

RIDGEVIEW CHARTER MIDDLE
SCHOOL COMMENDATION HON-
ORING PRINCIPAL OPIE
BLACKWELL

HON. LUCY MCBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent and Ridgeview Charter Middle School Principal Opie Blackwell. A good principal knows that his or her students need a robust support system along with a strong education to guarantee success in the classroom and in life. This philosophy is the basis upon which Mr. Blackwell has structured his school.

Principal Blackwell demonstrates exceptional dedication to ensuring that the students at Ridgeview Charter Middle School receive the quality education that they deserve. He is actively involved in the daily life at Ridgeview, takes time to chaperone school trips, and is committed to the wellbeing of the faculty.

Principal Blackwell also takes pride in recognizing outstanding members of the school's staff. A few weeks before the last day of the school year, Mr. Blackwell took to social media to document an impromptu jump rope competition that took place during a 6th grade Chinese class. The class had ventured outside to practice their Chinese when the students and teachers began to see who could jump rope the longest. The students won, as Mr. Blackwell proudly noted, but he also gave the teachers their due credit. This friendly competition is one of many examples of how hard Mr. Blackwell and his colleagues work to give their students a positive and engaging learning environment.

This year, that hard work was recognized by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform as a Georgia Lighthouse School to Watch. The National Forum is a prestigious organization of educators, researchers, and officers committed to promoting academic excellence for young students.

In 1999, the National Forum selected four middle schools from across the country as the first Schools to Watch. Since then, the program has expanded to 18 states and honored 465 schools. Ridgeview Charter Middle is one of nine schools in Georgia recognized as a School to Watch. The National Forum strives to make every middle-grade school one that is academically excellent, socially equitable, and responsive to the developmental needs and interests of middle schoolers. It has developed tools to help schools meet their criteria to expand their program across the country.

Ridgeview Charter Middle School's policies for the classroom and overall school culture soar above and beyond the Forum's standards. When the National Forum staff spent time at Ridgeview, they saw that almost every student was actively engaged in the classroom and teachers were using a wide variety of learning strategies to assist their students.

As National Forum staff spoke to students, it was evident that Ridgeview students feel that they can be heard by their teachers and administrators when an issue arises. As a result, students are encouraged to give their input and help make changes to improve the school.

The student-first culture is evident at Ridgeview Charter Middle School. Student work is clearly displayed in the hallways, and the faculty and staff are familiar faces at music concerts and the annual musical. Mr. Blackwell recorded the finale of this year's musical, *Alice in Wonderland*, and posted it to social media with encouraging words about the performance and the work done by students, faculty, and parents.

In addition to the environment created by teachers and staff, school administrators have worked to ensure that the school is one that is clean and comfortable. Music is played in the hallways during class change to create a calming and pleasant atmosphere. Inspirational messages painted on the walls add a culture of positivity, and those messages convey the high expectations the school has for students.

Ridgeview Charter Middle School stands out as a success story in public education. In his principal's message on the school's website, Principal Blackwell made his formal title "Proud Principal". With such an exceptional review by the National Forum, he and the entire Ridgeview Charter Middle School family certainly should feel proud of the school, its faculty and staff, and most of all, the outstanding student body.

CHRISTINA VARGAS RECEIVES
THE CHANCELLOR'S EXCEL-
LENCE AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Christina Vargas for receiving the Chancellor's Excellence Award from Texas State Technical College in Fort Bend County.

A Rosenberg native, Christina has been at TSTC for two years and currently serves as the Assistant Director of Enrollment Management. The Chancellor's Excellence Award is given to employees who are recommended by their peers and exhibit TSTC's core values of Excellence, Accountability, Service and Integrity. Christina was one of only 35 recipients from across the state to earn this award. Through her time at TSTC, Christina has helped and inspired her coworkers and students alike.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Christina Vargas on receiving the Chancellor's Excellence Award. I thank her for her dedication to our students.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHMOND
BELL, RECIPIENT OF THE
FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Richmond Bell as he is awarded the French Legion of Honor, 75 years after bravely serving in the United States Army at the Battle of Normandy.

At only 18 years old, Mr. Bell enlisted in the 29th Infantry in 1943. After many members of his regiment lost their lives on D-Day, Mr. Bell, along with 14 other soldiers, were sent to France in an essential support effort of the remaining American Troops.

