

granted to everyone by the U.S. Constitution. The competition was open to all state bar associations, that selected local winners in each of three competition categories. The Katy Bar Association chose Alex's composition for its editorial submission.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Alex Pratt for winning second place in the annual Law Day competition. Thank you for bringing this prestigious honor to Seven Lakes High School. We expect more great things from Alex in the future.

HISTORIC MEETING OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the events taking place on the Greek island of Crete, where Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople has called a historic meeting of Orthodox Christian Churches.

This meeting, known as the Holy and Great Council, is the first of its kind in over a millennium. The fourteen Orthodox Christian Churches together have over 300 million followers around the world, including over a million Americans. These churches are self-governing but united by common dogma, faith, liturgy, and moral conviction, with the Ecumenical Patriarch serving as the "first among equals."

Three hundred and fifty leaders will attend this meeting, which is set to begin on Sunday and continue through June 26. They will discuss key issues facing Orthodox Christians, including the church's mission in today's world, the Orthodox diaspora, and relations with other Christian churches.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was elected in October 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of his 2000-year-old Church. He holds numerous doctorates, including from Georgetown and Yale, and was awarded a Gold Medal by Congress in 1997.

The Patriarch has a record of reaching out and working for peace and reconciliation among all faiths and has fostered dialogue among Christians, Jews, and Muslims. After the September 11, 2001 attacks, the Patriarch organized a gathering of religious leaders including Muslim Imams to condemn the attacks as an anti-religious act.

Mr. Speaker, the over one million Orthodox Christians in the United States represent diverse backgrounds and cultures. I join them in celebrating this historic meeting.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF JOHNSTON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Johnston, Iowa for its recognition as a 2015 Tree City USA sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in co-

operation with the National Association of State Foresters and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program (the Forest Service).

The City of Johnston has met the core standards for tree care during the past year. Over 135 million Americans live in Tree USA communities. In its 40th year of celebration, the Tree City USA program is critical to the U.S. Forest Service. This federal partner delivers technical and financial resources to states, cities and communities across the nation with each community adhering to a State Action Plan, guiding investments in each state while accomplishing local projects and programs.

The U.S. Forest Service and Arbor Day Foundation cooperate with communities to establish healthy forests, improve air and water quality and contribute to important national energy conservation goals. These local investments create long term major environmental improvements nationwide. When communities like Johnston are recognized it makes me proud to represent our great state in the United States Congress.

I commend the City of Johnston and urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating them on this award and in wishing the city nothing but continued success.

CONGRATULATING FAITH WEN ON BEING NAMED A MEMBER OF THE 52ND CLASS OF THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Faith Wen, of Strafford, Missouri, for recently being named a member of the 52nd Class of the U.S. Presidential Scholars.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars program was established in 1964 with the intent of honoring the top high school graduates in the nation. It is an extremely prestigious award that is only granted to 161 graduating seniors, who are considered for admittance based on their proven track record of academic excellence. Applications to the Presidential Scholars program are by invite only, as applicants are either nominated by earning exceptional standardized test scores or by being specifically nominated by a Chief State School Officer.

Faith had to pass a rigorous selection process on her way to receiving this honor. As one of 4,000 initial candidates from over 3.3 million graduating seniors, Faith had already distinguished herself as a high achieving student. By being selected as one of 800 semifinalists, and then finally as one of the 161 award recipients, Faith has proven to be worthy of one of the highest academic honors attainable by a high school student.

Mr. Speaker, Faith Wen has earned the honor of being a U.S. Presidential Scholar through a combination of tireless effort, dedication to her studies and impressive intelligence. I'm proud to count such a remarkable young woman among my constituents. On behalf of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District, I urge my colleagues to join me in extending congratulations to Faith, and wishing her luck in all her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL PAUL BALASH III

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor DLA Distribution San Joaquin Deputy Director Colonel Paul Balash III on his retirement. I would also like to personally thank him for his many years of profound service to our Country and to San Joaquin County.

