

HONORING MRS. LATONYA
WILLIAMS-BRADLEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable entrepreneur, Mrs. LaTonya Williams-Bradley.

Strands of long, black locks fell effortlessly onto the floor as a pair of young eyes looked on eagerly—carefully observing the technique of the hands behind the shears that snipped away to create a new, edgy look.

Mrs. Williams-Bradley of Cleveland watched intently as her mother cut, washed and curled mane after mane, building a strong clientele at her Rosedale salon.

She remembers while sitting and observing her mother at her salon as a child, that she desired to follow in her mother's footsteps and become a hair stylist.

But, what she didn't know was that she would also become an agent, to help others do the same, as owner and CEO of Goshen School of Cosmetology in Cleveland, Mississippi.

As a single parent Mrs. Williams-Bradley received her cosmetology education at Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, Mississippi, where she graduated in 2006.

After passing the state licensure to become a licensed cosmetologist, Mrs. Williams-Bradley returned to Coahoma Community College to further her cosmetology career to become a cosmetology instructor and completed that course of study in 2009. She was immediately offered the opportunity to become a cosmetology instructor at Coahoma Community College.

After working at Coahoma Community College she worked at Blue Cliff College in Gulfport, Mississippi as a cosmetology instructor.

During her tenure as an instructor she decided that it was time to pursue her dream of owning her salon and began researching entrepreneurship practices and opportunities, eventually, deciding it was time to pursue her dream of one day opening her own salon. In 2011, she opened Goshen Salon and Boutique in Cleveland, Mississippi. She chose the biblical name Goshen because it is a land of plenty, comfort and growth in Egypt. On July 29, 2013 she opened Goshen School of Cosmetology with a core curriculum and institution designed to promote growth, increase and comfort.

Now, what was once the dream of a little girl has become a reality. Mrs. Williams-Bradley has enjoyed substantial success in the exciting field of cosmetology. Where over the last nine-years she owned and managed two successful hair salons while teaching at two colleges, inspired numerous students to strive for excellence and to achieve their maximum potential.

The motto she shares with others is "Whatever is your passion and your heart's desire—pursue it and be the best at it and believe that there is nothing too hard for God."

Mrs. Williams-Bradley is married to Tony Bradley and has four children: Teara, Tamaryea, Zira and Lauren. She is the daughter of Freddie and Barbara Graham and has two (2) siblings: Erica Jackson and Beauty Braham.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing entrepreneur.

HONORING ROGER LINDSEY

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Roger Lindsey for his time and service to Cabool, Missouri. Roger has been an active member of the community and has shown great integrity and perseverance throughout his banking career.

Roger started as a Cabool State Bank custodian in 1962 while he was still attending Cabool High School. He later became a teller, then a cashier and treasurer. In 1998 he became President of the bank, holding that position until retirement. His story exemplifies the American dream, and he was shown that hard work and determination reap great rewards.

Roger also holds various titles within the community. He is the Past President of the Cabool Chamber of Commerce, Past President of the Cabool Alumni Association, and Past President of the Twin Cities Industrial Corporation. He is the Treasurer of the Gentry Residential Treatment Center Community Liaison Council, a member of the Cabool Athletic Booster Club, a member of the Cabool Votec advisory board, and a former coach for youth baseball leagues.

His involvement and contributions to the Cabool community serve as a great example for all Missourians. For his outstanding career and community achievements, it is my pleasure to recognize Roger Lindsey before the United States House of Representatives.

ENRIQUE ARCILLA WINS MOJAVE
WATER AGENCY ESSAY CONTEST

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Apple Valley, California resident Enrique Arcilla for earning first place in a student essay competition for the Mojave Water Agency. For winning the competition, Enrique will receive a \$5,000 scholarship.

The theme of the competition was "Predicting Our Future by Our Own Design," with a goal of increasing discussion about ensuring water reliability in the High Desert. Enrique's winning essay was titled "The Path to Sustainability."

