

with the Distinguished School Award. As a result, North Panola High School received \$23,750.05 to further enhance the students' overall educational experience.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing North Panola High School for its dedication to serving our great state of Mississippi and country.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN RATHJEN

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 Susan Rathjen 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 and Private Banker at Bankers Trust, Susan has worked tirelessly to keep her company ahead of the curve on technological advances, especially those that can provide a smoother customer experience. She has also been dedicated to finding the best and brightest employees to help move the company forward. Susan is also passionately involved in advocating for those who suffer from mental illness and serves on the board of Goodwill Industries of Central Iowa. Her dedication to her work as well as to her community is a true testament to Susan's Iowa values.

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

THE RISE OF ISIS ESSAY BY MELISSA LEE

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.

Melissa Lee is a student from Sugar Land, Texas. The essay topic is: The rise of ISIS.

The United States has always been wary of the Middle East. With an almost decade-long occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan in addition to sanctions on Iran, America has attempted to delicately balance prevention of future attacks as well as peaceful relations with other world leaders. The U.S. has experienced unstable footing in this particular area due to untimely action and a lack of understanding of Middle Eastern culture. A series of terrorist attacks in Paris last year became a new spark to a longstanding debate of how to protect the nation, establish justice, and promote healthy ties with other countries. The attacks caused the U.S. to rethink its position on issues such as immigration and foreign policy. Though the bombings were tragic and a forever reminder of the darkness of human nature, they ignited a healthy dialogue about the future of America.

On November 13, 2015, three teams of radical men purportedly aligned with ISIS launched six attacks in and around Paris. One hundred thirty people were killed and many more injured. As the world watched the bloody scene unravel, many questioned the effectiveness of America's foreign policy. Should the U.S. crack down on the Islamic State and increase support for rebels fighting this extremist group? Or should it avoid interfering with the Middle East so as not to arouse anger or hatred towards America? Foreign policy assurances intended to assuage these fears proved empty as they turned out to be mere words than action. However, nobody raised an uproar; the Middle East seemed too far away and the carnage of terrorist attacks was too distant from the comforts of American life. But the U.S. received its wake-up call on December 2, 2015. A radicalized health department employee accompanied by his wife opened fire at a holiday party in San Bernardino, killing 14 and seriously injuring 22 people. The attackers had been inspired by foreign terrorist groups and had committed to jihadism. Suddenly, Americans realized the growing threat of extremists in the Middle East and the extent of their influence on Muslims around the world.

The Paris attacks followed by those in San Bernardino made it clear to a growing number of people that the danger of radical jihadists is not a distant problem. Many still want to turn their heads away from the tangled web of terrorism, corruption, ineffective peace talks, and false promises encountered overseas. But as Americans have observed acts of terrorism grow closer and closer to home, they are confronted with the emerging reality that, unless the U.S. takes action promptly, these threats will travel to its shores and mature into a monster of evil, killing the innocent and having no mercy upon those who do not hold the same beliefs as the terrorists.

DC GRAY'S BASEBALL TEAM

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the DC Gray's baseball team for being accepted to run Major League Baseball's (MLB) Reviving Baseball in the Inner City (RBI) Washington, D.C. program. The new initiative, "DC Grays RBI," will be a free middle school summer baseball and softball program for kids living in underserved communities in the District of Columbia.

The DC Grays is a talented collegiate summer baseball team that, in addition to competing in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League, strives to engage inner-city youth and their families with baseball. Their mission is to be "ambassadors for baseball" in the District by running summer baseball camps and clinics for D.C. youth.

The DC Grays' partnership with MLB will further help its mission of providing disadvantaged youth an opportunity to learn and enjoy the game of baseball. The programs help motivate young players to stay in school and pursue secondary education. MLB's RBI program helps teach youth not only the importance of success on the field but also in the classroom and the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in commending the DC Grays for the important work it has done and continues to do in the community. We wish it luck in continuing to inspire and engage disadvantaged youth.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 142, between a pair of procedural votes on the rule for H.R. 2666, I left the floor of the House to meet with a group of constituents from back home. Accordingly, after our visit I went back to the floor as quickly as I could, but when I returned time had expired.

Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

37TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT (TRA)

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 a very important day in U.S.-Taiwan relations. April 10th marked the 37th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). This important statute has been critical in defining the diplomatic, economic, and strategic relationship we have enjoyed with Taiwan over the last four decades. In 2015, Taiwan became the United States' ninth largest trading partner. The TRA has strengthened our relationship and helped to encourage a particularly strong economic partnership.

On March 30, 2016, Taiwan President Ma gave a speech at the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei (AmCham) Hsieh Nian Fan celebration. In his speech, President Ma pointed out that, in the U.S.-based *Global Finance* magazine's ratings of the world's richest countries from November of last year, Taiwan ranked 19th out of 185 countries worldwide. That put Taiwan right behind Germany, and far ahead of countries like France, Great Britain, Japan, and South Korea. And in the 2015 global competitiveness ratings published by the Institute of Management Development (IMD), based in Lausanne, Switzerland, Taiwan ranked 11th in the world, and third in the Asia-Pacific Region. Taiwan has created a thriving and innovative economy that most countries envy.

The growth of Taiwan is a living, breathing example that trade benefits humanity—and not just economically. President Ma highlighted the East China Sea Peace Initiative, which aimed to address sovereignty disputes in the region in 2012. Subsequently, in 2013, Taiwan signed a fisheries agreement with Japan. Both nations maintained their sovereignty while enhancing fishing rights, which resulted in a triple yield of catches. And that's good for a world in which the demand for fish keeps rising.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to a continuing successful cooperation between the United States and Taiwan. I am also confident that if we continue to enhance our economic relationship, this dynamic partnership that we've built together will not only last but also thrive in the future, working alongside one another to, as President Ma quipped, realize the day in which "The only one party which is not happy is the fish."

HONORING MEMBERS OF THE WINTERS MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND AND CHOIR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, we rise to recognize and honor the members of the Winters Middle School Band and Choir for their contribution to the designation ceremony of the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument by President Barack Obama on July 10, 2015.

This outstanding accomplishment was made possible by the tireless work of countless advocates. Their commitment to engaging friends, colleagues, local residents, businesses, stakeholders across the country, and policymakers in a coordinated effort to achieve permanent protection was critical to the establishment of the Monument.

Now, the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument may be counted among the hundreds of pristine parks across the country that represent America's most treasured public resources. The region's unique geological formations will play host for the world's scientists for years to come. Centuries-old archeological sites will draw curious historians and researchers as they piece together the stories of generations past. And avid bikers, hikers, campers, horsemen and women and sportsmen and women will be able to enjoy this landmark that is now forever open and accessible to outdoor

enthusiasts from Northern California and beyond.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument serves as proof of the value of the Antiquities Act and the power of the Executive to protect these lands in the face of inaction by Congress. After extensive input from interested parties and substantial evidence of this region's value, the Obama Administration honored the support of stakeholders, and the gravity of conservation.

The legacy of public lands is one of the most important we can leave for future generations. The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument is a critical piece of a preservation system that stretches from the Hawaiian Islands to the Maine Coast. We'd like to recognize the students of the Winters Middle School Band and—Jose Montes, Silverio Magallanes, David Rivas, Katie Johnson, Melina Mora, Jasmine Moore, Kamila Mora, Melesio Perez, Arthur Cueva, Rylie Schroeder, Easton Rivera, Paige Davis, Karina Echeverria, Joseph Aguiar, Emmett Edman, Braydon Winslow, Erika Contreas, Josef Iten, Victoria Banuelos, Fatima Guzman, Jacqueline Mendoza, Veronica Soria, Jason Lichwa, Alejandra Junez, Emily Aguiar, Maximiliano Reyes Barajas, Haley Compton, David Morris, Elle Palmer, Garrett Matheson, Kevin Garcia, Christian Sponsler, Alan Chavez, Molly Moore, Donovan Melendez, Lauren Gomez, Katie Medina, Mallory Layne, Ethan Berg, Emily Hoag, Valeria Ceja, Trinity Sponsler, Juan Blano, Ulises De La Cruz, Rose Kakutani, Stephanie Angel Lopez, Alex Herrera, Celeste Garcia, Victor Meledez, Lorenzo Arce, Jose Figueroa, Marcos del Toro, Lillian Wirth, Katie Pelletier, Kaylee Smith, Sierra Berry and Haley Archibeque—for their role in the Winters Middle School Band and Choir and their outstanding performance at the designation ceremony.

