

its first District Conference in Rotary by 1916. In 1919, the club implemented their first community project, firmly establishing their organization in Fresno by the act of planting 1,000 olive trees along Golden State Highway, otherwise known as State Highway 99.

Since its establishment, the Fresno Rotary Club has supported hundreds of community projects and organizations in the local community, including: the water tower in downtown Fresno, building the 3,500 seat Rotary Amphitheater at Woodward Park, contributing to the construction of Playland at Roeding Park, providing mentorship programs through the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, donating to the Salvation Army, Schools, and our local hospitals.

The Rotary Club of Fresno has been dedicated to numerous causes that have contributed over \$3.7 million throughout its existence to many local and international projects which support local issues and international humanitarian efforts. The club's Wheelchair project has delivered over 4,200 wheelchairs to Central American and African nations since 2003. Project Nino has provided medical services and treatment to children over the last 30 years in the small village of Santiago de Tautla, Mexico, and has treated over 100,000 patients since 1985. The "WAPI" Water Purification project has delivered countless solar cookers and water treatment devices throughout the world. The Rotary Club of Fresno has also contributed over \$1.2 million to the Rotary International Foundation in support of its worldwide humanitarian efforts to eradicate polio, and improve people's lives.

Members of the Fresno Rotary continue to dedicate themselves to community development and involvement. Whether it's organizing a city wide Boy Scout Council, or holding an annual Christmas party at the senior citizens home, or providing scholarships for students to pay for college. The Fresno Rotary has made a strong impact in our community, and has enriched the quality of life for many residents throughout the Central Valley.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Rotary Club of Fresno as they celebrate its 100th anniversary and prepare to continue to provide outstanding leadership through the Central Valley, the State of California, and our Nation.

#### THE RISE OF ISIS

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Cameron Kallina attends Seven Lakes High School in Katy, Texas. The essay topic is: The rise of ISIS.

The rise of ISIS in the past year has taken a toll on the perception of the terroristic group from a blatant "JV team", the words of our Commander in Chief, to a threat even greater than Al Qaeda. They have demonstrated time and time again that they are serious and are here to stay. From Paris to the shooting down of a Russian commercial airline, the actions of these attacks have shaken sense of security of everyday normal life.

ISIS is a terrorist militant group, disowned by Al Qaeda in early 2014 due to their brutal tactics, which has risen to power through the massive land they have conquered from Northern Syria to Central Iraq. They are the richest terror group in the world due to owning over half of Syria's oil assets and those profits from the oil help independently fund their regime.

Their actions have had an impact on not only the United States, but abroad as well. ISIS has become a focus of the 2016 Presidential election. Where prior to the attacks of late 2015 the focus of the debates centered on the economy, there has been a shift to national security, especially how to implement measures and how to maintain it. According to a Gallup poll which was published on December 14, 2015, 16% of Americans think terrorism is now the number one issue in the election, up from 3% in early November. (<http://www.gallup.com/poll/187655/americans-name-terrorism-no-problem.aspx>) The candidates differ on how to handle the rising situation. The candidates all have their theory on how to defeat this group. One idea from Hillary Clinton states we should shut down every terrorist account on social media, Donald Trump has made statements that we should ban all Muslims from entering the country, Ted Cruz says we must stand with our Allies against the terror threat, and there are many other ideas from other candidates that have their own strategy for facing ISIS.

Our sense of security has also been shaken. The ruthless terrorist attacks on Paris, France left the world in a shocked state of disbelief. 130 people were massacred and 368 were wounded that night at Stade de France, cafes, restaurants, and a concert hall. It left a scar on France they'll never forget. It seemed nowhere was safe; any place could now be a target. And citizens around the world were aware of this, tensions were high as everyone waited with the anticipation of another attack happening. Cities in Europe and the United States were on a heightened alert in the days and weeks following.

These acts of violence has shown the true colors and motivation of this radical regime. They show no intentions of letting up and have become a threat, not just to the U.S.A., but to all of the Western Civilized world. America must lead the fight against these monsters with the help of our Allies to secure victory and peace worldwide.

CONGRATULATING JACKSON  
BERCK FOR HIS FIRST PLACE  
WIN IN THE 2016 MISSOURI  
STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP

#### HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2016*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in con-

gratulating Jackson Berck for his first place win in the 2016 Class 4, 195 pound weight class, Missouri State Wrestling Championship.

Jackson and his coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to Francis Howell Central High School and their local community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Jackson for a job well done.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2016*

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I missed three votes on March 14. If I were present, I would have voted on the following:

Rollcall No. 111: On Passage of S. 2426, "yea."

Rollcall No. 112: On Passage of H. Con. Res. 75, "yea."

Rollcall No. 113: On Passage of H. Con. Res. 121, "yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF HOPE WENG,  
THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF  
COMMUNITY AWARDS PROGRAM  
2016 HONOREE

#### HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2016*

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hope Weng, a young student from my district who is one of two students to receive national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Ms. Weng of Tempe has just been named the 2016 Middle Level State Honoree by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Weng, an eighth-grade student at Tempe Preparatory Academy, delivered 100 care packages containing cookies, thank-you cards and self-penned essays to residents of a veterans home to honor their service. After writing an essay about veterans and having met with a veteran at a local VFW post, Ms. Weng was inspired to initiate a project that would honor and show appreciation to our veterans. Ms. Weng achieved her goal by creating a budget and then raising the funds through the sale of Girl Scout cookies, hosting a garage sale, winning a writing contest, saving her Chinese New Year gift money and soliciting donations. She engaged the community by having individuals write messages of gratitude in her thank-you cards.

Thanks to Ms. Weng's dedication to service, 100 Arizona veterans received thoughtful care packages. Members, please join me in congratulating Ms. Weng for being named one of the top honorees in Arizona by The 2016 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. Ms. Weng, congratulations on all of your accomplishments and thank you for recognizing and honoring our veterans.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2016*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call vote number 111, 112 and 113 on S. 2426, H. Con. Res. 75, H. Con. Res. 121, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yea. My flight, JetBlue 2224, was delayed by 1 hour and 20 minutes.

CHALLENGES WITHIN THE  
POLITICAL PROCESS**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Arjun Luthra attends Clear Springs High School in League City, Texas. The essay topic is: Challenges within the political process.

Within the US political system, there is an iron triangle which defines the spheres of influence and relationship between the United States Congress, the bureaucracy and the interest groups. Along with these groups, the executive branch influences the appointments of justices and bureaucratic officials. Concerns regarding public policy are placed on the shoulders of numerous institutions. What makes the political process so challenging is to ensure there is reconciliation of the political interests of these numerous institutions like Congress, which represents individual districts and states, and the President, which represents the overall nation.

The President, Office of Management and Budget, the Congressional Budget Office, agencies and interest groups are all involved in the budgeting process. The President bears responsibility of presenting the Budget to Congress while the Congressional Budget Office advises Congress of potential consequences of budget decisions. Within the process, the agencies provide projection of budgetary needs. The complexity of the process and shared roles among the institution often require adaptation or reconciliation. For example, in 1973, President Nixon refused to disburse appropriated funds of Congress. This led to the Budget Impoundment Act which transferred power of President to Congress. This particular historical example not only demonstrates a check and balance system, but also exemplifies the challenges in the political process.

In addition to budget, legislation becomes difficult to enact either due to political gridlock due to divided government or party polarization. This gridlock has led to a re-

stricted number of bills that pass through the congressional committees. Only 4 percent of bills introduced to Congress become law and only about 6 percent of bills reach floor debate. Furthermore, discussion of bill is restricted by the closed rule in the House, which places time limit for debate and restricts amendments. While in the Senate, senators can request for a filibuster, which extends time of debate. This allows members of the Senate to push their interests forward and often prevent discussion of other legislation proposed.

In essence, the political process is challenging especially in creating the political agenda and reaching specific goals set by the numerous governmental institutions. Today, hot topics in the political agenda include gun control, education and immigration policies. Although pushing for funds and legislation that yields long-term benefits for the constituents is challenging, the political process requires purposeful rather than reckless action that is advantageous to the United States. The political process ensures recognition of the Constitution as a governing document and also ensures a check on the abuse of political power.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,124,286,688,944.60. We've added \$8,497,409,640,031.52 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

## TRIBUTE TO DR. FRIEDA JORDAN—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2016*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Dr. Frieda Jordan, of Glendale, California.

After graduating from high school in Tehran, Iran, Frieda Jordan moved to England, where she received a BSc and a PhD in Biochemistry from King's College London. She also became a Certified Histocompatibility Specialist with the American Board of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics. Dr. Jordan is currently the Director of DNA Molecular Typing at Foundation Laboratory, and is a laboratory inspector with the European Federation for Immunogenetics representing Armenia. Prior to her work at Foundation Laboratory, Dr. Jordan was Associate Director of

the Human Leukocyte Antigen and Immunogenetics Laboratory at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Dr. Jordan has dedicated an extraordinary amount of time and energy in serving her community through her medical and scientific expertise. She is co-founder and president of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR), as well as chair of its "Support Group" for patients and their family members. ABMDR, which was founded in 1999, recruits and provides matched unrelated donors for stem cell or bone marrow transplantation to patients who are facing life-threatening blood disorders. ABMDR has identified more than 3531 potential matches for patients all around the world, and has facilitated 26 stem cell transplants. This organization has also brought new medical technology to Armenia, where it established a Stem Cell Harvesting Center in 2009.

Dr. Jordan is an active member and participant of various medical organizations including the Armenian Medical Association, the World Marrow Donor Association, the National Marrow Donor Program, and the European Federation for Immunogenetics. An accomplished speaker, Dr. Jordan has given presentations at numerous conferences and workshops in the United States and around the world.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Dr. Frieda Jordan, for her extraordinary service to the community.

## IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH HEFFERS, THE 2016 GREATER PITTSSTON FRIENDLY SONS OF SAINT PATRICK MAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 15, 2016*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Heffers, who was named Man of the Year by the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick for the year 2016.

Joseph is the son of the late John Heffers and Mary Golden Heffers. He was born and raised in Pittston, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Pittston High School. He attended Wilkes-Barre Business College and earned a degree in Business and Accounting. He served in the Army from 1964 to 1967 in the Special Troops United at Fort Dix, New Jersey and was named Soldier of the Month during 1966. He worked at Eberhard Faber in Mountain Top, Pennsylvania as Project Manager for 21 years, receiving the President's Award from Eberhard Faber in 1986. He later worked at Cooper Industries in Weatherly as a Production Specialist and retired from InterMetro Industries in Wilkes-Barre. Joseph then managed the Metro Wire Federal Credit Union in Plains from 2001–2010.

He is a former President of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and received the Achievement Award in 2010. He was the historical speaker at the 100th anniversary banquet at the Friendly Sons in 2015. He is on the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army in West Pittston. And, finally, Mr. Heffers is a former financial secretary of President