

HONORING SUNFLOWER COUNTY
FREEDOM PROJECT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable organization, Sunflower County Freedom Project.

Founded in 1998, the Sunflower County Freedom Project was started by three Teach for America teachers who saw a need for an educational program in the Mississippi Delta that would challenge and engage young people in the area. Initially, the organization was a summer program at Mississippi Delta Community College that grew into a year-round program at the University of Mississippi. In 2002, the organization purchased the LEAD Center in Sunflower, which houses all of their programs. They target students in Sunflower County to complete a six-year fellowship with the organization beginning with the summer before they begin seventh grade. The overall goal is to have 100 percent of their "fellows", also known as students, go on to enroll in four year colleges and universities. To this date they have met that goal.

The Freedom Project is for students in 7th–12th grade who want to discipline themselves into becoming leaders in their homes, schools and communities. The middle school students partake in Freedom Summer, which is named for and rooted in the Civil Rights history of Freedom Summer '64. The high school students can participate in ACT Camp or summer opportunities around the country including Phillips Exeter Summer Academy and Explo at Yale University.

We seek to provide students with opportunities and challenges that will allow them to grow and mature into leaders for the Mississippi Delta. Our multi-faceted approach includes rigorous academic work, arts enrichment, fitness and wellness training, educational travel and character development for every student. We travel the country, live in college dorm rooms, and camp in the wilderness to develop our students and enrich their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sunflower County Freedom Project for its dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

PREMIUM PANELS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Premium Panel for receiving a Business Recognition Award from the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation.

The Business Recognition Award is given to companies that show growth in primary employment, sales and/or capital investment in the last year. Premium Panels is a family-owned and operated metal roofing manufacturer and custom sheet metal fabricator in Arvada. The company specializes in concealed

fastener standing seam metal roofing panels, wall panels and also provides aggregate panels.

In 2015, Premium Panels expanded to a 30,000 square foot facility in Arvada and has more than doubled the size of its manufacturing facility space and employment.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Premium Panels for this well-deserved recognition by Jefferson County EDC. Thank you for your contributions to the Jefferson County economy and community.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE
SCIENTISTS AND TECH-
NOLOGISTS—MICHAEL SPORKIN

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael Sporkin 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.

Michael 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 June 29th through July 1st. Michael was selected by a group of educators to be a delegate for the Congress thanks to his dedication to his academic success and goals of pursuing science or technology. We are proud of Michael and all of his hard work, and know he will make Katy proud.

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

TRIBUTE TO DYLAN LAMPE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dylan Lampe 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.

As the Manager of Administration Training and Quality Control at the Sammons Financial group, Dylan is responsible for improving the practices and training of his division. He is dedicated to providing a work environment where his co-workers can be happy and enjoy coming to work every day. Dylan is also passionate about giving back to his community and serves on a number of boards and committees including: Winefest Des Moines, Des Moines Community Playhouse, Downtown Neighborhood Association, and Food Bank of Iowa, to name a few.

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

BORINQUENEERS CONGRESSIONAL
GOLD MEDAL AWARD

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the privilege of participating in the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony in honor of the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers. I want to once again express my most heartfelt congratulations to the Regiment on this important and long overdue recognition.

This all-volunteer Puerto Rican unit, of more than 100,000 soldiers, served in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. The Borinqueneers have been recognized with one Medal of Honor, 10 Distinguished Service Crosses, more than 250 Silver Stars, over 600 Bronze Stars, and nearly 3,000 Purple Hearts. Yesterday, they receive the highest award Congress can bestow.

Hundreds of these veterans and their families have made my district in Central Florida their home. I am honored to have been a co-sponsor of the legislation that finally awarded them the Congressional Gold Medal. I am also proud to have urged the President to expedite the striking of their Medal, and in accordance with Public Law No. 113–120, a single gold medal was struck to honor the 65th Infantry Regiment.

This medal honors the lives of soldiers like Richard Acosta, a resident of my district. Originally from Arroyo, Puerto Rico, Mr. Acosta bravely fought on the front lines during the Battle of Outpost Kelly in Korea. He recounts how he almost lost his life when his rifle jammed in the middle of the battle and when he went to go inform his Lieutenant, he felt the whizzing sound of bullets that narrowly passed within inches of his head. Immediately taking cover, Mr. Acosta continued to battle without a

rifle until he was able to reach his Lieutenant to get a new one.

Similarly, the Freytes-Ménendez Brothers, Celio, Erasto, and Anibal, were among the first U.S. troops to engage the enemy when they landed in Korea. Dennis Freytes, son of Celio Freytes-Ménendez and an advocate for veterans in my district, recounts how his father, who served in World War II and Korea, survived a mortar shot that landed in a foxhole he had just left, which sadly killed four of his fellow Borinqueneers. For his heroism, Freytes-Ménendez was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Bronze Star for Valor.

I've heard countless stories of many brave Borinqueneers who did not come back home. Rafael Sanchez Saliva, whose family lives in my district, served in the 65th Infantry Regiment in Puerto Rico and later in the U.S. Army Ranger Regiment. He served two tours in Korea and was tragically killed in action by a tank mine while serving in Vietnam.

