

for community members accused of committing crimes. Mr. Padilla went on to become an investigator at the Monterey County Public Defender's Office in 1974 where he worked until his retirement in 1997.

Mr. Padilla was also a pioneering civil-rights activist in Monterey County. In 1972, he founded the North Monterey County Chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens, a civil rights advocacy organization. Mr. Padilla, alongside Cesar Chavez, was also a strong supporter of the United Farm Workers in their fight for unionization.

Mr. Padilla spent his life fighting to help those in the community of little means. In one account, Mr. Padilla demanded that the city of Salinas form a police review board after a string of officer involved incidents. Mr. Padilla also helped community members in generous ways that did not make headlines. He defended a countless number of people and was known to take in families he found without shelter at the courthouse. In 2012, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the La Raza Lawyers Association, and the Alisal Betterment Association dedicated a Lady Justice statue at the National Steinbeck Center in honor of Mr. Padilla's work. Mr. Padilla's legacy as a passionate advocate for his community will stand the test of time.

Crecencio Padilla's legacy is defined by his dedication to his family as well. His children remember him as "an amazing father and husband," who gave love and support to all his family. He was a role model for his family and the Central Coast community. His legacy will live on in the memories of those of us who had the honor to know him. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring Crecencio Padilla.

SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVOR BILL OF RIGHTS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, every six months, Amanda Nguyen begins her search for her rape kit.

Despite being sexually assaulted, the burden to ensure it's not destroyed lies on Amanda—the victim.

In her home state, there is a 15-year statute of limitations for prosecuting sexual assault crimes.

But untested rape kits are only required to be stored for six months.

Mr. Speaker, conflicting laws like this defy common sense.

Because of stories like Amada's, Congress passed a bill in 2016 that implements, on the federal level, a Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights.

This important legislation grants survivors the right to have a rape kit preserved for a full 20 years.

It gives survivors the results of forensic exams and notification if an evidence kit is destroyed.

Two years after passage, it's clear that this legislation is needed now, more than ever.

This week the House Judiciary Committee will be reviewing this imperative law.

Ensuring it is implemented effectively and improves the experience of survivors as they fight for the justice they rightfully deserve.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE MDWFP SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks' Special Response Team led by Major Dale Bell.

On July 11, 2017 at approximately 0700 hours, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) Special Response Team (SRT), made up of 36 SRT members and seven conservation officers, were deployed to Leflore County, Mississippi, to assist the local Emergency Management Agency with the C130 Aircraft crash, where the lives of 16 servicemen were lost. After arriving to the Central Operation Center, MDWFP was assigned as the lead agency for the search and recovery of this mission. The SRT members had a daunting task of recovering the remains of four servicemen. But I am proud to say they recovered the remains of all 16 servicemen ensuring they would be flown home.

Other responsibilities included, finding 50 missing weapons and providing daily supervision to a large number of Marine members on the ground. The SRT team demonstrated resilience operating in 105-degree daily heat, while handling venomous snakes and infestations of chiggers, ticks and mosquitoes.

This tragic event was the largest aviation accident to happen in Mississippi and in the history of the United States Marine Corps. The MDWFP SRT's role in the law enforcement community is very important. The skills, training, dedication, and technology that they bring to deployments are second to none.

Today, I am honored to recognize these brave public heroes for the hard work, dedication and courage they exude each and every day protecting Mississippians.

FOSTER HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VARSITY SWIM TEAM EARNS 5A SILVER MEDAL

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Foster High School Girls Varsity Swim Team for earning a silver medal in the 200-yard freestyle.

Kalissa Niles, Maddie Jacks, Sophie Gibson and Meagan Clark finished in second place with an impressive time of 1 minute and 39.47 seconds. Their accomplishments in the pool have made their families and the Richmond community proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to the ladies of the Foster High School Girls Varsity Swim Team. Keep up the great work.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING OF MR. JOHN PAGEL

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the life and legacy of Kewaunee County native, Mr. John Pagel.

Mr. Pagel was a successful businessman, a revered community leader, and, most importantly, a beloved husband, father, and grandfather. He was taken too soon, but John leaves behind a proud and enduring legacy that lesser men could not hope to forge in a dozen lifetimes.

While reflecting on John's time with us, I turned to scripture and was reminded of him in one of my favorite verses. "And to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody." (1 Thessalonians 4: 11-12)

A dairy farmer by trade, John's passion for his family and community, entrepreneurial spirit, and respect for nature brought him tremendous success in life. A towering figure in Wisconsin industry and a renowned public servant, John never shed the humble hometown qualities that earned him respect and happiness from the start. Beloved by his family, community, and employees, good and honest men like John are hard to find and even harder to lose.

John's extraordinary memory will be cherished by countless people across Wisconsin and America. May his humility, decency, and uncompromising integrity be remembered and emulated by all who knew him.

GUN VIOLENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 26, 2018

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to find the courage to take action and eradicate gun violence in America.

While our children and families demand a vote on commonsense legislation to keep our communities safe, my Republican colleagues continue to turn their backs.

Since the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary, the House has observed 42 moments of silence—tonight makes 43—to honor victims of gun violence, but no meaningful action has been taken to strengthen our gun laws. After every mass shooting we offer our thoughts and prayers to the victims, their families, and first responders. Our thoughts and prayers are not enough. A moment of silence is not enough.

In the past decade, more than one million Americans have been shot. Every day, on average at least 35 Americans are killed with a gun and nearly 33,000 die each year from gun-related violence.

In my home state of Ohio, someone is killed with a gun every eight hours. This is unacceptable. There are no moments of silence on

the House Floor for these victims, and Congress is doing nothing to protect the next victim.

The White House and the National Rifle Association claim mental illness is to blame for this latest tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, and that arming teachers will keep our children safe. Republicans cannot claim that mental illness is to blame, when they simultaneously cut funding for mental health treatment, undermine American's health insurance, and strip schools of resources needed to employ guidance counselors, social workers and/or more teachers to reduce class sizes and give students more individual attention.

The NRA claims any sensible action to strengthen our gun laws is an attack on the 2nd Amendment and the rights of gun owners. Nothing could be further from the truth. Democrats and Republicans must work together on meaningful reform to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, domestic abusers, and individuals in crisis.

Recent polls show that 97 percent of gun owners approve of background checks for all gun purchases, including those made at gun shows and through private sales. According to the Pew Research Center, 33 percent of gun owners oppose the NRA's prescription to make schools safer by arming teachers.

As I've said before, all citizens have a right to basic safety and life itself. Our families should not fear the possible massacre of their children in school or on playgrounds. Everyone should be able to go to a concert or place of worship and not confront a shooter armed with high capacity ammunition magazines and a weapon of mass destruction. It is up to all of us to protect our communities, schools, workplaces, and places of worship from senseless gun violence.

I have been encouraged by the courageous young people speaking out and taking action to effect change. I hope my Republican colleagues are listening.

Every day Congress fails to strengthen our gun laws, we are complicit in the violence that takes place in our nation. We can and must do more to end gun violence.

TRIBUTE TO BILL HILLMAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bill Hillman of Shenandoah, Iowa on his selection as the 2017 Outstanding Individual Leader, awarded by the Iowa Tourism Office and Travel Federation of Iowa. Bill received this honor for his work with the Everly Brothers Childhood Home, Wabash Trace Nature Trail and many other community activities.

Bill has worked tirelessly in promoting economic development and tourism opportunities in Shenandoah and the surrounding communities. Through Bill's determination and dedication, and with the use of his time and resources, he has had a direct impact on the economic future of Shenandoah.

Mr. Speaker, Bill has made a difference by helping and serving his community. It is with great honor that I recognize him today. I ask

that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in honoring his accomplishments and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

TRIBUTE TO CLAYTON SAEUGLING

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Clayton Saeugling of Atlantic, Iowa, for receiving the American Future Farmers of America Degree Award. The American Future Farmers of America (FFA) Degree is the highest honor an FFA member can achieve. According to Eric Miller, FFA Advisor at the Atlantic High School, "less than one percent of the 653,359 FFA members will receive this prestigious award."

In earning this degree, Clayton had to earn and invest at least \$10,000 through a supervised agricultural program that he started, owned, and in which he held a professional position. He also had to complete 50 hours of community service, demonstrating his community commitment and leadership skills. FFA Advisor Eric Miller further added, "I am very proud of Clayton and all his hard work he has put into his project and his education." Clayton said, "getting my American FFA Degree was a once in a lifetime experience that I am glad I could be a part of. All of the time and hard work that I have put into FFA was well worth it."

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Clayton for earning this award and it is with great pride that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

TRIBUTE TO JEAN AND KENNETH POLSLEY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jean and Kenneth Polsley of Blanchard, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on December 23, 2017.

Jean and Kenneth's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

TRIBUTE TO NOLA AND WALT PRITCHARD

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nola and Walt Pritchard of Clarinda, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on December 23, 2017.

Nola and Walt's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 65th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 65th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but the best.

TRIBUTE TO REV. RICHARD BLODGETT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Rev. Richard Blodgett of Council Bluffs, Iowa on his recent retirement as the Pastor of Emanuel Church of the Nazarene. Rev. Blodgett has served his congregation for over 31 years.

Originally from Wisconsin, Rev. Blodgett and his family have made Council Bluffs their home for the past three decades. After high school, he studied to become a teacher and wrestling coach, but he said it just did not feel right. He entered Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois. After graduating, Rev. Blodgett began his work in Dubuque, Iowa before answering the call to serve in Council Bluffs. Rev. Blodgett plans to stay active in the community by volunteering with his spiritual experience at Fox Run Assisted Living, Jeanne Edmundson Hospital, and at the Iowa Share Food Program.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Rev. Blodgett for his 31 years of dedicated and devoted service to Emanuel Church of the Nazarene. He has made a difference by helping and serving others and it is with great pride that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on his retirement and in wishing him nothing but the best.

TRIBUTE TO JACOB BAUDLER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jacob