

A TRIBUTE TO JOSH BRABY

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Josh Braby for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

Josh works as a Partner/Project Manager at Neumann Bros. Inc. where he works tirelessly to challenge his team by asking them to stick with the core values of the company but still finding new, innovative ways to improve their overall success. He is driven daily to make the thoughts of his clients a reality through hard work and dedication to his craft. Josh's passion for construction also translates into his civic duties where he is passionate about teaching young people the values of a skilled trade that lasts a lifetime. That passion has led him to create a program for high school students that educates them about construction through hands-on projects.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Josh in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Josh on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE  
SCIENTISTS AND TECH-  
NOLOGISTS—ALLIX KEAN

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Allix Kean from Katy, TX for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists to represent the state of Texas at the Congress of Future Science and Technology leaders.

Allix attends Harmony Science Academy of West Houston and is one of 13 high school honor students selected from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas. These students were selected as Texas delegates at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. This program was designed for high school students to be recognized for their hard work in school, as well as to support

their aspirations of working in a science or technology field. The National Academy was founded by Richard Rossi and Dr. Robert Darling; Mr. Rossi currently serves as president. The Congress is being held at the Tsongas Center at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell from June 29th through July 1st. Allix was selected by a group of educators to be a delegate for the Congress thanks to her dedication to her academic success and goals of pursuing science or technology. We are proud of Allix and all of her hard work, and know she will make Katy proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Allix for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists. Keep up the great work.

CONGRATULATING THE RIBAUT  
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKET-  
BALL TEAM

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I, Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN, the representative of Florida's 5th congressional district, wholeheartedly congratulate the Ribault High School Trojan girls basketball team in defeating Riverdale Baptist at Madison Square Garden to bring home to Jacksonville the Dick's Sporting Goods High School National Championship trophy. I also would like to extend my congratulations to the coaches, the staff, and the administration and all of the friends of Ribault High School on this tremendous honor.

Beyond a doubt, the Ribault High School girls' basketball team is a powerhouse in the state of Florida, and across the nation. Given that the team has won ten previous state titles and has been ranked as high as ninth in the country, they are a force to be reckoned with! Remarkably, the Lady Trojans made it through the regular season with just one loss. This did not deter them; however, as they Roared back to win the Florida state championship, and follow that up with a national championship victory in New York.

This is now the 4th time a Florida girls team has won this event in the eight years it has been held! Ribault, 30-1 this season, led by their star players RENNIA DAVIS and NOLA CARTER, along with Day'Neshia Banks, played a press defense which suffocated their opponents throughout the tournament. Indeed, Ribault Coach Shelia Pennick did an outstanding job in maintaining the team's extraordinary discipline and level of fitness throughout the season. Certainly, playing full court defense with that kind of intensity is exhausting, yet her players rarely exhibited any expression of slowing down.

With each succeeding championship, the Lady Trojans basketball team climbs the list of schools with the most state titles in Florida high school athletics, now tied for seventh place with 11 state titles, the most of any girls' basketball team in the state, and a remarkable achievement for a public high school given the presence of so many private schools on the multi-championships list. Beyond a doubt, this outstanding achievement is tremendously ex-

citing for the entire Jacksonville community and I am proud to say once again that on behalf of the constituents of Florida's 5th congressional district, I hereby honor the Ribault Trojans basketball team for their 11th state championship and this year's national title game in New York City's Madison Square Garden—Go Lady Trojans.

LOUISIANA NATIVE BECOMES THE  
ARMY'S FIRST FEMALE INFAN-  
TRY RECRUIT

**HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tammy Grace Barnett of Robeline, Louisiana, for being the first female recruit to enlist with the United States Army infantry.

I am tremendously proud of Tammy, a Louisiana native who has stepped forward and answered the call to serve our nation. Prior to enlisting with the Army, Tammy has been serving her community in Louisiana as a law enforcement officer. On April 7, she gave up her Louisiana law enforcement badge and courageously took the Oath of Enlistment to become the first female recruit to enlist in the United States Army infantry division. Ms. Barnett truly reflects the spirit of Louisiana by living a life of service. We are forever indebted to these brave men and women. To commemorate this fact, I submit an article, written by Troy Washington of KSLA News.

