the end of the war, each was honorably discharged.

The Trevino brothers were born to the late Filiberto Trevino and Luisa Cuellar Trevino. During World War II, Teodoro, the eldest, served in the Medical Corps; Antonio served in the Coastal Artillery; Anselmo served in the Engineer Corps; Filiberto, Jr. served in the U.S. Army Air Corps; Leopoldo served in the Field Artillery; and Jose Manuel, the youngest of the brothers, served in the Infantry. Despite the distance between them, the brothers were miraculously able to meet with one another over the course of their service; Antonio was fortunate enough to see each of his brothers.

Despite the many hardships the brothers faced during their service, each was able to overcome whatever obstacles were presented. With support from their loved ones back home—as well as one another—the Trevino brothers dutifully served their country. They were brave, fearlessly taking down enemy planes and saving fellow soldiers by covering them with their own bodies to shield them from incoming enemy fire.

After four and half years of wartime, the Trevino family was finally reunited. By June of 1946, all six of the brothers had returned home to Zapata, Texas. They were proud of their service, and it is with great pleasure that they share their experiences with their children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the Trevino family for their incredible service to our great nation and their fellow countrymen during World War II.

TRIBUTE TO DR. NORMAN E. BORLAUG

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, known as "the father of the green revolution," was born on March 25, 1914 on a farm outside Cresco, Iowa. Moved during the Great Depression by the examples of hunger