

Since 2001, Macedonia has been one of the staunchest allies of the United States in the War on Terror. Macedonia was the fourth and fifth largest contributor of troops, per capita, in the mission in Afghanistan. Macedonian troops guarded American troops at the compound in Kabul. And, Macedonia welcomed 50,000 and 400,000 refugees during the wars in Bosnia and Kosovo, respectively. For a country of little over two million, Macedonia has done its fair share and deserves to be in NATO. On that note, I ask that you join me, and 35 colleagues, in cosponsoring H. Res. 56 in support of Macedonia's NATO accession as soon as possible.

With American support, Macedonia has become a model of stability in a region known for ethnic strife and tension. Up until earlier this year, Macedonia was struck with the unprecedented refugee crisis facing Europe, as hundreds of thousands of migrants and refugees fled war-torn countries in the Middle East and North Africa. In one year, an estimated one million migrants traveled through Macedonia, and the country's institutions organized an orderly response to the influx of people, including organizing daily trains to ferry migrants from the southern to the northern border. If the partnership between the United States and Macedonia is to remain strong, the country needs our continued support.

I also use this opportunity to urge Macedonia's leaders to continue strengthening their institutions and reforming its democracy and rule of law, especially following the slated December 11, 2016 elections, which will prove a true test of its democracy.

As a way to recognize and strengthen this strategic U.S.-Macedonia partnership, I started the first Congressional Caucus on Macedonia and Macedonian-Americans. This Caucus is a bipartisan group of members of Congress dedicated to maintaining and strengthening a positive and mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and the Republic of Macedonia, as well as advocating for the concerns and interests of the Macedonian-American community in the United States.

Michigan's 10th District has one of the largest populations of Macedonian-Americans in the Nation. I would like to acknowledge their contributions to our District and our State, and I look forward to continuing that relationship as we deal with the problems facing our great Nation.

Again, congratulations to all of Macedonian heritage for their achievements as we commemorate this important 25th anniversary of Macedonia's independence.

Long Live Macedonia (Da Zivee Makedonija)

Long Live the United States (Da Zivee Amerika)

“TURN THE PAGE” LITERACY INITIATIVE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, every summer youth without access to books lose academic skills, while those who are reading continue to make progress in developing their proficiency. Studies show that summer learning

loss is a significant cause of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income youth. Students from low-income households learn at the same rate as their peers while school is in session, but while middle- and upper-income students show slight gains in their reading performance after the summer months, lower income students experience a two-month loss in reading achievement.

It is what teachers refer to as the “summer slide” or “summer setback.” This loss is cumulative: while teachers spend 4 to 6 weeks re-teaching material to the students who have fallen behind over the summer, other students are progressing with their skills. The result? By the end of the sixth grade, children who lose reading skills during the summer are on average 2 years behind their peers. Even more startling is the conclusion of University of Nevada research, which has shown that students without access to books are less likely to complete their basic education.

The simple fact is that there are fewer opportunities for daily summer reading when both parents are away at work. Without access to books, our kids fall behind.

My daughter teaches English at Baylor University. She has dedicated her life to edifying the young people of this country by instilling in them a love for reading, and for the intellectual tradition it gives them access to. This love needs to start early, and the inheritance of that tradition should be accessible to all Americans. That is why I am proud of the efforts of KHOU and Star Furniture, who are rolling out a new community effort to increase the literacy rate in Houston. They are soliciting donations for the non-profit group “Books Between Kids,” which provides at-risk children with books that they can keep in their home. We need more programs like this in our country.

IN HONOR OF JAN BLACK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2016

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the remarkable personal and professional achievements of Dr. Jan Black, a great educator, selfless activist, and dear personal friend. Jan is at the same time a model American and a global citizen. Over the years she has devoted countless hours to local political campaigns for offices ranging from the President and Congress to city council and school board. Equally, she has been a tireless advocate and traveled around the world on behalf of international education and human rights.

