

Over time, Hope's population dropped, and the area was overtaken by the glistening lakes and streams, rolling hills, and peaceful valleys surrounding it. This natural sanctuary appealed to outdoorsmen, fishermen, hunters, hikers, and those seeking a tranquil, friendly place to live, much as it did in the 1700's. Today, the town stands as a proud and cordial community of good neighbors.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to congratulate the Town of Hope on its 200th anniversary. I wish all its residents the best as they celebrate this important milestone.

GEOPOLITICS OF U.S. OIL AND GAS COMPETITIVENESS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, America's oil and gas industry is a force multiplier for U.S. influence around the world. For decades, many of the planet's great energy producers have been tyrannical regimes who leveraged their oil wealth to oppress their own people and pursue evil foreign policies. However, thanks to American ingenuity, the United States has unleashed its own energy potential—now becoming a major player in the global market.

In large part, America's revival as an energy superpower is a result of the shale revolution. Through the process of hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," we are now able to reach oil and gas deep within the earth, where they were previously unreachable. With this new technology the U.S. has gone from the world's largest oil importer, to one of the world's largest energy exporters. Just a decade ago, the U.S. was importing 12.5 million barrels per day of crude oil and fuel. Today, it's just 4 million barrels per day. Between 2010 and 2017, U.S. oil production rose from 5.5 million barrels per day to 10 million barrels per day—approaching a record last set in 1970. This has allowed for a dramatic reduction of our dependence on foreign oil which ultimately strengthens our national security.

In the nearly three years since Congress ended the restrictions on exporting crude oil, the U.S. has beat market expectations and surged its exports to a record 2.6 million barrels per day. By 2022 we will export more oil than we import. But the good news isn't limited to just our oil production. U.S. natural gas production has been setting new records almost every year since the year 2000.

Again, thanks to innovations in liquified natural gas—commonly known as LNG—we can ship this growing resource anywhere in the world. In the last year, we have become a net exporter of natural gas for the first time in 60 years. In the coming years it will only improve as the market of natural gas consumers grows and more exporting facilities come online.

America's comeback as an energy superpower has wide-ranging geopolitical implications. First, it is an obvious benefit for Americans and the U.S. economy, reducing our trade balance and creating new well-paying jobs. In turn, this generates more revenue making us an even stronger nation. Second, it means a lot less money is going to repressive regimes around the world who we were pre-

viously dependent on for oil. And since energy is more abundant, the price of oil is decreasing. Overall the result is less money for Putin's Russia, the Ayatollah's Iran, and Madura's Venezuela. With the low price of oil, international sanctions, and their own economic mismanagement, these regimes who could rely on their oil wealth to fund their evil activities are instead seeing their economies tank. Now their people are in the streets demanding accountability.

Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states have long been important U.S. strategic partners because we needed their oil and their leverage in stabilizing global oil prices. But now we can redefine our relationship, making it less about maintaining oil access and more about other strategic US interests. With growing energy independence, we can pick our allies rather than have them picked for us by the necessity of access to oil. This does not mean we should become isolationists or abandon our traditional partners. Instead we should do the opposite. With our oil and gas advantage we are more empowered to argue that our allies must be more responsible, including improving their human rights records.

Our increased oil and gas competitiveness allows our friends abroad to be more secure and less dependent on bad actors. For far too long, our European allies have been vulnerable to energy blackmail from Russia—particularly through the supply of Russian natural gas. But with American LNG alternatives, European states can stand up to Putin's bad behavior without suffering retaliation through their gas supply.

Lastly, U.S. oil and gas exports reinforces the importance of free trade. This includes NAFTA. About 60 percent of U.S. gas exports now go to Mexico, providing a major boost to our trade balance. Canada has become a major importer of American refined fuels. Together, the U.S., Mexico, and Canada represent 20 percent of global oil and gas supply. Our integrated energy network makes North America a rock of stability and prosperity in the world.

Overall, the increased competitiveness of U.S. oil and gas production is good for America and good for the world.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRESS OF FUTURE MEDICAL LEADERS

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two high school students who were chosen by the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to represent the State of Colorado as Delegates at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders. These students are Shayla Cooper and Arianna Sanchez.

The Congress is an honors-only program for top students in our country who aspire to be physicians or medical scientists. These students are nominated by their teachers or the Academy based on their leadership ability, academic achievement, and dedication. This program is designed to inspire young people to go into medical research fields or be physi-

cians, and provides a path, plan, and mentoring resources to help them reach their goal. During the Congress, the students will have the chance to learn from leaders in the medical field as well as government officials, top medical school deans, leaders from the private sector, and even Nobel laureates.

These students' acceptance to this prestigious program is an incredible feat, and it is my honor to rise today and recognize the outstanding accomplishment of this future leader. Our nation greatly benefits from the achievements of physicians and medical scientists, and it is important that we continue to inspire younger generations to pursue careers in the medical field.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my congratulations to these students and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF EL AMISTAD

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 50th anniversary of El Amistad, a non-profit civic organization dedicated to inspiring the leaders of tomorrow. Through a half century of remarkable work, El Amistad has helped make Central Texas a great place to live and work.

Founded in my home town of Round Rock, TX, El Amistad is dedicated to education, community service, recognition of veterans, and promotion of Hispanic cultural awareness. By utilizing the talents and skills of its diverse membership, it has supported various youth development activities throughout Central Texas. Since its inception, El Amistad has awarded millions in scholarships to thousands of high school graduates seeking to take the next steps in their educational development.

Honoring our brave warriors remains a driving force among El Amistad members. The organization led the charge to dedicate Veterans Memorial Park in Round Rock, TX to Robert P. Hernandez, who died in the line of duty while serving in Vietnam. It's the devotion of committed activists like El Amistad members that help remind all of the invaluable and lasting contributions veterans make to keep our nation safe and free.

Fifty years after its creation, El Amistad has touched countless lives for the better, and continues to make positive impacts on those it's dedicated to serve. I celebrate its half century of dedicated civic involvement and join all Central Texas in wishing this great organization nothing but the best in the decades to come.

TRIBUTE TO JIM KLINSTIVER

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Klinstiver, a great Hoosier and friend who passed away on May 20th. Jim

was born in Harrison County in 1940, along the Ohio River. He was a great public servant, working for the Department of Transportation for forty-two years, retiring as a project supervisor.

In 2010, he was elected County Commissioner for the Third District by the voters of Harrison County. He was then re-elected by an even wider margin in 2014. Jim had a passion for history, and used his time as commissioner to focus on local preservation. He pushed to protect the Morvin's Landing historical site, where Confederate General John Hunt Morgan's raiders crossed the Ohio River and entered Indiana during the Civil War. The landing of Morgan's troops at Morvin Landing in July 1863 preceded the Battle of Corydon, one of the few Civil War battles fought in the North, and the only battle fought in Indiana.

In addition to being a hardworking public servant who dedicated countless hours in service to Indiana, Jim was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and treasured friend. He was married to his wife Dixie for fifty-five years. They have one daughter, one grandson, and one great-grandson.

The legacy of Jim Klintiver will live on in Harrison County for years to come. Many of us gained so much from his experience and knowledge from his decades of experience as an engineer, farmer, small business owner, and community leader.

For me, I've always appreciated his friendship and support. May we all strive to live our own lives with the sense of purpose and servant's heart that Jim showed. His passing is a true loss for all Hoosiers.

HONORING NEW JERSEY SENATOR BOB GORDON

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor New Jersey State Senator Bob Gordon. Bob is a loyal son of New Jersey and proud Fair Lawn resident, who has dedicated his life to helping North Jersey's communities.

During his time in the Senate, Bob quickly established himself as a leader among his ranks. He has never been afraid to reach across the aisle to get things done for the Garden State. Bob doesn't approach policy debates by labeling issues as Democratic or Republican, but rather by pushing for sound policy and what's best for the families and businesses of New Jersey. While at the helm of the Senate Transportation Committee, Bob achieved numerous legislative accomplishments, including key reforms of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and New Jersey Transit. His calm demeanor and respect for his fellow colleagues will be sorely missed on the Senate floor in Trenton.

Bob will leave New Jersey's State Senate to continue his passion for public service at the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. This is one more role that Bob will tackle to help the state he loves so dearly. He has served New Jersey as a mayor, councilman, and fire commissioner in Fair Lawn, and later as an Assemblyman before ascending to the Senate in 2007. Our state is lucky to have Bob in our corner, fighting for New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank Senator Gordon for his tireless work on behalf of New Jersey, and I wish him and his wife, Gail, all the best in continuing to serve our state.

HONORING LTC JOEY ERRINGTON

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of Lieutenant Colonel Joey L. Errington's change of command and pending retirement from the United States Army, I want to recognize him and his family on their nearly 30 years of service to the Nation. Originally from Rush City, Minnesota, LTC Errington enlisted in the Army in 1989 as a 13B, Cannon Crewman. He was selected for the Green to Gold Program at Clemson University and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery in 1997.

He is a graduate of the Field Artillery Basic Course, the Field Artillery Career Course at Fort Sill, OK, and the Command and General's Staff Course at Fort Leavenworth, KS. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education from Clemson University and a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Webster University.

During his tenure, he led our soldiers at each echelon from the platoon to battalion, and, today, LTC Errington is relinquishing command of the 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. His previous assignments include the III Corps G3 Chief of Training at Fort Hood, TX; Deputy Brigade Commander, Executive Officer, and Fire Support Officer for the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, KS as well as the Battalion S-3 for the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery; Assistant Professor of Military Science at Saint John's University, College of Saint Benedict's, and Saint Cloud State University in Minnesota; Battalion Fire Direction Officer, S1, and Charlie Battery Commander for 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany; and Task Force Fire Support Officer, Platoon Leader, and Company Fire Support Officer for 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery at Fort Riley, Kansas.

LTC Errington's decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Meritorious Unit Citation, and the Presidential Unit Citation.

He is married to the former Alison Adams of Hermantown, MN and they have three children: Brooke, who is going to start college at Kansas State University in the fall, Billy, and Becky.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER NORRIS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

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

Norris. She was presented with the Appreciation Award from the Salvation Army at their annual dinner on May 9, 2018.

Jennifer is the Director of Recreational Ministries and oversees the Basketball and Day Camp activities at Citadel. She will soon be an officer in the Salvation Army.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Jennifer Norris for receiving this outstanding award and for her continued commitment to making her community better. I am proud to represent her, and Iowans like her, in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jennifer Norris and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, on May 9th I missed a vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 173.

TRIBUTE TO HEATHER CALKINS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Heather Calkins. She was presented with the Begie Hefner Volunteer Award from the Salvation Army at their annual dinner on May 9, 2018.

Heather has helped for years with the week-long Christmas sign-ups for Toy Shop and helps at the shop. She is a leader in the Corps and works with one of the youth groups every Wednesday night.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Heather Calkins for receiving this outstanding award and for her continued commitment to making her community better. I am proud to represent her, and Iowans like her, in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Heather Calkins and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING LEE WILLBANKS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO SAVE THE RIVER

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Lee Willbanks as he leaves his role as Executive Director of Save the River and Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper.

Since he joined Save the River in 2012, Lee has been instrumental to the organization's efforts to preserve and protect the St. Lawrence River. His achievements include overseeing the enactment of Plan 2014, creating the Bass Catch and Release program, and expanding the Save the River In the Schools program.