

and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Thomas Koizumi on the offer of his appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Thomas will excel during his career at the Military Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

#### TRIBUTE TO ALEX THOMSEN

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alex Thomsen of Underwood High School for winning the Class 1A, 126-pound bracket at the Iowa High School Athletic Association State Wrestling tournament on February 20, 2016.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Winning two state championships back to back is the culmination of years of hard work and commitment, not only on the part of Mr. Thomsen, but also his parents, his family and coaches.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Alex demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent him and his family in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Alex on competing in this rigorous competition and wishing him continued success in his education and high school wrestling career.

#### CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PRE-LAW PROGRAMS AT CARL WUNSCHER SR. HIGH SCHOOL

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on February 22, 2016, the Criminal Justice and Pre-Law Programs at Carl Wunsch Sr. High School, a Career Academy operating within my district, were selected for Advance Career Technical Education's (CTE) 2016 Excellence in Action Award in the Law Career Cluster. The following day, Harris County Sheriff Ron Hickman visited the campus Law Enforcement Explorers meeting to evaluate the programs and congratulate and encourage the students. Exemplary programs such as these cannot go unnoticed; Advance CTE understands this, which is why they honor and award programs who meet their high standards.

Advance CTE's Excellence in Action Award recognizes programs who "show a true progression from secondary to postsecondary education, provide meaningful work-based learning opportunities, and have a substantial and evidence-based impact on student achievement and success." Each program chosen for recognition is honored in an award

ceremony, in an active blog series, in a monthly Congressional newsletter, and in the 2015 Celebrating Innovations in Career Technical Education ceremony at the White House. Carl Wunsch Sr. High School's Criminal Justice and Pre-Law programs are deserving of all of these honors, but the programs wouldn't be where they are without the instructors who cultivated them.

Great programs reflect the experience and leadership of the instructors who run them. This could not be truer for Curtis Doss who heads up the Criminal Justice program and Mary Scherzer who directs the Pre-Law program. Mr. Doss has over 25 years of law enforcement experience serving in a myriad of roles. His career stretches as a U.S. Marshall, 8 years as a member of SWAT, as a member of the honor guard, as OIC of the national fugitive recovery unit, and as an undercover agent.

Instructors and programs like this develop our young men and women into competent, experienced graduates ready for their careers. Our criminal justice system is well served to have graduates of Carl Wunsch Sr. High operating within its ranks. It makes me proud to represent students and instructors who conduct themselves with such distinction.

And that is just the way it is.

#### IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JAMES RENEAU, JR. ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

#### HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that James Reneau, Jr. of Findlay, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

James' offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2020. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

James brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2020. While attending Findlay High School in Findlay, Ohio, James was a member of the National Honor Society, the Distinguished Honor Roll and a Scholar Athlete.

Throughout high school, James was a member of his school's football and track teams, serving as his teams' captain. He also volunteered with community youth sports teams and Special Olympics. I am confident that James will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating James Reneau, Jr. on the offer of his appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that James will excel during his career at the Naval Academy, and I ask

my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

#### THE VIRGINIA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP (VWIL) AT MARY BALDWIN COLLEGE

#### HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, the Sixth Congressional District of Virginia is home to a number of first-rate educational institutions. The Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership (VWIL) at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Va., is no exception. In addition to rigorous academic standards and leadership training, VWIL is the only all-female corps of cadets in the nation.

VWIL has been developing women leaders for 20 years through its elite program. Opened in 1995, VWIL is a public-private partnership with the Commonwealth of Virginia and Mary Baldwin College. This four-year program integrates academics, fitness, leadership development, ethics, and military training. Following graduation, VWIL cadets have the opportunity to receive a commission into any branch of the United States military.

The mission of VWIL over the past 20 years has been to prepare and develop women to become active and engaged leaders in the military, public service, and private sector. This is a mission they have lived up to today. VWIL demands that cadets achieve their highest level of performance, and that is seen clearly in the caliber of graduates produced by the program. To date, 382 women have graduated from the VWIL program. This community of alumnae has gone on to seek higher education as well as careers in a variety of fields, including government and management. Additionally, 130 graduates have been commissioned into military service. A VWIL alumna also made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. USAF 1Lt Sarah K. Small, a member of VWIL's Class of 2002, was killed in the line of duty in 2005 and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

On Friday, April 22, VWIL will hold a 20th Anniversary Parade and Awards Ceremony to commemorate the history and achievements of the Institute, honor the program's alumnae, and celebrate the future. I congratulate Brigadier General Teresa Djuric (USAF, Ret.), Commandant of Cadets, as well as faculty and staff, current cadets, and alumnae on this milestone. I wish VWIL many more years of success in developing future leaders.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF PATRICK J. SOLANO, RECIPIENT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN OF THE COMMONWEALTH AWARD

#### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrick J. Solano, who will receive the Distinguished Citizen of the Commonwealth Award on April 22, 2016 during the

118th annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Society. Since 1976, the Distinguished Citizen of the Commonwealth Award has been bestowed upon an individual whose actions have stood out in benefiting the Commonwealth. Mr. Solano is renowned across Pennsylvania for dedicating a lifetime of service to his country, state, and community.

