

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

KOMAL PANJWANI EARNS GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Stephen F. Austin High School student, Komal Panjwani of Sugar Land, TX for earning her Girl Scout Gold Award.

The Gold Award is the highest achievement a Girl Scout can earn. To earn this distinguished award, Komal had to spend at least 80 hours developing and executing a project that would benefit the community, as well as have a long-term impact on girls. For her Gold award project, she organized two workshop events to educate parents and students about the importance of career diversity. She also created a blog and a Facebook page to encourage students to choose careers that they are passionate about.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Komal Panjwani for earning her Girl Scout Gold Award. We are confident she will have continued success in her future endeavors. We are very proud.

THANKING RANDY STOCK FOR HIS 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Randy Stock for his 40 years of service to the city of Sugar Land, TX.

Randy, a Public Utilities Operator, was born and raised in Sugar Land and began working for the town's water division when he was 17 years old. When he started, there was one water plant for the whole city—the city now operates 12 groundwater plants and five elevated tanks. Over the years, he has played a role in ensuring Sugar Land has safe water and helped during the numerous annexations that occurred during his tenure. Randy was also on the front lines during Hurricane Harvey and previous hurricanes, making sure that our water supply remained safe. Each and every day he goes above and beyond to serve our community.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Randy Stock on his completion of 40 years of service to the city of Sugar Land, TX. I thank him for his work to ensure Sugar Land has safe, quality water. His efforts help make Sugar Land a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family.

REESE VANNERSON WINS 3 MEDALS AT THE 2018 AAU JUNIOR OLYMPICS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reese Vannerson from Sugar Land, TX for winning three medals at the 2018 Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Junior Olympics.

Vannerson is an 8th grade student at Laurence Catholic School. After qualifying for numerous events, Reese went on to win a gold medal in the 1500-meter race, setting a new personal record of 4:18.71. He continued his success by winning bronze in the 800-meter and finally earned a silver medal for his performance in the 3000-meter. One day later, he was the overall winner for the 13- to 15-year-old boys at the 2018 Triathlon Nationals in W. Chester, Ohio, running the fastest split for the race and placing first among 13 year old boys. His hard work has brought great pride to our Sugar Land community and will be remembered by his community and parents, Lisa & Rodner, for many for years to come.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Reese Vannerson for winning three medals at the 2018 AAU Olympics in Iowa. We look forward to seeing what he will accomplish in the future on and off the track.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN SIDNEY MCCAIN III: AMERICAN HERO, LION OF THE SENATE, NAVAL AVIATOR, AND PATRIOT WHO ALWAYS PUT COUNTRY FIRST

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise not to mourn the death but to celebrate the remarkable life of John Sidney McCain III, the lion of the Senate, a valiant naval aviator, and an 'American Pericles' who always put country first.

In degree and kind, it will be a long time before our nation again sees the likes of John McCain, whom we lost at the age of 81.

The son and grandson of Navy admirals, Senator McCain chose to give back to this country through service, as has been the calling of his family since the early years of the last century.

Senator McCain's love of country was manifested not merely through words; he showed his fidelity to this nation through his deeds.

During his six years as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War, Senator McCain endured the torture and indignities of the infamous Hanoi Hilton.

When his imprisoners realized he was of official stock, they offered him early release.

Then-naval aviator McCain refused, and showed the valor and courage for which he would soon become known.

After his time as a POW, he was elected in 1982 to the U.S. House of Representatives and served for two terms prior to his election to the United States Senate in 1986, a position he held until his death.

Through his six terms in the U.S. Senate, Senator McCain developed a well-deserved reputation as a statesman—a legislator who did not conform to partisan entrenchment and worked to formulate innovative solutions with members across the aisle.

John McCain's first duty always was to country.

When President Bill Clinton called for the nation to bind the wounds of the Vietnam War, President Clinton sent Senator John McCain.

When the pervasive, and at times corrosive, effect of money in politics reached critical mass, Senator John McCain reached across the aisle and championed landmark legislation to curb the excesses of our system of campaign finance.

And, when the Trump Republicans' threat to the landmark Affordable Care Act came within striking distance of reality, Senator John McCain—by then diagnosed with terminal brain cancer—appeared on the floor of the institution he loved so much, and saved the law championed by his former political rival, President Barack Obama.

Through it all, Senator John McCain exhibited grace, class, and sacrifice; he was the very embodiment of the civic virtue this country needs and requires of its public servants.

Senator John McCain's record of service has both earned the respect of his colleagues throughout the years and has been a source of inspiration to millions of young people across the nation and around the world.

Senator John McCain's dedication to country over party, to his fellow countrymen over self, and to the greater good over personal gain, is a model of conduct for those who seek to lead this nation.

I send my sincerest thoughts and prayers to his family in this most difficult time, and urge all Americans, in celebration of this extraordinary statesman, to work to recover our sense of civility and to find the common ground needed to advance the common good.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of an American hero, John Sidney McCain III.

MEEHA AMIRTHALINGAM NAMED FINALIST IN DISCOVERY EDUCATION 3M YOUNG SCIENTIST CHALLENGE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Meeha Amirthalingam from Sugar

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Land, TX, for making it to the final round in the Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge.

