

Beyond his duties as a civil servant, he has also given back to his community in countless ways, including managing the youth Munhall Baseball League, organizing summer athletic programs, working with Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and church groups, and teaching local government to youth groups and schools. He is also a member of a number of community service organizations, including Knights of Columbus No. 2201, the Catholic War Veterans Association, the Homestead Elks, and the Steel Valley Salvation Army Board of Directors.

For more than 50 years, Raymond Bodnar has demonstrated wholehearted dedication to public service and community involvement, and I think that we can all learn something from his example. I wish to congratulate the mayor on his retirement and commend him for his lifetime of devotion to the Munhall community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on October 31, 2017 as my flight to Washington D.C. was delayed and prevented me from being on the House floor in time.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 591.

RECOGNIZING THE 26TH ANNUAL BEST OF RESTON AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 26th Annual Best of Reston Awards for Community Service. These awards are the result of collaboration between Cornerstones and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and are presented to individuals, organizations, and businesses whose extraordinary efforts make our community a better place.

I have been proud to represent this community since my days as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The level of civic engagement celebrated by these awards is a testament to the community spirit of Reston. I have often said that civic engagement is a key indicator of a healthy community and tonight's event proves that Reston is one of the healthiest communities in all of Northern Virginia! That is due in no small part to the actions of those honored here this evening and I extend my congratulations to all of tonight's honorees. I also wish to thank Kerrie Wilson of Cornerstones and Mark Ingrao of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce for their tireless efforts on behalf of others and in making our community one of the best places in the country in which to live, work and raise a family.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following recipients of the 2017 Best of Reston Awards:

Corporate/Business Leader:
Odin, Feldman and Pittleman, PC
Small Business Leader:
CST Group
Volunteerism Through Nonprofit Service:
Women Giving Back
Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts

Community Leader:
Bill Keefe
Gillian and Vincent Seske
Vade Bolton-Ann Rodriguez Legacy Award:
Herb Williams-Bafoe
Robert E. Simon Community Service Award:
Vicky Wingert

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2017 Best of Reston honorees for their tremendous contributions. I thank Cornerstones and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce for continuing this wonderful tradition, and I express my sincere gratitude to these individuals, businesses, and organizations for lending their time and energy to the betterment of our community.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIE BARANCZYK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Drake Women's Basketball Coach Jennie Baranczyk on being awarded the 2017 Madelyn Levitt Community Service Award.

The Madelyn Levitt Community Service Award is annually presented to Drake University faculty or staff members who have "demonstrated personal commitment to volunteerism and community service." Jennie just completed her fifth season at the helm of the women's basketball team for the Drake Bulldogs, where not only she, but a number of her players, has won numerous awards and recognitions. Off the court, she leads her team in giving back to the community, reaching their annual 1,000 hour goal of community service for four straight years. Organizations throughout the Des Moines area, and the people they serve, have benefited from the team's generous efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent community leaders like Jennie in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize her today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jennie for this outstanding recognition and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

HONORING CAPTAIN SKIP BLANCETT, USN (RETIRED)

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Skip Blancett, USN, Retired of Salado, Texas. With a career spanning over two decades, CAPT Blancett is a true patriot, a faith-filled citizen, and unquestionably a deserving recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

CAPT Blancett joined the Navy at age 29 and was stationed in Guam, where he helped fulfill the spiritual needs of others. CAPT Blancett went on to serve his country in eight other stations around the world, with duties ranging from Public Affairs Officer, to teaching a course in the Naval War College, to furthering the spiritual state of his fellow sailors through various tactics with the Chaplain Corps.

CAPT Blancett's love of country is matched only by his commitment to his community. Upon retirement, the call to serve continued to burn inside. CAPT Blancett has gracefully served as Mayor of Salado since 2014 where he has been a champion of the Village's growing economy and its hard-working citizens. He is beloved by the Village of Salado for his leadership, commitment to faith, and passion for his community.

CAPT Blancett serves the people of Salado with the same dedication, honor, and humility with which he served his country. He is an exemplary man who shows the utmost commitment to his family, community, and above all, his faith. May we all follow the example of great men such as CAPT Blancett, and live a life of hard work, loyalty and service to others.

RECOGNIZING DR. CHERIF SADKI AS THE 2017 OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Cherif Sadki, principal of Gar-Field Senior High School, as the 2017 Outstanding High School Principal of Virginia.

Each year, the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals, which is the seventh largest school administrators' organization in the National Association of Secondary School Principals, selects a principal to represent the state as the nominee for the National Principal of the Year Program.

As the 2017 nominee, Dr. Sadki is commended for his "creativity and imagination in bringing about positive change, improving the educational program and student achievement; ensuring a school climate that reflects high staff and student morale; and for involving the community in the life of the school."

At the helm of Gar-Field Senior High School for the past five years, Dr. Sadki has implemented countless policy changes and program adjustments to address the needs of the increasingly diverse student population. Of the roughly 2,500 students enrolled in Gar-Field Senior High School last year, approximately half spoke a language other than English at home. One to never shy away from a challenge, Dr. Sadki rolled up his sleeves, transformed the teaching model, and embedded English instruction into the core curriculum to meet the needs of the diverse student body.

For his foresight, engagement of the community, and commitment to ensuring that all students receive a world-class education, it is my honor to include in the Record, Dr. Cherif Sadki.

