

former U.S. Marine and their two sons graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy.

Mrs. Innerst's dedication has touched the lives of many people and challenged all with whom she served to be the best. Her legacy of service is admirable.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I commend and congratulate Diane Innerst upon her retirement after many years of service to Harrisburg Academy and our community.

**HONORING THE 27TH ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. YOUTH ORATORICAL CONTEST**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2017*

Mr. CONNOLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 32nd Annual King Day Celebration and the cornerstone of the event, the 27th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest, hosted by the Prince William Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated in partnership with the Cecil & Irene Hylton Foundation.

Annually, the Hylton Foundation and the members of the Prince William Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Incorporated invite community members to gather on Martin Luther King Jr. Day to reflect upon the past year and receive a message of hope from the youth of today and leaders of tomorrow. Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will forever be engrained in our history as the formative figure in the quest for justice through civil dialogue.

In his Letter from a Birmingham Jail, Dr. King highlighted the need for civility in order to establish equality. For his courage, vision, and perseverance, we celebrate Dr. King, not just for the man he was, but for his vision of the American Dream and what America can be. While his life was cut short by a senseless act of violence, his legacy is one of tolerance. Responding through peaceful and principled communication to condemn the injustice of social and racial inequality, Dr. King worked tirelessly to establish a more united society. As we gather days prior to the 58th inauguration, under this year's theme of "what the world needs now", participants in the Youth Oratorical Contest pay homage to the legacy of Dr. King through their delivery of extemporaneous remarks.

The ability to communicate with passion and clarity will serve them well as they assume future leadership opportunities and establish the personal relationships necessary for community engagement. I congratulate the following contestants in the 27th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest:

Middle School Contestants

Chelsea Campbell—Porter Traditional School  
Jennine Faruque—Stonewall Middle School  
Abdullah Usufzai—Ronald Reagan Middle School

High School Contestants

Gladys Gonzalez—Osbourne High School  
Norman Jones—Stonewall Jackson High School  
Hamayel Safi—Woodbridge High School

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Prince William Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated for showcasing the power of purposeful and meaningful communication reminiscent of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and in congratulating the talented youth of the 2017 MLK Youth Oratorical Contest.

family decided to make the big move to the United States. After months of living with his aunt and uncle in New York, Gerardo, with his mother Rosa and sister Antoinette, moved to my home town of Paterson, New Jersey, where he still lives today.

Gerardo has been an extremely hard worker his entire life. After just one day of living in the United States he got a job working at Lembo Textile Shop. Gerardo worked making rollers for textile printers. After living in the United States for some time, Gerardo picked up a second job. He worked the night shift at Master Screens in Clifton, NJ. Gerardo quickly saw himself thriving at Master Screens, and eventually became the manager of the entire location, making it his primary job for seven years.

Finally, after a year of being in the United States, Gerardo's brother Antonio and sister-in-law moved to Paterson, NJ and began working with Gerardo to build their own two-family home. Gerardo lived on one floor with his mother Rosa and sister Antoinette, while his brother Antonio and sister-in-law lived on the second floor with their two children. As you can tell, Gerardo is a self-made man who achieves everything he sets his mind to.

Aside from building houses and managing a textile shop, he loves fishing and eating seafood. Whenever he has downtime he gets his rod and heads to go fishing. Because of his passion for fishing he decided to open his own seafood market. He named it San Marco's Fish Market, and it was located on 21st Avenue in Paterson, NJ. He kept the business in the family and employed his brother Antonio, sister Antoinette, and sister-in-law. His market became incredibly successful, and he eventually began supplying seafood to many local restaurants. Gerardo succeeded in the seafood industry for 12 years, when he decided to begin achieving some of his other dreams.

After years of being out in the workforce, Gerardo decided to go back to school so that he could begin doing what he truly loved. In 2000, Gerardo opened up Montone Remodeling and Construction, Incorporated. Gerardo still runs and operates his company, and has had much success with his business. Asides from fishing and being at the company, Gerardo loves to spend time with his son Gerardo, Jr., and his wife of 14 years, Julia. Gerardo is an extremely hard working man, and I do not see him slowing down at any time in his future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing the work of Gerardo Montone and his hard work and dedication to the Roma Club of Woodland Park, NJ.

**RECOGNIZING PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS ON OBTAINING CERTIFICATIONS AND RENEWALS FROM THE 2016 NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2017*

Mr. CONNOLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Prince William County Public

School Division and congratulate the following educators on obtaining certification or recertification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Founded in 1987, the National Board was established by teachers for teachers as the premier vehicle for defining and recognizing accomplished educators. Today, the independent nonprofit organization remains dedicated to supporting excellence in education and is governed by classroom teachers, school administrators, school board leaders, governors and state legislators, higher education officials, teacher union leaders, and business and community leaders.

A National Board Certification denotes the most respected professional certification available in the education field. Obtaining certification and completing the renewal process is a personal and public statement of one's commitment to the evolution of effective instruction methods. In order to obtain the distinction, teachers must display a mastering of the standards established by the National Board by successfully completing a rigorous multi-component assessment that demonstrates that he or she has acquired the knowledge, skills, and practices required of an accomplished educator. Certified educators support a vision of teaching based on the following five core propositions:

1. Teachers are committed to students and their learning;
2. Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students;
3. Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning;
4. Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience; and
5. Teachers are members of learning communities.

