

Mr. Xiaobo was instrumental in the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests, one of the most significant protests of communist rule in China.

Throughout his life, his works were banned and censored by the communist Chinese government. Mr. Xiaobo drafted some of the most influential literature to protest Chinese communism including *The Monologues* of a Domsday's Survivor and the October Tenth Declaration and created the Independent Chinese PEN Centre, a nongovernmental, non-profit and nonpartisan organization offering free association for Chinese writers.

Mr. Xiaobo was formally arrested four times by the Chinese government under such charges as "inciting subversion of state power." His works were deemed subversive by the Chinese Communist Party and actively censored. On June 26, 2017, Mr. Xiaobo was released from his prison sentence on medical parole after being diagnosed with terminal liver cancer. Mr. Xiaobo died on July 13, 2017 in Shenyang, China. Many believe his imprisonment greatly contributed to his deteriorating health.

Throughout his life, his work received international recognition as a defender of freedom from groups such as Reporters Without Borders, the Nobel Prize Committee, Hong Kong Human Rights Press, and many others. As a Member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, I feel especially motivated to bring to light Mr. Xiaobo's work.

Today, many others like Mr. Xiaobo are detained by their government as prisoners of conscience—a person who has been imprisoned for holding political or religious views that are not tolerated by their own government. We are grateful to live in a nation where our freedom of religion, press, speech, right to assemble and petition the government are protected at the highest level. With these remarks, I would like to commemorate a wonderful life dedicated to human rights and political freedom and bring attention to the many others who are threatened with becoming prisoners of conscience.

CONGRATULATING KYLIE MEIER OF THE CAMDENTON LAKERS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kylie Meier of the Camdenton Lakers for her first-place finish in the 100m and 300m Hurdles at the 2018 Missouri Class 4 State Track and Field Championship.

Kylie and her coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Kylie Meier for a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on July 11, 2018 due to the Vice Presi-

dent's visit to the First District of Iowa. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 320 and YEA on Roll Call No. 321.

HONORING DOUG MCILROY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the Honorable JARED HUFFMAN to honor Doug McIlroy for his commitment to sustainable agriculture and his work to protect the jobs and livelihoods of farmers in our community from overregulation. Mr. McIlroy is being honored with the Luther Burbank Conservation Award by the Sonoma County Farm Bureau.

Mr. McIlroy was born in England and moved with his family to Marin County, California when he was an infant. He developed a passion for agriculture from an early age. He spent his summers driving tractors and picking prunes on his family's Aquarius Ranch near the Russian River in Healdsburg, California. Mr. McIlroy studied at the Santa Rosa Junior College and graduated from the University of California, Davis, with degrees in economics and plant science.

In 2001, Mr. McIlroy was recruited by Rodney Strong Vineyards to manage its estate vineyards and be its Director of Winegrowing. Due in no small part to his leadership, vineyards at Rodney Strong are now 100 percent sustainable. Much like the Sonoma County Winegrowers' mission, Mr. McIlroy's goal is for all of Sonoma County vineyards to be sustainably farmed.

In addition to his work at Rodney Strong Vineyards, Mr. McIlroy also sits on the Board of Directors for Sonoma County Winegrowers, United Winegrowers of Sonoma County and the American Vineyard Foundation. Within these organizations, Mr. McIlroy has worked tirelessly on environmental issues and has been at the forefront of every water issue growers have faced.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. McIlroy is a passionate farmer, environmentalist and scientist who has a record for giving back to our agricultural community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Doug McIlroy here today.

HONORING THE BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce.

In 1900, several Bryan businesspersons recognized the need for a collective organization aimed at improving business in the area. After several months of planning, the Bryan Business League held its first meeting. The organization has been known by many names including the Bryan Commercial Club, the Downtown Bryan Merchants Association, and the Bryan & Brazos Industrial League. In 1918 they settled on another name, the Bryan and

Brazos Chamber of Commerce which is now known as the Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce.

