

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.

Henri Duygulu 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.

HOW THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS HAS CHANGED THE COUNTRY

Thirteen years ago the terrorist attack of 9/11 on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon affected the United States of America greatly. Four main points were affected—first nearly a decade of war, deportation and importation, transportation, and the National Security Advisory (NSA).

Within under a month the United States (US) deployed US troops into Afghanistan and within 2 years after in Iraq. The war became harder to gain the public's approval because in 13 years the US government spent around 42 billion dollars and between 2001 and 2011, nearly 2 million troops were deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq. In that time, more than 6,000 American troops were killed, and roughly 44,000 wounded. Of returning service members, more than 18 percent have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or depression, and almost 20 percent reported suffering from traumatic brain injury (TBI) during deployment.

After 9/11 the Bush administration created the Department of Homeland Security in 2002. The Department of Homeland Security was meant to strengthen the US borders. After US Immigration and Customs Enforcement deportations nearly doubled About 400,000 immigrants we're being deported annually per year, only half had been convicted of a criminal crime. As you can see after 9/11 it was much harder to become a US citizen or even get into the country due to more security for the citizens.

The transportation industry had a huge impact on airports due to the hijacking of the planes directed at the towers and Pentagon. Back before the attack people could show up 30 minutes before their flight and walk through security without identification. After the attack airports became much more secure security-wise. To get threw an airport now a days it takes over an hour going through many checks and having to follow countless rules and in some cases getting patted down or arrested. Not only aviation was effected, leaving through the US borders requires a passport now and you get fully inspected. The country became safer after these changes, but made travel harder.

Over the years, mini rumors have been said about the NSA. All of this traces back to the attacks on 9/11. 9/11 was the first terrorist attack on US soil and the attack devastated the country and it helped us realize that there were a lot of holes in our security and that a lot of people wanted to kill us. Because all these factors added up, the NSA watches over very carefully looking for threats within the country. The government funded the NSA 52.6 billion dollars in 2013 to use spy agency's to look through media and communication. Some US citizens find this scary, but in the long run who cares if the government knows a secret of yours? They are using it to keep us safe.

Through these points, I have shown evidence of how the attacks of 9/11 have changed our country, some for the better some for the worse.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 130, had I been present, I would have voted NO.

AUDREN WILKERSON

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 Audren Wilkerson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Audren Wilkerson is an 8th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Audren Wilkerson 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 Audren Wilkerson 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.

PRINCESS MAHA CHAKRI SIRINDHORN—60TH BIRTHDAY

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join millions of people in Thailand—the United States' oldest ally in Asia—to celebrate Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's 60th birthday, which will occur on April 2nd. Princess Sirindhorn is the third child of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, and the only foreign monarch to be born on the U.S. mainland.

Born in 1955, Maha Chakri Sirindhorn has followed closely in her parents' footsteps, traveling across Thailand to hear Thai's problems and respond with royal development projects.

By 1980, she was launching her own development projects, initially focused on disadvantaged and malnourished children. Aside from providing immediate assistance, she promoted integrated farming for overall resilience and more sustainable sources of nutrition. Public health has remained a lifelong concern: the Princess is the President of the Thai Red Cross Society and chairperson of the Prince Mahidol Foundation, which bestows globally

recognized awards for achievements in public health and medicine.

Princess Sirindhorn soon expanded her projects to encompass education, increasing access for children in need so they would have better opportunities in life. Her approach and philosophy are deeply rooted in human rights and self-sufficiency.

"Those at the margins of society have rights to a good standard of living. Access to education is a fundamental human right. Education provides opportunities to learn and live sufficiently. Knowledge can be valued resources to help others or the community," she has said.

Her more than 100 projects are aimed at improving livelihoods, raising the status of women, helping the disabled, protecting the environment and wildlife. Many have been supported by agencies such as FAO, WHO, and Johns Hopkins University.

The scholarships she grants to students are helping to nurture and create new generations of talented Thais dedicated to public service. Tech savvy and up to date on information technology, the Princess promotes Thailand's traditional culture and arts among the younger generation.

Through her hard work and dedication, the Princess has earned endearment and respect from the Thai people, who fondly called her "Princess Angel". I join them in celebrating the auspicious occasion of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's 60th birthday and wishing her good health.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on yet another horrible Republican budget. It seems like ground hog day, Mr. Speaker.

Just like last year, and the year before, and the year before that. . . . The Republican budget once again attacks our seniors, our students, workers, and middle class families—all for the sake of protecting tax breaks for the rich. Their budget proposal is another recipe for disaster at a time when too many Americans—especially people of color—are desperately struggling to make ends meet.

As a key member of the CBC's Education Task Force, I am concerned that it would outright deplete our nation's commitment to education, since Republicans included severe cuts in elementary and secondary education, as well as in early learning programs.

