

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 SHELLEDY 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

seen, all of the changes in every facet of public and private life, yet that commitment remains. Virlane and Roland'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.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

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IN RECOGNITION OF DANNY THOMAS

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**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 16, 2016*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fire Chief Danny Thomas who is retiring after 34 years of public service within the town of Trophy Club. The town has benefited immeasurably from his unfaltering dedication, unfailing commitment, and unwavering devotion to the residents he served. Chief Thomas has served in several different capacities and played an integral role in the growth of the Trophy Club Fire Department.

Chief Thomas began his career in 1982 as a volunteer firefighter. In 1999 he was hired as a lieutenant and within one month rose to the rank of captain. In 2006 he was promoted to chief and has proudly served the Trophy Club community ever since. Along with his promotion to fire chief he became the emergency management coordinator and fire marshal for the town. Chief Thomas had a vision of growth and safety for this small community and has stayed true to that vision from the beginning.

When Chief Thomas began his career Trophy Club only had a volunteer fire department. Today, it is a full time department providing emergency medical and fire rescue services; boasting 16 full-time employees and four volunteers. Much of the significant expansion and the many improvements the fire station has seen can be attributed to Chief Thomas. He oversaw the construction of MUD 1 Fire Station in 2011 and implemented the Citizens Fire Academy and Citizens Emergency Response Team. Chief Thomas brought professional insight and wisdom to his team. His legacy will not be forgotten and his service will have a lasting impact within the department, as well as the Trophy Club community.

As Chief Thomas retires, he is highly esteemed by his colleagues and the community he has served for over 30 years. It is my privilege to honor such an outstanding citizen and to serve the town of Trophy Club in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE HOLY AND GREAT COUNCIL

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**HON. LEE M. ZELDIN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 16, 2016*

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church.

Christianity and Orthodox Christianity, in particular, have suffered greatly in recent years. This negative development is the result of the Islamic fanaticism perpetuated by the Islamic State and other terror groups using the war in Syria as an excuse to "ethnically cleanse" Orthodox Christians from their villages. One such horror was the international broadcast of Islamic State members simultaneously beheading twenty-one Egyptians because they would not convert to Islam when ordered to denounce their Coptic Orthodox Christian faith.

Several Orthodox Christian Churches from around the world will gather in what is called a Great and Holy Council for the first time in over 1,000 years. The focus of the Council will be internal activities of the various Orthodox Churches; the current crisis for Christians in the Middle East is also a danger for so many Orthodox Christians and should not go unobserved at this history meeting.

All Christians and all men and women of faith and peace should focus on this Great and Holy Council and the individual who convened the various hierarchs, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. He possibly more than any other Christian leader understands the Muslim world; during his life he has seen Muslim cruelty toward Christians, which has greatly diminished the number of Christians in the Republic of Turkey.

The Ecumenical Patriarch experienced the 1955 pogrom carried out against the large Greek Orthodox community in Turkey. The pogrom resulted in many unnecessary Greek deaths and the destruction of thousands of Greek Orthodox businesses, homes, and cemeteries. Thousands upon thousands of Greeks fled the country in the aftermath.

The Greek Orthodox community in Turkey has been reduced to a fraction of what it once was, yet in light of such violence, the confiscation of thousands of Ecumenical Patriarchal properties, and restrictions of religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarch, His All-Holiness has found ways to cooperate and work constructively with the Muslim majority in his homeland of Turkey. The Ecumenical Patriarch has much to bring to the table regarding today's crisis for Christians in Muslim majority countries.

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RECOGNIZING COLONEL VICTOR GABRIEL GARCIA

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**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 16, 2016*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Colonel Victor Gabriel Garcia, Information Operations Chief for CENTCOM, for his work combatting the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). In

the last two years, ISIL has developed and implemented never before seen tactics by using social media to recruit foreign fighters and the internet to propagate and instill fear. With the emergence of this continually evolving threat, Colonel Garcia has overhauled and expanded the CENTCOM J39 directorate to counter ISIL's internet propaganda machine.

Currently, he is spearheading an effort for the Department of Defense to train and equip a joint force capable of addressing emerging terrorist threats on the internet and social media. They plan to develop a permanent and suitable solution to incorporate the policy, personnel, training, and facilities for all military commanders across the Department of Defense to better understand the tactics of ISIL as well as engage and influence their target audience.

Additionally, Colonel Garcia and his team are in the process of developing a Web Operations Center for the Department of Defense. For the first time, the Department of Defense plans to have a centralized location where hostile internet activity can be monitored and addressed accordingly. This will provide an early warning system to assist military commanders with a variety of operations and allow them to react quickly, possibly saving the lives of our troops.

I am grateful for Colonel Garcia's admirable service and dedication in developing countermeasures against ISIL.

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TRIBUTE TO SHAREF AL NAJJAR FOR HIS EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

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**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 16, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is no exaggeration to say that the past several years have been among the most challenging in our nation's history. The collapse of the housing market, the turmoil on Wall Street and the ensuing financial crisis, the severe economic downturn of 2008 which saw the loss of millions of middle-class jobs, and the ever present threat of terrorist attacks on our homeland are enough to make many question whether the American Dream is still attainable and to conclude that our best days are behind us.

I do not share this view. The future of our country is bright and I firmly believe that our best days lay ahead. One of the reasons I am so optimistic that the 21st century will be known as the second "American Century" is the extraordinary quality, talent, commitment, and energy of the young people who will in time assume the responsibility of leadership.

Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress we know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day.