ROBERT GEHLER

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 Commerce City Attorney Robert Gehler for his decades of service to the City of Commerce City, Colorado. For over forty years Mr. Gehler has been active within the City, including helping to draft the city charter.

Originally from South Dakota, Mr. Gehler came to Colorado as a member of the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps at Rocky Mountain Arsenal in 1964. In 1965, ready to leave the Army, Mr. Gehler passed the Colorado Bar and joined the firm of Berger and Rothstein, whose office was just outside the west gate of the arsenal. He served as Assistant County Attorney for Adams County from 1965 to 1968. In January of 1968, he was sworn in as City Attorney at the request of then-Mayor Eli Koff. In 1970, residents voted overwhelmingly to become a home rule city, instead of a statutory city, and the process of adopting a city charter began. The charter, which guides how local government functions, was approved on its first vote but has only been amended five times since its adoption—one of the City's most memorable legal achievements.

I extend my deepest thanks to Robert Gehler for his service to the community. Thank you for your continuous dedication to serving the constituents of Commerce City, Colorado.

HONORING MASTER OF ARMS 1ST CLASS CARL S. RANDOLPH ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE NAVY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Master of Arms 1st Class Carl S. Randolph. He will be retiring from the Navy on May 1, 2016 after 22 years of dedicated service to our nation.

On July 10, 1995 Mr. Randolph joined the U.S. Navy and reported to Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois. After graduating from recruit training he attended Ships Serviceman Class A School where upon graduation, MA1 Randolph was assigned to the USS *Russell* DDG 59 in Pearl Harbor, HI. In 1996 and 1998, Randolph was deployed to the Northern Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Northern Watch. During his time assigned to the USS *Russell*, Petty Officer Randolph received numerous awards which included: a Maritime Unit Commendation, a Navy Unit Commendation, and a Meritorious Service Medal.

On March 20, 2000, MA1 Randolph reported to NTTC Pensacola, FL for Aviation Machinist Mate Class A School. After graduation, MA1 Randolph received orders and was then assigned to VF-211 at NAS Oceana in Virginia Beach, VA. MA1 Randolph was assigned to the USS *Stennis* CVN 76 and was deployed to the Northern Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Northern Watch. In August 10, 2001, MA1 Randolph was honorably discharged from active service duty to attend college. On December 18, 2004, MA1 Randolph graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree, in Criminal Justice and a minor concentration in Sociology, from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. MA1 Randolph began his employment as a Federal Police Officer for the Department of Veterans Affairs in St. Louis, Missouri, after graduation from college.

MA1 Randolph was voluntarily mobilized to Bagram Afghanistan for a Detainee Operation mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom on October 15, 2007. During this deployment, MA1 Randolph earned his Aviation Warfare Specialist Pin from VAQ 134. MA1 Randolph had numerous responsibilities during his deployment including: cell guard, escort guard, segregation cell guard, and main floor NCO.

MA1 Randolph was assigned to COMNAVFORKOREA Det D on February 7, 2012. Then on November 6, 2014, MA1 Randolph was assigned to NSWDG in Virginia Beach, VA. From there he was deployed to support AFRICOM and returned back to COMNAVFORKOREA Det D in November of 2015. Additionally, MA1 Randolph has completed numerous Navy schools: Small Arms Marksmanship Instructor, Security Reaction Force Advanced, Non-Lethal Weapons Instructor, Anti-Terrorism Training Supervisor,