

H.R. 1585. Congress needs to work towards a reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act that removes these poison pills and puts victims before politics.

**RECOGNIZING THE 2019 NORTHERN VIRGINIA FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES AND AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 8, 2019*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Northern Virginia Football Hall of Fame (NVFHOF) and to congratulate the 2019 inductees and scholarship award recipients.

Participation in organized sports instills many values that will serve our youth well throughout life, including sportsmanship, teamwork, honesty, and the work ethic developed by striving for success and working to achieve a common goal.

For 29 years, the NVFHOF has recognized the efforts of players, coaches, officials, and cheerleaders from local youth and scholastic football programs, and has inducted a few exceptional individuals who have made significant contributions to the game. In addition, the NVFHOF presents several student-athletes with scholarships to help defray the cost of college.

I commend the NVFHOF and congratulate the following students, coaches, and community leaders who are being recognized during the 29th Annual NVFHOF Awards Banquet:

\$2,000 Scholarship Award Recipients: Conley J. Ku, Miles M. Thompson, Nicholas E. Kuzemka.

Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame 2019 Inductees: Jonathan Allen, Paul Hayden.

Football Official of the Year: Frank Hill, Jr.  
Karl Davey Community Achievement Award: Martha Coleman.

Tom Davis Meritorious Service Award: Derek and Jenni Green.

Gene Nelson Commissioner of the Year Award: Brandon Miller.

High School Coaches of the Year: Mickey Thompson, Tom Verbanic.

High School Players of the Year: Eugene Asante, Tyquan Brown, Jordan Houston, Dakwandre Marshall, Taylor Morin, Christian Yost.

Youth Coaches of the Year: Boomer DeConti, Tom Hamm, Rodney Saldivar, Stanley Wilkins.

Youth Players of the Year: Chase Murchison, Jaellyn Carlo, George Lynch III, Adam Stewart, Jack McLaury, Evan Ross, Chase Geter, Cameron Petrey, Dylan Lyrly, Marcus Williams, Jaylen Ware, Cash Crosby, Ethen Mack-Moore, Tyree Hogan, Christos Proctor, Bryson Thompson, Colton Quaker, McCormack Koopman, Isaiah Ragland, Jake Nielsen, Donovan Mullins, Clifton Dorsey, Bobby Schroder.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mark Meana and the Northern Virginia Hall of Fame, as well as those students, coaches, and community leaders who are being honored at the 2019 Football Hall of Fame celebration.

**RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF WILLOW SPRINGS, MISSOURI**

**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 8, 2019*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sesquicentennial birthday of Willow Springs, Missouri. Located in Howell County, Willow Springs sits at the intersections of U.S. Hwy 63 and U.S. Hwy 60, making it the hub of the Ozarks.

On March 29, 1869, the Willow Springs Post Office was established. The post office was located at the general store of Mr. James Harris, a Union veteran of the Civil War. The town remained small until the development of the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Memphis railroads in the 1880s. The railroad stimulated commerce and brought new businesses and people to the area who were interested in taking part in the expansion.

It is my privilege to acknowledge this historic birthday before the United States House of Representatives and to honor the people of Willow Springs, Missouri as they partake in this yearlong celebration.

**BRITTNEY CUMMINGS**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 8, 2019*

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

The Youth Award focuses on teenagers who have overcome personal adversity and created positive changes in their lives and their community. The program provides businesses, the community and civic leaders an opportunity to support young people in their communities and recognize their accomplishments. Brittney is the perfect recipient for this award because despite adversities and challenges, she has become an inspiration and role model for her peers.

The dedication and leadership demonstrated by Brittney 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 Brittney Cummings for this well-deserved recognition. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

**IN HONOR OF THE WOODLANDS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY 25TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 8, 2019*

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, today I rise in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of The Woodlands Christian Academy.

Established in 1993, The Woodlands Christian Academy (TWCA) is one of our community's most impressive academic institutions. A nondenominational college preparatory school located in The Woodlands, Texas, TWCA aims to integrate classroom learning with Biblical faith. TWCA provides programs for over 600 students PreK–12th grade, and pushes them to reach their highest spiritual, academic, and social potential. The caliber of their students is matched only by the quality of their faculty, whose dedicated commitment to teaching has shaped countless students and inspired thousands of young learners.

TWCA has a strong history of preparing its students for success after graduation, with student ACT and SAT scores continuing to rise above the local, state, and national average. Students of TWCA often go on to receive prized competitive scholarships—with an average of \$103,000 per student being awarded in merit-based college scholarships in 2017 alone.

Students at TWCA are notable not only for their academic achievements, but also for their proven ability to be remarkable leaders in their respective industries and communities.

Through service opportunities and educational experiences in and outside of the classroom, TWCA encourages its students to engage in responsible citizenship and critical thinking, and to develop a life-long appreciation for learning. TWCA understands the importance of investing in our students, and therefore investing in our future.

TWCA would not be where it is today without their fearless leader, Julie Ambler. Julie has been a hardworking member of the faculty since 2006, and now serves as Head of School. Under her outstanding leadership and direction, TWCA was named the corporate Hometown Hero of The Woodlands by Interfaith in 2017—a well-deserved award for someone whose vision and guidance has impacted this community so much.

This year, we celebrate TWCA's quarter-of-a-century mark. I thank them for the outstanding impact that the faculty and administration have made on young people of our community, and I am proud to join those across The Woodlands in celebration of their Anniversary. Congratulations on 25 years, I know that the next 25 will be just as successful.

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019**

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 3, 2019*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1585) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes:

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Chair, I've been a strong supporter of VAWA, consistent with my vote to advance this important bill to assist victims of domestic abuse. However, H.R. 1585 in its current form is not perfect and I have serious outstanding concerns with the provisions relating to Second Amendment protections. I urge my colleagues to work in a bipartisan effort to address these concerns so

we can have a final bill that respects Americans' constitutional rights.

# HONORING ALBERT STRAUS

## HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 8, 2019*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Albert Straus, the founder and CEO of Straus Family Creamery. Under Albert Straus' leadership the Straus Family Creamery became the first creamery in the country to become one hundred percent certified organic. Twenty-five years later, the business is not only thriving, but has created a model for sustainable family dairy farming that has been replicated to great success.

The oldest of four children, Albert Straus grew up on his family's dairy farm in northern California. The son of William and Ellen Straus, his father founded the dairy in 1941, after fleeing to the United States as a refugee from Nazi Germany. Albert left his family's dairy to go to college, but returned in 1977, after earning a bachelor's degree in Dairy Science from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Albert took over management of the dairy alongside his father, but realized that changes would need to be made if family-run dairy farms were going to survive the growth of larger industrial competitors.

Over the course of the nearly two decades that followed, Albert Straus implemented innovative solutions at his family dairy that improved both the stewardship of the land and the farm's economic vitality. These solutions included the cessation of herbicides and chemical fertilizers, the use of planting methods that reduced soil erosion, and the use of food waste for cow feed, among many others. Finally, in 1994, Straus opened the first certified organic dairy and creamery west of the Mississippi River and the first 100 percent certified organic creamery in the U.S.

Today, the Straus Family Creamery has had great success, both economically, and in its mission to create a farming community that is committed to stewardship of the land. Albert Straus has been a model and mentor for many other family dairy farms. Now nearly ninety percent of all dairy farms in the region are certified organic, and as a result, family farms are continuing to thrive. Still a leader in innovation, the Straus Family Dairy Farm uses a methane digester to turn the 4,000 gallons of manure that it produces daily into compost and renewable energy. This energy not only powers the 500-acre farm, but also Albert Straus' harvester truck.

