

U.S. appreciates the proposals in the South China Sea Peace Initiative. I sincerely hope that all of the outstanding scholars and experts gathered here will support the pursuit of peace that I've presented today."

Mr. Speaker, I highly recommend that all of my colleagues review President Ma's important remarks and that we continue to work to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the people of the United States and of the ROC.

A TRIBUTE TO ERICKA ABELL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ericka Abell for being awarded the Hawkeye 10 All-Conference Character Award.

Ericka was selected for this honor because of the exceptional character she displayed throughout her years at Creston High School. This award is only given to students who demonstrate good character in Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, Citizenship, Overcoming Obstacles, Making Difficult Choices, Generosity, Self-Sacrifice, and Community Service. She is the daughter of Scott and Mendy Abell of Cromwell, Iowa.

It is with great pride that I represent outstanding Iowans like Ericka in the U.S. House of Representatives. I know that all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating her on being recognized with this award. I wish her and her family nothing but the best moving forward.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS HARBOR

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Channel Islands Harbor on the occasion of the harbor's 50th anniversary as a premier harbor along the Central Coast.

In the 1940's, the United States Congress directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to address the issue of beach erosion affecting the Naval Bases on the Ventura County coast, as well as communities and wetlands south of Port Hueneme. A location was recommended by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a sand trap and breakwater in Hollywood by the Sea, and authorized by Congress in 1954.

Construction of the sand trap and entrance to Channel Islands Harbor began in 1959 for the purpose of preventing coastal erosion and providing boating and other recreational opportunities to residents of Ventura County. The development of Channel Islands Harbor was an example of cooperation among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Navy, the County of Ventura, and businesses investing in the harbor. That cooperation continues to this day.

Since the County of Ventura held the grand opening of the harbor in May of 1965, Chan-

nel Islands Harbor has been serving the citizens of Ventura County and visitors alike as the first recreational harbor in the region. Visitors can enjoy numerous outdoor venues including several beach-lined parks and coastline for picnics and surfing, as well as nearby biking and walking paths. The harbor offers a number of restaurants and a diverse collection of shops to stroll.

For fishing enthusiasts, there are sport fishing excursions throughout the year. And from December through April, daily tours can offer a glimpse at the majestic whales that traverse the waters off our coastline. The harbor is also a departure point for voyages of exploration to the remarkable Channel Islands.

Though initial development included only a small portion of the current harbor area, Channel Islands Harbor now includes over 300 acres of land and water, including 2,200 boat slips, two hotels, two yacht club buildings, two boat yards, three shopping areas, two free-standing restaurants, a Maritime Museum, and over 100 condominiums and 400 apartments, providing both a thriving community and a recreational destination along the Central Coast of California.

For these reasons, it is my sincere pleasure to offer my congratulations to the Channel Islands Harbor on its 50th anniversary and its countless contributions to the region.

A TRIBUTE TO GARY BUCKLIN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gary Bucklin for a wonderful career as KSIB radio's sports director in Creston, Iowa.

For the past 30 years, Gary has been the man on the microphone for all local sports coverage on KSIB radio. He received his first job in broadcasting announcing the fourth grade talent show in his hometown of Bayard, Iowa, and by driving the streets of Bayard in a speaker car announcing the grand opening for a local gas station. Since that time, Bucklin served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War, worked in retail, but always retained the radio "bug". He came to work for KSIB in 1985, becoming a part of not only the Creston community, but of every community in the area where he would broadcast their ballgames. He will be remembered for his deep commitment to the communities, the coaches and the students he so passionately spoke about.

I know that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mr. Gary Bucklin on his well-deserved retirement and wish him the best in his future endeavors. I consider it an honor to represent him in Congress.

JOSEPH C. BELL TRIBUTE

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute today to Joseph C. Bell, a visionary at-

torney who recently received one of Poland's highest awards in recognition of his efforts to build a new economy from the rubble of communism.

Mr. Bell received the Polish Commanders Cross in Warsaw on May 13, 2015, to honor his dedicated service, over a quarter century ago, "in furthering Poland's systemic and economic transformation." Working with the Polish Ministry of Finance under Leszek Balcerowicz, Mr. Bell stepped forward to help build a new and robust free-market system in the wake of the 1989 elections that saw Solidarity leader Tadeusz Mazowiecki named prime minister.

