

School Coach of the Year. The award was created to honor exemplary high school football coaches who exhibit a commitment to the health and safety of their players as well as integrity in leadership. Michael is the head coach of Tuscarora High School's Varsity Football Team. Following a coaching career in California, he led Broad Run High School in Ashburn, Virginia to two consecutive state titles. He moved to Tuscarora High School to start their football program. Michael has taken the opportunity as a high school football coach to build character in his players and ensure their growth as both players and leaders. It is fitting that he earned this high honor from the NFL because of his commitment to personal growth in youth and their overall health and safety.

In addition to his recognition by the NFL, Michael will receive \$25,000 from the NFL Foundation which he plans to donate to the Adam Fortune Scholarship Fund, which was created in honor of his close friend and former defensive coordinator at Broad Run and Tuscarora, who died in 2014. The fund is designed for players who exemplify strong character on and off the field. In addition to coaching, Michael teaches Advanced Placement (AP) Economics and serves as Department Chair of Social Studies at Tuscarora High School. I am honored to recognize him today for helping shape young athletes in our community to lead lives of integrity.

CONGRATULATING LAURA KRAUS
ON HER VOLUNTEER WORK WITH
THE LEARN TO READ PROGRAM

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Laura Kraus for her outstanding service to her country through her volunteer work with the Learn to Read program.

Since 1975, Laura's volunteer work has exemplified her love for people and her tireless efforts to give back to the community. Her commitment was no secret: the neighborhood held banquets in her honor, television stations recognized her, and even the nation's leaders honored her service. President Barack Obama signed a letter of recognition and Neal Bush presented the Presidential Bronze Medal of Volunteering Service.

Still, she found the most satisfaction seeing the impact from the people she helped themselves. Her work has always extended to those in the greatest need regardless of physical or psychological obstacles. Volunteering with the Arthritis Foundation, Laura spent time with physically disabled members of the community through Horses for Therapy. In addition, victims of domestic abuse in a Hubbard House, a 24-hour hotline and emergency shelter, were touched by her support as well.

Laura began her training with the Learn to Read program as an intern, eager to assist adults and already willing to persist with compassion and patience through the challenges that were to come. Only a year and a half into the work with her first student, the impact that Laura had on her student was not only evident but incredibly touching, particularly for Laura herself.

Anthony was only 23 years old when he became Laura's first student in the Learn to Read program, struggling to read because of a learning disability. Yet Anthony was dedicated to his goal to create a better future and he never failed to be prompt and respectful every session. After a year and three months of the hour and a half routine, he articulated a simple and profound truth representative of the impact Laura's work has had for many: "Miss Laura, you have changed my life."

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of Congress to join me in recognizing Laura Kraus for her tireless dedication to serving each person with the care and opportunities that they deserve as a citizen of this great nation.

HONORING THE NAPA COUNTY
LIBRARY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Napa County Library (NCL), which is celebrating its 100th anniversary as a county library system.

In 1916, the California State Legislature authorized the creation of free county libraries around the state. As a result, in February of that year, the unincorporated areas of Napa County gained library services when the Napa County Board of Supervisors established the Napa County Free Library.

The NCL offers reading programs for all ages, outreach services, literacy initiatives, job-search and small business resources, information services, computer training, Internet access, and other means of community support and enrichment. More generally, the library enables individuals to make informed decisions about their self-governance by promoting unrestricted access to information and by serving as a community center for lifelong learning. In the last fiscal year, over 18,000 people received technology-related help, while 567,192 individuals visited the NCL. And over 4,000 adults, children and teens participated in the NCL's summer reading program.

The library's importance extends beyond its bookshelves. Basic literacy and computer-proficiency programs have broad and positive effects on local economies, bolstering the capabilities of local workers and businesses. Furthermore, the NCL's myriad child- and employment-focused initiatives help children and adults find, evaluate and use information they need for their jobs, health, education and success.

Mr. Speaker, the NCL is a dynamic civic resource that promotes free and open access to information, while providing valuable materials and services to all members of the community. The Napa County Library continues to benefit its community immensely, and it is fitting and proper that we honor it here today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. DINO
ANTONIO PETRUCCI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Mr. Dino Antonio Petrucci of Madera, California who recently passed away on January 4, 2016, at the age of 85. Mr. Petrucci was a remarkable farmer, teacher, and business owner of Petrucci's catering. His commitment to family and to his community will forever live in lives of the people he touched.

Dino Antonio Petrucci was born to Italian immigrant parents, Vincenzo and Ilide Petrucci, on January 17, 1930. His parents were members of the large Italian community who helped settle and pioneer Madera, California with its rich agricultural history. A life-long resident, he attended Madera schools and enrolled at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where he received his bachelor's degree in crop production. In 1951, he married the love of his life, Peggy Hayes, and they would have celebrated 65 years of marriage this March.

As an Agriculture Education instructor, he found joy in teaching and in expanding students' minds by showing them what they were capable of. All in all, Dino spent 40 plus years of his life devoted to Vocational Agriculture and Education. Although he was a fulltime teacher, Dino would spend evenings, and weekends helping his brother Enzo on the family grape farm.

Dino was also passionate about cooking and in 1974, he initiated his catering business, Petrucci's Catering. He expanded and bought the Howard School building and used it to host events. Saturday's were his favorite, because he loved being at the old school house serving barbecue tri tip, chicken and side dishes. His favorite place to be was at the end of the buffet line greeting everyone, and making sure their plates were full. Dino's love for food was so strong he developed his own barbecue sauce, "Petrucci's Secret Sauce" and a dry meat rub that are sold locally.

Civil service and giving back to his community were two other areas of interest to Dino. He was active in The Young Farmers, Lions Club and Italo-American Club of Madera. He served on the boards of the Madera County Farm Bureau, Madera County Food Bank, and Madera Unified School District Board of Education. In 1999, he was honored as the Madera County Senior Farmer of the Year by the Madera Chamber of Commerce.

Without question, Dino's integrity, honor, and long-lasting involvement in the Central Valley made him a reputable man; he was well known, well-liked, and shown enormous appreciation by anyone who had the pleasure of calling him a friend. Dino lived his life to the fullest surrounded by family and friends. He leaves behind his loving family, including his wife, Peggy, his two children, and grandchildren. It is my honor to join his family in celebrating the life of this amazing man, who will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Mr. Dino Antonio Petrucci. We are all better for having known Dino Petrucci, a remarkable Californian, and Central Valley Native.

RECOGNIZING PATRICIA VAIL FOR RECEIVING THE FLORIDA BAR PRESIDENT'S PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD FOR THE 4TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia Vail for receiving The Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award for the 4th Judicial Circuit.

In her legal career, she has served in several capacities, from statewide coordinator for Florida Legal Services to corporate counsel for CSX Transportation. In addition, Patricia has also served on the board of Jacksonville Area Legal Aid. Upon retirement from CSX Transportation, Patricia served in The American Bar Association's Collaborative Europe and Eurasia Law Initiative program as a volunteer lawyer in Kazakhstan. Patricia's commitment to pro bono work for low-income people and her positive impact have been quite remarkable.

Since 2008, Patricia has been a regular presence in Northeast Florida senior citizen centers and HUD residential facilities, where she has become a trusted pro bono legal resource. Patricia meets with individuals and groups as legal questions arise, and she helps prepare simple wills, durable powers of attorney, designation of health care surrogate, and designation of pre-need guardian. For nearly three years, Patricia provided these services single-handedly. When it became clear that the need far exceeded one attorney's ability in 2011, Patricia initiated a program to serve more area seniors with comprehensive and scheduled legal services called Advance Directives for Seniors Project. The Project provides 60–80 seniors annually with complete advance directive packets and has expanded to include senior patients at medical clinics and seniors at the Councils on Aging in Clay and Nassau counties.

In recognition of all her countless hours spent helping needy Jacksonville area residents through pro bono legal work, Patricia Vail was selected to receive The Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award for the 4th Judicial Circuit.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Patricia Vail on winning the Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,996,371,521,571.14. We've added \$8,369,494,472,658.06 to our debt in 7 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREATER PEORIA CHILDREN'S HOME FOUNDATION

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor a remarkable organization in the Peoria area. The Children's Home of Greater Peoria is celebrating 150 years of improving the lives of children and families.

Children's Home (previously Christian Home Mission, Women's Christian Association, and Home for the Friendless) opened in 1866 and is divulged in the principles of lending a helping hand to those in need, specifically women and children. Christian Home Mission was founded by women looking to alleviate suffering among the poor and provide shelter for homeless women and children. The foundation quickly expanded and became too small for the services they wanted to provide.

Children's Home continued to grow and began focusing on children with behavioral and emotional disorders who were abused. By 2009, the foundation furthered their mission in helping children by offering programs focused in special education, community-based opportunities, and live-in care and treatment.

Currently, Children's Home houses six locations and are staffing over 400 professionals to provide services for over 1,700 children and families each month. With each resource, Children's Home tirelessly dedicates itself to achieve its mission: Giving children a childhood and future by protecting them, teaching them and healing them, and by building strong communities and loving families. Because of their efforts, many disadvantaged children have brighter futures.

As a proud husband and loving father of three, I applaud the continual efforts of the Children's Home. Their success equates to our future's success. Congratulations, Children's Home, for its sesquicentennial and I wish the organization many more years of great service to our children.

HONORING PETER TER FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES IN THE PEACE CORPS AFTER COMING TO THE U.S. AS A REFUGEE

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Peter Ter for his outstanding service to his country through his volunteer work with the Peace Corps.

Peter Ter was born in southern Sudan, although his exact birth date is not known because his family, like many others, did not keep these records. His father and mother, a cattle keeper and farmer respectively, were both illiterate. He lived with his family, including five sisters and three brothers, in a small hut built with wood and mud and thatched with grass.

However, Peter's childhood was cut short due to the breakout of the Second Sudanese

Civil War that began in 1983 and lasted for twenty-one years. Like thousands of other children in Sudan, Peter became a "Lost Boy," losing his family in conflict between the warring Sudanese government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army. After fleeing the violence and enduring a grueling journey, Peter ended up in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, living what he described as a hopeless life.

While living in the Kakuma camp, Peter completed an application for refugee status in America. In the application, he had to write one page on why he wanted to go to America. He wrote of living a hopeless life in the refugee camp and of how he yearned to go to a place where he could restore his dignity and educate himself—the United States of America.

After two years, Peter's application was approved, and he was resettled in my congressional district in Jacksonville, Florida. Peter went on to graduate from the University of Florida and attended graduate school at Brandeis University in Boston.

After graduation, Peter knew he wanted to give back to the country that had saved him, so he volunteered for the Peace Corps. Since 2009, Peter has served as a cultural ambassador and an international development practitioner in Azerbaijan, China, and the Republic of Georgia, promoting the values of the United States along the way. In his work abroad, Peter has faced many challenges, including blatant racism. However, having faced greater challenges before, he doubled down on his commitment to service and eventually earned respect in the villages and cities where he served.

As the co-chair of the House Peace Corps Caucus, I have the privilege of interacting with and supporting the work of outstanding individuals, such as Peter Ter. America is the world's most generous country, made up of people from around the world, and Peter is proof that this generosity touches those who need it most. I am proud that Peter calls Jacksonville, FL home. Peter has fully utilized the great opportunities presented to him by the United States of America and has dedicated his life to helping others around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Peter Ter on overcoming great obstacles in his life and on his continued success abroad on behalf of our great nation.

HONORING DIANNE EDMONDSON'S LIFETIME OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dianne Edmondson for her distinguished service to the Denton County Republican Party.

Dianne Edmondson is a native Texan born in San Antonio. She attended Oklahoma State University where she was a member of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority. In 1983, she founded a successful executive search firm which she later sold in 2006. Dianne and her husband Bob live in Denton, Texas and are