

High School Rifle Team on their victories as the 2020 PIAA 3 Position Smallbore Rifle Champions, Air Rifle Champions, and Prone Champions.

The top four shooters, as well as one alternate in Smallbore and Air Rifle, were selected to compete in the statewide competition hosted by the Meyersdale Rifle Team. The 3 Position Smallbore and Air Rifle teams were declared state champions after the weekend-long event. This is the fourth consecutive state championship title for 3 Position Smallbore and the second consecutive state championship Air Rifle Title.

The 2020 Everett High School Rifle Team consists of 19 athletes from Everett Area School District and Bedford Area School District, including: Boyd Becker, Jesse Chamberlain, Travis Kendall, Allison Klavuhn, Joseph Kovach, Deegan Ramsey, Abigale Rose, Claudia Sigel, Evan Sigel, Abby Walters, Rylee Weaverling, Morgan White, CJ Humbertson, Emily Kendall, Layni Miller, Ava Penatzer, Matthew Semanek, Sam Sheppard, and Gracie Walters.

The students were coached by Coltin Rice, Ethan Cessna, Lynn Whetstone, George Kuhne, Denver Deremer, Dave Eppinger, Ken Ritchey, Cindy Ritchey, Mark Donahoe, Dan Klavuhn, and Angie Klavuhn.

On behalf of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, I congratulate these students and their coaches on a successful season and wish them every continued success.

#### COMMEMORATING LEE COUNTY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Lee County, Kentucky's 115th county established on March 1, 1870.

Nestled in Kentucky's Appalachian region, legendary explorers like Dr. Thomas Walker and Daniel Boone are among the first recorded frontiersmen in Lee County and the Three Forks area, a land rich with beautiful hillsides and streams serving as an undisturbed habitat for wildlife and premier hunting. Some of the earliest successful industries were birthed from natural resources on the land, including pine tar, saltpeter, coal mining, and oil and timber operations, connecting this small Appalachian community to the U.S. Navy, the Great Lakes and the nation's energy grid. For many years, the Three Forks Region served as an economic hub in Eastern Kentucky with access to the Kentucky River and railroads to transport timber, coal and oil.

Utilizing former coalfields and the Daniel Boone National Forest, which covers much of the region, Lee County offers premier territory for the tourism industry. In fact, the Beattyville Coal Seam will soon serve as a starting point for challenging hiking and mountain biking trails, leading visitors and residents through a beautiful autumn canopy and the unique limestone cliffs that draw countless rock climbers from around the world.

Among all of the resources in Lee County's 150-year history, the very best resource has been local residents. The people of Lee Coun-

ty have proven to be resilient and loyal, innovative and resourceful, exhibiting the enduring compassion and charm that draws visitors to our unique corner of the world. Over the last two decades, volunteers from across the county have dedicated time and energy to the Eastern Kentucky PRIDE organization, enhancing the environment and restoring the beauty of our hillsides and streams. Likewise, through joint local, state and federal efforts, we have been able to expand access to clean water and sanitary sewer for residents and businesses over the last 40 years, paving the way for new industry and job creation. Since 2003, countless volunteers have partnered with Operation UNITE to combat the deadly drug abuse epidemic in Eastern Kentucky, promoting prevention in our schools and connecting families to critical recovery resources and support. Through SOAR—Shaping Our Appalachian Region, we continue to work together toward innovative solutions to diversify our economy, expand access to high-performing broadband in every community, and pave a brighter future for upcoming generations.

Finally, any time I think of Lee County, I'm reminded that it is the homeplace of highly respected war heroes, like the late retired Army Major General Charles Beach, Junior, as well as outstanding individuals, like Will Smith, my former Chief of Staff and Staff Director on the House Appropriations Committee, who served as my long-time advisor. Many sons and daughters of Lee County have risen up among the ranks to help lead this great Nation and I'm confident that the same will be true over the next century. Being mindful of the challenges and successes that have written the story of Lee County's past, I am certain that the best days are ahead, and I join the entire community in this 150-year celebration.

#### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT SAMUEL J. HARRIS

#### HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the memory of Lieutenant Samuel J. Harris, who was born Christmas Eve, 1896 in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania to a veteran of the US Civil War. When Samuel J. Harris was first called away to service, he was enrolled at Dickinson College.

