

HONORING THE 416TH/412TH THEATER ENGINEER COMMANDS AND ENGINEER COMMANDS ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL WALL DEDICATION

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2015

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the opening of a new memorial wall dedicated by the 416th/412th Theater Engineer Commands along with the Engineer Commands Association in honor of members of the armed forces who have paid the ultimate price in service to our country.

The memorial, located at the Parkhurst United States Army Reserve Center in Darien, Illinois, features pictures of the brave service members who laid down their lives for their country. The 416th/412th Theater Engineer Commands and the Engineer Commands Association worked countless hours planning, designing, and fundraising for the memorial which will stand in testament to sacrifices made by their fellow soldiers.

I would like to thank the 416th/412th Theater Engineer Commands and Engineer Commands Association for honoring our fallen heroes with this memorial wall.

HONORING PHYLLIS MITZEN WITH THE NATIONAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2015

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my dear friend Phyllis Mitzen on her well-deserved recognition from the National Association of Social Workers. Tonight, Phyllis will be presented with their prestigious 2014 National Lifetime Achievement award. This is a fitting accolade as she has devoted most of her adult life to the social work profession and to improving the care and lives of older Americans.

Phyllis is the co-director of the Center for Long-Term Care Reform in Chicago. She is known and respected as a leader in gerontological social work, has authored books and scholarly papers in the field, and was integral in reforming long-term care in Illinois by helping to craft trailblazing reform legislation. In addition, she serves on a number of statewide advisory boards and commissions. She has also influenced and inspired many as the coordinator of the Older Adult Studies Program at the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration.

Before her work at the Center for Long-Term Care Reform, Phyllis spent close to 25 years helping to establish the Council for Jewish Elderly's important presence in our community, first as Director of Home and Community Based Services and ultimately as Director of Government Affairs. Under Phyllis' leadership, CJE Senior Life expanded programming to offer a myriad of services, from evaluating the evolving needs of seniors to adult day pro-

grams and other supportive services which allow individuals to remain in their home and community with dignity. It is critical that such comprehensive and supportive programs are available in our area, and CJE Senior Life gives seniors appropriate services through professional care. It is a testament to Phyllis' amazing contributions to seniors and their families.

Phyllis has served as a mentor and friend to many. I join with them in applauding her steadfast commitment to fighting for the dignity and care of older Americans and in thanking her for her decades of work in our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAUREEN MARINELLI

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maureen Marinelli, a thirty-two year veteran letter carrier for the United States Postal Service and the former president of the Massachusetts State Letter Carriers Association. As someone who served as a letter carrier in the past, I applaud her dedicated service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Ms. Marinelli's career as a letter carrier began in 1983. Almost immediately, it was clear Maureen Marinelli was an exemplary leader among the Massachusetts Letter Carriers, and her peers took notice. Maureen worked tirelessly to help letter carriers across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She spent her career working at the grassroots level, representing and advocating for her fellow letter carriers at the state and local level. She did this while remaining a loyal letter carrier. Because of her day to day drive to listen to local letter carriers, she understood the fundamental needs of the men and women we rely on to get our mail.

After twenty years of distinguished service as a letter carrier, her peers elected her the president of the Massachusetts State Letter Carriers Association in 2004 and then again in 2011. During both terms in office, Maureen worked with labor groups across Massachusetts in order to better serve her letter carriers. Because of her hard work, she improved the lives of men and women across the Commonwealth by ensuring that our mail was delivered on time and with a smile.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Maureen Marinelli on this remarkable occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her a wonderful retirement and many years of happiness, as well as in thanking her for working tirelessly as an advocate for letter carriers across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

RECOGNIZING RAINIER BEACH HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rainier Beach High School in Seattle, Washington for increasing its gradua-

tion rate by 25 percent since 2011. Located in the southeastern region of Seattle along the shores of Lake Washington, Rainier Beach High School first opened its doors in 1960, and is currently home to about 400 students from the 9th Congressional District.