Jan has taught for many years at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California. She earned her BA in Art and Spanish from the University of Tennessee. She earned her MA in Latin American Studies and PhD in International Studies at the American University School of International Service in Washington DC.

Jan's international experience includes Senior Associate Membership at St. Antony's College, Oxford University; Fulbright, Mellon and other grants and Fellowships in South America, the Caribbean, and India; on-site or short-term teaching and honorary faculty positions in several Latin American countries, and extensive overseas lecturing and research. She was

also a Peace Corps Volunteer in Chile and a faculty member with the University of Pittsburgh's Semester-at-Sea program.

Jan was a research professor in the Division of Public Administration, University of New Mexico, and editor and research administrator in American University's Foreign Area Studies Division. She has also served on some two dozen international editorial and non-governmental organization boards and has published numerous articles and books, including most recently a 2009 book titled “The Politics of Human Rights Protection.”

In 2011, Jan was elected to the Board of Directors of Amnesty International USA, she is a member of the Advisory Boards of the International Political Science Association's Committee on Civil-Military Affairs; the Global Studies Program of California State University, San Jose; and the PhD Fellowship Program of the U.S. Inter-American Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in recognizing Dr. Jan Black for her remarkable personal and professional achievements. The world is a better place because of her efforts.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF THE CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2016

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the city of Miami Springs on the occasion of its 90th birthday.

Miami Springs was founded in 1926 by aviation pioneer Glenn H. Curtiss. Since that time, Miami Springs has grown to be home to 14,000 Floridians who prize the town for its small-town feel and civic amenities.

Miami Springs has been distinguished with several awards. In recognition of the historic nature of the town and numerous buildings and memorials that illustrate Florida history, the city was designated a “Preserve America Community” by former First Lady Laura Bush in 2008. Today, visitors and residents can tour over twenty historic sites. Additionally, Miami Springs has been certified as a Tree City USA since 1993.

For 90 years, Miami Springs has profited from and contributed to the community surrounding Miami International Airport. The city is a vibrant part of South Florida, and continues to be a wonderful place to live, raise a family, and open a business. I am proud to have collaborated with the thriving City of Miami Springs, and look forward to partnering with its leaders for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the City of Miami Springs on this auspicious milestone, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this exceptional city.

CONSTITUTION WEEK 2016

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2016

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following proclamation:

Whereas, it is the privilege and duty of the American people to commemorate the two hundred and twenty-ninth anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

Whereas, it is fitting and proper to officially recognize this magnificent document and the anniversary of its creation; and

Whereas, public law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week;

Now, therefore, I, TOM RICE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Representative of the Seventh District of the State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 17 through 23, 2016 to be Constitution Week and ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787.

HONORING EAGLE SCOUT REECE
O'CONNOR

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2016

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Reece O'Connor, an exceptional and accomplished young man from the Sixth District of Illinois. Reece is a senior at Hinsdale Central High School and has not only earned the rank of Eagle Scout but has earned every single merit badge the Boy Scouts of America have to offer.

This achievement represents many years of diligence and personal determination in support of the ideals of scouting. What makes this achievement even more impressive is the fact that Reece did not join Boy Scouts until the 7th grade.

Even with the late start, Reece made it his goal to "catch up" to the rest of his scout mates—and ultimately he surpassed his goal. While the Scouts only offer 136 merit badges, he currently has 138 badges. The Boy Scouts frequently add new badges and retire old ones for special occasions; for example Reece earned several badges that were only offered during the Scouts' 100th anniversary. According to a spokesman for the Boy Scouts of America Reece's success is "an extremely rare achievement."

Reece's Eagle Scout project was also an impressive accomplishment. In 2013, the summer before he started high school, he organized a shoe drive and collected more than 1,000 pairs of shoes. These shoes were sent to people in Oklahoma displaced by tornadoes, and to refugees in Nicaragua and Rwanda. Reece is a testament to the Boy Scouts organization and all that it stands for.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Reece for his remarkable achievements.

