

HONORING TROY HAGER

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Troy Hager who is being recognized with the Community Care Award by the Associated Parents Group of Hillsborough, California. Mr. Hager has been a highly respected and popular teacher in the Hillsborough City School District for 16 years. He not only values creativity and independence in his students, he fosters and instills these qualities in them.

Mr. Hager came to Crocker Middle as the new technology teacher in 1999. Within a year, he had a vision for what would become his signature class: a newscast produced, directed, anchored, reported and videotaped by the HTV Newsteam, a group of 7th and 8th graders. Hillsborough Television (HTV) already existed as a local access cable station broadcasting content such as important district information, school presentations, musicals, theatrical performances and events produced by the school district, but the idea of a newscast fully produced by students was new. Mr. Hager pitched the idea to the principal, got the green light and then went to work to build the studio—from scratch. He built Teleprompters, news sets and painted the walls. This is not exactly what you would expect of a technology teacher, so it is important to understand Mr. Hager's background. He grew up in Ventura without a TV. Instead, the family did projects where they turned a closet into a dark room, restored cars, and built cabinets and aquariums. As a child, Troy helped his father build several grandfather clocks. His wife Karen says he is a Renaissance man, just like his father.

Once the studio was built, Mr. Hager started teaching the class in 2000. Students compete to get in the class and submit applications, just like in the real television world. There are more than fifteen different jobs involved in producing the newscast and the students rotate so that they can learn every single job, but there is only one person who is teaching all of those skills: Mr. Hager. I had the great pleasure to see this extraordinary teacher at work when my children attended Crocker and were on the news team. They learned invaluable lessons and developed both technical and creative skills.

Mr. Hager was also one of the creators of the One-To-World Chromebook program at Crocker Middle School that began in 2011. It supplies students with their own laptops. His vision to prepare our children for the future in the digital world they will live and work in is characteristic of Mr. Hager. He is always one step ahead and constantly striving for excellence.

In addition to these outstanding accomplishments, Mr. Hager serves as an advisor to the Crocker Coding Club and a coach on the Executive Board of the Hillsborough American Youth Soccer Organization.

But Mr. Hager doesn't only serve the students. He also does the IT support for all of the teachers and staff at Crocker. Calls to repair broken or frozen computers are part of his every day. He welcomes those calls and sees them as opportunities to embrace technology. To him computers are interactive tools that

connect teachers and students and open up new channels of learning. He has the ideal temperament for his job; he is even-keeled, mellow and loves working with teenagers.

He and Karen, his wife of 19 years, have two teenagers of their own, Brooke who is 15 and Sage who is 13 and currently attending Crocker Middle School.

Troy Hager grew up in Ventura and attended Ventura High School. He received his Bachelor's degree in Psychology from UC Berkeley and his teaching credential from San Francisco State University. Before teaching at Crocker Middle School, he taught at Franldin Elementary School in Burlingame.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and the members of the House of Representatives rise with me to honor Troy Hager, an exceptional teacher and devoted husband and father. I can't think of a more deserving person to receive the 2016 Hillsborough Community Care award.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
LORRAINE BUSHROD JACKSON

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Lorraine Bushrod Jackson of Springfield, Virginia, and to commend her years of service to her church and community.

Mrs. Jackson has been a member of the Shiloh Baptist Church for 73 years, beginning in 1943. Shiloh Baptist Church is one of oldest churches in Northern Virginia and has been designated a historical site by the Fairfax County Historical Commission. At the age of 10, Mrs. Jackson joined the Shiloh Baptist Church. Her parents, Gladys Cordelia Bushrod and Courtney Bushrod were members and raised their family within the church community. Mrs. Jackson has remained a faithful member of Shiloh Baptist Church since that time, as have her three remaining siblings: Shirley, Gwendolyn, and Barbara.

For 35 years, from 1978 to 2013, Mrs. Jackson served as the Financial Secretary of Shiloh Baptist Church. When Mrs. Jackson first accepted the position of Financial Secretary she lived in Capitol Heights, Md., and traveled to Lorton regularly to perform her duties. She was truly dedicated and committed to doing her job and serving the church. While serving in this capacity, she implemented numerous enhancements that improved the functionality and financial reporting capabilities including establishment of a voucher system, creation of budget line items that allowed the various ministries to better track their funds, introduction of Church Plus Financial System for more accurate record keeping of member's donations and church expenses, and preparation of year-end statements to church members.

Mrs. Jackson has also served in other ministries over the years. She was an active missionary, as well as church historian and usher, and she served on a number of committees including the Hospitality Committee and Cemetery Committee. She also represented Shiloh Baptist Church on the Seeds of Independence Committee at Gunston Hall. Despite recent physical limitations, Mrs. Jackson is currently President of the (Primetimers) Senior Ministry.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Lorraine Bushrod Jackson epitomizes living one's faith through service to her church and the community. I commend Mrs. Jackson for her dedicated and faithful service to the Shiloh Baptist congregation and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on her many accomplishments and wishing her health, happiness, and success in all future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO SHANNON RUDOLPH  
UMTHUM

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Shannon Rudolph Umthum 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.

Shannon serves as the Designated Learning Officer at the VA Central Iowa Health Care Systems (VACIHCS). She is continuously working to find new ways to improve the services and employment provided by the VACIHCS. Shannon promotes a culture of learning and growth that attracts the best and brightest in her field. Her dedication to excellence has also followed her into her civic life. Shannon is currently a member of the Iowa Hospital Association Executive Academy of 2016 and also formed the very first Go Red for Women Event Committee and Iowa Stroke Task Force.

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

MAJORITY RULE BY RAHUL  
NAGVEKAR

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 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.

Rahul Nagvekar attends Dulles High School in Sugar Land, Texas. The essay topic is: majority rule.

Majority rule is an important principle in any democracy, but it is always crucial to preserve the rights of and consider ideas from minority factions. To improve our system of majority rule, I would seek to introduce legislation permitting binding nationwide referenda, consequently allowing proposals supported by an absolute majority of voters to be enacted independently of our party system.

Our current system of majority rule allows political factions to claim majority status even without the support of a numerical majority of voting-eligible Americans. In the last ten years, voter turnout has never exceeded 65% in a nationwide election. Even a party that wins 55% of the vote in an election with 65% turnout—almost always sufficient for a majority in a legislature or Electoral College—has been endorsed by just over 35% of eligible voters. Clearly, this does not indicate majority support for the winning party's policies and positions.

As an alternative, I believe America needs a nationwide petition-and-referendum system, some variant of which is already used in most states to consult voters about significant changes to legislation. Here is a basic framework for a nationwide referendum system, which can, if used correctly, bypass the party system and promote true majority rule:

1. Any voting-eligible American citizen can introduce a petition calling for a referendum, either to introduce a new law or to repeal an existing law. The petitioner should include the text of his or her proposed referendum question.

2. Once the petition is signed by 20% of all voting-eligible Americans, the proposal will be submitted to a Referendum Committee consisting of five constitutional law experts, all appointed by the Supreme Court. (The very high signature threshold should ensure that referenda are only used to resolve questions of genuine national importance.)

3. If the Referendum Committee unanimously concludes that the passage of the referendum will not violate the Constitution, the referendum question will appear on the ballot at the next available opportunity. Nationwide referenda will coincide with elections to the House of Representatives, but no more than three referendum questions will appear simultaneously on any national ballot.

4. If an absolute majority of voting-eligible Americans vote for the referendum proposal, the referendum will be binding and the proposal will be passed into law with a vote of Congress and the signature of the president.

This petition-and-referendum system enhance our current system of majority rule, first and foremost by allowing a proposal genuinely supported by a majority of voting-eligible Americans to be enacted into law even if it is not supported by the governing party. Additionally, by giving citizens a say in important national matters, a referendum system is likely to encourage increased turnout in future elections. I sincerely believe that this increased political participation

will lead to more vigorous debate, encouraging winning parties to consider ideas from their defeated opponents—making our majority rule system more functional and democratic.

