

Council Bluffs, Iowa, for being the first recipient of the Employee of the Year award sponsored by the Council Bluffs Community School District in conjunction with the Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce. Ryan is a student at Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs and is employed by Menard's, Inc.

The Employee of the Year award is given through a new program initiative, GROW CB, which stands for Graduation is Required in Our Workforce in Council Bluffs. Superintendent of Schools for Council Bluffs Martha Bruckner said, "This is representative of some good work we're doing together. The goal of this initiative is to raise the awareness of the importance of regular school attendance, earning good grades, and earning a high diploma." The GROW CB program was created as a school-business partnership while helping businesses to invest in the future of area youth and the Council Bluffs community.

I applaud and congratulate Ryan Newberry for earning this award. He is a shining example of the future of our youth. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Ryan Newberry for his accomplishments in school and with his employment. I wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it happened right under the entire community's nose. Eight year old Jen Spry was raped and tortured on a daily basis.

She was not kidnapped by a stranger in a dark alley. She was trafficked just a few doors down from her mother's house.

It was not just Jen who was trafficked. Her younger sister, a male cousin, and a whole group of kids from her hometown of Norris-town Pennsylvania were victims as well.

No one ever went looking for the children, simply because they never went missing. From 3–6 p.m. every day she was forced to have sex with strangers, because, as she describes it, it was her job.

The children were coerced into participating and threatened into keeping it a secret. The trafficking finally ended when she was about 10 when the neighbor suddenly moved away.

Jen went to great lengths to hide the abuse from her single mother, who never found out about the tragedies that Jen experienced. In fact, Jen did not speak out about what happened until after her mother passed away.

Stories like Jen's drove us to write JVTa. As did stories like Tina Frundt's, who joins us today.

She is a huge part of the solution with her organization Courtney's House and her membership on the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking created by JVTa as well as the persistence of many of the groups present today.

The United States views itself as a leader in the fight against human trafficking. Even going as far as to grade other countries on their efforts to combat trafficking in persons.

Yet, before the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTa) became law, I heard about common issues from survivors and anti-trafficking organizations on the national, state, and local levels, as well as law enforcement and local leaders. Some of the common concerns included:

The federal government barely funds efforts to combat trafficking in the United States. Trafficking victims are often arrested and treated as criminals, but buyers are often not.

Many Americans including those that interact with trafficking victims—law enforcement, educators, medical professionals, and others—do not know about human trafficking or understand how to identify victims. Hearing this message loud and clear, a bipartisan, bicameral group of Members of Congress set out to write a bill using the survivor experience to guide us and learning from programs around the country that are working to fight trafficking and serve victims.

CAROLYN MALONEY, a Democrat from New York and I lead the effort on JVTa in the House. Congresswoman MALONEY and I hardly speak the same language.

Being from New York she thinks I talk funny and as a Texan I can hardly understand her either the effort was led by another unusual pair in the Senate.

A Texas Republican, Senator JOHN CORNYN and an Oregon Democrat, Senator RON WYDEN. 11 anti-trafficking bills passed through the House, including those led by some of the wonderful women here today.

The bills were combined in the Senate, came back to the House, passed overwhelmingly and were signed into law. The law addresses the common problems we heard from the field. We created a Domestic Trafficking Victims Fund that makes those who harm vulnerable people pay for the damage they have caused.

A \$5,000 special assessment is collected from those convicted of human trafficking and other related charges, and goes into a Fund to provide resources to victims and those fighting trafficking.

A fundamental goal of JVTa is for victims of human trafficking to be treated as victims and not criminals. This is addressed in a number of provisions in the law, including a newly created community-based block grant.

We also focus on the demand—buyers, those that exploit women and children. While many call these people "johns," I call them child molesters.

John is a name from the Bible, a good guy, not someone who pays money to abuse a fellow person.

JVTa clarifies that those who buy sex from trafficking victims are human traffickers, can and should be punished under federal law, and are subject to the same penalties as sellers.

JVTa has done a lot to change the mindset of people in this country. But we need the law to be fully implemented by all the agencies charged with executing the law including DOJ, HHS, and DHS.

In order to truly be the leader in the fight against modern day slavery. We anxiously await the response to our letter. A society will be judged by how it treats the most vulnerable.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO BABE AND FRANK MAINS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Babe and Frank Mains on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Frank and Babe were married on May 18, 1956 and make their home in Guthrie Center, Iowa. 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 commend this lovely couple on their 60 years of life together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I missed several votes on Wednesday, May 18, and Thursday, May 19.

On Wednesday, May 18, had I been present, I would have voted No on the Nadler Amendment (Roll Call 204); Aye on the Poe of Texas Amendment (Roll Call 205); Yea on final passage of H.R. 5243, the Zika Response Control Act, 2016 (Roll Call 207); Aye on the Buck Amendment (Roll Call 208); Aye on the Fleming Amendment (Roll Call 209); No on the Lee Amendment (Roll Call 210); No on the Polis Amendment (Roll Call 211); and Aye on final passage of H.R. 4909, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Roll Call 216).

On Thursday, May 19, had I been present, I would have voted No on the Blumenauer Amendment (Roll Call 221); Aye on the Fleming Amendment (Roll Call 222); No on the Sean Patrick Maloney of New York Amendment (Roll Call 226); and Yea on final passage of H.R. 4974, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017 (Roll Call 228).

