

Texas Christian University. Jackson had the chance to enroll early and start practicing with the football team in Fort Worth, but instead decided to stay to help the Panthers make history. It was Bryson Jackson that hit a three-run home run against Tomball Memorial that clinched the team's trip to State.

It's been a tough season for the Panthers with many tough opponents. One of the tougher games was against Santa Fe High School; just over 24 hours after 10 lives were lost at Santa Fe High School. The Kingwood Park Panthers stepped off the bus wearing "Santa Fe Strong" warm-up shirts. After the game, the Panthers presented the shirts to the Santa Fe players after every player hugged the entire team. It was an emotional game that meant so much more than baseball. One of the Panthers, Jason Rendon, said "We played the strongest team in Texas, and now we play for them."

No matter what the outcome of this weekend might be, these boys have shown true class and have represented the Kingwood community well. So this weekend, head to the Dell Diamond and support the Kingwood Park Panthers as they fight for the State Championship title.

And that's just the way it is.

#### HONORING COMMUNITY CHAMPION GRACE BEAL

#### HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a young lady from my congressional district, 16-year-old Grace Beal. Grace is the daughter of David and Corri Beal and the older sister of Eliza and Lucy Beal. Grace is a Sophomore in High School but has proven herself to be wise beyond her years and honorable in every sense of the word.

In 2009, when Grace was just 7 years old, her youngest sister Lucy died of a congenital heart disease. The loss of 11-month-old Lucy was an absolute tragedy that devastated the entire Beal family and led to a painful mourning period. However, in the midst of grief, Grace developed a sincere desire to honor Lucy's memory and make a difference for those who will unfortunately experience similar circumstances.

When Grace reflects on Lucy's journey she is reminded of the hardships but also recalls the kindness and compassion her family received from the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP). Even after all of these years, Grace is quick to praise the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and applaud their unwavering dedication to patients and families in need of support. Therefore, beginning in fourth grade, Grace decided to express her appreciation by organizing a book drive which resulted in a donation of 600 books to the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Library. The following year, while in fifth grade, Grace came up with the fundraising idea "Laps for Lucy" through her swim team, which raised over \$3,400 for Child Life at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Grace continued to create new initiatives and once again, in sixth grade, she hosted "Lovies for Lucy" by collecting over 150 blankets for the Children's Home of Pitts-

burgh, another facility that played an influential role in Lucy's journey.

By seventh grade, Grace created "Layups for Lucy" which initially began as a 3-on-3 basketball tournament but has developed into much more. Now an annual event, Layups for Lucy has raised over \$70,000 and continues to evolve and prosper each year. Grace was invigorated by raising money and helping others, which led to her decision to create a Layups for Lucy fund and become a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Grace is quick to attribute the success of the event to the involvement of her friends and family, Neshannock High School students and staff, and members of the New Castle community who have been actively involved and extremely generous.

In addition to her philanthropic involvement, Grace is a member of her high school volleyball and basketball teams, she serves as a student government representative, participates in various academic clubs and has been selected to National Honor Society. Grace's community involvement and exceptional volunteerism have caught the attention of many and inevitably led to several prestigious honors. Grace was a 2018 Distinguished Finalist for the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, a 2016 Jefferson Award finalist for the Most Outstanding Volunteer of the Year, the recipient of the Lancer Pride and Promise Award and she qualified to receive the prestigious President's Volunteer Service Award.

In sum, Grace displayed resilience in the face of adversity. She turned her pain into passion and created a commitment to helping others. Grace has demonstrated outstanding civic and charitable responsibility and has thrived as a leader, encouraging others to get involved and give back. Although she has already accomplished so much, Grace has no plans to slow down now. Grace is energized by helping others and she will continue to strive for greatness and uplift those in need, however necessary.

In serving her community, the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and the memory of her sister Lucy, Grace is an absolute inspiration. Her compassion and generosity have positively influenced the lives of many and will continue to do so for years to come. Therefore, on behalf of the Third Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I would like to express sincere gratitude and appreciation to Grace Beal, an admirable young lady, a selfless individual, and a true Community Champion.

#### RECOGNIZING PAT VOLKMAR

#### HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pat Volkmar, a middle school teacher in Great Falls, whose passion for education takes his students beyond the classroom and into the business world.

Through support from the Great Falls community, Pat Volkmar launched and advises Grizz Biz, a program that provides students with opportunities to learn valuable skills, operate a business, and earn a paycheck.

