

exhibited by this community. I ask that you join me in recognizing this historic anniversary.

HONORING TYLER HORTON AS HE RECEIVES THE YOUTH AWARD FROM THE BUFFALO BRANCH OF THE NAACP

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the accomplishments of this year's recipient of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Buffalo Branch Youth Award, Tyler Horton.

Tyler was born and raised in Buffalo, and has always been a contributor to his community. At an early age Tyler displayed signs of leadership by becoming the Vice President of the National Junior Honors Society while attending Westminster Community Charter School, where he achieved the title of Valedictorian. At the age of 12 he became a Boy Scout, and later, an Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 237, where he earned many merit awards and badges.

The lessons Tyler learned in his Boy Scouts troops truly molded him into an outstanding citizen. In 2012 he was a Chaplain and Assistant Patrol Leader at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, where he was able to share his Scout experience, serving as a mentor to other young men. In 2016 Tyler supervised and assisted renovations of the Macedonia Baptist Church's food pantry. Through his example of volunteerism and leadership, Tyler eventually became an Eagle Scout and a Member of the Order of the Arrow. Tyler now attends Bethesda World Harvest International Church and contributes to the youth group and Cinematography Team.

This year, Tyler is graduating from Health Science Charter School, where he is the Salutatorian, a member of the National Honors Society, a winner of the Jesse Ketchum Memorial Fund Bronze winner, and a Student Ambassador.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor this impressive young man as he is recognized by the NAACP. I wish him the best in all his future endeavors and look forward to seeing him continue to do good for others.

IN RECOGNITION OF JONATHAN ALLEN'S FIRST ROUND SELECTION BY THE WASHINGTON REDSKINS IN THE 2017 NFL DRAFT

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Mr. Jonathan Allen, who was recently drafted in the first round of the 2017 National Football League draft by his hometown team, the Washington Redskins.

Mr. Allen is from Leesburg, Virginia and played football at Stone Bridge High School in Ashburn, Virginia. Under the leadership of his

coach and mentor, Mickey Thompson, the team finished with winning seasons each year he was there, and after graduating in 2013, Mr. Allen attended the University of Alabama as a five-star recruit, where he was named to the first team All-Southeastern Conference during his sophomore, junior, and senior years. Additionally in 2016, as a junior, he was instrumental in Alabama's National Championship, in which they defeated the Clemson Tigers.

Mr. Allen has also won a number of individual accolades, including being named the Washington Post All-Met Player twice in high school, being selected as the 2012 Virginia Gatorade Player of the Year, and lastly being recognized as a 2013 U.S. Army All-American. At the University of Alabama Mr. Allen's football career blossomed. He was named the 2016 SEC Defensive Player of the Year and was also the recipient of the Bronko Nagurski Trophy and the Chuck Bednarik Award, which are given to the best defensive player in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

With Mr. Allen signing a four year contract with the Redskins, he is truly returning home. The team's practice facility is located in Ashburn, Virginia, and Mr. Allen is especially ready to give back to his community through the local mentorship of Coach Thompson's Bulldogs at Stone Bridge High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Jonathan Allen on becoming a Washington Redskins player. I commend him for his impressive accomplishments, and I am proud to represent him and wish him all the best in his NFL career.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SERGEANT FIRST CLASS (SFC) CLARENCE DOUGLAS MCSWAIN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Sergeant First Class (SFC) Clarence Douglas McSwain who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on June 8, 2006, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SFC McSwain died from injuries he sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle during combat operations in Baghdad.

SFC McSwain, of Meridian, was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

SFC McSwain was a proud soldier on his third tour in Iraq when he was killed. He met his 4-month-old son, Kenneth, only once. SFC McSwain's Sister, Ashley McSwain, said her brother put his family first. She said it was bad that the world had to lose him because he was one of the good guys.

SFC McSwain's father, Reverend Theodis McSwain, recently reflected on his son's service.

"I was very proud of him," Rev. McSwain said. "He wanted to serve his country."

SFC McSwain, a 1993 Meridian High School graduate, played high school football and graduated with honors. After high school,

he attended the University of Southern Mississippi according to the Associated Press article.

"I was a medic that worked with him in his first two rotations and I just found out about his death," Troy Criddle said. "I am hurt by his passing. He was a great soldier and will always be a paratrooper."

"Clarence and I had the opportunity of spending a lot of time together in the 1st PLT Company C 2nd Battalion 237th," Staff Sergeant (SSG) Shannon Corbin said. "I believe that he was a shaping catalyst in me both professionally and personally."

SFC McSwain is survived by his father and mother; Theodis and Sandra Lee McSwain; wife, Kendrah; children; Jasmin, Krista and Kenneth McSwain; and siblings; David, Ashley, Kimberly, and Christopher McSwain.

SFC McSwain proudly served our nation to protect the freedoms we all enjoy.

IN RECOGNITION OF NANCY KATZ AND MARGO DICHELTMILLER FOR THEIR LIFETIME OF ADVOCACY FOR LGBT RIGHTS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nancy Katz and Margo Dichtelmiller for being recognized by the American Civil Liberties Union's LGBT Project for their advocacy and efforts on behalf of LGBT rights. Ms. Katz and Dr. Dichtelmiller have played an important role in supporting the LGBT community through their engagement at the state and local level.

In a committed relationship for over 30 years, Ms. Katz and Dr. Dichtelmiller have been consistent champions for LGBT rights and have played a crucial role in achieving victories at the state and local level. Both have been strong supporters of Affirmations, the LGBT community center in Ferndale, Michigan, that offers services and support to individuals throughout southeast Michigan, having served as co-chairs for its capital campaign to raise funds for a new facility. Additionally, Ms. Katz and Dr. Dichtelmiller have worked with nonprofits and advocacy groups to improve protections for same-sex couples and ensure that they receive the benefits and protections that they deserve. They are well-known in the Michigan civil rights community for their commitment to justice and long record of leadership on these issues.

Ms. Katz and Dr. Dichtelmiller have been at the forefront of the battle for LGBT rights throughout their lives, and their work has helped pave the way for progress at the federal, state and local level in providing equal rights for all. The past decade has seen dramatic progress in strengthening LGBT rights and protections, as well as a transformation in attitudes among the wider public, and this progress would not have been possible without Ms. Katz and Dr. Dichtelmiller's tireless activism and support of local organizations committed to this cause. Their visionary efforts have helped break down barriers and improve the lives of LGBT Americans, and the significant accomplishments underscore the impact of their actions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Nancy Katz and Margo Dichtelmiller for their leadership in promoting LGBT rights. Their actions have set the stage for key victories for LGBT Americans.

REMA-ELENA THOMAS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rema-Elena Thomas for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Rema-Elena Thomas is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Rema-Elena Thomas is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Rema-Elena Thomas for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
SERVICE OF JOHN T. KNOX

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of a former Contra Costa Assemblyman, Mr. John Knox.

Mr. Knox spent 20 years in the Assembly, representing western Contra Costa County. Besides the state's environmental law, he sponsored laws creating the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, which was signed by Governor Reagan and thwarted plans to fill in parts of the bay; authorizing state regulation of health maintenance organizations, rewriting standards for sales of stock and other corporate securities in California, and establishing regional planning agencies.

Even after he retired from the Legislature and joined a law firm, he was often brought back to preside as the house parliamentarian. A section of Interstate 580 leading to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge is named the John T. Knox Freeway because of his success in obtaining funding to rebuild a dangerous, undivided highway.

After his time in the Assembly, Mr. Knox was always willing to sit down and discuss issues, whether that be in classrooms or simply over lunch with colleagues and peers. He was always willing to lend his knowledge and experience to the betterment of the Contra Costa community.

John was an inspiration and a friend, and will be greatly missed by not only myself, but the entire Contra Costa community.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF JIM
PADILLA ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Jim Padilla, who retired as the Henry County Sheriff on May 28. Sheriff Padilla has honorably served Henry County over the past 41 years and he will be greatly missed.

Sheriff Padilla began a lifelong career in public service as a member of the Kewanee Police Department for 8 years, and later served 33 years with the Sheriff's Department. He has dedicated his career ensuring public safety and protecting the lives of all individuals within our community. Sheriff Padilla always exemplified what it meant to be a strong leader and worked tirelessly to pass the public safety sales tax, which provided the department with the resources it needed to better serve our community. I am proud to have such dedicated civil servants in our Illinois' 17th Congressional district.

Mr. Speaker, as the wife of a Sheriff, I know how hard law-enforcement officers work to keep our communities safe. I would like to again formally congratulate Sheriff Padilla on his well-earned retirement and thank him for all of his contributions and service to our community.

RICHLAND COUNTY MIDDLE
SCHOOL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Richland County Middle School in Olney, Illinois, for their recognition by the National Association of Music Merchants.

It is a great honor to be seen as one of the Best Communities for Music Education in the United States. With help from director Eric Combs, the middle school's music program has shown commitment and support of the arts throughout the school and the community. The music program allows students to express themselves and grow as a person.

I applaud Mr. Combs and all of the participating students for their dedication to this program and for their hard work. I ask that we all congratulate Director Eric Combs and the students at Richland County Middle School for their Best Communities for Music Education Award.

SUGAR LAND, TX WINS BEST CITY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sugar Land for being awarded the "best city" by the Texas Travel Counselors.

Tourism and travel professionals recognized Sugar Land with this prestigious award after action-packed visits to Sugar Land's historic locations. These visits included the Houston Museum of Natural Science, the Fort Bend Children's Discovery Center, Constellation Field and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Smart Financial Centre. The Texas Travel Counselors agreed that my hometown of Sugar Land offers an impressive mixture of old and new.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Sugar Land for being awarded the "best city" by the Texas Travel Counselors. We're proud to have such an exemplary city represent TX-22.

ROSE MERRILL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rose Merrill for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Rose Merrill is a student at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Rose Merrill is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Rose Merrill for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.