

sincerest condolences. While your daughter may no longer be with us, her loving spirit will live eternally.

HONORING PROFESSOR CAROL ROBERTSON FOR RECEIVING THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING

### HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Professor Carol Robertson. She has been selected to receive the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This is a prestigious award that will be presented in Washington, DC at the Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall. In addition to Professor Robertson having the opportunity to attend various recognition events and development activities, she will also receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation. A citation from President Obama will be presented as well. Professor Robertson is one of only one hundred and eight teachers to receive this award for the 2014–2015 school year.

Professor Robertson is receiving this award for her work at Fulton High School where she was a science teacher for twenty-eight years. She retired from Fulton High School following the 2015–2016 school year. Professor Robertson also taught as an adjunct professor at Central Methodist University from 2007 through 2014 and Missouri State University from 2014 through 2016. She started teaching as an adjunct professor at Westminster College this school year.

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching was established by Congress in 1983. This award is the highest honor bestowed by the United States Government specifically for educators that teach mathematics and science. Since the establishment of the program, over 4,600 teachers have been recognized for their contributions to their students and school districts.

Professor Robertson has had a lifelong interest in science and is passionate about teaching the next generation the importance of engaging in the study of science. Throughout her teaching career, she has seen some of her students obtain a Ph.D. which affirms the dedication with which she teaches. She has utilized partnerships with researchers to enhance the experience of her students. Through those partnerships, students have been able to explore Golden Retriever Muscular Dystrophy, Osteogenesis Imperfecta, Arabidopsis, or maize. This research allowed her students to have real-life applications. Professor Robertson received her B.S. in Science Education and a M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Missouri.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Professor Robertson on her achievement and this honor of receiving the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER RECORD AND CLARION OWNER ROGER MOON

### HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late editor and publisher of Record and Clarion, Roger Moon. As the son of Paul and Velma, the husband of Patricia and the father of Tracy, Renee and Shane, Roger made many contributions to Gladwin County and the great state of Michigan.

Roger began his career in news when he was twelve years old, working at the Record and Clarion, sweeping and taking out the trash. He completed his degree in Journalism at Michigan State University in 1960. After Roger graduated he returned to Gladwin and began working, yet again, for Record and Clarion. He became the head of the newspaper in 1972 when his father retired. After twenty-one years as the head of the Record, Roger sold the newspaper and retired in 1993.

Roger was more than the editor of the newspaper. Roger also served the community by working as a firefighter for thirty-three years, rising to the rank of assistant chief. He was an active member of the Gladwin Rotary Club and was honored by the organization for his generous donations of time and resources.

Roger loved to hunt and fish, as well as golf. He enjoyed sharing Michigan's outdoor heritage with his children and grandchildren, driving his boat and teaching them to waterski. He was also a Hall of Fame bowler.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to recognize Roger Moon for his lifetime of work to the people of Gladwin County.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. T. BERRY BRAZELTON

### HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Dr. Thomas Berry Brazelton. Throughout his 98 years, Dr. Brazelton has been celebrated as a critically acclaimed leader in pediatric medicine and a change-maker in the lives of countless Massachusetts families.

Although Dr. Brazelton was born in Waco, Texas, the Bay State has been lucky to claim him as its own since 1945, when he completed his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. In the decades since, Dr. Brazelton became a pioneering expert in neonatal behavior, authoring more than 200 journal articles and textbook chapters on the subject. Any parent might recognize his name from one of his thirty books on child development and parenting.

However, his primary contribution to the medical community is the Brazelton Neonatal Behavioral Assessment Scale. The scale itself is a metric to highlight behavioral differences among newborns within the first months of their lives. His methods drew the parallel between differing parental methods and infant

behavioral development in the first four months of a child's life. These discoveries led to his recognition as a tireless advocate for paternal and medical leave, bringing him from the halls of Congress to interviews with Oprah Winfrey and Ellen DeGeneres to advance that cause. His work earned him a Presidential Citation from President Obama in February of 2013. Today, Dr. Brazelton remains an active member of the pediatric medicine community. He has become a fixture at the Baby Center in Hyannis, helping the underprivileged parents of Cape Cod provide for their children.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, not simply for his dedicated service to the communities of Massachusetts, but for the work he has done for families across the globe.

IN HONOR OF BONNIE EDMONDSON, UNITED STATES TRACK AND FIELD COACH

### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Bonnie Edmondson of Coventry, Connecticut, an exceptional athlete and public servant, for being chosen as a coach for Team USA's track and field team at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Bonnie has a long and dedicated track and field career. During her time at Eastern Connecticut State University in 1987, she threw discus and hammer, earning the title of All-American. Thanks to her talent and commitment, Bonnie ranked tenth in the world and fifth in the nation in hammer throw between 1990 and 1996 and won national championships for her skills in both 1990 and 1991. Later, Bonnie dedicated her career to coaching at all levels of the sport. Most notably, she held positions as an assistant coach in the 1998 World Junior Championship and as a coach for the Team USA throwing events in 2012 and 2014 during the IAAF World Indoor Championships. Most recently, she served as a mentor to the 2015 NESCAC hammer throw champion, Lily Talesnick. Currently, Bonnie is a track and field coach at Trinity College, while also working at the Connecticut Department of Education, overseeing a comprehensive school health education program aimed at motivating children to lead healthier lifestyles.