Colonel Balash was born on May 19, 1948 in Fremont, California. After obtaining his degree from San Diego State University, he attended the Marine Corps War College and the National Defense University. Col. Balash dedicated 34 years of service to the Marine Corps, beginning as a Private and retiring at the rank of Colonel. His outstanding leadership allowed him to serve as a logistician, strategic military planner, and a national security specialist.

Throughout his time in service he was involved in over 50 studies, analyses, and gaming events aiding the Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of Defense. Events under his supervision included the Comprehensive Material Response Plan, DLA and USTC efforts for material positional, distribution for a national defense strategy, and PRIME CHALLENGE III.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Colonel Paul Balash for his service and dedication to our great country.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TOM SNYDER FOR HIS 9 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS PRESIDENT OF IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Snyder on the occasion of his retirement from Ivy Tech Community College. For the past nine years, Tom has devoted his life to providing an exceptional educational experience to the students of Ivy Tech. Ivy Tech flourished immensely under Tom's strong leadership, and the Hoosier community is forever grateful for his dedication to our state and country's future leaders.

Tom has demonstrated a lifetime passion for serving his community and country. As a lifelong resident of Anderson, Indiana, Tom graduated St. Mary's High School. He attended Kettering University in Flint, Michigan, and graduated in 1967 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He later earned a master's degree in business administration from Indiana University after having served as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force for 6 years. He applied his passion for learning and education to his service in the Air Force, working in research and development at various locations such as Vandenberg and Andrews Air Force Bases as well as the Pentagon.

Before serving as President of Ivy Tech, Tom worked as a business executive in the

engineering sector. He was CEO of Anderson-based auto-parts maker Remy International Inc., which in 1994 spun off from General Motors Corp., where he'd spent the previous 20 years. Tom became President of Ivy Tech in 2007, right as our country was headed into the Great Recession of 2008. Though he did not have a long history in the higher education world, Tom was uniquely qualified for the job as his years of leading manufacturing companies gave him a pronounced understanding of the critical importance of preparing a trained workforce for the Hoosier economy.

Under Tom's leadership, Ivy Tech Community College grew exponentially, both in student enrollment and programming. Ivy Tech, which serves more than 175,000 students annually at 32 campuses across Indiana, is now the largest institution of higher education in Indiana and the nation's largest singly-accredited statewide community college system. Throughout his tenure as President, Tom redefined the educational experience provided at Ivy Tech. He reengineered and enhanced the college experience by implementing numerous program expansions and initiatives allowing for more educational pathways for students. Ivy Tech's dual credit program, which allows students to get a jump start on college by earning college credits while still in high school, has vastly grown under his guidance, increasing from 8,000 dual credit enrollments to over 50,000 enrolled today. Tom was able to fully develop new pathways for higher education for students including transfer credits between Ivy Tech and many four-year institutions. The number of students transferring from Ivy Tech Community College to public institutions in Indiana increased by 165 percent, equating to about 13,000 students per year.

Tom's wife, Bobbette, who is also a proud Anderson native, shares Tom's passion for education. She served as Executive Director of the Leadership Academy of Madison County for more than 22 years until she retired in 2014. She's also served as Co-Chair of the Circle of Ivy, a women's philanthropy circle at Ivy Tech aimed at cultivating and celebrating women as philanthropists and has been hugely influential in ensuring the program's success. Tom and Bobbette display a clear dedication and love for the entire Hoosier community, especially their hometown of Anderson. They have been instrumental in providing excellence in education for decades and in doing so have positively impacted the lives of countless Hoosiers.

Tom's success as a leader and astonishing dedication to higher education in Indiana has not gone unnoticed. He's received numerous awards, most notably the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash from Governor Mike Pence (2016), Orr-O'Bannon Lifetime Achievement Award from the Indiana Economic Development Association (2014), Outstanding Achievement Award from The Greater Indianapolis Branch NAACP 3053 (2014), and was selected as a 2015 Champion of Diversity by Indiana Minority Business Magazine. He's engaged with non-profits and is a member of the Tocqueville Society of United Way, was selected to serve on numerous educational boards including the Community College Advisory Panel, Midwestern Higher Education Compact, the Indiana Career Council, and Academic Advisory Council, as well as boards focused on the growth of the community and manufacturing workforce such as Conexus,