Amirthalingam, a 14-year-old student at Travis High School, was named one of the top 10 students in the nation for taking on a global challenge: water conservation. She was the only student from Texas to make it this far in the competition. Meeha was inspired when she learned of the water shortage in Cape Town, South Africa, and made it her mission to make water preservation a simpler task. When she was in eighth grade, she developed a toilet flushing system that uses both fresh and recycled water, which reduces water consumption.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Meeha Amirthalingam for becoming a finalist in the Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge. We look forward to seeing what she will accomplish in the future.

**'BEL SANCHEZ RECEIVES 2018
HISPANIC HERO AWARD**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 'Bel Sanchez of Alvin Community College for receiving the 2018 Hispanic Hero Award from Comcast Houston.

Sanchez was one of only ten recipients of this award, which she received for her commitment to making a difference through mentorship, volunteerism, civic engagement and advocacy. She has served on the ACC Board of Regents since 2008. Previously, Sanchez was an educator with Alvin ISD for 30 years and has volunteered for many local boards including the Thelma Ley Anderson YMCA, Red Cross of Brazoria County, Soroptimist International of Alvin, Alpha Delta Gamma and the United Way of Brazoria County. She was the district's first director of bilingual and ESL programs and was named Alvin's Citizen of the year in 2013. Alvin ISD has also named an elementary school in her honor. 'Bel credits her parents for their instruction and wise life lessons, where they felt they were doing the Lord's work through helping out their fellow man.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to 'Bel Sanchez on receiving the Hispanic Hero Award from Comcast Houston. I thank her for her commitment to our students.

**JERRY HODGE NAMED RUNNER-UP
FOR NATIONAL EDUCATOR OF
THE YEAR**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jerry Hodge of Stafford, TX for being one of three national runner-up winners for the 3rd annual National Educator of the Year Award from Edmentum.

Jerry Hodge has worked in education since 1997 and has been with Stafford MSD for the

last seven years. She is an instructor at the Stafford High School's Alternative Education Program, SHS Quest Academy, which serves students who have been repeatedly unsuccessful in a traditional classroom setting. The award is given every year and seeks out Edmentum educators who go above and beyond for their students. Jerry spends countless hours helping students, even going beyond the district recommended time, and visits students at home to help encourage attendance. She makes it a priority to meet with potential graduates and the overall success rate of her program has increased to an impressive 91 percent.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Ms. Jerry Hodge. I thank her for her commitment to our Stafford MSD students. We look forward to seeing her accomplishments in the future.

**TRIBUTE TO CAROL AND THE
LATE DON BREMER**

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions that Carol and the late Don Bremer have provided to our community of Big Bear Lake as they are awarded the 2018 Humanitarian Award.

After studying to be educators at Wayne State College, the late Don Bremer and his wife Carol Bremer honorably served our country throughout the Korean conflict. The Bremer's spirit for public service progressed through their service as educators and administrators for over thirty-five years. Their experience within military, education and public service only flamed their charitable hearts leading them to establish a Charitable Foundation and create over six endowed annual scholarships; all while engaging and participating in multiple philanthropic organizations. Don and Carol are most recognized for their participation throughout Big Bear Lake with various, fundraisers and community projects including the yearly Big Bear Homecoming Royalty Parade where Don enjoyed towing the float in his 1968 Corvette convertible. Most recently, Don and Carol raised over \$110,000.00 to fix and upgrade our local hospital's patient rooms.

The Bremer's are a shining beacon of charity throughout Big Bear and Southern California and it is with sadness that I learn Don's passing, may his contributions live onward and thank you Carol Bremer for being an exceptional wife, mother and member of our community.

**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD CATHOLIC
SCHOOL OPENS IN KATY,
TEXAS**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School in Katy, TX on opening their doors.

Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School opened to students on August 16, after four years of hard work, fundraising, and careful planning. Denny Dillinger, the development board co-chair has stated the project began four years ago, with 12–18 months of periodic fundraisers. Currently, there are just over 90 students, but 100 are expected on their first day. The faculty consists of 14 teachers, two in prekindergarten, two in kindergarten and one teacher per classes 1–4. The plan is to add at least one grade each year over the next three to four years until they get to eighth grade. The Epiphany School will boast a library, music room, STEM lab and science lab. The church hopes to provide a faith-based alternative to public schools, with a dedication to faith, and knowledge and compassion being at the forefront of their curriculum.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Epiphany Church for opening the Epiphany of the Lord Catholic School.

**LENNY GARCIA EARNS LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lenny Garcia of Alvin, TX for winning the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association (TISCA).

Garcia was the head swim coach at Alvin High School between 1981 and 2013 and is a two-time region coach of the year. He is known for his willingness to give each and every student an opportunity and was instrumental in their development in and out of the pool. Over the years, many of his swim and water polo teams advanced to regional and state competitions. Mr. Garcia and his wife Vicky direct the Annual BENezy Purple Monkey Fun Run, which celebrates the life of their late son Ben. He is also an active volunteer at the Alvin YMCA, the Alvin Senior Center and the Upward Bound program at Alvin Community College and Salvation Army. Lenny will receive his award at the TISCA luncheon on September 15.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Lenny Garcia for winning the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association. We thank him for his continued service and dedication to our students and Alvin community.

**LAMAR CISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NAMED 2018 TEXAS HONOR
SCHOOL BOARD**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lamar CISD Board of Trustees for being selected as one of the Honor School Boards as part of the 2018 Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) School Board