11TH ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT
OUT IN THE CITY OF BULVERDE,
TEXAS ON OCTOBER 4, 2016

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie in order to make our neighborhoods safer. The City of Bulverde, which is located in the 21st Congressional District in Texas, facilitates National Night Out as a unique opportunity to join with thousands of other communities across the country in promoting cooperative, police-community crime prevention efforts.

Congratulations to the City of Bulverde as it marks its 11th consecutive year participating in this important event with the Bulverde Police Department. Each year, community participation has increased. In 2015, Bulverde placed 2nd in Texas in the National Night Out Awards Program and 14th in the U.S. in their population category.

Thanks go to the citizens of Bulverde as they join the Bulverde Police Department and the National Association of Town Watch in supporting the Annual National Night Out on October 4, 2016. These efforts keep our communities, and our citizens, more safe and secure.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST FIRE
CHIEF SPENCER CHAUVIN

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2016

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of St. John the Baptist Fire Chief Spencer Chauvin. Chief Chauvin lost his life on August 28th after being struck by a charter bus while responding to a car accident.

From the time he was a teenager, Chauvin knew that he wanted to serve his community by following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather who both served as firefighters. At the age of 14, Chauvin became a volunteer firefighter with the St. John the Baptist Parish Westside Volunteer Fire Department.

He continued to show his dedication to service by working as an EMT for Acadian Ambulance then later receiving his Associate's Degree in Fire Science. In 2004, Chauvin joined the St. John the Baptist Fire Department full-time where he then became District Chief.

After 40 years of service, Chief Chauvin leaves behind a legacy that will resonate for years to come. My deepest condolences and prayers are with Chief Chauvin's family, his fellow firefighters, and especially his two young children.

FL INVENTOR HALL OF FAME 2016

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2016

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the seven inventors who have been recognized as the 2016 Inductees of the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame. These inventors were nominated by their peers and have undergone the scrutiny of the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame Selection Committee, having had their innovations deemed as making a significant impact for the citizens of Florida and the United States on quality of life, economic development, and welfare of society.

The Florida Inventors Hall of Fame was founded in 2013 by Paul R. Sanberg, Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation and Economic Development, and Judy Genshaft, President, at the University of South Florida. It was recognized by the Florida Senate with Senate Resolution 1756 and adopted on April 30, 2014. Its mission is to encourage individuals of all ages and backgrounds to strive toward the betterment of Florida and society through continuous, groundbreaking innovation by commending the incredible scientific work that has been or is being accomplished in Florida and by its citizens.

Nominations to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame are open to all Florida inventors who are or who were residents of Florida and whose connection to the state has informed their inventive work. The nominee must be a named inventor on a patent issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The impact of the inventor and his or her invention should be significant to society as a whole, and the invention should have been commercialized, utilized, or led to important innovations.

The 2016 Inductees of the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame are: William Dalton, Tampa physician, founder and CEO of M2Gen at Moffitt Cancer Center, for his revolutionary developments in personalized cancer treatment; Yogi Goswami, Distinguished Professor at the University of South Florida in Tampa, for his pioneering contributions and technology development in solar energy and indoor air quality; Alan Marshall, professor and chief scientist at Florida State University in Tallahassee, who invented the Fourier transform ion cyclotron resonance (FT-ICR) mass spectrometry, used to analyze complex structures; Nicholas Muzyczka, microbiologist at University of Florida in Gainesville, whose ground breaking research in adeno-associated virus has led to numerous breakthroughs in gene therapy; Jacqueline Quinn, environmental engineer at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, who invented multiple, globally-impacting environmental cleanup technologies, including NASA's most licensed and recognized technology for groundwater remediation, Emulsified Zero Valent Iron (EZVI); Andrew Schally, Nobel Laureate, Distinguished Professor at University of Miami School of Medicine, and Distinguished Medical Research Scientist and Chief of the Endocrine, Polypeptide and Cancer Institute at the Miami Veterans Affairs Medical Center, for his discovery of hypothalamic hormones and subsequent applications of their analogues to treatment of cancer and other diseases; and MJ Soileau, professor