Energy Systems Network, Manufacturing Skill Standards Council, Auto Communities Network, Enerl, Rebuilding America's Middle Class, Central Indiana Corporate Partnership, Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow, and the National Workforce Solutions Advisory Board. Additionally, he's a member of the Executive Committee for the Indiana State Chamber, the Executive Council of the Saint Theodore Guerin High School in Noblesville, the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, and serves on the board of the Paramount Theater in Anderson. In 2008, the Manufacturing Institute selected Tom to serve on their Education Council, the first-ever national education council focused on expanding and enhancing the manufacturing workforce, and most recently in 2015, he was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve on the College Promise Advisory Board, which is a coalition focused on promoting ideas for free community college.

I had the pleasure of working with Tom when I served as Senior Vice President and General Counsel for Ivy Tech from 2007 to 2012. His leadership and passion for helping others succeed was truly inspirational and I feel fortunate to call him a dear friend. Tom has left a lasting impact on the lives of students, faculty, and the Ivy Tech community. He and Bobbette have made a remarkable impression throughout the state of Indiana and left a legacy of success that will be built upon for years to come. On behalf of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I'd like to congratulate Tom on his notable career and extend a huge thank you for all the wonderful contributions he has made to the Hoosier community. I wish the very best to Tom, Bobbette, their four children, and ten grandchildren the best as they begin their next adventure in our community they have worked so hard to make a wonderful place.

JEAN SHELEDY NOMINATED AS THE WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jean Shelledy of Missouri City, Texas for being nominated as the 2016 Woman of the Year by The Woman's Club of Missouri City.

The Woman's Club of Missouri City is the oldest social and civil club in the city, serving the community for the past 60 years. Among the WCMC charitable donation recipients are the Butterfield Education Foundation, Historical Dew House, Habitat for Humanity, Friends of the Missouri City Animal Shelter and annual legacy scholarship awards to Missouri City high school graduates. For almost a decade, Jean has been dedicated to the compassionate and community-driven mission of the WCMC. Proving herself time and time again, Jean has now served as the organization's president for the past two years and has contributed to the success of The Woman's Club of Missouri City.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Jean Shelledy for being recognized as The Woman's Club of Missouri City's 2016 Woman of the Year. We thank her for her continued

dedication and support of the community and are confident her contributions to Missouri City will continue.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HANNAH B.G. SHAW HOME

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the Hannah B.G. Shaw Home and in appreciation of its work in establishing a permanent home to benefit seniors who are in need of assistance.

It is because of the generous donations of Hannah B.G. Shaw that this beautiful home was established. Hannah Shaw dedicated her life to philanthropic work, most notably leaving 55 acres of land and a sum of money to open the Shaw Home in 1941. This beautiful facility has been recognized as one of the top twenty-five facilities in the nation by the US News and World Report and as second in the state by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health customer satisfaction surveys.

In its 75 year history, the implementation of Hannah Shaw's vision has grown. Since opening in 1941, the Shaw Home has had five major renovations which have expanded residential spaces, modernized wellness facilities, and added a state-of-the-art rehabilitation gym and café.

Today, the Shaw Home houses a forty bed residential care facility along with a sixty-seven bed skilled nursing facility, fulfilling Hannah's goal of giving senior citizens of Massachusetts the ability to continue to maintain the highest quality of life. Through events such as Sports Day and luaus in celebration of National Nursing Homes Week, creation of care packages for troops overseas, and a "Rhythms of Life" concert by Hannah's Chorus, residents of the Shaw Home are able to enjoy their golden years in a loving community that goes beyond the standards of clinical care.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in honoring the Hannah B.G. Shaw Home as it celebrates this milestone. The 75th Anniversary of the Shaw Home provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the significance of maintaining the quality of life for the elderly in the United States. May the Shaw Home continue to provide exemplary care and remain a pillar of the community in the next 75 years.

TRIBUTE TO ROLAND AND VIRLANE ROTHFUS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Virlane and Roland Rothfus of Carlisle, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on June 4, 1966.

It is always inspiring to hear of a marriage spanning five decades, especially when you contemplate everything those years have