

school has been a part of a school district that had been plagued by low test scores, violence and a negative school culture. The school district had been taken over by the state several times due to year after year of low test scores.

In July of 2011, Robert King, Conservator of the North Panola School District, hired Jamone Edwards as the principal of North Panola High School. Jamone Edwards, a graduate of Mississippi State University and The University of Mississippi, was the youngest principal the school had ever witnessed. He brought innovative ideas and worked tirelessly to increase teacher morale and create a positive school culture. Under his leadership and the staff's support, the school has made significant gains in the accountability model in which schools are rated. Prior to the new leadership, for many years the school was considered low performing and on academic watch. During his tenure, the school rose to Successful, which is equivalent to a C school. In the 2013–14 school year, Mr. Edwards led the school to its first ever High Performing Status, which is equivalent to a B school. This is a remarkable achievement as the school had never experienced such success and recognition.

Additionally, since 2010, the school has many successes to celebrate. The school's graduation rate was at an all-time low of 49 percent in 2010. Since that time, the graduation rate has risen to 73 percent for the 2013–14 academic school year. Currently, the high school is projected to have a graduation rate of 85 percent for the 2014–15 accountability rating. In addition, Algebra I and U.S. History subject area test scores have surpassed the state's average, and English II and Biology I state test scores are slightly trailing the state's average.

North Panola High School has also made significant improvement in preparing students for college and acquiring scholarships. In 2010, the mean ACT score was 14.8. Since that time, several students of North Panola High School has scored 20 or better on the ACT. In 2010, the high school graduating seniors had generated \$150,000 in scholarship monies. In 2014, the high school graduating class of approximately 80 students received in excess more that \$2 Million in scholarship monies creating more opportunities for our children to succeed in college and careers after high school.

In March 2015, North Panola High School received an award from the State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Carey M. Wright and the Mississippi Department of Education, for closing the achievement gap between black and white students in the area of English/Language Arts and Mathematics. North Panola was one of the only predominantly minority high schools to be recognized 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.

## UNITED PARCEL SERVICE (UPS)

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud United Parcel Service (UPS) for receiving the 2016 Commerce City Business of the Year Award.

The Business of the Year Award is given to a company showing leadership within its industry and the community. UPS has been in the Commerce City community for over 44 years and employs 2,700 people as the largest private-sector employer in the city. They recently added 90 full-time jobs and constructed a large high capacity Compressed Natural Gas fueling station for their local fleet of 300 UPS cars and tractors.

The employees at the UPS facility are an integral part of the transportation and logistics sector in Colorado and in the western U.S. but also an integral part of the local community. They give countless hours in volunteer services, donate to local charity programs and are stewards of the economy and the environment. They have assisted in many community projects including the relocation of the old Commerce City Civic Center to the new Historical Society Property, the renovation efforts in local schools, and the remodel of the Hope Center, which helps individuals with developmental disabilities and at-risk children and adults.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the United Parcel Service for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

**HONORING 41 PALM BEACH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ENLISTING IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES****HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 41 high school seniors from Palm Beach County, Florida for their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Armed Forces after graduating this year. Of these 41 enlistees, nineteen are Army enlistees, three are Army Reserves enlistees, eleven are Marine Corps enlistees, four are National Guard enlistees, and four are Navy enlistees.

These young men and women have demonstrated a tremendous sense of bravery and patriotism in their commitment to our nation. I am proud of them, this institution is proud of them, and their families, friends, and communities are proud of them. Their dedication reminds us that in the face of a diverse set of challenges, the United States remains an example of freedom, justice, and perseverance throughout the world.

I want to personally thank these 41 local graduating seniors for their commitment to our nation and recognize their selflessness. They are: Dylan Smith, Cristian Machuca, Bradley Scaccia, Denzel Persaud, Christon Fitzpatrick, Breana Williams, Jean Decime, Mark Brown, Shantel Johnson, Lashonda Darrisaw, Davarie McCarthy, Precious Montgomery, Emerson

Charles, Lawrence Hamilton, Mayco Saincere, Jahnuque Miller, Keisha Oreste, Reginald Mehu, Bailey Federer, Richard Rodriguez, Moses Louis-Charles, Joshua Brewer, Nicklaus Lawrence, Delinson Tomas Velasquez, Destinee Allen, Joshua Cruz Pozuelos, Joshua Wilkes, Oshane Wilson, Allen Gonzalez, Kristen Dodd, Luis Sepulveda, Wadson Dieujuste, Montus Desulma, Ian Little, Natalia Ruiz, Maikyria Lawson, Francis Fevrier, Cristy Guillen Beltre, Fritznick Thelusca, Carlos Gonzalez Vega, and Raja Pargan.

Mr. Speaker, our nation is blessed with the best trained and strongest fighting force in the world. We owe a debt of gratitude to each and every American serving in our armed forces, and to the many veterans who have served before them. Their spirit of service is something we can all be proud of. It is my distinct honor to recognize these young leaders here today, and to thank each of them for stepping forward on behalf of this great nation.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN****HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the National Association of University Women of Houston, Texas for hosting their 57th South Central Conference in serving young women.

The National Association of University Women (NAUW) was established in 1910 in Washington, DC by Mary Terrell, Dr. Sara Brown, and Mary Cromwell. The internationally known, non-profit organization directs their efforts toward young women, inspiring them to strive for success regardless of their circumstance. The NAUW works to accomplish this by granting high school seniors with scholarships and advocating women's rights, educational issues, and inspiring young women of tomorrow to make a difference. The 57th South Central Sectional Conference will be held from June 16th to the 18th at the Hilton Westchase Hotel in Houston, Texas.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the National Association of University Women for hosting their 57th South Central Conference in Houston. We appreciate their public service.

**IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN GREG KEITHLY****HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Captain Greg Keithly on his retirement from the United States Navy after thirty five years of dedicated service.

Captain Keithly enlisted in the Navy in July of 1981 and began his long career of loyal service to our nation. After his completion of U.S. Hull Maintenance Technician School at Treasure Island, California and later Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he would go on to serve

as a Hull Technician on the USS *McKee* and the USS *Fletcher* which was deployed to the Western Pacific.

Captain Keithly later attended the University of San Diego under the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps program where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations. Upon his graduation in 1989, Captain Keithly continued his career with the United States Navy as a commissioned officer.

Captain Keithly subsequently began his first fleet tour, during which he served aboard the USS *Kitty Hawk* in support of Operation Restore Hope in Somalia, as well as Operation Southern Watch in Iraq. Additionally, he completed a second tour duty in the Western Pacific.

His faithful service continued in 1997 with his assignment as the Squadron Training Officer and Operations Officer to the "Black Knights" of Atsugi, Japan. In December 2000, Captain Keithly moved on to serve as the Operations Officer for the Navy's first Super Hornet Fleet Replacement Squadron in Lemoore, California.

In July 2002, Captain Keithly furthered his education at the United States Naval War College located in Newport, Rhode Island where he received a master's degree. He simultaneously completed the Naval Operations Planners Course and was designated a Naval Operational Planner.

After his graduation from the Naval War College, Captain Keithly reported to the "Black Aces" where he diligently served as the Commanding Officer until July 2008. During his time with the "Black Aces," he was deployed twice onboard the USS *Nimitz* where he lead his squadron during combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Captain Keithly reported to the Third Fleet in August of 2008 and served in various roles including Chief of Plans, N5 Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans and Policy, and Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for the N5/N7.

In 2012, Captain Keithly was promoted to Deputy-Commander of the Strike Fighter Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet in Lemoore, California and he would soon thereafter assume full command of the largest type wing in the U.S. Navy. He would serve in this position until December 2014.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Captain Greg Keithly for his years of dedicated and unwavering service to the United States Navy.

#### DENVER MACHINE SHOP

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Denver Machine Shop for receiving the 2016 Commerce City Business on the Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses bringing new employment, growth in sales or new capital investment to the city in the last year. Denver Machine Shop is a fourth generation family business that was founded in 1916 and services the Rocky Mountain region in the mining, petroleum, and

manufacturing industries with replacement parts and heavy machinery rebuild services. They repair industrial machinery including heavy mining equipment, rock crushers, steel making production lines, food industry equipment, and sand and gravel screening equipment. In 2013, they moved to a 30,000 square feet facility allowing for a full service machine shop, welding service trucks, field machining, and welding capabilities. Since their move, they have hired eight new employees.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Denver Machine Shop for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,208,277,938,656.01. We've added \$8,581,400,889,742.93 to our debt in 7 years. This is over \$8.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### TRIBUTE TO ELVERA AND WENDELL JOHNSON

### 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 Elvera and Wendell Johnson of Red Oak, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 55th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their wedding anniversary on March 17, 2016.

Wendell and Elvera's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. It is because of Iowans like them that I'm proud to represent our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 55th year, weathering Iowa's many seasons in their lifelong journey. Much has changed since that spring day in 1961. It is with great pride that I wish them many more years together. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

#### RECOGNIZING HAZLETON LODGE NUMBER 200, BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF THE ELKS, UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to help commemorate the 125th Anniversary

of the establishment of the Hazleton Lodge Number 200, Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks. With its humble roots in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, the order was founded in 1891 and has continued to reflect the founding principles of charity, justice, and brotherhood. The Elks work to empower the communities around them through programs that help children grow up healthy and drug-free, institute projects that address local needs, and honor the service and sacrifice of our nation's veterans. Having been formally inducted into the club during my time as the mayor of Hazleton, I can attest first hand to the humanitarian and philanthropic services provided by the Elks.

With help from members of Philadelphia Lodge Number 2, Hazleton Lodge Number 200 was formally instituted in 1891 with the initiation of 26 members. Occupying several locations over the course of its history, Hazleton Lodge Number 200 settled into its current home in 1956. With such a vast network spanning across diverse communities, the Elks have exemplified an unwavering commitment to Pennsylvania as they continue to expand their membership and community services.

Deeply rooted in principle and character, Hazleton Lodge Number 200 embodies the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the U.S.A.'s motto, "Elks care and Elks share." Through 125 years of service to the Hazleton community, the Elks have encountered over a century's worth of diverse issues and unmet needs. Whether it was through youth programs, educational scholarships, aid to disabled children, food for the less fortunate, or due acknowledgement for our veterans, the Elks have raised the standard of living for all Pennsylvanians. The veterans committee hosts VA picnics and donates Christmas gifts to the veterans in the local nursing homes through the Veterans Christmas Giving Tree. The Flag Day Program salutes the flag, Boy Scouts, and veterans, with the ultimate goal of recognizing those that have sacrificed so much in the past, and to inspire the next generation of valiant leaders.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Hazleton Lodge Number 200, Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks as it celebrates its 125th anniversary. On behalf of a grateful community, I wish to thank the Elks Lodge and its members for their tireless service to the community and unwavering commitment to our nation's veterans.

#### COMMERCE CITY FAMILY DENTIST

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Commerce City Family Dentist for receiving the 2016 Commerce City Business on the Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses bringing new employment, growth in sales or new capital investment to the city in the last year. Commerce City Family Dentist is a woman- and minority-owned business that provides orthodontics, cosmetic dentistry, and pediatric dentistry in the Derby area. It has made an impact in Commerce City since the August 2012 opening, growing to 22 employees. Because they believe in giving back, Commerce City Family Dentist offers