

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

supports women business owners, encouraging them to enter the world of business ownership. She also serves with organizations that focus on aiding the hungry and homeless in Central Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, strong communities are built upon people like Michelle, who go above and beyond their own self-interests and devote their time and energy to helping others. I am honored to represent leaders like her in the United States Congress and I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Michele for receiving this outstanding recognition and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF BELL'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the City of Bell on its 90th anniversary. I am deeply honored to represent this city as part of California's 40th Congressional District, and I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Bell and its residents on the city's anniversary.

The foundation of the City of Bell can be traced back to the arrival of the first group of settlers in the mid-1870s. Among the settlers were the city founder James George Bell and his wife and children. They moved to a property on Gage Avenue that is now known as the Bell House. The house is now a historic landmark filled with antique furnishings, vintage clothing, and photographs, and is open for the public to visit.

In 1898, the town's name was officially changed from Rancho San Antonio to Bell, in honor of its pioneer founders. The City of Bell was incorporated in 1927 and is a small, vibrant community composed of young families, small businesses, and an industrial district.

Between 1920 and 1935, Bell experienced a growth spurt where schools, businesses, and community organizations were established, such as the Bell Chamber of Commerce and Bell High School.

Since its incorporation, the city has expanded its facilities, obtained land for public parks and recreational areas, and acquired basic amenities such as a city hall, parks, a fire department building, and a police department.

The city has recently enhanced transparency and accountability within the city government. In 2013, the city's website earned an A— from a non-profit organization that examines state and local government transparency. Through the city website, the public can now watch live streaming council meetings, look up city contracts, view warrant payments and public officials' salaries and compensations, and review budget information.

Over the years, Bell has become a vibrant city with an innovative approach to enhancing its services and infrastructure in order to support its growing community. Bell encourages programs that provide recreational activities and community services, preserve and improve the environment, and protect the safety of Bell residents.

In 2016, the Bell City Council adopted a five-year strategic plan, which outlines the top

five targets for the city: economic development, community outreach, public image, developing and improving strong city management, and fiscal sustainability.

Currently, the City of Bell is mostly composed of a large Latino population and a growing Lebanese American community. Bell's commitment to community engagement can be seen through the various programs it offers to youth, adults, and seniors.

Over 700 children are participating in the city's soccer program and parents turn out in large numbers to support their kids. Some parents even become team coaches. The city has also developed new adult sports programs, and has been renovating parks by establishing maintenance procedures for the synthetic fields.

Ernest Debs Park, which is home to the youth soccer program, includes a synthetic soccer field with covered bleachers and a covered fitness zone that are available to residents every day of the week. The largest park in the city is Veterans Memorial Park, which commemorates the contributions of war veterans to our country and our freedom. Veterans Memorial Park includes a veterans monument, a rose garden, a baseball field with stadium seating, two large park pavilions, and batting cages.

Family events such as the city's annual street festival, the Summer Concert Series, and the Bell 5K Run/Walk have also been developed to promote community, health, and fitness in the city. The city's smartphone application has made it possible for its residents to report street improvements, pickup of bulky items, and graffiti removals through the touch of a button.

The new City of Bell Technology Center has provided a safe learning environment where both adults and youth can access computers. This Technology Center provides free after-school computer skills training classes, which include introductions to computer equipment and operation, word processing techniques, e-mail correspondence, and fundamental skills required for safe web access.

As the City of Bell celebrates its 90th anniversary this month, the community will also be celebrating some of the following achievements: a "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting" by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada; the establishment of a Planning Commission; the initiation of a "Business of the Month" effort to highlight local businesses; a partnership with the Bell Chamber of Commerce to establish the Bell Family Food Truck Night; and adoption of the city's Strategic Plan and the new city logo.

That new logo is shaped by a bell design, and includes the city's motto: "Home . . . in the center of it all" to inspire civic pride and civic engagement in the community.

The City of Bell has made huge strides in the past couple of years and does not show any sign of slowing down. I ask my colleagues to join me in sending our best wishes and congratulations to Bell on its 90th anniversary. This small, diverse, vibrant community makes residents proud and visitors feel at home. I expect more great things to come in Bell's future.

HONORING FIRST SERGEANT WILL
WILLIAMS, U.S. ARMY (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 First Sergeant Will Williams, U.S. Army, Retired, of Round Rock, Texas, for his selfless dedication and service to our nation and his continued, unparalleled contributions to his community. I am honored to award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Following his enlistment in 1976, SGT Williams contributed 24 years of service that included deployments from Panama and Somalia, to Desert Shield and Desert Storm as an Army Ranger, Small Weapons Specialist with the 2nd Division. His commitment to keeping our nation safe is in his blood. Three generations of his family served in combat roles in the United States Army, and among the three they share 4 Bronze Star Medals.

SGT Williams' service and sense of duty did not culminate with his military service. Upon returning to Round Rock, SGT Williams dedicated his civilian life to the uplifting and betterment of his community. In 2013, he helped raise \$50,000 for Dell's Children's Hospital and over \$10,000 for the Ronald McDonald House. In Round Rock, SGT Williams organized a food drive, sent out a care package to deployed soldiers, and provided clothing and supplies to 300 foster kids through Project Care.

His service has been recognized and appreciated throughout the community. SGT Williams was recognized with the Service to Mankind Award by the Round Rock Sertoma Club, received the Leadership Award from the "Heart of Texas Award" organization, and was honored with the Governor's Lone Star Achievement Award from Texas Governor Greg Abbott.

I commend First Sergeant Will Williams' selfless service to his community and nation. His commitment to excellence and citizenship reflect the best values we hold as Americans. I join his family, friends, and colleagues in saluting his great work and dedication to our country.

H.R. 732, STOP SETTLEMENT
SLUSH FUNDS ACT OF 2017

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today in opposition to the so-called Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2017 (H.R. 732).

The Department of Justice has long had the authority to enter into and enforce settlement agreements on behalf of the United States government. This includes payments to third parties that help right the wrongs caused by an entity that has broken the law.

For instance, the government can negotiate a settlement that allows payments to groups like nonprofits that help aid in the recovery of the individuals and communities hurt by unlawful conduct. These third-party payments are particularly important when it is impossible