

Des Moines. She was honored as the 2015 YPC Amy Jennings YP Impact Award winner, and co-founded the Des Moines Chapter of the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network. Brianne enjoys spending time with her husband Joe and children Emmett and Eileen, especially going for family bike rides.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Brianne in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize her today for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Brianne 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.

EARTH FRIENDLY PRODUCTS

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 20, 2017

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a family-owned and operated company celebrating its 50th anniversary on April 21, 2017.

When it comes to trends that will keep America competitive in the global economy for generations to come, we think of innovation, entrepreneurship, environmentally friendly businesses, and manufacturing. I was sent to Congress by my constituents to look for innovative ways to bring these trends together, and today I am reminded that a shining example resides right here in my district in Addison, Illinois.

The founding of Earth Friendly Products (ECOS) is a story that rivals any other. The founder, Van Vlahakis, immigrated from Greece to the United States with \$22 in his pocket in 1953 to escape poverty after World War II. First living in homeless shelters and speaking little English, he went on to study chemistry at Roosevelt University while working the night shift at a cleaning products company. During his work, he was exposed to harsh chemicals that gave him headaches and caused co-workers to suffer from rashes and other irritations. Remembering that his mother in Greece used natural substances such as water, vinegar and olive oil for cleaning, Vlahakis decided to start his own business to make better cleaning products. In 1967, he created in his home's garage what would become Earth Friendly Products. ECOS now sells more than 200 environmentally friendly cleaning products in more than 60 countries and has been recognized with safety awards by the Environmental Protection Agency.

We all know we need to make more things in America again. ECOS is a great example of using clean technology to do that while still creating jobs for Illinois working families. Transforming Illinois into a center for science, technology, and innovation is the kind of opportunity that many of us envision for our state. This 50th anniversary for ECOS is an opportunity to remind the country that we can continue to use clean products that protect the environment while creating good-paying jobs at the same time. For ECOS, that means a \$17 per hour companywide minimum wage started by the company in 2014.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have Earth Friendly Products in my district, and I look forward to the company continuing to create jobs for my constituents for the next 50 years. I celebrate the 50th anniversary of ECOS and the impact the company has had throughout the country.

IN RECOGNITION OF DICK THELEN FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 20, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dick Thelen for being named a finalist for the Wins for Warriors Veteran of the Year Award at the 2017 Governor's Fitness Awards Banquet. Mr. Thelen served his country with distinction and demonstrated extraordinary courage during the sinking of the USS *Indianapolis* during World War II.

Mr. Thelen, born and raised in Lansing, Michigan, joined the United States Navy in 1944 at the age of 17. The following year, he was posted on the USS *Indianapolis* in the Pacific as it was tasked with delivering the first atomic bomb to the Mariana Islands. After completing this task, the ship moved toward the Philippines to meet up with the 7th Fleet in preparation for a possible invasion of the Japanese mainland. However, during its voyage, the USS *Indianapolis* was attacked and sunk by a Japanese submarine. In the aftermath, Thelen and hundreds of other sailors were forced to float in the water for days while awaiting rescue. Of the crew of 1,197, only 317, including Thelen, made it home.

Thelen is a true hero who endured unspeakable hardship during his service to the United States. His actions and cool head during the aftermath of the USS *Indianapolis* sinking saved lives, and perseverance and character during these difficult circumstances speaks to his resourcefulness and tenacity. It is heartening to see Mr. Thelen continue to be recognized for his heroism, and events like these provide an important opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices our veterans make for our country and the values that it represents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dick Thelen for being named a finalist for the 2017 Wins for Warriors Veteran of the Year Award. Mr. Thelen is a true hero who has made tremendous sacrifices on behalf of our country.

TRIBUTE TO CINDY COOKE, DNP, FNP-C, FAANP, AMERICAN ASSO- CIATION OF NURSE PRACTI- TIONERS

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 20, 2017

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize a constituent of mine, Cindy Cooke, DNP, FNP-C, FAANP, of Huntsville, Alabama, for her service over the last two years as President of the Amer-

ican Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP).

Dr. Cooke has an exemplary career of service with 42 years as an experienced nurse and nurse practitioner. As a nationally board certified family nurse practitioner, Dr. Cooke has provided care to patients for 18 years and for over 12 years exclusively to active duty and retired military members and their families.

Dr. Cooke has been involved in local, state, and national nurse practitioner organizations. Prior to her term as AANP President, Dr. Cooke was past President of North Alabama Nurse Practitioner Association (NANPA), the founding President of the Nurse Practitioner Alliance of Alabama (NPAA), past American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) State Representative for Alabama, and past AANP Regional Director. Dr. Cooke has been active in speaking locally and nationally on various clinical and health policy topics. She was elected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners in 2009.