Dr. Sadki is the standard-bearer at the regional and national level for educating English learners. He attributes much of his success in

reshaping the mission of Gar-Field Senior High School to the efforts of a supportive community, a focused group of educators, and a dedicated administrative staff. Instead of seeing students who embraced a failing attitude, he saw children who had not been given an opportunity to succeed. Dr. Sadki saw teachers who needed encouragement, training and support and a community that could be convinced that success was possible.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Cherif Sadki, principal of Gar-Field Senior High School on his selection as the 2017 Outstanding High School Principal for Virginia. His leadership and dedication to the students, teachers, and faculty as he works to ensure a bright future for all who pass through the doors of Gar-Field Senior High School is truly commendable and worthy of our highest praise.

HONORING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT OF MEREDITH COREY-DISCH, OWNER OF COMMUNITY LOAVES

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Meredith Corey-Disch, a leader and business owner in my district, who was a recipient of a spot at the James Beard Foundation's Inaugural Class of the Women's Entrepreneurial Leadership Fellowship program. This program, hosted at the prestigious Babson College, aims to help female chefs and owners grow their businesses by cultivating women's leadership in the culinary industry.

Meredith Corey-Disch and her business partner, Sarah Bogdanovitch, are exceptional entrepreneurs. Their business was founded on the belief that it should be local, community focused space that provides organic, traditional foods with shared work and fair pay. "Community Loaves" began in 2011 in Jacksonville, as an organic bike-delivered subscription bakery. The pair then opened a bread shop in 2014, where they served all-organic bread and pastries for breakfast and lunch. They kept the business community focused by holding special pizza nights and farm to table dinners in their garden and invited surrounding neighbors to these events.

Meredith began her love of bread making through an apprenticeship in a bakery, while brainstorming ways she could start a business people would enjoy back in her hometown of Jacksonville. She can be described as thoughtful, kind, generous, and creative. With these skills, along with her passion of bread making, Meredith will continue to spread her passion throughout Northeast Florida. We need more creative small business owners like Meredith. She has been a true example of leadership for women in Northeast Florida and I look forward to seeing her future culinary successes.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Meredith Corey-Disch for her leadership in not only the culinary community, but in Northeast Florida as well.

RECOGNIZING RED CREEK HIGH SCHOOL'S BLUE RIBBON AWARD

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding students, faculty, and staff at Red Creek High School. The mission statement of the Red Creek Central School District is to educate students with equity, and help them master fundamental skills. I would like to commend the hard work of the Red Creek Central School District for making Red Creek High School a safe and welcoming place to learn.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private schools based on overall academic excellence or ability in closing achievement gaps among students. Every year the United States Department of Education seeks out, and honors, schools that tirelessly work to help students grow academically. Red Creek High School is one of just 19 New York State schools to receive the prestigious "Exemplary High Performing Schools" award from the United States Department of Education this year.

Since the Blue Ribbon Award was first created in 1982, only four other schools in Wayne-Finger Lakes region have garnered Blue Ribbon status. Red Creek High School was awarded its Blue Ribbon Award this year for the strong academic performance of its student body. The teachers and administrators at Red Creek High School work hard each day to make learning exciting, and encourage their students that they can achieve their goals both inside and outside of the classroom. I'm proud to recognize this stellar high school in my district, and applaud the students, parents, administrators and teachers for their efforts.

HONORING ASSISTANT CHIEF MICHAEL SCHRAGE OF THE CRYSTAL CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Assistant Chief Michael Schrage on his 50 years of service as a volunteer firefighter with the Crystal City Fire Department in Crystal City, Missouri. A celebration will be held on November 13, 2017 to honor Assistant Chief Schrage and commemorate his more than 50 years of service starting in 1967.

Born to Robert and Wanda Schrage on September 7, 1953, Mr. Schrage was one of five children. On August 11, 1976, Mr. Schrage married his beloved wife of 39 years, Janet Sue. Janet and Michael had one daughter, Brandi, and have also welcomed into the family Brandi's husband, Daniel and their granddaughter, Audri. In 1975, Mr. Schrage joined the Joachim Platin Ambulance District. During that same year, he began working with his father, Mr. Robert (Bob) Schrage, at the family business, Schrage Electric. Mr. Schrage earned his certificate in Fire Science Technology from Jefferson College on May 23,

1978. In 1990 when his father retired, Mr. Schrage took over the family business and is still operating it today. Throughout his life, Mr. Schrage has served the Festus, Jefferson R-7, and Crystal City Fire Departments. Since 2009, Mr. Schrage has served as the commissioner for the Festus Special Road District. Additionally, he serves his community as a member of the Twin city Area Chamber of Commerce and Elks Lodge 1721. He also attends Good News Community Church.

Throughout Mr. Schrage's service, he has held the position of Fire Fighter, Captain, and Assistant Chief. Mr. Schrage is currently the Assistant Chief at the Crystal City Fire Department. In 2013, he was given the award of Fire Chief of the Year in Jefferson County. In 2016, he was the Grand Marshall at the Jefferson County Fire Engine Rally and the Crystal City Homecoming.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Assistant Chief Michael Schrage on 50 dedicated years of service to his community. The commitment he has shown to the Crystal City Fire Department has been greatly appreciated.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on October 31, 2017 for Roll Call Vote 591. Had I been present, my vote would have been the following: Aye on Roll Call Vote 591.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on October 31, I was absent for recorded vote No. 591. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

TRIBUTE TO MICHELLE DECLERCK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Michelle DeClerck on being awarded the Women in Business Champion of the Year by the Iowa Small Business Administration.

Every year, during National Small Business Week, the Iowa Small Business Administration announces winners of the Iowa Small Business Week Awards. Michelle is the founder and president of Conference Event Management in West Des Moines. In its 13 years, Michelle has grown the company across Iowa and around the globe. One of her passions in life is promoting women in business and fostering the growth of women business owners. She devotes her time and energy to several organizations that advocate for, mentors, and