

ABBY HOUSE WINS TEXAS  
HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 15, 2017*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Abby House of Needville, TX, for being the grand-prize winner of the Save Texas History essay contest in the seventh grade division.

The statewide contest is sponsored by the Texas General Land Office's Save Texas History program. The essay students were asked to write was, "What history in your community, or in Texas, is worth saving?" Abby wrote about the storied history of the Imperial Sugar building in Sugar Land, TX. The students' essays were judged based off of how compelling their story was, how useful and interesting the facts were, grammar, spelling and organization. For winning the grand-prize, Abby received numerous prizes from the San Antonio Tourism Council, from Six Flags Fiesta Texas tickets, to tickets to the San Antonio Zoo, and more. She is currently a seventh grader at Needville Junior High School.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Abby House for winning the grand-prize of the Save Texas History essay contest. We're proud to have her represent TX-22 and look forward to seeing her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 15, 2017*

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, due to illness, I was unable to vote on roll call votes 138 through 158. Had I been present, I would have voted: nay on roll call number 138; nay on roll call number 139; aye on roll call number 140; aye on roll call number 141; aye on roll call number 142; aye on roll call number 143; aye on roll call number 144; aye on roll call number 145; aye on roll call number 146; aye on roll call number 147; nay on roll call number 148; aye on roll call number 149; aye on roll call number 150; aye on roll call number 151; nay on roll call number 152; aye on roll call number 153; aye on roll call number 154; aye on roll call number 155; aye on roll call number 156; aye on roll call number 157; and nay on roll call number 158.

COMMEMORATING THE 24TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE BANGLADESH  
ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA'S  
ASIAN FOOD FAIR & CULTURAL  
SHOW

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 15, 2017*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bangladesh Association of Florida. For 24 years, this fine organization has presented the Asian Food Fair & Cultural Show in

Palm Beach County. This annual program is eagerly awaited by citizens around South Florida for its exciting and diverse performances of singing, dancing, acrobatics and food from many Asian nations.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have been involved with the people of the Bangladesh Association of Florida since the inception of this wonderful program. It is one of the cultural highlights of every year. It is widely appreciated and greatly enjoyed by everyone who experiences its variety of entertainment. We are fortunate to have it on our schedule of great events, and I thank the Bangladesh Association for bringing it to us.

KOPFER TROMBONE SKILLS  
RANKED FIRST IN STATE

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 15, 2017*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Benjamin Kopfer of Fort Bend, TX, for being ranked first in state for playing bass trombone.

On top of being ranked first in state, Benjamin, a sophomore at Fort Bend Christian Academy (FBCA), was invited to participate in the Texas Private School Music Educators Association All-State Band for the second year in a row. It's rare for a sophomore to be invited to play with the All-State Band, let alone a sophomore who played the year before as well. When not amazing audiences with his musical talents, Benjamin also plays on the FBCA baseball team.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Benjamin for being ranked first in state. We are extremely proud of him and look forward to him achieving the All-State Band again next year.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS FULFILL  
PROMISE

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 15, 2017*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week, House Republicans delivered on the promise to make the health care system work for American families by introducing the American Health Care Act. This legislation puts the patient first, not the government.

Families in the Second Congressional District and across the country have experienced how Obamacare has failed. Obamacare destroyed jobs, increased premiums, and presented people with fewer health care choices. The American Health Care Act is a real solution to ending the Obamacare failure.

The bill specifically protects those with pre-existing conditions, allows young adults to remain on their parent's insurance until they are 26, and provides a stable transition to a system of lower costs and increased options.

I appreciate Ways and Means Committee Chairman KEVIN BRADY, Chairman GREG WALDEN of Energy and Commerce, and Speaker PAUL RYAN for their dedication and remarkable

leadership. This is a positive first step that will advance health care for all Americans, as championed by President Donald Trump and Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, with HHS Secretary Tom Price.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops. We will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

INTRODUCTION OF THE  
SUPERFUND REINVESTMENT ACT

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 15, 2017*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, joined by 14 original cosponsors, I am pleased to reintroduce the Superfund Reinvestment Act. This legislation would provide much needed funding to clean up toxic waste sites throughout the United States and relieve the financial burden of cleanup that is currently shouldered by the American taxpayers.

There are more than 1,100 severely polluted Superfund sites across the United States that approximately 49 million Americans live within three miles of. These contaminated sites harm air and water quality and threaten the economic and social vitality of vulnerable communities. These communities can be exposed to toxins such as arsenic, benzene, PCBs, mercury, and a wide range of solvents, which can lead to health problems such as infertility, low birth weight, birth defects, leukemia, and respiratory difficulties.

The Superfund program was originally created in 1980 to clean up these contaminated sites help reduce exposure to the health risks and fears that come from living close to toxic waste. Unfortunately, at approximately 30 percent of Superfund sites known as orphan sites, those responsible for the pollution cannot be found or do not have the ability to pay, so instead the federal government foots the bill.

Originally, payments for orphan sites were financed through taxes on chemicals, petroleum, and corporate income, which were deposited into the Superfund Liability Trust Fund. This Fund ensured that those industries responsible for pollution pay for the remediation of sites where there is no responsible party. These taxes expired in 1995 and were not reauthorized. As a result, the Trust Fund has been depleted and the funding for the cleanup of orphan sites has shifted primarily to general funds.

