

Manager Coltone Radke, and Student Manager Jessie Santoyo.

It is a privilege to highlight this landmark achievement of East Texas' own Lufkin High School Panthers soccer team. The Panthers not only made history by capturing the title of 2015 Class 5A State Soccer Champions, but they brought Panther pride to their team, their school, the Lufkin community, the First Congressional District of Texas, and the entire State of Texas. The Lufkin Panthers' story of commitment and success is now recorded in the United States CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, which will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

HONORING THE CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT), torture survivors and CVT staff and volunteers on the occasion of the organization's 30th anniversary. Since its inception in 1985, CVT has become a global leader in treating victims of torture here in the U.S. and around the world. CVT has provided life-saving mental health services and rehabilitative treatment to thousands of torture survivors from the Bosnian War in Sarajevo in Eastern Europe to the Continent of Africa from Liberia to Sierra Leone.

CVT represents the best of the United States to our planet's most vulnerable citizens, and is one of only three healing treatment centers in the world. The professionals who care for torture survivors represent hope and dignity for thousands of people from more than 60 countries around the globe.

In 1985, CVT set forth on a mission to extend interdisciplinary care to torture survivors in Minnesota, and over the years expanded those services to countries around the world, with healing centers today in Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya and Uganda. The work has grown to include training professionals in the United States and international locations in the specialized rehabilitation skills needed for people suffering the post-traumatic effects of torture, and also to advocating for human rights and put an end to torture practices.

For the past three decades, CVT has helped more than 30,000 survivors reclaim their lives. Through combined direct services, capacity building and policy advocacy work, CVT has touched the lives of more than 50,000 survivors and approximately 100,000 of their family members.

CVT was instrumental in helping Congress to pass the original Torture Victims Relief Act in 1998, which authorizes federal funding for torture survivor rehabilitation programs in the U.S. and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, on May 14, 2015, the Center for Victims of Torture commemorates 30 years of helping torture survivors rebuild their lives and restore their hope. It is a great honor to work with CVT and its dedicated staff and volunteers. Please join me in paying tribute to the Center for Victims of Torture and its distinguished commitment to providing healing and hope to those who most need it.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF HARKER HEIGHTS COUNCILMAN SAM MURPHY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Harker Heights Councilman Sam Murphy who will retire on May 12, 2015. Sam's extraordinary commitment to community service reflects the best values of Central Texas.

Sam thrived in a 22-year career in the U.S. Army where he took on assignments in the United States, Europe, Korea, and Vietnam. During his prestigious military career, he graduated from Airborne and Ranger schools, had a teaching assignment in the Gunnery Department of the U.S. Army Field Artillery School, graduated from the U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and had an assignment at the U.S. Air Force Academy as the Air Officer Commanding of Cadet Squadron 29. He retired from the Army at Fort Hood, Texas on October 1, 1989.

Sam continued his public service by joining the office of former Representative Chet Edwards. He proved to be a leader and voice of the people as he represented servicemen and veterans in then District 11. During his time as Rep. Edwards' liaison to military and veteran communities, Sam's personal military history proved to be an invaluable asset when serving those who have sacrificed so much to preserve our freedoms. Sam retired on March 31, 2007 after working for U.S. Rep. Edwards for 16 years.

With his established community service and his proven leadership skills, Sam successfully ran for Harker Heights City Council. He continued to serve and better his community every day. Throughout his time on the Council, Sam made a positive impact on his beloved hometown and for that we are forever grateful.

Sam's service doesn't stop when the work day is over. He is active in local community affairs including serving as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Heart O' Texas Federal Credit Union, teaching federal and state government at Central Texas College's Fort Hood Campus, co-founding the Harker Heights Economic Development Corporation and co-founding the Leadership Belton program. His military background and experience prepared him for being president of the Central Texas—Fort Hood Chapter of the Association of the United States Army.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I commend Sam Murphy for his hard work and dedication to his community. I wish Sam, his wife Peggy, and their children and grandchildren only the best in the years ahead.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRANCH CYCLONES SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEAM

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Cyclones Special Olympics Team founded in 1990 by Julia Scott and Patrick Noonan. The non-profit organization will be celebrating this landmark achievement at a special May 15, 2015 appreciation dinner to honor the founders.

