

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.

IN TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MICHAEL SMITH OF THE DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2016*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Michael Smith of the Dallas Police Department. Sgt. Smith, along with his fellow police officers: Lorne Aherns, Michael Krol, Brent Thompson, and Patrick Zamarripa died in the tragic police ambush in Dallas, Texas, last week. All of these officers were serving to help facilitate the First Amendment rights of all citizens to freely assemble and express their views. When shots rang out in downtown Dallas on the evening of July 7th and the early morning of July 8th, these officers ran towards the danger and harm's way to keep the citizens safe that they are sworn to protect.

A resident of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, Sgt. Smith lived in Carrollton and was a veteran supervisor officer of the Dallas Police Department (DPD), having joined the force in 1989. Prior to his service as a police officer, Sgt. Smith served all of us by wearing a different uniform—the uniform of an Army Ranger. In both his military and police service, Michael Smith was among the very best of public servants.

Service in uniform was only one of the ways that Michael Smith gave back to the community. He was an active volunteer member for his church, Watermark Community Church, and the YMCA. His lasting legacy will be found in the hearts of the many people whom he touched, served, and protected.

He is survived by his wife Heidi, a teacher at Mary Immaculate Catholic School and a former city employee for Farmers Branch, Texas, and two daughters, Victoria and Caroline.

I ask that all of my colleagues, and the entire nation, honor the life of Sgt. Michael Smith and keep the Smith family in their thoughts and prayers.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH  
PIOPOLIS

### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2016*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the celebration of the 175th Anniversary of St. John the Baptist Parish in Piopolis, IL.

St. John the Baptist church was established in 1841. The parish operated a school from 1870 through 1964. Precious Blood Sisters came from Burwell, Germany, to teach at the school. Nine sisters arrived on February 28th, 1870. There were Precious Blood Sisters teaching in Piopolis until the school closed in 1964.

The parish is in a farming community; their membership is comprised of 184 families. Because of the strength and character of its members, the parish possesses both a rich history and a vibrant future. They are commemorating their 175th anniversary with a

special mass with festivities to follow on August 21st, 2016. I am honored to recognize such a strong faith community in my district.

I look forward to the continued prosperity of St. John the Baptist Parish in Piopolis for many years to come.

### PRESIDENT ERDOGAN'S ASSAULT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE TURKISH PEOPLE

### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remind our government that the human rights abuses committed by Turkish President Erdogan are grave and ongoing, and to distinguish between the Turkish president and the Turkish people—and to stand with the people.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has in recent years been aggressively violating the human rights of Turkish citizens and undermining the rule of law, in order to root out dissent and consolidate his personal power. The freedom of the press and the rights of common citizens to run schools, businesses, and volunteer associations have come under direct threat.

Since assuming the presidency two years ago, President Erdogan has undermined the independence of the judiciary, jeopardizing access to a fair trial and undercutting government accountability. In 2014, he worked to stack the country's High Council of Judges and Prosecutors with party loyalists, enabling his government to ease arrest procedures and curtail opportunities for appeal. This facilitated the detention of thousands of activists, journalists, and businessmen under the country's overbroad terrorism statute. The President has exploited his growing leverage over the courts: his government's reshuffling last month of 3,700 judges and prosecutors rewarded pliant members of the judiciary while punishing others who ruled against the government or heard cases involving official corruption. A law passed earlier this month dismissed most of the judges on Turkey's highest courts, leaving it up to the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors to reappoint them or pick their successors.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to undermining government institutions, President Erdogan's tightening grip on Turkey is also weakening the vitality of Turkish society. Under President Erdogan's direction, state authorities are undertaking a campaign of retribution against Erdogan's critics. Since Erdogan assumed the presidency in 2014, the government has opened nearly 2,000 cases against people suspected of "insulting the president"—a crime in Turkey.

Professional journalists and major news outlets in particular have incurred the wrath of the President. For reporting that is unflattering to Erdogan, whether on national security issues, the conflict with the Kurds, or official corruption, press outlets have been charged with "supporting terrorism" or have had their entire operations taken over by government-appointed trustees. In one of the most egregious examples, Turkish authorities in March raided the offices of the nation's highest-circulation newspaper, Zaman, and overnight placed it

under hand-picked, progovernment management.

Mr. Speaker, President Erdogan has taken to politicizing the charge of "supporting terrorism"—undermining the serious business of fighting terrorism, one of the gravest threats faced by the Turkish people. One persistent critic of Erdogan's centralization agenda and authoritarian tendencies is Fethullah Gulen, the founder of Hizmet, a moderate, Islamic civic movement dedicated to promoting education, popular piety, and civic engagement. Because of this criticism, Hizmet and its followers have suffered wave after wave of unfounded terrorism charges and forcible government seizures of businesses, universities, and schools. In May, the Turkish Cabinet approved a decision to designate Hizmet a "terrorist organization," guaranteeing that this campaign of political retribution will continue. Gulen's followers have been placed in the crosshairs of the very arbitrary policies they criticize. Yet neither our State Department, nor the European Union, nor any other respected body outside Turkey, has ever characterized Hizmet as a terrorist group or anything like it—the Cabinet's designation is absurd.

Mr. Speaker, in recent months, the Turkish people have been struck by a wave of violent attacks perpetrated by Islamist and Kurdish terrorists—most recently, a triple-suicide attack at Istanbul's international airport by Islamist extremists killed 44 innocent civilians. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those maimed in these attacks, to all those who lost beloved family and friends.

I am confident that the Turkish people—for centuries renowned for their bravery—will never be cowed by terrorists, and that they will equally resist President Erdogan's attempt to undermine their rights, laws, and freedoms. Our government should stand with the Turkish people on both fronts.

HONORING WILLIE "SATELLITE"  
TOTTEN

### 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 Willie Totten, who is a former professional football player and current college football coach. Totten played his high school football at J.Z. George High School in North Carrollton, Mississippi. Totten was a four-year starter quarterback at Mississippi Valley State University from 1981 to 1985, along with Jerry Rice as his target as wide receiver. Totten set more than 50 Division I-AA passing records, and Rice setting many Division I-AA receiving records.

The Delta Devils averaged 59 points a game during the 1984 season, with Totten throwing for a record 58 touchdowns and leading the Delta Devils to the Division I-AA playoffs in 1984. Archie Cooley, who was the head coach at MVSU from 1980 to 1986, was the architect of the pass-oriented offense that utilized the skills of Totten.

Totten played professionally in the Canadian Football League (CFL) with the BC Lions (and Toronto Argonauts before moving on to the National Football League (NFL), as a replacement player for the Buffalo Bills during the