

Arrow. Matthew has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Matthew installed a concrete pad under a shelter house in a city park in Smithville, Missouri, and worked with the Smithville Parks Board and the Smithville Board of Alderman to secure funding for the project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew C. Gager for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF PATRICIA
BRESEE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2016

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my good friend Patricia Bresee, a highly respected and recognized expert in juvenile law, who has served on the Board of Directors of the California Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for nine years as a remarkable leader with exceptional integrity and the capacity to inspire everyone around her. Pat Bresee's devotion to children is unmatched and she has dedicated her entire professional life to advocate for those in need. We are very fortunate that she will continue her advocacy for children in the dependency system through service on the Board of Directors for National CASA.

Pat served as a Superior Court Commissioner in San Mateo County for 15 years. She was assigned to sit as a Juvenile Court Judge, handling dependency and delinquency issues and adoptions and guardianships. She was one of the original members of the California Judicial Council's Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee and served as the chair of the Juvenile Law Rules and Forms Committee. She teaches at the California Center for Judicial Education and trains attorneys and judicial officers in Juvenile Delinquency Law. She still manages to find time to be a regular presenter at Beyond the Bench and fills in as a judge at the Juvenile Court in San Mateo County.

Her commitment to fight for justice is unwavering and she has freely volunteered her expertise and time to a number of organizations including the American Leadership Forum Silicon Valley, the Peninsula Community Foundation, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the San Mateo County First Five Commission, and most importantly, California CASA. I had the great honor and pleasure of working with Pat in her role at the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission and the San Mateo County Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care. Both commissions made recommendations on ways in which the courts could improve safety, permanency, well-being and fairness for children and families in our state.

Pat's outstanding work has been proclaimed by the California Judges Association in 1994 when she was named Juvenile Court Judge of the Year and again in 1998 by National CASA as Judge of the Year. Judge Bresee graduated from Purdue University and earned her law degree from San Francisco Law School.

She was admitted into the State Bar of California in 1972. When she is not fighting for justice, Pat likes to travel, attend the theater, read and lift weights.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the truly remarkable legal career of Patricia Bresee who continues to dedicate her life to advocate for children and thereby improves society as a whole. She is an outstanding example of a person with a moral compass who brings out the best in others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2016

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Thursday, March 3, 2016, in order to attend a funeral of a dear friend. I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call vote numbers 106, 107, 108, 109, and 110.

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted NAY on roll call votes 106, 107, and 109.

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted AYE on roll call votes 108 and 110.

HONORING GEORGE ANTHONY
DONNELLI

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize George Anthony Donnelly. George is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

George has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years George has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, George has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending George Anthony Donnelly for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 109, I was absent during the roll call on final passage of H.R. 4557 because I was meeting with constituents from Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District.

Had I been present, I would have voted "YES."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, on roll call nos. 103 and 104, I was unable to vote, as I was attending a memorial program honoring Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Antonin Scalia, who was a constituent and neighbor of mine. Roll no. 103 was H.R. 136, which designated a post office at Camp Pendleton, CA as the "Camp Pendleton Medal of Honor Post Office"; and Roll no. 104 was H.R. 3735, which designated a post office in Winston Salem, NC as the "Maya Angelou Memorial Post Office".

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on both.

IN RECOGNITION OF FRED SCHEA

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2016

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a lifetime of dedicated community service.

Fred Scea of New Britain Township has been a fixture in local banking for decades, but is equally as recognizable as a champion of Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County and an advocate for its mission of providing affordable housing for those in need.

It is with great pride that I recognize him as the recipient of Habitat for Humanity's Lifetime Achievement Award. This well-deserved recognition highlights Fred's staunch support for the organization's laudable mission as well as his commitment to countless other community and civic organizations that benefit from his involvement.

Congratulations to Fred on this tremendous accomplishment and I thank him for his years of selfless effort.

HONORING ETHAN ALLEN
VENTRESS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ethan Allen Ventress. Ethan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ethan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ethan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably,

Ethan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ethan Allen Ventress for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF RARE
DISEASE WEEK

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2016

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Rare Disease Caucus, I rise today in recognition of Rare Disease Week and those in the First District of Iowa suffering from rare diseases.

This week, activists from all across the country have come to Capitol Hill to educate Members of Congress on the struggles of all rare diseases and advocating for science-driven public policy to bring life-saving treatment, drugs, and procedures to the numerous individuals suffering from rare diseases.

Last July, I voted in favor of H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act and have been a strong advocate for the National Institutes of Health and their mission. On behalf of all Americans suffering from rare diseases, I will continue to advocate for the passage of legislation which drives innovation, research, and treatment for the community.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand with me in the fight to cure rare diseases.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
DESALES UNIVERSITY

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2016

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to bring the 50th Anniversary of DeSales University to the attention of the House.

Named in honor of Saint Francis de Sales, DeSales was founded after Bishop Joseph McShea organized a survey of Catholic education opportunities in the Allentown Diocese. The study indicated there was a need for a Catholic College in the Lehigh Valley area of the Allentown Diocese.