The Cyclones are a chartered Special Olympics Texas team serving the needs of adults and children with intellectual disabilities. The organization provides them with year-round sports training and athletic competition in a wide variety of sports. Some of the sporting events that the Cyclones participate in include bowling, basketball, aquatics, track & field, bocce ball, and flag football.

Since the founding of the Cyclones in 1990, the organization has functioned as an all-volunteer group committed to providing services to hundreds of athletes with intellectual disabilities. Additionally, the non-profit organization regularly raises all the funds needed to support the training, travel, and competition costs of their athletes through a bowling event and a gala.

The Cyclones have been tremendously successful in their endeavors, with Carrollton-Farmers Branch athletes competing with success at both regional and state levels.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Cyclones Special Olympics Team on their successes and in celebrating their 25th Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO JESSICA MARSHALL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jessica Marshall upon winning the Congressional Art Competition in the 3rd District of Iowa. Jessica, a junior at Griswold High School, is the daughter of Michael and Tracy Marshall of Lewis, Iowa.

The Congressional Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery," is open to high school students nationwide. Since 1982, the competition has been an opportunity for Members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents. One winner is selected by a panel of 16 judges, one from each county in Iowa's 3rd District.

Jessica's piece, "Word Art: The Young Child," was named the winner out of over 75 entries. It is a unique and moving graphite pencil drawing of a young boy drawn entirely of words. Jessica's creativity and dedication to her craft is admirable. The example set by this young woman demonstrates the rewards of harnessing one's talents and sharing them

with the world. “Word Art: The Young Child” will be displayed in the halls of the Capitol for all to admire and enjoy.

I commend Jessica for her artistic talents and I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating her for being chosen as the winner of the Congressional Art Competition in the 3rd District of Iowa. It is an honor to serve Iowans like Jessica and her parents, and I wish her the best of luck in her future academic and artistic endeavors.

RECOGNIZING CINDY BERANEK

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Ms. Cindy Beranek on her outstanding teaching career. For more than thirty-two years, Ms. Beranek engaged the imaginations of her art students at Stratford Senior High School.

Her passion for art and teaching was evident in her students' artwork. Stratford High School is always well represented in the annual Congressional Art Competition, often earning top honors, and, in the case of the 2015 competition, they took home all four awards, including the grand prize.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize the powerful role that teachers play in molding our children's minds, but it is a rare teacher who also shapes their hearts. Ms. Beranek leaves a legacy of devoted service to the Stratford community, but takes with her the thanks and appreciation of a countless many students who will always treasure their time in her classroom.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HAROLD CUMMINGS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sadness to honor the life of a friend, neighbor, and local stalwart from the Town of Vernon, Harold “Hal” Cummings, who passed away this month.

Most recently, Hal served as town attorney in Vernon, but he held a number of local positions over the years including the Conservation Commission, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Board of Education. He was also involved in his local church and Rotary Club and was a founding member of the local Chamber of Commerce. This list of accomplishments demonstrates that Hal held the well-being of Vernon, Connecticut close to his heart. Hal, his wife Isabel and their children Jay, Joel, and Justin fostered a commitment to community that runs deep through their family and is felt profoundly by Vernon residents. Hal's passing is a loss for our town and the many local employees and advocates who relied on his experience and advice.

While Harold had long served as the town's top Republican as the Chairman of the Republican Town Committee, he and I shared a mu-

tual respect and friendship that transcended party affiliation. My respect for Harold stemmed from his unwavering and long-standing commitment to the betterment of our community, and from the many times we worked together to make progress in the town of Vernon.

