

and water, a finding that came from a series of experiments that showed that kidney cysts in Polycystic Kidney Disease patients are in fact distended renal tubules that trap fluid within an expanding cavity lined by a single layer of cells.

Dr. Grantham's drive to find a cure for Polycystic Kidney Disease was sparked by a memory. His childhood friend, Ronnie Wilkerson, suffered from Polycystic Kidney Disease. Without this inspiration, Dr. Grantham would have never found that renal tubules in the kidney both secrete and reabsorb solutes and water. This eventually led to his confirmation that the cysts are neoplastic growths filled with liquid.

In 1982, alongside Joseph Bruening, Dr. Grantham founded the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation to help advance research into this horrible disease. The Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation is the only organization in the United States solely dedicated to finding treatments and a cure for polycystic kidney disease, as well as improve the lives of those who suffer with it. Over the last 30 years, the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation has invested over \$40 million in basic and clinical research, nephrology fellowships, and scientific meetings with a simple goal: to discover and deliver treatments and a cure for Polycystic Kidney Disease.

Before the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation was established, Dr. Grantham was one of the very few researchers studying the disease. In February 1981, the Kansas City Star ran an article entitled "Research lags on hereditary condition, specialist says." This article caught the eye of Mr. Joseph Bruening, a Kansas City, Missouri native and businessman whose wife and daughter both suffered from Polycystic Kidney Disease. In December of 1981, Mr. Bruening mailed a letter to Dr. Grantham interested in contributing funds towards research of this disease. Eventually, the two met and agreed to create a not-for-profit independent medical foundation whose goal was to create a cure for Polycystic Kidney Disease. In 2013, the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation made a great stride towards a cure. Tolvaptan, the first drug to show promise in treating this disease, was accepted for priority review by the FDA.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to pause for a moment to honor Dr. Grantham, a pioneer of research for Polycystic Kidney Disease. The lives of people with this disease are better off because of his research and vision.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was in a meeting at the White House.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 108, NAY on Roll Call No. 107, NAY on Roll Call No. 106, and YEA on Roll Call No. 105.

TRIBUTE TO SKYLAR MAYBERRY-MAYES

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Skylar Mayberry-Mayes for being named a 2017 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2017 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 680 past business leaders and growing.

Skylar is a commercial underwriter for Nationwide Insurance and is also a business graduate student at Iowa State. In addition to work and school, he is also very active in his community, having committed over 500 hours of community service for the past four years. He has worked with Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Oakridge Neighborhood, Young Professionals Connection, and the Greater Des Moines Partnership's Diversity and Inclusion Council. In 2015, he was a recipient of the Barack Obama President's National Volunteer Service Award. His aspiration is to one day develop a comprehensive college preparatory program for young African-American men.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Skylar in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize him today for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Skylar on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2017 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I missed the second vote series as I was accompanying constituents Elizabeth Snyder and Justin Sparks to the White House where they met Vice President Mike Pence and discussed the tragic murder of Elizabeth's husband, St. Louis County Police Officer Blake Snyder.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 105, NAY on Roll Call No. 106, NAY on Roll Call No. 107, and NAY on Roll Call No. 108.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 105, I was unable to cast my vote in person due to an unexpected illness. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

TRIBUTE TO PHILIP SANDAGER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Philip Sandager for being named a 2017 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2017 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 680 past business leaders and growing.

Philip is an investment management actuary with Principal Financial Group, a job which has taken him to São Paulo, Brazil, London, and the United Kingdom as an active leader in the department. Outside of work, Philip is very active with United Way of Central Iowa, his church's multicultural outreach campus, as a volunteer math tutor, and with the Des Moines Choral Society, where he helps to increase their online presence. Philip has also been recognized by the Des Moines Playhouse with a Gypsy Volunteer Award. In his spare time, Philip enjoys playing piano, scuba diving, learning languages, and traveling around the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Philip in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize him today for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Philip on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2017 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

TRIBUTE TO WIGGIE SHELL

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Wiggie Shell, a great American and a great Texan, on the occasion of his 60th birthday. I am honored to call this business and civic leader a friend.

A fifth generation descendant of a Central Texas ranching family, William Carroll "Wiggie" Shell was born March 1, 1957 in Georgetown, Texas. His family has long been committed to his beloved home town. During the early 1950s to 1968, Wiggie's father owned and operated the only public swimming pool in Georgetown known as "The Shell Pool" which was a favorite place where young and old spent many of their summer hours.

Wiggie graduated from Georgetown High School in 1975. A true child of Texas, Wiggie was a rodeo bull rider in his youth and used that knowledge to wrangle Donna, his wife and love of his life, marrying in 1977. They have two children and three grandchildren.

Wiggie started his railroad career as a carman at Georgetown Railroad Company, worked his way up to Chief Mechanical Officer, spending 20 years with the railroad. Wiggie then started at a supplier company called Georgetown Rail Equipment Company (GREX) in the Operations department and worked his way up to President and CEO. Under his leadership, GREX doubled in size and revenue in just three years. Wiggie made GREX into an industry leader by pioneering high-technology solutions for thorny long-standing railroad problems. Under his direction, the company is now moving into international markets. His work as an innovator led to Wiggie being a respected railroad industry support spokesperson in Washington, DC and Austin, TX.

