

have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

SUCCESS STEMS FROM HARD WORK

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kalpana Vaidya of Sugar Land, Texas for being a Distinguished Finalist in the Texas' Top Youth Volunteers of 2016, given by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Kalpana is a senior at Stephen F. Austin High School and a scout in the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council troop. Her community service project, "The World of Science" is a hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education (STEM) activity for kindergartners up to eighth-graders. Now becoming an annual affair, her project was sponsored by the Austin High School Honor Society and helped them raise \$2,000. Kalpana's activity has also attracted organizations such as the Houston Natural Science Museum and the Baytown Nature Center. Her efforts in creating this activity led her to become a distinguished finalist in The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. These awards recognize talented young men and women across America that have graciously served their communities.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Kalpana Vaidya for being a Distinguished Finalist. We are so proud of her and can't wait to see what she does next.

HONORING REVEREND FREDERICK CRAWFORD

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise during this month, dedicated to the celebration of African Americans who have made great contributions to the world, to pay tribute to Reverend Frederick Crawford for his many years of compassionate service and tireless work to improve the lives of our community residents.

Reverend Frederick Crawford is the Senior Pastor of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church and the founder of Faithbook, which is a public group on Facebook designed to inspire and encourage via the internet. Established in 2014, Faithbook has more than 3,000 members and counting. This group was designed by Rev. Crawford to encourage, strengthen, and pray for believers in Christ. Members are welcomed to post prayers, words of encouragement, scriptures, testimonies, prayer requests, sermons, pictures, videos, and advertisements of church events.

Reverend Crawford is a native of the Bronx. He is the oldest of four children born to Reverend Dr. Fletcher and Mother Arnetta Crawford. He graduated from Eastern Mennonite College and Seminary where he earned a Bachelor's of Science in Business Adminis-

tration and Minor in Religious Studies. He continued his studies at Alliance Theological Seminary, Unification Theological Seminary and later obtained a Bachelor's of Theology from American International Theological Seminary. He was ordained to be the Assistant Pastor of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church by Dr. Fletcher Crawford in August 1988.

Reverend Crawford is the third generation of his family to serve as pastors of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church. His father, Dr. Fletcher Crawford served for fifty years and his grandfather, Rev. Jeremiah Crawford, organized this community institution in 1946. Prior to his leadership at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Reverend Crawford was the pastor at the First Calvary Baptist Church in Harlem, NY for twenty years before being called back to Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church in 2006. Upon Dr. Fletcher Crawford's retirement, Rev. Frederick Crawford was installed as Pastor at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church on August 20, 2006. Pastor Crawford is happily married to Lady Antoinette Crawford, and they have four children; Lamont, Shapri, Hezekiah, and Chloe.

Under his leadership, Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church has created numerous programs to assist families in the Bronx. Many of those programs focus on addressing a serious issue in the Bronx—hunger and food insecurity. Through Reverend Crawford's leadership, Union Grove feeds more than 1,000 families every year during Thanksgiving Week, providing them with enough food for a family of four for a week. The church also runs an important food pantry that offers needy Bronxites produce, meats, breads, dairy, juice, water, dry and can goods at no charge. Additionally, Reverend Crawford leads a daily Summer Food Program at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, which provides more than 300 meals for breakfast and lunch for those in need. The church is also very involved in numerous other issues as well and has an annual Back To School Health and Community Awareness Fair that helps students prepare for school and includes free food, entertainment, clothes, books and book bags. Pastor Crawford has also created Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration to engage the community in honoring Dr. King. I have had the honor of speaking at this important community event several times.

As Reverend Crawford has made Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church an integral member of the Bronx community, he has also been called to serve in leadership roles in numerous other organizations. He has served as the President of the Baptist Minister's Evening Conference of the Bronx, NY, and is also a member of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater New York and Vicinity, the United Missionary Baptist Association and The National Baptist Convention USA. Rev. Crawford has received numerous awards and accolades including the Religious Community Leader Award in 2007 from the NAACP.

