

the community that he loves. He operated Wyandotte Sporting Goods in his early adult life and was known for his kind demeanor, friendliness and helping anyone that needs it. At age 34 in 1979, Mr. Wagner was approached and told that he would be a good candidate for Wyandotte Mayor. He served as Mayor for 8 years and later served in various capacities before being appointed as Trenton City Administrator in December 2011. In his role as Trenton City Administrator, he was responsible for identifying the city's top priorities and effectively utilizing the city's resources. He has held this role for over 6 years and leaves behind a legacy of passionate and successful leadership as he retires from this position. He has helped guide Trenton, Wyandotte and surrounding areas through tough economic times and challenging circumstances and is an important reason that the Downrivers remain strong.

Mr. Wagner is known by community members throughout the region as someone who has a deep knowledge of the area and worked hard to create local partnerships to make continued improvements. One of the most successful projects spearheaded by Mr. Wagner was the "Say Yes to Downriver" slogan that increased the area's visibility and brought new families and businesses to Trenton and the surrounding cities. Other successes included creating the yearly business summit held by the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber of Commerce, helping establish the Downriver Community Conference, assisting residents who have lost their jobs, authoring a national grant to retrain workers, addressing serious environmental issues in both Brownfield and superfund sites and continuing to renovate the International Wildlife Refuge. His colleagues have said that there need to be more public servants like him and that he is leaving behind a legacy of excellence. Mr. Wagner looks forward to seeing the Downriver area continue to flourish in his retirement, and his hard work and expertise is valued and the community will continue to tap his wisdom in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jim Wagner's lifetime of leadership and public service. Mr. Wagner has effectively served the Downriver area throughout his career.

RECOGNITION OF MS. FRANCESCA ALFANO

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to rise today to honor Ms. Francesca Alfano, for her outstanding community service work in her hometown of West Palm Beach, Florida.

Ms. Alfano was one of five students selected by Florida's Hometown U.S.A. Program, Inc. this year. She is a high school junior at Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts, a public high school located in West Palm Beach, Florida. She is the daughter of Monique McCall and Gianpaolo Alfano.

Throughout this year, Ms. Alfano will proudly represent West Palm Beach as she travels to visit nursing homes, children's hospitals,

Veteran's hospitals, charity events, and other activities throughout the State of Florida.

She certainly reflects the values of Florida's Hometown U.S.A. Program, Inc., which encourages and supports students who have a desire to volunteer. There is truly no limit to the difference students like Ms. Alfano can make in the lives of their neighbors with the support of organizations like Florida's Hometown U.S.A., Inc.

Florida's Hometown U.S.A. Program, Inc. is a non-profit educational youth organization, which has received Disney's Helping Kids Shine Award, Disney's VolunteAR of the Year, the Governor's Points of Light Award from former Governor Jeb Bush, and the national President's Daily Points of Light Award from former President George W. Bush.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that Ms. Francesca Alfano represents my district. She is a student and community member whom we can all admire and respect. I commend her for her deep commitment to volunteer work, and wish her the best as she pursues her high school diploma and beyond.

KISD BRINGS HOME FIVE STATE SWIMMING MEDALS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate five Katy ISD state swimming medalists.

Kaloyan Bratanov, a senior at Katy High School, won the 6A championship in the 200-yard medley and won the silver medal in the 100-yard freestyle. Emma Sticklen, a sophomore at Taylor High School, brought home a bronze medal in the 100-yard backstroke. Cinco Ranch High School senior, Aria Bernal earned her third consecutive state silver medal in the backstroke, finishing with a time of 52.72. William Coakley, a junior at Seven Lakes' High School, earned a bronze medal in the 200 free. Senior Brayden Rudd of Seven Lakes' High School finished his high school career with a bronze medal in the breaststroke. Each of these students has made Katy and all of Texas proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to each of you on your accomplishments. We look forward to seeing what you will accomplish in the future.

TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S PASTOR AND GOD'S MAN—BILLY GRAHAM

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Paul wrote in the book of Galatians "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." This was Billy Graham's favorite bible verse. He chose only to boast in humility, sacrifice, and the cross of Christ. He was America's Pastor, who lived his life to bring the lost and hurting to Christ.

Today, as his body lies in honor, inside the Capitol's Rotunda, I am proud to pay tribute to long time famed evangelist, Billy Graham.

On a dairy farm located outside Charlotte, North Carolina, Billy Graham was born November 7, 1918. He grew up like most rural 1920s American children. He was raised in a colonial-style house with indoor plumbing. He lived a quiet country life where he helped work the farm, played baseball, and went to church on most Sundays.

In 1934, at the age of 16, he was saved during a revival meeting led by Dr. Mordecai Ham. After high school, he moved to Tennessee and enrolled in a small Christian school, Bob Jones College, for half a semester before leaving. He found the school too strict. He transferred to Florida Bible Institute where he continued his education and prepared himself for his future ministry. He soon felt called to preach.

In Florida, he joined a Southern Baptist Convention church, and was ordained to preach in 1939. He began preaching at small churches and revival meetings. He graduated with a bachelor's in theology and decided to further his spiritual training at Wheaton College in Illinois.

With a deep faith in God, 21 year old Graham arrived at Wheaton College in 1940 as a tall, gentle man with a booming voice whose one goal was to preach the gospel. Here he met his future wife, Ruth Bell. Ruth, the daughter of medical missionaries, was raised in China. She prayed that God would let her live out her life as a missionary. God gave her Billy Graham. After graduating with a bachelor's in anthropology, Graham married Bell on August 13, 1943 in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. "There would have been no Billy Graham . . . had it not been for Ruth," said the late T. W. Wilson. She was his anchor and advisor for over 63 years.

Graham discovered God's call was to lead others to Christ by becoming an evangelist. He first made national attention during his Los Angeles Crusade in fall 1949. Under a white tent, 30 year old Graham preached over 65 sermons to more than 350,000 people. Overnight, he became a household name.

The Billy Graham Crusades were heard all over our world between 1947 and 2005. He filled large arenas and stadiums across our country with a focus of bringing people to Christ. Long before churches were ready for racial integration, he integrated his crusades. His Crusades made it to my neck of the woods three times: in 1952, 1965 and 1981. In 1952, half million Texans came out to hear Graham preach. Roy Rogers and Dale Evans gave their testimony, too. The brand new Astrodome opened its doors for 10 days to Graham in 1965. Lyndon B. Johnson and Lady Bird Johnson attended. At 63 years old, Graham preached at Rice Stadium in 1981.

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association was founded in 1950. It was made up of a core team who created the "Modesto Manifesto," a covenant to ensure the integrity of his ministry. Millions more could now hear him on the radio and see him on TV. Graham understood the power of the media. He also became one of the world's best-selling authors. He became a world evangelist called to spread the good news.

Graham was called the Pastor to our Presidents. He met with all post war Presidents up to Obama. Our country called on him in times

of celebration and tragedy. He delivered invocations at presidential inaugurations. He preached at the Washington National Cathedral, three days after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. His message gave hope and healing to a shocked nation. At the age of 77, he jointly received the Congressional Gold Medal in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol with his wife, Ruth.

Ruth passed away in the summer of 2007 at their home in Montreat, North Carolina. They had five children: Gigi, Anne, Ruth, Franklin and Ned. They had 19 grandchildren. They are all involved in the ministry. In his later years, Graham was asked if he has any regrets. He replied, "although I have much to be grateful for as I look back over my life, I also have many regrets. I have failed many times, and I would do many things differently. For one thing, I would speak less and study more, and I would spend more time with my family."

At his 95th birthday celebration, Graham delivered his last message. He recorded a video that featured clips from his home in Montreat, North Carolina. His message was delivered in a quieter voice but provided a powerful message. He expressed concern for our nation, "Our country's in great need of a spiritual awakening," he declared. "There have been times that I've wept as I've gone from city to city and I've seen how far people have wandered from God."

Today, I honor the life of Billy Graham and his ministries that have touched millions of people worldwide. There can never be another Billy Graham. God used a farm boy with a gentle heart to preach his truth.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING DEMI WASHINGTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable young lady, Ms. Demi Washington of Clinton, MS.

Demi Washington is a senior at Clinton High School, where she currently holds the title of Miss Clinton High School and has a 3.5 GPA.

Demi is a very athletic and competitive young lady and was recently awarded a full scholarship to the University of Alabama (Roll Tide), beginning Fall '17. Throughout her years she has been awarded several awards: 2014 Gatorade Athlete of the Year; No. 1 Sprinter in the State of MS, since 8th grade; and the 1st female to win the State championship in the 8th grade. In April of 2017, Demi finished first in three events: 100 M Dash with a time of 11.85; the 200 M Dash with a time of 24.10; and set a new PR in the long jump with a mark of 17-1 at the MHSAA Division 4-6A meet. Her coach stated that, she is looking forward to winning the 100m and 200m dashes at the state meet this year to end her high school year on top.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and congratulating Ms. Demi Washington for such a job well done throughout her athletic path in and throughout Clinton, MS.

