

in teaching, to encourage creative and quality instruction, and to contribute in a substantive way to the improvement of education in the Washington metropolitan area.”

The annual recipients include one representative from each of the nineteen metropolitan public school systems, a representative from the Washington metropolitan area private schools and a representative from the District of Columbia Public Charter Schools.

The winner selected from the Prince William Public School Division will also be named the Prince William County Outstanding Teacher of the Year. Teachers who meet the criteria for the award are those who instill in students a desire to learn and achieve, understand the individual needs of students, and demonstrate a thorough knowledge of subject matter and have the ability to share it effectively with students.

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the 2016 Prince William County nominees for The Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award.

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Edward Abram, T. Clay Wood Elementary School.

Rebecca Anderson, T. Clay Wood Elementary School.

Amy Aylor, T. Clay Wood Elementary School.

Michael Ciampaglione, Bristow Run Elementary School.

Phyllis Cooke, Sudley Elementary School.

Andrew Cossaboon, Leesylvania Elementary School.

Sherri Croghan, Pattie Elementary School.

Adam Dove, T. Clay Wood Elementary School.

Carmen Hankerson, Neabsco Elementary School.

Toni Anne Harris, Buckland Mills Elementary School.

Lisa Jacobsmeyer, Henderson Elementary School.

Elizabeth Johnson, Buckland Mills Elementary School.

Stacy Ross, King Elementary School.

Roberta Wallingford, Ashland Elementary School.

Timothy Wilson, Williams Elementary School.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

Christina Barcalow, Graham Park Middle School.

#### HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

Erin Anderson, Pennington Traditional School.

Stacie Bonat, Independent Hill School.

Kathleen Dail, New Directions Alternative Education Center.

Stephen Dittmer, Battlefield High School.

Nancy Dow, Independent Hill School.

Carrie Gahagan, Osbourn Park High School.

Megan Hostutler, Patriot High School.

Lorri Jones, Independent Hill School.

Kathleen Kieffer, Osbourn Park High School.

Ann Lightfoot, Potomac High School.

Stephanie Nash, Stonewall Jackson High School.

Juan Sampedro, Hylton High School.

Karen Shaver, Gar-Field High School.

Lauren Wilson, Hylton High School.

Alison Young, Forest Park High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the nominees for the 2016 Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award in Prince William County and in thanking them for their dedication to our children. Their continued service will ensure that Prince William

County students are provided with a world class education in a more vibrant learning community.

### RETIREMENT OF BELL COUNTY COMMISSIONER RICHARD CORTESE

#### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Bell County Commissioner Richard Cortese. His extraordinary commitment to community service over nearly a quarter century reflects the best values of Central Texas.

A native son of Little River-Academy, a growing community in the heart of Central Texas, Richard has led a life devoted to causes bigger than him. Upon completion of his U.S. Air Force career, he returned home to build a ranch while continuing to dedicate himself to his community. In 1992, he was elected to county commissioner and later was active in the Texas Farm Bureau.

Even outside of his professional career, Richard has dedicated himself to his community. He has been active in the Young Farmers of Texas Association and even served as president of the Little River-Academy Lions Club. He has been a member and has acted as president or chairman of various associations and committees that worked to make Texas a great place to live. He has even been involved with the development of the consolidated 911 dispatch center in Bell County as well as the planning and construction of additional courts and jail facilities for Bell County.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I heartily salute Richard Cortese's work and contributions to his community. I'm sure I echo the thoughts of all when I wish him the best in both his retirement and all his future endeavors.

### RECOGNIZING JUAN R. LOPEZ AS AN OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVANT

#### HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Juan R. Lopez for his tireless work as my District Director.

Starting in 2004, Juan R. Lopez began his career working as a Constituent Advocate in the United States Senate. In 2008, I was elected to serve Florida's Eighth Congressional District for the 111th Congress. I asked Juan to join my team as my Director of Constituent Services. During the 111th Congress, Juan was instrumental to managing staff, casework, and assisting thousands of constituents. His work on behalf of veterans was outstanding.

