

The Eagle Scout designation is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Peter's Eagle Project was rehabilitating the infield for the Benson Little League Park in Omaha, Nebraska. The work ethic Peter has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent Peter in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and in wishing him nothing but continued success in his future education and career.

CONGRATULATING MERLE SCHNEIDER FOR HIS LIFETIME DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 10, 2016*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Mr. Merle Schneider. He is receiving the Lifetime Distinguished Service Award in the Humanitarian category from the Greater St. Charles County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Schneider is well known for his entertaining style of auctioneering and emceeing for charity events in the St. Louis area. His self-taught auctioneering skills have benefited numerous organizations for their trivia nights, dinner auctions, and most recently for events honoring our veterans.

For the past 30 years, during the Christmas season, Mr. Schneider plays the part of Santa and brings joy to many children as he hands out candy canes and teddy bears. Santa Merle also annually appears at events for Toys for Tots, St. Louis Crisis Nursery, and also provides opportunities for photos with children while listening to their Christmas wishes. Numerous organizations have benefited from Mr. Schneider's emcee skills, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the Duchesne High School Foresight Dinner Auction, Foodbank of St. Louis, Volunteers in Medicine, and Giant Steps for Autism.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Mr. Merle Schneider on this Lifetime Distinguished Service Award in the Humanitarian category from the Greater St. Charles County Chamber of Commerce.

RECOGNIZING MS. RILEY HOLCOMB

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 10, 2016*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Riley Holcomb for being selected as one of Colorado's Distinguished Finalists in the 21st Annual National Awards Program by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. She was selected for this honor due to her exceptional acts of volunteerism.

Ms. Holcomb is a seventh-grade student at Altona Middle School in Longmont, Colorado. She was originally inspired to make a difference when her aunt passed away from kidney cancer. Over the past four years, Ms. Holcomb founded a Relay for Life team which has raised over \$18,000 for the American Cancer Society. It is the ingenuity and hard work Ms. Holcomb embodies daily that makes America exceptional. She has shown true leadership in her community.

As the recipient of this award, she will receive an engraved bronze medallion. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Ms. Holcomb.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Ms. Riley Holcomb for her accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF MRS. KAY BEARD

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 10, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Kay Beard for her lifetime of distinguished service to our county and our state. Kay's commitment to our community has enriched the lives of so many and helped guide many of today's leaders in our region towards greater success.

Kay was born in Detroit in 1921 and had a reputation as a proud and feisty Irish American. In 1946, Kay married the late Jerry Beard after he returned from World War II and together, they raised five children. With her strong focus on family and community, Kay became more involved in politics joining Citizens for Educational Freedom and eventually running unsuccessfully for State Representative. Undeterred, Kay kept at it and in 1978 was appointed to the Wayne County Commission where she was then elected to fifteen consecutive terms, until her retirement in 2008. During that time, Kay developed a reputation as an outspoken force to be reckoned with in Wayne County Government. She cared deeply about serving the constituents of her district, and did so with distinction for thirty years.

Kay was a beloved mother of five, grandmother of three, sister, and a loving wife to her late husband Jerry. Kay was deeply involved in a wide array of community initiatives including the United Way Community Services Board, the Blue Cross Senior Advisory Council, the National Council for School-to-Work Opportunities, and was a founding member of Hospices of Michigan, just to name a few. She

did this work because it was good for the community and in doing so; she set an example for what it meant to be a committed public servant of the highest order.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Mrs. Kay Beard for her lifetime of service to our community. I considered her a friend and a role model, and while her service to us will be remembered, her loss will be felt for a long time to come.

CONGRATULATING RANDY SCHILLING FOR HIS LIFETIME DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 10, 2016*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Mr. Randy Schilling. He is receiving the Lifetime Distinguished Service Award in the Civic category from the Greater St. Charles County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Schilling started his commitment to revitalizing Main Street St. Charles in 1992. As founder of Quilogy, Randy made the decision to set up his business on South Main and also purchase five additional buildings on South Main which he ended up renovating.