In 1916, he served as a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard on the U.S. Army's Pancho Villa Expedition in Mexico. Shortly after Harris returned home in 1917, the United States entered the First World War. Harris then enlisted as a private, this time in the 112th Infantry Regiment. Already a sergeant during training, Harris was selected for Officer Candidate School and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, his unit becoming part of the 28th Infantry Division.

Serving in France, the regiment saw combat during the crucial Second Battle of the Marne and fought with great distinction throughout the war. Unlike his fellow veterans who returned to civilian life after the end of the first World War, Harris returned to Europe.

In 1918 the new Lithuanian Republic had to defend itself against a collection of the czarist,

Bolshevik, German and Polish forces all trying to suppress the new nation. The many Lithuanian-American organizations of the era began to raise funds to send recently returned veterans to defend the newly liberated nation. Some 10,000 U.S. veterans eventually went to aid their ancestral homeland.

Despite not being of Lithuanian ancestry, but perhaps inspired by President Wilson's bold view of freedom and self-determination for the nations, Harris again volunteered. In 1919 as part of the Lithuanian American Brigade, First Lieutenant Samuel J. Harris left home for the final time to assist Lithuania to defend her newly declared independence.

The first officer of his unit to arrive in Lithuania, Harris was active by the late autumn of 1919 and had led the attack against the Bermanite's Iron Division during its retreat from the Baltic Republics. His death occurred on February 24, 1920 during a Communist-instigated mutiny of young officers in Kaunas. The only member of his Brigade to lose his life in the attack, Lieutenant Harris was initially laid to rest in the nearby Kaunas Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery during a funeral with full Lithuanian military honors.

He was posthumously awarded the Cross of Vytis, the Lithuanian nation's highest decoration for bravery.

In 1923, a street in the Aleksotas District of Kaunas was named after Lieutenant Harris. The street name was changed in 1946 by Soviet authorities but was reinstated in 1993. Lieutenant Harris's body was later transported to the United States and reburied at Arlington National Cemetery.

The verse on the marble monument over his grave bears a Vytis over the inscription: "Erected by the Lithuanians and sons and daughters of Lithuanians in America and dedicated in loving memory of Lieutenant Samuel J. Harris who died fighting for the freedom of Lithuania."

Let us never forget individuals like Lieutenant Harris who have made the ultimate sacrifice so that the light of liberty throughout the world continues to shine brightly.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MIKE JOHNSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during votes on Wednesday, February 26, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 71—H.R. 35; YEA on Roll Call No. 72—H.R. 4852; and YEA on Roll Call No. 73—H.R. 2490.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I apologize but I was unavoidably detained during the final passage vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 78.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. THOMAS MASSIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. MASSIE. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 77 and NAY on Roll Call No. 78.

## REBUILD AMERICA'S SCHOOLS

**HON. ANDY LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, every student should have access to a high-quality public education in a safe environment, regardless of area code. But right now, many students are educated in outdated and crumbling buildings.

Take the Mt. Clemens Consolidated Schools District in Macomb County, Michigan. The student body is majority-black, and 84 percent of students qualify for free and reduced lunch. Mt. Clemens educators and students work extremely hard to be successful in the classroom, but they are doing so in a nearly 100 year-old building, with the newest addition over 50 years old.

Wealthy districts and those serving predominantly white students can spend much more on capital improvements than their high-poverty counterparts. What if Mt. Clemens could make the infrastructure and technological updates that the wealthy school districts in Metro Detroit can afford?

This Public School's Week, I urge my colleagues to pass the Rebuild America's Schools Act so that every school can make 21st century updates to their buildings and ensure America's children can learn in the best environments.

## HONORING RABBI ADIN EVEN-ISRAEL STEINSALTZ

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the completion of the English-edition Koren Talmud Bavli series by Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz.

Born in 1937, Rabbi Steinsaltz has authored more than 60 books, and hundreds of articles on Jewish mysticism, religious thought, sociology, and philosophy. His most famous work is his interpretation of the Talmud, the formative piece of Jewish culture, and he is the first person since medieval times to have completed a full translation and commentary on the Babylonian Talmud.

