

To say that Allyah Smith is an exceptional young lady is a definition of understatement. Not only is she an award-winning poet, but she is an exceptional cross-country runner. Allyah has been recognized for her hours of volunteer service in the community winning the coveted Presidential Volunteer Service Award.

She has also participated in events to educate students on the dangers of impaired driving.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Allyah Smith for being honored as the Future Leader Award winner by the St. Joseph YWCA through serving St. Joseph, the state of Missouri and the Sixth Congressional District. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

HONORING CYNTHIA PARRISH AND
CHARLES COCHRAN FOR BEING
AWARDED THE VALOR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Cynthia Parrish and Sergeant Charles Cochran as recipients of the Public Safety Valor Award.

The Valor Award is a prestigious honor presented to first responders of the greater Fayetteville region who perform acts of heroism under extreme risk. Proudly serving the Fayetteville Police Department, 911 telecommunicator Cynthia Parrish and Sergeant Charles Cochran exhibited great courage and composure on the night of July 3, 2018.

While responding to a domestic disturbance where a man was reportedly holding his pregnant girlfriend hostage with a knife, Ms. Parrish traced the woman's location, obtained vital information for responding officers, and remained on the phone as the victim was repeatedly stabbed. When Sergeant Cochran arrived on the scene, he breached the apartment door with an axe, quickly located the victim and her attacker, and saved the life of the victim and her unborn baby after neutralizing the threat.

Ms. Parrish and Sergeant Cochran's quick actions, bravery and dedication to service are a credit to them, their families, and the Fayetteville Police Department. I know I speak for everyone in our community when I say we are truly grateful for their unwavering service and cannot thank them enough.

Ms. Parrish and Sergeant Cochran are deserving of this honor and I would like to offer my sincerest appreciation and wish them success as they continue to protect our communities.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in celebrating Ms. Cynthia Parrish and Sergeant Charles Cochran on receiving the Public Safety Valor Award.

IN APPRECIATION OF CHOBANI
PAYING SCHOOL LUNCH DEBT IN
TWIN FALLS, IDAHO

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 2019

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the generous donation by Chobani who paid the school lunch debt for the entire Twin Falls School District for the 2018–2019 school year. This act of kindness is just another example of Chobani's commitment to being a good neighbor in the Magic Valley.

The State of Idaho is fortunate that Chobani chose to build North America's largest yogurt plant in Twin Falls in 2012. Since arriving, Chobani has benefited the local economy including the dairy farmers in Idaho who supply milk to the plant. It is estimated that Chobani's direct and indirect employment is roughly 7,000 jobs in Idaho including roughly 300 refugees from the local center at the College of Southern Idaho. Due to Chobani's economic success, additional food producing businesses have located facilities in Twin Falls, which has resulted in the local unemployment rate dropping as low as 2.2 percent.

I believe any organization or business starts with the tone set by their leader. Chobani exemplifies that through their founder, chairman, and CEO, Hamdi Ulukaya. I consider Hamdi a friend to me and to the State of Idaho. Hamdi grew up on a dairy farm in Turkey and immigrated to the United States in 1994. He took over a yogurt factory in 2005 with a loan from the Small Business Administration. Today, he is the CEO of the number one strained yogurt brand in the United States. He has shared his generosity with local communities like Twin Falls and also announced he would hand over ten percent of the shares of the company to its employees.

To quote the Twin Falls Mayor, "Chobani is the gift that keeps on giving." I thank Hamdi and Chobani and I look forward to their future growth and partnership with the State of Idaho.

HONORING TRISTON STRICKLAND
FOR BEING AWARDED THE
VALOR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deputy Tristan Strickland as a recipient of the Public Safety Valor Award.

The Valor Award is a prestigious honor presented to men and women of the greater Fayetteville region who perform acts of heroism under extreme risk. A second-generation law enforcement officer with the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department, Deputy Strickland exhibited great courage and composure in the early morning hours of September 4, 2018.