Reverend Crawford is a pillar of our community, and it is only fitting that he is honored for his work on behalf of others. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Rev. Frederick Crawford for his consistently remarkable dedication to service and longstanding commitment to improving our community.

TRIBUTE TO BRENNA WESTERGAARD

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brenna Westergaard for earning an American FFA Degree. Brenna was recently awarded at the National FFA Convention and Expo in Louisville, Kentucky on October 31, 2015. She was a member of the Adair-Casey FFA Organization and is the daughter of Lori Westergaard and Kevin Westergaard.

The American FFA Degree is awarded to members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to FFA and made significant accomplishments in their supervised agricultural experience. Brenna had to meet certain requirements, such as studying agriculture for three years in high school, earning money in an agriculture field and investing that money into her business, participation in community service and having a record of outstanding leadership ability and community involvement.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders like Brenna in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to reach her goals. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her on receiving this esteemed designation, and wishing her nothing but the best of luck in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF EFFIE YEAW

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Effie Yeaw Nature Center as it celebrates its 40th anniversary. As its board of directors, staff, volunteers, and local nature enthusiasts gather to celebrate this wonderful occasion, I ask all of my colleagues to join men in recognizing and honoring the Effie Yeaw Nature Center for its contributions to the Sacramento Region.

The American River is an incredibly important part of our region and Effie Yeaw is the only environmental education center on the 23-mile American River Parkway. The 80-acre nature preserve with river access, oak woodlands, meadows, and ponds truly engages children and adults of all ages through their interactive exhibits and programs. These programs are essential to teaching our youth about the importance of protecting our local environment and the animals that inhabit it.

In 1955 Effie Yeaw, a teacher and environmental educator, began leading natural history walks in an area now known as the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and Nature Area, located along the American River in Carmichael. Effie Yeaw's efforts to raise awareness for preserving the lands along the river have been critical to the health of our local ecosystem. Her concept of a "Parkway" along the river has served as a guiding principal that has shaped the landscape of our region for the better.

Though Effie Yeaw died in 1970, her legacy lives on in the American River Parkway she helped to establish. Her legacy also lives on in the Nature Center which continues to be guided by Effie's genuine love for nature and children. In 1960, the Director of Parks received a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant to purchase land along the American River, including the Effie Yeaw Nature Area. Construction of the Nature Center was completed in June 1976 and was dedicated in memory of Effie.

Mr. Speaker, as the board of directors, staff, volunteers, and local nature enthusiasts gather for their 40th anniversary celebration, I am pleased to honor and recognize Effie Yeaw Nature Center for its important role in enhancing Sacramento's community. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them continued success and thanking them for their service to the Sacramento region.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF
LAWRENCE L. MIHLON

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief Lawrence L. Mihlon on his retirement from the West Long Branch Police Department this year. Chief Mihlon dedicated 34 years to the Borough of West Long Branch and his contributions are to be celebrated.

Throughout his decorated career, Chief Mihlon held many positions, serving as Lieutenant for 2 years and Captain for 7 years before being appointed Chief of Police in 2013. Chief Mihlon has an extensive police background, having served in many capacities within the department, including Patrol, Detectives, Traffic, Training, Records, Command and Administration. Prior to joining the West Long Branch Police Department in 1982, Chief Mihlon worked as a Special Officer for the Little Silver Police Department and a National Park Service Ranger at Sandy Hook and Shenandoah National Park.

Chief Mihlon has been committed to serving the West Long Branch community and was focused on public relations, serving as the Department spokesman and creating the Department's website and Facebook pages. Community involvement has been instilled in Chief Mihlon's family. His mother worked as a Little Silver Police Dispatcher, his sister is a special education principal, his brother serves on Little Silver Borough Council and his nephew is a Little Silver Patrolman and Fire Chief. Over the years, Chief Mihlon has been recognized for his dedicated service and accomplishments, having received the West Long Branch Police Department's Life Saving Medal, the Education Bar and the Exceptional Duty Bar.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Chief Lawrence Mihlon on his retirement and thanking him for his service to New Jersey. Chief Mihlon's commitment to the West Long Branch community is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

KIDS WORKING TO KEEP TEXAS
BULLY FREE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sidharth Duttala, a Fort Bend County student, for winning the National Association for Pupil Transportation's (NAPT) National School Bus Safety Week Poster Contest.