The dedication to preserving the historical aspect of Main Street St. Charles continues to this day. Mr. Schilling successfully modifies historic buildings on Historic Main Street for modern business purposes. The projects he has spearheaded have shown the importance of supporting the maintenance of these historic structures.

One of Mr. Schilling's recent projects is his purchase and renovation of the old Post Office located on South Main Street. This 10,000 square foot office space will allow regional startups with affordable workspace for mentors, potential investors, programming, education resources, and a community of local entrepreneurs.

As a native of St. Charles, Mr. Schilling has witnessed where St. Charles began and where it is going. He graduated in 1985 from the University of Missouri with a major in Electrical Engineering. Once he completed his undergraduate degree, he received his MBA in 1989 from the University of Illinois in Springfield, IL.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Mr. Randy Schilling on this Lifetime Distinguished Service Award in the Civic category from the Greater St. Charles County Chamber of Commerce.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN'S PEACE INITIATIVE ROADMAP

**HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 10, 2016*

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts that our close partner and ally Taiwan has made in support of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Last year, Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou proposed the South China Sea Peace Initiative, reiterating their government's longstanding position of shelving disputes and promoting joint resource development in these

contested waters. On January 28, 2016, President Ma further proposed “the South China Sea Peace Initiative Roadmap” during his visit to Taiping Island in the Spratly of the South China Sea. The content of the Peace Initiative Roadmap is stated as below:

“1. “Yes” to cooperation, “no” to confrontation: A cooperation and development mechanism that contributes to peace and prosperity in the South China Sea should first be established, and sovereignty disputes should be set aside for future resolution through peaceful means.

2. “Yes” to sharing, “no” to monopolizing: A cooperation and development mechanism should ensure equal participation and resource sharing among all parties concerned in the region in order to avoid undermining the rights and interests of any party.

3. “Yes” to pragmatism, “no” to intransigence: The initial focus should be on aspects which are beneficial to all parties concerned and on which consensus can be easily achieved; various cooperation items should be pragmatically and gradually promoted so as to avoid missing out on cooperation opportunities as a result of any party insisting on its position.

The viable path consists of shelving disputes, integrated planning, and zonal development. The two essential elaborations are: First, all parties concerned in the region should be included in the consultation mechanism for this initiative so that they can engage in cooperation and negotiations on integrated planning for the South China Sea. Second, the cooperation and consultation mechanism proposed in this initiative should be a provisional arrangement of a practical nature, and should not undermine the position of any party concerned or jeopardize or hamper the reaching of a final agreement on the South China Sea.”

The Taiwan government has reaffirmed its commitment to uphold the freedom of navigation and overflight, and has actively worked to promote peace and prosperity throughout the South China Sea region. I urge my colleagues to join me in working with our Taiwanese partners to promote our common interests and find a viable path to maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH LAKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE RETIREMENT OF RAY SAN FRATELLO

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 10, 2016*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the 20th anniversary of the South Lake Chamber of Commerce, and the retirement of Ray San Fratello. On December 31, 2015, Mr. San Fratello retired as President of South Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. San Fratello has led the South Lake Chamber of Commerce for the past 12 years after 13 years with the Genesee County Chamber of Commerce in upstate New York. Under his leadership, the South Lake Chamber of Commerce has experienced tremendous growth with the largest membership in

Lake County. He has received much recognition for his efforts including the 2013 Florida Association of Chamber Professionals, Chamber Professional of the Year.

During the past century, the South Lake Chamber of Commerce has been through many phases of growth and change to create the longstanding history and tradition of successful business organization. Formed more than 20 years ago, the South Lake Chamber's footprint has expanded to Clermont, Minneola, Groveland, Mascotte, Monteverde, and Four Corners. The original Board of Trade, established in 1895, created a new vision of community and business development for South Lake County. One century later in 1995, the Clermont-Minneola and Groveland-Mascotte Chambers united for the betterment of South Lake. Today, after 20 years, the South Lake Chamber of Commerce continues to foster a spirit of cooperation and progress among the area's business community.

