

CLAIRE JEFFRESS EXCELS ON  
AND OFF THE FIELD

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 27, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Claire Jeffress of Pearland, TX for her outstanding extracurricular activities on and off the field.

As a strong soccer player, it was a natural fit for Claire to start playing football in seventh grade. Now a varsity football player at Dawson High School, Claire is the kicker for the Eagles and has proven she can hold her own with her teammates. When she's not kicking her way to victory on the football field, Claire puts her leadership skills to work as a member of my Congressional Youth Advisory Council (CYAC). In her second year as part of CYAC, Claire joins 19 other high school students who provide me with critical input on issues they face, while also hearing from community leaders throughout the year.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I thank Claire Jeffress for all of her contributions to our community. We are proud of her for breaking barriers and setting a great example for other young girls. We expect great things from her in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET AND  
MICK FREEMAN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 27, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Margaret and Mick Freeman of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 7, 1966 at Goldfield United Methodist Church in Goldfield, Iowa.

Margaret and Mick's lifelong commitment to each other and their six children, Susan, Sandy, Tom, David, Brad, and Marcia, and their 18 grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

TUESDAYS IN TEXAS: BESSIE  
COLEMAN

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 27, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in January 26, 1892, a young woman was born in Atlanta, Texas. Her name was Bessie Coleman and she continues to inspire generations of African American women around the United States

and in the great state of Texas. As the tenth of thirteen children whose father had left to Oklahoma seeking refuge from racial barriers, she was forced to work at the cotton harvest every year to help support her family. However, in 1915, she moved to Chicago seeking to become something greater. She had no idea how this step would change American history forever.

She began working as a manicurist in Chicago, but the stories of pilots from the First World War intrigued her. This, along with friendly taunts from her brother, would motivate her to learn how to fly. However, schools in America denied her entrance, so she set out to attend aviation school in France. She attended the Caudon Brother's School of Aviation, where she completed a 10 month program in only 7 months. She also received her international aviation pilot's license from the renowned Federation Aeronautique Internationale, making her the first African American and Native American woman to earn a pilot's license.

But this is not the end of her amazing story. Coleman returned to the United States and specialized in stunt flying and parachuting. She earned her living by barnstorming and performing aerial tricks. She became the first African American woman to perform a public flight in America. Although she changed her mind about starting a flying school for African Americans, she still encouraged other African Americans to learn how to fly. Most importantly, she stood up for an entire community of people when she refused to perform in places that would not admit members of her race.

Unfortunately, her life would end shortly at only 34 years old after a test flight gone wrong caused her to fall hundreds of feet to her death in April of 1926.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Coleman's strength, endurance, and ability to break down barriers are truly inspiring. I am incredibly proud that such an amazing legacy started in Texas. It is an honor to come from a state full of people known for breaking down barriers and overcoming obstacles against all odds.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN AND P.  
RICHARD KELLEY

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 27, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kathleen and P. Richard Kelley of Elliott, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on August 6, 2016.

Kathleen and P. Richard's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

IN HONOR OF SUPERVISOR JIM  
CHAPMAN FOR 43 YEARS OF  
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

**HON. TOM McCLINTOCK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 27, 2016*

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of myself and Mr. LAMALFA, to honor the service of Supervisor Jim Chapman for his 43 years of outstanding leadership in Lassen County.

In 1974, at the age of 19, Jim was first elected to the Susanville City Council. Two years later, Jim was elected to serve as Mayor. In 1976, he began serving the first of nine terms as Lassen County Supervisor representing District 2.

Jim has proudly represented all aspects of the community. He has served on numerous boards and committees, including: Lassen College Board of Trustees, Lassen Hospital Board, Lassen High School Alumni Association (President, 2013 through 2014), Lassen County Chamber of Commerce (President, 2000), Susanville Kiwanis Club (President, 1985 through 1986), Rotary Club of Susanville (President, 2014 through 2015), Lassen County Special Olympics, Rural County Representative of California (President, 1982), and Lassen County Transportation Commission, among many others.

Supervisor Chapman's distinguished career of service has not only benefited but truly inspired residents of Lassen County and beyond, as evidenced by numerous awards with which Jim has been honored, including:

25 Year Service Award from Special Olympics of Northern California;

CALAFCO Lifetime Achievement Award;

Elks Distinguished Citizen in 2010; and

2016 Lassen High School Alumnus of the Year.

In addition to his exemplary public service, Jim has led a personal life filled with community involvement. He is a co-founder of the Lassen Sportsmen's Club Junior Fishing Derby, a Past Master of Lassen Masonic Lodge, a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, a Ben Ali Shriner; a 40-year host for "Old Timers Day" at the Lassen County Fair, and a Knight of the York Cross of Honour.

Mr. Speaker, Supervisor Jim Chapman has an incomparable record of service to his community. We commend him for setting an example of outstanding leadership.

TRIBUTE TO THE DES MOINES  
AREA RELIGIOUS COUNCIL FOOD  
PANTRY NETWORK

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 27, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) Food Pantry Network for their 40 years of service to the hungry citizens of central Iowa.

