

championship for the United States Chess Federation. The UTRGV chess team advanced to the President's Cup by placing in the top four at the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship.

Under the leadership of Coach Bartek Maciejka, the team, composed of Grandmasters Calors Antonio Hevia Alejano, Vladimir Belous, Kamil Dragun, Hovhannes Gabuzyan, and Andrey Stukopin, won their first championship over five-time consecutive champion Webster University, two-time champion Texas Tech, and St. Louis University. UTRGV has a history of success, finishing in second place at a previous tournament.

The UTRGV Chess Club competes at the state, national, and international levels. The group also helps promote chess within the local community by organizing tournaments, camps, and chess classes.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the UTRGV Chess Club today. I wish them luck in future competitions and congratulate them on their national championship.

**INADEQUATE WASTEWATER  
TREATMENT—ENVIRONMENTAL  
INJUSTICE IN AMERICA**

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2018*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the pervasive and ongoing environmental injustice affecting the citizens of the 7th Congressional District of Alabama. Many residents of the Black Belt depend on septic tanks for sewage disposal. Because 35–45 percent of residents in the Black Belt face poverty, many cannot afford spending thousands of dollars on a septic tank and the upkeep it requires.

As a result, many have turned to a far less expensive but more alarming alternative: using “straight pipes” to transfer human waste from the home directly to their backyards. This means that folks going for a walk and children playing in their yards are in direct contact with sewage and human waste. During heavy rains, these constituents are left helpless in defending not only their homes, but their health from the effects of raw sewage and human waste. The heavy rains forces waste to go back up pipes and back into homes. The issue of inadequate wastewater treatment is not just a problem in Alabama. It is a problem in communities throughout our country. Additionally, this issue is causing dire health consequences. Several studies have identified parasites specifically in Lowndes County, Alabama. In our great country, the presence of diseases found in third world nations is unacceptable. Wastewater management and other environmental concerns that exacerbate poverty must be addressed.

Most recently, the United Nations weighed in on this issue. After visiting parts of the Black Belt and other impoverished areas in America in December of 2017, United Nations Special Rapporteur Philip Alston was baffled that such a developed and advanced country like the United States could allow its most impoverished to live in such awful conditions. The UN report has confirmed what I have known for a long time: that inadequate waste-

water treatment is a persistent issue in poverty stricken communities. I have been working to address this problem by helping secure an additional \$1.8 billion in funding for wastewater infrastructure in addition to introducing the Rural Septic Tank Access Act. This Act would provide adequate resources for rural families to afford proper septic systems.

UN Ambassador Nikki Haley publicly stated that the UN report and its conclusion about poverty in America was “patently ridiculous” and questioned why poverty in the U.S. needed to be examined. I personally invite Ambassador Haley to my district to witness firsthand the poverty and systemic environmental concerns that millions of Americans experience and suffer from every single day.

Our nation cannot boast such greatness if those suffering the most are left behind. As a proud product of Selma, I know tenacity and grit is commonplace among the great folks of the 7th Congressional District. But to be able to overcome obstacles, basic needs must be met and health concerns should be addressed. We have no option but to stand firm in our fight on the very real and pervasive poverty all over rural America and in the area I call home.

**IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID  
PORTMAN**

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2018*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Portman for his immeasurable contributions to the community and to congratulate him as he receives the Distinguished Leadership Award at Hollywood Golf Club's 2018 Benefit for the Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey. Mr. Portman's philanthropy and professional accomplishments are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

President of Triad Group, a development, construction and management company, Mr. Portman is an accomplished and respected businessman in New Jersey. For more than 35 years, Triad Group has completed numerous projects, including medical facilities, legal offices, and residential properties. In addition to his professional work, Mr. Portman is an active member and leader in the Jewish community. He currently serves on the Leaders Council for the Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey and has previously served as President of the Jewish Federation of Monmouth County, as Vice President of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and as Regional Chair of Operation Renewal, among others.

Combining his expertise as a developer with his compassionate support of the Jewish community, Mr. Portman has committed years to the construction of The Jewish Home for Rehabilitation and Nursing. This new facility will fulfill Mr. Portman's mission to not only provide necessary medical care to patients, but to also maintain their connection to the Jewish faith and customs. Mr. Portman's vision and respect for the comfort of these patients and their families is truly admirable.

Once again, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in honoring David Portman for his dedicated leadership and support of the Jewish community.

TRIBUTE TO THE BRILLIANT LIFE  
OF DR. THADDEUS C.  
RADZILOWSKI

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2018*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the bipartisan Polish Caucus, I rise to pay tribute to the brilliant life and unique contribution to scholarship of Dr. Thaddeus C. Radzilowski who passed away on July 20, 2018 at the age of 80.

Dr. Radzilowski was the co-founder and President of the largest Polish American think tank in the United States known as the Piast Institute founded in Hamtramck, MI. An academic giant in his field, he taught at several prestigious universities including the University of Michigan, Madonna University, Heidelberg College, Southwest Minnesota State University, and finally as President of St. Mary College.

He was a prolific leader in the Polish American community, who uniquely understood the importance of preserving Polish-American heritage in the United States. He held a piercing dedication to accurately and painstakingly recount the sacrificial history of Poland, its people, and its diaspora. The history of Poland, often under-presented, resulted from the annihilation by the Russian military squads (NKVD) of over 23,000 of its preeminent leaders in academia, the military, and religious and community life. Those who would have recorded the 20th century's most bloodied battles were annihilated, making Dr. Radzilowski's scholarship all the more critical.

Under his leadership, the Piast Institute made significant contributions to the study of Central and Eastern Europe including publishing articles and school curricula, convening key experts, presenting exhibitions, and mentoring the next generation of leaders in his field. Thanks to his dedication, he was the recipient of countless awards including the Cavaliers Cross of the Polish Order of Merit presented to him by the Polish President.

A man committed to serving others, Dr. Radzilowski served with dignity and honor in the U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam. He truly embodied America's values which bind us.

Mr. Speaker, please allow me to join hundreds of thousands of grateful Polish Americans in my district and across the United States in applauding his remarkable career and exemplary life. His legacy will continue to guide and inspire generations to come. That is why I am honored to fly an American flag over the Capitol in his name.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2018*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the vote yesterday on H.R. 2345, the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act (Roll no. 366), I would have voted “aye.”

Additionally, had I been present for the vote on H.R. 4881, the Precision Agriculture

Connectivity Act (Roll no. 367), I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF FRANCISCO (FRANK)  
"PANCHO" RIOS

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2018*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Francisco (Frank) "Pancho" Rios, an Angeleno, a veteran, an immigrant, and a man who lived a rich life full of love and service. With his passing on the evening of July 17, 2018, his loss is being mourned by family, friends, and others who knew him.

Francisco Rios was born in 1930 in the small town of Santa Barbara, Chihuahua, Mexico, and he resided in Mexico until 1952 when he left to attain his piece of the American Dream. He married his wife Paula Vega in 1954, and together they settled in Fresno, California, before ultimately making their home in Los Angeles.

Francisco decided to serve his adopted home, enlisting in the U.S. Army, where he served on active duty from 1955 to 1957, and received an honorable discharge on June 30, 1963. For three decades, he also dedicated himself to serving Los Angeles County residents, working to maintain roadways for the Department of Public Works.

Known affectionately as "Nino" and Uncle Frank, Francisco became an avid traveler, venturing to Africa, the Middle East, Western Europe, and his favorite destination, Las Vegas. He fondly recounted many of his travels, including his spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and to Vatican City. An Angeleno through and through, he was everyone's favorite tour guide of Los Angeles and its surrounding areas, regularly exposing out-of-town family visitors to the diversity of the region's sights and attractions.

While Francisco and his wife Paula did not have children together, they were an affectionate presence in the lives of their nieces and nephews, to whom they showed love, wisdom, kindness, and unwavering and unconditional support. The latest of these was Kaila Vega, daughter of Amador Vega.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in sending heartfelt condolences to the family of Francisco Rios. He leaves behind a rich legacy of love, patience, warmth, affection, strength, and wisdom that will be deeply missed by his loved ones. He is preceded in death by his parents Francisco and Soledad and his wife Paula, and he is survived by siblings, many nieces and nephews, and godchildren, who will deeply miss and cherish the memory of their "Nino" and Uncle Frank.

HONORING CARL CHILTON'S 95TH  
BIRTHDAY

**HON. FILEMON VELA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2018*

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 95th birthday of Mr. Carl Chilton,

who is a proud graduate of Port Isabel High School and Texas College of Arts and Industries at Kingsville. In 1942, Mr. Chilton enlisted in the Army Air Corps, earning his wings when he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1944. Texas and the United States are forever grateful for his service and leadership throughout his 13 missions in France and other parts of the world.

After serving in the military, Mr. Chilton majored in accounting at the the University of Texas at Austin. His classroom and leadership experience led him to become a teacher at Brownsville Junior College, where he taught introductory business.

A man of family, service, and faith, Mr. Chilton is a member of the First United Methodist Church and an active community resident. A former contributor to our district local news outlet The Brownsville Herald and past president of the Brownsville Tennis Club, Mr. Chilton exemplifies the best of South Texas. He has been a loyal member of the Rotary Club for 53 years, served as president and chairman of the Brownsville Public Utilities Board, and was president of the Valley Zoological Society.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for the opportunity to honor and celebrate Carl Chilton's 95th birthday. I ask my colleagues to join me and Mr. Chilton's family and friends in wishing him well on this special occasion. Mr. Chilton's devotion to his family and community make him a great role model for the people of Brownsville Texas, and I am very proud to be his Representative.

HONORING BEN HARDEMAN OF  
BRYAN TEXAS

**HON. BILL FLORES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2018*

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ben Hardeman, a resident of Bryan, Texas, and the 2018 recipient of the Outstanding Individual Contribution award from the League of Historic American Theatres, a national organization.

In 2010, Ben was chairman of the Downtown Bryan Association and heard that the abandoned Queen Theatre was put up for sale. The structure was built in 1885, and first served as a hotel and boarding house. By 1913, silent films were being shown and by 1939 the building was completely redone and included "chilled air", something of a novelty in that era. The Queen continued to thrive until the late 1970s when the building was shuttered. By the time the Association purchased the building, it had been abandoned for 40 years. The theatre had a hole in the roof, pigeons in the rafters, and rotting wood.

Ben brought the idea of the purchasing and restoring the Queen to the Downtown Bryan Association's Board of Trustees. They approved the purchase and began raising money for a down payment. Just shy of reaching the required amount, Ben paid the rest of the money personally.

Ben spearheaded the restoration of the building, aiming to make it a truly community effort. The Association began collecting donations and within a few weeks, they raised \$30,000 in pledges. Work quickly began on

gutting the theatre with Ben and several other Bryan residents assisting with the demolition and clean-up.

By 2011, the theatre's Art Deco facade was restored with Ben often seen doing much of the physical labor. Between 2013 and the Queen's re-opening on May 4, 2018, Ben and the Association made plans to restore the theatre's interior and began fund raising efforts for this purpose.

Ben spearheaded much of the effort, obtaining labor and material donations, and even designing the handrails inside the building.

Since its re-opening, the Queen now serves as a single-screen movie theatre, performance venue, and, it also houses the Downtown Bryan Association and visitor's center.

Thanks to Ben Hardeman's vision, the work of the Downtown Bryan Association and many volunteers who donated time, money, and resources, the Queen Theatre is once again a place for the community to gather and enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ben Hardeman on receiving the Outstanding Individual Contribution award and recognize all the work done to restore the historic Queen Theatre in Bryan, Texas.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over the United States Capitol to honor Be Hardeman and the Queen Theatre.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country during these difficult times, for our military men and women who protect us from external threats, and for our first responders who protect us here at home.

HONORING THE 70TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF LIFETRACK

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2018*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lifetrack on 70 years of providing high quality supportive services to some of the most vulnerable residents of Saint Paul, Minnesota and surrounding communities. Throughout decades of adaptations, Lifetrack remains constant in serving those in need, and empowering families to thrive through challenges.

In 1948, injured veterans returning from WWII and families ravaged by the polio epidemic faced major obstacles. Lifetrack was born as a collaboration of social services agencies that embarked on a mission to provide speech, physical, and occupational therapies to these adults and children. Later, the organization launched vocational programs that aimed to prepare people for life and work after their rehabilitation. Services have continued to expand to assist families and individuals experiencing homelessness and new refugees. Lifetrack also now provides services to families of highly stressed and deaf and hard-of-hearing children to help them build social, emotional and life skills that can carry them through their lives.

When individuals and families face adversity, a network of support is critical to resiliency. For the most vulnerable in our community, that support is not always available. Lifetrack strengthens our community by empowering families and forging connections.