Puerto Ricans have fought for the United States as far back as the American Revolution, and continue to do so honorably to this day. Thousands have given their lives defending our values of freedom, justice, and equality, despite enduring decades of segregation and second-class treatment.

It was a privilege to have joined the Borinqueneers on a day of recognition and remembrance as our nation honored their pioneering military service, devotion to duty, and many acts of valor in the face of adversity.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to law enforcement men and women who have provided distinctive service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

Law enforcement is a demanding profession that requires sacrifice, courage and a dedication to serve others. Every day, brave men and women put themselves in harm's way to enforce the laws of our society and protect public safety. They deserve our gratitude and respect.

Five years ago, I established the 16th District Congressional Law Enforcement Awards, CLEA, to give special recognition to law enforcement officers, departments, or units for exceptional achievement.

This year, I will present congressional law enforcement awards to the following winners chosen by an independent panel comprised of current and retired law enforcement personnel representing a cross-section of the district's law enforcement community.

Deputy Billie Wilson of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office and Officer Kenneth Simunovic of the Bradenton Police Department will receive the Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award.

Officer Tim Matthews of the Palmetto Police Department, Officer Michael Walker of the Holmes Beach Police Department, Sergeant Demetri Konstantopoulos of the Sarasota Police Department, Sergeant Donald Kennard of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office and Detective Jason Friday will receive the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

Lieutenant Johnny Yong of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, Sergeant Matt Kintigh of the North Port Police Department and Trooper Barbara Ehrhart of the Florida Highway Patrol will receive the Career Service Award.

The following Members of the Sarasota Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team: Captain Kevin Stiff, Lieutenant Lori Jaress, Sergeant Michael "Richie" Schwieterman, Officers David Dubendorf, Matthew Kimball, Matthew Grochowski, Jonathan Misiewicz along with Case Managers Sherree Brown, Calvin Collins and Joseph Polzak will receive the Unit Citation Award.

Officer John Parisi of the North Port Police Department will receive the Preservation of Life Award.

Leaders of the Harvest House in Sarasota; Pastor Jim Minor and Executive Director Erin Minor will receive the Associate Service Award.

STOPPING RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AGAINST NATO ALLIES

HON. THOMAS MACARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a disturbing trend that deserves increased scrutiny in the wake of Russia's growing aggression on its southern and western borders. Recently, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg met with members of the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees to discuss how to counter an assertive Russia, a phenomenon he describes as "a chief threat."

Recent events have led some to question the relevance of the NATO alliance. Indeed, designations that NATO is obsolete have sparked an international debate about the significance of the 28-member defense alliance—one that has drawn the focus of our nation's top military leaders who have been stalwart in their defense of its importance.

Russia's aggression has also put increased pressure on our NATO ally Turkey. In recent years Turkey has witnessed aggression to its north in Crimea and Ukraine, to the south in Syria, and in Georgia to its east. This has all been part of a larger Russian strategy to put pressure on NATO's perimeter in an attempt to solidify regional control.

Turkey lies in the invaluable strategic location as the gateway between Europe and the Middle East. Now is the time for the United States to show strong support for all of our NATO allies, and especially Turkey. Vladimir Putin understands only one thing and this is strength. If we don't stand with our allies now and show strength, then Putin will continue to display regional aggression and ultimately may threaten one of our NATO allies. We must stand with our allies now, more than ever, to ensure that security in the region is maintained and U.S. interests are secured.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TYRONE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the Tyrone Chamber of Commerce of Tyrone, Pennsylvania. The Chamber, which was started as the Tyrone Business Men's Association, today boasts 207 members and continues to grow.

Since its founding, the Tyrone Chamber has been instrumental in advancing countless infrastructure projects and backing the World Metric Standardization Act. Other achievements include introducing a higher standard of education in the borough and improving school playground equipment, train facilities, and critical surface transportation infrastructure.

Thanks to the Chamber, Tyrone was able to secure the Reliance of Manufacturing Company in 1933 and the Chicago Rivet and Machine Company in 1948. More recently, the organization has assisted with opening the branch office of the Blair County Motor Club (A.A.A.), erecting the "Welcome to Tyrone" signs at the entrances into Tyrone, and sponsoring the Tyrone Community Improvement Association in its efforts in the Pennsylvania State Chamber of Commerce sponsored Community Development contest. Their motto from 1916 still rings true today, as the Chamber truly does work for a "Bigger and Better and Busier Tyrone."

It gives me great pleasure to recognize the 100-year history and the promising future of the Tyrone Chamber of Commerce. I know that in the years ahead, they will continue to serve the community proudly and advance the commercial, industrial, agricultural and civic interests of Tyrone.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DAVID A. CHASE, AS HE PREPARES TO RETIRE AFTER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES NAVY AND TO OUR NATION

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the incredible service of Captain David A. Chase, as he prepares to retire after 30 years of Commissioned Service to the United States Navy and for his extraordinary dedication to duty and to the United States of America.

I have worked with Captain Chase personally over the past three years in his capacity as Director of the Navy Appropriations Matters Office (FMBE) in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller), and I would like to share some highlights of his fine career.

Captain Chase graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1986 with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and received his commission through