

(OH), Andrew Young (GA), and our two distinguished members still serving this institution—Representatives JOHN CONYERS, JR. (MI) and CHARLES B. RANGEL (NY).

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 40th Anniversary of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and the 1976 Class of the Congressional Black Caucus and recognizing their tremendous contributions to our nation.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 2016

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge and recognize that this is National Marriage Week. The sacred vows that a man and woman exchange as a part of the sacrament of marriage have been part of our culture from the very beginning of humanity. It's an institution that, over the centuries, has proven to be the best for raising a family, and creating self-sufficient and well-balanced children.

However, this week as we celebrate National Marriage Week, I remain deeply concerned that this sacred institution is suffering in our country. More than half of all marriages in the United States end in divorce. Fewer couples are choosing to marry. And there are still large numbers of women having children out of wedlock.

More than half of all babies born to women under the age of 30 are now born outside of marriage. Fifty years ago, that number was around 5 percent. While the culture we live in today is no doubt responsible for much of this shift, the government could be doing more to help this situation. Our laws do not encourage marriage, but in many cases, they also discourage marriage by imposing tax penalties on those who would like to marry.

So, as we recognize the importance of marriage, I believe that it's time that Congress remove the government-imposed financial barriers—which is often called the marriage tax penalty—that too often make marriage a second choice for these couples.

I am blessed to have been married to my wife, Caroline, for almost 22 years. Our partnership is one of the great joys of my life.

I am proud to recognize National Marriage Week and the institution of marriage here in the United States as well as around the world.

HONORING GEORGE PRESCOTT
BUSH AND JOSÉ ANTONIO
MEADE KURIBREÑA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Texas Land Commissioner George Prescott Bush and Mexican Secretary of Social Development José Antonio Meade Kuribreña, who have been recognized as the 2016 Señor Internacional Award recipients by LULAC Council 12 in Laredo, Texas. For over

30 years, LULAC Council 12 has recognized Latinos on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border for their service to the community and exceptional individual achievements.

George P. Bush currently serves as the Texas Land Commissioner, a post in which he continues the public service legacy of the Bush family. Commissioner Bush was born in Houston, Texas, to former Florida Governor Jeb Bush and Columba Garnica Gallo. After graduating from Rice University, Commissioner Bush worked as a public school teacher in Miami. He then went on to earn a Juris Doctorate from the University of Texas Law School. After attending law school, he co-founded a private equity firm, Pennybacker Capital LLC, and later founded an energy consulting firm, St. Augustine Partners.

In 2007, Commissioner Bush joined the Naval Reserve and in 2010, he courageously served an eight-month tour of duty as an officer in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. In 2014, he was elected Texas Land Commissioner, beginning his political career. Commissioner Bush prides himself on supporting our veterans, increasing funds for public education, and providing a path for the U.S. to become energy-independent.

Secretary José Antonio Meade was born in Mexico City, Mexico, and is an economist, lawyer, diplomat, and currently serves as Mexico's Secretary of Social Development. He received his degree in Economics from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, one of Mexico's preeminent institutions of higher learning. He continued his education at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, where he studied law and also received his PhD in Economics from Yale University. He served as a professor at ITAM and Yale University. He has received recognition for his research on Economic Analysis of the Law and has also been given the National Tlacaehel Award.

Throughout his illustrious career, Secretary Meade has served his country in several important posts such as: Chief Executive Officer of the National Bank for Rural Credit, Chief Executive Officer of Financiera Rural, Secretary of Energy, Secretary of Finance and Public Credit, and Secretary of Foreign Relations.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize Commissioner George Prescott Bush and Secretary José Antonio Meade Kuribreña.

HONORING RALPH VERSCHOOR

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 2016

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the birthday of Mr. Ralph Verschoor, who will be ninety-five years old on February 20, 2016.

In 1926, Ralph was born in Hot Springs, Arkansas. In 1930, he moved to Colorado with his family. His father then decided to move away from the cold and snowy Colorado area and ventured to Ceres, California.

On May 3, 1944, Ralph's life was forever changed when he was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served in the 503rd Airborne. He completed 16 weeks of basic training at

Fort Bragg in North Carolina before he was transferred to Fort Benning, Georgia where he underwent parachute training. Despite being injured on his first jump he continued with the training and successfully received his wings.