When I returned to Congress in the 113th Congress, this time representing Florida's Ninth Congressional District, I once again asked Juan to join my team as my Director of Constituent Services. During the 113th Con-

gress, Juan continued to excel at assisting my constituents and worked his way up to Deputy District Director, and in the 114th Congress, District Director.

As District Director, Juan was instrumental in assisting thousands of Floridians. In Juan's spare time, he ran for and won Chairman of the Orange County Florida, Democratic Executive Committee. Under his leadership, he helped guide the Orange County Democratic Party to wins in almost every local, state, and Congressional race in Orange County.

In recognition of all those in Florida that Juan has helped, I am honored to recognize Juan R. Lopez for his service to my office and the constituents of Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

### RECOGNIZING THE GRADUATION OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT 140TH RECRUIT CLASS

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department on the graduation of the 140th Recruit Class. As they prepare to join the ranks of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, I encourage the 47 graduates to reflect on the history of the department and the contributions and dedication of the brave men and women who have served before them to protect our community.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Recruit School consists of an extensive and demanding 30-week program. In addition to two weeks of orientation, recruits completed eight weeks of EMT training and twenty weeks of fire suppression training. Upon graduation, these recruits will be certified at the level of Firefighter I/II by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

These recruits have the distinct honor of joining one of the best Fire and Rescue Departments in the United States. The efforts of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have been recognized across this country. Members from the Department serve on the elite VA Task Force I, which is among the first units called to disaster zones to provide search and rescue support. Recently, members of that Task Force were recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs with the Benjamin Franklin Award for Valor as a result of their efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes that struck Nepal last year.

As the newest members of the Fire and Rescue Department, the 140th Recruit Class graduates join the department as integral parts of our community's emergency response and public safety team. I am confident that this graduating class will serve the residents of Fairfax County with honor and distinction.

It is my great honor to enter the names of the 140th Recruit Class into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Roberto C. Acha Melgar, Adam A. Boyd, Jr., Quincy D. Branch, Casey P. Braswell, Timothy G. Breslin, Jr., James M. Brittenham, Rachael A. Callison, Jesus E. Castro, Michael J. Coppersmith, James C.

Cox, Erica L. Cruikshank, Joshua A. Eimers, Preston R. Elder III, Caroline A. Evey, Daniel P. Fitzhenry, Joseph E. Gallo III, Rodne W. Getgen, Garrett A. Green, Taylor, A. Grigg, Bryan M. Haring, Brian C. Harris, Grant M. Higginbotham, Robert E. Hunt, Matthew G. Ifert, Michael C. Johnson, Brian A. Krause, Mark C. Langmead, Burke W. M. Latimer, Jacob T. Maund, Justen A. Moreland, Ali S. Najjar, Jacqueline C. Norris, Shonay L. Owens, Gracie J. Pak, Bo Lam P. Park, Harold I. Parra Romero, Roberto Rodriguez, Jr., Jordan P. Scheutzw, Ian M. Sebastian, Shaun M. Serich, Joseph M. Shipman, Marcus E. Tines, Thomas M. Tippet, Zachary J. Webb, Joel W. Whitney, Robert W. Wine III, Cristina-Michael M. Wittlinger.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the newest members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. I thank them for their service to their community and to all members of the Fire and Rescue Department, past and present, I say: "Stay safe."

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFESAVING EFFORTS OF JON PUTNAM AND LARHONDA BRYSON

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize LaRhonda Bryson and Jon Putnam of Concord, North Carolina. Their quick decision making and immediate action saved the life of a man who collapsed while working out at the West Cabarrus YMCA located in Concord. Their selfless actions embody the principles of the YMCA and we are extremely fortunate to have these individuals in our community.

On June 22, 2016, a member of the West Cabarrus YMCA was running on a treadmill when he suddenly collapsed. Both LaRhonda and Jon instinctively reacted to assist the man. Upon initial examination they discovered the man was not breathing and his pulse had stopped. At this moment, Jon began CPR while LaRhonda applied an automated external defibrillator. Shortly after they delivered a jolt from the device the man's pulse returned and he began breathing again. LaRhonda and Jon remained by the man's side caring for him until paramedics arrived and he was taken to the hospital.