A veteran of World War II, Mr. Solano was with the Eighth U.S. Air Force Heavy Bombardment Group from 1943 to 1946. Mr. Solano completed twenty-three combat missions aboard a B-17 named "Hangover." His valor earned him the Group Presidential Citation, the Air Force Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the European Combat Theatre Medal with two Bronze Stars.

Following his military service, Mr. Solano advised nine governors of Pennsylvania. He offered counsel to William Scranton, Raymond P. Shafer, Milton Shapp, Dick Thornburg, Robert P. Casey, Tom Ridge, Mark Schweiker, Ed Rendell, and Tom Corbett, as well as Pennsylvania State Senate Majority Leader Dominick Pileggi. Mr. Solano earned a reputation for working behind the scenes to find bipartisan solutions and funding for projects. In addition to advising Pennsylvania's chief executives, Mr. Solano served as Deputy Secretary for Parks and Forests at the Department of Environmental Resources and as the Acting Secretary of the then newly created Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

After forty years of service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Mr. Solano retired in 2002. Today, he resides in Hughestown with his wife Marie. They are the parents of six daughters and have eleven grandchildren.

It is an honor to recognize Patrick J. Solano for receiving the Distinguished Citizen of the Commonwealth Award. I am deeply grateful for his outstanding service to Pennsylvania.

#### TRINITY SETS THE PACE AT QUICK DRAW ART CONTEST

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Trinity Pace for winning first place in the 2016 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Quick Draw Art Contest.

Trinity is in eighth grade at St. Laurence Catholic School in Sugar Land, Texas. This talented student won both first place in the Quick Draw Art Contest and was also titled "Junior High Champion," where she earned a cash reward, scholarship to the Glassell Junior Art School, and finally a Junior High Gold Ribbon of Excellence. Out of 600 students who applied for the contest, only 26 were selected to move forward. The Houston Rodeo Art Programs have produced 50 years of talented students and phenomenal art. We are so proud of Trinity, and look forward to seeing the fantastic art she will create in her bright future.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Trinity for her success at the Quick Draw Art Contest at the Houston Rodeo. We can't wait to see what she does next.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
ANDREW HAMMOND ON HIS OFFER  
OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND  
THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
ACADEMY

#### HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Andrew Hammond of Van Wert, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Andrew's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2020. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Andrew brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2020. While attending Van Wert High School in Van Wert, Ohio, Andrew was a member of the National Honor Society, a Renaissance Program—Gold Card Recipient, a member of the Spanish Club, and a choir district participant.

Throughout high school, Andrew was a member of his school's wrestling and football teams, earning various awards. He was also active with Fellowship of Christian Athletes. I am confident that Andrew will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Andrew Hammond on the offer of his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Andrew will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

CONGRATULATING MEGAN Huddle ON RECEIVING THE BRIGHTON ASSEMBLY OF GOD'S GOLD MEDAL

#### HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Megan Huddle, who was recently honored with the Brighton Assembly of God's Gold Medal Award, the highest achievement in the Assemblies of God Girls Ministries program.

To be honored with the Brighton Assembly of God's Gold Medal is the culmination of a 13-year journey of devotion to God that begins in kindergarten and finishes at the end of high school. The Girls Ministries program strives to instill Christian values and virtues in the young women who will be the future of our nation.

To be honored with a gold medal, girls must go above and beyond the requirements for completing the five levels of clubs offered by the ministries. Medal awardees must also have read the Bible twice, the New Testament three times, memorized portions of scripture and have met weekly with a sponsor who helps to guide them spiritually.

Mr. Speaker, Megan Huddle has not only displayed an uncommon level of spiritual devotion during her time in the Girls Ministries program, but also a measure of determination and commitment that will undoubtedly serve her well through her life. On behalf of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District, I urge my colleagues in congratulating her on this well-earned achievement.

#### TRIBUTE TO SOUTHERN IOWA REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Southern Iowa Regional Housing Authority (SIRHA), Creston, Iowa on their 40-year anniversary. This is an important milestone in their history of service to southern Iowa and the Third Congressional District.

SIRHA provides rent assistance and rent subsidy to low income citizens, elderly and disabled persons of the Third Congressional District in Iowa. They also rent apartment units to citizens in communities that are scattered throughout a six-county area. SIRHA programs have helped to create a positive environment to promote self-sufficiency.

Mr. Speaker, throughout its many years of service, Southern Iowa Regional Housing Authority has successfully provided necessary services to the communities of Iowa's Third Congressional District. I congratulate SIRHA on this historic anniversary. It is an honor to represent its employees in the United States Congress. I wish SIRHA nothing but continued success for another 40 years and beyond.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
TREY SMITH ON HIS OFFER OF  
APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED  
STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

#### HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Trey Smith of Delphos, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Trey's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2020. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Trey brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming