

quality teachers," an especially difficult task given the low pay and long hours our state's teachers cope with on a daily basis.

As principal of E.E. Smith High School, Chalmers works with more than 1,000 students and 70 teachers each year. She has fostered a family atmosphere at E.E. Smith that encourages her students to grow into future leaders.

I also want to thank Wells Fargo for their continued support of the Principal of the Year program. Their 33-year partnership with the State of North Carolina has touched hundreds of educators and thousands of students, providing resources for schools to continue to grow their inventive programs

I wish Melody Chalmers well as she continues her tireless work in North Carolina, creating an environment where every child can reach his or her full potential. She has touched many lives, and the effects of her service will reverberate for years to come.

HONORING SARAH CONROY ON BEING ACCEPTED BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE PHYSICIANS AND MEDICAL SCIENTISTS AS A DELEGATE TO THE CONGRESS OF FUTURE MEDICAL LEADERS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sarah Conroy, of Ozark, Missouri, who has been accepted by the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists as a delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders.

The Congress of Future Medical Leaders is an honors-only program that is designed to motivate and direct the top students in the United States. It is specifically for students who aspire to be physicians or enter into the field of medical research, and helps to provide a path and mentorship for students to accomplish those dreams. It takes place at the University of Massachusetts over 3 days, and helps to spark meaningful dialogues and exchanges of ideas between future leaders in the medical field.

To be considered for acceptance as a delegate, applicants must be recommended by either a teacher or member of the Academy based on a proven track record of academic excellence. Students must have a minimum of a 3.5 GPA and represent all 50 states and Puerto Rico. It is an incredibly selective opportunity, and those students who qualify for selection have done so because of their hard work and diligence to their studies, not to mention their impressive intellect.

Mr. Speaker, Sarah Conroy, who attends Ozark High School, has shown a true passion for anatomy, biology and health science. Moreover, Sarah has excelled in her academics and will no doubt make Missouri proud as one of our delegates. I would like to extend my personal congratulations for her achievement, and on behalf of the 7th District of Missouri, I would like to thank her for representing our district.

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE AND TOMMIE STONER, SR.

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Katherine and Tommie Stoner, Sr. on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. Tommie and Katherine were married on May 20, 1951.

Their lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa's values. As the years pass, may their love continue to grow even stronger and may they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many more years to come.

I salute this lovely couple on their 65 years of life together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAESTRO ALVIN MILLS OF SANTA MONICA

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maestro Alvin Mills of Santa Monica, California who is retiring on May 15, 2016 at the age of 94 after being the conductor of the Brentwood Westwood Symphony Orchestra for 63 years.

I want to commend Maestro Mills for his commitment to bringing joy and music to thousands of people who are not able to afford to go to the Philharmonic concerts.

Maestro Mills began studying violin at the age of 8 and later studied with Pierre Monteux at the Ecole Montoux in Hancock, Maine. As a violinist he performed with the Kansas City Philharmonic and the Hollywood Bowl Symphony. In 1949 he became the Founder and Conductor of the Lompoc California Symphony.

Maestro Mills founded the Brentwood Westwood Symphony Orchestra in 1953. He also served as its conductor and musical director since its inception, and has championed the cause of keeping alive the arts and classical music by giving free quality classical symphonic concerts in these communities.

Maestro Mills also championed the youth in Los Angeles as a music teacher and with a contest that he started 30 years ago entitled, "The Artists of Tomorrow Competition" which gives the opportunity for 6 to 7 young artists who win the contest each year to receive scholarships and perform with the orchestra. Many of them have gone on to successful careers in music.

Through his inspiration, talents and leadership, Maestro Mills has exemplified the best ideals of community service. I am proud to honor Maestro Mills of Brentwood, California and thank him for his dedication to culturally enriching the residents of the 33rd Congressional District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, due to an obligation in my district, I regrettably missed Roll Call votes 190, 191, 192 and 193. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on Roll Call Vote 190, "nay" on Roll Call Vote 191 and "yea" on Roll Call Vote 191, and "yea" on Roll Call Vote 193.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MINISTER ASENATH KATHERINE TALLEY

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Minister Asenath Katherine Talley of Philadelphia, who passed away last Wednesday.

Asenath Katherine Brown, known affectionately as Sennie, was born in Philadelphia on June 10th, 1942. The youngest of Benjamin and Hattie Brown's eight children, Asenath was involved in the church from an early age. She was a member of the Baptist Young People's Union, Sunday school, and the junior choir at Enon Baptist Church. Her family and friends often said that singing in the choir was one of her greatest joys as a child.

Asenath devoted her life to serving others long before she was ordained. She could frequently be seen preaching on the streets, prisons, and shelters of Philadelphia and Camden. Her compassion for the less fortunate was without peer, and her involvement in her community only grew after she became an ordained minister in 2000. A natural-born teacher, Asenath taught at Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, and New Life Bible School. Of course, she never stopped singing in the choir.

Preceded in death by her husband Leonard M. Talley, Asenath is survived by three children, five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, as well as nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends beyond count. She left behind a legacy of love and compassion that will endure through every life she touched.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the life and memory of Minister Asenath Talley.

TRIBUTE TO KENT GRIES

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Deputy Kent Gries for being awarded the Commissioner's Special Award for Excellence in Traffic Safety. Mr. Gries is a Deputy in the Guthrie County Sheriff's Office based in Guthrie Center, Iowa.

This award recognizes an officer's efforts to "aggressively pursue drug-impaired and alcohol-impaired drivers." Deputy Gries was involved in about 90 arrests through the Guthrie County Sheriff's Office in 2015. Those incidents include 10 felony violations, 32 operating-while-intoxicated arrests and 50 drug arrests. He also administers the Guthrie County Sheriffs Office Facebook page. He developed and led a Citizen's Academy in Guthrie County.