WOMEN AND TERRORISTS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the spread of terrorism and extremist ideas has claimed countless lives, destroyed hundreds of communities, and spawned radical groups around the world. Women, in particular, have long been the victims of these radical ideologies.

Just last week, the terrorist group Boko Haram targeted a girl's school in Nigeria and abducted more than 100 young girls. This incident follows the 2014 abduction of 270 Nigerian school girls, of which 112 are still missing. These acts are far from uncommon among Islamist terrorist organizations. Across the globe, jihadist networks subject women and young girls to horrendous human rights abuses. These male-dominated extremist groups frequently deny basic rights, like access to education or political representation to women as a core component of their ideology.

Terrorist groups like ISIS and Boko Haram are often the worst abusers of women, forcing them into marriages and sexual slavery. It should be no surprise that the status of women in a society is often an important indicator as to how vulnerable that society is to violence and radicalization.

Yet, while being one of the primary targets of terrorist groups, women are also being radicalized and recruited into these groups. Some support the group's operations, enforce its laws, or marry and bear the children of terrorist fighters. Others actually commit these heinous acts of terror. In recent years, as many as 3,000 women have traveled to the Middle East to join ISIS with many becoming female suicide bombers.

Despite the marginalization and brutality of women in extremist-held lands, repressive regimes, persistent conflict, and poor development policies can create conditions that make groups like ISIS be seen as an opportunity for women. Extremist groups exploit female grievances and claim to offer women greater empowerment and increased status—luring them into joining their extremist cause. Once radicalized, terrorist organizations will leverage the societal status of women to further their violent goals. For example, Boko Haram has exploited cultural perceptions of women in Nigeria as non-violent and unlikely to be involved in terrorism, to use them as intelligence and recruiting tools.

In our efforts to combat terrorism and extremism abroad, we have neglected the important role women can play to actually prevent radicalization and facilitate peace-building in areas long-worn by violence. Women are well placed in homes, schools, and communities to challenge extremist narratives. Research shows that anti-terrorism messages can be more effectively spread by women because they are more directly involved with those most vulnerable to terrorist recruitment: the world's youth. Given their importance in families and communities, it is essential that women, both at home and abroad, are more meaningfully enlisted in the fight against terrorism.

Two years ago as French police hunted for the mastermind behind the Paris attacks that killed 130, it was a woman who reported his

whereabouts to police. Her role as a surrogate mother to family members of the attacker allowed her access and trust that men unfamiliar to the family would have never gained. Her brave action prevented a planned follow-on attack.

Meanwhile in Kosovo, it was women who were first in their communities to voice concerns when young men began stocking weapons and conducting training exercises in 1998. Unfortunately, these women's warnings of impending conflict were ignored. Such an example demonstrates the critical role of women in spotting emerging violence and gaining trust within families and communities. Unfortunately, we often lack their perspectives because women are underrepresented in governments where terrorist groups are most active. Because of their better ability to build trust, women have proven to improve the outcomes of conflict mediation and peace building.

A study of 40 peace processes in 35 countries over the past 30 years, found that when women were involved, more agreements were reached, implemented, and sustained. As more and more terrorist groups threaten our country, our allies, and our interest throughout the world, it is vital that we leverage the talents and perspectives of women as part of a multifaceted approach to ensure security at home and abroad. It must be policy of the United States, that as we work in societies damaged by years of war and political unrest, we empower women to have a larger voice. While the men in these male-dominated cultures have continued to fight and disagree, it is the women, who are often the biggest victims that have demonstrated an ability to reach peaceful settlements.

By taking important steps to integrate women into its security strategies, the U.S. will unleash untapped skills and abilities to defeat radical terrorists that would rather have them subjugated. In the fight against terrorism, we need everyone at the table—especially women. And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE DANVILLE SCHLARMAN GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2018 IHSA Class 1A State Champions the Danville Schlarman High School Girls Basketball Team.

The Lady Hilltoppers won the state title game 53-31 to cap off a season with a record of 31 wins and just one loss. Schlarman was led in scoring by Janiah Newell, Caprina Brown, and Anaya Peoples all scoring in double digits. But this was a team effort and team victory as the Hilltoppers were equally impressive on defense as they were on offense.

I would like to congratulate the entire Danville Schlarman Girls Basketball Team on their victory and on a superb end to a great season: Anaya Peoples, Cece Damilano, Destiny Dye, Emma Bogen, Janiah Newell, McKaylee Allen, Suzet Sermensheim, Sydney Gouard, Tannah Ceader as well as Head Coach Keith Peoples.