

hard work, dedication and ability to learn from those around her, Kristy became a tremendous asset to our office and the Tenth Congressional District.

My team has learned a great deal about the current political situation in Australia as Kristy's fascination with America continues to grow. She is an absolute pleasure to have in the office and I offer her my thanks for a job well done. I wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.

BASF CORPORATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud BASF Corporation for receiving the 2018 Commerce City Business on the Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses bringing new employment, growth in sales, or new capital investment to Commerce City. BASF currently employs 17,500 people across North America and 114,000 worldwide, and operates across five segments—Chemicals, Performance Products, Functional Materials & Solutions, Agricultural Solutions and Oil and Gas. These segments create chemistry for a sustainable future in nearly all sectors and almost every country in the world. In Commerce City, BASF Corporation's local focus is in the area of construction chemicals. The company operates out of a 150,000 square-foot facility with almost 150 employees including the addition of 30 new employees in 2017.

BASF is extremely involved in the community where their employees engage in BASF Kids Lab, Site Safety Day, Boy & Girl Scouts, and Engineer's Without Borders.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the BASF for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

HONORING IAN McDONALD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ian McDonald. Ian is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 255, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Ian has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Ian built and delivered a dozen wooden duck houses to the Missouri Department of conservation for distribution and installation on both public and private waters in western Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ian for his accomplishments with

the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING MR. TRENTON "TRENT" JEROME McCLUSKEY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and honor Mr. Trenton "Trent" Jerome McCluskey on the occasion of his retirement as the Jail Administrator for Walker County, Alabama back on February 1, 2018. I am proud to recognize Mr. McCluskey for his many years of public service to our area. He is truly a man who embodies the American principles of hard work and devotion to one's community, state and nation.

Mr. Trent McCluskey is a native of Jasper, Alabama and a graduate of Walker High School. After graduating high school, he attended Walker State Technical College and then earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from International Bible College in 1985. He received a Criminal Justice Certificate from the University of Alabama in 1997 and his Juris Doctorate from the Birmingham School of Law in 2000.

Trent began his career in corrections in 1991 working for the State of Alabama Department of Corrections. His career could have ended prematurely in 1993 when he was stabbed by an inmate and thrown from the second tier of the William E. Donaldson Correctional Facility. However, after an 18-month recovery period, he returned to work at the Walker County Jail in 1995. In 1999, one year after the completion of the new jail, he was named as the Jail Administrator where he served until January, 2018. As Administrator, he supervised the daily operations including up to 290 inmates, 43 full-time employees and a \$2.5 million dollar budget.

Trent was also very active in his community and received a certificate of appreciation in 1997 from the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He was also named Volunteer of the Year in 1994 from the Daybreak Spousal Abuse Shelter and received their Community Service Award in 1996. He was very active in the Jasper Chapter of the Lions Club International, serving as president from 2001 to 2002, Zone Chairman for District 34-L from 2002 to 2003 and District Governor for District 34-L from 2004 to 2005.

Trent has one daughter, Terina Michelle Preston, and four grandchildren, Peyton, Conner, Grayson and Ryland. He is highly respected by the people of Walker County for his honesty, hard work and dedication, and I am proud to have had the opportunity to work with him over the years.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize and honor Trenton "Trent" Jerome McCluskey on his many accomplishments and for his enduring impact on his community. I join his family, friends and colleagues in wishing him God's richest blessings in the next chapter of his life in retirement.

RECOGNIZING JUDY BLAND FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Judy Bland and her selfless contributions to the residents of Kane County, Illinois. For nearly 20 years, Ms. Bland has worked as a Victim Advocate for the Kane County State's Attorney's office.

In 1996, Ms. Bland joined the office as an intern and soon after was offered a full-time position as Administrative Assistant. Less than two years later, she began working as a Victim Advocate and was recently named as the Director of the Victims' Rights Unit. Early in her career, she was asked to advocate for a mother whose 20-month-old daughter was a murder victim. Ms. Bland was there every step of the way and her persistence encouraged the mother to seek her own career as a paralegal.

