

our Salute to the Military, our Youth Leadership Summit, and our Military Service Academy Day. Today, on the occasion of our annual Academy Day, I salute Bridgette in appreciation for her passionate leadership of this event.

Like the nominees and academy cadets Bridgette worked with over the years, she too represents the qualities of an excellent academy candidate. In addition to her sharp, professional, albeit pint-sized, appearance, Bridgette possesses amazing intelligence, a devotion to serving her community, a powerful work ethic, seemingly endless athleticism—especially on the tennis court—and a noble character.

On my staff, she best understood the process of Academy Day, from coordinating with academy representatives and service members, schools, and families involved in the event, right down to the smallest detail. Bridgette's contagious enthusiasm was greatly appreciated, as she facilitated the work of the selection board and the cadet nominees who would come to represent our district at the academies.

For these reasons, and so many more, I am proud and grateful for the opportunity to honor Bridgette Jones, my friend and former District Office Manager on the House floor today. I wish her and her husband, Bud Jones, as well as their children, Paige and A.J., all the best for the future, and thank her for her service to South Mississippi. Bridgette will always be a member of Team Palazzo.

2017 MERIT SCHOLARS

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize seven students from my district who have received 2017 National Merit Scholarships.

The criteria that must be met to receive one of these scholarships is quite difficult. In fact, of the 15,000 finalists selected, only half will actually receive scholarships.

The recipients of this prestigious scholarship are Connor Schmidt of Ham Lake, Benjamin Caswell of Shoreview, Raffi Toghramadjan of Blaine, Rachel Cho of Blaine, Piper Christenson of Spring Lake Park, Catherine Lewis of Blaine, and Kenneth Truong of Coon Rapids.

Each one of these students has big plans for their future, which include careers in medicine, science, and engineering—all fields that are critically important to the success of our nation.

I congratulate each of these students on receiving this scholarship, and I look forward to watching them achieve great success in their respective careers.

Good work and good luck.

HONORING JACOBY CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jacoby Creek Elementary School, which was selected as a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School, in the Exemplary High Performing Schools category, by the U.S. Department of Education. This highly competitive award reflects outstanding academic achievement and the highest caliber of professional service and family and community engagement.

With over 400 students from a variety of socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds throughout rural Humboldt County, Jacoby Creek Elementary School offers a well-rounded educational program that challenges its students academically in a safe and inclusive climate while fostering a lifelong love of learning. In addition to a staff dedicated to helping students meet their fullest potential, Jacoby Creek Elementary School's educational success is uniquely supported by extremely high parent and community participation in all aspects of the school program. The school has earned a strong reputation for academic excellence and prides itself on developing students who are kind, productive, and considerate citizens.

Mr. Speaker, this hard-earned distinction reflects a true community success. From the amazing students and their families to the staff, administrators, and extended community, Jacoby Creek Elementary School has developed an effective education model for the state and nation, empowering students of today to be the problem-solvers, inventors, and pioneers of tomorrow. Please join me in congratulating Jacoby Creek Elementary School on this impressive achievement.

HONORING THE CALDWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Caldwell Public Library, located in the Borough of Caldwell, New Jersey, on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

The forerunner of the present Caldwell Public Library dates back to the post-Revolutionary War era. Pioneers purchased books and founded a library in 1804. The number of books increased relatively few to over five hundred volumes in the ensuing years. As a result of personal or home ownership of books, the interest in the library waned, resulting in its dissolution in 1835.

In early 1894, Caldwell High School held a faculty meeting to discuss reading material for students. At that time, nothing was available except books owned by the residents in the community. After several meetings concerning this matter, the committee concluded that a library was needed for the students as well as for the greater public.

On December 4, 1894, the library opened its doors and the circulation for that first day

was thirty-five books. Patrons paid a very small fee to borrow books. For several years, this was the sole source of library revenue.

By 1907, Professor Hedden, Superintendent of Schools, requested the Caldwell Borough Council to submit to the voters a referendum to establish a free library under the State Library Act. The measure was ultimately accepted and approved.

