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Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Adam and Tyler for earning this outstanding award. The experience and knowledge they gained working on this project will be invaluable for years to come as they move forward with their education. It is because of young Iowans like them that I'm proud to represent our great state in Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Adam and Tyler and in wishing them nothing but continued success.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2017

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on March 2, 2017, I missed roll call votes Nos. 122 through 123 on the floor of the House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted yea and nay, respectively.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ASIAN TRADE, FOOD FAIR, AND CULTURAL SHOW

#### HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2017

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Asian Trade, Food Fair, and Cultural Show that will take place this weekend in West Palm Beach, Florida. The Asian Fair has brought our community together to celebrate Asian culture for 24 years now, and I look forward to seeing what this year has in store.

The Bangladesh Association of Florida organizes this annual event to celebrate the contributions of the Asian community in America. This year, 48 countries will be represented through live music, dance performances, and authentic cooking demonstrations.

I'd like to recognize the Bangladesh Association of Florida for their hard work on this event and for their dedication to promoting cultural diversity in our community.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SERGEANT (SGT) LERANDO J. BROWN, JR.

#### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Mississippi soldier Sergeant (SGT) Lerando J. Brown, Jr., who died while in service to our great nation on March 15, 2008, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. SGT Brown gave his life while deployed in Balad, Iraq.

SGT Brown, of Gulfport, was assigned to the 288th Sapper Company, 223rd Engineer Battalion, Mississippi Army National Guard based in Houston, Mississippi. At the time of his death, SGT Brown was the 48th Mississippian to die in Iraq since March 2003. SGT Brown served in Iraq beginning in September 2007. He arrived with more than 90 other members of the 288th.

Lieutenant Colonel Tim Powell of the Mississippi Army National Guard said this was Brown's first deployment. SGT Brown's wife, Candice, described her husband as a man who loved to make her laugh. She said SGT Brown constantly told her he loved her through phone calls and e-mails.

SGT Brown's service and sacrifice will always be remembered.

#### SUPPORTING VT HALTER MARINE, INC. OF PASCAGOULA, MS

#### HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2017

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the House an injustice served upon a Mississippi shipbuilding company in my district by a number of Democratic senators on March 7, 2017 during the Senate debate over H.J. Res. 37, the Congressional Review Act repeal of OSHA's rule implementing the Obama Administration's Fair Play and Safe Workplaces executive order. During the debate, these senators accused VT Halter Marine, Inc. of Pascagoula, MS of disregarding the safety of its workers, citing examples of long-past accidents. I know for a fact that this couldn't be further from the truth.

The company has enlisted the services of safety experts to develop a new safety management system to improve upon its culture of safety. Since 2011, VT Halter has been guided by its 5-Year Safety Strategic Plan. The plan promotes a comprehensive, all hazards management approach to every aspect of the shipbuilding process. Activities include a safety stand-down at all facilities for a full day of re-training; Safety Leadership Training and an OSHA 30-Hour Maritime Course for all key personnel; specific training for new employees; weekly safety meetings; tool tracking systems to ensure proper safety equipment is issued to employees; Confined Space rescue training; safety teams which conduct daily inspection of production areas; and Safety Director attendance at the OSHA 2090 Shipyard Employment, Fall Prevention, and Competent

Person Training program. The company has complied with all OSHA safety directives and reporting requirements, and is in good standing with the agency.

V. Halter has worked diligently to obtain both government and commercial shipbuilding and repair work to maintain jobs for more than 900 working class families in my district. The economic impact of Halter's work ripples throughout the local economy through suppliers and other small businesses, and the company is considered a key player in the shipbuilding industrial base.

The accusations made on the Senate floor appear to be motivated by the desire to embarrass Senate Republicans and the President over the decision to repeal the Obama Administration OSHA regulations. In singling out VT Halter as political cannon fodder, the senators making the accusations have unfairly damaged the reputation of the company and have put its Mississippi workers in a state of confusion and anxiety over their future. The commercial shipbuilding market is in a major down cycle, and the Gulf Coast shipbuilding industry is struggling to find enough work to keep their people employed. By professing to speak on behalf of the workers, these senators have in fact jeopardized the company's ability to sustain these good, high-paying jobs. I've been told that the workers have actually approached Halter's CEO to see if they should circulate a petition to correct the record about Halter's treatment of its workforce. Unlike the Senators in question, I have been to VT Halter Marine and have spoken to these Mississippi workers. VT Halter takes excellent care of its people, striving both to keep them safe and employed, and I am extremely disappointed that certain liberal senators would attempt to construe their safety record just to fit their political aims.

#### TRIBUTE TO ALISA ROTH

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alisa Roth, owner of Bloom Works Floral in Council Bluffs, Iowa, for receiving the 2017 Deb Dalziel Woman Entrepreneurial Award presented annually by Iowa's Small Business Development Centers (SBDC).

Since 1999, the Iowa SBDC has been awarding women entrepreneurs who have made a major impact in their communities and changed the direction of their own lives. The award is named in honor of Deb Dalziel, a longtime advocate of women entrepreneurs and director of America's SBDC Iowa from 1987 to 1999.

Established in 2004, Alisa has built Bloom Works Floral into one of Council Bluffs' premier small businesses. In the first 5 years of operation, she was able to grow the business so much that she had to move to larger locations with bigger storefronts on two separate occasions. Her tireless work ethic and dedication to her craft is unmatched, making her a highly respected entrepreneur in Council Bluffs and a top regional authority in her industry.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Alisa for earning this outstanding award. Her tireless work ethic and dedication to her community have had, and will continue to have, a

long-lasting impact. It is because of lowans like her that I'm proud to represent our great state in Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Alisa on receiving this esteemed award and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 17, 2017*

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on March 10, 2017, I missed roll-call votes Nos. 153 through 158 on the floor of the House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted yea, yea, yea, yea, yea and nay, respectively.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MERCED COUNTY FARM BUREAU

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 17, 2017*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Merced County Farm Bureau, an organization that is dedicated to supporting and advocating for Merced County's agriculture industry.

The organization first began as the Merced County Farmers and later became known as the Merced County Farm Bureau in 1917. The high demand for food production during World War I urged the University of California to help in funding farmers around the Central Valley in their efforts to produce agricultural products faster, sending their advisers to local farms in Merced County. On March 7, 1917, the Merced County Farmers, signed a petition requesting a farm advisor from the University of California for Merced County, through the University of California Cooperative Extension program. However, in order to obtain an advisor, the organization needed to become a Farm Bureau first. And so, after changing the name of the organization and complying with necessary requirements to become a farm bureau, the Merced County Farm Bureau had its first meeting on May 17, 1917.

As a result of having an advisor, scientific innovations began to take form in the production of food, dairy, research support and Labor management, and the positive impacts were experienced throughout the county. It began by supporting policies and legislation that protected the natural resources required for the production of agriculture.

As a non-profit organization, the Merced County Farm Bureau contributes to the community by providing scholarship opportunities to the children of farmers who are pursuing higher education. It also provides a program to young adults in Merced County that facilitate professional development and social networking to farmers, ranchers and individuals who work in agriculture between the ages of 18–35. Additionally the Merced County Farm Bureau keeps their farmers and community informed about local agricultural issues as well as state and national legislation through their Merced County Farm Newspaper. Furthermore, the Merced County Farm Bureau hosts local farmers markets to help support farmers around the Central Valley.

Now 100 years after the Merced County Farm Bureau was created, it has become the 6th largest producing agricultural county in California, greatly contributing in the overall economy of our state and making 90% of California's Sweet Potatoes. Thanks to organizations like the Merced County Farm Bureau, the San Joaquin Valley's agriculture industry has become a significant economic contributor to the state.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Merced County Farm Bureau. The last 100 years have been a testament of their strong commitment and continued support of our community and agricultural producers.

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY RHODORA J. DONAHUE

### HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 17, 2017*

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my wife Kathleen and I to wish Mrs. Rhodora J. Donahue a very happy 92nd birthday.

We hope Rhodora is celebrating this very special day surrounded by her loved ones. I believe a loving family is the greatest treasure in life and with 13 married children, 82 grandchildren, and 108 great grandchildren, Rhodora has most certainly attained it. I hope you all can join me in wishing her continued health and happiness throughout the year.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 17, 2017*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 16, 2017, I was ab-

sent from the House due to traffic delays related to motorcade activity. Due to my absence, I did not record any votes for the first vote series of the day. I would like to reflect how I would have voted had I been present for legislative business.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Roll Call 162, and Roll Call 163.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on Roll Call 164.

#### TRIBUTE TO TYLER COONEY

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 17, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Tyler Cooney and his teammate Adam Koch, both students at Dallas Center Grimes High School in Grimes, Iowa, for winning second prize in C-SPAN's national 2017 StudentCam competition.

Since 2006, C-SPAN has been partnering with local cable affiliates across the country to work with middle school and high school students to create documentaries on issues important to the nation. For this year's competition, students were asked to address the question: "What is the most urgent issue for the new President and Congress to address?"

Tyler and Adam decided to focus on energy issues and made a documentary titled, "Powerhouse of the Prairie." The short film zeroed in on the important role that wind energy and ethanol production plays, not only in Iowa's economy, but the economy throughout the entire country. I was fortunate enough to contribute to their project by discussing the importance of energy independence as it pertains to our country's national security. Their documentary will premiere on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. E.T. on April 7 and will play throughout the day.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Tyler and Adam for earning this outstanding award. The experience and knowledge they gained working on this project will be invaluable for years to come as they move forward with their education. It is because of young lowans like them that I'm proud to represent our great state in Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Tyler and Adam and in wishing them nothing but continued success.