The American Association of Nurse Practitioners is a national professional membership organization representing over 225,000 nurse practitioners nationally. Under Dr. Cooke's tenure, AANP membership has grown to more than 75,000 members, making AANP the largest nurse practitioner organization in the world. Dr. Cooke has helped lead nurse practitioners in transforming patient-centered health care and has made tremendous strides in ensuring that policy makers and the public understand the care that nurse practitioners provide to millions of Americans each year.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Cooke on a successful term as President of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and in thanking her for the excellent care she has provided to her patients, the nurse practitioner profession, and the constituents in the Fifth District of Alabama.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY VISION2READ NATIONAL PRESS CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 19, 2017

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 20, 2017

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, San Bernardino Council of Governments Board of Directors, and school districts and agencies throughout San Bernardino County that have adopted the County's Vision2Read early literacy program.

The San Bernardino County Vision2Read National Press Conference was held on April 19, 2017 to announce a newly formed partnership between San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, San Bernardino County Preschool Services, First 5 San Bernardino, and the Children's Fund, which will offer the nationally acclaimed services of Footsteps2Brilliance to residents in San Bernardino County. Footsteps2Brilliance will provide free access to early literacy activities in English and Spanish to all families with pre-kindergarten children.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I would like to thank all agencies, organizations, and volunteers involved in this collaboration to provide the resources of

Footsteps2Brilliance and tools for our future leaders.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MANASSAS BASEBALL LEAGUE

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 20, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Greater Manassas Baseball League and express gratitude to all those that have contributed both to the success of this volunteer organization and to the development of the youth of Manassas and Prince William County.

In spring of 1957, the league was established with only 4 teams—Manassas Lumber, Mifco (Manassas Ice and Fuel Company), Merchant's Firestone, and Martin Chevrolet—also known as “The Four M's.” Each team was fully sponsored by local businesses, which contributed greatly to the community feel of this small-town little league. In fact, Mifco, after 60 years, remains a proud sponsor of the league. In 1978, the late Harry J. Parrish, who was then mayor of Manassas, and Caton Merchant spearheaded the efforts to expand the league, renaming it The Greater Manassas Baseball League. Then in 1981, IBM donated land to the City of Manassas for the construction of a baseball complex. The league today, under the leadership of President Kevin Jennings, consists of nearly 75 teams across all age groups, hosts a variety of fundraisers and events, and still uses the original baseball complex constructed in 1981.

I owe a great debt of gratitude to the Manassas community, local businesses, parents, and coaches for supporting the league throughout the course of its 60-year existence. Today, the league affords many of my young constituents the opportunity to learn the values of confidence and positive character through the various lessons taught in baseball and softball. Sports not only promote healthy living and foster personal growth, but they also are an excellent way to engage with our youth.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that my colleagues join me in thanking the Greater Manassas Baseball League and its current President, Kevin Jennings, for their commitment to the youth of Manassas. I wish Mr. Jennings, the rest of the Board of Directors, parents, coaches, and all of the little-leaguers the best in their collaborative efforts and future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE STOUT THEATRE COMPANY AND ITS PRODUCTION OF ALADDIN JR.

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 20, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Stout Theatre Company on the opening date of its production of Aladdin Jr. For the past three years, the Stout Theatre has provided entertainment and enrichment activities for Dearborn youth through its production and showcasing of musical theatre.

Founded in 2014, the Stout Theatre Company is a student-led enterprise that provides

opportunities for personal expression, growth and creativity through its production of plays and community events. STC began at Stout Middle School in Dearborn, Michigan, but has since expanded and now works with youth in surrounding elementary and middle schools to stage musical and dramatic productions. In addition to performing the musical Aladdin Jr., past STC productions have included Hairspray and a musical adaptation of the film Stand and Deliver. The success of these productions has established STC as an important pillar of the community.

STC has not only provided entertainment to the greater Dearborn community, but its productions help provide opportunities for leadership, growth and personal development for Dearborn area students. The months of rehearsals in preparation for the production are a testament to the hard work and dedication of the students and staff involved, and the creativity and dedication of all involved in this undertaking have been key to making the play a success. The STC continues to distinguish itself through its elaborate production and strong performances of the featured students, and it is my hope that the STC will continue to build on the success of previous productions while providing students with the opportunity to gain teamwork and valuable life skills in the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Stout Theatre Company for its record of success on the date of its premiere of Aladdin Jr. The students and staff involved in these and other productions have continued to demonstrate their talent and commitment.