

Coach Greg Williams and the second title in the last three years. 13 of the 14 riders that competed at the 2018 NCEA Championship will return for the 2018–19 season. Associate Head Coach Jessica Braswell was also named National Coach of the Year. This marks the 21st national title for Auburn athletics.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Auburn Equestrian team for this exciting accomplishment and congratulate them on a job well done. War Eagle.

THE CITY OF ALBION'S  
BICENTENNIAL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2018*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the upcoming bicentennial celebration for Albion, Illinois. George Flower of Hertfordshire, England, founded Albion (which is the poetic name for England) in April 1818, just two miles east of where Morris Birkbeck, another affluent Englishman, founded Wanborough. The two villages and the area around them became known as the "English Settlement."

While Wanborough eventually faded away with the accidental drowning death of Birkbeck in 1825, Albion survived to play an important role in Illinois' history. Albion was the birth place of Illinois Governor Louis Lincoln Emmerson. He was born in the house which is now the Edwards County Historical Society Museum at 212 West Main Street. George Flower's brother-in-law, William Pickering, was elected to the Illinois State House of Representatives in 1842 and served for ten years. He developed a close relationship with Abraham Lincoln. When Lincoln was elected President, he gave Pickering his choice of either being Minister to England or Governor of the Washington Territory. Pickering chose to be appointed Governor of the Washington Territory.

The City of Albion is planning a three day celebration beginning on Friday, October 12, 2018, to commemorate their bicentennial. They will have a giant cake, several kettles of chowder, a quilt exhibition, music, and much more. On Sunday they plan on having a community-wide ecumenical worship service at the stage for all to attend.

I offer my congratulations to the city of Albion on their bicentennial anniversary, and I wish them many more.

HONORING LORNA AND MARK  
BAKER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2018*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize two constituents who have dedicated more than 40 years to the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale Bayit Community, Mark and Lorna Baker.

Mark was one of the first members to join the "boiler room" group in 1974 to help create

what the Bayit community has become. Mark served on the Board of Trustees and as the organization's Executive Vice President during the 1970s and 1980s. Over the past eight election cycles, Mark has chaired the Nominating Committee and worked to ensure fair elections.

As a criminal defense attorney, Mark hosted the "Guilty Until Proven Innocent—Freeing the Wrongfully Convicted" program last January, which brought former prisoners to discuss their experiences with the Bayit community.

As the Bayit community has been a part of Mark's life, his wife Lorna soon joined the community after their wedding. Lorna has participated and dedicated her time to the community for almost 20 years and is beloved by many. Lorna is a practicing clinical social worker who specializes in couples and in addition counseling those who need help free of charge.

The time Mark and Lorna have dedicated to the Bayit community has been impressive, as have their contributions. It is my pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to honor and thank the Bakers for the impact they have had in the Riverdale community.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
COMMANDER DEREK P. HOTCHKISS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2018*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and character of a great American on the occasion of his retirement from active duty military service with the United States Navy. Commander Derek P. Hotchkiss, or simply Derek as he is known to all, has devoted his young adult life to the service of his family and country. He has set a towering example to all of us fortunate to know him. As Derek completes his tour of duty on the Joint Staff and hangs up his military uniform, we all know that his influence has reached far beyond the strict confines of his rank and previous job titles.

Derek's military career began at the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, Rhode Island in 1994. Derek then attended the United States Naval Academy where he was a member of the football team. He graduated with the great Class of 1999 and commissioned as an Ensign into the United States Navy. Derek served honorably in uniform for two decades with tours of duty across the United States and deployments around the world. He served as the Supply Officer for the Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron—the Blue Angels. He served as the Supply Officer aboard the frigate USS *Samuel B. Roberts* (FFG 58) in Mayport, Florida; and Assistant Supply Officer on the aircraft carrier USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN-74) in Bremerton, Washington. He represented the U.S. Navy as a Fellow with the Starbucks Coffee Company as part of the Supply Corp's Training With Industry Program. He led sailors and mentored young officers and NCOs. Along the way, he earned qualifications as a Supply Corps Aviator and Surface Warfare Officer and membership to the Acquisition Professional Community. Also, Derek earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Duke Univer-

