

documentaries and Mental Health First-Aid classes to ensure people are educated on the signs and symptoms of potential suicide and know how to assist a veteran, friend, family member, neighbor, or co-worker in a time of crisis.

Veterans Helping Veterans Program: The program is a formalized network providing skill-based veteran volunteers with non-profits who assist veterans both directly and indirectly.

It is my honor to submit the names of the charter members of the Northern Virginia Veterans Association:

Angela McConnell, Doug Earhart, Tom Benjamin, Scott Cox, Carol McKnight, Matt Paschal, Greg Schumacher, Kathy Schumacher, Rick Bockes, Polly Sherard, Rich Nagel, Rick Haney, Toby Terrill, Cameron Dougherty, Robin Kelleher, Gwendolyn Bush, Larry Zilliox, Henry Patterson, Mike May, Emma Artis, Lee D'Orlando, Diana Paguaga, Cindy Fox, Anthony Garris, Gerald Mazur, Rob Cork, Mike Allen, Mina Little, Dave Mather, Daniela Horsman, Jerome Atger, Brooke Ray, Aminata Jah, Marianne Catina, Al Alborn, Stephen Prasser, Erika Laos, Don Howell, John Murray, Ariel Goldchain, Christine Garris, Hope For The Warriors, HealthSouth Hospital, Semper K9, Access National Bank, VITAS Hospital, Core Chiropractic, Fauquier Chamber of Commerce, Neighbor's Keeper, Brain Injury Services, Fauquier Economic Development Center, Catocin Estate Planning, Freedom Museum, Juncture Consulting, Habitat for Humanity-Prince William County, Atlantic Low Vision, Quarterly Advisory Committee Motorcycle Collaborative, Project Mend A House, The Better Brain Center, Volunteers of America, Men of War Motorcycle Club, Action in Community Through Service of Prince William, Inc., American Red Cross, Comfort Keepers, and Hylton Performing Arts Center.

Veterans can often feel abandoned and confused after being discharged. Navigating the maze of services and programs that are available can be daunting, and reintegrating into civilian life can be overwhelming. These factors, especially when combined with the effects of traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder, can lead to depression, substance abuse, anger management issues, and even suicide. This is why programs like NOVA Vets are so important and deserving of our support.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the individuals, organizations, and businesses that comprise the Northern Virginia Veterans Association and in thanking them for their dedication and commitment to our veteran community.

TRIBUTE TO DEKALB COUNTY NAACP

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, since 1955, the DeKalb County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been a worthy instrument for good; and

Whereas, the DeKalb County branch of the NAACP is celebrating sixty one years at

Green Forest Community Baptist Church in Decatur, Georgia; and

Whereas, this organization is a champion for civil rights throughout our county and state, ensuring the rights and liberties of our citizens in Georgia are guaranteed through the U.S. Constitution; and

Whereas, its members give of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to serve our community through endeavors such as voter registration, health walks, mentorships and scholarships; and

Whereas, the lives of many in our district are touched by the leadership and service given by the officers and members of the DeKalb County NAACP, our nation and the world is a better place due to their commitment to excellence in all of their endeavors; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize their outstanding service to our District; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim April 9, 2016 as DeKalb County NAACP Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 9th day of April, 2016.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIALIST BRANDON A. BANNER OF MILTON, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on June 2, 2016, nine soldiers were taken from us during the tragic training accident at Fort Hood, Texas. A grateful and grieving Nation mourn the tremendous loss of these fine men and women, and it is with profound sadness that I rise to honor them and pay a special tribute to United States Army Specialist Brandon A. Banner of Milton, Florida.

SPC Banner graduated from Milton High School in 2013 where he played defensive end on the school's football team. He also attended Pensacola State College before joining the Army in March 2014 as a motor transport operator. In July 2014, SPC Banner was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood.

Fort Hood had been experiencing unprecedented levels of rainfall and flash flooding when on Thursday morning, June 2, while SPC Banner and members of his unit were conducting convoy operations, their Light Medium Tactical Vehicle overturned at Owl Creek and all nine were killed. SPC Banner was 22 years old.

Amongst his Army Family, SPC Banner was known to be a loyal and faithful friend who was determined and was destined for great success. His military career may have been short-lived, but as evidenced by his several awards including the National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon and the Marksmanship Qualification Badge—Sharpshooter with Carbine, it was a career during which SPC Banner displayed an unwavering commitment to duty and excellence.

Mr. Speaker, our servicemembers know full well the risk involved when they join the greatest military in the world. Yet they do it anyway and for a cause greater than their own. We owe these soldiers and their families our everlasting gratitude and our greatest respect. Vicki and I join citizens all across Northwest Florida and our great Nation in praying for the family and friends of Specialist Brandon A. Banner and his eight comrades. May the service and selfless sacrifice of these warriors never be forgotten and may God continue to bless all members of the Armed Forces and the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO HAMILTON ASSOCIATES, P.C.

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Paul Hamilton and Mr. Eric Hamilton of Council Bluffs, Iowa, father and son owners of Hamilton Associates, P.C. which is celebrating 60 years in business in 2016. Hamilton Associates, P.C. is a certified public accounting and consulting firm.

Hamilton Associates, P.C. is a family-owned business providing services to businesses, non-profits and individuals specializing in tax management, financial, and accounting services. Paul Hamilton said he is very proud of the quality service his firm provides to its clients. Eric Hamilton added that the best part of his job is being able to give back to the community. Paul, Eric, and staff take an active role in civic, community, and volunteer activities in the Council Bluffs area. Hamilton Associates is growing and recently acquired a firm in Omaha, Nebraska, which will double the business in the next five years. Paul said his goal is to keep the business presence strong in the area, continue to practice honest business values, and continue investing in the community.