Wiggie's contributions don't stop when the work day ends. He served in the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department for 28 years and volunteers with Sky Ball, the premier fundraising event for the Airpower Foundation, one of the oldest military support organizations in the U.S. When he's not working or volunteering, Wiggie relishes his family time, whether enjoying NASCAR races or fishing with his grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I join Wiggie's friends, family, and colleagues in wishing him a happy 60th birthday. His has been a life of innovation and service. With Wiggie, the best is yet to come and I wish him nothing but success in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MICHAEL E. WILLIAMSON

HON. MARTHA MCSALLY

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant General Michael E. Williamson, United States Army, for his selfless service to our nation, culminating in his assignment as the Principal Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology and Director of Acquisition Career Management. Lieutenant General Williamson will retire from active military duty this year after 34 years of service.

Born in Tucson, Arizona, Lieutenant General Williamson was commissioned at the University of Maine as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Defense Artillery in 1983. His assignments included company grade assignments in Germany and command in the 11th Brigade at Fort Bliss, Texas, and the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas.

Throughout his career, Lieutenant General Williamson has grown as a skilled practitioner, respected leader, and mentor within the Army acquisition workforce. He served with distinction as Senior Military Software Analyst at NATO's military headquarters in Belgium; Chief of Information Technology, Acquisition Career Management; Product Manager for the Global Command and Control System-Army; Military Assistant to the Secretary of the Army; Project Manager for Future Combat Systems Network Systems Integration; Director of Systems Integration; Deputy Program Executive Officer, Integration; Joint Program Executive Officer for the Joint Tactical Radio Systems; and Assistant Deputy for Acquisition and Systems Management. Lieutenant General Williamson will complete his career as Principal Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology and Director of Acquisition Career Management as the most senior military officer within the Army Acquisition Corps where he tirelessly advocated for equipment modernization and ensured that our Soldiers have the best equipment available.

In addition to his extensive acquisition experience, Lieutenant General Williamson served in the Congressional Fellowship program as a Military Legislative Assistant to former Representative Silvestre Reyes of Texas' 16th District. He also served as the Deputy Commanding General for the Combined Security Transition Command—Afghanistan during OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM from 2013 to 2014.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the remarkable career of Lieutenant General Michael E. Williamson and congratulate him as he enters the next chapter of his life. I wish Michael, his loving wife, Tracy, and their beloved daughter, Darcy, the very best as they embark on their new journey together.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN WALLER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brian Waller for being named a 2017 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2017 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 680 past business leaders and growing.

Brian is president of the Technology Association of Iowa, where his many accomplishments include rebranding the organization, creating strategic partnerships across the state and launching an Iowa Technology Summit for the fall of 2017. With a passion for his home state, he co-founded a web application to identify Iowa expats around the world called

The Iowan Project. He and his wife, Dr. Callie Waller, have a daughter, Parker, a son, Asher, and a border collie named Mr. Jenkins. In his free time, you can find Brian on the golf course or making music.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Brian in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize him today for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Brian on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2017 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

CONDEMNING THE ATTACKS ON ARMENIANS IN SUMGAIT, KIROVABAD, AND BAKU

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we have reached the 29th anniversary of a dark chapter in modern history. During the Nagorno-Karabakh War of 1988 to 1994, Armenian civilians were indiscriminately attacked in the city of Sumgait. Today, I condemn these pogroms and commemorate the victims.

On the evening of February 27, 1988, a three-day rampage against Armenian civilians living in Sumgait, Soviet Azerbaijan began. Armenian civilians were hunted down and brutally assaulted. There were cases of rape, murder, and maiming of Armenian civilians.

The Soviet Union prohibited journalists from entering the area. It was reported that over 30 people were murdered and over 200 injured. However, it is believed that more, perhaps hundreds, were murdered by roving mobs.

Sadly, the Sumgait pogrom was only the beginning.

Despite international condemnation of the pogrom in Sumgait, another anti-Armenian pogrom occurred later that year in Kirovabad, Azerbaijan, from November 21st to 27th. Due to the brutality, the Armenians of Kirovabad and the surrounding areas were forced to flee their homes. Another crime against humanity occurred from January 13th to the 19th, in 1990. Members of the Armenian community of Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, were assaulted, tortured and killed by violent mobs.

I would like to commemorate the Armenian victims of the Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Baku massacres, to honor the memory of the murdered, and to stop future bloodshed. If we hope to stop future massacres, we must acknowledge these horrific events and ensure they do not happen again.

We must urge Azerbaijan to cease all threats and acts of coercion against the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh. We should actively monitor and condemn Azerbaijan's violations of the ceasefire in Nagorno Karabakh.

Lastly, we must reaffirm America's commitment to an enduring, peaceful and democratic resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict that includes the Nagorno Karabakh Republic as a party to negotiations.