I extend my personal congratulations and appreciation to the following 2016 National Board Certified Teachers for receiving their respective certifications and renewals:

Schenell Agee—Library Media Programs and Research

Alise Brooks—Dale City Elementary School

James Carroll—Freedom High School

Melissa Dembele—Featherstone Elementary School

Elise Dutton—Benton Middle School

Rhonda Ellington—Mullen Elementary School

Christy Katsourakis—Enterprise Elementary School

Lauren Mack—T. Clay Wood Elementary School

Karisa Marcy—Piney Branch Elementary School

Christine Petrus—Haymarket Elementary School

Jennifer Roberts—Patriot High School

Carey Shenal—Stonewall Jackson High School

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending these teachers for their commitment to education, professional development, and the students of Prince William County Public Schools. The world-class education provided to our students is due to the tireless efforts of teachers who make excellence the standard and I thank them for their invaluable contributions.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WALL OF HONOR WITHIN THE FRESNO AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL MUSEUM

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2017*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the State Center Community College District's Wall of Honor within the Fresno African American Historical and Cultural Museum in celebration of its 20 year anniversary. As we celebrate Black History Month, it is important to note this important part of the museum which has highlighted successes in the African American community throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

The African American Historical and Cultural Museum was the creation of Jack Kelley, the first African American police sergeant in Fresno. Passionate about black history, Jack wanted to create a place where people could go to recognize and enjoy black history throughout our Valley. Jack and former State Center Community College District chancellor, Dr. Bill F. Stewart, coined the idea of creating a Wall of Honor within the museum, where exceptional African American leaders affiliated with the State Center Community College District could be recognized. Since 1996, the Wall of Honor has served as a platform to highlight the success of notable African Americans in our community. Each year, a committee of local leaders accepts nominations for the Wall of Honor and selects the inductees. Those inducted into the Wall of Honor must have attended, worked or served the State Center Community College District.

The Wall of Honor acts as a representation of the triumphs African Americans in the State Center Community College District have achieved. It will serve as a place for where the brilliance, accomplishments, and strength of our black community leaders will be honored. It is my great pleasure to honor the Wall of Honor for a successful 20 years. I also commemorate the services of all the staff of the museum and the State Center Community College District who have worked hard to educate our community and preserve our Valley's African American History. I send my best wishes for many years to come.

GINGER ONTIVEROS VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE ALUMNI HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2017*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service and induction of Ginger Ontiveros to the Victor Valley College Alumni Hall of Fame. Ginger was the previous Executive Director of Victor Valley College Foundation and was instrumental in changing the landscape of higher education within Victor Valley. As an alumnus of VVC, Ginger is extremely compassionate and thoughtful towards the needs of students and excelled in her role as Executive Director of the VVC Foundation.

During her 15 years with the Victor Valley College Foundation, Ginger provided Victor Valley College with vast opportunities through securing gifts for VVC, easing enrollment challenges for students, and assisted in the development of the renowned Dr. Prem Reddy Health & Science Building at VVC. This is only a few of the many programs that Ginger implemented which fostered mentors from the Victor Valley community to give back to students attending Victor Valley College.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I would like to thank Ginger Ontiveros for her tireless work and dedication to the students of the High Desert and faculty of Victor Valley College. Ginger Ontiveros' work has shaped education within Victor Valley and I am pleased to hear that she will be inducted in the Victor Valley College's Alumni Hall of Fame.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2017 DALE CITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY AWARDS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 27, 2017*

Mr. CONNOLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2017 Dale City Civic Association Community Awards.

The Dale City Civic Association represents the interests of the 70,000 residents of Dale City in a manner that benefits the entire community. Association members complete revitalization and beautification projects, advocate for land use projects, and volunteer in response to community needs.

Each year, the Association hosts a recognition banquet to honor individuals and organizations that have shown exemplary devotion to the betterment of the community through public service. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 2017 Dale City Civic Association Community Awards recipients:

Elementary School Teacher of the Year Award: Angela Hunt

Middle School Teacher of the Year Award: Atif Qarni

High School Teacher of the Year Award: Larry Baker

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Firefighter of the Year Award: Matthew Werner

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Emergency Medical Service Provider of the Year Award: Amanda Fleig

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Officer of the Year Award: Thomas Mazzo

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Cadet of the Year Award: Bradford Burgeson

Department of Fire and Rescue Firefighter of the Year Award: Technician II John Malley

Department of Fire and Rescue Emergency Medical Technician Provider of the Year Award: LT Brian Reader

Police Officers of the Year Award: Officer Bryan B. Gee and Officer Tyler J. Reza

Deputy Sheriff of the Year Award: Deputy Michael Shepherd

Kathie Feeney Nurse of the Year Award: Aisha Sesay, BSN, RN

Kathleen K. Seefeldt Community Service Award: Connie V. Andrews

Business Owner of the Year Award: Deborah C. Roundtree