Before long, Ralph was sent to Fort Ord and then San Francisco, where he boarded a ship on a 31 day voyage to New Guinea. After departing New Guinea, Ralph travelled to the Philippines. There, in March 1946 on the Beach of Negros Island, he experienced combat for the first time. Ralph spent his time as a rifleman, but due to unfortunate circumstances, his weapon malfunctioned. He was stuck with this weapon until the 1st Scout was wounded and they were able to trade weapons. At this point Ralph became 1st Scout and spent six weeks leading his troops into the jungle. Requested by his Captain to become a combat medic, Ralph was tasked with giving first aid to his wounded comrades. He witnessed many traumatizing events in his line of duty that he will never forget.

The war ended in the summer of 1945. Ralph, as a combat medic, was asked to travel to Hiroshima, Japan to study radiation burns. After a six month stay, he was sent to Sendai, Japan to join a medical team aiding in the treatment of those exposed to communicable diseases. Upon returning from the war in 1946, Ralph made his way back home to California, settling in Escalon, where he has resided for the last 70 years. Ralph was elected to the Escalon City Council in 1957, and later served as Mayor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Ralph Verschoor for his 95th birthday and outstanding contributions to the community of Escalon as well as our country.

RECOGNIZING MEAGAN WARREN,
FOUNDER OF BOOKS FOR BED-
TIME, FROM BEXLEY, OHIO

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 2016

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of the Third Congressional District of Ohio, I am pleased to commend Meagan Warren for being recognized by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards as "Ohio's Top Youth Volunteer" in 2016.

A seventh-grade student at Bexley Middle School in my district, Meagan has always been an avid reader.

For Meagan, who learned to read when she was two years old, it is hard to imagine not having a book within arm's reach, especially at bedtime.

Unfortunately, many children her age do not have the same fortune.

One night, while reading in bed, Meagan thought about other children her age that had no books to read.

She committed herself to doing something about it.

Meagan's late-night inspiration spurred her into action and, with the help of her family, she founded Books for Bedtime, a nonprofit organization that has collected more than 14,000 books from neighbors and local businesses for low-income children since 2014.

Books for Bedtime's mission is simple: to distribute books to low-income children and to

instill the "magic of reading" in Columbus-area students.

Meagan's unbridled passion for reading and service has impacted countless children and families in Central Ohio.

Today, I commend Meagan Warren on this well-deserved recognition as "Ohio's Top Youth Volunteer" and thank her for making Columbus the place we are all proud to call "home."

TRIBUTE TO MS. THERESA
(TEESSEE) FAMBRO HOOKS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 2016

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a personal friend who was an outstanding award winning columnist and photographer for the Chicago Daily Defender Newspaper. In addition to her outstanding work at the Defender Newspapers as a woman's editor and society columnist, Teesee published articles about community events and social activities. She was indeed a social activist and involved herself in many organizations such as the Westside Association for Community Action where I was also actively involved.

Teesee started working with the Chicago Defender Newspaper in 1961 and although she may have retired, she never quit. While Teesee was comprehensive in her approach to journalism, she was totally dedicated to issues involving women and girls.

Theresa Fambro Hooks was known to the world as "Teesee," the socialite who traveled the world highlighting the lives and achievements of others put her in a class by herself. When your name appeared in Teesee's column, you knew that you had arrived.

Family and friends of Teesee Fambro Hooks, you have our condolences and may she rest in peace.

DR. E. ANN MCGEE—A TRIBUTE TO
TWO DECADES OF OUTSTANDING
SERVICE TO SEMINOLE STATE
COLLEGE

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 2016

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. E. Ann McGee of Seminole State College in the 7th Congressional District. Dr. McGee is the second president and first woman to head the college in its half-century history. This year marks her 20th anniversary of leading Seminole State College in Central Florida. The tenure of this education leader has been highlighted by the impressive expansion and positive development at this outstanding educational institution. Not only has she led the college, her work in the community and contributions to higher education in our region and state have set a standard for all to follow.