As of last year, all 46 volumes of the Koren Talmud Bavli, an English edition of the definitive Steinsaltz Hebrew Talmud, have been

published. The debut volumes of the Steinsaltz Talmud gained critical acclaim, and by the end of last year, the final two volumes have been published.

I was pleased to join Rabbi Steinsaltz's son, Rabbi Meni Even-Israel, and members of the Aleph Society to mark the complete series entering the Library of Congress. As the nation's preeminent library, it is truly an honor for Rabbi Steinsaltz's work to be housed in the Library of Congress.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY CONTEST 2020 GRADES 9 THROUGH 12

**HON. A. DONALD MCEACHIN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. MCEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize exemplary middle and high school students from Virginia's Fourth Congressional District who were selected as winners of the Black History Month essay contest I hosted earlier this month. I am inspired by the words of these students, and I encourage young people across our country to reflect on what this month means to them personally.

Since its creation less than 50 years ago, Black History Month has been a time to honor and recognize the remarkable achievements of the African-American community. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these distinguished students and their accomplishments in celebration of Black History Month.

I include in the RECORD JyMir Starks' winning essay:

(By JyMir Starks)

Black History Month was an extension upon Negro History Week, which was created in 1926 by notable historian, Carter G. Woodson; President Gerald Ford recognized February as the designated month for the celebration of Black people in 1976. Nearly six years shy of the centennial anniversary of Black History Week and the semi-centennial anniversary of Black History Month, the goals of both Carter G. Woodson and Gerald Ford have been accomplished to an extent. I say all this because for twenty-eight or twenty-nine days out of the year there is a new depth added to the Black experience within America.

There is a common misconception among many that Black History Month is in February because it is the shortest month. When I was younger, I was one of the many. This led me to do my own research when I saw someone make this claim, and I found the true history of the month. This month was chosen to honor Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey, more commonly known as Frederick Douglass, and President Abraham Lincoln. This began my delve into the rich history and culture of Black Americans; my ignorance had developed into an insatiable thirst for the knowledge of my people. Understanding, analyzing, and researching Black history is not something that I do for the second month of the year, only to

wait another eleven months before I repeat the cycle. It is the month of February that is used to spread what I have learned throughout my life in order to instill a sense of pride and admiration within my fellow Black Americans. The last few Februaries I have shared whatever trinket of knowledge that I've collected over the course of the year, with a fact regarding a certain historical figure or event pertaining to Black or African history for each day of the month. This year I've taken to sharing and learning with my potential classmates, who will be attending Howard University, in the upcoming fall of 2020. This has been beneficial because the ideals of community are placed on full display by this continuous exchange of information because each fact is more gratifying than the last.

Along with the sense of community that is established through the exchange of information and knowledge, there is the joy that comes from Black enterprise. Social media has made connecting with others the easiest it has ever been in human history. This allows for Black-owned businesses to reach consumers across the globe. Black entrepreneurs and other enterprising individuals have used platforms like Twitter to expand their brands and network with other businessmen and women. In February there is an explosion of Black enterprise with a myriad of products being placed on sale. This further strengthens the idea of community because investing in the business of another Black American allows for one to help aid in the quest to establish Black wealth or at least financial security. This also sparks immense joy because supporting Black-owned businesses fills me with a deep sense of pride. I enjoy Black History Month because it has been the setting that has taught me about the history of Black enterprise; I enjoy Black History Month in the twenty-first century because I am able to participate in Black enterprise efficiently and effectively.

Black History Month also opens up the doors of Hampton Roads. Hampton Roads is a region with many historical Black locations from Hampton down to Suffolk. Luckily for me, I am able to visit these cities and attend the events that they are planning to host. I love the ability to share a laugh and create a memory with my family as we adventure out into Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Portsmouth, Newport News, or Chesapeake. There is never a shortage of things to do to honor, celebrate, recognize, or appreciate one's heritage during February, and for that I am truly grateful because it is vital that Black people of all ages and walks of life are able to love themselves and love others.

The main joy that comes to me during Black History Month is the feeling of community that accompanies the month. I am truly able to be around friends and family and enjoy their presence. During the month of February, Black people are energized, and their communities give them the chance to appreciate their backgrounds. This month is more than a few names from a history textbook, but is essential to reaffirming the idea that Blackness is not only acceptable, but also Beautiful.