The goal under the first non-communist government in the post-World War II period was to accomplish what had never been done before—to build new capitalist institutions in record time to stir the Polish economy from decades of mismanagement and integrate the nation into the economies of Western Europe.

As a partner at the Washington firm of Hogan & Hartson with over 20 years of regulatory and commercial experience, Mr. Bell ably served as pro-bono counsel to the Polish Ministry of Finance in the critical years of 1989 to 1990, when the government launched reforms through "shock therapy" changes to Poland's economic system.

His experience in project finance and as a leading advocate of introducing competition into closed energy markets in the U.S. was invaluable in taking on the challenges of creating capital markets, a stock exchange, a convertible currency, orderly privatization and other features of a free-market system. The rapidity and scope of the changes were nothing less than a leap of faith into uncharted legal and economic waters.

The challenges were immense: Poland was suffering acute hyperinflation, falling productivity, huge foreign debt and shortages of consumer goods. As part of an intrepid team of advisers that included economist Jeffrey Sachs, Mr. Bell's tireless work helped usher in breathtaking reforms that stemmed inflation, attracted foreign investment, relieved Poland of its debt burden, and increased productivity.

The miracle turnaround of Poland's economy, coupled with the rise of democracy, paved the way for the nation to secure NATO membership and join the European Union.

Mr. Bell returned full-time to his law practice in Washington, D.C., in 1990 but that didn't end his commitment to helping emerging nations. His expertise has taken him to Mongolia, Liberia, Sao Tome & Principe, among others, to help structure extraction systems that work for the benefit of the many rather than enriching the few.

Currently serving Of Counsel to Hogan Lovells, Mr. Bell's work to shape mining and energy policy in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East—including the management of extraction revenues and general issues of transparency and governance—will have a lasting impact.

Mr. Bell's career milestones also include serving as general counsel to Citizens Energy Corporation, which my father founded to use successful energy ventures to generate revenues to help the poor, from its inception up to 1989; working as Assistant General Counsel in the Federal Energy Administration; serving on the Duke Law School faculty and as an attorney in the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Justice Department.

Since 2001, the 1968 Yale Law School graduate has also been associated with the

International Senior Lawyers Project, which provides volunteer legal services to promote the rule of law, economic development and human rights in developing countries.

Between his legal expertise, dedication to public service, advocacy for human rights and social justice, and broad range of volunteer experience, Mr. Bell embodies the tradition of the "Wise Men of Washington"—in the best sense of the term.

Mr. Speaker, I once again want to congratulate Mr. Bell for the honors accorded to him by the Polish government and to thank him for a long career of service to our nation and the international community.

A TRIBUTE TO ASHLEY HARRIS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ashley Harris for being awarded the Hawkeye 10 Conference Academic All-Conference Award.

Ashley was selected for this honor because of her commitment to academic excellence, maintaining a high grade point average throughout all four years of her education at Creston High School. She also received a 29 or higher on her ACT. Ashley is the daughter of Rod and Becky Harris of Creston, Iowa.

It is with great pride that I represent Iowans like Ashley in the U.S. House of Representatives. I know that all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating her for being recognized with this award. I wish her and her family nothing but continued success in the future.

AZERBAIJAN

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to the attention of my colleagues the 97th Anniversary of the Republic Day of Azerbaijan.

Republic Day celebrates Azerbaijan's declaration of its independence from the Russian Empire on May 28, 1918, becoming the region's first Muslim democratic secular republic in Central Asia.

While that independence was short lived, from 1918–1920, the young Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan made tremendous strides, granting women the right to vote long before most Western democracies and laying the foundation for architecture and formal educational for future Azeris.

Two years after independence, Azerbaijan was occupied by the Soviet Union, losing the hard-won independence, and was forced to become a republic in the U.S.S.R. In 1990, as the U.S.S.R. crumbled, Azerbaijan regained its independence from the Soviets after seventy years. On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament restored their nation's independence for the second time in a century, and weeks later, adopted their Constitution.

