

Colonel Spaulding's courageous service has charted the path for future generations of men and women to serve in the military. I extend my deepest appreciation to Colonel Spaulding for his dedication, integrity and outstanding service to the United States of America.

CELEBRATING THE WORK AND
LEGACY OF COLONEL RON PERRY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the extraordinary work and legacy of Colonel Ron Perry, USA, Retired. This Texas native's life has been one of continual service and he has made lasting impacts on our brave warriors at Fort Hood and across the Army.

After receiving his commission in the Infantry in December 1974, COL Perry served his beloved nation and Army at installations around the world. His nearly three decades of honorable service saw him excel at some of the most challenging duties anyone in the military could shoulder. COL Perry's work didn't go unnoticed as he received numerous awards and decorations saluting his efforts.

Following a brief stint in the private sector, COL Perry returned to the Army to serve as the civilian Deputy to the Commanding General, III Corps and Fort Hood. In this critical role, COL Perry called on his decades of expertise to support The Great Place as it continues to be one of the world's premiere military installations. His institutional knowledge and efforts toward championing the base, the thousands stationed there, and the community that supports them cannot be adequately quantified, nor equaled.

COL Perry's commitment to investing his gifts, talents, and abilities to ensuring the Army remains the world's greatest military force is a deeply held creed that speaks to the generosity and activism of a true and devoted public servant. As he begins the next phase of his life, I salute his decades of work and proudly join his colleagues, friends, and family in wishing him nothing but success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO ALYSSA JOHNSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alyssa Johnson of Mount Ayr High School. Alyssa was recently honored for outstanding academic achievement at the Sixteenth Annual Governor's Scholar Recognition on April 29, 2018.

This statewide program is sponsored by the Iowa Governor's Office, the Iowa High School Athletic Association, and the Iowa Farm Bureau. Each Iowa high school was invited to select a senior with the highest academic ranking. Not only are they academically gifted, but the selected students are often the youth who are successful in extra-curricular activities and community endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Alyssa in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to reach her goals. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Alyssa on receiving this esteemed designation, and wishing her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

KATY OFFICERS RECOGNIZED FOR
THEIR LIFE SAVING ACTIONS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officers Dustin Garcia and Matthew Newport of Katy, TX for receiving recognition for their efforts to go "Above & Beyond."

On April 10th, Matthew and Dustin responded to a major car accident at Avenue D and 10th Street in Katy and then proceeded to perform CPR on a female injured until firefighters could arrive on scene. The officers are credited with saving the young woman's life and are true heroes to their community. On May 14th, Katy Mayor Chuck Brawner presented the officers with "Above & Beyond" recognition for their actions. Matthew has worked 2 years for the Katy Police Department. He previously served as an officer in Sugar Land and Eagle Lake. Dustin has been an officer in the Katy area for over 2½ years and holds no prior police experience. These two men are a true inspiration to their community and serve as an example to all of us.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Dustin and Matthew for earning this well-deserved award. I thank them for their service to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE REPUBLIC DAY OF
AZERBAIJAN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Republic Day of Azerbaijan, and to extend my best wishes to all Azerbaijanis. May 28th marks the founding of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, when the people of Azerbaijan first gained their independence from the Russian Empire in 1918. Although Azerbaijan's independence was ended by Soviet forces in 1920, it is noteworthy that the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was the world's first secular parliamentary democratic republic in a predominantly Muslim nation—earning diplomatic recognition from the United States during the administration of President Woodrow Wilson. We also recall that the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan granted universal suffrage to its citizens in 1918, making it the first Muslim country to give women the right to vote.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan restored its independence on Octo-

ber 18, 1991, when its Parliament adopted the Constitution Act on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan has emerged as a key player for enhancing global energy security. The completion of the Southern Gas Corridor—which will run from the Caspian Sea through Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Greece, and Albania into Italy—will increase the energy security of key American allies by increasing the amount of natural gas from the Caspian Sea to European markets.

Azerbaijan also provides roughly 40 percent of Israel's oil consumption and enjoys friendly ties with Israel beyond oil sales. Jews have resided in Azerbaijan for 2,500 years without persecution and today, the Jewish community in Azerbaijan numbers over 12,000. Azerbaijan is also home to Christian communities and has been praised for its religious tolerance by the European Parliament.

Azerbaijan is a key global security partner for the United States. As an active member of NATO's Partnership for Peace program, Azerbaijan cooperates with the United States in countering terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and narcotics trafficking. Azerbaijani troops serve shoulder to shoulder with U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan, as they previously did in Kosovo and Iraq. In support of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan has extended important over-flight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights as well as regularly providing landing and refueling operations at its airports for U.S. and NATO forces.

As co-chair of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I congratulate the people of Azerbaijan on the centennial of their Republic Day. May the partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan progress and continue to benefit both of our nations.

HONORING HARPER CHAPEL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FOR THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harper Chapel United Methodist Church in Osage Beach, Missouri. On Sunday, September 23, 2018, the congregation will be celebrating the church's 150th Anniversary. This historical accomplishment is even more impressive when considering Missouri was not quite 50 years a state when Harper Chapel UMC was established near the Grand Glaize and Osage Rivers.

In 1868, Mr. Thomas Ezard and Mr. Thomas Harper began a Methodist class that would set the groundwork for Harper Chapel UMC. During the years this class met in various homes and the local log school house. The Southern Methodist Bishop appointed the Circuit Riders who led the class. Then in 1880, the community welcomed their first "regular preacher", Tom Rodgers. A new era was ushered in on April 20, 1911 when Asa and Ethel Farmer and E.P. Wade generously donated one acre of land in trust to the Methodist Episcopal Church. This land is the present site of Harper Chapel UMC.

On January 12, 1912, the original church building was dedicated and to this day it is still used for weddings and other activities. Thanks to the handiwork of Charles Harper and Carl Knight, the original pulpit is still used in the original church. 87 years after the Methodist class started meeting, under the leadership of Reverend M.A. Thomas, a building program was started to build a parsonage, repair the current sanctuary, and begin plans for a new sanctuary. Due to the success of the building program on October 28, 1956 the new parsonage was dedicated, and on Easter Sunday, April 8, 1963 the new sanctuary was dedicated.

The positive impact on the parishioners and surrounding community has been steadfast throughout the years. Vacation Bible School began in 1945 and continues to improve the lives of children and families in the area to this day. The vision of Harper Chapel UMC to—"Intentionally Connect People with Christ and Each Other"—is an inspiration and will be a guiding light for future generations.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Harper Chapel United Methodist Church on their 150th Anniversary. This milestone is a great testament to the commitment this church has shown to the Lord, their parishioners, and the entire community.

ATASCOCITA HIGH SCHOOL
SOFTBALL—STATE BOUND 2018

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this past Friday, the girls from Atascocita High School Softball team earned a trip to State by beating top ranked Katy. They claimed the Region III 6A Championship and are headed to State for the second time in three years. Congratulations. It is an honor to recognize a talented group of ladies on the field and off the field. The girls are set to play this Friday, in Austin, at McCombs Field against Plano.

Atascocita High School softball team has six seniors on their team. Last November, three of them signed college scholarships to play at the next level: Lauren Bazan, Harding University; Kyla Snow, Texas Southern University; and, Lillie Grotenhuis, San Jacinto College. The name Grotenhuis is well known in my community. In 2014, Atascocita High School Head Softball coach, Jimbo Grotenhuis, unexpectedly passed away from a heart attack. One of his daughters, Lillie, is a talented senior on the team. She never got to play for her father at the high school level, but she has his passion and drive for the game.

Jimbo was a legend in the softball community, so much, that Humble ISD renamed the Atascocita High School softball field in his memory. Written in large black letters, on a red brick wall, behind home plate, it says "Welcome to James 'Jimbo' Grotenhuis Field". The lessons Jimbo taught in the short time he coached at Atascocita High School were invaluable. It is said that the measure of a man is the influence that he has on the lives of others. I have no doubt, that the Atascocita High School Softball team will carry his spirit of hard work and dedication with them to State.

For the last four years, AHS Head Coach Ashley Boyd has stepped up to the plate and filled Jimbo's cleats. Her team's record is impressive. In an interview earlier this year, Coach Boyd said, "These players are proud of where they come from. They're proud of this community, and they're happy to get to represent them. They've worked their tails off." Coach Boyd's passion along with Assistant Alyssa Romero's dedication will guide the Lady Eagles not only at State but far beyond game time. The leadership of a coach not only improves an athlete's performance but works to instill values of hard work and discipline.

So this weekend, grab the family, put on your red, white and blue, and head to Austin to cheer on our Lady Eagles.

Let's play ball.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING BRENT STACEY

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brent Stacey on his retirement from Idaho National Laboratory, and to thank him for his service to our nation.

As Associate Laboratory Director for National and Homeland Security at INL, and as a strategic advisor, Brent provided valuable leadership in addressing the cybersecurity challenges facing the nation's critical infrastructure.

In this capacity, Brent addressed House and Senate subcommittees on several occasions, and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence regarding efforts to mitigate cyberthreats to our nation. Brent played an important role in INL's campus infrastructure expansion, and was instrumental in bringing the first high-performance computer to the laboratory.

Brent advanced INL's partnerships with academia and industry and was the first president and CEO of the Idaho Regional Optical Network, a nonprofit organization that advances science, research, education, health care and state government through high-speed bandwidth.

I offer my best wishes to Brent and his family, and gratitude for his three decades of service.

HONORING MICHAEL K. CLARKE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael K. Clarke upon his retirement as the Executive Director of the Buffalo, New York office of LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation).

The LISC strategy to "invest in businesses, housing and other community infrastructure to catalyze economic, health, safety and educational mobility for individuals and communities," has been brought to life under Mike Clarke's two decades of visionary leadership. This nonprofit agency, promoting community

development in collaboration with public and private partners, has encompassed housing, commercial and recreational facility development.

Despite Buffalo being among the smallest of the many cities LISC is involved, Mike's depth of experience in neighborhood redevelopment, public housing and community and commercial financing projects boosted our city's profile in the national organization. Since opening their doors in 1998, LISC has invested \$131 million in those neighborhoods, further leveraging an additional \$254 million in investment. Our work has resulted in the creation of 2,574 units of affordable housing, 355,000 square feet of commercial space, and the renovation of 9 recreational fields for youth.

Mike and LISC became synonymous twenty years ago at a time when Buffalo needed their assistance most as we faced the challenges of old, vacant housing stock, a smaller base of philanthropic sources and reductions in government support. Far from standing outside the fire, Mike went all in bringing public, private and non-profit partners to the table to research, learn, listen and get to work to implement targeted solutions one house, one street, one neighborhood at a time. Today, while problems remain, our ability and resolve to address them as One City has never been stronger.

Mike Clarke's investment in the citizen-led planning movement building on our great architectural, civic and cultural assets, the re-emergence of downtown and adjacent neighborhoods yielded real action and results that have contributed greatly to Buffalo's renaissance.

Mike's ability to harness progressive strategies using all financial resources available led to the first federal New Market Tax Credit investment that preserved the historic Asbury Delaware Church. Now, known as Babeville, this unique performing arts center founded by Ani DiFranco and Scot Fisher is a center for music, art, and community projects in Buffalo, New York.

Responsible for implementing HUD's Section IV grant program, LISC's capacity building program has had a tremendous impact on driving community development activity here in Buffalo. Its collaboration with HELP USA on the HELP Buffalo II affordable housing project for families with minimal incomes, and permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless veterans is spurring new energy in the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood. Mike's active involvement in bringing the National Vacant Properties Campaign to Buffalo and intense focus on neighborhood business district activities, including Jefferson and Elmwood Avenues laid the foundation for enhanced urban commercial corridors.

Most recently, an investment of \$5 million from LISC and in a dynamic public-private partnership led by Herbert Bellamy, Jr, the son of a legendary leader on the east side of Buffalo, a closed warehouse-turned-community center is now home to 30 families with community space and a children's playground. Prior to joining LISC Mr. Clarke was a Mortgage Officer for the Community Preservation Corporation (CPC) a not-for-profit real estate lender, which specializes in financing affordable housing for low and moderate-income households. For five years he served as the Executive Director at the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority (BMHA) which owned and