

with New York, Ms. Gleicher saw empty pieces of land around Los Angeles that could easily be transformed into urban sustainable farms.

Emily and Jason decided to harness their passion for gardening and in 2015, they created Farm LA, a local 501(c)3 non-profit organization that is dedicated to transforming underutilized land in Los Angeles into sustainable energy projects and drought-tolerant agricultural farming. Since its inception, the goal of Farm LA has been to create food access and a cultural appreciation for sustainable living while enhancing the beauty of the city around us. Farm LA's programming includes: urban farming, fruit shares, sidewalk gardens, educating elementary schools and summer camps on growing food also known as "kindergardening," and selling their 9th generation lima bean seeds at local health fairs and farmer's markets.

Through her passion and dedicated service, Emily has created a Farm LA community of over 500 volunteers in the last three years as her organization continues to expand. Ms. Gleicher hopes that her work will help to provide food access in lower income residential neighborhoods while giving people a better understanding of the products they consume in an effort to address the prevalence of childhood obesity. Emily's passion for sustainable farming has brightened our community and she continues to serve as a role model for the citizens of this district.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Emily Gleicher.

JESSICA JOHNSON—ED STOUT MEMORIAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING VICTIM ADVOCACY RECIPIENT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Safety, Advocacy, Growth, and Empowerment (SAGE) program in Wenatchee Valley, Washington works to aid individuals who have experienced domestic abuse.

For the past 12 years, Jessica Johnson has gone above and beyond, serving SAGE to the best of her ability. Her hard work and dedication paid off. In 2016, Jessica was promoted to Executive Director, propelling Jessica to even greater heights. Her work with SAGE has helped to provide a safe-haven for those who faced sexual abuse, domestic violence, stalking, poverty, and sex trafficking in Central Washington.

During her time at SAGE, Jessica has overseen the creation of a 24-hour crisis line, a Crime Victim Service Center, and a Domestic Violence advocacy program. Each of these programs has been instrumental in providing aid to crime victims.

Jessica has not only focused her efforts on the larger central communities, but has implemented outreach to rural areas as well. This outreach has expanded opportunities for those who need assistance the most and helped victims reach the resources they desperately need. Jessica has also established group

counseling programs in high schools and worked with schools to ensure faculty and staff are given adequate training on spotting the signs of domestic abuse.

Perhaps some of the most important services SAGE and Jessica have provided is through the Child Advocacy Center. In the Child Advocacy Center, law enforcement agents conduct forensic interviews with children who have been victims of sexual and domestic abuse. This service has been an invaluable resource and helped create a safe environment to interview and assist vulnerable children.

Each year the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus honors outstanding individuals and organizations for their tireless efforts supporting and empowering survivors of crime. Co-chaired and co-founded by JIM COSTA (D-CA) and myself, the bipartisan caucus advocates for crime victims and protects programs that provide critical support for related services.

I am proud to announce Jessica Johnson as the recipient of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy. The Stout Memorial Award is in memory of Ed Stout, the Director of Aid for Victims of Crime in St. Louis. The Honoree is a professional or volunteer whose efforts have directly benefited victims and survivors of crime.

I am honored to recognize Jessica and her relentless fight in advocating for crime victims. With the help of Jessica and SAGE, victims from all over Washington have access to resources needed to help rebuild their lives.

And that's just the way it is.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL AND FRANCES McDUGAL

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Michael and Frances McDougal of Conroe, TX, and congratulate them on their 50th wedding anniversary.

In 1964, Michael and Frances first met on the campus of Southwestern University, where Michael was pursuing a career in law and Frances was working to become an elementary school teacher. Despite their many personality differences, the two spent four years growing closer together, and on April 6, 1968, the two were finally married.

Soon after, Michael began to pursue his law degree at Southern Methodist University, and in order to support her husband's dream of becoming an attorney, Frances began teaching in Dallas, TX. Together, the two thrived during this difficult time, which culminated with the birth of their first child, Heather, and the grand opening of Michael's first law office in 1971.

Even with the stress of a new business and an infant child, the two stuck together. Michael worked long hours to ensure the success of their new business, and Frances split her time between teaching and helping in the law office—all while raising a baby girl.

In 1972, the young family relocated to North Houston in order for Michael to begin serving under the District Attorney in Conroe, TX—a community they quickly adopted as their

home. Michael and Frances welcomed the birth of their first son, Christopher, in 1976, and the birth of their second son, Kevin "Ryan", in 1979. The family took full advantage of living in their community—taking up horseback riding and becoming active in their church's congregation.

Ultimately, Michael rose to the level of Montgomery County District Attorney before opening his own firm with his son Ryan—McDougal and McDougal Law Firm. Frances continued teaching and, after her own fight with cancer, she found herself heavily involved with FAITH Fighting Cancer and volunteering with Memorial Hermann Hospital.

Despite their successful careers and tireless community service, Michael and Frances have always made their family the center of their life: their three children, Heather, Christopher, and Ryan; their son and daughter-in-law, Jason and Audrey; and their seven grandchildren, Lindsey, Travis, Ashley, Callum, Cadence, Abigail, and Max.

Michael and Frances McDougal's relationship serves as a perfect illustration of what a strong marriage and even stronger family should be. I am proud to join Michael and Frances' family, their friends, and the entire Eighth District of Texas in recognizing their 50th wedding anniversary and congratulating them on this momentous milestone in their relationship.

HONORING TWENTY-TWO TEACHERS OF THE GREATER BOCA RATON AREA

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the twenty-two outstanding teachers in South Florida who have been awarded the Teacher of the Year award from the Rotary Club of Boca Raton Sunrise.

For the past 32 years, the Rotary Club of Boca Raton Sunrise has offered this annual distinction to one teacher at each of the twenty-two schools in the greater Boca Raton area. Each awardee is selected by the school's principal. These teachers have dedicated their time to inspiring, empowering, and bettering the next generation of youth in our community. Their passion in this effort is truly worthy of our recognition.

These twenty-two exemplary teachers have made a profound impact on their students through their caring, commitment, and professionalism. They are a cohort defined by integrity, excellence, and the highest marks in all they do. The City of Boca Raton is fortunate to have such outstanding faculty.

Congratulations to Chayane Oliveira, Irene Gonedes, Patricia Fusco, Kerry Maione, Jaqua Lewis, Alexandra Mangogna, Meghan Moon-ey, Melissa Pierce, Thomas Simone, Gary Aronson, Joni Webster, Robyn Jones-Crockett, Deborah Straus, Susan Mallardi, Tara Clair, Josephine Saldana, Mary Shanty, Marcela Mendoza, Kathleen Loeffler, Karen Richards, Stephanie Stiepleman, and Danielle Alarcon on being nominated for this year's teacher of the year award.

I am pleased to honor them, and I thank them for their continued service.

IN MEMORY OF MR. EDWARD V.
SMITH, III

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Edward V. Smith, III, a dedicated North Texan who devoted his life to serving our community. In addition to many professional and charitable interests, Mr. Smith was a passionate alumnus of the University of North Texas, the former North Texas State College.

A fifth generation Texan, Mr. Smith maintained deep roots in the Dallas area. After graduating from North Dallas High School in 1955, he enrolled in then-North Texas State College. During Mr. Smith's time in college, he served as president of his class, attorney general of the student body, vice president of the student body, president of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity, and president of Blue Key. Even following graduation, he never stopped giving back to his beloved alma mater.

Mr. Smith generously volunteered his time and attention to serve as president of the University of North Texas Alumni Association, Chair of the UNT Foundation, Chair of the Professional Development Institute, and as a member of numerous committees. He served as membership chair for the State of Texas and as a Regent of the College. In recognition of this service, he was named a Distinguished Alumnus in 1992.

In addition to his charitable work for the University of North Texas, Mr. Smith excelled professionally as a Dallas attorney. After graduating from law school at Southern Methodist University, he began a long legal career. Mr. Smith served on many committees in the Dallas and Texas Bars, and he was awarded the lifetime achievement award from the probate sections of both the Dallas Bar and the State Bar of Texas. He also received the Professionalism Award from the Dallas Bar and the Texas Center for Legal Ethics.

Mr. Smith selflessly served his community as a member of the board of the United Way, Advisory Board member of both the Dallas Foundation and the Communities Foundation of Texas, and as Chairman of the Board of the Grace Foundation. A lifelong Presbyterian, he also served his church as a deacon, an elder and, for many years, as Clerk of the Session.

Mr. Smith has left a rich legacy of generosity, loyalty, and excellence. I extend condolences to his wife Nikki, their family, the University of North Texas community, and all who knew him.

TRIBUTE TO KILJOO LEE
KURUMADA—28TH CONGRES-
SIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF
THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is

an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Kiljo Lee Kurumada of La Crescenta, California.

Kiljo was born in China and raised in South Korea. In 1967, she graduated from the Seoul National University College of Music and in 1969, she moved to the United States.

In 1983, Ms. Kurumada co-founded the Korean Resource Center (KRC), an extraordinary non-profit organization, whose goal is to empower immigrant, low-income, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and minority communities in Southern California. By using a holistic approach, this distinguished organization endeavors to support these communities by incorporating culture, services, education, coalition-building and organizing toward improving their lives.

Ms. Kurumada has taken on a prominent leadership role in the Korean-American community. She served as KRC board chair for more than two decades, and also served as founding board chair of the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC), a grassroots organization that promotes the active and organized participation of Korean and Asian Americans to achieve social and economic justice.

During her long tenure at the Korean Resource Center, where she currently volunteers two days a week helping low-income families and seniors with general inquiries, Ms. Kurumada and her colleagues have championed numerous causes, including access to health insurance, affordable housing, voter registration, senior advocacy, youth education and immigration reform.

Kiljo has lived in La Crescenta for over four decades. She is married to Stephen Kurumada, and they have two children, Jennifer and Michael, and four grandchildren.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Kiljo Lee Kurumada.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 5476 SPECIAL COUNSEL INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior Member of the Judiciary Committee, and an original co-sponsor, I rise today to urge all Members to support and cosponsor H.R. 5476, "Special Counsel Independence and Integrity Act."

When we were here in March, before the Easter Recess, I indicated that firing Special Counsel Robert Mueller would not be crossing a Red Line.

It would not be crossing a Blue Line.

It would be crossing a Red, White, and Blue line.

I have been concerned about this issue for a very long time—to me it was clear in August, and every day that passes is another where my first instincts about the President's desire to fire Special Counsel Mueller, are confirmed.

The importance of Special Counsel Mueller's investigation into the 2016 election,

and the nature and extent of Russia's interference, cannot be overstated.

The allegation that a foreign government—hostile or otherwise—played any part in the internal democratic processes of our country should shock every single American citizen.

It strikes at the heart of our democratic system of government.

We must come to terms with the fact that our very last national election is a crime scene.

The 2018 election could be one, too.

It was critical then, it is critical now, and it will be critical tomorrow that the Special Counsel be permitted to do his work unimpeded.

That is why last August I introduced H.R. 3654, "Special Counsel Independence Protection Act," which precludes the firing of the Special Counsel absent of substantial evidence, that there exists good cause to do so, and that determination accepted by a three-judge federal court.

H.R. 3654 has the support of 152 cosponsors and is also the subject of a discharge petition, and 144 members of the House of Representatives have signed the discharge petition.

I thank my colleagues who have supported H.R. 3654, to protect the Special Counsel's investigation recognizing that nothing less than our sovereignty, our democratic ideals, and our national dignity are at stake.

Today, I announce my support for new legislation protecting the Special Counsel, H.R. 5476, "Special Counsel Independence and Integrity Act," introduced by Ranking Member NADLER, myself, and Mr. COHEN.

I am pleased that this legislation incorporates the core of my legislation to protect the Special Counsel.

The Nadler-Jackson Lee-Cohen bill constrains the Attorney General from damaging the Special Counsel's investigation, absent judicial ratification of any action to terminate the Special Counsel.

Under H.R. 5476, the judicial branch—yet another check on an unwieldy executive—would determine if the termination was appropriate.

The necessity of enacting this legislation is clear.

Seven times this year, the President has derided the investigation as a "witch hunt," including yesterday.

The New York Times has reported that the President has tried at least twice in 2017 to fire Special Counsel Mueller—once in June 2017, and once again in December 2017.

Now, this morning he is claiming, again over Twitter, that reports that he wanted to fire Special Counsel Mueller were more "fake news."

On Monday, after news that his lawyer's residence and offices were raided, the President openly mused, at a gathering of his war cabinet, about firing Special Counsel Mueller.

On Tuesday, the President asserted that he had the power to fire Special Counsel Mueller.

Yesterday on Twitter, the President called Special Counsel Mueller "the most conflicted of all."

He is wrong.

Last night, he advertised a program on his favorite cable network, and when that show aired, it consisted of a derogatory piece against the president's chief investigators: former FBI Director Comey and Special Counsel Mueller.