

many awards, including the Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce John Packman Memorial Award Winner in 1988, and being named the Boy Scouts Distinguished Citizen in 2007.

In light of all that Tom Thomas has done for the community of Lake Elsinore, Riverside County and the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce, it is only fitting to name him as Citizen of the Year. Through his involvement and dedication, Tom has contributed immensely to the betterment of our community. On behalf of the 42nd Congressional District, I want to express my appreciation and pride in Tom on this special occasion. I add my voice to the many who paid tribute to Tom for receiving the Citizen of the Year award from the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce.

RECOGNIZING STEPHEN J.  
PRINGLE

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2016*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Stephen J. Pringle, Associate Director of Government Affairs for Texas Farm Bureau.

Mr. Pringle was born on the 5th of May, 1949 in Marlin, Texas. He was raised in Hill County where he attended Hubbard High School. He then received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Texas A&M University and upon graduation, served as a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army at the Explosive Ordinance Disposal Depot in Indian Head, Maryland.

Mr. Pringle's passion for agriculture began in 1973, when he served as a staff member to the United States House Committee on Agriculture. While working for the committee he had the honor of attending the World Food Conference in Rome and was present on the House floor during the swearing in of Vice-President, Gerald Ford. After leaving the committee, Mr. Pringle worked as an assistant to the President of Texas A&M, served as State Executive Director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, and worked at the International Association of Drilling Contractors in Houston.

From there, Mr. Pringle went on to spend 26 years at the Texas Farm Bureau where he worked tirelessly to support and protect the livelihoods of Texas' many farmers and ranchers. Mr. Pringle also built lasting relationships with countless members of Congress and the Texas Legislature during his tenure at the Texas Farm Bureau and it was a privilege to work with him.

Over the course of his career, he has also been involved in his local community. He served as President of his local Texas A&M Alumni Association, President and Board Member of the Waco Camp Fire Organization, served on the original Waco Education Association, and has been active in the Government Relations Council for the Houston Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to his many accomplishments, Mr. Pringle is a proud husband and father. He has been happily married to his wife Linda for forty years and their daughter, Lara, has grown up to be a successful attorney in Houston, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to celebrate the work of my friend Stephen J. Pringle. His passion and commitment to the farmers and ranchers of Texas will long be remembered and I congratulate him on his retirement.

NEEDVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FFA  
WINS BIG

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Needville High School's Future Farmers of America (FFA) livestock judging team who recently won Reserve Grand National Champion at the Western National Roundup in Denver.

The team, comprised of Kutter Korczynski, Myles Hackstedt, Craig Todd and Ty Thomas, competed against other teams from around the country in the livestock judging contest. The teammates evaluated and ranked 40 different animals in 10 classes. After evaluating the livestock, the team had to prepare a series of speeches to explain their evaluations. This is a great victory for their agriculture science teacher, Michael Poe, and the rest of the Blue Jay community. We are excited to see them represent Texas at the world competition in Scotland.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Needville High livestock judging team. They have made the community proud.

THE NEED TO TAKE ACTION TO  
ENSURE THAT ASSETS OF NA-  
TIONAL BANKS IN CIS COUN-  
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EFIT TERRORIST ORGANIZA-  
TIONS

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns about the banking industry in former CIS countries involving a bank in Latvia, ABLV. I have learned that ABLV was found to have not engaged in any activity regarding the Government of Moldova and/or activities related to the misappropriation of government funds and that there has been a thorough investigation of this matter and ABLV was not implicated in any wrongdoing with regard to this or any other matter in Moldova.

In Moldova more than \$1 billion was stolen from the Moldovan national treasury and a large portion of that money appears to have ended up in EU banks in Latvia.

I still call upon the Administration and the Congress to investigate whether assets of the other national banks of countries of the former Soviet Union are not being plundered and used, knowingly or unknowingly, to benefit terrorist organizations.

BIG TIME GROWTH FOR HOUSTON  
MARINERS

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate San Jacinto College for their success in opening a new 45,000 square-foot maritime training center.

San Jacinto College sits next to the Port of Houston, which gives students prime opportunity to further their maritime career through interaction with community and industry partners. With its history dating back to the 1960s, San Jacinto College is now home to almost 30,000 students across 3 campuses and 12 extension centers. The new maritime training center is an excellent addition to their already successful campuses. This new facility contains three ship simulators, an engineering room with hydraulics, a swimming pool, and much more. San Jacinto College is a great place for students to grow and to develop critical education and workforce skills. We're proud of the many opportunities it offers to students in the Houston area.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to San Jacinto College for their new training center. We can't wait to see what happens next.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2016*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, on January 13, 2016, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote on the Iran Terror Finance Transparency Act (H.R. 3662). Had I been present for the vote, roll call vote number 44, I would have voted no.

NATURALLY BECK BUILDS TO  
SUCCESS

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 1, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Beck Junior High Robotics team, Naturally Beck, for winning the Katy Qualifier Robotics Tournament. This achievement allowed them to advance to the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) LEGO League Championship in Stafford, Texas.

Naturally Beck, won the first place championship for the second year in a row, defeating 23 other teams from all over Houston at the Katy tournament. The Naturally Beck team consists of five members and two mentors for the 2015-2016 roster. Students competing at the FIRST LEGO League really put their engineering skills to the test by using LEGO Mindstorms NXT technologies to craft the perfect robot for research purposes. This year, Naturally Beck's research project consisted of an inventive solution to address the way the

community handles its trash. Congratulations to all of Naturally Beck's team members and mentors for their victory. We are proud of the hard work they have accomplished and wish them luck in the future competitions.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Beck Jr. High team for advancing to the FIRST LEGO League Championship.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

##### FEBRUARY 3

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine an independent perspective of United States defense policy in the Asia-Pacific region.

SD-G50

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the Stream Protection Rule, focusing on impacts on the environment and implications for Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act implementation.

SD-406

10 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine spending on unauthorized programs.

SD-608

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine strains on the European Union, focusing on implications for American foreign policy.

SD-419

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Canada's fast-track refugee plan, focusing on implications for United States national security.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the need for transparency in the asbestos trusts.

SD-226

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1125, to authorize and implement the water rights compact among the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, the State of Montana, and the United States, and S. 1983, to authorize the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the substandard quality of Indian health care in the Great Plains.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

To hold closed hearings to examine counterterrorism strategy, focusing on understanding ISIL.

SVC-217

##### FEBRUARY 4

10 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the situation in Afghanistan.

SD-G50

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mary Katherine Wakefield, of North Dakota, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, Andrew LaMont Eanes, of Kansas, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2019, and Elizabeth Ann Copeland, of Texas, and Vik Edwin Stoll, of Missouri, both to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

SD-215

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Beth F. Cobert, of California, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.

SD-342

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet  
To hold hearings to examine ensuring intermodal Universal Service Fund support for rural America.

SR-253

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 247, to amend section 349 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to deem specified activities in support of terrorism as renunciation of United States nationality, S. 483, to improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, and S. 524, to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

FEBRUARY 8

4 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on the way forward in Syria and Iraq.

SVC-217

FEBRUARY 9

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense nuclear acquisition programs and the nuclear doctrine in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

FEBRUARY 11

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the National Commission on the Future of the United States Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

FEBRUARY 23

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

MARCH 3

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment

To hold hearings to examine regulatory reforms to improve equity market structure.

SD-538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Energy.

SD-366

MARCH 8

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for the Forest Service.

SD-366

#### POSTPONEMENTS

FEBRUARY 4

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine energy-related trends in advanced manufacturing and workforce development.

SD-366