RECOGNIZING THE OXNARD COLLEGE MEN'S SOCCER TEAM AS THE 2015 CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION STATE SOCCER CHAMPIONS

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2016

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Oxnard College Men's Soccer Team for winning the 2015 California Community College Athletic Association State Soccer Championship. I commend the entire Oxnard College community on this monumental achievement and victory.

It is important to recognize that the journey for the Oxnard College Men's Soccer Team began far before they stepped on the field to practice. For the majority of these young men, their soccer careers began as young children playing in youth sports for fun. It was only a mere dream that one day these men would grow up to play for their college team and win the state title. Under the outstanding leadership of Coach Ross Greaney, a former Oxnard College player himself, the team was led to victory through hard work and dedication throughout the season.

Beginning with their initial home game, the Oxnard Condors worked diligently throughout their season up until the championship game on December 6, 2015. The Condors ended their season with 19 wins, 4 losses, and 3 ties. Facing Evergreen Valley College at De Anza College in Cupertino, California for the State Championship may have felt like a dream at one point, but their successful season had prepared the Condors well for this challenge.

From over 300 miles away, the Oxnard College community cheered and vigilantly watched as Cristian Guzman scored the winning goal for the Condors in overtime with the final score of 2–1. Through their perseverance and teamwork, the Condors returned home as state champions.

Through their sportsmanship and commitment, the Oxnard Condors brought home Oxnard College's first state title in almost forty years. With a leadership team of Head Coach Ross Greaney, Assistant Coach Bryan Hill, Team Manager Marc Pinlac, and Student Manager Oscar Martinez, the Condors had a strong support system to become champions. I would like to recognize the 19 players who deserve recognition for their victory including Eduardo Garcia, Saul Higuera, Daniel Aguilar, Mario Sermeno, Ricky Arroyo, Jorge Jimenez, Edwin Elizarraraz, Gustavo Navarro, Fernando Hernandez Puga, Christian Guzman, Jerry Orozco, Raul Gonzalez, Luis Cabrera, Andres Herrera, Damian Lopez, Matias Lopez, Keifer Cooksey, Joseph Hernandez, and Sergio Equivel.

I am confident this hallmark achievement is only the beginning of many more to come for this team. For these reasons, I am pleased to express my sincere congratulations to the

Oxnard College Men's Soccer Team for this great victory.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2016

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on April 12, 2016 I was absent for recorded vote Number 139 and Number 140.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I were here:

On Roll Call Number 139 I would have voted yes.

On Roll Call Number 140 I would have voted yes.

RECOGNIZING THE 2016 TYSONS REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce and to congratulate the incoming 2016 board members.

Tysons has drastically transformed during the past 50 years. This change began when the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved plans for the Tysons Corner Shopping Center in 1962. When the mall opened in 1968, it was hailed as the largest enclosed mall in the world.

Since then, there has been a dramatic influx of technology companies, government contracting firms, and other corporations. Tysons has become the premier business district of the Washington Metropolitan Area and is the 12th largest employment center in the United States. With the recent opening of Metro's Silver Line and ongoing redevelopment, the region is expected to continue adding not only businesses but also high-density residential housing.

The mission of the Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce is to be the unified voice of the business community in the area while ensuring that its ties and commitment to the community are strengthened. The Chamber actively promotes local non-profits and community organizations, as well as youth educational programs, and it sponsors multiple events each year in support of these activities. The growth of the Chamber has been the result of the diversity of its members and the leadership of its Board. I am pleased to submit the following names of the incoming 2016 board members:

2016 Chairman of the Board: Lori Lopez  
2017 Incoming Chairman of the Board: Jeff DiMeglio

Incoming Board Members: William P. Daly, Jr., David MacGillivray, Peg McDermott, Stacy Bradford, Scott Finberg, Angela Inzerillo, Kathy Jensen, Kevin McCoy, Scott M. Ward, James Y. Boland, Carla Doyle, Matt Edgar, Maureen Loftus, Matt Evans, Jerry Ferguson, Shania Kapoor, Sopa Keo, Jeffrey B. Krashin, Shirley Luu, Cory Scott, Michele Weatherly, Peter Wynne, and Dean Xenos.