The Superfund Reinvestment Act would reinstate taxes on the petrochemical industry to fund the cleanup of hazardous waste sites across the country. It would make sure that polluters, not taxpayers, are paying for cleanup of orphan sites. The bill includes excise taxes of \$.163 per barrel on crude oil or refined oil products and taxes ranging from \$.51 to \$11.35 per ton on certain chemicals. The bill would reinstate a corporate environmental income tax of .12 percent on a corporation's modified alternative minimum taxable income that exceeds \$3.735 million. This legislation would expand the definition of oil to include unconventional crude oil sources, such as tar sands and oil shale. This legislation also would guarantee that money from the Trust Fund is only spent on Superfund cleanups.

I urge my colleagues to join me in working to strengthen the Superfund program by ensuring that polluters continue to pay. With our environment at such a high risk, we need a fully funded Superfund program now more than ever. Restoring these taxes will go a long way towards making certain that funds are available to cleanup America's most toxic waste sites and to help keep our communities and our families safe, healthy and economically secure for future generations.

**CHRIS NILSSON NAMED TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR**

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 15, 2017*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chris Nilsson of Fort Bend County, TX, for being named as the Texas Computer Education Association's (TCEA) Technology Administrator of the Year for 2017.

Chris is Lamar Consolidated Independent School District's Director of Technology Integration and oversees computer technicians and the districts Campus Instructional Technology Specialists. He was nominated by two of the technology specialists thanks to his exemplary vision and technology management. His colleague, David Jacobson, the district's Chief Technology Information Officer, said he's done an outstanding job leading and uniting two departments and is very deserving of this recognition. His expertise is an asset for both the school district and the students.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Chris for being named as TCEA Technology Administrator of the Year. We're very proud of him and look forward to his future accomplishments.

THOMAS S. WILLIAMSON, JR.

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 15, 2017*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life of Thomas S. Williamson, Jr., who passed away this month at the age of 70. Mr. Williamson was a former president of the D.C. Bar and a member of our Federal Law Enforcement Nominating Commission, which advises me on the selection of important federal officials for the District of Columbia, including federal district court judges and the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. Tom will be especially remembered as a champion for equal legal access to justice for all. His service will be held at the National Cathedral tomorrow.

Tom Williamson began his career at the law firm Covington & Burling LLP in 1974, where he became a partner, focusing on employment law, complex litigation, and health and welfare law matters for state governments. As a student, Tom played varsity football at Harvard College and excelled academically. He went on to Oxford University, where he was a

Rhodes Scholar, and then to the University of California at Berkeley School of Law. From the beginning of his career and for more than 40 years, Tom had a deep commitment to pro bono service and civil rights. His passion for equal justice was influenced by his experience as a child when his family integrated a white neighborhood in Piedmont, California and experiencing the racism that resulted.

District residents are particularly grateful to Tom, who was an influential member of a team of attorneys representing the District in *Adams v. Clinton*, a case that sought voting rights for the District in the House and Senate. Throughout his years in successful private practice, Tom continuously provided legal service to those most in need of good lawyers—whether providing pro bono service to residents or leading the defense of the District's marriage equality law. Tom's career in law also included public service, where he served as the deputy inspector general at the U.S. Department of Energy and the solicitor of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Mr. Speaker, as my thoughts are with Tom's wife, Shelly Brazier, and his family, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life of Thomas. S. Williamson, Jr.

**BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK**

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 15, 2017*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, March 13 through 17, 2017 commemorates Brain Awareness Week, which presents an important opportunity to educate lawmakers, students, and the broader public about brain science, and its many impacts and benefits. This is critical when you consider that brain disorders and diseases affect the lives of nearly 100 million Americans—from Alzheimer's to ALS to mental illness.

Neurological and neurodegenerative disorders are among the leading causes of disability in the United States and around the world—greater than heart disease and cancer put together. As society ages, this number will increase exponentially as will the cost to the healthcare system and to the economy. Yet, the underlying causes of most neurological diseases remain unknown.

Neuroscience is the next great frontier. Research and work being done in this field needs to be front and center in both the private world and Congress.

The bipartisan Congressional Neuroscience Caucus' mission is to build awareness of the intrinsic role brain research plays in understanding ourselves and our society. As the Co-Founder and Co-Chair, I am committed to working on these important issues and hope my colleagues will join our efforts as members of the Congressional Neuroscience Caucus.

**NEW STEAKHOUSE DEBUTS IN RICHMOND, TX**

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 15, 2017*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a new upscale restaurant in Richmond, TX, and its executive chef, Ja'Nel Witt.

Sammy's Steakhouse will be Sammy Vela's sixth restaurant in the area and will cater to steak and wine lovers. The menu has a variety of delicious dishes, from green chili-smoked gouda mac and cheese to mouth-watering steak. An extensive wine bar allows customers to complete their dish with the perfect complement. The executive chef, Ja'Nel Witt, will be a great addition to the new restaurant, especially having been the Season II winner of Gordon Ramsey's Hell's Kitchen. Her culinary talents will be appreciated by Richmond and Houston area visitors.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I again recognize and welcome the newest restaurant, Sammy's Steakhouse, to TX-22. We look forward to trying Sammy's Steakhouse.

**SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 16, 2017 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

**MEETINGS SCHEDULED**

**MARCH 20**

11 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Neil M. Gorsuch, of Colorado, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

SH-216

**MARCH 21**

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. policy and strategy in Europe.

SD-G50