

public service, but also for working to open doors for women, for minorities, and for those who may be underserved or underrepresented.

I congratulate her again on her well-earned retirement and wish her luck in her future endeavors.

EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS IN
MINNESOTA'S SIXTH

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the four businesses that received MetroNorth Chamber's 2015 Excellence in Business Awards last month.

Stepping Stone's Emergency Housing in Anoka received the not-for-profit award, Essentially Massage in Blaine received the 2015 micro-business of the year award, Schaaf Floral in Fridley received the small business award, and Walters Recycling and Refuse in Blaine received the general business award.

Opening and running a business is not an easy task, but it is definitely a worthwhile venture. One of the reasons Minnesota is so incredible is because of these types of award winning businesses. Not only do they bring commerce, jobs, and a great product or service to their area; but they also add a unique touch to the community.

I thank each and every one of the owners of these businesses for everything they contribute to our community, and I wish them nothing but success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Scranton, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary on April 23, 2016. Scranton has a long history of significant contributions to the economic, civic, and social development of our nation. The city was the center of America's anthracite coal industry, a major transport hub during the golden era of railroads, and home to the first electric streetcar.

In 1778, Isaac Tripp settled the village of Slocum Hollow in the Lackawanna Valley. With the founding of the Lackawanna Steel Company by Seldon and George Scranton in the 1840s, the small agrarian community rapidly transformed into a multicultural, industrial center responsible for producing T-rails, which were used to construct railroads all across the country. In February 1856, Scranton was officially established as a borough. On April 23, 1866, Scranton was incorporated as a city of 35,000 people and was merged with the neighboring communities of Hyde Park and Providence. When Lackawanna County was formed in 1878, Scranton was named as the county seat.

Today, Scranton is one of the largest metropolitan areas in the Commonwealth of Penn-

sylvania, with more than 75,000 citizens residing in the "Electric City." Many of the city's attractions, such as the Steamtown National Historic Site, Everhart Museum, and the Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour, commemorate Scranton's history as an industrial and cultural center. Scranton is home to a thriving, welcoming, diverse community committed to celebrating the ethnic heritage on which the city was built. It hosts one of the nation's largest St. Patrick's Day parades and La Festa Italiana. A hub for higher education, Scranton is also home to five colleges and universities: Marywood University, The University of Scranton, The Commonwealth Medical College, Lackawanna College, and Johnson College.

It is an honor to recognize Scranton on its sesquicentennial celebration. I am proud to represent a city so rich in history with so bright a future. May the citizens of Scranton honor their past with pride and look forward with confidence to great things as they celebrate the city's 150th anniversary.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE
SCIENTISTS AND TECH-
NOLOGISTS—CHANDLER GARRISON

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chandler Garrison from Pearland, TX for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists to represent the state of Texas at the Congress of Future Science and Technology leaders.

Chandler attends Glenda Dawson High School and is one of 13 high school honor students selected from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas. These students were selected as Texas delegates at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. This program was designed for high school students to be recognized for their hard work in school, as well as to support their aspirations of working in a science or technology field. The National Academy was founded by Richard Rossi and Dr. Robert Darling; Mr. Rossi currently serves as president. The Congress is being held at the Tsongas Center at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell from June 29th through July 1st. Chandler was selected by a group of educators to be a delegate for the Congress thanks to her dedication to her academic success and goals of pursuing science or technology. We are proud of Chandler and all of her hard work, and know she will make Pearland proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Chandler for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists. Keep up the great work.

RECOGNIZING THE FREEPORT
HIGH SCHOOL PRETZELS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Freeport High School in Freeport, Il-

linois, for their unique and historic mascot known as the "Pretzels."

Freeport has been known as "The Pretzel City" for over a hundred years, and Freeport High School's mascot helps reflect this tradition. The city's namesake serves as a reminder of its unique cultural heritage, in which early German immigrants brought over their love of pretzels to establish bakeries that helped introduce this staple into the United States. As the mother of three sons who were educated by our public schools, I am proud of the students of Freeport High School for their school spirit and continued enthusiasm in promoting this iconic mascot.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again recognize the Freeport "Pretzels" for the important role their mascot has played in defining this region over the years.

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
BEACH CITY

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Beach City, in Chambers County, Texas.

Located between Trinity Bay and San Jacinto River, Beach City sits about eight miles southeast of Baytown, in western Chambers County. Through the 1800s this area was host to a number of bayside settlements and camps, and many scenes from the struggle for Texas independence.

In March 1836, following the fall of the Alamo and massacre at Goliad, Gen. Sam Houston ordered a retreat known as The Runaway Scrape. On the way to join up with the fleeing Texian Army, the famed Twin Sisters cannons passed through present-day Beach City, just in time to provide Gen. Houston with the firepower necessary to defeat the Mexican Army, and secure Texas' independence at the Battle of San Jacinto.

By the 1960s, facing possible annexation by nearby Baytown, Beach City residents overwhelmingly voted to incorporate. On April 11, 1966, Beach City's nearly 500 permanent residents officially incorporated. Newly established, Beach City had its first election on May 21, 1966, where the people chose Eloice Jordan to serve as their first mayor. Billy Combs currently serves as the 11th mayor of Beach City, a position he has held since 2010.