The excellence with which the South Lake Chamber of Commerce and Mr. San Fratello serve South Lake County's business community and enterprises is evident from their history and recognition. I commend them for their many achievements and I am pleased to congratulate them on the celebration of their 20th anniversary. My sincerest wishes and congratulations to Mr. San Fratello and his family on his retirement.

#### KEEPING AMERICA STRONG IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 10, 2016*

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to approve a 15-year extension of the United States' Compact of Free Association with the Republic of Palau.

President Ronald Reagan, recognizing the importance of the Western Pacific to U.S. security interests, first negotiated the Compact with Palau. President Reagan's prescience of the need to maintain strategic denial to the military of other nations in the land, air, and sea of Palau—an area the size of Texas—is apparent now more than ever.

Yet we in Congress have failed to maintain the commitment that President Reagan established with Palau. The 1986 Compact provided for annual economic assistance. In 2010, the U.S. and Palau agreed to an extension of this Compact assistance and agreed that funding should gradually taper off over the succeeding 15 years. In 2012, Chairman Donald Manzullo of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific introduced the necessary legislation to approve the extension. Hearings and markup were held, but no further action ensued.

It is true that Congress has continued to provide financial assistance to Palau per the terms of the extension agreement—but only on an installment basis, year-by-year. No long-term commitment to our ally has been forthcoming. Yet, the Republic of Palau continues to send its citizens to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. Palau votes with the United States in the United Nations 95 percent of the time. And Palau's keystone geographic position in the defensive “second island chain” in the Western Pacific has not altered.

Our failure to follow through on a negotiated agreement with a key ally not only leaves Palau uncertain about America's commitment. It leaves any nation that receives an assurance from the United States wondering whether America is good for its word.

So, it is time to renew the effort here in Congress to affirm the alliance that President Reagan began. The legislation I am introducing approves the extension of the Compact of Free Association with the Republic of Palau. This legislation will help maintain the American presence that we acquired at great cost in the bloody battles of World War II and will bulwark America's position in the Western Pacific in the years ahead.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH IN PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 10, 2016*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the historic St. Joseph Catholic Church in Pensacola, Florida.

St. Joseph parish of Pensacola traces its roots back to 1891, as an outgrowth of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church and to the pastorate of Reverend Robert Fullerton. Although it was founded as the first African-American church in the Diocese of Mobile, St. Joseph Catholic Church cared not only for the religious needs of the Pensacola African-American community, but the church also served individuals from diverse backgrounds who wished to worship at the church. Whether in its original two-story wooden building or its current Gothic Revival style structure adorned with stained-glass windows and completed in 1894, the multi-cultural parish family has been blessed by the Word of God for 125 years.

During that time, the church underwent structural and pastoral changes, operated Maryall Negro Missions and four mission chapels, Our Lady of Fatima Mission School, a grammar school, at one point the only Catholic African-American high school in the state of Florida, St. Joseph orphanage that opened its doors to homeless African-American boys, and Our Lady of Angels Maternity Hospital for African-American women, as well as St. Joseph Cemetery. Today St. Joseph's ministry continues to care for the Pensacola community through the Our Lady of Angels Free Clinic, which serves the homeless and needy individuals throughout the area; the Caring and Sharing Outreach, which provides food and clothing; and the St. Joseph Soup Kitchen, which serves free meals to the homeless.

One constant thread throughout its storied history, however, is the parish's strong faith in God. It is through their strength and that of the local community, guided by the Holy Spirit, that the church has not only stayed together, but has also grown strong through hardship. Whether faced with the Jim Crow laws or the natural disasters like Hurricane Ivan, which devastated the entire Gulf Coast in 2004, nothing could tear apart the bonds of this community. When faced with adversity, the