While responding to a domestic disturbance where a man was reportedly trying to force entry into the home of a mother and her four children, Deputy Strickland was fired upon

while arriving on the scene. He exited his vehicle and returned fire, striking the offender from 90 feet away. Deputy Strickland then heroically shielded a fellow officer and engaged the subject so that she could seek cover. After securing the scene, the officers sought medical attention for the offender.

Deputy Strickland's quick actions, excellent marksmanship under extreme pressure, and willingness to stand in front of a fellow officer are a credit to him, his family, and the Cumberland Sheriff's Department. I know I speak for everyone in our community when I say we are truly grateful for his unwavering service and cannot thank him enough.

Deputy Strickland is deserving of this honor and I would like to offer my sincerest appreciation and wish him success as he continues to protect our communities.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in celebrating Deputy Tristan Strickland on receiving the Public Safety Valor Award.

HONORING SHEILA GILBERT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sheila Gilbert. Sheila is a very special woman and leader who is being honored with the Woman in Volunteerism Award as a part of the St. Joseph YWCA's prestigious Women of Excellence.

Sheila has a simple story in which a problem presented itself and rather than sit back, she took action. From that Food for Kids was born. While it may have started as a way to help feed kids in St. Joseph during the summer vacation, it has expanded to provide meals for families as well as providing clothes, shoes and school supplies for those children as well. Sheila and her husband Kenzie have taken their compassion and faith and turned it into a mission to serve their community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Sheila Gilbert for being honored as the Woman in Volunteerism Award winner by the St. Joseph YWCA through serving St. Joseph, the state of Missouri and the Sixth Congressional District. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

APPLAUDING THE TURNSTONE
CENTER

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 2019

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise to applaud the Turnstone Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana, for hosting the International Blind Sports Federation Goalball & Judo Paralympic Qualifying Competition. Later this summer, thousands from across the country will be in the Summit City as first-class athletes with visual impairments compete for a chance to represent their country on the world stage at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

Since 1943, Turnstone has worked with disabled individuals from all walks of life in helping them excel with athletic programs, as well

as by offering health and learning opportunities. As one of only four Olympic and Paralympic Training Sights in the country, their work is of the utmost importance for those they serve, including the athletes who have worked so hard to compete this summer.

I salute the hard-working men and women of the Turnstone Center staff, as well as the athletes with whom they will be working during this exciting event. These individuals have made great strides to reach this level, just as this organization makes great strides every day to serve them, and Hoosiers from across the region. Our community is continuously enhanced by Turnstone's fine work, and I wish their staff the very best and the athletes the best of luck as the Qualifying Competition gets underway.

COMMENDING THE RICHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 2019

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to commend the Richlands High School softball team, which captured the Virginia High School League (VHSL) Class 2 state title on June 14, 2019. The Lady Blues put on a stellar performance, narrowly defeating an exceptional team from Madison County High School by a score of 1 to 0.

This victory carries particular meaning, as it is Richlands High School's first softball state championship in nearly 25 years. Their championship caps a 23–5 season. I applaud the hard work and dedication of all members of this year's Richlands High School softball team, and congratulate the administrators, teachers, coaches, parents, students, and fans. In particular, I would like to recognize the contributions of the team's seniors, their pitcher, Mac Osborne, on being named the Virginia 2A State Player of the Year, and their head coach Ronnie Davis. Congratulations on a great end to the season.

HONORING THE LIFE OF AJA GIOVANNI MCLEOD

HON. ANTHONY G. BROWN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 2019

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Aja Giovanni McLeod, a resident of Maryland's 4th Congressional District.

Born on August 10, 1996, Aja was one of our brightest and most promising young people. Only 22 years old, she will be remembered for her tenacity, perseverance, and love for her family and friends. Faced with health challenges from birth, Aja remained committed to her education and living a full life, pursuing a career in communications. Her potential was evident, as she earned several scholarships during her educational career. Less than one month before her passing she celebrated her graduation from Bowie State University with a BS in Communications.