On April 13, 2016, Enrique will present his essay at the 2016 High Desert Water Summit. Other finalists, who will receive \$1,000 scholarships, were Raeven Jones of Apple Valley, Nolan Serumaga of Victorville, Emilia Cloutman of Hesperia, and Geng-Wei Lee of Barstow.

Again, congratulations to Enrique and all the finalists on this impressive achievement and for their interest in water conservation. Water usage is a particularly important issue for my district and California as a whole. Keep up the great work.

6TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SMOLENSK DISASTER

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I join in acknowledging the sixth anniversary of the Smolensk Disaster, a tragedy that claimed the lives of Polish President Lech Kaczynski, his wife, Maria, and 94 others aboard a government aircraft on April 10, 2010. Among the victims were high-ranking generals and government officials, clergy, anti-communist leaders and the family members of victims enroute to a ceremony for the 1940 Katyn Forest Massacre. Also on the plane was one American citizen on an official mission for the City of Chicago. The crash at Smolensk North Military Airfield in western Russia is central to the event sponsored by the Commemoration Committee for the Smolensk Disaster and held at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. On Sunday, April 17, 2016 prayers will be offered for the souls of the 96 crash victims and honor those who served their country.

TRIBUTE TO SARA BONNEY

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 Sara Bonney 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.

Sara works as the director of marketing and communications at the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines. She works tirelessly to promote the story that the Community Foundation has to tell, making the city of Des Moines a better place. Sara has also dedicated her time and talents to her community outside of her professional life. She has served on the Blank Children's Hospital Festival of Trees and Lights Gala Committee, Greater Des Moines Partnership Communications Advisory Council, Polk County Housing Trust Fund Marketing Committee, and Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs Celebrate Iowa Gala Committee. She was taught at a young age that you get more when you give.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Sara in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great State of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the

United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Sara 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.

ESSAY BY INGRID WU

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 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.

Ingrid Wu attends Clements High School in Sugar Land, Texas. The essay topic is: What makes the political process in Congress so challenging?

One of the most challenging aspects of Congress is developing efficient communication. In our current political bill making process, as bills are passed along, discussed, voted, and decided on like a game of telephone. It may lose momentum and the vigor of one bill at the beginning of its life cycle wanes as time passes and it gets reviewed and revised over and over. Of course, when it comes to dealing with the laws of the country, everything should be reviewed with scrutiny; however, maintaining the life behind a bill is also important and a hard job of Congress.

Additionally, Congress is also met with difficulties regarding opposing opinions. In our current era, politics is something that is increasingly gaining popularity. We see it on TV talk shows, highway billboards, school posters, and even on daily consumer products. With America's two major parties—Republicans and Democrats—having such a profound influence on the opinions of society and, thus, politics, much is hindered. For example, just recently, Congress was met with the challenge of repealing the Affordable Care Act and, through this, the clash of ideals and beliefs caused the process to be in a standstill. Visibly, the repeated efforts of Congress went to vain. In recent years, the number of bills passed has been continuously decreasing. Compromising both sides of the political spectrum and creating a bill to encompass the beliefs if both sides is a necessary and difficult responsibility of Congress. One reason why such a situation is happening may be partially due to either the processes and weight of Congressional action but also the unwillingness of both branches and the party backing the majority of both the cede in some areas and the lack of constraints, especially time constraints.

Finally, another challenge of Congress is to understand the people's wants and needs, for understanding these subjects is a way to foresee which ways politics should lean and what exactly needs to be done. Through many different facets, even the Congress-

sional Youth Advisory Council, Congress has taken initiatives to seek the opinions and analyze the lives of individuals on a small scale. Through similar programs of community outreach and developing the next generation, Congress has made great effort to reign in this challenge.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ILLINOIS REPRESENTATIVE DAVID LEITCH

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Illinois State Representative David Leitch for his tireless contributions and dedication to public service in the State of Illinois.

