

Mr. Speaker, in addition to their truly remarkable careers in law, Mary and David Boies have also contributed their time, talents, and financially in service of others. I commend their outstanding work, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on the Spirit of Caring Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS.  
WECKSTEIN'S 3RD GRADE CLASS

**HON. DAVID A. TROTT**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2017*

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bright young artists in Mrs. Weckstein's 3rd grade class at Hickory Woods Elementary in Novi, Michigan.

I know that artists get their start long before high school and college, learning to expand their imagination and foster their creativity in classrooms just like Mrs. Weckstein's.

In an effort to highlight young artists from across Michigan's 11th Congressional District, this year, I announced the 1st Annual "Color my Capitol" Program.

Brimming with talent, Mrs. Weckstein's students were eager to showcase their amazing artistic skills and take part in this one-of-a-kind program.

Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Weckstein's 3rd graders did not disappoint. Their creations are unique, innovative, and imaginative. Their colorful artwork embodies our country's bright and promising future with these sharp young minds leading the way.

It is my utmost honor to have their artwork displayed in my Congressional district office in Troy, Michigan for everyone who visits to enjoy. Each and every time I walk into my office, I am reminded of their talent.

Congratulations to Mrs. Weckstein and the young artists she has the pleasure of teaching.

IN RECOGNITION OF UNIVERSITY  
OF OREGON ASSISTANT VICE  
PRESIDENT AND UNIVERSITY  
REGISTRAR SUE EVELAND

**HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2017*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize University of Oregon Assistant Vice President and University Registrar Sue Eveland who is retiring after fourteen years of service to the university.

Ms. Eveland has been an invaluable member of the UO community since she was first hired in 2001 and subsequently with her appointment as the Interim University Registrar in 2008 and later University Registrar.

During this time, Ms. Eveland also served as President of both the Pacific Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (PACRAO) and the Oregon Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (ORACRAO), demonstrating her commitment not only to University of Oregon faculty, students and staff, but also to her colleagues nationwide. Prior to her career at the University

of Oregon, Ms. Eveland spent 17 years at Iowa State University, serving in various roles in the Offices of Admissions and the Registrar.

Colleagues report that Ms. Eveland has shown herself to be innovative and effective, bringing opportunities for staff development, growth and collaboration into each of her roles. Alongside her team at the UO, she was able to implement online grading, online course evaluations, an online graduation application and a schedule builder, among other efficiencies. Her work has continually simplified and improved the lives of the students she serves. Her colleagues say she encourages her staff to keep perspective, remain positive, be creative and have fun.

Sue Eveland retires from the University of Oregon having dedicated nearly two decades to improving services for students. I join with the University of Oregon in recognizing Sue Eveland for her contributions to higher education, and I congratulate her for her many years of exemplary service.

IN RECOGNITION OF TOYOTA  
MOTOR NORTH AMERICA ON THE  
DATE OF ITS SUPPLIER CENTER  
GRAND OPENING

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2017*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Toyota Motor North America on the date of the Toyota Supplier Center and Prototype Development Facility grand opening. Toyota Motor North America has been a strong partner to southeast Michigan by utilizing our state's automotive expertise to help produce its next generation of automobiles.

Originally established in July 1977, Toyota Motor North America's Research and Development has contributed significantly to the leadership of southeast Michigan as a leader in automotive engineering, driving important breakthroughs in automotive design and safety. Toyota employs approximately 1,440 individuals in its Ann Arbor and York Township facilities whose work has critical input to many of Toyota's most popular vehicles. These facilities collectively have contributed to the vehicle development of many of Toyota's most popular vehicles, including the 2014 Tundra and 2015 Camry designs, and its advanced research and prototype development efforts continue to serve as a critical source of innovation for the company at large.

Toyota Motor North America's significant investment in expanding and upgrading its Ann Arbor and York Township engineering facilities underscores the importance of the groundbreaking research and development being done here. The expansion of the powertrain development facility in Ann Arbor Township, as well as further improvements to the York Township site, will allow a continuation of the successful partnership between Toyota and the State of Michigan. The talented and educated southeast Michigan workforce, combined with Toyota's new facilities and additional resources, will help ensure that Michigan's automotive industry remains a worldwide leader in the coming decades.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Toyota Motor North America and

Mr. Toyoda during the grand opening of the Toyota Supplier Center and Prototype Development Facility expansion. This critical investment will leverage Michigan's talented workforce to conduct cutting-edge automotive research and development.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2017*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Ste. Genevieve, Missouri on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

The congregation was founded in 1867 and work began that year on its church building which was completed in 1869. In celebrating its momentous anniversary, the congregation is highlighting three words: Survival, Revival and Vital. They want to emphasize all the church at 200 Market Street has overcome to survive this century and a half, to commit to reviving the congregation's presence in Ste. Genevieve and to celebrate how vital the church and the message of Jesus Christ remains.

Known for its historic altar donated to the church in 1950, the congregation now averages about 50 people in its worship services. They remain dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel message and reaching out to the people of Ste. Genevieve.

For continuing its work of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ through 150 years of change and challenge, it is my great pleasure to honor Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Ste. Genevieve, Missouri today before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF MS. DEBORAH COTTON

**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2017*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ms. Deborah Cotton, a New Orleans writer and cultural advocate. Ms. Cotton, affectionately known as "Big Red Cotton," passed away on May 2, 2017, at the age of 52.

Ms. Cotton was raised in Texas and Oklahoma. She attended San Francisco State University, majoring in the field of African-American studies, before moving to Los Angeles, where she worked as a union organizer.

In June 2005, not long before Hurricane Katrina struck, Ms. Cotton moved to New Orleans, Louisiana. She instantly immersed herself in the city's culture and communities. Ms. Cotton became known for her writing about second-lines, brass bands, Mardi Gras Indian practices and many other events in New Orleans. She blogged, tweeted, and filmed nearly every Sunday second-line parade. Though Ms. Cotton was not from New Orleans, her writing helped her to forge better relationships among the city, police, and the parading clubs.

On May 12, 2013, when shooting broke out in the 7th Ward during the annual parade of the Original Big 7 Social Aid and Pleasure Club, Ms. Cotton was filming. Of the 19 people shot that day, Ms. Cotton was among those wounded, suffering grave internal injuries that would ultimately take her life.

Ms. Cotton loved the city and the people of New Orleans enough that, even when the worst happened to her, she responded with compassion and inspired others to do the same. She dedicated herself to continuing to live life with joy and compassion. She forgave the individual who shot her and spent time getting to know him as a person. She also dedicated herself to providing a clear-eyed look at the problem of violence in our communities.

Ms. Cotton's legacy will forever be a part of the city and her dedication to community embodies the spirit of New Orleans. Ms. Cotton's survivors include her mother, Carolee Reed, and two sisters.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Ms. Deborah Cotton, a beloved daughter, sister, and example to aspiring writers everywhere.

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IN RECOGNITION OF MRS.  
MURRAY'S 3RD GRADE CLASS

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**HON. DAVID A. TROTT**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2017*

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bright young artists in Mrs. Murray's 3rd grade class at Hickory Woods Elementary in Novi, Michigan.

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Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Murray's 3rd graders did not disappoint. Their creations are unique, innovative, and imaginative. Their colorful artwork embodies our country's bright and promising future with these sharp young minds leading the way.

It is my utmost honor to have their artwork displayed in my Congressional district office in Troy, Michigan for everyone who visits to enjoy. Each and every time I walk into my office, I am reminded of their talent.

Congratulations to Mrs. Murray and the young artists she has the pleasure of teaching.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SERGEANT (SGT) JOSHUA SHANE LADD

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**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Mississippi soldier Army Sergeant (SGT) Joshua Shane Ladd who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on May 1, 2004, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SGT Ladd, a Mississippi Army National Guard soldier, was killed when a rocket-propelled grenade struck his vehicle outside of Mosul, Iraq.