TRIBUTE TO MARY AND PAT DOUD

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mary and Pat Doud on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Pat and Mary Doud were married in May 19, 1956 and make their home in Stuart, Iowa. 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 commend this lovely couple on their 60 years of life together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORS COLLEGE PROGRAM AT COLUMBIA COLLEGE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honors College Program at Columbia College, a first class institution of higher education located in my Congressional District in Columbia, South Carolina.

The Columbia College Honors Program was chartered in 1984 to recruit, retain, and develop high-achieving, motivated, talented students. At the heart of the program is the belief that the outstanding student should challenge her intellectual limits, working creatively and seriously to reach her highest potential as a scholar, reflective learner, individual thinker, risk taker, and influential leader. The program requires a selection of pedagogically innovative and rigorous courses across disciplines and a culminating thesis or project designed to make honors learning meaningful and practical. The program's senior seminars—with a study-travel component—have engaged students in the value of experiential, global learning in sites such as Paris, Berlin, Dublin, Belfast, New York, Orlando, Miami, London, and others.

The stimulating classroom atmosphere of honors—steeped in the liberal-arts tradition—encourages development of critical thinking, writing, and other skills vital to an education in the twenty-first century. Fostering a culture of serious undergraduate research and faculty development, the program also continues to make its mark in other professional arenas by promoting and supporting opportunities for student and faculty scholarship across disciplines. Honors students have earned degrees from Princeton, Rutgers, NYU, Emory, Duke, Columbia, MUSC, Wake Forest, Elon Law School, Drew, NY School of Art, Syracuse, Georgetown, University of Oklahoma, University of Tennessee Knoxville, University of Florida, Ohio State University, University of Central Florida, University of Maryland, USC, George Washington, Howard, Texas Women's University, North Carolina State University, among others.

The impact of the program on teaching excellence at Columbia College is revealed by the fact that all ten South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (SCICU) Outstanding Teacher Award recipients have been honors faculty or project mentors, and thirty of thirty-three Columbia College Faculty Excellence Award winners have taught in honors. Honors faculty have also garnered awards from the American Association of Higher Education, South Carolina Humanities Council, Methodist Board of Higher Education, South Atlantic Association of Departments of English,

South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, National Association of Developmental Education, South Carolina Psychological Association, Carolina Communications Association, Project Kaleidoscope, and others. Most significantly, the program's director, Dr. John Zubizarreta, is a Carnegie Foundation/CASE U.S. Professor of the Year, the only professor ever from any institution in South Carolina to receive the nation's most prestigious teaching award.

In the National Collegiate Honors Council—which this year celebrates five decades of providing diverse students with superior educational experiences for academic and professional careers—the Columbia College Honors Program enjoys an enviable reputation, built from the numerous presentations by students and faculty at yearly conferences, the service of several students on the NCHC and Southern Regional Honors Council Board of Directors, the director's election as NCHC and SRHC President, two students' recognition as National Honors Student of the Year and one as runner-up, thirteen student participants in NCHC Honors Semesters, four student participants in Partners-in-the-Parks programs, and more.

Mr. Speaker, the Honors Program is widely regarded as the premier, internationally acclaimed academic program at Columbia College, and ask you and my colleagues to join me in paying homage to them.

TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY WADLE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Beverly Wadle of Des Moines, Iowa on the very special occasion of her retirement after 25 years of faithful service as office manager to Trinity Lutheran Church of Des Moines. As she retires, her church community is acutely aware that her dedication will be missed.

Mrs. Wadle has served the traditional congregation, the Trinity Lutheran Church Sunday School program, and welcomed nearby Drake University students to the church family, making them feel welcomed while away at college. Many say that her most fulfilling work has been the unwavering commitment to assist the church's efforts for relocation of Laotian and Sudanese refugees as they build a better life in Iowa. She also coordinates the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Drake Lutheran Student Fellowship, and Trinity Lutheran Church's partner churches, the Asian Lutheran Mission, and the Sudanese Lutheran Mission. Her daily duties have included coordinating independent day care as well as several 12-step programs which use the Trinity Lutheran Church facilities.

I commend Beverly Wadle for living her faith and her Iowa values. I wish her a lifetime of joy and happiness as she embarks on a new journey. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Beverly Wadle on this celebratory occasion.

TRIBUTE TO CRESTON HIGH SCHOOL iJAG

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Creston High School iJAG program as they took top honors at the 2016 Career Development Conference on May 3, 2016.

iJAG is a program that relies on real-world, project-based instructional methods and unconventional approaches to personal connections with students. The Creston High School program, directed by instructor Jerry Hartman, competed against more than 40 iJAG programs from throughout Iowa and Illinois. The students competed in contests about employment preparation and interview skills, critical thinking in business situations, leadership skills and basic business methods.

Mr. Speaker, the success of this team, their program and its director demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent them and the other team members in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating these young people for competing in this rigorous competition and wishing them all nothing but continued success.

TRIBUTE TO PAM AND MARSH CHRISTIANSEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Pam and Marsh Christiansen of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on May 7, 1966 at St. Patrick's Church in Council Bluffs.

Pam and Marsh's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Lori, Lisa, and Stacy, and their six grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. May their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Pam and Marsh on this momentous occasion.

TRIBUTE TO FLOYD ROBERT "BOB" BOOTS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Bob Boots of Atlantic, Iowa, for his service to our