In previous years, Rainier Beach suffered low enrollment and graduation numbers, as well as high dropout rates. This suddenly changed two years ago when parents, staff, and community members of the Rainier Beach neighborhood pushed for an investment in an International Baccalaureate (IB) advanced learning program. This investment was made to improve the educational outcomes for all students at Rainier Beach. IB is a proven academic curriculum for 11th and 12th grade students across the nation that challenges young adults and prepares them for higher education. Students who have successfully completed IB classes have the opportunity to earn an IB diploma, making them more academically competitive in the college application process.

Since the implementation of this program, Rainier Beach High School has witnessed tremendous improvements in the academic success of their students. Graduation rates have risen substantially in recent years, with 79 percent of seniors graduating with high school diplomas this past spring. Moreover, Rainier Beach continues to exceed the Seattle School District's average graduation rate of 74 percent.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Rainier Beach High School on this academic achievement. I am extremely proud of Rainier Beach for valuing education and promoting growth. Their success story sets the bar very high for schools around the country.

2015 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ART COMPETITION

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2015

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the artistic ability of a young man from my Congressional District, Andrew Lowery from the Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts School. Mr. Lowery is the winner of the 2015 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania's High School Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery." Mr. Lowery's artwork, a self-portrait in graphite, was selected from a number of outstanding entries to this year's competition.

In fact, 63 works from 15 different schools in Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District were submitted to our panel of respected local artists. It's a real tribute to Mr. Lowery's skill and vision that his work was chosen as the winner of this year's competition.

Mr. Lowery's artwork will represent the 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania in the national exhibit of high school students' artwork that will be displayed in the United States Capitol over the coming year. I encourage my colleagues as well as any visitor to Capitol Hill to view Mr. Lowery's artwork, along with the winning entries from the high school art contests held in other Congressional Districts, which will be on display in the

Capitol tunnel. It is amazing to walk through this corridor and see the interpretation of life through the eyes of these young artists from all across our country.

Cassandra Finnegan from Springdale High School was awarded second place for her watercolor and pen composition "The Early Bird." Miranda Miller from Woodland Hills High School received third place for her acrylic on board painting entitled "Corner of Hanover and Church." Faiza Amir from Woodland Hills High School was awarded fourth place for her acrylic painting on canvas entitled "Flat Out Majestic," and Jared Bollman from Northgate High School received the fifth place award for his untitled chalk pastel composition.

In addition, Honorable Mention Awards were presented to works by Shannon Nelis from East Allegheny High School, Andrew Beninate and Katie McGregor from Montour High School, Spencer Condon from the Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts School Jimmy Niu from the Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy, Shannon Kelly from Riverview High School, Brandon Konkiel and Natalie Walker from Sto-Rox High School, and Isis Duncan of Woodland Hills High School.

I would like to recognize all of the participants in this year's 14th Congressional District High School Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery:" from Carrick High School, Kiera Manus; from East Allegheny High School, Adrienne DeLisi, Katlin McArdle, Shannon Nelis, and Abigail Petrocelli; from Montour High School, Andrew Beninate, Grady Butler, Joanne Fowkes, Erin McCleary, Katie McGregor, and Olivia Trevenen; from Northgate High School, Jared Bollman and Jesron Hall; from Penn Hills High School, Racine James, Anna Lintelman, Areanna Russell, and Sarah Wheeler; from the Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts School, Spencer Condon, Andrew Lowery, Gigi Varlotta, and Rosalea Williams; from Pittsburgh Science & Technology Academy, Jimmy Niu; from Pittsburgh Westinghouse School, Margaret Ahmad-Revis, Christjon Malloy, Layla Miller, William Penn, and Alanna Young; from Riverview High School, Shannon Kelly, Kylie Mericle, and Kelly O'Donnell; from Serra Catholic High School, Tyler J. Gedman, Kalin Greene, Victoria Hart, Jen Pricener, Erin Thomas, and Rachel Vidil; from South Allegheny High School, Matthew Dougher, Noah Elder, Adriann Frantish, Tywan Igles, Nicolette Ruhl, and Lesley Taylor; from Springdale High School, Cassandra Finnegan, Zachary Lamperski, Maria Lucas, Marisa Stover, Emily Thomm, and Milana Yaksich; from Sto-Rox High School, Brian Berry, Tiekia Berry, Brandon Konkiel, Alanna Molter, Katelyn Parker, and Natalie Walker; from Wilson Christian Academy, Nicole Bonomo and Haley Peretic; from Woodland Hills High School, Faiza Amir, Isis Duncan, Miranda Miller, Rayven Smith, and Tonee Turner.