A valuable international ally, Azerbaijan was among the first nations offering unconditional

support to the United States in the war against al Qaeda, having provided a safe transit route to resupply our troops in Afghanistan. Azerbaijan leads the Central Asian area in regional economic cooperation, and is a crucial in European energy security matters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in thanking the people of Azerbaijan for their friendship, and in congratulating Azerbaijanis around the world on the anniversary of Republic Day.

A TRIBUTE TO THE BETH EL JACOB SYNAGOGUE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a great Iowa Synagogue, Beth El Jacob Synagogue in Des Moines, Iowa, as they celebrate the incoming of their New Torah.

Originally formed in 1881, Beth El Jacob Synagogue was created by a group of Lithuanian Jews. The first permanent congregation started in 1885 at the corner of East Second and Walnut Street in Des Moines. Throughout the early 1900s Beth El Jacob called a number of locations in Des Moines home. It wasn't until the mid-1900s that the congregation built their permanent location, the Beth El Jacob Synagogue.

It is with great pride that I recognize Beth El Jacob Synagogue today as they celebrate this momentous occasion. I commend them for their support to the Des Moines community and their commitment to improving the lives of others. I wish the entire staff and congregation nothing but the best moving forward.

RECOGNIZING DR. TRUDY TUTTLE ARRIAGA

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Dr. Trudy Tuttle Arriaga, a supportive, encouraging, and inspirational educational leader and advocate in Ventura, California.

After earning a Bachelor's and Master's degree, teaching credentials, and a Doctorate from the University of Southern California, Dr. Arriaga worked as a paraeducator at Ventura Unified School District for two years beginning in 1974. She returned to Ventura Unified in 1981 to begin her teaching career. She taught special education at Mound Elementary School and from there transferred to Balboa Middle School where she taught general education and the deaf/hard of hearing program. She then became an itinerant teacher specialist at Elmhurst and Loma Vista Elementary Schools. Dr. Arriaga continued her career as a teacher and assistant principal at De Anza Middle School and later became principal at Sheridan Way Elementary School. She also served as principal at El Camino High School and Pacific High School. In July of 2001, Dr. Arriaga became the superintendent of the

Ventura Unified School District, becoming the first woman to serve in the position.

During her tenure as superintendent, Dr. Arriaga was able to enhance the quality of education at the district. Seventeen of Ventura Unified School District's 27 schools have achieved an API score of 800 or above, drop-out rates throughout the district have decreased as attendance rates have increased. She also brought a focus on schools of choice and helped new elementary and middle schools focus on Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), leadership and the arts. Dr. Arriaga also brought a dual language program to the district and greatly encouraged the program. Now, many students are learning new languages and graduating with a multilingual seal.

For over three decades, Dr. Arriaga has dedicated her career to the education and academic success of countless students. She is a passionate advocate for children and continually demonstrates her support and encouragement of students. When making important decisions, Dr. Arriaga considers every angle, striving for the most beneficial solutions.

Following her retirement from Ventura Unified School District, Dr. Arriaga will continue her service and work for students and education at California Lutheran University, where she will soon serve as a full time instructor and as the administrator of the Education Leadership Doctoral and Master's Program. She has also accepted a contract from Corwin Press Publications and will be co-authoring a book on cultural proficiency.

Dr. Arriaga's passion for education for all students is unquestionable, and it is my sincere pleasure to join the Ventura Unified School District in honoring Dr. Trudy Tuttle Arriaga for her 35 years of dedication, passion, leadership and service for the students and community of Ventura. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO JEFF HARMSSEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding heroism displayed by Jeff Harmsen, of Des Moines, Iowa.

In the early morning hours of May 8, 2015, Mr. Harmsen was taking his normal morning commute when out of the corner of his eye he noticed his longtime neighbors home up in flames. Without hesitation, he parked his vehicle and ran to the backside of the home. It was then that he dialed 911 and made his first attempt at alerting the homeowners. He proceeded to pound on the home's door, successfully alerting the owners inside. Because of his heroics he was able to safely rescue his neighbors and their pets without any serious injuries.

I would like to thank Mr. Harmsen for this selfless act and I ask my colleagues to join me recognizing his heroics and bravery. I'm proud to represent Iowans like Mr. Harmsen in the U.S. House of Representatives and I wish him nothing but continued success in the future.