

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.

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RECOGNIZING CINDY BERANEK

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**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.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF HAROLD CUMMINGS

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**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.

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REINTRODUCING THE WILDLIFE VETERINARIANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACT OF 2015

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**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.

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

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**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

a member of its Board of Trustees since 1995. Alumni of the College run businesses, contribute to the arts and athletics, conduct research in marine biology and the environment, report the news through national outlets, and serve in government—including in my Congressional office. They are continuing their alma mater's tradition of preparing graduates to make a difference wherever they live and work throughout Maryland and across our country.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the entire St. Mary's College of Maryland community, led by its dynamic new President, Tuajuanda Jordan, on reaching its 175th year of serving as a living memorial to those first Maryland colonists' commitment to religious freedom, tolerance, and opportunity.

**RECOGNIZING ST. CLOUD AREA CHAMBER BUSINESS AWARDS RECIPIENTS**

**HON. TOM EMMER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2015*

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the recipients of the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce Small Business Owner of the Year, St. Cloud Area Family Owned Business of the Year, and the St. Cloud Area Emerging Entrepreneur.

Larry Logeman is the 2015 St. Cloud Area Small Business Owner of the Year. Larry is quite literally a man with a plan. Though he did not grow up with the dream of one day owning a business, he wrote a plan to become a business owner and set a personal deadline of 5–7 years. Nearing the end of his time-frame, he bought Executive Express. Larry's customer-focused business model has served him well. What began as a modest shuttle service between central Minnesota and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport grew into a business with 85 employees, 31 vehicles, and a projected revenue stream of \$3 million in 2015.

Viking Coca-Cola, owned by Michael Faber, is the St. Cloud Area Family Owned Business of the Year. After Joe Faber, one of the founders and owners of the company, passed away in the 1990s, his son Michael moved back to Minnesota to join the management team. Keeping it in the family proved fruitful for the business. With Michael's help, Viking Coca-Cola capitalized on its existing success by expanding to canning and adding new products where consumer needs arose. The company now boasts nearly 500 employees and has a multi-state distribution operation. To top it all off, Michael and the company are active members in the community, helping local organizations and participating in charitable events.

Luke Riordan, owner of DAYTA Marketing, is the St. Cloud Area Emerging Entrepreneur. DAYTA's success is attributed to its focus on a specific subset of the digital communications field—people and businesses who need help with social media but at an affordable price. Luke and his team work closely with their clients towards a noticeable online presence for their businesses. Luke's ambition matches the digital marketing industry—it's not slowing down. His company's doors opened in early 2012, and in the last three years they've

expanded into larger office space four times and now have 25 employees.

I know I speak for the entire 6th District when I say I am so proud of these individuals' hard work and the example they set for those around them. Small businesses—and their owners—truly are the lifeblood of our beloved nation. The St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce picked an excellent group to highlight this year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body join me in honoring Larry Logeman, Viking Coca-Cola, and Luke Riordan for their invaluable contributions to St. Cloud and the surrounding area, and the State of Minnesota.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF KAISER PERMANENTE'S SACRAMENTO MEDICAL CENTER**

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2015*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kaiser Permanente's Sacramento Medical Center as the Center celebrates its 50th anniversary. For half a century, Kaiser's Sacramento Medical Center has provided high quality care to residents of the Greater Sacramento area. As members, physicians, and staff gather to celebrate the Center's 50th anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Kaiser Permanente Sacramento Medical Center and its indispensable place in the Sacramento health care community.

Kaiser Permanente was founded 70 years ago in Oakland, by Henry J. Kaiser, a business leader who believed in providing affordable, quality health care. Today, Kaiser Permanente is the nation's oldest and largest health care system.

On May 1, 1965, Kaiser Permanente began providing health care for the first time in the Sacramento region with the purchase of the 64-bed Arden Community Hospital on Morse Avenue. The hospital opened with 13 physicians serving 12,000 members. Since then, Kaiser Permanente has grown into a leading health care provider and one of the largest private employers in the region with more than 737,200 members, 1,530 physicians, and 11,780 staff.

The Sacramento Medical Center has been integral to Kaiser Permanente's success in the region, earning numerous honors over the years, including Top Hospital from The Leapfrog Group, Top Performer from The Joint Commission, and Best Hospital by U.S. News & World Report. As the population of the region has grown, the Sacramento Medical Center has grown to meet its needs. The Center now has 287 beds and one of the busiest emergency rooms in the region. The Center is home to the Comprehensive Community Cancer Center, an Advanced Neuroscience Center, and a certified Primary Stroke Center.

In addition, Kaiser Permanente has helped improve the health of the region through its involvement in community programs, including support of the local nonprofit clinics, Sheriff's Community Impact Program, Arden Manor Recreation and Park District, Mutual Assistance Network, and the San Juan Unified School District.

Mr. Speaker, as the physicians, staff, and members of the Kaiser Permanente Sacramento Medical Center come together to celebrate the Center's 50th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their excellent work in the Sacramento Region. I am confident that the Sacramento Medical Center will continue to be a leader and a model for quality health care for many years to come.

**HONORING KEVIN JONES**

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2015*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Kevin Jones, a dedicated educator and principal of Center High School in Center, Colorado. In recognition of his continued excellence, the Colorado Association of Secondary School Principals has selected Mr. Kevin Jones as the 2015 Colorado High School Principal of the Year.

Mr. Jones earned this competitive award achieving many successes despite the challenges of a rural and bilingual institution. Six out of the last seven years have seen the school earn the Colorado Department of Education's Center of Education Excellence while simultaneously earning the Colorado Education Initiative's Healthy Schools Champion Award for 4 consecutive years. Mr. Jones' leadership and personal attention to each student along with constructive assessment of teachers and the curriculum on a regular basis has enabled Center High School to rise considerably above academic standards in the state.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a privilege to honor Mr. Jones for his enthusiasm and ability to inspire students and his staff. His dedication to teaching and his desire to excel as an educator and leader continue to benefit his community. I congratulate Mr. Jones on his selection for this prestigious award.

**ROSIE TILLES OBITUARY**

**HON. MAXINE WATERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2015*

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, as night fell she entered, like a light: on October 17, 1910, Rosie (Willie) Thurmond was born on a small rural farm in Lexington, Mississippi. Alfred and Missouri (Polk) Thurmond were resilient and spiritually fulfilled parents who taught their daughter to love and always be faithful to God, church and family. Rosie was the eldest of four Thurmond children: Alfred, Jr. (departed), Joseph (departed), and an only sister, Juanita. In living out her parents' expectations of her, in a way, Rosie's own narrative is suggestive of other God fearing women pioneers' stories. No different than the likes of Harriet Tubman who escaped slavery to become an important abolitionist, Rosie possessed the same strength of character, which inevitably called her to migrate from one place to another, and then all at once return for others. Many times she traveled back to the Jim Crow South and northern states. Who