

BECK JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Beck Junior High School of the Katy Independent School District for celebrating their 20th anniversary since the school opened its doors.

Beck Junior High School has been educating students from the Katy Independent School District for twenty years now. The school credits its family-like atmosphere and mentality to the success of both the students and overall school atmosphere. Eight current faculty members also attended the school as students.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Beck Junior High School for providing a quality education for Katy students for twenty years. We thank the school for providing an environment that both teaches and inspires students. We wish Beck Junior High School success in educating our students for generations to come.

HONORING JAYLIN RODGERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cadet COL Jaylin Rodgers of Lanier High School who was named the 2016 Jackson Public Schools Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadet of the Year.

Cadet COL Rodgers serves as the Battalion Commander for Lanier's 1st Battalion Mighty Bulldogs. He holds a 3.33 GPA and has earned a score of 25 on the ACT. He has taken advanced level courses throughout high school, such as Accelerated English I and II, Accelerated Geometry, and Advanced Placement U.S. History.

A member of the school's National Honor Society, Cadet COL Rodgers is also the recipient of JROTC's Scholastic Excellence Award and was a Leadership Education and Training, Level One top cadet.

Cadet COL Rodgers served on Lanier High School's Battalion staff for three years as the Human Resources Officer, Executive Officer, and now the Battalion Commander. Cadet Rodgers has attended the LeaderSTATE Leadership and STEM Camp and Boys State at Mississippi State University and the Junior Cadet Leadership Challenge at Fort Knox, Kentucky. His plans are to attend Jackson State University, major in Electrical Engineering, and attain a commission into the Army as a second lieutenant.

Cadet COL Rodgers is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry and Tamarrus Rodgers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Cadet COL Jaylin Rodgers.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5485) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes:

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this amendment and I thank my colleague, Representative SEWELL, for standing up for consumers.

Time and time again, we hear about hard-working families being exploited by predatory, small-dollar, short-term lenders, such as payday lenders. While these loans are meant to help underserved individuals in need of quick cash, far too many times the borrower ends up trapped in a vicious cycle of rollovers, fees and more debt.

We sell our families short when we accept that high-interest loans are the best we can do for our communities. Payday and auto title loans, with uncapped annual percentage rates, have long enticed families in moments of desperation—offering short-term fast cash at the cost of long-term debt—at rates averaging 500 percent APR.

In my home state of Texas, an average \$500 payday loan costs an astounding \$1,100 or more to repay in a period of just a few months. Moreover, in Texas, payday and auto title lending is a \$5.8 billion industry with over 70 percent of the volume from refinances and fees. In fact, four of every five payday loans are rolled over or renewed within 14 days with the majority of those costing the consumer more in fees than they borrowed, according to a CFPB study.

Thankfully, the CFPB has taken the lead in proposing to rein in these predatory and harmful loans. We should be fighting to eliminate excessively high-interest rates and debt-trap cycles that define much of today's payday and auto title loan lending landscape, rather than fighting against the CFPB's efforts.

Unfortunately, this financial services and general government appropriations bill enshrines the status-quo of debt-traps and mountains of fees for consumers without any protections afforded by the CFPB's proposed rule.

I applaud the CFPB's rulemaking efforts in this area, and I hope it ushers in a new era of responsible lending.

TRIBUTE TO LEISURE WORLD OF MARYLAND

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Leisure World of Maryland's 50th anniversary.

Leisure World was founded in 1966 by Ross Cortese, who observed that the population of

older citizens was growing and thought that their special needs were not being met. His vision was "gracious, carefree, secure living for adults in a self-contained community that provides all the facilities but none of the drudgery of home ownership." His innovative dream created self-contained senior communities, offering rewarding living for older people still interested in leading active and enriched lives.

The first residents of Leisure World of Maryland moved into their new "manors" in August 1966. The available housing options at the time were townhouses called "Berkeleys" and one-story duplexes called "Carvels" near the first Clubhouse and across the street from the 18th hole of the golf course. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Cortese continued developing single family homes, townhomes and duplexes, along with the community's golf course, administrative facilities and medical center, and investing in the community's physical and social infrastructure.

Over the years, Leisure World continued to expand and provide seniors with additional housing options and facilities. In 1980, Cortese teamed up with renowned Watergate developer Giuseppe Cecchi and his company, The IDI Group Companies, to complete the development of the community. IDI reconfigured the site plan in a way that increased density through luxury multifamily condominium structures while preserving parkland, improving the golf course, and adding a second community clubhouse. The final condominium units were completed in 2013.

Today, Leisure World of Maryland continues to be a model for active living. Home to more than 8000 residents aged 55+ and including three voting precincts, Leisure World offers its residents a wide variety of services and amenities, including restaurants, clubhouses, a medical center, an interfaith chapel and an 18-hole golf course. Residents participate in an extensive program of fitness classes, lectures, concerts, trips, and nearly 100 clubs and organizations. Miles of walking trails lead through a beautiful blend of pristine landscapes and natural settings.

Leisure World is a rare gem in Montgomery County and in the State of Maryland. Its residents enjoy an outstanding quality of life and are active and engaged members of both the Leisure World community and the greater community outside its gates. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations to Leisure World of Maryland as it celebrates its 50th anniversary and our gratitude and appreciation for its residents' contributions to our community.

HONORING MR. FLOYD HASTINGS,
2016 MYRA H. KRAFT COMMUNITY
MVP AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Floyd Hastings, who has spent countless hours volunteering with the Southern Maine Agency on Aging's Vet to Vet program.