I commend and congratulate Paul Hamilton and Eric Hamilton for their many years of dedicated and devoted service to Council Bluffs and the surrounding area. Paul and Eric make a difference by helping and serving others. It is with great honor that I recognize them today. I know that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in honoring their accomplishments and I wish them and their family and staff continued success in the future.

"TURN THE PAGE" LITERACY INITIATIVE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, every summer youth without access to books lose academic skills, while those who are reading continue to make progress in developing their proficiency. Studies show that summer learning loss is a significant cause of the achievement gap between lower and higher-income youth. Students from low-income households learn at

the same rate as their peers while school is in session, but while middle and upper-income students show slight gains in their reading performance after the summer months, lower income students experience a two-month loss in reading achievement.

It is what teachers refer to as the “summer slide” or “summer setback.” This loss is cumulative: while teachers spend 4–6 weeks re-teaching material to the students who have fallen behind over the summer, other students are progressing with their skills. The result? By the end of the sixth grade, children who lose reading skills during the summer are on average 2 years behind their peers. Even more startling is the conclusion of University of Nevada research, which has shown that students without access to books are less likely to complete their basic education.

The simple fact is that there are fewer opportunities for daily summer reading when both parents are away at work. Without access to books, our kids fall behind.

My daughter teaches English at Baylor University. She has dedicated her life to edifying the young people of this country by instilling in them a love for reading, and for the intellectual tradition it gives them access to. This love needs to start early, and the inheritance of that tradition should be accessible to all Americans. That is why I am proud of the efforts of KHOU and Star Furniture, who are rolling out a new community effort to increase the literacy rate in Houston. They are soliciting donations for the non-profit group “Books Between Kids,” which provides at-risk children with books that they can keep in their home. We need more programs like this in our country. And that’s just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY KOCH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kelly Koch, of Wauke, Iowa, on being crowned Miss Iowa 2016.

Miss Koch recently started competing in pageants as late as 2014, and was the runner-up Miss Iowa 2015. There are five categories for which contestants are judged. She was a preliminary talent winner with her ballet en point, telling the local newspaper, Dallas County News, that she spent at least two hours daily each week with her choreographer to perfect every detail. She was attuned to national and international news in preparation for the interview portion of the pageant. During her year of service as Miss Iowa, Miss Koch chose the Pinky Swear Foundation, which provides financial and emotional support to families whose children are afflicted with cancer. Earlier, Kelly Koch had served as an intern for the organization and has a great affection for its mission.

In her service as Miss Iowa and to fulfill her obligations to the Miss Iowa organization, Kelly Koch will temporarily suspend her studies at Iowa State University where she is a member of the I.S.U. Dance Team. In September, she will represent Iowa in Miss USA set for Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Kelly Koch for this recognition. I am proud to

represent her in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Miss Koch and wishing her nothing but success over the coming year and beyond.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF FARM CREDIT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the centennial of the Farm Credit System.

The Farm Credit System was established by Congress through the Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916 which was signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson. Next month will mark the centennial of this vital network.

I was pleased to cosponsor House Resolution 591, introduced by House Agriculture Committee Chairman MIKE CONAWAY and Ranking Member COLLIN PETERSON—commending the cooperative owners and employees of the Farm Credit System for their important contributions over the last century.

Congress designed the Farm Credit System as a network of cooperatives that would be able to respond to the needs of farmers and rural communities.

My district covers an important agricultural area in Central New York. The 24th District of New York is home to some of the most productive fruit, vegetable, dairy and diversified farms in the state. According to the census of agriculture, Cayuga County ranks second in the state and Wayne County ranks fifth in terms of the value of agricultural production. Farms in my district are served by Farm Credit East, which has over \$4 billion in loan commitments to its nearly 9,000 customers in New York.

As part of its centennial celebration, Farm Credit sponsored the Fresh Perspectives program to identify 100 leaders that are making a difference in rural America. Leaders were nominated in 10 different categories. From the top 100 list, a top honoree in each category was selected. I’m proud to say that Christine Fesko, of Skaneateles, NY was selected as the top honoree in the category of Agriculture Education and Community Impact.

In addition to running a 600 cow dairy farm with her family, Chris operates the Discovery Center where children, who wouldn’t otherwise be able to see a working farm, can learn about agriculture. She has also produced a series of award-winning educational videos to teach children about agriculture and modern farming practices. She was elected to the Farm Credit East board of directors where she served from 2003 to 2016.

As the Farm Credit System celebrates its centennial, I want to recognize farmers like Chris who have made this cooperative system strong as it begins its next 100 years.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF CLIVE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE—FARM CREDIT CENTENNIAL REMARKS—NEW YORK 22ND DISTRICT

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the cooperative owners and employees of the Farm Credit System for meeting the credit and financial-services needs of rural communities and agriculture for 100 years.

I was pleased to cosponsor House Resolution 591 commemorating the Farm Credit System centennial. Congress designed the Farm Credit System as a permanent means to support the well-being and prosperity of the Nation’s rural communities and agricultural producers of all types and sizes. Congress designed the Farm Credit System as a network of cooperatives, independently owned and controlled by its borrowers, responsive to their individual needs for credit and financial services.

Farm Credit East serves many farmers in my district through their offices in Cortland and Sangerfield. Further, the Farm Credit system actively supports our next generation of farmers with agriculture education and support for organizations like 4-H and Future Farmers of America.

One of Farm Credit East’s recent stewardship initiatives focuses on improving ag education. One of the top FFA chapters and ag education programs in the state of New York