While serving on the frontlines each day for more than six weeks, Mr. Bell fought with courage and dedication to his country. He continuously risked his life for the war effort and the safety of his fellow soldiers.

In December of 1945, Mr. Bell returned to his hometown of Wellfleet, Massachusetts, honorably discharged with three Purple Hearts. A lifetime resident of the town, Mr. Bell is a beloved and respected member of the Wellfleet community. He is the son of the town doctor and a former paperboy for the Cape Cod Standard. Mr. Bell, now "semi-retired," lives with his wife Gail. He has 5 children, four step-children and 26 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Richmond Bell for his dedication to his country. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking him for his immense bravery and valiant efforts through a critical time in our nation's history.

INTRODUCTION OF SAILORS ACT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise with my fellow co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional Ukraine Caucus to introduce the SAILORS ACT, or the "Stopping Aggressive Incursions on Liberty by Ordering Russian Sanctions Act."

This bill would direct the Administration to sanction 24 senior officers of the Russian Federal Security Service and its border patrol until it releases all 24 Ukrainian sailors and the three vessels it illegally seized in the Kerch Strait on November 25, 2018.

On that day, an unprovoked Russia brazenly fired upon and took hostage 24 Ukrainians sailors in international waters. The sailors now languish in Russian prisons in Moscow under dire conditions.

Tragically, this is just the latest in a series of dangerous and malicious steps Russia has taken to undermine Ukraine's democratic progress and the international rules-based order.

Since illegally invading Crimea in 2014, Russia now seeks to tighten the noose around Ukrainian coastal waters including building a barrier in the Kerch Strait to starve Ukraine of vital naval commerce.

To date, Russia's illegal war in Eastern Ukraine has led to the death of over 10,000 innocents and the displacement of millions.

The international community must not stand idly by as Russia increases its aggression in Europe and its efforts to undermine democracies globally—including in the United States. The United States and the free world must continue to raise the costs of Russian aggression to protect those at the edge of liberty.

This bill sends a message to the Ukrainian sailors and their families that the American people have not forgotten their immense sacrifice and heroic struggle to protect their nation's democratic future. We call on Russia to

immediately release the Ukrainian sailors and safely return them back to Ukraine.

I urge my colleagues to join in this important effort and call for the bill's swift passage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDY BIGGS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I took care of family business and was in transit back to D.C. when the vote occurred.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 482.

HONORING THE STEPHEN F. AUSTIN UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S BOWLING TEAM 2019 NCAA DIVISION 1 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE WOMEN'S BOWLING CHAMPIONS

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, it is a great honor to celebrate with my fellow east Texans the outstanding accomplishment of the Stephen F. Austin University bowling team on winning the NCAA National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship this year.

Entering the NCAA tournament ranked sixth, the Ladyjacks demonstrated their hard work and determination to oust teams from Sam Houston State University, McKendree University, and University of Maryland Eastern Shore before facing off with the No. 1-ranked team, Vanderbilt University, in the final.

The final began looking like it would end in the Vanderbilt Commodores' favor. The Ladyjacks lost the first game but quickly recovered to win the second game and tie the match. They did not let the initial setback discourage their performance. Instead, it pushed them to play with more determination and skill. They went on to win each consecutive game, finishing the match with a 4-1 victory over Vanderbilt. These Ladyjacks demonstrated incredible focus and skill to clinch the National Championship.

It is an esteemed honor to pay tribute to the members of the 2019 NCAA Division 1 Women's Bowling National Champions: Paige Beeney, Dakotah Hazlewood, Amber Whitcomb, Megan Eaglehouse, Sarah Gill, Dakota Faichnie, Sarah Voiers, Annie Leihardt, Carlene Beyer, Head Coach Amber Lemke, Athletic Director Ryan Ivey, Loree McCary, Steven Lemke, Luke Bolanos, Ben Bibby, Mackenzie Wenger, Kira Rubin, and Kara Carpenter.

This is not just a feat for the bowling team but for the entire university. It is the second national championship in the school's history as a NCAA Division I contender. Furthermore, both national championships were clinched within the past four years. This speaks highly of the hard work and dedication of the men and women and the excellent coaching staff at Stephen F. Austin University.

It is with great pride that I join with all of east Texas in congratulating the Ladyjacks

bowling team on their NCAA Division I National Championship. May God continue to bless these consummate first class competitors, along with their families, friends and neighbors in east Texas. This outstanding accomplishment is now preserved in the RECORD which will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF CECIL'S DELICATESSEN

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th anniversary of Cecil's Delicatessen in Saint Paul, Minnesota. On July 1, 1949, Cecil and Faye Glickman opened the doors for the first time to hungry Saint Paul customers. Seven decades later, Cecil's is a landmark destination for Highland Park neighbors and international visitors alike.

In the early days, Cecil and Faye Glickman were among a large number of Saint Paul Jewish families operating restaurants and delicatessens. Today, Cecil's remains as the only traditional deli in the city. This long record of success is due to its loyal customers' love of Cecil's made-from-scratch dishes, baked goods and high-quality imported products served up each day by friendly, hardworking and dedicated staff.

Family has always been the key ingredient to success for four generations. In 1980, Cecil and Faye's daughter Sheila and her husband David Leventhal bought the deli from her parents when they decided to retire. Sheila still takes orders and David balances the books. In addition, Sheila and David's children and even grandchildren work around the deli, alongside many other longtime employees. Governors, movie stars and regular folks young and old have been served delicious Jewish delicacies and family creations by the Glickmans and Leventhals. In fact, there used to be a saying in Highland Park that a baby's first three words were mama, papa, and Cecil's.

Walking through the front door at Cecil's transports customers back to an earlier time. With its black and white parquet floors, diner style red chairs, and deli counter piled high with corned beef, potato salad, and a plethora of delicacies, Cecil's serves up delicious food with a perfect-sized side of nostalgia. While the menu has expanded to more than 150 items, one thing that has remained the same is the attention to detail, great food and service.

All of these ingredients come together to make Cecil's one of Saint Paul's most beloved places to relax and get a bite to eat with friends and neighbors. Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 70th anniversary of Cecil's Delicatessen.

RECOGNIZING BIG RIVER CHAUTAUQUA

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Big River Chautauqua,

celebrating its 25th year in Bonne Terre, Missouri. It's the longest-running privately-funded Chautauqua west of the Mississippi River. Named for Chautauqua Lake where the first event was held in New York in the mid-1920's, the Big River Chautauqua has been designated by the Missouri Humanities Council as an outstanding example of interactive learning.

It's held in a big white tent outside city hall and since 1995, Chautauqua has brought together hundreds of people to see history come to life each night. Scholar-Actors have told tales of the Founding Fathers; great authors and showmen; and heroes, heroines and outlaws of the Old West. Appreciative audiences have seen Civil War generals and Anything-But-Civil Politicians who told their life stories in the first person.

Founded by Joe Layden and Sherry Greminger, the entire event is organized, planned and led by volunteers. That includes the Chautauqua Singers who set each character in their time of life by singing the songs of the era they lived. And all the entertainment is free.

Community Spirit is the foundation of Chautauqua and the secret to its success. It is my great pleasure to celebrate the Big River Chautauqua of Bonne Terre, Missouri today before the United States House of Representatives.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PETOSKEY PLASTICS

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the 50th anniversary of Petoskey Plastics. Through its trusted service, innovation, and commitment to environmental sustainability and community investment, Petoskey Plastics has become an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

Petoskey Plastics, Inc. was founded in 1969, initially composed of five employees and a single machine converting film into plastic bags. Over the following 50 years, it would grow to become the successful local institution it is today. With more than 400 associates, 500,000 square feet of manufacturing space, and 47 countries served, Petoskey Plastics is a prime example of the entrepreneurial spirit found in the state of Michigan.

The company first began its recycling program in 1978, and it has not stopped thinking green since. Its innovative Closed Loop program allows partnering companies to reduce their carbon footprint and avoid needless plastic waste, resulting in more than 30 million pounds of plastic film recycled annually. Each year its associates participate in regular Toys for Tots drives, donate to the Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan, and take part in multiple other charity events and fundraisers. Day after day, Petoskey Plastics continues to set a positive example of what can be achieved when the people of a company work together for the common good.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Petoskey Plastics and its associates for 50 years of success, service, and community investment. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such