Mr. Hastings has received a Myra H. Kraft Community MVP Award from the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation for his

work with Vet to Vet, along with a check for \$10,000 for the program. Hastings was one of 26 MVP recipients; a record number of 450 volunteers throughout New England were nominated for the awards this year.

Vet to Vet volunteers, who are all veterans themselves, visit aging or disabled veterans in their homes at least twice a month. The volunteers provide companionship to the veterans they visit and often become close friends. Hastings has worked specifically with three veterans and currently spends several hours each week talking with a group of veterans at the Sam L. Cohen Center in Biddeford.

"Vet to Vet is one of the best things I have ever been involved in," Hastings said. "It is rewarding and helps give meaning to my life. The program enables veteran volunteers, like myself, to enrich the lives of veterans, often severely disabled, in their final days. My visits are the highlight of my week, and I have found this to be true for the veterans I visit."

Mr. Speaker, I truly admire Mr. Hastings for his incredible service and dedication, and would like to thank him wholeheartedly for the difference he has made in the lives of Maine veterans.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR BRENTON WEECE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Major Brenton Weece of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. Major Weece will soon transition from his current assignment as an Army Congressional Liaison in the House of Representatives to serve as an officer in the Oklahoma National Guard.

A native of Miami, Oklahoma, Brent was commissioned through the Oklahoma State University Army ROTC Program in 2005 and subsequently assigned to the Oklahoma National Guard. Since then, Brent has served in multiple staff and leadership positions in the Oklahoma National Guard, including two deployments with Oklahoma's 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. In 2008, he deployed to Iraq as the aide-de-camp to the commander of the Joint Area Support Group—Central in Baghdad and in 2011 and 2012, he commanded an infantry company in eastern Afghanistan.

During the course of Major Weece's service to this Nation, he has earned awards and decorations including: the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Air Assault Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Combat Action Badge, and Combat Infantryman Badge.

In 2015, Brent was selected to serve as a Congressional Liaison in the US Army House Liaison Division. Army Congressional Liaison Officers provide Members and staff insight and understanding of Army policies, actions, operations, and requirements. Their first-hand knowledge of military needs, culture, and tradition is a tremendous benefit to Congressional offices. His service in the House of Representatives has proven invaluable to both the Department of Defense and Congress. Brent was

especially effective in his service to Members and staff as he escorted them on fact-finding missions to multiple countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work with Major Weece during his time as an Army Congressional Liaison Officer in the House of Representatives. On behalf of a grateful Nation, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of Major Brenton Weece, his wife, Emily, and their children Lily and Graham. I wish them the very best as they continue to dedicate their lives to the service of our Nation.

DR. VERA WEHRING RETIRES FROM B.F. TERRY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Vera Wehring on her retirement from B.F. Terry High School in Rosenberg, Texas, after serving 22 years.

During Dr. Wehring's time at Terry High School she inspired students first as a math teacher and assistant principal, then later as principal of the high school. Some of Dr. Wehring's greatest accomplishments include being named as a Breakthrough School and when she was invited to participate in the National Principals Association in Cuba. The students of Terry High School have been well served by her leadership in helping ensure a strong education for our students.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations and thank you to Dr. Vera Wehring for her 22 years of service to Rosenberg and the entire Lamar Consolidated Independent School District. We appreciate her service and dedication.

HONORING MR. JAMES MALLETT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a community servant, Mr. James Mallett. Mr. Mallett has shown what can be done through tenacity, dedication and a desire to serve his community.

James Mallett was born in the Carter community to Edward and Ethel Mallett. James' family lived on a plantation called Clark and Cato. He grew up in a small church called Mt. Salem. He learned many life lessons from working on the family farm.

James graduated from Yazoo City High School in 1983. James attended Jackson State University, but returned home to take a job with Yazoo Industries, where he remained for ten years.

In 1990 Chief BJ Wright offered James a job at the Yazoo City Fire Department. Through the years, James also had the opportunity to work under Charles Moore, Mike Woodard, Roy Wilson and Terry Harber.

James credits his wife, Alma, for supporting him as he worked for the Yazoo City Fire Department for 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. James Mallett for his dedication and loyalty to Yazoo City.

TRIBUTE TO ALICE AND RICHARD OSBORN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Alice and Richard Osborn of Clarinda, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on May 28, 2016.

Alice and Richard's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

I salute this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CSU-PUEBLO

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colorado State University—Pueblo for its recent designation as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense by the National Security Agency. CSU—Pueblo will hold this honor for the next five years.

Technological advancement has made the modern American economy possible, and we all rely on technology to succeed in today's world. Equally important is ensuring we maintain the technical ability to protect the systems that support the technology we interface with every day, and providing that protection has become more and more challenging. The NSA partners with institutions of higher learning to help research and promote cyber security and defense education to help meet the ever rising demand qualified candidates in the cyber security field.

The National Science Foundation gives students the opportunity to earn scholarships and grants through Centers for Academic Excellence while pursuing a greater education in cyber defense. This CAE designation is very important for the university and its students in Pueblo and the surrounding areas who wish to pursue a career within cyber security.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the work that CSU—Pueblo faculty has done to achieve this prestigious designation. The students enrolled in the program will be receiving the highest quality education in the field. Congratulations to CSU—Pueblo for this accomplishment. I am proud to honor the staff and students that make the university great.