LOUISIANA WOMAN MAKES U.S. ARMY HISTORY  
(By Troy Washington)

ROBELINE, LA.—A Robeline native is making armed forces history as the first woman to enlist in the infantry in the United States Army.

Women in combat has been a topic of controversy for years, but now progress is being made.

Tammy Barnett was a police officer but traded in her badge to make history.

She's looking forward to seeing action on the front lines and making gains for women in the military.

Thursday, Barnett proudly raised her hand to take the Oath of Enlistment.

Dressed in tennis shoes, jeans and a t-shirt, 25-year-old Tammy Barnett stepped into the history books.

Barnett has been meeting with a recruiter since November and this week, at the military processing unit in Shreveport, she took a leap that's never been made before, she joined the infantry in the U.S. Army.

"They told me that I would be the first female in history to go infantry in the military," said Barnett.

Recently, the Defense Department lifted gender-based restrictions on military service. The historic change cleared the way for women like Barnett who want to serve on the front lines.

On April 4, the processing center received word that women would be allowed to sign up for combat jobs. Now, Barnett is hoping that others will follow her lead.

"I hope that I give them the courage, because I'm a small female, if I can do it, they can do it too, this could give them the courage to step out of their comfort zone," explained Barnett.

Barnett isn't fond of the limelight, but she has no problem stepping forward when it comes to service.

"I was going to go military police, but infantry is similar, and they are more on the front lines, like law enforcement here and I said that's what I want to do," said Barnett.

With her mind made up, Barnett isn't looking back, only forward to a future full of possibilities and breaking barriers for women in the military.

Barnett will head to Fort Benning, Georgia to start training. In the meantime, she says she's going to celebrate her history-making moment by going fishing this weekend.

#### HONORING EDWINA LYONS

##### HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Edwina Lyons from Scottsville, Kentucky.

It can often be difficult to find employees who truly exemplify service, loyalty, integrity and commitment but Edwina has showcased all of these and more during her thirty-four years of service at Dollar General.

Edwina joined Dollar General on May 20th, 1982. She began in the Rework department at the Scottsville Distribution Center and grew her career and her influence through her hard work and dedication to excellence, eventually becoming the Senior Manager of Merchandise Support for the company. The length of Edwina's tenure has only been matched by the depth of her commitment to the Dollar General family.

What is truly inspirational about Edwina is the positive impact she has had on the employees at Dollar General and her community. When she departs in April, her passion for doing the right thing and her deeply rooted values will be missed.

I congratulate Edwina on an exceptional career and wish her well on her next chapter. Undoubtedly, she will continue to be of service to others.

#### BROADBAND IS CRUCIAL FOR MINNESOTA AND THE COUNTRY

##### HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Blandin Foundation for their dedication to strengthening rural communities in Minnesota. One such way they are making a difference is through various programs, including their outstanding program which aims to increase access to high-speed broadband internet. I am happy to support the Minnesota Broadband Coalition's vision: "Everyone in Minnesota will be able to use convenient, affordable world-class broadband networks that enable us to survive and thrive in our communities and across the globe."

Like the Blandin Foundation, I too believe that increasing and expanding broadband in Minnesota is of the utmost importance. Back in February, I had the opportunity to voice my support for broadband expansion at the Minnesota Broadband Conference.

Over the past several decades we have seen the rise of internet and technology due to

its ability to improve people's lives. As a result of internet access, more businesses are emerging, new jobs are being created, and more educational opportunities abound.

However, many rural communities in Minnesota do not have consistent access to broadband, preventing their communities from thriving and keeping them at a competitive disadvantage. I commend the Blandin Foundation for their efforts to ensure that all communities have the opportunity to prosper and grow.