Dr. McGee's two decades at the helm of Seminole State College have seen the college go from one to six locations, begin offering

four year bachelor's degrees and grow to become the eighth largest college in the 28-college Florida College System. Currently, over 30,000 students attend Seminole State College each year.

Her initiative and vision for the future have helped pioneer the DirectConnect to UCF program that has become a national model for making four year degrees more affordable and accessible. She has also partnered with Seminole County Public Schools to reduce the number of incoming freshman in need of remedial math classes from 78 percent to just 15 percent.

Dr. McGee grew up in Largo, Florida and is a graduate of St. Petersburg College. She has earned a Bachelor's in Speech and a Master's in Communication from Florida State University, as well as a Doctorate in Education Administration from Nova Southeastern University.

Dr. McGee is a respected professional in the education field, having been recognized widely for her work as President of Seminole State College as well as former Chair of the Florida College System Foundation and a trustee of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation. She is also a board member of the Higher Education Research & Development Council, the American Association of Community Colleges and the Metro-Orlando Economic Development Commission.

She has been recognized far and wide for her many successes, having received the Atlantic Institute Central Florida Global Vision and Education Award, the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission's James B. Greene Economic Development Award, the Women's Executive Council of Orlando's Women of Achievement in Education Award, Phi Theta Kappa International's President's Council Gold Medallion, the Orlando Business Journal's Publisher's Award, St. Petersburg College "Most Outstanding Graduate" Award, the Association of Community College Trustees Marie Y. Martin "Top CEO" Award, Phi Theta Kappa's Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction and the Seminole County Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. McGee's contributions to our community and to the lives of thousands of students and young professionals across Central Florida cannot be understated. I ask my colleagues from Florida and Members to join in congratulating Dr. E. Ann McGee as we pay tribute to her two decades of outstanding service and dedication to Seminole State College.

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE PEORIA COUN-
TY SOIL & WATER CONSERVA-
TION DISTRICT

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Peoria County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) on achieving their 75th anniversary.

Authorized under the District Act of 1937, the public servants of SWCD have assisted Peoria County landowners in promoting a healthy Midwestern ecosystem to ensure the mitigation of soil erosion and promotion of im-

proved water quality and wildlife habitat for seventy-five years. Because of their sustained efforts in ecology and education, the local agricultural community continues to produce higher quality crops.

By playing an active role within our agrarian society, residents of Peoria County have the ability to take advantage of beneficial programs. The Conservation Practices Program (CPP) allows residents who undergo a project to benefit our land and water resources receive up to \$6,000 from the SWCD to complete the project. In addition, for those who wish to learn more about the advantages of conservation, the SWCD promotes the Gilles Family Tours in which participants tour a family farm and discover the values of conservation.

As a native of Peoria County, I consider myself fortunate that our county has the SWCD as a resource. Congratulations Peoria County Soil & Water Conservation District on a prosperous seventy-five years and I wish it many more years of success.

HONORING JOSÉ ANTONIO MEADE
KURIBREÑA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mexican Secretary of Social Development José Antonio Meade Kuribreña, who has been recognized as a 2016 Señor Internacional Award recipient by the LULAC Council 12 in Laredo, Texas. For over 30 years, LULAC Council 12 has recognized Latinos on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border for their service to the community and exceptional individual achievements.

Secretary José Antonio Meade was born in Mexico City, Mexico, and is an economist, lawyer, diplomat and currently serves as Mexico's Secretary of Social Development. He received his degree in Economics from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México one of Mexico's preeminent institutions of higher learning. He continued his education at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, where he studied law and also received his PhD in Economics from Yale University. He served as a professor at ITAM and Yale University. He has received recognition for his research on Economic Analysis of the Law and has also been given the National Tlacaélel Award.

Throughout his illustrious career, Secretary Meade has served his country in several important posts such as: Chief Executive Officer of the National Bank for Rural Credit, Chief Executive Officer of Financiera Rural, Secretary of Energy, Secretary of Finance and Public Credit, and Secretary of Foreign Relations.

Secretary Meade, has proven to be a strong advocate for the well-being of others. He has worked towards eliminating poverty, advanced food and nutritional programs, and has helped to create employment opportunities for those in need. His career serves as an example of what someone can accomplish through hard work and perseverance. He is an inspiration to many and it is my hope that others follow in his path.