Over the years, the Chamber has established itself as one of the best Chambers in the state of Texas, and it has played a large part in the development of the economies of both Bryan and the neighboring community of College Station. Today the Chamber's membership has grown to over 1,500 businesses including Fortune 100 companies, small-to-medium sized business, non-profits, civic organizations, divisions of Texas A&M University, the Texas A&M University System, Blinn College, representatives from local city and county governments, and individual citizens. The Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce unites business, civic, academia and government leaders with leadership focused programs and special events.

Like other Chambers of Commerce across the country, the Bryan/College Station Chamber is the voice of the business community to elected officials of local, state and federal governments. Once a year, members of the Chamber come to Washington to advocate for policies that will help our nation's business owners and employees. I always look forward to hosting the Bryan/College Station Chamber; and my team and I take great pride in making sure they feel welcome and at home.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commemorating the centennial anniversary of the Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce and recognizing their years of service to the Brazos Valley. It is an honor for me to represent such an outstanding group of entrepreneurs, local leaders, and visionaries in Congress.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our nation's Capitol to honor the Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce on its 100th anniversary.

As I close, I ask everyone to continue praying for our country, our military, and our first responders who selflessly serve and sacrifice to protect us.

CONGRATULATING MIKAYLA REED OF THE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BLUE JAYS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mikayla Reed of the Washington High School Blue Jays for her first-place finish in the 800m, 1600m, 3200m Run at the 2018 Missouri Class 4 State Track and Field Championship.

Mikayla and her coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Mikayla Reed for a job well done.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SERGEANT
MAJOR MICHAEL CLEMENS ON 30
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Major Michael Clemens of Republic, Missouri, as he retires after 30 years of service in the United States Army.

Sergeant Major Clemens began his career in high school with service in the Missouri Army National Guard, but soon transitioned to the U.S. Army as an active duty soldier. In his 30 years, he served in many different places, including in the Middle East and all throughout the U.S. While serving overseas, Sergeant Major Clemens took part in Operations Iraqi Freedom, Desert Storm and Intrinsic Action.

To add to his already long résumé, Sergeant Major Clemens worked diligently to complete every level of training in the Non-commissioned Officer Education System, leading to his graduation from the United States Sergeants Major Academy.

Sergeant Major Clemens exemplifies the sought-after traits of leadership, courage, responsibility and discipline. Throughout the course of his career he received numerous awards, including five Army Commendation Medals, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with three stars, the Humanitarian Service Medal and a list of others. His commitment to his country exists not only on the large scale of his sacrifice, but also in participating in one of our most fundamental rights as American citizens that of voting, and his consistent voting record through his absentee voting in primary and general elections as he served abroad.

Sergeant Major Clemens has shown time and time again that he is worthy of the awards and recognition he has received throughout his time serving our great nation. I am honored to congratulate him on his successful career and I am confident that his strong character will lead him to continue to make positive impacts on the world around him.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JUDY
SCHNEIDER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, like so many of my colleagues, I rely on Judy Schneider of the Congressional Research Service. A long-time Hill staffer with 42 years of Congressional experience, she is a valued source of guidance and trusted source of information. Tomorrow, Judy will receive the Congressional Management Foundation's first Staff Lifetime Achievement Democracy Award, and I can think of no one more deserving of that honor.

Judy literally wrote the book on Congressional procedures—The Congressional Deskbook—which she co-authored with Michael Koempel. In addition to giving us this written reference guide, Judy is always available to give personal guidance. Her knowledge and her creativity are both invaluable and legendary.

When I got to Congress, one of the first things I did was reach out to Judy to train my staff and me. She taught us how to use sometimes arcane rules and procedures to get things done. Whenever we had a question about committee or floor procedures or wanted to know about Congressional precedent, we called Judy Schneider. We still do today. Judy is always available to answer our questions—and to let us know the questions we should have been asking, then answer those as well.