SGT Ladd, a Port Gibson native, was assigned to the 367th Maintenance Company, Army National Guard, Dekalb, Mississippi. SGT Ladd volunteered for service shortly after his unit was mobilized in 2003. According to an article published in The Neshoba Democrat in January 2005, SGT Ladd was honored by an overflow crowd during a memorial service held on May 7 at the McClain-Hays Funeral Home. Outside of the funeral home, many people held flags and lined the streets which led to the Eastlawn Cemetery where SGT Ladd was laid to rest with full military honors.

Major General Harold A. Cross, Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard, posthumously presented SGT Ladd with a Bronze Star for meritorious service and a Purple Heart. The newspaper article states that Major General Cross presented the Mississippi Magnolia Cross for meritorious service, saying SGT Ladd distinguished himself by making the ultimate sacrifice. Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour would later award SGT Ladd with the Mississippi Medal of Valor.

"He always wanted to be in the military and shoot big guns," SGT Ladd's cousin, Debbie Chisholm, said to the Associated Press. "He wanted to be a soldier since he was a little boy."

SGT Ladd is survived by his parents, Randy and Deborah Ladd.

SGT Ladd's service will always be remembered.

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TRIBUTE TO MS. RUTH LIFE, EDUCATOR, FRIEND, AND COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

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**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2017*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have been fortunate to have known many outstanding people during my lifetime, but never have I known a more outstanding, more passionate, more consistent, more reliable or more giving of herself than Ms. Ruth Life, whom I met in the 1960s. I met Ms. Life during the time when community activism was at a seriously high level.

Ms. Life, like many of our generation, were actively engaged in efforts to make life better for the people who lived in the communities where we lived and worked. Many of the workshops, forums, training sessions and meetings which I attended, Ms. Life would be present

and participating. We were working in District 10 where Mr. Joseph Rosen was Superintendent of schools and Mrs. Ida Mae (MA) Fletcher was the leading school activist. As time went on, I left the teaching profession but continued to run into Ms. Life at meetings and church activities. When it came to teaching, none were better, as an Assistant Principal she was creative, encouraging and imaginative. When you walked into the Roswell B. Mason Elementary School, you knew that teachers were teaching and students were learning.

Thirty-eight years is a long time to teach and educate, but a lifetime of service to humanity through church, the Peoples Church of the Harvest Church of God in Christ and the Peoples Community Development Association of Chicago Inc. and other organizations.

I can almost hear the Master speaking to her, well done my good and faithful servant. You have done exceptionally well here on earth, come on up. I welcome you into the bosom of Abraham where you can rest in peace.

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INTRODUCING THE PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION REAUTHORIZATION

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**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2017*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the pre-disaster hazard mitigation program.

First authorized in 2000, the pre-disaster hazard mitigation program has a proven history of saving taxpayer money by investing in cost effective projects that are designed to reduce injuries, loss of life, and damage and destruction of property in the event of a disaster. As the old adage goes: an ounce of prevention is worth its weight in gold.

This is true for the pre-disaster hazard mitigation program. The Multi Hazard Mitigation Council of the National Institute of Building Sciences has found that for every \$1 spent on mitigation, \$4 were saved in potential disaster costs. Other benefits and indirect savings at the local level and within the business sector were also identified. Moreover, the Congressional Budget Office confirmed the cost savings of the program. Using a different analysis, the CBO found in 2007 that for every \$1 spent on mitigation, \$3 was saved in potential disaster costs.

But it is not just empirical studies that have confirmed the benefits of this program. There are numerous examples of flood control projects, voluntary acquisitions of real property located in flood zones, and the construction of safe rooms that have saved lives and prevented future damage. Areas that have experienced flood damage in the past, and have flooded again, experienced reduced or no damage thanks to effective mitigation. For instance, in Iowa, pre-disaster mitigation funds were used to purchase riverfront homes from homeowners that had suffered flood damage and then converted to green space. When the area subsequently flooded again, there was no new damage, thanks to the pre-disaster mitigation efforts.