Hal's record of military service, as well as that of his son Joel, was a source of great pride for him. After I was elected to Congress, he always made positive, informed comments on military policy, the stresses of active duty service, and the need to help America's veterans. Hal was a staunch supporter of the New England Civil War museum, one of Vernon's most treasured destinations—yet another example of his widespread involvement in our community.

Harold was known throughout Vernon for his positivity, and his hard work to keep our town running smoothly. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the life and achievements of Harold Cummings, and expressing our deepest condolences to his friends and family.

REINTRODUCING THE WILDLIFE VETERINARIANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACT OF 2015

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Wildlife Veterinarians Employment and Training Act of 2015. This legislation will promote robust public health policy, promote needed job growth, and create more affordable opportunities for individuals who are interested in becoming wildlife and zoological veterinarians.

As you know, wildlife and zoo veterinarians are the primary source of essential health care and management that is required for animals in both their natural habitat and in captivity. These physicians preserve natural resources and the lives of animals while subsequently helping to protect human health by preventing, detecting and responding to exotic and dangerous diseases.

As global interaction between humans, livestock and wildlife have intensified over the decades, the threat posed by emerging infectious diseases to humans and wildlife continues to increase. Controlling pandemic and large-scale outbreaks of disease has become more challenging over the years, yet there has never been a time where this is a more pertinent issue. We must take preventative measures to ensure the well-being of both animals and humans. However, the United States faces a shortage of positions for wildlife and zoo veterinarians to ensure our safety from this threat.

Following their graduation, professionals that practice wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine move on to earn relatively low salaries, compared to their companions in animal medicine. Studies have also shown that on average, veterinarian graduates owe roughly \$130,000 in student loans. The expectation of a low salary, combined with enormous educational debt, amidst insufficient employment opportunities, discourages these students from pursuing these vitally important careers. More-

over, due to the severe lack of practical training and formal educational programs specializing in wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine, many that do graduate are unable to make significant contributions to the field immediately.

My bill directly addresses these issues which prevent and dissuade veterinarians from practicing wildlife and zoological medicine. It will also contribute to the national job creation effort by funding new positions for wildlife and zoo veterinarians to enter upon graduation. The bill will limit the amount of educational debt for students while providing incentives to practice wildlife and zoo veterinary medicine through the establishment of scholarships and loan repayment programs. Lastly, my legislation will advance education by helping schools develop pilot curricula around wildlife and zoo veterinary medicine by expanding the number of practical training programs available to students.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, wild animals play a very critical role in our natural resources and contribute to maintaining a balanced ecosystem. The number of endangered species has only increased. Invasive non-native species and infectious disease threaten our public health. Therefore, wildlife and zoological veterinarians must be prioritized and given the resources and recognition necessary to protect both animal and human lives.

I urge my colleagues to extend a helping hand to America's veterinarians by supporting this important piece of legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on May 16, 2015, students, faculty, and staff will gather in historic St. Mary's City, Maryland, to celebrate the St. Mary's College of Maryland Class of 2015 Commencement. They—along with many others across Maryland and our country—will also be marking the 175th anniversary of the College's founding.

Since its humble beginnings in 1840 as a public, nonsectarian boarding school for girls at the elementary through secondary levels, St. Mary's College of Maryland has been a center of learning and educational empowerment. Set along the St. Mary's River, where Leonard Calvert and the first English settlers disembarked from the *Ark* and *Dove* in 1634 to found the colony of Maryland, it expanded in the early twentieth century to become the State's first junior college and became co-educational. In the 1960's, the school transitioned into a four-year college and granted its first undergraduate degrees in 1971. Recognizing its tradition of excellence in liberal arts education, its high standards, and its unique history, the Maryland General Assembly formalized St. Mary's College of Maryland as a public honors college in 1992. Today, it continues to graduate some of Maryland's best and brightest students from thirty-one academic programs.

I am proud to represent the students, faculty, and staff of St. Mary's College of Maryland in Congress as well as to have served as