#### HONORING WAVERLY WOODSON DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

##### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as young soldier in the Korean War, I was honored to follow in the footsteps of many Blacks in the military who exhibited extraordinary heroism and patriotism abroad despite facing discrimination and challenges at home. I would not be where I am today if it were not for my service in the Army. During our annual celebration of Black History Month, I would like to honor an unsung hero from West Philadelphia named Waverly "Woody" Woodson, Jr., who served as a young medic of World War II.

This summer will mark the 72nd anniversary of the historic D-Day invasion of World War II. Nearly three-quarters of a century later the event is still revered by all Americans as an example of our military's strength and bravery. However, the life-risking efforts of thousands of Black veterans from the war have gone unnoticed.

The 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, a unit of all-Black soldiers, landed in France ahead of the main invasion force. The battalion's job was to deploy and man an aerial barrage of massive helium-filled balloons to protect the American forces from enemy bomber airplanes. The balloons forced enemy pilots to fly their planes at higher altitudes to avoid becoming entangled and made it harder to effectively aim their bombs.

Among the 320th was Waverly Woodson, who enlisted in the Army on Dec. 15, 1942, during his second year of his pre-medical studies. He did not wait to be called by the draft; rather he decided to sacrifice his career, comfort and life for his country and the world. Woodson's enlistment placed him in the Anti-Artillery Officer Candidate School but he was told upon completion of his training that there was no spot open for him. Instead, he was sent for medic training with the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion. He was one of five medics aboard a Landing Craft Tank that left England on June 5, 1944, for a ninety-mile journey towards Omaha Beach.

Waverly's voyage on June 6, 1944, was commenced by a violent charge towards the shore. Along with his unit, Waverly valiantly stormed Omaha Beach in the midst of mines, mortar shells and heavy ammunition, with eyes fixed upon the mission of freedom that lay ahead. As a medic, Army Corporal Waverly Woodson Jr. risked his life to save the crippled and bleeding out American warriors clinging to their last thread of consciousness. He patched and resuscitated dozens if not hundreds of soldiers while he himself was

wounded by the shrapnel ripping away at his legs. Woodson's determined efforts directly influenced the result of this battle.

Though he was segregated into a racially organized regiment, he saved the lives of numerous soldiers regardless of their skin color. Woody would later say, on that day "they didn't care what my skin color was" and obviously he did not care either. He was bonded to his men by the camaraderie that only war can provoke and a steadfast allegiance to defending the greatest country in the world. His dedication broke down racial divides that day, and this is history that truly deserves recognition.

Woodson was previously nominated for the Medal of Honor, but he never received it. Instead, he was given the Bronze Star, the fourth-highest military honor. There exists no record of what happened to his nomination for the Medal of Honor. Not one of the thousands of Black soldiers who served in World War II received a Medal of Honor in the immediate wake of the war. Something is detrimentally wrong with that.

However, we can always remedy the mistakes of our past. In 1995, I was honored to bring Waverly Woodson and a group of African-American World War II veterans to the floor of the House Chamber and recognize these unsung heroes for their forgotten service. As a veteran myself, I was moved to see that their sacrifice was no longer overlooked but there is more work that we must do.

Black History Month must continue to play a pivotal role in helping all of us remember, preserve, and honor the accomplishments and contributions of the Black leaders of America. The annual celebration serves as a poignant reminder of how much Black history has been lost, forgotten, or in some cases, deliberately erased from the record. The nation's commemoration of Black history is not for the Black community alone, but for our collective and cohesive recognition of American history as a whole.

#### NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS—ELIZABETH ORTIZ

##### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Elizabeth Ortiz from Katy, TX for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists to represent the state of Texas at the Congress of Future Science and Technology leaders.

Elizabeth attends Cinco Ranch High School and is one of 13 high school honor students selected from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas. These students were selected as Texas delegates at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. This program was designed for high school students to be recognized for their hard work in school, as well as to support their aspirations of working in a science or technology field. The National Academy was founded by Richard Rossi and Dr. Robert Darling; Mr. Rossi currently serves as president. The Congress is being held at the Tsongas Center at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell from