

Specifically, the Rising Star Award recognizes a high school student who exemplifies extraordinary skills in entrepreneurship, innovation, community impact and leadership.

A student at Arvada High School, Alyssa has proven to be a leader for the student body and exemplifies high moral conduct and provides a positive example for all students daily. Alyssa is the poster child for doing the right thing while also excelling in everything she puts her mind to.

Congratulations to Alyssa Martinez for this well-deserved award, and I thank her for her contribution to our community.

COMMEMORATING ISRAEL'S 70TH YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate Israel's Memorial Day, Yom Hazikaron, and Israel's Independence Day, Yom Ha'atzmaut. Israel's transition from Memorial Day to Independence Day is a time to reflect about the sacrifices of the people of Israel for their country. And, as the country transitions from sadness to celebration, it is an opportunity to recognize and praise the achievements of Israel.

Starting with its very founding, Israel has overcome immense obstacles, including near constant attacks from its neighbors. And yet, over the last 70 years, Israel has grown tremendously. Its economy is one of the most dynamic in the world, drawing investors and innovators from around the globe. Its contributions to technology, medicine, and culture have greatly benefitted the international community. Israel has a longstanding history of aid work, most recently providing aid to Syria and responding to natural disasters in Haiti. And, of course, Israel continues to be a refuge for Jewish people fleeing anti-Semitism.

On this 70th anniversary of the modern state of Israel, I celebrate the values that the United States and Israel share: the ideals of freedom and pluralism. Israel is a nation that prides itself on promoting freedom and self-determination. It seeks peace with its neighbors, and the United States must continue to support Israel in its quest for peace.

As a strategic partner and friend, the United States stands in solidarity with Israel against its enemies. We will continue to look for ways to strengthen the partnership between our countries. I am proud to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut with our ally, Israel, and look forward to the nation's continued success.

RECOGNIZING GERARD PLACE AND ITS DEDICATED ADVOCATES DURING NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we recognize April as National Volunteer Month to call special and deserved

recognition to Gerard Place and its dedicated advocates.

Gerard Place opened its doors and its heart to a community in need in 2000, under the auspices of twelve Congregations of Women Religious in my hometown of Buffalo, New York. These Women of Faith brought a closed city corner back to life for homeless single parents and children through counseling, education, employment, housing and life skills training.

With its core values ingrained in the organization's building blocks of compassion, reverence, integrity and collaboration, Gerard Place's programs have been highly successful as more than 90 percent have transitioned to independent housing.

Statistics are a required reporting tool of course, but Gerard Place's real impact is found in the faces and heard in the stories of second chances given and opportunities seized by women now living productive, purposeful lives. With individualized, intensive support, families are strengthened, careers are pursued and a better future is within reach.

Understanding the work is never complete, Gerard Place is expanding its offerings with the rehabilitation of the Community Center to bring classroom space, job readiness training and quality childcare to the neighborhood.

As is the case in so many of our mission driven non-profits, the leadership and staff of Gerard Place will be the first to share that so much of what has been achieved and so much that is left to do is only possible thanks to the tireless dedication of its amazing volunteers.

It is a belief I share as a true example of how lives are changed by those inspiring people among us who give their time, talent and treasure back to their communities. Without the more than 100 volunteers devoting more than 6,000 hours annually in a multitude of roles including engagement with program participants, staff support, event organization and board membership, the goals of Gerard Place would be unattainable.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to acknowledge and add my thanks to the outstanding volunteers of Gerard Place for everyday of every month they give hope and help to those they selflessly serve in our community.

HONORING JACOB AND JOAB BOWEN

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two of my Hall County neighbors, Jacob and Joab Bowen, who were honored by the community as "Farmers of the Year" at the Annual Agribusiness Awards Program.

Jacob and Joab's father, Paul Bowen, started a chicken farm in 1987. Following his example, the two brothers have worked on their family's farm since its inception.

Each year, the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce and the Hall County Cooperative Extension host the awards ceremony to highlight achievements in our community's agriculture industry. In the last decade, Jacob and Joab have succeeded in managing their farm's

expansion, earning them an honor at this year's event.

What began as a small operation has grown into a large-scale farm that contains 16 chicken houses and several acres for cattle. Annually, the Bowen farm produces more than 22 million pounds of antibiotic-free chicken.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Bowen brothers for their diligence in a crucial yet often undervalued profession. Our communities depend on the food that Jacob, Joab, and many Northeast Georgia farmers produce, and I am grateful for their work.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE RONALD A. SARASIN

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Honorable Ronald A. Sarasin on the occasion of his retirement as President and CEO of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society. Since January 3, 2000, Ron has directed the Society as it has communicated the rich heritage of Congress and the U.S. Capitol to a wide, diverse audience. School children, scholars, historians, artists, people from all walks of life, and even Members of Congress have learned more about this great institution because of programs offered by the Society.

Under Ron's leadership, classroom programs, symposia and lectures, awards and outreach, and recognition of the history of Congressional committees has flourished. The Society has brought elementary and secondary students to the Capitol for tours and visits to our offices. It has sponsored symposia where scholars have shared their research and insights. It has taught about Constantino Brumidi and his beautiful artwork. At a recent Society event, guests were invited to climb the temporary stairs and walk on the scaffolding to view the restoration of the ceiling of the Brumidi Corridors at eye level.

During Ron's tenure, the Society has dedicated over \$100,000 to fund fellowships for historians, political scientists, artists, and scholars of other disciplines. The Society even became a publisher, producing 12 books on Congress.

Ron has been a great ambassador for Congress. He has led countless numbers of students, visiting dignitaries, business executives, international guests, and Society members on tours of this great building. As a former Representative from Connecticut, Ron knows our institution well and has been generous in sharing his insights.

As Members of Congress, we too have been enriched by the Society. As guests to the annual presentation of the Freedom Award over the years we have met American icons such as filmmaker Ken Burns, historian David McCullough and writer, director and star of "Hamilton," Lin-Manuel Miranda. We have been honored by Society dinners celebrating the history of the Congressional committees on which we serve. We have been feted at welcoming receptions for new Members of Congress and at thank you receptions for Members who retire.

Ron's outstanding leadership was recognized when the National Endowment for the

Humanities honored the U.S. Capitol Historical Society with its National Humanities Medal in 2004. Upon receiving the award from President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush, Ron noted, "There is so much more to be told about our nation's history from inside this building (the Capitol) than simply the making of laws." Indeed there is, and Ron Sarasin has excelled in telling the story of the Capitol and Congress for the past 18 years.

I thank Ron, for his persistent advocacy of Congress and the Capitol. Congratulations on a job well done and best wishes as he turns his attention to other endeavors.

CONGRATULATING MALLORY
MARGARET NESMITH

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a young leader, Ms. Mallory Margaret Nesmith, for being accepted to the United States Air Force Academy. Academically, she is outstanding by earning a high-weighted GPA of 4.122 while participating in challenging AP courses. She was selected as one of two ambassadors of a class of 82 students to be an AP Ambassador for the course Advanced Placement United States History, APUSH. Additional honors granted to Ms. Nesmith include English Student of the Year for two years, Student of the Quarter, Member of Mu Alpha Theta, and Junior Es-cort.

Aside from her academics, she is a long-term leader of the Lego Club Library for the past seven years. She partakes in drama and band where she performed and earned awards at the state and national level. With her involvement as Vice President in the Distributive Education Clubs of America, a high school leadership program, she received one district, two state, and one national award. These accomplishments are only a handful amongst her participation in additional extra curricular activities, academic clubs, and community organizations.

Growing up with a father in the Air Force, Ms. Nesmith understands the importance of comradeship amongst her fellow peers. Throughout her life, she has formed relationships with people that she now calls family. The ability to create lasting relationships with people of different backgrounds, and in new situations, displays a character worth having as a leader in the Air Force.

With the extensive accomplishments Ms. Nesmith has thus far, I have confidence in her ability to achieve her goal to become valedictorian at John F. Kennedy High School in Cedar Rapids, and in coming years, complete pilot training. She is a determined, confident, and sharp leader who will serve her country proudly.

TRIBUTE TO ROY QUAKENBUSH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

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

Quakenbush of Council Bluffs, Iowa for his 70 years of service as a barber in Council Bluffs and Omaha. Roy began his career on February 9, 1948.

Roy said, "a lot has changed since I started barbering." He said he can remember when a haircut cost a dollar and kids' cuts cost fifty cents. At one time there were 65 barbers in Council Bluffs; today there are 10. Roy said, "I'm a barber, not a stylist." At 88 years old, Roy still works two mornings a week cutting hair and has no plan to retire any time soon. Roy said barbering has provided him with a good living and his volunteer work cutting hair and shaving beards at Children's Square USA and at the Hospice of Southwest Iowa has been a hallmark of his career. "Doing that helps those people feel good," Roy said.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Roy for his 70 years of dedicated and devoted service to his customers and friends of Council Bluffs and Omaha. Roy has made a difference by helping and serving others. 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 applauding his service and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE 110TH BIRTH-
DAY OF THE UNITED STATES
ARMY RESERVE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 110th birthday of the United States Army Reserve, which will be celebrated on April 23, 2018. What began in 1908 as a small corps of medical professionals held in readiness for duty is today the Army's global operational reserve force, and the most capable, combat-ready, and lethal Army Reserve the nation has ever known.

Established by Congress in 1908 with just 160 doctors and nurses, a larger Organized Reserve was created under the National Defense Act of 1916. A year later, when America entered World War I, more than 160,000 Reservists were mobilized to help the Army defeat Germany and the other Axis powers. By World War II, more than 200,000 Reservists had joined the fight, serving on every front.

Through two world wars, the Cold War, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, the Global War on Terror, and countless other crises, operations, and emergencies, America's Army Reserve has never failed to meet the challenges of its time. The Army Reserve continues to provide quick access to the mission-critical forces and capabilities the Army needs to initiate, sustain, and prevail in major operations.

Today our nation faces new threats from multiple sources that challenge U.S. military dominance across every domain. The Army Reserve is again rising to the challenge, creating a ready force of units and individual soldiers postured to move fast, engage quickly, and win decisively on the battlefields of today and tomorrow. I am proud of the Reservists of the 5th Congressional district of Washington state for serving with honor, distinction, and having the passion to protect our American freedoms.

The world is constantly changing and the threats evolving, but the Army Reserve continues to remain a dedicated component of the most decisive and lethal land force in the world.

Our thanks and appreciation to all of these patriotic Americans, and Happy 110th Birthday, U.S. Army Reserve.

MICHAEL MARTINEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Michael Martinez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Michael Martinez is a student at Standley Lake High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Michael Martinez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Michael Martinez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 16, 2018 I missed the following votes due to weather delays and was not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 140, and YEA on Roll Call No. 141.

CELEBRATING CALVERT'S 150TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the one-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the City of Calvert, Texas.

It is an honor to represent Calvert and its residents in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Calvert has supported thousands of families and businesses throughout the years, and I am proud to offer my congratulations on their sesquicentennial milestone.

Located in Robertson County, Calvert was established along the Houston and Texas Central Railway which was built through the area in 1868.

The town is named in honor of Robert Calvert, a farmer with large cotton and corn operations, who advocated for the railroad to come through Robertson County.