On June 8, 1908 a letter from the Carnegie Library Foundation offered a sum of seven thousand five hundred dollars to construct a library. For the next nine years, the library board was confronted with problems, which hindered the construction of a new edifice. Acquiring a suitable location was the principal issue, until Mr. George W. Canfield of West Caldwell, generously donated \$2,000.00 toward the purchase of a site for the library. With the contribution, and donations from other interested persons, a total of \$3,000.00 was accumulated to purchase a new location.

On October 12, 1917 the Caldwell Library was formally dedicated. Mayor Peck, who, at the time, was President of the Library Trustees, was delivered the key of the building.

During the First World War, the Council of National Defense made an appeal for magazines and books for soldiers on transport ships. Miss Hasler designated the library as a collection center for books from this area. The public responded enthusiastically by donating more than five hundred volumes.

On Armistice Day, November 12, 1919, two bronze tablets, installed on each side of the front entrance of the Caldwell Library, were dedicated and unveiled during auspicious ceremonies. On Memorial Day and Veterans Day, the James Caldwell Post 185 of the American Legion, and various local veterans organizations conduct joint exercises at this memorial.

This event served as a turning point for Caldwell, in that the library became a focal point for the community; generating civic volunteerism. The "Friends of the Library," continue to this day to promote its goals.

The purpose and aim of Caldwell library is to meet the cultural and intellectual needs of the people of the area. It is with this goal in mind that the library hopes to continue and expand its services to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in congratulating the Caldwell Public Library on the occasion of its Centennial Anniversary.

RECOGNIZING DOUG McCUMBER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Doug McCumber for his leadership and service to his community of Tuscola, IL.

Doug graduated from Tuscola High School in 1967 and then the University of Illinois in 1971. After graduating from the University of Illinois, Doug began his 40 year career in banking and a life dedicated to his community. Over time, Doug served in many capacities such as the President of Tuscola's Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, and Community Development Corporation. Doug was also active in Tuscola's United Methodist Church as a member of its Board of Trustees.

An avid sports fan, Doug enjoyed cheering on the Illini and St. Louis Cardinals, but that was nothing compared to his love for all things Tuscola Warriors. In fact, most knew Doug as the "Voice of the Warriors" as he was the play-by-play announcer for Tuscola High School's football team for 43 seasons.

Doug McCumber passed away September 26th, remembered as a beloved family man to his wife and children, a devoted Christian to his congregation, and a public servant to the entire Tuscola community.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to send my deepest sympathies to Doug McCumber's family, friends, and all of those he impacted in service to his town.

HONORING THE NEW SHARON AND OSKALOOSA FIRE DEPARTMENTS

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of firefighters from my district. Millions across the country watched Hurricane Harvey hit parts of Texas in late August, causing tragic loss of life and devastating damage to areas such as Houston. A group of Iowa first responders with a history of helping out during national disasters knew they had to help.

On Thursday, September 14th, members of the New Sharon Fire and Oskaloosa Fire Departments loaded up materials and drove twenty-two hours to Rockport, Texas to help a community in need. Over the course of their time in Texas, these volunteers worked tirelessly to help their fellow first responders clean up and recover from this storm. In a time of disaster, Iowans step up to help out those in need. To the volunteers from the New Sharon and Oskaloosa Fire Departments, I am in awe of your selflessness, and you have undoubtedly made a significant impact on a community devastated by Hurricane Harvey.

A CHIEF HISTORIAN

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the renowned historian Dennis E. Frye for his dedication to preserving our nation's history and for his passion on sharing our history with anyone lucky enough to meet him.

Dennis Frye serves as the Chief Historian at Harper's Ferry National Historical Park. Dennis has authored several books on the Civil War and has lectured on the topic throughout the nation.

Recently, my staff had the good fortune of taking a tour of Harper's Ferry, led by Dennis. He not only gave them great insight into the battle that took place at Harper's Ferry, but he also gave them a wider understanding of one of the most tumultuous times in our nation's history.

As Dennis so aptly pointed out on their tour, while our nation's history has not always been

pleasant, it is critical that we never try to forget or erase it. If we do, then we have not learned from our history and we are more likely to repeat mistakes of the past.

I thank Dennis for sharing his knowledge and wisdom with my staff. They will never forget him.

IN RECOGNITION OF MID-CITIES TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INC.

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Mid-Cities Texas Chapter of The Links, Incorporated as they are awarded the 2017 Community Service Award from the Pro-Duffers Foundation for their work to promote programs that provide services to protect, enhance and enrich the educational, economic, cultural and social aspects of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

The Links was chartered on April 20, 1985 and has since expanded its association to 280 chapters worldwide with more than 14,000 predominantly African-American members globally. Led by President Billie Hawkins, the Mid-Cities Texas Chapter of The Links boasts a coalition of 50 professional women focused on a commitment to community, comradery, and communication. To commemorate their 30th anniversary, the Mid-Cities Chapter donated \$30,000 to six local charities whose mission, vision and work in the community aligned with the service focus areas of the chapter: services to youth, the arts, health and human services, and removing barriers for national and international African American leadership development.

In years past, the Mid-Cities Texas Chapter collaborated with The University of Texas at Arlington and The University of Dallas to develop programs encouraging K-12 students to consider careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). The organization is also responsible for organizing Project ALERT (Alzheimer's Link to Education, Research and Treatment) with The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center's Alzheimer's Disease Research Center helping educating African-Americans about the disease and the importance of participating in clinical trials. Additionally, the Mid-Cities chapter established the Sallye Moore Scholarship Funding, awarding more than 30 four-year college scholarships to graduating seniors, and funded school construction in South Africa among other service projects aimed at empowering the African diasporic community.

I honor the Mid-Cities Chapter of The Links, a dedicated community service organization.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HAZELWOOD CEMETERY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Hazel-

wood Cemetery, which is located in Springfield, Missouri.

The Hazelwood Cemetery was officially dedicated on October 26, 1867, and was originally located several miles outside of city limits. However, despite the original location outside of the city, over the years Springfield has grown around the Hazelwood Cemetery.

On the 14th of October this year, the Hazelwood Cemetery will celebrate its sesquicentennial anniversary. 150 years of both history and service to the Springfield community will be celebrated on this day. The Hazelwood Cemetery honors John Polk Campbell, the founder of Springfield, John T. Woodruff, the visionary of Route 66 and many other notable members of the local Springfield community.

On behalf of Missouri's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the significant role the Hazelwood Cemetery has played in honoring the lives of the Springfield community.

OPERA AT FLORHAM 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Opera at Florham, located in Fairleigh Dickinson University, in the Borough of Madison, New Jersey, on the occasion of their 35th Anniversary. From humble beginnings, this organization's mission is to educate and provide affordable operatic and related musical performances.

In 1982 Violetta DuPont co-founded the organization as an extension of Fairleigh Dickinson University's Music Department. Since then Opera at Florham has been providing outstanding operatic and other vocal selections from the American Song Book. Each performance features three outstanding vocalists who have performed across the country. To this day, Opera at Florham is New Jersey's only long running opera recital series.

Part of Opera at Florham's mission is to provide stage and role opportunities to young and upcoming artists. The inaugural Violetta DuPont Vocal Competition was held in 1987. This annual competition provides young operatic talent an opportunity to compete for cash prizes in front of judges and a live audience. In 1995, Opera at Florham became a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization and continues to be affiliated with Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Opera at Florham is most known for its staged opera. Each season four musicales are performed in Lenfell Hall at Fairleigh Dickinson University, in the former residence of the Vanderbilt's and Twombly's. These musicales are priced affordably, yet feature high artistic excellence. These events showcase the drama, passion, music, and story that good opera is known for.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in congratulating Opera at Florham on the occasion of their 35th Anniversary.