

bring its high-quality treatment within the reach of thousands of North Country residents by opening a new site in Carthage, New York. Residents will benefit from having Elizabeth Wende Breast Care's services right in their neighborhood.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to congratulate Elizabeth Wende Breast Care on the opening of its new location in Carthage, New York. I look forward to hearing about the assistance they will provide to North Country residents, and I wish them the best of luck in the years to come.

SALUTING THE ROUND ROCK, TX  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I salute my friends and neighbors of the Round Rock, TX Chamber of Commerce who were recently honored as the 2018 Chamber of the Year by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives. The Round Rock Chamber are richly deserving recipients of this prestigious award which recognizes the leadership role chambers have in their communities and excellence in operations and community leadership.

Throughout the years, the Chamber has fostered an unrivaled environment of economic success for the citizens of Round Rock. They've helped to employ over 25,000 Texans with over 10,000 investors supporting the local economy, making the Chamber one of the largest and most active business associations in Central Texas. Their efforts have been a critical part of Texas's strong economy and have been essential to making Round Rock a place where business thrives.

The Chamber continuously works to create economic opportunities for the people of Round Rock. In the past year alone, the Chamber has won \$257 million in capital investment, brought 575 jobs to Round Rock, launched the Entrepreneurship Round Rock program, and increased opportunities for entrepreneurs young and old. When it comes to promoting education, talent development, and quality of life in the Round Rock Community, the Round Rock Chamber never rests.

The positive impacts made by the Chamber are among the many reasons I am proud to call the city of Round Rock my hometown. I celebrate their work and am glad to see them get the national recognition they deserve. I know that for the Chamber, as well as the citizens they're proud to serve, the best is yet to come.

FACEBOOK TRIES TO SILENCE  
THOMAS JEFFERSON AND THE  
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, history tells us that President Thomas Jefferson had a

love hate relationship with the press. At times Jefferson detested them, but he truly believed a free people required a free press. "The basis of our governments being the opinion of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right," words spoken by Jefferson to Edward Carrington in 1787. "And were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive those papers and be capable of reading them." Patriots, like Jefferson, secured these rights that folks enjoy today. Just because we may not like what we read, does not mean that it should be silenced.

It's no big surprise to me that the folks over at Facebook don't know the first thing about freedom and rights. Their latest attack, using digital censorship, has stirred up a firestorm. Just in case you haven't heard, the Liberty County *Vindicator*, a newspaper that publishes news for the City of Liberty, Texas and Liberty County, Texas posted the Declaration of Independence in twelve installments leading up to the Fourth of July. Casey Stinnett, managing editor, said that the first nine parts posted as schedule, but part ten, of the historic document did not appear. The Liberty County *Vindicator* received a notice from Facebook saying that the post "goes against our standards on hate speech." I'm a fierce advocate of the First Amendment protecting freedom of speech and press. This is, without a doubt, a flippant disregard and assault on the First Amendment by Facebook.

For over 131 years, the Liberty County *Vindicator* newspaper, has told the story of everyday America. It has documented community history in a way that will forever be available to future generations. Since the newspaper began operations in 1887, it has covered local events, business happenings, politics, tragedies, civic improvements, and so much more. The paper recently followed and covered Liberty High School's Lady Panthers Softball Team who won the Texas UIL State Class 4A Softball Champions. It has also followed wars and has told stories about our young freedom fighters from the area who returned home and some who did not return. It is everything a community newspaper should be. The *Vindicator* has always had its finger on the pulse of folks in Liberty, Texas.

Liberty's rich history of rugged Texas pioneers who settled near the Trinity River spans more than 180 years. Today, Liberty continues to live up to its rich legacy and community spirit of patriotism. One such family epitomizes the spirit of Liberty County—the patriotic Ripkowski brothers. Twelve brothers from Liberty County, Texas served in our military in various branches spanning from World War II to the Korean War. And they all survived the wars and returned to Liberty County, Texas. According to a pentagon spokesperson, there has never been another family with that many sons from the same parents to join the service in American history.

The Ripkowski brothers believed their service in the military was their duty as an American citizen. To them it was not performed for heroics or to gain medals, but to answer the honorable call of duty for their beloved country. Reality is that freedom doesn't come free. It is the United States military that has always been on the front lines to defend the liberties

of all Americans, even the folks over at Facebook.

It is an honor to have represented the citizens of Liberty County in the United States House of Representatives. I commend the *Vindicator* for challenging its readers to read the Declaration of Independence. Freedom of speech and freedom of the press must ever be protected. Thomas Jefferson, who was the primary author of the Declaration of Independence, said, "our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost." The Founding Father and the third President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, undoubtedly believed deeply in the freedom of speech and of the press.

Jefferson must have turned over in his grave when he heard that the Declaration of Independence was censored in America. America's defense of freedom and liberties is a struggle that never ends, and the *Vindicator* should continue to exercise the right to free speech and press, whether those that hate the First Amendment like it or not.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING MR. MIKE PARNESS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Mike Parness upon his retirement from a distinguished 40 year public service career in city management.

Mr. Parness grew up in Livermore, California and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Santa Clara. He continued his education at California State University, Hayward, where he earned a Master of Public Administration.

Mr. Parness worked as a City Administrator in Renton, Washington for eleven years before returning to California to serve as the City Manager for San Clemente for twelve years and later, Walnut Creek for almost five years. Since November of 2006 Mr. Parness has been the City Manager of Napa, California.

During his tenure at the City of Napa, Mr. Parness was a member of the Sunrise Rotary and served on the Board of Directors for the California City Management Foundation and the International City Management Foundation. As City Manager, he oversaw the construction of Fire Stations 4 and 5, the renovation of the Edward I. Barwick Jamieson Canyon Water Treatment Plant, the introduction of Measure T and the launch of the 10-mile Paving Program and Sidewalk Repair and Replacement Program. Mr. Parness played an essential role in the revitalization of downtown Napa, the expansion of public event space at the Oxbow Commons and the city's financial recovery after the Great Recession.

Mr. Parness also facilitated the growth of public areas during his career in Napa with the additions of Trancas Crossing Park, China Point Overlook Park, Third Street Overlook Park, and the renewal of Veterans Park. He is also a wonderful colleague. His quick wit, sense of humor and lively stories are cherished by those who work with him.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Parness is a passionate civil servant with an esteemed record for giving back to our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Mr. Mike Parness here today.

COMMENDING JESSICA  
ESPAILLAT, DAPHNE HER-  
NANDEZ, MARIA PALOMARES  
CARRANCO, AND NEREYDA  
REYES ON THEIR SELECTION AS  
BENJAMIN A. GILMAN INTER-  
NATIONAL SCHOLARS

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2018*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate four outstanding Houston residents on their reception of the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.

I offer my sincere congratulations to Ms. Jessica Espailat, Ms. Daphne Hernandez, Ms. Maria Palomares Carranco, and Ms. Nereyda Reyes for their remarkable achievement of receiving the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship builds young, well-rounded and diverse leaders who have the skills to contribute to our national security and public diplomacy efforts.

The scholarship program was established with the support of the late Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman of New York, whose leading contributions to study abroad educational programs continue to help many students develop the ability to communicate and understand the economic, social and political connections among nations.

The scholarship was established to provide recipients with the tools to develop international knowledge and language skills, as well as gain valuable career-enhancing experiences in their experiences abroad.

The Gilman program has enabled more than 25,000 outstanding Americans of diverse backgrounds to engage in a meaningful educational experience abroad, providing them with skills critical to our national security and economic competitiveness.

Houston's contribution to this impressive list of talented individuals includes:

Ms. Jessica Espailat, of the University of Houston, who studied abroad in Japan;

Ms. Daphne Hernandez, of Colby College, who studied abroad in Japan;

Ms. Maria Palomares Carranco, of the University of Texas at Austin, who completed her studies in Mexico; and

Ms. Nereyda Reyes, of Texas A&M University at College Station, who spent her time abroad studying in Belgium.

This is truly a wonderful accomplishment for the recipients, and I offer them my best wishes as they embark on the next steps of their educational journeys.

My office is always open to the scholarship recipients, and I encourage them to contact me for any help they may need with their future educational goals.

THANK YOU PAULINE M. BROWN

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2018*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that a talented constituent Pauline M. Brown of Barnwell, South Carolina,

has written an inspiring book entitled *A Touch of Heaven*. Beginning with love letters to her husband serving in Vietnam in 1968, she has continued writing, composing more than five hundred poems including the following from her book, *A Friendly Hello* (pg. 36).