When the death sentence of Luther Casteel, who killed two and wounded 16 in Elgin, Illinois in 2001 was commuted, Ms. Bland personally called the families of the victims and survivors informing them of what the Governor's action meant. From Ms. Bland's perspective, everyone who witnessed the shooting deserved a phone call. Ms. Bland helped coordinate crisis and grief counselors in the aftermath of the Northern Illinois University attack that killed five and wounded 17. Name a major crime or crisis in the last two decades and it is likely Ms. Bland helped people deal with the aftermath through her comfort, advocacy, and good counsel. It's not an easy nor a glamorous job, but the important work that Ms. Bland has done has changed the lives of people when they were in the greatest need of support.

Mr. Speaker, and distinguished colleagues; please join me in recognizing and thanking Ms. Judy Bland for her selfless contributions to the residents of Kane County, Illinois and her excellent example of public service.

GALLERY ON THE GO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Gallery on The Go, Inc. for receiving the 2018 Commerce City Entrepreneurial Spirit Award.

The Entrepreneurial Spirit Award recognizes a company or entrepreneur that demonstrates a pioneering spirit and development of a business start-up, new product development, or a company/product with growth in new markets. In October 2011, Maria Borrego, a Commerce City resident and Adams City High School graduate, co-founded the mobile painting planning party, Gallery on The Go. She was joined by Mandy Thomas in 2014 and today are a staff of four full-time and two part time employees. They have now expanded to over 160 Independent Gallery Guides in 30 states, serving over 35,000 painters in 2017.

In addition to expanding across the country, Gallery on The Go is also committed to giving

back to the community. They have given over \$105,000 in donations, fundraising painting parties, and free events to benefit a variety of non-profits within the Commerce City community.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Galery On The Go, Inc. for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

ZIMBABWE AFTER MUGABE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we held a hearing on Zimbabwe. The hearing has been a long time in the making—for some 37 years since the birth of the modern nation of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe dominated the political landscape of this resource rich and promising country, first as Prime Minister, then as President, always as Strongman. It was a 37-year rule which, sadly, betrayed the post-colonial aspirations of freedom, one which was marked by misrule, mismanagement and mistreatment of Mugabe's fellow citizens.

For many Zimbabweans, and for many years, envisioning a "Zimbabwe after Mugabe" was considered a fool's errand. Elections—some more flawed than others—had come and gone, opportunities for reform fallen by the wayside, and through it all the domineering presence of one man haunted the dreams of his countrymen.

Then, in a matter of weeks, culminating last November, the landscape changed. The once-invincible ruler in October 2017 set into motion a series of events which left him not only ousted from the Zimbabwe National Union-Patriotic Front party, or ZANU-PF, but pushed off his presidential perch.

The drama began in earnest when Mugabe sought to prop up his wife Grace's standing as his designated successor by ousting one of his two Vice Presidents, Emmerson Mnangagwa, presumably to elevate his wife to the position, while simultaneously moving against Mnangagwa's allies in the government and in ZANU-PF, promoting a younger generation aligned with Grace.

Mnangagwa was part of an older faction in ZANU-PF, the generation that fought for liberation, with roots and strong connections in the military. As Rhodesian Bush War veterans and political survivors, Mnangagwa and his comrades could draw upon a reservoir of experience and cunning; they were not to be so easily pushed aside.

So while Mugabe sought to tighten the reigns of control in favor of his wife and her allies, the other Vice President and head of the Zimbabwe Defense Force, Constantino Chiwenga, made a bold statement on November 13, saying in "matters of protecting our revolution, the military will not hesitate to step in." This was declared "treasonous," but before Chiwenga himself could be arrested, the

Zimbabwe Defense Forces did in fact step in and confined the long-serving President to his quarters while taking control of key points around the country.

What followed were spontaneous popular demonstrations against Robert Mugabe, indicating that a spell had been broken. ZANU-PF convened a meeting which declared Mnangagwa to be interim leader of the party, and in the face of impeachment proceedings against Mugabe, the 93-year-old President reluctantly stepped down, allowing Mnangagwa to assume the vacancy. This series of actions preserved a veneer of constitutional process, such that neither our country nor the African Union would label the events that took place a "coup;" indeed, if it were a coup, it was a popularly supported one, and one which subsequently received High Court ratification.

So where does that leave us? Who is Emmerson Mnangagwa, the man who was sworn in as Zimbabwe's President on November 21?

Critics call him "the Crocodile," and recall his role as Mugabe's right-hand man and confidant, including during the brutal period in the early 1980s, when in the newly independent nation Mugabe waged an internal campaign of repression against fellow revolutionary leader Joshua Nkomo, killing thousands of ethnic minority Ndebele followers of Nkomo. During this time, Mugabe was assisted by military advisors from East Germany and North Korea, and by his Minister of State Security, one Emmerson Mnangagwa.

Others, more charitably, admit that Mnangagwa was indeed once the Crocodile, but maintain that he has changed, undergoing a religious conversion to Evangelical Christianity. Indeed, his rhetoric since ascending to power has been reassuring, stating that he will restore democracy, rule of law, economic prosperity and trade while addressing endemic corruption. On the issue of land tenure, he said he would end the seizures of property that Mugabe had used to punish enemies and reward cronies.

So we stand at a crossroads, perhaps facing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity where Zimbabwe can chart a new course. Yet one cannot be Pollyanna, nor disregard the wise words of Pete Townshend, who once sang "Meet the new Boss, same as the old Boss . . . We won't get fooled again."

On the issue of land seizures, for example, one notes that the newly-retired general and, as of December 28, 2017, the new Vice President, Constantino Chiwenga—who issued the "treasonous" challenge that led to Mugabe's ouster—is alleged to be a beneficiary of Mugabe's past largess with other people's land.

Indeed, as we attempt to read the tea leaves and discern what the entrails portend, we will be assisted by a stellar panel. While the State Department is unable to send a witness due to the immediacy of issues concerning the budget and Secretary Tillerson's impending trip to Africa, we have with us a former Ambassador of the United States to Zimbabwe as well as one of the key imple-

menters of our democracy promotion policy in Zimbabwe. We also have two Zimbabweans with us, who are extremely versed and involved in contemporary events in the country.

Yesterday's hearing looked at the prospects for true democratic and governance reform, as well as the potential restoration of rule of law.

We truly hope that the arrival of a new government signals an opportunity for establishing a mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and Zimbabwe, and that as the near future unfolds, events will allow us to re-evaluate some of the sanctions that were imposed during the Mugabe years.

16TH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL TEACHERS AWARDS

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of outstanding public school teachers in Florida's 16th Congressional District.

I was once told that children are 25 percent of the population, but they are 100 percent of the future.

And it's true. The education of a child is an investment, not only in that student, but in the future of our country.

Therefore, I established the Congressional Teacher Awards to honor educators for their ability to teach and inspire students.

An independent panel has chosen the following teachers from Manatee, Sarasota, and Hillsborough counties for Florida's 16th District 2018 Congressional Teacher Award for their accomplishments as educators:

Ms. Michelle Brewster for her accomplishments as a sixth grade Math teacher at Eisenhower Middle School.

Ms. Karen Lewellen, for her accomplishments as a Math teacher at State College of Florida Collegiate School.

Ms. Carrie Ling, for her accomplishments as a Math and Science teacher at Braden River Elementary School.

Mr. Nelson Lopez for his accomplishments as an ELA and Journalism teacher Palmetto High School.

Ms. Barb Rannigan, for her accomplishments as a third grade teacher at Alta Vista Elementary School.

Ms. Es Swihart for her accomplishments as an English teacher at Riverview High School.

Dr. Terri St. John for her accomplishments as an English teacher at Sarasota High School.

Ms. Deborah Walker, for her accomplishments as a sixth grade Science teacher at Sarasota Military Academy Prep.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 16th District I congratulate each of these outstanding teachers and offer my sincere appreciation for their service and dedication.