Middle school students, young men and women from 12 to 14 years old, run every aspect of Grizz Biz, including hiring, production,

marketing, management, and accounting. Students develop important trade skills, including woodworking, engraving, and ceramics.

Those wishing to join Grizz Biz must prepare and submit resumes as well as interview with their peers.

The program provides the next generation with experience they will carry with them into their future careers and endeavors. They develop entrepreneurial and leadership skills as well as confidence for opportunities beyond the classroom.

Grizz Biz will build on its success at North Middle School by expanding to East Middle School next school year. Pat Volkmar is the driving force behind it all.

For his commitment to create a unique, valuable education experience and the countless hours he spends inspiring young Montanans, I recognize Pat Volkmar for representing the spirit of Montana.

#### HONORING COLONEL PHILLIP J. DEPPERT

#### HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Phillip J. Deppert for his 28 years of military service and congratulate him on his retirement. COL Deppert assumed command of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) in Monterey, California in 2015 and has served this post and our community with distinction. COL Deppert's accomplished career is an inspiration, and I am honored to recognize his service to our country and our community on the central coast of California.

COL Deppert entered active duty in 1990 with the 82d Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In 1994, he transferred to the Military Intelligence Corps and served in the Republic of Korea as a Battalion Intelligence Officer and in the United States (1995–1998) as the Group Military Intelligence Detachment Commander and Group Senior Intelligence Officer. During this time, COL Deppert took part in numerous Special Operations assignments where he supported the Geographic Combatant Commanders' worldwide contingency planning tasks.

COL Deppert then completed Command and General Staff College and served as the chief, Division Analysis and Control Element, and Military Intelligence Battalion Operations Officer for the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division (2003–2005). During this time, COL Deppert served in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. He was then transferred to U.S. Special Operations Command Headquarters where he served as the Special Operations Branch Chief and as the first Director of Intelligence for the U.S. Special Operations Command Interagency Task Force. COL Deppert then became the U.S. Army's 4th Infantry Division Senior Intelligence Officer when he served in Iraq during Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn.

After an assignment as the Deputy Mission manager in Mexico, COL Deppert earned a Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College. COL Deppert then served as the

Chief of Staff and the Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force North before coming to the Monterey Bay and assuming command of DLIFLC. During his tenure at DLIFLC, COL Deppert was diligent in strengthening relationships between the Army and the community stakeholders that surround DLIFLC. COL Deppert has inspired those around him, including his wife and family, who have steadfastly supported his service in our nation's armed forces. COL Deppert and his family embody the principle of selfless service to a higher calling, and set an example for us all.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating COL Deppert on his well-earned retirement and thanking him for his many years of dedicated service to our country. My district is fortunate to have had the Deppert family working and residing in the Monterey Bay area, and I am delighted that they will remain on the Central Coast after COL Deppert's retirement.

#### KINGWOOD HIGH SCHOOL—NEXT GENERATION OF LIFESAVERS

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this past year, the Houston area suffered a historic hurricane. My Congressional district was hammered by this flood. Hurricane Harvey left tremendous destruction in its wake. Kingwood High School was destroyed. But, the good folks at Humble Independent School District immediately went to work and the students returned to their newly renovated school this past spring. The people of Texas are a resilient bunch. The entire community pulled together, determined to put the school back together. There have been countless donations given by very generous folks in the Kingwood community. Now with the help of Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital, Kingwood High School is one step closer to normalcy.

After learning that Kingwood High School had lost their CPR Training Kits due to flooding, Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital donated two CPR in Schools Training Kits. The donation was an extension of the Memorial Hermann Northeast sponsorship of the 2018 Greater Lake Houston Heart Walk.

The CPR in Schools Training Kit was created by the American Heart Association. About 90 percent of people who suffer out-of-hospital cardiac arrests die. CPR can double a person's chance of survival, especially if performed immediately. It is the hope that the distribution of such kits to schools can help improve survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest through the coordination of proper CPR training. This curriculum is taught to both middle schools and high schools across the country. The American Heart Association is helping prepare more students, teachers, and families to save lives with the CPR in Schools Curriculum Training Kit. The kits are designed specifically for educational environments and can be facilitated by anyone. Each kit contains everything required to train 10 to 20 students in CPR in just under 30 minutes.

Kingwood High School nursing staff and the Student Council organizes the training. Seniors were given two opportunities to take CPR training before graduation. Thanks to Memorial

Herman, Kingwood High School was able to train over 380 seniors using the two CPR in Schools Kits.