sity's Fuqua School of Business in Durham, North Carolina. He also graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Executive Program, Seminar XXI. Most recently, Derek was hand selected to serve as the Executive Officer to the Director for Logistics (J-4), Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Derek has been a tireless advocate of the broader military objectives. His service has played a vital role in countless missions, all of which were crucial in advancing our national security interests. Throughout his career, Derek has been a role model for the men and women who have been lucky enough to serve with him. He has represented his faith, family, and his hometown of Bath, Ohio with great esteem.

In honor of his service, I would like to express my gratitude for Derek P. Hotchkiss' dedication to this country and our community. I wish him all the best. I am sure that he is looking forward to continuing his passion for the outdoors, and spending time with his loving family. Lastly, I recognize that alongside every strong Sailor stands an even stronger family. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to his wife, Jennifer; daughters, Clare and Grace; and son, Will, for supporting this American hero during his time of service to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO ERMA CLEVELAND

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 Erma Cleveland of Oakland, Iowa on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Erma celebrated her birthday on May 12, 2018.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Erma's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones, and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Erma has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-five Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Erma in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating Erma on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

CONGRATULATING AZERBAIJAN  
ON ITS CENTENNIAL REPUBLIC  
DAY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2018*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I rise today to congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan on its 100th year of independence as

the country celebrated the centennial Republic Day on May 28 of this year.

Since first declaring independence from the Russian Empire in 1918, Azerbaijan sought to be an example for new nations by adopting a National Charter granting all citizens within its borders full civil and political rights, regardless of ethnic origin, religion, or gender. The United States was quick to recognize and support Azerbaijan in 1918 and again in 1991, as Soviet dominance over the country ended.

Since then, Azerbaijan has continued to be an ally and partner to the United States, notably being among the first to provide comprehensive and unconditional assistance following the September 11 terrorist attacks. Azerbaijan continued to support the Global War on Terror efforts in Afghanistan, providing airspace to NATO jets en route to Afghanistan, and ground transport for non-lethal supplies in the region. Notably, Azerbaijan is one of the few Muslim-majority countries that enjoys strong relations with Israel, and it is this commitment, not just to the United States, but also her allies, that shows Azerbaijan's continued dedication to remaining a trusted and close friend to democratic nations across the globe.

Azerbaijan continues to be a leader in promoting global energy security. Once completed, the Southern Gas Corridor project will provide European markets access to natural gas in the Caspian Sea, allowing our European allies to diversify their energy sources, while bypassing Iran. This access is crucial to maintaining energy security in the region and promoting global trade opportunities for the United States and its allies.

Mr. Speaker, I would again like to thank the people of Azerbaijan for their continued partnership and friendship, and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Azerbaijan on this historic centennial Republic Day.

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LAMAR SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2018*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Beverly Richard, Helen Daniels and Lydia Torres for their 40 years of service and dedication to the Lamar Consolidated Independent School District (CISD).

Beverly, Helen and Lydia have each worked for the school district for forty years. They were recently recognized by Lamar CISD for their dedication to our children and our schools. Their tenure and commitment to educational excellence is a true asset in our region.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again Beverly Richard, Helen Daniels and Lydia Torres on 40 years with Lamar CISD. I thank them for their commitment to education and to our kids.

HONORING BARRY BENDER

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2018*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, communities find their strength in the dedicated individuals who offer their time and talent to benefit the greater good. For the past 18 years, Barry Bender has been one of those people regularly making selfless contributions to the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, or Bayit community.

Barry's service to the Bayit began as a natural extension of his Jewish professional life, conducting Jewish educational experiences throughout the U.S. and Canada using technology and multimedia.

He has brought his creativity and technical skills to many Bayit events and activities including the annual dinner, and to the video production and broadcast of the annual Selichot concert.

As an award winning amateur photographer, Barry is often seen around the Bayit with his camera documenting Shul life. He has given classes on a variety of topics including "Jewish Meditation," and "The Seven Days of Creation Through the Eyes of Science." He is also a proud member of the Bayit's Community Security Service (CSS) Team.

Barry's real claim to fame at the Bayit though is being a second generation shul lollipop man, continuing in his father zt"l's footsteps. His dedication to our community is a direct result of the values his parents taught him by example.

On June 3, 2018, at their 44th Annual Journal Dinner, the Bayit is honoring Barry Bender with their Community Service Award. I want to echo their recognition by extending my gratitude to Barry for all he has done to enrich the lives of those around him. This honor is extremely well-deserved.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS VACANCY REDUCTION ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2018*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Courts Vacancy Reduction Act. This bill would allow local District of Columbia court nominees to be seated after a 30-day congressional review period unless a resolution of disapproval is enacted during that period. Currently, nominees cannot be seated without affirmative Senate approval. The congressional review process for nominees would be the same one used for legislation passed by the D.C. Council. It is therefore a reliable process, long-recognized by Congress. My bill is prompted by the unique requirement that judges for the local D.C. courts be confirmed by the Senate, where nominees for the federal courts, understandably, get the primary focus and priority. There is currently an urgency facing the District's criminal and civil justice systems, and the D.C. courts have raised serious concerns due to longstanding vacancies.

Whether under Democratic or Republican control of the Senate, the local D.C. courts

regularly face vacancy crises, which harm the operations of the judicial system in the District. Congress created the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission (JNC) to recommend candidates, and Congress should generally defer to its judgment. This bill is a compromise, useful to all concerned, that retains a congressional role while saving the Senate time by removing the need for committee and floor action and increasing the odds that D.C. will have a full complement of local judges.

Currently, there are 10 vacancies out of 62 authorized judges on the D.C. Superior Court and two vacancies out of nine authorized judges on the D.C. Court of Appeals. In the current Congress, only one judge has been confirmed.

Both pre- and post-home rule, the District has never had control over the nomination and approval process of local D.C. judges. My bill would not alter the role of the JNC or the President in the nomination process. Under the Home Rule Act, the JNC recommends to the President a list of three persons for each vacancy on the Superior Court and Court of Appeals. The President must nominate a candidate recommended by the JNC within 60 days to the Senate for advice and consent. If the President fails to nominate such a person within 60 days, the JNC must nominate a recommended person directly to the Senate for advice and consent. The Senate has no obligation to provide its advice and consent. Under this bill, once a name has been transmitted to Congress, the nomination would be deemed approved unless a resolution of disapproval is enacted into law during a 30-legislative-day review period.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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TRIBUTE TO MARIA A. THOMSON

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2018*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and achievements of Maria A. Thomson who was a tireless lifelong leader and advocate for the community of Woodhaven, Queens which she dearly loved. On January 10th of 2018, Mrs. Thomson passed away, leaving behind a lifelong legacy of community service and civic engagement. She earned the respect of city and state leaders, in fact she was known as the unofficial "Mayor of Woodhaven". With over 40 years of community activism, Mrs. Thomson's accolades and accomplishments are numerous. I hope to highlight some of her life's work today.

Mrs. Thomson was a dedicated public servant who cherished public safety and quality of life. Early in her career she was elected President of the 102nd Precinct Community Council, bridging the gap between law enforcement and the community. She later founded the volunteer local Civilian Patrol. As a result of her leadership, she earned the unique distinction of being the first and only civilian to be recognized as the 102nd Precinct's Honorary Police Officer of the Month. Furthermore, she annually honored the fallen heroes of 911 and our nations veterans.

To better ensure the delivery of government services to Woodhaven, she joined Queens