

secure justice on their behalf and their safe return to their families.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN LAWSON

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Stephen Lawson, Team Leader at the Modesto Vet Center, for his nine years of outstanding service to our nation's heroes and the Modesto community. Stephen has announced that he will be retiring on April 29, 2016.

In 1969, Stephen enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served as a Corpsman. After being honorably discharged in 1973 he found his home in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley, in Merced California.

After his service in the military, Stephen's first job was at the Merced College Veterans Office where he found a position working with veterans returning home and was in charge of the Outreach and Peer counseling. In this capacity, Stephen provided outstanding service to many veterans who were in need of his help and guidance.

In 1984, Stephen graduated from Fresno State University with a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Psychology. He found a passion in helping his fellow veterans and furthered his career by working as a Rehabilitation Counselor at a large counseling firm.

Eventually, Stephen started Lawson Professional Counseling Corp. Under his leadership, the company grew to 50 employees and 10 offices throughout the Central Valley. On November 19, 2007, Stephen began at the Modesto Vet Center and was appointed Team Leader. Stephen always aimed to assure that veterans received the highest standard of care.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Stephen Lawson for his many years of service and outstanding contributions to the veteran community as well as our country.

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR ROBERT SEIDLER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the remarkable Arthur "Art" Robert Seidler who passed away in California on Wednesday, March 30, 2016. Art was a pillar of the community in Corona, California, and he will be deeply missed.

As a child, Art moved from Chicago, Illinois, to Glen Avon in Riverside County, California. After attending Riverside Poly High School, Art enlisted in the Army Air Corps in March of 1942, where he would ultimately fly B25 Medium Range bomber planes. In a highlight of his time in military service, Art was given orders to fly a brand new B25 from San Francisco to Hawaii, where it would be outfitted for combat. Art immediately flew the new plane and buzzed the house of his girlfriend Patricia Smith, who later became his wife and mother to his three children Kurt, Trudy, and Robert.

Following his military service, Art went to college at the University of Southern California where he obtained an undergraduate degree in business and a law degree. After passing the California State Bar, Art worked for the Riverside District Attorney and later joined the Ganahl and Ganahl law firm in Corona. Eventually Art started his own law practice alongside his son, Kurt, where he practiced law for the next thirty-six years. As an active member of the Corona community, Art was a dedicated member of the Corona Elks Club on East Sixth.

The way in which Art lived his life should serve as a reminder that the power of an individual with drive, perseverance and a strong work-ethic can do great things. His dedication to his work, family, and community are a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I was proud to call Art my friend and I will deeply miss him. I extend my condolences to Art's family and friends; although Art may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remains and will never be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 141, had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

RECOGNIZING RECIPIENTS OF THE IOWA RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION'S FIRST QUARTER 2016 STARS OF HOSPITALITY PROGRAM

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Matthew Rumeliote, Pam Bartholomew, Cindy Papouchis and Donna Meacham with Northwestern Steakhouse, Mason City. These four outstanding individuals are recipients of the Iowa Restaurant Association's First Quarter 2016 Stars of Hospitality Program.

The Iowa Restaurant Association's Stars of Hospitality Program celebrates individuals who have made a career in the restaurant by working at a single establishment and/or for a specific company for more than 20 years. The Program recognizes the importance of these team members to their employer, while also celebrating the professionalism they display daily.

In a meeting in my Washington, D.C. office, I was told about the perseverance and work ethic of the recipients. The stories brought a smile to my face because wherever we go, in-state, out-of-state or abroad, Iowans are well-known for their hard work and pull yourself up by your bootstraps mentality.

I am also grateful to the numerous restaurants across our state and our nation that provide varied opportunities, good-paying jobs and upward mobility for millions of Americans.

The contribution these businesses make to our market and culture should be acknowledged by all and remembered by lawmakers when we craft policy that impacts the restaurant industry. Overly zealous regulation that harms hardworking business also diminishes opportunities for hardworking individuals, those like Matthew, Pam, Cindy and Donna.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for these individuals, businesses and the opportunity to recognize American success. In our nation, if you work hard, you can accomplish much. We need to make sure it stays that way.

REED GROUP

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 Reed Group 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. Providing extended leave management services for public and private organizations, the company helps organizations reduce the cost, compliance risk and complexity of employee absence. Its products and services address FMLA, ADA, state and other leave laws, worker's compensation and short-term and long-term disability programs.

Currently, Reed Group employs 530 people nationwide including 442 people at its headquarters in Westminster. The ever-changing business environment means more employers are actively managing employee absence as a way to improve operations and drive better results. Because of this, Reed Group is planning to add an additional 150 employees over the next 3-5 years. During 2015, the company hired 77 employees, which included nurses, IT specialists and customer service representatives. In 2016, due to a major acquisition, the company will add another 200 employees making it the second largest extended-leave management services provider in the nation.

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

ESSAY BY MARSHALL FOSTER

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 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.

Marshall Foster attends Dawson High School in Pearland, 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.

This past year, President Barack Obama signed a nuclear agreement with Iranian leaders and other world leaders that would lift economic sanctions off of Iran in return for Iran's compliance concerning nuclear activities. This deal was put into place under the extremely dangerous mindset that a bad deal is better than no deal. President Obama and his administration have basically written a large check to a corrupt Iranian government, a government that funds and harbors terrorists, in return for their compliance with the rules they are already supposed to be following.

This agreement severely weakens our great country and empowers Iran. We know that Iran is a radical Islamic state and yet this deal legitimizes Iran's nuclear program. We are now allowing Iran to continue to enrich uranium, after years of insisting they cease. The deal also allows Iran to keep over 6,000 centrifuges, something that will accelerate their capability to enrich the uranium. President Obama's promise that "if Iran cheats, the world will know it" is an empty one. Iran has proven time and time again that they have no problem violating agreements when it proves beneficial to them. Our inspections will most likely prove to be too little, too late to stop their illegal activities. In short, the deal provides only limited and unenforceable restraints on Iran's nuclear advancements while at the same time providing them with relief of economic sanctions.

The world is watching. This deal makes the United States of America, the country who should be viewed as the greatest power in the world, look weak. We have made a deal with a country led by a man who refers to us as "The Great Satan" and funds the terrorist groups that call for the destruction of our nation. Iran has continually shown that they do not want to establish peaceful relations with the United States while they are fighting their "Holy War" against the West. We are giving power to a country who is by most seen as our most unpredictable and biggest nuclear threat. Our president and his administration have jeopardized the safety of our own country, as well as the safety of our allies. However, when being optimistic, it is possible that this display of weakness shown by the current president will show the American people that we need a stronger and smarter Commander in Chief.

HONORING JERUSALEM OUTREACH CHILD & ADULT LEARNING CENTER

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 the Jerusalem Outreach Child and Adult Learning Center in Charleston, MS. It is locally referred to as JOCI (Jerusalem Outreach Center Incorporated).

JOCI was established as a nonprofit organization in the year 2000. JOCI was one of the partners in a county wide effort to provide service to citizens living in hard to reach and underserved communities in Tallahatchie County like Paynes and Glendora. JOCI's goal is to meet the educational and health and social welfare needs of both children and adults regardless of race. Their partner Glendora Economic and Community Development Corporation (GECDCo) focused on the development needs of the communities like housing, recreation, jobs, and more.

In order to achieve the above goals JOCI hosts health fairs and provides a long list of services. The services include, but are not limited to: personal counseling, referrals to outside resources, depending on the issue; social therapy for special needs clients; child care; after school care and services; educational classes; tutoring; and more. Since 2000, JOCI's record of achievement has attracted new partners to their effort: Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute, Quality Stars, the Department of Human Services, and the Tallahatchie Early Learning Alliance (TELA).

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Jerusalem Outreach Child & Adult Learning Center in Charleston, MS for their work in those hard to reach communities in Tallahatchie County, MS.

TRIBUTE TO NOREEN OTTO

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 Noreen Otto 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 Vice President for Government Relations at Hy-Vee, Noreen has been committed to helping stores across the Midwest be as successful as possible. Her drive to continuously learn more about her company, how it works, and how she can better serve it has led to her success. She is also a dedicated member of her community, as she serves on three separate nonprofit boards as well as recently being appointed to the Jasper County Board of Review. Her willingness to serve others and dedication to community involvement is a true testament to her Iowa values.

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

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 37TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, on April 10th, the United States and Taiwan celebrated the 37th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). This U.S. law, passed in 1979, codifies the enduring strength of the relationship between our two great peoples.

Taiwan is one of America's oldest and most dependable partners in Asia. The U.S.-Taiwan relationship is based on our shared values and our common interest in stability and prosperity in East Asia. Taiwan is a young democracy, but its people have built a prosperous and free society with strong institutions, worthy of emulation and envy.

I would also like to highlight that U.S.-Taiwan relations have been at its best since 1979, not only demonstrated at the government-to-government level, but also in grassroots and people-to-people connection. Just take our bilateral trade for example. Seven years ago this island of 23 million people was our 15th largest export partner. Now, Taiwan has grown to become our 9th largest overall trading partner and our 7th largest destination for agricultural exports. Also, Taiwan is the 5th largest export market for Asia in my home state of Tennessee. Moreover, Taiwan participated in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program in 2012. As a result, travel for business and pleasure from Taiwan to the United States jumped 35 percent in 2013 alone. With these robust and strong connections, I am not surprised that in the past three years there were 40 state legislative chambers that passed resolutions in support of our close relationship with Taiwan. I am proud that Tennessee was one of them and has the sister-state relationship with Taiwan.

As our focus on the Asia-Pacific increases, we will maintain our commitment to TRA and continue to support Taiwan's freedom, democracy, and economic prosperity.

IN HONOR OF THE WYOMING STATE SOCIETY, DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. CYNTHIA M. LUMMIS

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Wyoming State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, which will hold its one hundred and first annual conference on May 20-22, 2016 in Thermopolis,