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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 Adel and urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the community on this award and wishing them nothing but continued success.

2ND LIEUTENANT AUDIE MURPHY—
TUESDAYS IN TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Medal of Honor is the highest military honor that can be bestowed on an American. Harry Truman once commented that he would prefer to have the blue band of the Medal of Honor around his neck than be President. To receive the medal is not to win a contest, for the forum in which this medal is given is the contest to preserve liberty. It is a contest that no individual competitor could win; rather it is struggled for by the diligence, bravery, and sacrifice of millions of Americans. Nor is it a contest that is ever finished. It is an eternal struggle. Every generation of Americans has given of her sons and daughters to contribute to it. That is why Medal of Honor recipients are never said to have "won" the honor, but they have received it from a grateful nation, out of recognition of their distinguished contribution to our shared and continued fight for freedom.

Next week, Farmersville, TX, a small town in Hunt County, will celebrate the life of one of its sons, who came home the most decorated soldier of WWII. Audie Murphy's story of service starts early. When he was only 17 years old he had his sister assist him in falsifying his birth certificate so that he could meet the minimum age requirement for enlisting in the military. Like millions of Americans in the mid 40's, Murphy was eager to answer the call of his country.

Before long Murphy earned the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and was given command of Company B. In France during the early winter of 1945, Murphy's company was attacked by 6 German tanks and waves of infantry. Murphy ordered his men back into the cover of the woods, while he remained forward to give firing directions to artillery by telephone. Murphy then climbed into a burning tank and, despite the risk that the tank could explode at any moment, he began to use its .50 caliber machine gun to ward off the enemy. Murphy was alone and exposed to enemy fire on three sides. Against all odds, he succeeded in single-handedly holding the enemy back for an hour.

The citation that comes with Murphy's Medal of Honor, awarded for his actions that

day, tells us that despite a gunshot wound to the leg he fought until his ammunition was exhausted. He then made his way back to his company, refusing medical attention, and organized a counter attack that would prove successful and force the Germans to withdraw.

The contest for freedom is not a sprint. It is a relay that spans generations, and the champions of each generation should be honored for their service and sacrifice. We owe a debt of gratitude to all of those who fight for our freedom, and we honor individuals like 2nd Lt. Audie Murphy for their distinguished contribution.

And that is just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF ATLANTIC

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 Atlantic, 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 Atlantic 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.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call vote numbers 306 through 333 because I was speaking at my grandson's graduation. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No.	H.R./H. Res.	Vote
306	H.R. 5293 Shuster Amendment No. 2	No
307	H.R. 5293 Ellison Amendment No. 9	Yes
308	H.R. 5293 Rogers Amendment No. 12	No
309	H.R. 5293 Quigley Amendment No. 13	Yes
310	H.R. 5293 O'Rourke Amendment No. 16	Yes
311	H.R. 5293 Huffman Amendment No. 17	Yes
312	H.R. 5293 Poe Amendment No. 19	No

Rollcall No.	H.R./H. Res.	Vote
313	H.R. 5293 Sanford Amendment No. 21	No
314	H.R. 5293 Buck Amendment No. 22	No
315	H.R. 5293 Byrne Amendment No. 24	No
316	H.R. 5293 King Amendment No. 25	No
317	H.R. 5293 Gosar Amendment No. 26	No
318	H.R. 5293 King Amendment No. 27	No
319	H.R. 5293 Lamborn Amendment No. 29	No
320	H.R. 5293 Massie Amendment No. 30	No
321	H.R. 5293 Massie Amendment No. 31	Yes
322	H.R. 5293 McClintock Amendment No. 32	No
323	H.R. 5293 Mulvaney Amendment No. 33	Yes
324	H.R. 5293 DeSantis Amendment No. 34	No
325	H.R. 5293 Rohrabacher Amendment No. 36	No
326	H.R. 5293 Walberg Amendment No. 37	No
327	H.R. 5293 Conyers Amendment No. 40	Yes
328	H.R. 5293 Gabbard Amendment No. 42	No
329	H.R. 5293 McGovern Amendment No. 44	Yes
330	H.R. 5293 Lee Amendment No. 45	Yes
331	H.R. 5293 Polis Amendment No. 46	Yes
332	H.R. 5293	No
333	H.R. 5471	Yes

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF BONDURANT

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 Bondurant, 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 Bondurant 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.

