

a hand when needed; and the children helped out cleaning cars and working in the parts and service departments.

At first, Triple J distributed Subaru automobiles, Hino heavy trucks and buses, and Bluebird school buses. As business grew they added the Ford, Mazda, Lincoln, Hyundai, Isuzu, Suzuki, Volvo, Honda, Acura, Kia and Mitsubishi brands to the company's automobile business portfolio. And when the children returned from college the business began expanding beyond automobiles and beyond Guam and the Northern Marianas.

In 1987, in alignment with Bob's visionary persona, Triple J began working in wholesale foods and retail grocery with a business on Ebeye in the Marshall Islands. Further expansion years later added nearby Majuro, where the company today continues to operate similar businesses. In 1998, the wholesale business would expand west to Palau along with a bakery, convenience store, and Shell service station.

Triple J would further diversify into the restaurant business beginning in the mid-1990s with the purchase of an Outback Steakhouse franchise on Guam and, later, Tony Roma's, Capricciosa, Bubba Gump Shrimp Company, and Great Harvest Bakery franchises on Saipan. Scheduled to open in 2019, a Red Lobster franchise restaurant now under development on Guam will be a new addition to the restaurant group.

In 1994, Triple J had a hand in negotiating the arrival of K-Mart on Guam. That store, bucking a national trend of closures, remains to this day one of the most successful K-Marts anywhere.

Into the new millennium, by 2005 Triple J had grown to be the fourth largest business in Micronesia, as ranked by the Guam Business Magazine. The Guam Chamber of Commerce named the company Business Laureate of the Year and inducted Triple J into the Guam Business Hall of Fame—the youngest corporation to receive the honor.

And they just kept growing. Triple J acquired Hertz Rent-a-Car rights and became exclusive distributor in all of Micronesia for Solahart—an Australian solar water heater company.

Capitalizing on another opportunity, Triple J developed a first-of-its-kind affordable housing development on Saipan, subsidized by the U.S. Treasury's Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program. Sandy Beach Homes—a \$27 million, 60-unit project—was completed in late 2011; and a second, affordable housing project—Saipan Comfort Homes—quickly followed with another 40 units.

Sharing in the value of philanthropy, the Jones family and Triple J make efforts to enhance the quality of life of those in need. On Guam, Triple J partners with the American Cancer Society Guam Chapter annually to support their signature funding event, Relay for Life, raising as much as \$40,000 in one year alone. In the Northern Marianas, the company regularly contributes to the Red Cross Walk-a-Thon, the Marianas March Against Cancer, Make-A-Wish Foundation, and numerous other charitable programs raising money for relief efforts and cancer research. They have also been the official car sponsor of the Miss Marianas Pageant and the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association.

This larger concern for the welfare of the whole community came into further relief when

the Marianas was hit by Typhoon Soudelor in 2015. The worst typhoon in decades, Soudelor carried sustained winds exceeding 100 miles per hour. In the wake of the devastation, which left most people on Saipan without power for a month, Bob Jones donated thousands of dollars in food to help the Salvation Army set up a hot meals program in Kagman, one of the hardest-hit villages. For his selflessness and support, when the community was in dire need, the Rotary Club of Saipan awarded Bob Jones its Citizen of the Year award in 2016.

"Customers first" is Triple J's simple mission statement and yet, it holds a more complex meaning displayed in the actions behind their successes. That people-centric view serves as a model to other businesses in the communities they serve.

Through all these years of dynamic growth, the importance of family remains central to the successes of Bob and Margaret. Son Jeffery is the president and chief operating officer of the company. Son Jay is senior vice president with a focus on automotive operations. And, while daughter Julie spends much of her time in a professional counseling practice, her husband, Dan Murrell, serves as senior vice president in charge of real estate, food, and restaurant operations. Mother Margaret remains company treasurer. Bob is chairman and CEO. Growing into the third generation, five of their eleven grandchildren have begun working for the family business. Today, the Triple J group employs over 900 employees across the Micronesia region, many of whom have been with the business for twenty plus years.

Please join me in thanking and congratulating true citizens of the Marianas, Bob and Margaret Jones and all their family for over 60 years of service and success in the Marianas and throughout Micronesia.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. DEBORAH
LELIAERT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2018

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deborah Leliaert, Vice President for University Relations and Planning, as she retires from her position at the University of North Texas.

Ms. Leliaert joined UNT in 1992 as director of news while attending UNT's Toulouse Graduate School. In 1996, she advanced to associate vice president for marketing and communication and UNT System associate vice chancellor for communications and marketing. She held this title until 2001 when the UNT System Board of Regents approved the creation of associate vice president for university relations. Ms. Leliaert was promoted into this new role to oversee the university's communications and marketing as well as visitor and public relations. She continued in this capacity as associate vice chancellor for communications and marketing for the UNT System.

In a career spanning more than a quarter century of UNT's history, Ms. Leliaert witnessed a tremendous period of growth, challenge, and celebration, serving six presidents and three chancellors as the institution's chief internal and external spokesperson through

much of this time. This window of UNT's history included its acceptance as a full member of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities; countless new programs and building projects; new campuses; recognition of UNT as an emerging research institution and the development of ground-breaking relationships for the University through research efforts and public partnerships such as exists with UNT's current relationship with the Dallas Cowboys.

Managing much of the marketing and communications involved in supporting UNT's brand management and institutional reputation, Ms. Leliaert also supported UNT's ambitious student recruitment and retention objectives for a campus that has grown by almost 20 percent in only the second half of her tenure with UNT. Her efforts to bolster UNT in the media intersected with the rapid rise of social media and modern transformation of the media landscape.

Ms. Leliaert's talents, particularly her eloquence and skill to respond in times of crisis, will be sorely missed by the UNT community. As a proud UNT alumnus, I thank her for her contributions as a long-serving member of UNT's staff, and I wish her much happiness as she commences her retirement after a significant and successful career.

DARLYNN BLEA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Darlynn Blea for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Darlynn Blea received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Darlynn Blea 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 Darlynn Blea for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE FORTIETH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE ARC OF
SCHUYLER

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2018

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the fortieth anniversary of The Arc of Schuyler.

The Arc of Schuyler is a private, not for profit organization providing support to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism, and their families. The Arc of Schuyler is a Chapter of the Arc of New York,

which is the largest not for profit organization working with and for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in New York State and is a member of The Arc of the United States.

A courageous group of family members and friends of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities founded The Arc of Schuyler on May seventh, in the year nineteen hundred and seventy-eight. From modest beginnings it has become the most comprehensive provider of support in Schuyler County to hundreds of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

The Arc of Schuyler is an advocacy agency that believes all people have the fundamental moral, civic, and constitutional rights to live, learn, and work in safe and respectful communities of their choosing without prejudice. A volunteer Board of Directors including relatives of persons with a developmental disability and dedicated community leaders continue to provide their experience and insight to ensure the rights of people with developmental disabilities.

The Arc of Schuyler urges all citizens to give full support to the efforts empowering people with intellectual and developmental disabilities so that they may live full and productive lives of inclusion in our communities.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to commend The Arc of Schuyler upon the occasion of its fortieth anniversary in the year two thousand eighteen.

CELEBRATING DEDE TERNS- THORPE OF GREENE COUNTY

HON. JOHN J. FASO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2018

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound respect that I rise today to recognize and celebrate Dede Terns-Thorpe of Haines Falls for being named Greene County's 2018 Senior Citizen of the Year. This is a designation reserved for the outstanding individual in Greene County who has continuously and selflessly gone above and beyond to make a positive impact on the community.

From her time working as a nurse and for the U.S. postal service, to her volunteerism delivering meals to her neighbors and gardening, Dede has been dedicated to the Greene County community and has shown compassion and care in all that she does. As the town historian of Hunter, Dede has made great contributions to the history of the area, unearthing the wonders, stories, and heroes of Greene County's past.

I am grateful for Dede's many years of dedicated service to Greene County, to the 19th District, and to New York State. I wish her the best as she continues to preserve the region's history and I am thankful for her many contributions to the community.

AMBER COOPER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Amber Cooper for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Amber Cooper received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Amber Cooper 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 Amber Cooper for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

SHARING STUDENTS' "MARCH FOR OUR LIVES" REMARKS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2018

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on May 9, I came to the Floor and spoke about the March For Our Lives on March 24 and the nine extraordinarily poised students in Morristown, New Jersey, who spoke at the rally there, which I attended. I included in the RECORD remarks by Nile Burch. I hope my colleagues will read them and internalize the sense of fear in which our nation's students are living every day—and our responsibility as Members of Congress to do something to address this crisis of gun violence.

MARCH FOR OUR LIVES' REMARKS (By Nile Burch)

Hello and good morning! My name is Nile Birch and I am from Morristown High School.

I would like to begin by thanking Ms. Bosrock for this incredible opportunity. I appreciate all of her support and help in making this possible. I am so proud to be representing my African-American and social activism club, Melanin Minds, at the march today. Melanin Minds consists of a group of united and ethnically diverse individuals dedicated towards raising awareness within our communities. Encouraging change is exactly what our club is about, and I am honored to speak to everyone today about the issue of gun violence on behalf of our president, Bella Simon. So why should I take such a vested interest in this issue?

I can understand how it is a Constitutional right for people to own guns. But, as we've all come to realize, there is a lot of gray area in that. Nevertheless, that area should never include questioning public safety. If people choose to own guns, that is their prerogative, but in no way shape or form should their interest threaten the lives of anyone or anything else. Yet, the trouble I think we all experience is that the current laws we have are nowhere strict enough to make people feel at ease. Then again, there is a fine

line between feeling 'at ease' and feeling 'safe.' We do not need politicians to acknowledge what happened in past and recent school shootings. We need them to look at Columbine, Sandy Hook, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, and countless others as an incentive to want to prevent more shootings from ever happening again. In simpler terms, we need to emphasize that it's okay to recognize what happened in the past as long as we use those events to carve out a pathway towards our future! To truly understand what it feels like to be safe, we must first realize what it is like to live in fear. As an African-American male, living in fear means wearing a hoodie and being scared to walk to the store for some skittles or an Arizona Iced Tea, or wanting to sell CDs. What I am saying is that having this angst festering inside of me every day is my reality, but it does not have to be yours too.

School shootings? Children in school. A place where students go to learn, make friends, and find themselves as human beings. A place parents can drop their kids and feel safe in knowing that their precious children are protected at all costs. It isn't true. It doesn't exist. And that, my friends, is the sad reality of today. Why we are here. Why we care. We must stand together so that every single one of us can feel safe. You guys might be wondering 'what does he mean by starting to make a difference, how can I, a high school student, have any influence?' Let me tell you guys a brief story to make it clearer.

I remember being on the playground and looking up at those tall monkey bars towering above the field. They seemed so big and tall, like something incredible. Of course, to any seven-year-old, climbing it seems a feat worth trying. But, no matter how hard I tried it was still physically impossible for my short arms to reach the highest bar. I tell this story because on this day, March 24, 2018, our end goal may seem impossible to reach. It may seem so idealistic that we doubt seeing such immense change within the course of our lifetime. However, I am confident that meeting our goal can become a reality by taking the right steps to get there. I didn't finish my childhood story. As I started to climb the bars, I had multiple encounters with failure and defeat by slipping off of the handlebars. Enacting change to the issue of gun violence is no different. We have and will continue to encounter obstacles that will try to prevent us from succeeding. In order to overcome these difficulties, it is imperative that we lobby Congress to change the gun laws to ensure that only those who are able to handle the responsibility of owning a gun can do so. It is also paramount that organizations such as the NRA accept the consequences of prioritizing profit over life. I remain optimistic that we'll be able to do this because, despite having fallen multiple times on the wood chips, I persevered and, yes, eventually reached the top. The feeling at the top of those monkey bars was one I'll never forget. For a brief moment in time I felt like the king of the world with nothing to stop me. I made my way down, and yes, fell again, but this time it was worth it. I have no doubt that this movement will feel the same way when we make strides. The obstacles will never truly go away, but we will enact laws, start protests and incite conversations that will make these obstacles irrelevant.

Piece by piece we will inspire other students to gain the courage to stand up for what they believe in. Piece by piece we will show youth that they have a voice and that it does matter. And piece by piece we will once again feel safe enough to walk our school hallways without feeling as if that is the last day we'll walk at all.