Throughout her career, Judy has served to help all of us on the Hill and many off the Hill understand how Congress was designed to work, how it actually works and how we could make it work better. Her commitment to public service, her love of the institution and its people, and her willingness to share her gifts are evident. Judy is valued and a valuable resource, and she is also my friend.

I congratulate Judy on winning the Democracy Award, and thank her for all the help she's given me and so many others. I look forward to benefitting from her wisdom for years to come.

CONGRATULATING GAVIN WEATHERS
OF THE VIENNA EAGLES

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Gavin Weathers of the Vienna Eagles for his first-place finish in the Discus Event at the 2018 Missouri Class 2 State Track and Field Championship.

Gavin and his coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Gavin Weathers for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING RICK GONZALES, SR.

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rick Gonzales, Sr. and his family for their selfless service to their community.

As a young child, Rick Gonzales, Sr. made it to the fifth grade before it became evident that he needed to work on the family farm to help provide for the family, but his desire to learn and have a good education never wavered. As a young adult, Rick Sr. was drafted and proudly served our country during the WWII Pacific campaign in Okinawa. Upon his honorable discharge he enrolled in barber school, where he met his wife, Angela. Together, they raised four sons, Laverne, Rick Jr., Garry and Jerry. Barber school would soon prove to be far more than a career decision; it was a move that would begin Rick's lifelong journey as an agent for change.

In 1953, Rick Sr. opened Rick's Top Hat barbershop, and the business soon became the central hub of information on political and

social issues. Soon after, Rick and Angela knew that women in the community would also be an important component, and Angela opened Velvet Touch Beauty Salon. Rick Sr. had a passion to make a difference. He wanted to give a voice to the voiceless and restore hope to those who couldn't. Rick and Angela relished in these "teaching moments," of listening, guiding and helping their community.

In 1970, Rick became co-founder of the Mexican-American Concilio of Yolo County, which operated with five employees serving the Latino community. Rick Gonzales, Sr. has been recognized by his community for his outstanding accomplishments and activism. The Yolo County Department of Social Services has named their building the Rick Gonzales Building and in 2018, the city of Woodland honored him by naming their newest park after him.

Rick Gonzales, Sr. valued education and instilled the importance in his children as they were growing up. All four pursued and received higher education degrees with three receiving their Masters degrees. Continuing his father's legacy and under his mentorship until 2004, Rick Gonzales, Jr. joined the Concilio and currently serves as their President. In 1998, under his leadership, Rick Jr. created the Annual Concilio Recognition Dinner & Scholarship Fundraiser, which awarded two scholarships the first year. Rick has devoted the past twenty years raising awareness for the scholarship dinners and this year reached a milestone of raising \$400,000 for 1000 scholarships awarded. His passion and service to the community is admirable.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Rick Gonzales, Sr. and his family for their incredible dedication, selfless service and contributions to the Yolo County community.

IN THANKS FOR THE SERVICE OF
MY LONGTIME CHIEF OF STAFF,
OLIVER SCHWAB

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, this week I bid farewell to my longtime Chief of Staff, Oliver Schwab, who served with great heart and commitment in this body for nearly a decade.

Since Oliver's announcement on Monday that he would be transitioning his role to pursue new opportunities, I have been moved by hundreds of people who have come up to me to share just how much Oliver's friendship has meant to them. As a mentor, Oliver has been devoted to helping others discover qualities and confidences that they did not always know they possessed. As a mentee, Oliver has sought guidance and perspective with the kind of dedication to lifelong learning that only the finest of others can bestow.

Oliver is the best that I have ever seen at helping others work through their needs. Anyone who knows Oliver can attest to his passion for history, love for our country, and work to restore civility to our politics.

Oliver began serving as my Chief of Staff in January 2011 after managing my successful 2010 election to the U.S. House of Representatives. Since that time, Oliver has guided an