It brings me great pride whenever I can share stories like this that showcase the character of individuals in our community. The rapid response of both LaRhonda and Jon is an embodiment of the selfless attitude and commitment to serving others that we should all strive toward.

The West Cabarrus YMCA is part of the Cannon Memorial YMCA network. Since its founding in 1908, the Cannon Memorial YMCA has a rich history of serving the people of Cabarrus County and has become a staple of the community. Having served as a member of the West Cabarrus YMCA Board of Directors, I have seen firsthand the quality and commitment to excellence of its employees. Their commitment to the values driven and faith-based approach of the YMCA has made

their community a better place as it continues to serve the people in our community. Again, I am extremely proud of all of those at West Cabarrus YMCA and especially LaRhonda and Jon.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the actions of LaRhonda Bryson and Jon Putnam for their lifesaving efforts and wishing them well as they continue to serve our community.

#### TRIBUTE TO HANK BOHLING

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Hank Bohling of Greenfield, Iowa, for being selected to receive the 2016 Aaron Eilert's Community Service Award. Hank is the son of Lynn and Elaine Bohling.

The Aaron Eilert's Community Service Award is presented to an individual who is dedicated to community service and positively impacting their fellow citizens. The award is named in honor of Aaron Eilert, who was known throughout his community for giving back and graciously dedicating his time to others. Hank has been involved in the Holidays for Heroes program for the last seven years through the American Red Cross, collecting over 14,000 holiday cards, and distributing them across the globe. He is also active in a number of leadership projects throughout his community, including the local 4-H Club.

Mr. Speaker, Hank has made his state and his community very proud. It is with great honor that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him for receiving this award and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

#### HONORING ELIZABETH AND HOWARD GREEN, ANGELS IN ADOPTION

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor two extraordinary parents, Dr. Howard and Elizabeth Green of Winchester, Virginia. Due to their unwavering dedication to children in need, I nominated the Greens as Congressional Angels in Adoption this year.

The loving generosity of Howard and Elizabeth has formed a family of 12 children, seven of them adopted, who are now between the ages of 15 and 22, and five biological children, between 16 and 24 years of age. Their adopted children all came from difficult circumstances, yet they worked tirelessly to provide them a warm and loving home. Their first adopted child came from China when she was 15 months old; shortly thereafter they adopted six children from Ethiopia, four siblings ages 11, 9, 6 and 3, followed by two brothers, 6

and 7 years old. They identified at-risk children and took it upon themselves to change their lives for the better.

After having been raised by the Greens in a loving home with strong spiritual guidance, all 12 children are extraordinary. For instance, the oldest three adopted children are thriving in college at Virginia Tech, James Madison University and Hillsdale College; while their biological children have either graduated or are currently in college. Meanwhile, their five youngest children are still in high school. While the years have surely been filled with joyous moments, it has not always been easy. With all their children, the Greens have provided the necessary accommodations for all of them to succeed.

The story of the inspirational generosity on the part of Dr. Howard and Elizabeth Green has been celebrated for many years in the Shenandoah Valley and is recognized nationally, including by my colleague, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS of Washington, whose husband was a Naval Academy classmate of Howard Green. I am honored to count among my constituents, Elizabeth and Howard Green, whose faith in a loving God has inspired them to become such amazingly generous and loving adoptive parents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Dr. Howard and Elizabeth Green. The Greens are stellar examples of the generosity of Americans, who have a long tradition of opening their hearts and their homes in adopting children from all over the world.

**ANNE BURKHOLDER**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Anne Burkholder for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Anne Burkholder has served the Jefferson County community for more than 50 years. Her passion for education began in Seattle as the daughter of two university educators. While in high school, she had the opportunity to visit 15 countries, spawning an international awareness and deepening her appreciation of the freedoms afforded by U.S. citizenship. After completing her degree at CU Boulder, Anne settled into Jefferson County with her husband, Steve.

Anne has improved the community as a teacher, tutor, sponsor and leader, and she currently serves on the boards of the Jeffco Schools Foundation and the American Association of University Women, Lakewood Branch. Five years ago, Anne co-founded the Parent-Child Home Program Jeffco, which just successfully completed its three-year pilot program.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Anne Burkholder for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.