Because of Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital, those 380 seniors have been given this lifesaving skill that was not as easily available to them before. These training kits will be used for years to come, training the next generation of lifesavers.

And that's just the way it is.

#### LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1026—NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL ROUTE ADJUSTMENT ACT

**HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful the House recently passed H.R. 1026, the North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act under suspension of the rules by voice vote. My office received a number of letters in support of H.R. 1026 I am including in the RECORD.

Specifically, we received letters from the North Country Trail Association, the American Hiking Society, and the Partnership for the National Trails System.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to timely action in the U.S. Senate to ensure enactment of this bipartisan, commonsense measure before the end of the 115th Congress.

PARTNERSHIP FOR THE  
NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM,  
*Madison, WI, June 1, 2018.*

Re H.R. 1026.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: We urge your support for the passage of H.R. 1026, the North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act, which is scheduled for a floor vote in the House on June 5th.

We ask this on behalf of:

Local communities in northeastern Minnesota and Vermont directly affected by this bill, in order that they enjoy the many economic, recreational and quality of life benefits through this designation of a National Scenic Trail passing through their communities.

The North Country Trail community—now representing over 50,000 hikers, trail builders and trail maintainers—who have worked tirelessly for over 15 years to finally see this legislation passed.

The hundreds of thousands of American families who use the North Country National Scenic Trail to enjoy the many health, recreational, and family values benefits of hiking on a National Trail, and being connected with others who call America's northern heartlands home.

The millions of Americans who annually are refreshed, invigorated, educated, and inspired thru their journeys on our 30 National Scenic and Historic Trails throughout America.

This simple bill corrects an oversight perpetuated in the original 1980 authorization of the North Country National Scenic Trail, adjusts its authorized mileage to the more accurate number and saves money by replacing the far more costly original route in Minnesota that required traversing wetlands with world class trail that is mostly already constructed.

In honor of this 50th Anniversary Year of the National Trails System our community of trail makers and trail users requests your

support of H.R. 1026 to fully realize the public benefit envisioned by Congress for the North Country National Scenic Trail. We hope we can count on you.

Sincerely,

GARY WERNER,  
*Executive Director.*

AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY,

*Silver Spring, MD, June 5, 2018.*

Re American Hiking Society Urges Support of H.R. 1026.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act and work to realize the completion and connection of our National Trails System, American Hiking Society strongly supports the passage of H.R. 1026, the North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act. This bill seeks to fully realize the original vision for the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) by rerouting the trail between Jay Cooke State Park and Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota and extending the trail from its current end in Crown Point, New York, to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in Vermont.

H.R. 1026 is enthusiastically supported by the national hiking community at large and especially by the trail's surrounding communities and townships. The legislation is also supported by the entire Minnesota congressional delegation. This trail provides a "close to home" park for millions of Americans and offers low-cost recreational opportunities for families, children, the elderly, and others. It's completion and connection to similar trails would greatly enhance these opportunities and fulfill Congress's vision for this trail when it first authorized it.

The economic impact of this trail and the improved economic activity it would generate if completed and connected with other highly trafficked trails would be significant. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, trails in America accounted for \$201 billion in annual spending in 2017 and were responsible for 1.7 million jobs. Much of this spending takes place in small communities along each of the trails, communities for which this income is substantial, meaningful, and will remain local. Many of the jobs trails create can't be exported offshore: guides and outfitters, hotel staff and restaurateurs, and numerous others directly benefit the community in which they reside.

In response to some concerns raised about an expansion of the federal footprint, AHS notes that, in a cost estimate prepared by the CBO, the CBO stated; "ongoing costs to develop, manage, and maintain the added property would be negligible." How often can Congress approve a project where the brunt of the hard work is taken on by volunteers? And where the volunteers themselves along with nonprofit partners fund raise to support those efforts?

These trails are more than just an economic engine. Since our nation's founding, the outdoors have been a distinctive part of our American heritage and trails such as the NCNST are integral to that. Whether it's a family out for a hike on a nearby trail or as the returning veteran walking off the war, Americans continue to seek places for outdoor recreation, a connection to nature, and healthy exercise. Thanks to Congress, just such a place exists in the NCNST. Now we ask Congress to finish what was begun fifty years ago, allow the volunteers to get to doing what they do so well, and at long last begin the completion of one of America's greatest National Scenic Trails.