Just in my state of Florida alone: this budget on the House floor today would result in: (compared to President Obama's budget proposal)

1,400 fewer Florida children in Head Start;

Nearly \$75 million less funding in Florida for disadvantaged students, an amount that is enough to fund 160 schools, over 1,000 teacher and aide jobs, and over 100,000 students.

Over \$18 million less funding in Florida to provide educational opportunities for students with disabilities, representing nearly a 3 percent cut, and reduce financial aid for the more than half a million Florida students who rely on Pell Grants to afford college.

Mr. Speaker, we need to send this Republican budget back to the drawing board.

A TRIBUTE TO TRESSA MYRTLE
EPPS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Tressa Myrtle Epps on the up-coming celebration of her 110th birthday on March 30th, 2015.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Tressa's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Tressa has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Tressa in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 110th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Ms. Epps on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her continued health and happiness in the years to come.

CONGRATULATING THE CARMEL
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SWIM TEAM
ON THEIR HISTORIC STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Carmel High School Girls Swim team for winning the 2014–2015 Girls Swimming State Championship title. This state title is a momentous win for the Lady Greyhounds, as it marks their 29th consecutive state championship title, which ties the national record for the most consecutive state championship wins in any sport.

While their 29th consecutive state title is momentous on its own, what the Lady Greyhound swim team accomplished during the state championship was even more extraordinary than that. The Lady Greyhounds broke thirteen state records at the state championship meet, four of which also broke national records.

To recap their record breaking state title, six individual records were broken, four records were broken by relay teams—all four of which also broke national records—and the team as a whole broke 3 records. The team won 9 out of 11 events, breaking the state record for most first place event wins. They also broke records for most points scored, scoring 445 out of 544 points possible, and widest margin of victory, beating the second place team by 266 points. These extraordinary achievements at the state championship speak for themselves, and have led many to refer to this

team as the best team ever in high school girls swimming.

The Lady Greyhounds, under the leadership of Coach Chris Plumb, have put forth an incredible amount of hard work and dedication. The team trains year-round, puts in countless hours in the pool and weight room, and have supportive parents who are just as dedicated to helping achieve great success.

Coach Plumb has been head coach of the Lady Greyhounds since 2006, leading them to 9 of their last 29 consecutive titles. Coach Plumb leads by example and inspires his swimmers with his coaching and character. He works tirelessly to motivate, train, and push his swimmers to dream big and reach their goals. High school sports are a special experience. They teach discipline, build character, and allow young men and women to have an experience they will remember for a lifetime. This team exemplifies the wonderful attributes that high school sports teach, and I am proud to represent such a hardworking and highly regarded group of young women and coaches.

Once again, congratulations to the Carmel High School Girls Swim team. I look forward to cheering the team on through another great season next year and send my best wishes as the Lady Greyhounds work toward breaking the national record for most consecutive wins. Go Greyhounds!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed votes on March 23, 2015, due to weather. I missed recorded votes #130 and #131. I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I were present.

On Roll Call #130, I would have voted “no” (Passage of H.R. 360, Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2015).

On Roll Call #131, I would have voted “yea” (Passage of H. Res. 162, Calling on the President to provide Ukraine with military assistance to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity).

ADAM COOK

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 Adam Cook for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Adam Cook is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Adam Cook 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 Adam Cook 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.

TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN CARRABINE

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.

Kathryn Carrabine attends Dulles High School in Sugar Land, 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.

Changes occur in our country for many reasons and sometimes the impact is detrimental. In particular, the Obamacare abortion pill mandate that requires all employers to offer insurance and must include preventive care; which includes numerous birth controls and at least four of which cause abortions. Some companies are morally opposed to this; however, if they choose to not include this provision, they would have to pay \$100 per employee every day. With this act a company is forced to follow this federal law or go bankrupt. As few companies try to go against a federal law, this one stands out to companies owned by devout Christians. As abortion is against what many Christians, as well as other religions, believe, why is this mandate included in a federal law?

One case receiving notable attention, Hobby Lobby vs. Burwell, the Supreme Court voted against Hobby Lobby which could have caused the owners of the company to pay over \$1.4 million a day. They had to contemplate bankruptcy or acting against their moral beliefs. As they were faced with a hard decision, they chose to remain in business and to provide the insurance; but what did this mean for what they believed in? Should they just sit back and hold their tongue on a very important topic to them and many more? Hobby Lobby is not the only ones who are upset with this mandate. Many Catholic hospitals and private schools are also having a hard time facing this mandate. Many have compromised their religious beliefs that abortion is not acceptable, but they are being forced by the government in order to comply with the mandate and to stay in business. How can Christian schools teach their religion that abortion is not acceptable, when they have to provide insurance that condones preventative care resulting in abortion? Many suggest that this is going against the 1st Amendment regarding freedom of religion. Every American has the freedom to believe in what they chose to believe regarding religion. Unfortunately, freedom of religion and compliance with government mandates are causing conflict for many Americans.