The Oblates of St. Francis de Sales broke ground for the new college in May of 1964 on a 500 acre tract located in Lehigh County's Upper Saucon Township. DeSales accepted its first class of freshmen in September 1965 under its original name—Allentown College of St. Francis de Sales.

The ensuing decades brought growth—both in the number of students enrolled and in the curriculum offered.

In March 2000, Allentown College proudly became DeSales University.

Currently, DeSales has a total enrollment of over 3,000 traditional, graduate and evening students and nearly 1,600 full-time undergraduate students. The school offers 41 majors and 31 minors and boasts over 100 faculty members.

DeSales plays an integral role in the Lehigh Valley's educational network and within the community. DeSales' graduates have enjoyed tremendous success across the fields of business, medicine, philosophy, literature, science and teaching.

It is my pleasure to congratulate the students, alumni, faculty and staff of DeSales University as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary. It is my hope that a future member of this House will be able to enter a congratulatory record on their behalf fifty years from now as well.

THE GROWING THREAT OF CHOLERA
AND OTHER DISEASES IN
THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2016

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, during the last several years, conflicts in the Middle East have cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, primarily in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. As a result of conflicts in these countries, as well as the influx of refugees from conflict zones into surrounding countries such as Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon, many of those who die are the victim of disease.

Almost 17 million people in the region are in need of humanitarian assistance, including roughly four million refugees who have fled their countries and an additional 13 million people who have left their homes but are internally displaced within their countries.

A hearing I convened last week examined the scope of the cholera and other disease threats to determine what can and should be done to control it and minimize their spread beyond the Middle East.

The World Health Organization reported the spread of a cholera epidemic that first began in Iraq in 2007 that crossed over into Iran, Syria and is considered the region's greatest, although not only, health threat. These threats are worsened by the targeting of health workers in Syria and an Islamic State that has no experience and little interest in providing social services. Thus, cholera and other diseases are untreated, often unreported and pose a significant health threat in the region due to poor sanitation and overcrowding in areas such as refugee camps.

Cholera is an acute diarrheal disease that can cause death within hours if left untreated. Roughly 80% of those who contract the disease do not develop symptoms, leaving some uncertainty about precisely how many people contract the disease annually. Scientists estimate that between 1.4 and 4.3 million people contract cholera annually, of whom 28,000 to 142,000 die. Cholera bacteria are present in the feces of infected people for one to ten days after infection and can be spread to others if they ingest food or water that is contaminated with their fecal matter. The spread of cholera is mostly facilitated by inadequate water and sanitation management and outbreaks are common in areas where basic infrastructure is unavailable, such as urban slums and camps for internally displaced persons and refugees.

As devastating as this cholera epidemic has been and can be going forward, we must also

remember the MERS epidemic of three years ago. The Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, or MERS, is a respiratory illness. It is caused by a virus called Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus, or MERS-CoV. This virus was first reported in 2012 in Saudi Arabia. It is different from any other coronaviruses that have been found in people before.

MERS-CoV, like other coronaviruses, is thought to spread from an infected person's respiratory secretions, such as through coughing. However, the precise ways the virus spreads are not currently well understood. MERS-CoV has spread from ill people to others through close contact, such as caring for or living with an infected person. Infected people have spread MERS-CoV to others even in healthcare settings, such as hospitals. This transmission pattern is more likely when medical facilities and health workers are in short supply.

The conflicts and political crises in the Middle East have brought anguish, suffering, and severe declines in health to people throughout the region. The most catastrophic case by far is Syria, where more than a million people have experienced traumatic injuries, once-rare infectious diseases have returned, chronic disease goes untreated, and the health system has collapsed. In Yemen, Libya, Gaza, and Iraq violence has limited access to health care and grievously harmed the population.

According to Physicians for Human Rights last summer, at least 633 medical personnel had been killed and more than 270 illegal attacks on 202 separate medical facilities had taken place since March 2011 in Syria. Of the attacks on medical facilities, at least 51, or 19 percent, reportedly were carried out with barrel bombs. Almost all the assaults were inflicted by the regime of President Bashar al-Assad.

In the Middle East, threats against as well as arrests and intimidation of health workers extends beyond armed conflict to situations of political volatility, as evident in Bahrain, Egypt, and Turkey. In most of these cases, doctors and nurses who treat victims of violence are, by the very act of providing treatment, deemed guilty of anti-government activities. In Bahrain, almost 100 doctors and nurses were arrested and 48 originally charged with felonies for having offered medical care to wounded people in the wake of the 2011 Arab Spring uprising,

Cholera can be treated and its spread can be prevented, but diseases such as MERS pose a danger of spreading beyond the region. However, beyond the global health implications, we must consider the compounded suffering of people in the Middle East. Not only are they often in threat of violence through no fault of their own but they face preventable, treatable diseases that have gotten out of control due to conflicts.

Our panel at the hearing included health experts who helped us think through the health challenges our government faces in considering how to provide the most effective assistance to people in the Middle East. The two keys to success are: remain vigilant and sustain commitment. The hearing last week was intended to demonstrate our vigilance and commitment to addressing this situation.