I commend the City of Bondurant 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.

TRIBUTE TO MADISON HANCE

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 Madison Hance of Creston High School. Madison was recently honored for outstanding academic achievement at the Fourteenth Annual Governor's Scholar Recognition on May 1, 2016.

This statewide program is sponsored by the Iowa Governor's Office, the Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa Farm Bureau. Each Iowa High School was invited to select a senior with the highest academic ranking. Not only are they academically gifted,

but the selected students are often the youth who are successful in extra-curricular activities and community endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Madison Hance in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to reach her goals. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Madison on receiving this esteemed designation, and wishing her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BRITTANY SMITH

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 Brittany Smith, an Abraham Lincoln High School of Des Moines, Iowa graduate and current student at Grand View University. Brittany Smith recently received the Most Valuable Player title from the National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association for 2015–2016.

Brittany was raised in a family of bowlers. Her mother is the general manager of Air Lanes Bowling Center in Des Moines. The time she spent growing up in those bowling centers influenced her love of the sport and developed her work ethic to always improve her game. As she told the Des Moines Register, “I won’t leave the bowling center until I get a problem fixed. I have a mindset that I can be better every single day.” She practices hours each day but is also a full time student, majoring in criminal justice, dreaming of one day serving as a police officer. With that tenacity, Brittany Smith is a shining example of what a true champion is.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Brittany Smith 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 Brittany Smith and wishing her nothing but continued success.

SHELBY DECISION . . . THREE YEARS LATER

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today on Restoration Tuesday, I rise to draw attention to the coming three-year anniversary of the Supreme Court *Shelby v. Holder* decision and the damage that it inflicted on our democratic process.

In 2013, the Supreme Court of the United States handed down a decision that simply called for an update of the formula used to determine which states required federal preclearance prior to enacting legislation affecting the voting process. Shortly after, a number of states, including Alabama, quickly passed restrictive laws designed to suppress the vote after the Supreme Court struck down Section 4—the coverage formula provision making it harder of federal protection for vulnerable communities. Since the decision, new restrictive laws have been put in place in 22 states—18 of them Republican led—since 2010. The *Shelby* decision made it easier to limit access to the ballot box. And so here we are . . . three years later.

We must accept the charge that the Supreme Court handed to provide a new modern day formula to determine when states are covered under the Voting Rights Act. In June of 2015 I rose to the challenge and introduced the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015. Most of the Democratic members have signed on as co-sponsors. Just last week, I signed a discharge petition on this legislation to force an immediate vote on the House floor. Still, there has been much talk on both sides with little collective action. We were given this challenge in 2013, but somehow, here we are . . . three years later.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was reauthorized nearly a decade ago and it is shameful that still today, people across the nation do not enjoy full and free access to exercise their right to vote. It is reprehensible that still in 2016, Americans across the nation continue to face modern day barriers to the ballot box. The time is always ripe to do what is right. As we continue to progress throughout this election year, it is especially critical that all Americans have fair and equal access to the ballot box. Our very democracy is built on the ability of every citizen being able to have their voices heard and vote counted. No Vote, No Voice. America cannot and must not be silenced.

After decades of progress that culminated with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, we are now going backward. Old battles have become new again. The guise of a free photo ID masks the various fees necessary to pay for documents needed to obtain the ID. This “poll tax” makes it harder to vote for those who are barely able to make ends meet. Many elderly are unable to acquire documents proving birth due to the high number of midwife births. These are real barriers affecting real people. Is it our job as Members of Congress to deny them the right to vote? Is this obstruction of the vote what we took from the Supreme Court instructing us to revisit and recreate a formula? Why are we still here . . . three years later?

My colleagues, we are approaching the first Presidential election since the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 without full protection of the law against discrimination at the ballot box. We must stand on the virtue of a true democracy, constantly striving to remove blemishes from our process. A year has passed since the introduction of the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015, and it is being held up in committee processes, instead of being pushed through to restore the voting process for all Americans. It is time to band together and fulfil that which we have been tasked to accomplish. Delay too long is justice denied. The time is now. We must Restore The Vote.