I would like to thank these impressive young artists for allowing us to share and celebrate their talents, imagination, and creativity. The efforts of these students in expressing themselves in a powerful and positive manner are no less than spectacular.

I hope that all of these individuals continue to utilize their artistic talents, and I wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Council Bluffs, Iowa. The Club was chartered by Rotary International on April 1, 1915. The members of this Club exemplify the Rotary Motto: "Service Above Self and One Profits Most Who Serves Best." The Club Members convey this philosophy of unselfish volunteer service at every opportunity.

In 1913, a young Council Bluffs businessman, while on a business trip to New York City, came upon a Rotary International convention and asked, "What is Rotary?" He was told, "It is an organization for the prevention of what is harmful to business and society; and the promotion of that which is helpful." That same spirit is alive and well within the Rotary Club of Council Bluffs today. The Club members actively participate in community activities, promote a college scholarship fund, hold an annual food drive, sponsor a 5th grade career fair, and hold fundraisers throughout the year to support their activities. This Club is a reflection of the mission of Rotary International, "to promote service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders."

The Rotary Club of Council Bluffs has made a difference in serving the Council Bluffs community. The members of the past 100 years have been dedicated to helping and serving others and it is a great honor to recognize them today. I know my colleagues in the House join me in honoring their accomplishments. I thank them for their service and wish them all the very best moving forward.

HONORING MARK DIEL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mark Diel as he departs the Children's Health Initiative in Napa County. As the founding Executive Director of this vital organization, Mr. Diel shepherded its growth and greatly increased access to healthcare among the less fortunate in our community.

During his time as the head of the initiative, Mr. Diel enrolled 16,000 children and their families in Napa in comprehensive affordable health insurance and put into place systems which ensured that over ninety-nine percent of its clients received all the healthcare services they needed. Eighty-seven percent of the Initiative's clients also retain their coverage each year, a rate that is far higher than the state average.

Mr. Diel's dedication to ensuring children and low-income communities have the quality healthcare has been a lifelong passion. In addition to heading the Children's Health Initiative, he has served as a WIC manager in Yolo

County and as Director at QueensCare. While at QueensCare, he built relationships with inner-city schools and families that led to valuable mobile medical, dental, and optometric clinics throughout their geographic region, serving more than 60,000 Los Angeles children and factory workers annually. He also founded Promotores Comunitarios, a leadership training program that fosters leadership through training and deploying of community health promoters.

Mark was born and lives in Davis, CA, with his wife, Tara, and their two children. Throughout his career, Mark has always been a bold advocate for vulnerable groups, a professional risk taker, and an outstanding community leader.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor Mark Diel at this time. He has worked tirelessly to connect underserved communities, children, and others to quality healthcare services, and as a leader in Napa County his work has made our community stronger and healthier.

HONORING GIVE SOMETHING BACK FOUNDATION

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2015

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bob Carr and the Give Something Back Foundation.

In 2003, Lockport, Illinois resident Bob Carr founded the Give Something Back Foundation to give well performing but underprivileged high school students a chance to receive a college education by providing scholarship and mentorship opportunities.

The Give Something Back Foundation's scholarship program is currently supporting 190 students, and has helped many more who would not have been able to afford a college education. The foundation offers full scholarships to students from 21 high schools throughout Will County and partners with local universities to ensure that students receive mentors to help them during their college career.

I would like to thank Bob Carr and the Give Something Back Foundation for their continued dedication to improving lives and building futures for young people in our community.

RECOGNIZING JANIE SACCO, RECIPIENT OF THE WASHINGTON STATE VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE AWARD

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Ms. Janie Sacco, Vice President and SBA Loan Officer at Kitsap Bank, on receiving the 2015 Washington State Veteran Small Business Advocate Award from the SBA.

For years, Janie's main focus has been assisting military veterans with business loans, with a special focus on women, minority, veteran-owned small businesses and non-profits.