

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.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL  
COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Collegiate Honors Council on their 50th anniversary. The National Collegiate Honors Council serves over 325,000 honors scholars at over 800 colleges and universities, including Broward College in my district. Created in 1982, Broward College's Robert Elmore Honors Institute supports over 1,200 honor students annually.

Sixteen students from the college have been awarded the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, the second highest total in the Nation. Many of these scholarship recipients have gone on to be successful thinkers, working for companies such as Facebook.

In the words of founding director Dr. Mary Jo Henderson, "The essential worth of our honors programs is not resulting scholarship or award but the experience itself". I commend Broward College and the National Collegiate Honors Council for creating an experience that cultivates the leaders of tomorrow.

ESSAY BY EMILY JUE

**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.

Emily Jue attends Clear Springs High School in League City, Texas. The essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past year and explain how that event has changed/shaped our country.

An important event that occurred this past year was the legalization of same-sex marriage throughout the country. Thousands of Americans gathered in Washington D.C. to hear the ruling of the Supreme Court on same-sex marriage. On June 26, 2015 the Supreme Court declared through a vote of 5-4 that all Americans would be able to marry nationwide, no matter their gender or sexual orientation. This ruling made the United States the twenty-first country to legalize same-sex marriage and specifically affected thirteen states that had a ban on same-sex marriage. This momentous event brought a new civil right to the United States and a victory to gay rights advocates.

The legalization of same-sex marriage has changed our country by offering the privi-

lege of marriage to couples that are not the traditional "male and female" couples. Marriage offers a promise of love and commitment within couples and through the legalization of same-sex marriage, couples of the same-sex are able to give the same commitment and love that traditional male and female couples are able to give. The legalization of same-sex marriage in the United States also represents acceptance and equality to those in the LGBTQ community by offering these people the same civil rights as other citizens in the country have. By giving this fundamental freedom to couples of the same-sex, the United States is able to offer equality to all couples regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

The legalization of same-sex marriage has also changed our country by normalizing and bringing acceptance to those of the LGBTQ community. By allowing people in the LGBTQ community to marry, the United States fosters a sense of acceptance to these people who are sometimes treated with disrespect and contempt. Through accepting same-sex marriage, the United States accepts those in the LGBTQ community which is a step towards the equality for all people and has had momentous impacts on the United States. By legalizing same-sex marriage, the United States moves one step closer to equality for all people, regardless of gender or orientation, and offers a beacon of hope to those in the LGBTQ community and a means for acceptance.

TRIBUTE TO SOPHIA S. AHMAD

**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 Sophia S. Ahmad 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.

Sophia is the vice president of public relations at the Greater Des Moines Partnership and works tirelessly to develop and promote the overall image of Central Iowa. Her work proves that Central Iowa is a perfect place to build a business, career, and a family. Sophia is among the most dedicated leaders in the community. She has volunteered her time to the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute's Curriculum Committee, Winefest Des Moines' Grand Cru, Couture for a Cause, and a number of other local volunteer organizations. Not only does Sophia dedicate herself to her work and her community, in her spare time she likes to play piano, because she's a professionally trained classical pianist.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Sophia 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 Sophia 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.

FOURTH DISTRICT OF COLORADO  
DELEGATES AT THE CONGRESS  
OF FUTURE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LEADERS

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize nine high school students from the fourth district of Colorado, who have been chosen to represent the state of Colorado as delegates at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. The students are Christine Evans of Lyons Middle-Senior High School, Benjamin Gryboski of Dayspring Christian Academy, Brandon Lelievre of Windsor High School, Alessandra Linero of Chaparral High School, Crystal Pike of Valley High School, Courtney Ross of Yuma High School, Hannah Spain of Douglas County High School, Sara Stavaski of Rock Canyon High School, and Hanna Storey of Douglas County High School.

The Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders is an honors program that recognizes exceptional high school students who are pursuing careers as engineers, scientists, or technologists.

These students are the future leaders of the STEM fields and our country. Through their studies, they have embodied the meaning of hard work and perseverance to achieve their goals, and will advance science and technology for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to recognize these nine students for their hard work and service to their community. I wish them luck in their future endeavors.

HONORING CARR'S STEAKHOUSE

**HON. ED WHITFIELD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carr's Steakhouse in Mayfield, Kentucky, on receiving the National Restaurant Association's "Restaurant Neighbor Award." This award was established to honor restaurants in the field of outstanding community service and involvement. Carr's Steakhouse is among four national winners to receive this award during a gala dinner tonight here in Washington, D.C.

Though the Carr family has had extensive ties to the community through their BBQ business in town for more than 60 years, Carr's Steakhouse is only six years old but already has an impressive record of giving back. The restaurant hosts an All-Kids-In event that raises funds to assist children enrolling in youth sports and activities, regardless of a