*A Friendly Hello*

Always believe in the simplest things—  
Sunshine and flowers, flags blowing in the  
wind,

The music of children, rain on a tin roof,  
Afternoons spent with a cherished friend.  
A friendly hello can make all the difference  
In anyone's fragile state of mind.

Say "I miss you," "I love you,"

"God bless you, my friend,"

And the saddest of spirits will be realigned.  
A friendly hello can dry the tears of heart-  
ache.

A little encouragement can rescue a lost  
cause.

Remember a friend who brought you back  
from despair,

And do the same for someone else, just be-  
cause.

### OFFICER CHRISTOPHER GRIGGS

### HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2018*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable courage of Sergeant Christopher Griggs, a law enforcement officer in Fort Morgan, Colorado.

On April 28, a man stole a semi-truck in Logan County, Colorado, and he proceeded to rampage through the town of Fort Morgan and the surrounding areas. With the police in pursuit, the semi-truck wrecked anything in its way, destroying cars and injuring several civilians.

In the midst of this chaos, Sergeant Griggs confronted the semi-truck outside the city of Fort Morgan. He soon realized that the situation was becoming serious enough that he must resort to lethal force to stop the semi-truck. As Sergeant Griggs loaded his rifle, the semi-truck violently rammed his patrol partner's car off the highway. In response, Sergeant Griggs quickly discharged multiple rounds at the semi-truck. Unharmed, the driver of the truck changed course and began to drive aggressively towards the officer. Thinking fast, Sergeant Griggs leapt into his patrol car and sped out of the way just in time to avoid being crushed by the semi-truck.

As the rampaging truck sped on into the night, Griggs and his partner continued pursuing it, eventually following it into the town of Brush, Colorado. Once again, Sergeant Griggs made the courageous decision to confront the semi-truck by firing at the driver, who was caught soon after.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join the people of Fort Morgan in thanking Sergeant Griggs for his courage, quick-thinking, and dedication to protecting our community.

TRIBUTE TO MS. BETTY  
HENDERSON

### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2018*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable woman and outstanding South Carolinian, Betty Henderson, who exemplifies the epitome of dedicated community service.

Born in Branchville, Ms. Henderson served the citizens of Orangeburg County for twenty-eight years as the first African American Tax Assessor in the State of South Carolina. She also served for twelve years on the Town Council in Branchville, South Carolina, the first African American to serve on the body since post reconstruction. For 10 of those years, Ms. Henderson served as Mayor Pro Tem of Branchville.

Ms. Betty Henderson was one of the founders of the Orangeburg County Family Health Center. She has served on the Board of The Orangeburg Calhoun, Bamberg, Community Action Agency, the Trustee Board of the Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties, the Orangeburg County Department of Social Services, and as a member of the Adult Literacy Board.

She served for over 20 years as Chairperson of the Orangeburg County Democratic Party and through her leadership many persons have been elected to public office. Her life includes membership in the White Rose Chapter I, Former Worthy Matron of White Rose Chapter I, former Queen of the National Order of the Eastern Star, LaCharm Club, founding member of the Concerned Citizens of District 94, and is a member and Chair of the Budget Committee of Canaan Baptist Church.

Ms. Henderson has raised three fine children, Shelia, Ernest, and Kathy, who have blessed her with four wonderful grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that you and my colleagues join me in honoring the selfless, service, outstanding leadership and remarkable achievements of this outstanding South Carolinian.

IN CELEBRATION OF MS. CARRIE  
PATTERSON THOMAS ON THE OC-  
CASION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2018*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ms. Carrie Patterson Thomas on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Carrie was born on August 5, 1918 in the town of Ninety-Six, South Carolina to Wince and Ida Dean Patterson. In 1923 at the inquisitive age of five, she moved with her parents and six siblings to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She worked various jobs from picking vegetables and later worked as a domestic until she retired. Carrie met and married her late husband Mr. Harvey Thomas and have two lovely children, Earl Thomas and Betty DeVaughn.

Carrie has been a resident and community leader of Broward County for over 90 years. I am truly grateful for her selflessness and tireless service. She is a beloved life-long member of the New Mount Olive Baptist Church,