

while supporting families and individuals with disabilities so that they may thrive in Loudoun.

These programs include the Aurora School. Founded in 2003, the School is a private day school for students with special needs and behavior challenges. Founded in 2010, the Open Door Learning Center is an inclusive preschool for children with and without disabilities. The Center provides daily care with on-site behavioral and music therapy provisions for young children, many with developmental disabilities.

The ALLY “A Life Like Yours” Advocacy Center was founded in 2011 and serves as a community resource for information, advocacy and support for children with special needs, their families, caregivers, and the professionals who work with them. Founded in September 2017, the Ability Fitness Center is a therapeutic fitness and wellness center for individuals with neurological disorders including stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, and cerebral palsy, and developmental disabilities. This past January, the Arc of Loudoun launched the Advantage Behavior Clinic. The clinic provides individualized behavior and verbal therapy, speech therapy, and social skills development for children with autism and other related disabilities.

I am thankful for the leadership of the Arc of Loudoun management team: Melissa Heifetz, Denise Daffron, YaTonya Abdullah, Eileen Shaffer, Megan Allman, Kendra McDonald, Amy Metaxa, Helen Parker, Matt Smith, Morgan Payne, and the entire staff, volunteers, and supporters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Arc of Loudoun on its 50th anniversary. May the Arc of Loudoun continue to assist in the cultivation of a better life for many years to come.

DANAIS REZA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2018*

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

Danaïs Reza is a student at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Danaïs Reza 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 Danaïs Reza for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

DAYTON ACCORDS

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the legacy of the Dayton Accords is something the Balkans are still coming to terms with. The scourge of war and ethnic division have for too long cast a shadow of these historic and beautiful nations. For nearly 30 years, we have worked with our friends in the region to bring peace and reconciliation. We have learned many lessons and overcome many challenges. We have achieved peace but it remains an uneasy peace that must be closely tended to.

The United States took on the responsibility when it intervened in the Balkans during the 1990s to find a political solution that enables freedom and peace between neighbors. We are not done with this responsibility. The Dayton Accords was an important agreement, but it was a flawed agreement. It did not solve all the region's problems and even created a few new ones. Peacekeepers remain in the Balkans to this day holding together the fragile agreement we constructed. If violence breaks out and if the region descends into chaos, it is our credibility that is damaged. But worst, it will reopen old wounds that are nearly healed. It is vital to our interests that peace, freedom, and prosperity triumph in the Balkans. Through Dayton we played a role in setting the current course, so have a stake in the region's future.

Having spent a lot of time in the region, I have developed a deep affection and admiration for the peoples of the Balkans. I know them to be a proud, resilient, and strong-willed community—not unlike my fellow Texans. Specifically, I am proud to have forged a strong friendship with our Serbian partners as co-chair of the Serbia caucus. In them I see hope for the future. At the time Dayton was brokered, the United States and Serbia were foes, with daunting disagreements about the future of the region. But today we are friends working towards closer ties and a stronger Transatlantic community. I have seen that in Serbian President Vucic we have a partner for the future. He is committed to a Serbia living at peace with its neighbors. This includes moving his nation into the European Union and tackling the thorny issue of Kosovo. We must show him our support.

Of course, our warming ties with Serbia and the rest of the region have caught the notice of the Kremlin. Russia has always felt the Balkans was under its sphere of influence. Dating back to the time of Soviet imperialism, Moscow has tried to force its will on the region. Vladimir Putin is trying desperately to upset the Balkan's integration with the Euro-Atlantic community. In 2016, Putin even tried to support a coup in Montenegro to prevent its ascension into NATO. The Kremlin's meddling in the region continues to this day, where it is sponsoring an elaborate and extensive disinformation campaign across the Balkans. Putin is hoping that by flooding the media in the region with lies, he can create division, unrest, and convince the people of the Balkans to move away from the West. The citizens of the region are freedom loving people yearning to join and prosper within the Euro-Atlantic alli-

ance, rather than the tyranny and violence of Putin's realm. We need to take a more active role in thwarting Russia's deceptions.

Putin, however, is not the only threat to the region. The rise of ISIS and migrant crisis has strained the resources of our Balkan friends. The threat of radicalization and returning foreign fighters is a shared threat which we must work together to combat. To forge our partnership with the Balkan states and demonstrate our commitment to stability in the region, it is required that the United States be attentive to their security concerns as much as any of our allies in Europe. Let us not forget that instability in the Balkans a hundred years ago sparked a course of events that led to two world wars, millions dead, and divided Europe. That is why it is crucial we remain steadfast partners to the Balkans.

The United States has a lot to offer to help guide the region towards a bright and peaceful future. We have an obligation because of Dayton to remain engaged and see that the problems of the past are overcome.

And that's just the way it is.

SKILLS FOR TODAY WEEK

**HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2018*

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and my House 21st Century Skills Caucus co-chair, Congressman DAVE LOEBSACK, I rise today to acknowledge Skills for Today Week.

Every American student should graduate high school with the knowledge and skills required for workplace, academic, and life success. Thriving today—finding and holding a well-paying job, succeeding in higher education, and becoming part of a healthy community—requires a deep grasp of rich content knowledge and the ability to use that knowledge to address challenges and meet needs. Extraordinary schools and community programs in Pennsylvania, Iowa, and many other states across the country recognize this vitally important vision and are working hard to equip their learners with the critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity skills (the “4Cs”) they will need after graduation.

As the bipartisan co-chairs of the House 21st Century Skills Caucus, we love to highlight the innovative schools and community organizations—including high quality early learning providers and engaging community programs—that are blazing new trails to prime students for success. That is why we are pleased to acknowledge Skills for Today Week, which is scheduled from April 23–27. Skills for Today Week was created by the Partnership for 21st Century Learning to showcase how leading schools and beyond school programs are transforming teaching and learning, using a focus on the 4Cs to prepare students for economic, academic, and life success.

Policymakers and practitioners alike can learn from the diverse group of education innovators featured during Skills for Today Week events. We believe federal education policies should enable and invest in similar initiatives. As a result, we continue to strongly support the Every Student Succeeds Act,

which defers to state and local decision-making and sensibly invests in educational innovations through bipartisan programs like the Student Support and Academic Enrichment block grant, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, and the Preschool Development Grants program. The stars of Skills for Today Week show that this flexible and practical approach can make a major difference for America's students as they work to become the next generation of business, community, and national leaders.

RECOGNIZING DR. EYSA MARQUEZ-BRITO

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2018*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Eysa Marquez-Brito, a Board Certified pediatrician practicing in beautiful Coral Gables.

For over 30 years, Eysa has served the healthcare needs of countless children in my Congressional district.

After graduating from medical school and completing her training in the field of pediatrics, neonatology and adolescent medicine, Eysa became Chief Resident at Nicklaus Children's Hospital, where she has continued to teach until this day.

Eysa also works tirelessly outside of the exam room. She is active in the philanthropic community and volunteers with organizations such as United Way of Miami-Dade, Alfalit, Boy Scouts of America, and the Cancer Research Institute just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to represent individuals like Eysa, who has dedicated her life to serving children and by doing so has transformed the lives of so many in our South Florida community.

COURTNEY ROBB

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2018*

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

Courtney Robb is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Courtney Robb 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 Courtney Robb for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY  
OF LAWRENCE MANCHIO

**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2018*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mr. Lawrence Manchio for his outstanding service and contributions to this country. Mr. Manchio is a veteran of the Second World War and a longtime Civil Servant, and today, April 24, 2018, he turns 100 years old.

Lawrence Manchio, the son of an Italian immigrant and the second oldest of eight children, grew up on Metcalfe Street in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. He was an 11-year old and selling Times Ledger newspapers on the street the day the stock market crashed in 1929. As the country wrestled with the Great Depression, Mr. Manchio's father was diagnosed with a terminal illness, and a young Larry Manchio dropped out of the eighth grade and took a job as a plumber's apprentice to help feed his family.

In 1934, Mr. Manchio signed on with FDR's Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) clearing land to build Skyline Drive in Virginia's Shenandoah Mountains. When the work with the CCC ended, the Corps of Engineers in Pennsylvania hired him to help clean up damage from the Susquehanna River flood of 1936. When that project completed, Mr. Manchio relocated to Alexandria, VA to begin construction of National Airport and the Pentagon.

Mr. Manchio lived in several boarding houses in the North End of Old Town Alexandria before settling down in a small home on Columbus Street. He walked four miles to and from the job site each day to save on bus fare. He met his wife, Diva DiFelice, while attending Sunday Mass at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, and they married on January 23, 1942.

A year later, Mr. Manchio joined the Army. After basic training, he joined his unit in Australia and fought with MacArthur's forces through New Guinea, Borneo, Morotai, and the Philippines. In 1945, Mr. Manchio landed in Japan with the 8th Army where his unit was charged with guarding the Japanese Imperial Palace during occupation.

He was discharged in 1946, and resumed working for the Corps of Engineers. As part of the Aqueduct Division, he was set to work building and developing the water supply system for Washington, DC., and Northern Virginia. By the time he retired in 1973, he was supervising the work of over 53 civil servants.

In retirement, Mr. Manchio continued to serve his community and neighbors. He took pride in maintaining a meticulously landscaped yard, which received numerous beautification awards from the City of Alexandria. In May 2013, his wife of 71 years passed away, but he continues to enjoy the company and support of his son and daughter who both live locally. Mr. Manchio attributes his longevity to a Mediterranean diet, remaining physically and mentally active, and drinking a glass of red wine daily. He enjoys reading, keeping up with current events, and rooting for the Washington Nationals.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Manchio's dedication and service to his country is deserving of recognition and distinction. He is the highest example

of a true American and a role model for us all. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Lawrence Manchio on reaching his centennial year.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2018*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress we know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said:

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated. That is why today I rise to pay tribute to five extraordinary young persons for their service to my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and to the American people. They are:

Ayesha Muzaffar from the University of Houston;

Anthony Berry from the University of Alabama;

Jonathan King from Texas Tech University; Troy Allen from the University of Houston; and

Brett Hyland from The Madeira School.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism these wonderful young people brought to my office and those interning in the offices of my colleagues help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like Ayesha, Anthony, Jonathan, Troy, and Brett the future of our country is bright and its best days lie ahead. I wish them well.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women