During her years as a thrower, Bonnie's scores in the 1992 Olympic trials would have qualified her for the Games if there had been a women's division in her sport. However, it wasn't until 1995 that the International Olympic Committee established the Women and Sport Advocacy group which works to implement gender equality policies in all Olympic competitions. In 2000, women's hammer throw was included in the Olympics for the first time. Instead of succumbing to disappointment and defeat, Bonnie contributed to the evolution of the sport, and of the Games, by helping to introduce women's events in the hammer throw. Her talent and passion for the sport makes her an incredible coach, and she has served as a wonderful representative of the United States, and of Connecticut, this August in Rio de Janeiro. Bonnie is more than deserving of this opportunity, and her debut at the games is long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bonnie and the U.S. track and field team for a terrific performance in the Summer Games. Bonnie and her team have not only brought pride to the State of Connecticut, but to the entire nation.

ELDON LAIDIG

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Eldon Laidig for receiving the West Chamber's 2016 Jefferson County Hall of Fame Award.

Known for his passion for education and community service, Eldon has been a pillar of the Jefferson County community for more than fifty years. Before becoming a financial planner, Eldon spent 42 years in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves and 27 years working for Jefferson County Public Schools, 25 of which were spent as a middle school principal.

In 1990, Eldon started Personal Benefit Services Wealth Management, which has been recognized by 5280 Magazine and the Arvada Chamber of Commerce. Eldon's involvement in the Arvada community is unparalleled. He was named the Arvada Sentinel's Man of the Year, has served as club president of the Arvada Council for the Arts and Humanities and Arvada Rotary Club and Friendship Force of Greater Denver, as well as vice president of the Arvada Historical Society. In his five decades in the Jefferson County area, Eldon has worked tirelessly to improve the City of Arvada through community service.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Eldon Laidig for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

TRIBUTE TO RUBY AND DON  
GODFREY

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Ruby and Don Godfrey of Emerson, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary. They were married on June 2, 1946 at Henderson Christian Church in Henderson, Iowa.

Ruby and Don's lifelong commitment to each other, their children, Richard and Darrell, and their grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 70th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories, may their commitment grow even stronger, and may they continue to love and cherish one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 70th 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF ERSILIA  
MARIA ANTONIA VERONICA  
GHIRLANDA MONETT BALCAEN

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge one of my constituents, Ersilia Balcaen, who will be turning 105 this upcoming September the 17th. Mrs. Balcaen's life has been a truly American story in that despite coming from far away, she made the United States her home. Facing some of the most uncertain times in American history, she not only endured, but flourished.

Ersilia was born in the small comune of Sesta Godano in Italy. She was only five years old when she made the dangerous journey to America with her family. She quickly proved her tenaciousness in her work ethic before she had even grown up through helping her family look after their animals and grow crops, and even held several jobs while studying in high school. She later moved to San Francisco and began work for an insurance company where she inspirationally fought to keep her job despite her recent marriage and did so successfully, only finally being let go after seven months of pregnancy.

Ersilia's tireless aspirations did not end there. She eventually showed her aptitude by doing a test for the civil service and was soon hired by the U.S. Army as a stenographer with the Army's Overseas Supply Division at Presidio, California. During her time in service to her nation, she was part of the first evacuations from Pearl Harbor while attempting to bring back the wounded from the attacks. Her career eventually took her back to California where she helped many veterans and civil servants find work following the end to the war. She was heavily praised for her selfless efforts in caring for all those who worked for her. Despite some levels of discrimination she received, she endured and persisted, leading a highly notable career which she retired from in 1972, after 31 years. Her public service did not end upon retirement. Mrs. Balcaen continued to serve her community through her involvement in local charities.

Mr. Speaker, this is a woman of extreme courage and fortitude, whose tireless efforts in spite of discrimination and difficulties, serves as an inspiration to all. She has spent nearly her entire life in service to others and her selflessness should be acknowledged for all to witness. I would ask my fellow members to stand with me and applaud Mrs. Balcaen and wish her well.

BEAUTY BEHIND BARS

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a wonderful event that 94 FM the Fish hosted called Beauty Behind Bars. This event took place on July 30th of this year at the Vanderbilt Student Life Center. It was an excellent opportunity for women in the community to be transformed, inspired, and empowered.

Beauty Behind Bars is an organization designed to help women and girls break away from mental incarceration and self-imprisonment of low self-esteem, doubt, depression, suicide, and dream killing. They also teach the importance of forgiveness, accountability, and the significance of loving self from the inside out. They educate the community by providing seminars and conferences.

I commend Beauty Behind Bars and 94 FM the Fish for their willingness to host a free training workshop that will continue to influence and change women for the rest of their lives. They have set an excellent example of what it means to "set the captives free." My hope is that they will continue to bring freedom to women of all ages and for generations to come.

MR. SHAYAK SENGUPTA RECEIVES  
PRESTIGIOUS FULBRIGHT AWARD

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Shayak Sengupta of Sugar Land, TX for receiving a Fulbright award for his energy research in India during the 2015 through 2016 academic year.

Each year the Fulbright Program grants students with the opportunity to study, research or teach English abroad in an effort to internationalize communities and campuses around the world. Fulbright scholars focus on the conditions and challenges differing regions face, as well as building valuable U.S. relationships. Shayak graduated from Hightower High School and attended Rice University. Under the Fulbright program, he studied the effectiveness and cost of air pollution control technologies in Indian coal power plants.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Mr. Shayak Sengupta for receiving this Fulbright award. Keep up the great work.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF FRESNO  
POLICE CHIEF JERRY DYER

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Police Chief Jerry Dyer of Fresno, California. Chief Dyer is being honored by the Fresno Police Department in appreciation of his 15 years of service as Police Chief. The Fresno community is fortunate to have someone who has devoted his career to serving as an advocate for our city.

Chief Dyer attended California State University, Fresno where he would receive his Bachelor's Degree in Criminology. He would go on to obtain a Master's Degree in Management from California Polytechnic University at Pomona and graduate from the California Command College for law enforcement leaders. He began his service with the Fresno Police Department in 1979.