Sidharth, a third-grader at Sugar Mill Elementary School, won first place in the Division I category, with his "Super Important Bully Free Zone" poster. Initially competing at the local level, Sidharth's poster was voted on by school district bus drivers to be entered at the state level competition on the contest theme "Bully Free Zone." NAPT annually observes the importance of school bus safety. This year's poster contest included students in more than 40 states and countless school districts.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Sidharth Duttala. We are proud of him and encourage him to keep spreading kindness.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN
PRICE

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special individual, John D. Price of Lexington, Kentucky. Mr. Price lived an exemplary life of service to others and passed away on February 23, 2016.

Mr. Price was a dedicated leader in education in Fayette County. He was appointed to the school board in 2003 and was elected four times. He served as board chairman since 2010. Mr. Price's involvement began over 30 years ago as a mentor with the Experience Based Career Education program. He went on to serve as a homeroom parent, a school volunteer, and a member of site based councils at Julia R. Ewan Elementary and Bryan Station High School. He was a PTA leader, serving as President of the 16th District PTA. He served on the Equity Council for Fayette County Public Schools. Mr. Price was a strong advocate for all students and was deeply concerned with every student having the opportunity for a great education. His commitment to students was unwavering.

Professionally, Mr. Price was a CPA and President of Price, Stagner, and Company. He was an active member of St. Peter Catholic Church. Mr. Price was a founding board member of Housing Equality for All Lexington (HEAL) and remained active with HEAL for thirty eight years.

John Price is survived by his daughter Allison Courtney Crosby and her husband Anthony Crosby, his mother Janella Wathen Price, and his sisters Jalenna Price and Margaret Griffin.

Mr. Price was a humble leader. Former superintendent Tom Shelton says of John Price, "He had exemplary character, strong personal

integrity, and was a strong man of faith, and it was exhibited in everything he did and every decision he was involved in." He made a significant impact on the lives of all people he touched. He was an outstanding public servant, and I am honored to memorialize him before the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE ART OF LIVING
FOUNDATION

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Art of Living Foundation, and founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, as the Foundation commemorates its 35th anniversary with the upcoming World Culture Festival in New Delhi on March 11–13, 2016.

The three day major cultural event will be held at a venue that covers over 1,000 acres and will feature the world's largest stage spread over an area of seven acres.

The festival emphasizes co-existence and celebrates diversity by bringing together an estimated 3.5 million people to a common platform.

We must all remember that while lifestyles vary from one culture to the next, we are all human beings who should learn from one another.

I believe celebrating cultural diversity around the globe, as the Art of Living Foundation is doing with this wonderful event, will open lines of communication and understanding between nations, and I certainly wish them well.

HONORING ET TA F. RITTER

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month this year, I am honored to reflect on the contributions African-Americans have made within my district in Bronx County. That is why I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize Ms. Etta F. Ritter for her many years of tireless work to improve the lives of our community residents.

Etta F. Ritter is a native of Bronx County, spending her early years as a resident of Butler Houses, where she attended PS 132, CES 55 and IS 148. She later attended secondary school at Murry Bergtraum High School for Business Careers in Manhattan and majored in Secretarial Studies, graduating in 1982. Ms. Ritter then attended Manhattan Community College for one year, received an offer to work that started her on her career path. She has continued her education throughout the years in different venues.

Ms. Ritter was hired at the New York City Office of Management and Budget as a back-up secretary in 1984. She was later promoted as a statistical typist within the Community Development Unit and was subsequently promoted and transferred to the Computer Services Unit as a help desk coordinator. Ms. Ritter worked at the NYC Office of Management