

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

he witnessed, Dr. Borlaug committed his life to developing the then nascent field of plant biology to increase food production and combat world hunger. The mutation techniques he developed led to high yield, disease resistant wheat varieties suitable for planting around the globe. In honor of his work, Dr. Borlaug was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977, and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007.

Today, on what would have been his 101st birthday, I rise to honor this great native Iowan. Dr. Borlaug revolutionized agriculture and saved over one billion lives from starvation. His legacy stands as an example of American ingenuity and the impact one good man can make on the world. I encourage all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to visit Dr. Borlaug's statue in Statuary Hall to reflect on the life and achievements of this great American.

HONORING CAPTAIN ANITRIA M.
MACK

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a resourceful and ambitious woman, Captain Anitria M. Mack. Anitria has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve others.

Captain Anitria Michelle Mack was born on April 17, 1975 in Grenada, MS. She graduated from Grenada High School, May 1993. She began her military career in May 1992, enlisting in the 254th Engineer Detachment, Camp McCain, MS, under the split option program as an Administrative Specialist. She completed Basic Training the summer of 1992 and Advanced Initial Training the summer of 1993 at Fort Jackson, SC. The 254th Engineer Detachment later reorganized and became Detachment 3 Company B 106th Support Battalion causing CPT Mack-Lewis to reclassify as a Light Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic. She enrolled in Jackson State University in August, 1993 where she graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Accounting in May, 1997 and a Masters Degree in Business Administration, May, 2000. CPT Mack-Lewis then entered the Federal Officer Candidate School, Fort Benning, GA, July 8, 2001 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on October 11, 2001.

CPT Mack-Lewis simultaneously served as the Executive Officer and Maintenance Control Officer of Bravo Company 106th Support Battalion from October 2001 thru December 2004, located at Camp Shelby, MS. CPT Mack-Lewis deployed to Iraq in January 2005 as the Supply and Services Officer, where she was the Officer In Charge of all Logistics Convoy Operations for six Forward Operating Bases occupied by the 155th Brigade Combat Team within the "Triangle of Death". Upon return from Iraq, she assumed company command from April 2006–January 2008 of Alpha Company 106th Brigade Support Battalion, a Supply and Distribution Company whose headquarter is in Magee, MS with detachments at Prentiss and Taylorsville, MS. She then served as the Executive Officer of Joint

Forces Headquarters, Jackson, MS from January 2008–May 2009.

CPT Mack-Lewis has received numerous awards throughout her career to include: Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, as well as other commendations and state awards.

CPT Mack-Lewis worked fulltime with the Mississippi Army National Guard from January 1999–May 2009 as a federal technician. She served as a Budget Analyst for the Director of Logistics from January, 1999–December, 2004 and as the Employee Relations Specialist for all MS Army and Air National Guard Federal Technicians from January 2005–May 2009. She was then hired on the Active Guard Reserve Program (AGR) June, 2009. She currently teaches Army ROTC to students attending Mississippi College, MS College School of Law and Hinds Community College. She also serves as ROTC Liaison for National Guard soldiers who attend school at MC, MC School of Law, UMC, JSU, Hinds CC, Belhaven, Millsaps, Delta State, and MS Valley State University. She is a member of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Mississippi Army National Guard. She currently serves as a Logistics Officer for the 106th Brigade Support Battalion, Monticello, MS. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Clinton (MS) Alumnae Chapter. She and her husband Paul have been married since August 31, 2002 and currently reside in Terry, MS. They are members of New Jerusalem Church, Jackson, MS.

CPT Mack-Lewis's favorite scripture comes from Psalm 27:1–3. "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and foes came upon me to eat my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though a host should encamp against me. My heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Captain Anitria M. Mack for her passion and dedication to serving our great Country and desire to make a difference in the lives of others.

HONORING AVERY BAYHAM

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.

Avery Bayham attends Dawson High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: select an important event that has occurred in the past 15 years and explain how that event has changed our country.

On September 11, 2001 four planes were hijacked by the terrorist group al-Qaeda. Two of these planes struck the World Trade Center in New York City, one of the planes hit the Pentagon, and the other was crashed into a field in Pennsylvania. Hundreds of lives were lost as this event struck fear in the hearts of millions of Americans and dramatically changed the status-quo of the United States. Today, almost fifteen years later, we are still able to see the results of this devastating event in our everyday society.

Among the most common effects of 9/11 is racism. I am a sophomore in high school, and every day as I walk down the vast halls of my very racially diverse school, I constantly hear racial jokes and stereotypes. After 9/11, the Islamic community in the United States was heavily discriminated against and criticized. These so called "jokes" aimed at certain members of our community are extremely disrespectful, immature, and absolutely unacceptable. The Declaration of Independence states that "all men are created equal" and no man has the right to place himself higher due to race. I personally believe that the racial dispute towards Muslims after the event generated and propelled forward the racism that we have in society today.

Another gargantuan effect of 9/11 was that the security of the United States dramatically increased. This was the first event that seriously caught the attention of the entire population of America since the Cuban Missile Crisis. The security at airports was probably the most noticeable change with ways to try to find bombs, background checks, and body scans. The U.S. has been on the edge of its seat ever since we sent our boys into Afghanistan to put a stop to al-Qaeda, which was defeated with the death of Osama Bin Laden. Now, there is a new group known as ISIS, who is currently executing Christians in Europe while the rest of the world is watching helplessly from the sidelines. This group needs to be neutralized as soon as possible; although it isn't directly attacking the U.S., they are constantly attacking our society and relationships with others. This group was created in response to the elimination of Osama Bin Laden, the mastermind behind 9/11. I have seen friends abandon friends just because of what members of their race have done to each other, and I would hate to have that happen to myself.

9/11 was an absolutely devastating event in America, an event that is still attacking our society today. If 9/11 wouldn't have occurred, we would have significantly less racial discrimination as well as security threats in the United States. When did the U.S. begin to allow our enemies to change us?

IN APPRECIATION OF RON
LEGRAND AND HIS YEARS OF
SERVICE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today, as ranking member and former chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, I join with my colleagues, Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE, ranking member of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, and Representative ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, the former chairman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, in expressing our appreciation for