Representative David Leitch, State Representative of the 73rd House District of Illinois and a resident of the 18th Congressional District, has dedicated nearly three decades serving his constituents in the Illinois General Assembly. His top-notch commitment to providing timely and effective constituent service to citizens has remained steadfast since he was sworn into office 27 years ago.

Representative Leitch has built a statewide reputation, establishing himself as a leader in matters pertaining to our health care system and especially mental health care in Illinois.

A primary focus of his work has been advocacy for establishing a strong community-based mental health system in our state. He convened providers beginning 15 years ago to form the Central Illinois Coalition for Mental Health Recovery. Among its accomplishments are a Mental Health Court, a psychiatric residency at the University of Illinois-College of Medicine in Peoria, and a Crisis Center designed to divert at-risk individuals to treatment rather than emergency rooms or jail. Most recently, he passed legislation enabling college students to allow their family to be notified in the event they are struggling with depression or suicidal thoughts and legislation which improves the inclusion of mental health services for older adults into primary care health settings. His outstanding advocacy on mental health and substance abuse issues has not gone unrecognized with accolades from the Heartland Health Services, a federally designated community health organization in Central Illinois, commending his life's work in the improvement of public health policy and his receipt of the statewide President's Award from the Community Behavioral Healthcare Association.

Outside of his advocacy on issues regarding mental health recovery, Rep. Leitch is credited with passing the first state law in the nation requiring insurance coverage for mammograms, he passed the first state law in the nation allowing for the collection of cord blood stem cells, he secured funding for the expansion of the Illinois Central College campus in East Peoria and arranged the acquisition of the ICC North campus in Peoria after the closure of Zeller Mental Health Center. Illinois Central College named the David R. Leitch Career Center in honor of his dedication to the community college. Nationally, he has received the Dr. Nathan Davis Award as State Legislator of the Year in the U.S. by the American Medical Association as well as over 75 other legislator of the year (or equivalent) awards.

Representative Leitch's steadfast work to improve the lives of citizens throughout our great state embodies the manner in which progress can be made for the greater good and citizens of Illinois. Rep. Leitch epitomizes the standard for which current—and future—public servants should strive to emulate to help improve lives within our communities.

It is with great honor that I have had the ability to call Representative Leitch not only a colleague but also a friend for many years. I want to congratulate him on his tireless advocacy for the mental health community and his dedicated service to the State of Illinois.

HONORING MIA WILLIAMS 2016 WASHINGTON STATE MIDDLE LEVEL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mia Williams, the principal of Aki Kurose Middle School, who has been recognized as the winner of the prestigious 2016 Washington State Middle Level Principal of the Year Award.

The Washington State Middle Level Principal of the Year Award, given by the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP), recognizes middle school principals who have an extraordinary impact on their students' academic success and who make great contributions to their profession. Ms. Williams stood out among a field of other highly eligible candidates.

Ms. Williams has been the principal at Aki Kurose Middle School in Rainier Beach since 2008. Since that time, she has worked tirelessly to ensure the success of her students by listening to their needs and adjusting policy and procedures based on their recommendations. Under Ms. Williams' leadership, test scores have consistently improved across the board for Aki Kurose students and continue to improve due to her persistence and continued dedication to her students. Since her arrival at Aki Kurose, the student population has grown from 420 students to 700 students. At the same time, Ms. Williams has overseen a 50 percent reduction in student absenteeism and has made progress on closing the opportunity gap. She has carefully cultivated an environment where students feel supported and capable of reaching their full potential.

Ms. Williams was a teacher in the Seattle School District before completing the Danforth Educational Leadership Program at the University of Washington to pursue her dream of serving as a principal. Her skills were recently recognized by the Johns Hopkins University's Everyone Graduates Center, who invited Ms. Williams to the White House to participate in a panel where she shared her knowledge about effective strategies to reduce chronic absenteeism.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize principal Mia Williams for earning the Washington State Middle Level Principal of the Year Award. She is an inspiration to all.