

me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHIGAN  
TECH RESEARCH INSTITUTE'S  
GROUNDBREAKING ADVANCE-  
MENTS IN TECHNOLOGY

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the Michigan Tech Research Institute on the date of its 10th anniversary celebration. Located in Ann Arbor as a division of Michigan Technological University, MTRI has driven advancements in sensor and information technology to help solve critical problems in a variety of fields.

Michigan Tech Research Institute was founded in October 2006 with the goal of utilizing Michigan Tech's resources and expertise to transform research findings into commercial products with real-world applications. The institute has focused on using technology to better understand natural and manmade environments. Today, MTRI supports 64 researchers in over 17,000 square feet of space and has drawn support from federal, industry and universities across North America.

MTRI has leveraged cutting-edge academic research to create solutions to real-world problems. Its work on mapping coastal wetlands in the Great Lakes region has been used by federal, state and local agencies to better manage and conserve the environment in these areas. Additionally, MTRI has been able to map the spread of algal blooms in Lake Erie, which has allowed researchers and environmental groups to better understand and combat the spread of this environmental phenomenon. It has also collaborated with federal government agencies like DARPA on defense applications of its research.

MTRI has served as a model of collaboration between the public, private and non-profit sectors. By bringing key stakeholders and experts together to tackle environmental, infrastructure and national security challenges, the institute has created breakthroughs in a variety of fields while supporting basic and applied research initiatives. This multidisciplinary approach will continue to be useful for addressing problems at the cross-section of different fields and disciplines, and MTRI's consistent revenue and sponsorship growth is a testament to the success of its organizational model.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the success of the Michigan Tech Research Institute. It is my hope that the organization will continue to build on its track record of success and innovation.

BETTY AND HAROLD PAYTE

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Betty & Harold Payte for receiving the Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence.

Betty and Harold Payte are role models and community activists for healthy living. Both in their mid-eighties, they are thoughtful, caring, and inclusive leaders who have attracted a large and loyal following to their weekly community "walk and talks" through Golden. In all weather and all seasons, for people of all ages and abilities, with residents from all over the metropolitan area, the Paytes share their joy in moving through Golden's beautiful outdoor environment. Betty roams up and down the line of walkers to make sure everyone has a walking partner and to see if anyone needs extra encouragement. Harold, a humorous storyteller, usually serves as "sweep" at the back of the group with slower-paced walkers; the Paytes encourage all of us to live full, joyful, healthy lives.

I congratulate Betty & Harold Payte for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by Mayor Marjorie Sloan, and I thank them for their continued commitment to the people and families they serve.

RECOGNIZING THE MAINE MARINE  
TRADES ASSOCIATION'S 50  
YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2016*

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge and honor the important work of the Maine Marine Trades Association. For five decades, this organization has educated boat builders and marine businesses in best practices, with particular focus on worker safety and the preservation of the natural resources upon which the industry and the people of Maine depend.

Under Executive Director Susan Swanton's able leadership, the Maine Marine Trades Association has promoted growth and cooperation, influencing many aspects of the marine industry through job development and successful partnerships with the Maine Departments of Labor, Environmental Protection, and Marine Resources, as well as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and many other state and national organizations.

Originally run completely by volunteers, the Maine Marine Trades Association maintains a strong tradition of volunteer participation. Such is the norm in my state. People pull together to get things done, and Maine's long and rich tradition of boating, fishing, and boat building is part of our rich heritage.

Living on an island 12 miles off the coast of Maine, every ferry trip to or from the mainland takes me past pleasure craft, fishermen, boatyards, and marinas. And, with my District Congressional Office located on Portland Harbor's working waterfront, reminders of the economic and cultural impact of this industry surround me.

I am proud of and grateful for the Maine Marine Trades Association's commitment not only to protecting and enhancing a way of life in Maine, but to promoting an important, time-honored means of making a living.

HONORING COLONEL OTIS EVANS,  
U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2016*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Otis Evans, U.S. Army, retired. COL Evans answered the call to defend our great nation for 27 years and continues to dutifully serve his community of Killeen, Texas in civilian life. An exemplary serviceman and citizen, it is my honor to award COL Evans with the Congressional Veterans Commendation.

A distinguished military graduate from Prairie View A&M University, COL Evans commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and began his military career flying aero-medical evacuation aircraft in Vietnam. In high-risk situations ranging from enemy fire to extreme weather, COL Evans remained steadfastly loyal to his fellow soldiers, refusing to abort a mission without the wounded aboard his aircraft. Relying on the Good Lord for strength, COL Evans' leadership, dedication, and bravery saved the lives of many. For his service and bravery in combat, COL Evans was awarded the Silver Star, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, Bronze Star, the Combat Medical Badge, and the Master Aviator Badge. After twelve years of flying, COL Evans transitioned to Health Care Operations, and later to Health Care Administration, concluding his career at Walter Reed Medical Center.

COL Evans' service and sense of duty did not culminate with his military service. Upon returning to the great state of Texas, COL Evans dedicated his civilian life to the uplifting and betterment of his community, serving on the Killeen City Council, the Central Texas Council of Governments, and as President of the Killeen, Texas Branch, NAACP. Alongside his involvement in these and numerous other organizations, COL Evans has remained committed to honoring his fallen brothers in arms, assisting in the planning of the 2009 Fort Hood shooting memorial.

COL Evans' patriotism and commitment to service reflect the very best values of Central Texas. He is a hero who has devoted his life to defending our freedoms abroad and serving his community at home. I join his wife, Rosalind, his children, and grandchildren in wishing him the best in the years ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR ITS PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Arab American Chamber of Commerce for its economic and trade development efforts. The Chamber has served the Michigan community well, and we wish them continued success in helping to build a vibrant and diverse economy for our region and state.

Founded in 1992, the American Arab Chamber of Commerce has worked to support the

Arab American business community through its networking and development efforts. The Chamber facilitates delegations between Michigan and U.S.-based companies and those in the Middle East. It also provides information and resources regarding opportunities in the Middle Eastern market. As the largest Arab American business organization in the United States, the Arab American Chamber of Commerce has attracted numerous corporate sponsors in its effort to build economic bridges between different cultures.

The Commerce's activities have not only led to increased business opportunities among companies in the Arab American community, but its efforts to promote greater economic ties have also improved intercultural dialogue between the Arab American community and its partners. It is great to see the positive impact the Chamber has had in building bridges and promoting greater cultural understanding between Arab American businesses and the community at large. It is my hope that the organization continues to play a leadership role in creating lasting bonds between different cultures and communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Arab American Chamber of Commerce for its economic and trade development efforts. The Chamber has served the Michigan community well and is committed to work toward success moving forward.

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CONGRATULATING EL COMERCIO  
DE COLORADO

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**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate El Comercio de Colorado on their award-winning editorial excellence.

El Comercio de Colorado is a bilingual newspaper which has served Colorado and the Denver area since 1999 with articles about international, national and local news topics of importance to our community. El Comercio de Colorado has embodied leadership in the Hispanic printed media industry. In recognition of their quality publications, the National Association of Hispanic Publications (NAHP) has presented El Comercio de Colorado with four Gold José Martí Publishing Awards.

El Comercio de Colorado was noted as having the number one Classified Ads section in the nation during the 34th edition of the José Martí Publishing Awards. For industry leading distinction, the sports section was awarded two gold awards for content and design, as well as cartoonist Angonoa, whom received gold for outstanding work. El Comercio de Colorado's also received honorable mentions for editorial content, photography, illustrations and design.

I would like to congratulate President Manuel Tejada and Editor Eva Tejada, as well as the entire staff at El Comercio de Colorado on a job well done. These awards show El Comercio de Colorado's unwavering commitment to quality publications and the Hispanic printed media community.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA AND NEIL  
GOOS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Linda and Neil Goos of Glenwood, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 7, 1966 at First Christian Church in Glenwood.

Linda and Neil's lifelong commitment to each other, their children, and their grandchildren truly embodies our 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.

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DR. CONNIE ALMEIDA WINS MENTAL  
HEALTH PROFESSIONAL OF  
THE YEAR AWARD

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**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Connie Almeida of Fort Bend County, TX for being awarded the Mental Health Professional of the Year Award by the Texas Crisis Intervention Team.

As Fort Bend County's Behavioral Health Director, Dr. Almeida received this award thanks to her significant strides in working with local law enforcement to improve responses to the mental health community. She's been consistently working to improve the way Fort Bend County responds to mental health crises and issues by speaking with the government, community groups, mental health providers, law enforcement and the courts. Her goal is to improve the conditions for those with mental illness and addictions that come into contact with Fort Bend County courts.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Dr. Connie Almeida for receiving the Mental Health Professional of the Year Award. We are very thankful for all her hard work to progress the services and systems for those with mental illnesses.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE TAYLOR  
CONSERVATORY FOUNDATION  
AND THE SUCCESS OF ITS 10TH  
ANNUAL SWEET HARVEST GALA

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**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Taylor Conservatory Foundation for its conservation initiatives in Southeast

Michigan. The organization has contributed to a more sustainable and livable southeast Michigan that benefits both residents and visitors.

The Taylor Conservatory Foundation was incorporated in 2005 to protect and preserve the natural environment and promote the arts and sciences while creating more sustainable public spaces. Since its inception, the organization has maintained the Taylor Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, a park containing a garden that is open to the public. The Taylor Conservancy Foundation also promotes community garden development and sponsors educational programs to raise awareness about the effects and importance of conservation on the environment. In addition, the foundation hosts a variety of community events, including a summertime Music & Arts in the Gardens series to promote community development while furthering the organization's sustainability goals.

Michigan's environmental heritage is fundamental to its identity and economic health, and it is critical that we continue to safeguard it for future generations. The Taylor Conservancy Foundation, through its conservation work and efforts to raise public awareness of environmental issues, has played an important role in protecting the environment and public spaces in the State of Michigan. Its efforts have been critical to providing education about environmental issues and ensuring that southeast Michigan residents remain well-informed about the social, educational and environmental needs of our country. The growth and development of the Taylor Conservancy Foundation is a testament to the positive impact the group has had on the wider Michigan community, and it is my hope that it continues to further its mission of upholding conservation and sustainability of the environment in Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the growth and success of the Taylor Conservancy Foundation. The organization continues to play a leading role in addressing environmental conservation through its initiatives.

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HONORING SERGEANT FRANK  
THOMPSON

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**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2016*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Frank Thompson, for his dedication and service to our country. SGT Thompson's extraordinary commitment to community and service reflects the best values of Central Texas. He is a fitting recipient of a Congressional Veterans Commendation.

SGT Thompson was born in the small town of Troy, Texas, where he later attended A&M University. At the start of World War II, SGT Thompson left college to serve his country in the U.S. Army. In July 1943, SGT Thompson served in the South Pacific with H. Co, 172nd Infantry 43rd Division. His unit received five Distinguished Unit Citations, and for his service, SGT Thompson received the Asiatic-Pacific Medal with 3 Bronze stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal with 1 Bronze star, the Combat Infantry badge, and the Good Conduct Medal.

SGT Thompson is a highly respected citizen involved in a number of different organizations, which exemplifies his commitment to