Madam Speaker, Albert Straus' leadership and vision has proven that environmentally-sustainable farming can both turn a profit and support a larger community of family farms and distributors. And at a time when the public has grown increasingly more concerned by the means and consolidation of food production, his example is that much more significant. Therefore, please join me in recognizing Albert Straus and the success of the Straus Family Creamery, on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

JENNA HAYS

## HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 8, 2019*

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

The Youth Award focuses on teenagers who have overcome personal adversity and created positive changes in their lives and their community. The program provides businesses, the community and civic leaders an opportunity to support young people in their communities and recognize their accomplishments. Jenna is the perfect recipient for this award because despite adversities and challenges, she has become an inspiration and role model for her peers.

The dedication and leadership demonstrated by Jenna 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 Jenna Hays for this well-deserved recognition. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

## RECOGNIZING THE 2019 OCCOQUAN- WOODBIDGE-LORTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

## HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 8, 2019*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the incoming 2019 officers of the Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department. OWLVFD is located in Prince William County, Virginia, 25 miles from our Nation's Capital. The OWLVFD goes on an average of 20,000 runs per year, aiding 80,000 residents in a 27 square mile area.

Incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1938, the OWLVFD is comprised of committed community members who volunteer their time, energy, and financial resources to ensure the safety of the families and property in and around Woodbridge. During its 80 year history, the Department has continued to expand and there are now three stations staffed by approximately 250 volunteers who serve and protect an ever-growing local population. From their bravery in action to their presence with the youth in the community, OWLVFD is readily available for the families of Woodbridge.

It is with great honor that I include in the RECORD the names of the following Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department Officers:

Department President—Dave Williams.

Department Chief—James McAllister.

Executive Vice President—George Smith.

Membership Secretary—Scott Shaw.

Board of Directors—Michelle Bauer, Kevin Lewis, Melissa Payne, Rebecca Barnes, Zach Wessolleck, Jonathan Baldwin, Michael Clark, Anna Smith.

Election Officer—Sabrina Brandon Ricks.

Treasurer—Debbie Haight.

Sergeant-At-Arms—Rick Moore.

Assistant Chiefs—Kurt Bolland, Ernest DeSantis, Steve Godin, Wayne Haight, Rick Michaels.

Rescue Chief—Ed Craig.

Fire Captains—Ben New, Justin Witt.

Rescue Captain—Stephanie Powers.

While a new executive board has been elected and new officers sworn in, the mission of OWLVFD remains the same. The volunteers of the OWLVFD continue to put themselves in harm's way for the benefit of the residents of the area and have educated and mentored the youth in Woodbridge, not only teaching fire safety education, but also strengthening community relations.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the men and women of the Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department for their service to our country and steadfast commitment to their community and in congratulating the newly-elected officers and board members. I thank them for their dedication and to all, I say: "Stay safe."

## HONORING THE LIFE OF FREEHOLDER PEARL BEATTY

## HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 8, 2019*

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the life and legacy of former Essex County Freeholder Pearl Beatty. Freeholder Beatty passed away on April 2, 2019, leaving behind a trail of success as a community servant.

Freeholder Beatty's interest in politics began in her early twenties, when she worked a voter registration table for the NAACP. It continued through 1960, when she sang at a rally for presidential candidate John F. Kennedy. Freeholder Beatty went on to work for the Kennedy campaign in New Jersey, helping put Kennedy over the top in the state. Three years later, Freeholder Beatty attended the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. She helped Newark residents picket Woolworth's for racial equality. And Freeholder Beatty was a key player in getting Newark's first Black mayor, Kenneth Gibson, elected in 1970.

Over the years, Freeholder Beatty was a constant presence in Essex County politics and communities. She was scheduler for Jimmy Carter's 1976 New Jersey campaign, then ran for Essex County Freeholder in 1977. She served three terms as District 2 Freeholder, always fighting for her constituents. Freeholder Beatty worked tirelessly to get people of color registered to vote.

I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the life of Essex County Freeholder Pearl Beatty.