

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,

Mr. Bunch has presented an opportunity to every American visiting Washington, DC to experience the history of the United States through a unique prospective.

TRIBUTE TO VAN WALL
EQUIPMENT

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 Van Wall Equipment in Perry, Iowa, on being named the 2016 Dealership of the Year by Farm Equipment magazine.

Van Wall, founded in 1977, is recognized for their continued growth, having added 11 agricultural stores, one Powersports store, and one Doosan Material Handling dealership since 2014. Van Wall Equipment was recognized for keeping diversification at the forefront by selling crop insurance, artistic concrete, and soil moisture monitors. Don Van Houweling, the owner and general manager of Van Wall Equipment, credits the great employees he has had over the years, telling the Dallas County News that the dealership motto is "the clear first choice."

Mr. Speaker, I commend Van Wall Equipment for earning the 2016 Dealership of the Year award, and for their nearly 35 years of service to Iowa farmers. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Van Wall Equipment and wishing them nothing but continued success.

REMEMBERING VIRGIL GANT

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Virgil Gant of Pearland, TX, who was killed in a tragic truck accident this summer.

Virgil was the longest-serving member on the Pearland ISD Board of Trustees, having served 16 years. Throughout his time on the Board, Virgil displayed true leadership, serving as board president and being a member of the Long-Range Planning Steering Committee. In 2014, the Texas Association of School Boards awarded him the Master Trustee designation. Prior to serving on the Board of Trustees, Virgil served our nation with 28 years of active and reserve duty in the United States Navy. Virgil Gant epitomized the best qualities of a Texan and American patriot. His dedication to his country and community will be greatly missed.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, we mourn the loss of Virgil Gant. He truly was a beloved member of the Pearland community. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

TRIBUTE TO BARB AND BILL
FAILOR

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 Barb and

Bill Failor of Ankeny, Iowa, on their 60th wedding anniversary.

Barb and Bill'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 the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this lovely couple on their 60 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.

TRIBUTE TO MAXINE AND KENNY
DASS

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 Maxine and Kenny Dass of Ankeny, Iowa, as they celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary.

Their 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.