It is my distinct honor to recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Beach City. May God bless Beach City even more richly in these next 50 years.

H.R. 4482, THE "SOUTHWEST BORDER SECURITY THREAT ASSESSMENT ACT OF 2016"

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office regarding H.R. 4482.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
U.S. CONGRESS,
Washington, DC, April 20, 2016.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 4482, the Southwest Border Security Threat Assessment Act of 2016.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Mark Grabowicz.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL.

Enclosure.

H.R. 4482—Southwest Border Security Threat Assessment Act of 2016

H.R. 4482 would require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to conduct an analysis of potential threats and security gaps along the southwest border of the United States. The bill also would require DHS, not later than June 30, 2017, to issue a strategic plan to protect U.S. borders. Based on information from DHS, CBO estimates that conducting analysis and preparing the strategic plan as required by H.R. 4482 would cost about \$1 million in 2017; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Because enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4482 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

H.R. 4482 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

CONGRATULATING THE WHITESIDE COUNTY AIRPORT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Whiteside County Airport in Rock Falls, IL, which has been recognized as the "2016 Illinois General Aviation Airport of the Year" by the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics.

This award recognizes the Whiteside County Airport for excellence based on a variety of criteria, including their service to the local community, safety record, and coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The airport and its staff have hosted numerous community events in recent years, including Boy Scout Camporees and several "Last Time" celebrations for historic aircraft. I applaud the efforts of Airport Manager Michael Dowell, along with the entire staff, for their commitment to excellence for the airport and its facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to congratulate the Whiteside County Airport and its staff for this remarkable achievement and I thank them for their service to our community.

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR
EDUCATORS

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate three educators from Minnesota's Sixth District who have been selected as finalists in the 2016 Teacher of the Year Program for our great state. There are currently eleven finalists that have been chosen from the 115 original Teacher of the Year candidates.

The finalists are Julie Beaver, a math teacher at Zimmerman Middle/High School, Joe Lawrence, a language arts teacher at Delano High School, and Erin Rehnblom, a teacher at Otsego Elementary School.

A good teacher opens doors, inspires curiosity and positively affects a child's life forever. They provide students with all tools necessary for them to reach the highest levels of success. That is why I am so grateful that there are awards like Minnesota Teacher of the Year, which guarantees that these individuals hard work does not go unnoticed.

Our children are this nation's future, and I thank Julie, Joe, and Erin for helping to ensure a bright one.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS AND PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE VOLUNTARY SEPARATION INCENTIVE PAYMENTS ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Courts and Public Defender Service Voluntary Separation Incentive Payments Act. The bill would make a minor change to the authorities of the District of Columbia Courts (D.C. Courts) and the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS), placing these entities in the same position as their federal counterparts for more effective management and operation.

The bill would give the D.C. Courts and PDS the same authority federal agencies and federal courts already have to offer voluntary separation incentive payments, or buyouts, to their employees. The fiscal year 2016 omnibus bill already gives D.C. Courts buyout authority—but my bill would make this authorization permanent, and would extend it to PDS in addition to the courts. Buyouts would allow the D.C. Courts and PDS to respond to their future administrative and budget needs, and would provide the flexibility to extend buyout offers to their employees.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has determined that voluntary separation incentive payments may be made only where statutorily authorized. While federal agencies and federal courts have the statutory authority to offer buyouts, PDS and the D.C. Courts have not been expressly permitted to permanently provide them to their employees. PDS and the D.C. Courts seek the same buyout authority in order to manage their

workforce as budget conditions and needs change.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO BOB MYERS AND PILLAR TECHNOLOGY GROUP

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Bob Myers, CEO of Pillar Technology Group for its innovative vision while creating Des Moines, Iowa's newest technology office space, aptly called "The Forge". The Ohio-based technology firm works with large companies to develop unique software for autonomous vehicles and "The Internet of Things."

Pillar Technology Group prides itself for being in direct competition to many of California's Silicon Valley firms, stating that Des Moines, Iowa lends itself to a venue which "constantly pushes us." Pillar Technology Group has other "Forge" locations in Michigan and Ohio. Des Moines was selected, said CEO Myers, because it is close to several universities, has a good talent pool and is increasingly innovative. Calling Des Moines, Iowa "the Silicon Prairie," Myers revealed they have hired at least 30 employees in Iowa to join their current staff of 200 nationwide.

Bouyed by a loan from the Iowa Economic Development Authority Board in 2015, Pillar Technology Group established its foothold in central Iowa. Myers explained that "The Forge" is a philosophy, not a place. Upon entering their doors, said Myers, there is an aura of "no constraints." Nothing is impossible. That's the Iowa way. With hard work, determination, innovation and an open mind, anything can be accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Pillar Technology Group and CEO Bob Myers for locating its innovative vision in Iowa. I am proud to represent the Pillar Technology Group and its employees in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the firm and wishing Pillar Technology Group's "The Forge" nothing but continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KEN CHRISTY

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Ken Christy, who was tragically taken from us on March 26, 2016. Ken was a dear friend and will be greatly missed by all those in the Aurora community who were touched by his years of service as a union and community leader.

Mr. Christy was the local Aurora Township Clerk and served as President of the Illinois State Association of Letter Carriers for 25 years. As a letter carrier himself, Ken understood the challenges his union members faced