The many remembrances of Aja have emphasized the special place in her heart for her

brother and best friend, Zion, who will carry the memory of her love and devotion. In her time on earth, Aja's smile and laughter brought joy to those fortunate enough to have known and met her.

On June 8, 2019, Aja passed away unexpectedly, leaving behind her loving parents Andre' and Kimberly, and her brother Zion.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in remembering the life of Aja Giovanni McLeod.

HONORING HILARY SALANKY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Hilary Salanky. Hilary is a very special woman and leader who is being honored with the Woman in the Workplace Award as a part of the St. Joseph YWCA's prestigious Women of Excellence.

While spending her days teaching at Lafayette High School, Hilary is helping just as much to inspire and encourage the next generation of entrepreneurs through her outside of the classroom work with Student Council, DECA, and the Future Business Leaders of America as well as coaching the Boys and Girls track teams. She also manages to find time to volunteer with the Junior League and raise a family. It's not nearly enough to say that she is someone dedicated to improving St. Joseph, but she also manages to multiply her efforts by her dedication to the business leaders of tomorrow.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Hilary Salanky for being honored as the Woman in the Workplace Award winner by the St. Joseph YWCA through serving St. Joseph, the state of Missouri and the Sixth Congressional District. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

HONORING CHARLOTTE BUTZ; WINNER OF THE 2019 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION FOR NEW YORK'S 21ST DISTRICT

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 2019

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Charlotte Butz, the winner of the 2019 Congressional Art Competition for New York's 21st Congressional District.

Charlotte graduates from Cambridge Central School this week and will be attending James Madison University in the fall to study Intelligence Analysis. Her proven ability to think creatively will be an asset through her studies and beyond.

Charlotte's painting titled: Woman in Stripes, demonstrates a high degree of technical ability, using light and shadow to evoke emotion. I am proud knowing that my colleagues in Congress, members of the public, and leaders from around the world will see this beautiful drawing on display in the Capitol throughout the year. Charlotte's painting serves as a true

testament to the artistic skill of our students and quality of arts education in the North Country. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I want to thank Charlotte for sharing her work with us and congratulate her on this well-deserved recognition.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR. NELLIE MEYER

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 2019

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of long-time educator and community leader, Dr. Nellie Meyer.

Dr. Meyer has dedicated her career to improving education on various levels, ranging from working as a middle school and high school teacher to holding an array of leadership positions, most recently as the Mount Diablo Unified School District Superintendent. Throughout her career, Dr. Meyer has advocated for supporting at-risk youth, improving student achievement, and giving students the best education possible.

As the Mount Diablo Unified School District Superintendent for the past six years, Dr. Meyer focused on innovation and problem solving. She was a leader in the California City School Superintendents organization and has written multiple articles in professional education publications. Dr. Meyer has also presented at numerous national conferences on school turnaround, dropout prevention, and best practices for school systems.

Dr. Meyer's colleagues admire her sharp mind, empathetic nature, ability to think outside the box, and her insistence that a district has the responsibility to provide high quality education to every student.

On June 24th, Dr. Meyer is transferring her skills to the Los Altos/Mountain View Union High School District to carry on her passion for improving education for young people. Please join me in wishing Dr. Meyer good luck in her transition and thanking her for continuing her commitment to the youth of our community.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER BORDON, EDDIE JEAN PULLUM, MARK FRYE, AND SEAN GALLAGHER FOR BEING AWARDED THE VALOR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Christopher Bordon, Master Firefighter Eddie Jean Pullum, and firefighters Mark Frye and Sean Gallagher as recipients of the Public Safety Valor Award.

The Valor Award is a prestigious honor presented to men and women of the greater Fayetteville region who perform acts of heroism under extreme risk. Proudly serving the Fayetteville Fire Department, Captain Christopher Bordon, Master Firefighter Eddie Jean Pullum, and firefighters Mark Frye and Sean Gallagher