DMARC was founded in 1952 to assist the spiritual needs of the community and promote spiritual, moral, social, and civic welfare of the community. In May 1976, DMARC officials established the Food Pantry Network, an emergency food program to help provide services

to the hungry in the area. In the 40 years since its creation, it has become the largest food pantry network in Iowa, with 11 sites in the Des Moines metropolitan area, including sites in the Des Moines Independent School District, helping to feed 34,000 people annually. The Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry Network is comprised of 128 member congregations representing a number of different faiths. These willing volunteers provide food and service hours. The Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry Network also receives generous assistance from individuals, businesses, and non-member congregations.

Mr. Speaker, I commend The Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry Network on their 40 years and thank them for providing such an important service. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry Network and in wishing them nothing but continued success.

**FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION WINS DISTIN-  
GUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 27, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Fort Bend County Historical Commissioners for winning the Texas Historical Commission Distinguished Service Award.

The Commission is comprised of volunteer historians and preservationists appointed by the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court to protect Texas history, culture and education throughout the state. Volunteers have dedicated over 480,000 hours to recognizing, protecting and transcribing various parts of Texas history so future Texans can continue to learn the heritage of our great state.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Fort Bend County Historical Commissioners for winning the THC Distinguished Service Award. We appreciate your continued efforts to preserve the history that has made Texas so great.

**TRIBUTE TO AGGIE AND RON  
DAVIS**

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 27, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Aggie and Ron Davis of Des Moines, Iowa, on their 70th wedding anniversary.

Their lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 70th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 70th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the

United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

**VETERANS-SPECIFIC EDUCATION  
FOR TOMORROW'S MEDICAL DOCTORS  
(VET MD) ACT**

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 27, 2016*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that addresses two problems: the disparity in access to clinical observation experiences for pre-medical school students and the severe shortage of physicians at VA hospitals. By creating a pre-med observation (shadowing) program within the VA, we both expand access to medical observation opportunities, particularly for underrepresented populations such as minority or rural-based students, and expose America's future doctors to the Veteran health system, increasing awareness of job opportunities within the VA.

When applying to medical school, students who have spent time observing, or shadowing, physicians in a clinical setting have an advantage both with admissions and in deciding on a future specialty. It is recommended applicants have more than 40 hours of observational experience to be competitive. Opportunities to observe however are limited and vary widely between universities and hospitals.

Students who are from, or attend schools in rural areas, who are from low economic status, or whose families lack connections within the medical community often find it harder to attain observation hours and are disadvantaged in medical school admissions, contributing to the lack of diversity in our medical professions. Universities and hospitals with organized pre-med experience or clinician observation programs report having a significantly more diversified participation pool than those who rely purely on personal connections to attain observation opportunities.

On the medical side, the VA is chronically short physicians. In fact, more than 5,100 additional physicians are needed across the VA system as of August 2015, and annually they recruit for over 41,000 positions throughout their medical facilities. This leads to increased wait times and decreased patient care. To fill these positions, the VA must compete with private hospitals that often are able to make more lucrative offers to prospective hires.

By incorporating an organized clinician observation program into the VA, future physicians will be exposed to the unique problems of U.S. veteran healthcare and the VA will create a pool of potential medical professional recruits. Early exposure will encourage future participation either as veteran physicians themselves or advocates within the community. The VA will simultaneously be helping the next generation of physicians gain valuable experience and addressing their physician shortage problem.

**TRIBUTE TO DONNA LEE AND DON  
BUCH**

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 27, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Donna Lee and Don Buch of Grimes, Iowa, as they celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary.

Donna Lee and Don were married in Clarinda on August 12, 1951. Their lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 65th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this lovely couple on their 65 years of life together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

**RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF  
LONNIE BUNCH, THE FOUNDING  
DIRECTOR OF THE SMITHSONIAN  
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN  
AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE**

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 27, 2016*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lonnie G. Bunch III; a great educator and American historian who's relentless and dedicated work led to the opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture on the national mall this past weekend.

From a young age, Lonnie has cared about the stories of those who are anonymous. The experience of a four-year-old Lonnie with his grandfather looking at a photo of unidentified African-American schoolchildren in a book left him wanting to learn their stories. The curiosity inspired by hearing his neighbors speak Sicilian urged him to understand the history that led groups of immigrants to populate his neighborhood in New Jersey.

These experiences as a child helped shape the distinguished career Mr. Bunch would have as an author, educator and curator at various institutions. While serving as president at the Chicago Historical Society, Mr. Bunch was approached by the Smithsonian Institute to be the founding director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Mr. Bunch spent the next decade traveling around the world raising the \$270 million needed to open the museum while also leading the charge in opening seven different exhibits related to African American history and culture in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. Mr. Bunch is also responsible for establishing a daylong workshop program designed to identify and preserve items of historical significance.

Through his career endeavors culminating in the opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture,