

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.

CONGRATULATING EL COMERCIO DE COLORADO

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.

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

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.

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

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.

HONORING SERGEANT FRANK THOMPSON

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

community and nation. After returning from the war, SGT Thompson followed in the footsteps of his grandfather, J.Q. Thompson, who was instrumental in the founding of the town and school system in Troy. SGT Thompson joined the Troy Masonic Lodge where he served as the secretary for 38 years, and was recognized for being a Mason for 60 years in 2007. SGT Thompson also served on the first Troy City Council, the Bank of Troy Board of Directors, and was a Charter Member of the Troy Volunteer Fire Department.

With admiration and deep respect, we pay tribute to SGT Thompson for his sacrifices for our country and the lasting impact he has had on his community and beyond. Dedicated public servants like him make Central Texas a great place to live.

IN TRIBUTE TO MAHMOUD
OTHMAN ATTA

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and work of Mahmoud Othman Atta a highly-respected leader in the Muslim and interfaith community, veteran, husband, father and grandfather. Mr. Mahmoud Othman Atta died on November 9, 2016 at the age of 80.

Mr. Atta was born in the Palestinian territories and moved to Milwaukee at age 16 with his dual-citizen father. He graduated from West Division High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, attended two years of technical college and was drafted into the U.S. Army, serving as a medic. After his military service Mr. Atta returned to the Palestinian territories, where he married his wife, Intisar and had two children. He later returned to Milwaukee with his family in the mid-1960s.

He is regarded as the Milwaukee area's first de-facto imam, leading prayers and religious services in homes, though he never held the title full time. Local Muslims hailed from various homelands, speaking different languages and Mr. Atta bridged those divides through communal worship. He organized classes to teach Arabic, the language of the Qur'an so that everyone would be able to pray and read the Holy Book together.

Mahmoud Othman Atta was one of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee's seven founding members. Mr. Atta guided Milwaukee's Muslim community and the Islamic Society of Milwaukee in the 1970s, when an estimated 200 Muslims lived in the city. He helped lead fundraising for the purchase of its main center on the city's south side and served on the society's first board of trustees, a position he held for about a decade.

Mahmoud Othman Atta was a natural leader. He saw the value in reaching across racial and religious lines, joining interfaith organizations and Muslim-Christian dialogue groups. He was respected for his character and his knowledge. Mr. Atta would open his home to a stranger; realizing how it felt like to be alone without family, so he always had a soft spot in his heart for students or individuals who were coming from overseas.

Mr. Atta worked as an engine technician at Briggs & Stratton for about 25 years, retiring

in 1990 after suffering his first stroke. Mr. Atta had been in declining health in recent years and suffered a stroke while he and his wife spent several months in the Palestinian areas. He returned to the Palestinian territories every year or two, where his large family is well-known. About 1,000 people there have attended visitations spread over three days, after his death.

Mahmoud Othman Atta is survived by his wife Intisar; 2 sons Othman and Ihsan; 2 daughters, Janan and Bayan; and 12 grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, Milwaukee has experienced a profound loss with the passing of Mahmoud Othman Atta. He had an attachment to Milwaukee, and he loved the Midwestern lifestyle. Today, I thank him and his family for their immeasurable achievements, I mourn his loss and I salute his legacy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present in the House chamber for certain roll call votes on Monday, November 14th through Wednesday, November 16th. Had I been present on these days, I would have voted 'aye' on roll calls 575, 576, 577, 578 and 'nay' on roll calls 579 and 580.

DR. KELLY J. ZÚÑIGA NAMED CEO
OF HOLOCAUST MUSEUM HOUSTON

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Kelly J. Zúñiga of Sugar Land, TX for being named the chief executive officer of the Holocaust Museum Houston.

Dr. Zúñiga was brought to the Holocaust Museum Houston as executive director to expand outreach and enhance programming to expand the museum's reach throughout the community. Her experience and success have brought the museum forward, making her the obvious choice for the CEO position. Dr. Zúñiga has more than 25 years' experience in building, managing and leading fundraising teams that focus on the successful completion of capital and endowment campaigns. In 2012, she was also named as one of "Houston's Most Influential Women of 2012" by Houston Woman magazine. She is a true leader.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Dr. Kelly J. Zúñiga for being named CEO of the Holocaust Museum Houston. We are confident she will expand her success as the new CEO.

TRIBUTE TO JUDY AND JOHN
CLARK

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 Judy and

John Clark of Clarinda, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 19, 1966.

Judy and John's lifelong commitment to each other, their children, grandchildren, and great-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.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMY AND
DAN LOEPP FOR BEING NAMED
EDWARD H. MCNAMARA GOOD-
FELLOW OF THE YEAR

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the community service and stewardship of Amy and Dan Loepp, the recipients of the 2016 Edward H. McNamara Goodfellow of the Year award. Amy and Dan have been dedicated in the efforts to improve the greater Detroit area through their involvement in nonprofit groups and local charities.

Since 1914, the Old Newsboys' Goodfellow Fund of Detroit has provided aid to children in the greater Detroit metropolitan area. Detroit Goodfellows donates and distributes holiday gift boxes to needy children that includes toys, books and warm clothing. Additionally, the group donates shoes for children who cannot afford proper footwear and provides dental care to those individuals who do not have access to it. Detroit Goodfellows also gives grants to children to attend summer camps, including the Detroit Fire Department Camp and the Detroit Police Department's "Explorers" program.

Detroit Goodfellows honors individuals who have demonstrated commitment to the Detroit community through its Edward H. McNamara Goodfellow of the Year award. This year, Amy and Dan Loepp were named recipients of this award for their service to the community. Dan Loepp is the current president and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and oversaw the relocation of 3,000 Blue Cross employees into downtown Detroit, providing an economic boost to the surrounding region. His wife, Amy, cofounded Impact100 Oakland County, an organization that awards grants to nonprofit organizations in Oakland County. Both Amy and Dan have also been strong supporters of various philanthropic organizations in the greater Detroit area.

Amy and Dan embody the values of charity and community that Detroit Goodfellows represent. Their selfless actions and innovative initiatives on behalf of the Detroit community have contributed to the well-being of the city while creating a more decent life for countless children in need. They have been tireless advocates on behalf of the region, and it is my hope that they continue to be involved in initiatives to improve the southeastern Michigan region.