Mr. Speaker, Deputy Kent Gries is an Iowan who has served his community and state well. It is with great honor that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring Kent and wish him continued success, health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF MONSIGNOR JAMES EDWIN PETERSEN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Monsignor James Edwin Petersen of Madera, California who passed away on May 3, 2016 at the age of 82. Monsignor Petersen will be missed greatly by his family, friends, and the entire community.

Msgr. Petersen was born in Los Angeles, California on November 8, 1933. His family moved to Randsburg, California in the Mojave Desert, where his parents operated a general store. Monsignor Petersen realized his calling to become a priest at an early age. He attended seminary school in Columbus, Ohio at the Josephinum Seminary, where he completed high school, college, and post-graduate theology.

Msgr. Petersen was ordained into priesthood in 1959, and he took his first assignment at the Shrine of St. Therese in Fresno, California. For over 40 years, he served throughout California's Central Valley in various roles, serving as a pastor for numerous churches including Our Lady of Sorrows in Parlier, California, Our Lady of Mercy, in Merced California, St. Anthony of Padua in Fresno, and as the Executive Director for the California Catholic Conference in Sacramento California. Msgr. Petersen served as a priest at the Shrine of St. Therese until his retirement.

Throughout his priesthood and well into retirement, Msgr. Petersen served on numerous committees and boards and gave mass at the Nazareth House in Fresno on a weekly basis. Furthermore, he served the people of the San Joaquin Valley with grace, humility, and integrity. His commitment to faith and making a difference in the community truly made him a beloved individual.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a true community servant and man who put God above all else. Msgr. Petersen's memory will live on through his family and will be remembered by many in our community.

IN HONOR OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF SANDIA CALIFORNIA

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sandia National Laboratories of Livermore. Through 60 years of collaborative research and pioneering to solve our nation's security issues, Sandia's workers have focused on keeping America's technology on the cutting edge.

From nuclear stockpile stewardship to chemical weapons disposal, from cybersecurity to fuel cells, their work has made every American safer. I am particularly thankful for Sandia's Energy and Climate program, which works toward a secure energy future for our nation. Moving us toward a sustainable, domestically sourced energy supply and more reliable infrastructure might be among the greatest gifts they are giving to Americans for generations to come.

Our cars are cleaner, our cybersecurity is stronger, and our energy options are widening because of Sandia's innovative work that will help maintain America's position as a premier technological leader.

Sandia has become an integral part of the Livermore community, helping to turn the area into a bustling and vibrant center of innovation. The entire 15th Congressional District is better for it. I am honored to represent the great minds of Sandia's workforce, and would like to congratulate them on 60 years of innovation and groundbreaking science.

HONORING RYAN DIRKSEN ON BEING ACCEPTED BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE PHYSICIANS AND MEDICAL SCIENTISTS AS A DELEGATE TO THE CONGRESS OF FUTURE MEDICAL LEADERS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ryan Dirksen, of Springfield, Missouri, who has been accepted by the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists as a delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders.

The Congress of Future Medical Leaders is an honors-only program that is designed to motivate and direct the top students in the United States. It is specifically for students who aspire to be physicians or enter into the field of medical research, and helps to provide a path and mentorship for students to accomplish those dreams. It takes place at the University of Massachusetts over 3 days, and helps to spark meaningful dialogues and exchanges of ideas between future leaders in the medical field.

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Puerto Rico. It is an incredibly selective opportunity, and those students who qualify for selection have done so because of their hard work and diligence to their studies, not to mention their impressive intellect.

Mr. Speaker, Ryan Dirksen, who attends Springfield Catholic High School, has shown a level of dedication and aptitude for the health sciences that will leave him well prepared to represent Missouri at this Congress. I would like to extend my personal congratulations for his achievement, and on behalf of the 7th District of Missouri, I would like to thank him for representing our district.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 27TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INAUGURATION OF NELSON MANDELA AS PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the anniversary of the inauguration of Nelson Mandela, the President of South Africa, who was a leading antiapartheid revolutionary and philanthropist.

On May 10, 1994, Nelson Mandela, a leading figure in the anti-apartheid movement, was inaugurated as South Africa's first black President.

The inauguration ceremony took place in the Union Buildings amphitheatre in Pretoria, South Africa; and politicians and dignitaries from more than 140 countries around the world were in attendance.

This historic day, for the people of South Africa, signified a monumental shift towards progress and away from hatred for those once treated as second-class citizens.

Nelson Mandela's historic election marked the end of an oppressive apartheid regime.

His inaugural speech, addressing the South African people, called for the continuation of work towards national and social reconciliation.

Jubilant scenes on the streets of Pretoria followed the ceremony as sects of all people celebrated together.

More than 100,000 South African men, women, and children of all races sang and danced with joy.

The crowd went wild when the new President, flanked by First Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and Second Deputy President FW de Klerk, appeared on the Botha Lawn.

Ever aware of the past and the history that had brought him to this moment, President Mandela honored his predecessor, President FW de Klerk, by acknowledging the indispensable role he played in South Africa's transformation.

Pursuing human rights through tireless efforts to create a better society, President Mandela's speech thematically echoed the importance of forgiveness for those previously committing many travesties on their brethren before the nation could begin to move forward.

He also spoke of the human disaster that was apartheid, recounting: "We saw our country tear itself apart in terrible conflict . . . The time for healing of wounds has come . . . Never, never again will this beautiful land experience the oppression of one by another."