

TRIBUTE TO VERNE WELCH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Verne Welch of Council Bluffs, Iowa for his many years of dedicated service to the City of Council Bluffs and Pottawattamie County. Verne Welch is a Council Bluffs native who never forgot where he came from.

Verne Welch graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1955. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1955 to 1968. Upon discharge, he joined a California recruitment firm for overseas contractors. In 1972 he joined Harrah's, Inc. and remained with the company until 1987. He felt a need to help his hometown during some tough economic times so in 1988, Verne Welch returned to Council Bluffs, establishing gaming in Iowa, working tirelessly to develop the industry in Council Bluffs.

Former Council Bluffs Mayor Tom Hanafan described Verne as "the guy who came home and changed the face of his hometown community." Tom Schmitt, the publisher of the Daily Nonpareil, said, "Verne Welch's actions to revitalize his hometown have brought a lot of changes to this community. If there was ever a person who could say, 'This is what I have done,' it would be Verne Welch—and he never says that." Because of Verne's active community service, he has created a legacy second to none. Verne Welch's endless dedication, commitment, generosity, and leadership for Council Bluffs has enhanced and improved the quality of life for his community and its citizens.

I commend and congratulate Verne Welch for making a difference in his hometown and influencing the economic future of Council Bluffs and the State of Iowa. I salute his many accomplishments and dedication for serving his community. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Verne Welch and wishing him the very best in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I missed roll call 271, H.R. 4904—MEGABYTE Act of 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 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 \$19,220,484,557,364.60. We've added \$8,593,607,508,451.52 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING ADAM KRATT

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Adam Kratt, a Military Appointee from Colorado's Fourth Congressional district. I believe our greatest assets are America's brave men and women in uniform. Adam is making an incredible sacrifice for our country and deserves our utmost support for his service. It is with great pleasure that I give him my endorsement to attend this prestigious institution.

Our nation owes no greater debt of gratitude than to those who fight to protect our freedom and liberty. I commend Adam and his family for their commitment. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Adam.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Adam as a Military Appointee for his commitment to protect and serve our nation.

RECOGNIZING DR. VIRGINIA CARSON

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Virginia Carson and her retirement as President of South Georgia State College on June 30.

A graduate of the University of Georgia with Master's and Doctorate degrees from Georgia State University, Dr. Carson is no stranger to success.

During her 8 year tenure as President of South Georgia State College, she showed an unbelievable commitment to fostering her students' ambition and educational growth.

This dedication to her students has been instrumental to the success of the college and has ensured her students' success for years to come.

Dr. Carson prided herself on keeping a tightknit community with small class sizes and encouraging students to engage in extra-curricular activities, which also enhanced campus life.

Although the true importance of Dr. Carson's service cannot be measured, I am honored to congratulate her for her hard work and dedication to higher education.

TRIBUTE TO TS BANK OF IOWA

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate TS Bank of Atlantic,

Iowa, for being selected by the Young Professionals of Atlantic for the Young Professional Choice Workplace Service Award. TS Bank's branch is located in Atlantic with its headquarters in Treynor, Iowa.

TS bank has a reputation for attracting, hiring, retaining, developing, and training young professionals. The bank has a mission to ignite prosperity by working together every day to create a positive impact on their clients and communities that they serve. TS Bank takes great pride in reinvesting in local communities, impacting local initiatives, supporting and sponsoring local community events, providing needed funds and resources for local nonprofits. TS Bank has a history of 80 percent employees volunteering in their communities.

I applaud and congratulate TS Bank for earning this award. TS Bank is a shining example of how hard work and dedication can affect the future of a community and its businesses. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating TS Bank for its many accomplishments and for the services it provides to Atlantic and southwest Iowa. I wish TS Bank and its employees continued success in all their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JAIRAM HATHWAR

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jairam Hathwar on winning the 2016 Scripps National Spelling Bee. Jairam was crowned co-champion after correctly spelling Feldenkrais in the final round of the competition.

Jairam is a seventh-grade student at the Alternative School for Math and Science in my hometown of Corning, New York. He participated in the National Spelling Bee for the second year in a row; after barely missing the finals last year, Jairam outlasted 285 other contestants en route to his first place finish this year.

Jairam's achievement is a testament to his work ethic, dedication to learning, and commitment to reaching his highest potential. After spending countless hours studying complex definitions, parts of speech, and languages of origin, he correctly spelled several of the most challenging words in the English language. Despite the high level of difficulty, Jairam demonstrated confidence and composure throughout the competition. Most importantly, he treated his fellow competitors with respect and showed humility and sportsmanship from the first word to the last.

Jairam Hathwar is a remarkable young man with an incredibly bright future ahead of him. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jairam on this remarkable accomplishment and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to being unavoidably detained, I missed the following Roll Call Vote: No. 273 on June 7, 2016.

If present, I would have voted:

Roll Call Vote No. 273—On Ordering the Previous Question, “AYE.”

RECOGNIZING CHARLES W. EARLE
STEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CHESS TEAM

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding efforts of the Charles W. Earle STEM Elementary School's Chess Team.

Earle STEM Elementary School is among the top elementary school chess teams in Chicago. Considering this small school is located in a crime-prone area in the Englewood neighborhood of my Congressional District, I am very pleased of the involvement and leadership of chess Coach Joseph M. Ocol and the many leaders at the school. I would like to acknowledge the contributions of the Earle STEM School Principal, Cederall Petties, and Assistant Principal Elwanda Butler, along with the help Network 11 Chief Megan Hougard, the families and parents in the Local School Council Community headed by Darlene O'Banner.

On Sunday, April 24th, 2016, the all-girls chess team of Earle STEM Elementary School won 1st Place in the 2016 All-Girls National Chess Tournament. Out of 65 schools and 450 female students from all over the USA, only four CPS schools qualified to form an all-girl, grade sixth to eighth, chess team to compete in this biggest all-girl national chess tournament in the USA. The Earle STEM all-girls chess team was one of only two all-African American girls' chess team in that 2016 All-Girls National Chess Tournament.

Another notable victory for the Earle STEM Chess Team, composed this time of boys and girls from grades fourth to eighth, took place at the 2016 National Junior High School Championship where they won the 5th Place Trophy. This tournament was held at Marriott Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana, April 15 to 17. With more than a hundred schools and about 2,000 students from all over the country competing, this is considered the biggest junior high school chess tournament in the USA.

Six months into the 2015–2016 academic year, and during its initial year as a chess team, the Earle STEM Elementary School Chess Team garnered five 1st Place team trophies, including a 4th Place trophy in the State of Illinois chess championship, and a 3rd Place Chicago Public Schools academic chess trophy.

At its inception, the Earle STEM Elementary School Chess Team members started mentoring one another on the rudiments of chess

then advanced the mentoring program from Grade 8 to the kindergarten program. Allowing the 40 students of the chess and math club the capacity to participate after school and on Saturdays; the Earle STEM mentoring program has been effective in getting kids to mentor one another whilst competing against each other. This provides the most economical way of mastering skills and yet offering opportunities for students to be productive after school instead of being in the streets.

In closing, the Charles W. Earle STEM Elementary School's Chess Team is a prime example of students excelling beyond their environment and striving for excellence. Congratulations to the children of Earle Stem: Joshua Johnson, Erik Tolbert, Brandon Burgess, Taahir Levi, Tamaya Fultz, Breanna Shaw, Gavin Harry, Semaj Lowe, Xavier Rosado, Angelique Wilson, Monique Williams, Gelita Woodlow, Devion Dukes, Tyrone Dellar and Shawn Palmer. I am proud to acknowledge the school and these students for their achievements and I look forward to hearing about their great works for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO CAROL AND JACK
SWANGER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Carol and Jack Swanger of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1966. Carol is retired from Risen Son Christian Village and is active in the Red Hats and other women's group at Southside Christian Church. Jack is retired from Campbell's Soup Company, enjoys being a score keeper for local athletic teams, and volunteers at the food pantry at the Southside Christian Church.

Carol and Jack's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary 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 join me in congratulating Carol and Jack Swanger on this momentous occasion.

HONORING MISHAWAKA FIRE
CHIEF DALE FREEMAN FOR A
DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fire Chief Dale Freeman and honor him for a selfless career serving Hoosiers throughout Mishawaka.

Chief Freeman began his storied journey with the Mishawaka Fire Department 36 years

ago. Since then, he has gone on to lead the brave men and women who protect members of the northern Indiana community on a daily basis, responding to their calls for both emergency medical assistance and fire rescue. As chief, Freeman's rise has been marked by incredible dedication and perseverance.

His commitment to excellence just recently resulted in over 5,100 people, mostly children, receiving critical fire safety education through “Survive Alive House,” Little Red, and other local programs and school assemblies. Furthermore, under Chief Freeman's leadership, more than half of Mishawaka's firefighting force is now cross-trained as Emergency Medical Technicians. These efforts have significantly strengthened the northern Indiana community's level of preparedness, allowing Hoosiers throughout Mishawaka to feel safe knowing that their local fire department is ready to respond at a moment's notice.

Chief Freeman's passion for serving the greater good is truly remarkable and deserves the praise of many. His continued dedication to aiding those in desperate need of assistance has undoubtedly reduced significant cases of fire-related injuries, deaths, and property damage. Since first joining the Mishawaka Fire Department, Chief Freeman has truly epitomized the ideal of servant leadership. On behalf of Hoosiers in the Second Congressional District, it is my honor to thank him for his service and sacrifice for our community.

INTRODUCING THE STOP, OBSERVE, ASK AND RESPOND (SOAR) TO HEALTH WELLNESS ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the Stop, Observe, Ask and Respond (SOAR) to Health and Wellness Act along with my colleagues Representatives ADAM KINZINGER, TONY CÁRDENAS and ANN WAGNER. It is a companion to S. 1446, which was introduced by Senators HEIDI HEITKAMP and SUSAN COLLINS. This bipartisan bill supports efforts underway at the Department of Health and Human Services to combat human trafficking by directing the Secretary to establish a pilot program to be known as ‘Stop, Observe, Ask and Respond to Health and Wellness Training’ to provide training on human trafficking to health care providers at all levels.

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery that uses force, fraud or coercion to lure millions of men, women and children in countries around the world annually, including here in the United States. Human trafficking includes both sex and labor trafficking, and generates billions of dollars in profits each year, making it the second most profitable form of transnational crime behind drug trafficking.

Recognizing the key indicators of human trafficking is the first step in identifying victims, providing life-saving help and bringing traffickers to justice. Human trafficking, however, is a hidden crime and victims rarely seek help because of cultural barriers or out of fear of their traffickers or law enforcement.

While victims are often difficult to identify, a reported 68 percent of trafficking victims end