

this world". And impact the world, she will. Jaylynn has been a fearless leader and advocate for her fellow students, initiating the creation of a mental health room at her high school that allows students and faculty to have a safe space to de-stress from school.

On behalf of myself and our proud West Michigan community, I applaud Jaylynn for her hard work and cheer her on as she embarks on her college career at the University of Notre Dame, studying pre-law and economics as a first-generation college student. There is no doubt that her future is bright and that she will go on to become an influential changemaker, making West Michigan proud.

RECOGNIZING HAILEY ALTOREI

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hailey Altorei for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Hailey has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Hailey, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Hailey's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K-8 and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Hailey Altorei on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

CONGRATULATING TOM FANNING ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM SOUTHERN COMPANY

HON. RICK W. ALLEN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Tom Fanning on his retirement after more than four decades of service to Southern Company and its customers in my region.

Tom Fanning was named President of Southern Company in August of 2010, and assumed the additional roles of Chairman and CEO four months later. During his time at Southern Company, Tom held executive roles across various business disciplines, including finance, strategy, international business development, and technology. As President, Chairman, and CEO, he received numerous awards and accolades, including being named one of the most influential leaders in the energy industry in the past 25 years.

Under Tom's visionary leadership, Southern Company led the way in providing clean, safe, reliable, and affordable energy to its customers. Tom's tenure was characterized by his boundless energy and his strong commitment to innovation and the development of new energy technologies to meet the challenges of the future. During his tenure, Southern achieved a number of remarkable milestones, most notably completion of the first new nu-

clear generation unit in the United States in three decades at Plant Vogtle in Georgia's 12th District.

Tom also became one of our country's leading voices in the area of cybersecurity. For nearly a decade, he served as co-chair of the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council, which is the principal liaison between the federal government and the electric power sector protecting the electric grid from threats. Fanning's leadership was recognized by the U.S. Senate in 2019 with an appointment to the Cyberspace Solarium Commission, a group charged with developing a strategy to protect the cyberspace interests of the U.S. He was also appointed by the White House to serve as chairman of the advisory board to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with protecting the Nation's critical infrastructure from both cyber and physical threats.

Although he is stepping down from his role at Southern Company, I know Tom will continue to be active on the many issues about which he is passionate. I salute him for his extraordinary service, and I wish him and his family all the best in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING NEVAEH CASTANEDA-HURTADO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nevaeh Castaneda-Hurtado for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Nevaeh has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Nevaeh, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Nevaeh's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Nevaeh Castaneda-Hurtado on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PEO WEEK

HON. ERIN HOUCHIN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National PEO Week, which starts May 19 and ends May 25, 2024.

National PEO Week will celebrate the important contributions of the professional employer organization (PEO) industry, which provides payroll, employee benefits, compliance assistance, and HR services to hundreds of thousands of small and mid-sized businesses that employ more than 4.5 million people.

PEOs play a critical role in helping businesses grow and thrive, during good times

and bad. PEOs help their small business clients grow 7–9 percent faster, have employee turnover that is 10–14 percent lower, and are 50 percent less likely to go out of business than businesses that do not use a PEO.

PEOs help small businesses improve productivity and profitability and focus on their core mission. Through a PEO, the employees of small businesses gain access to important employee benefits such as: 401(k) plans; health, dental, life, and other insurance; dependent care; and other benefits they might not typically receive as employees of a small company.

I know the value that PEOs provide. Before coming to Congress, I worked for a PEO and witnessed the positive impact they had on small businesses in my home state of Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the PEO industry for all they do to help our Nation's small businesses and their employees prosper.

RECOGNIZING VERLA THOMAS GETTING HER FATHER A PURPLE HEART MEDAL 100 YEARS AFTER HE WAS WOUNDED IN WWI

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the commitment of my constituent Verla Thomas in getting her father, the late Corporal George Wills of Spring Lake, a Purple Heart medal over 100 years after he was shot and wounded in World War I. I also commend Dr. Chris Petras for his continued research and efforts to help West Michiganders secure such medals from the Army.

Dr. Chris Petras has dedicated much of his time to researching Company F Grand Haven WWI soldiers. His work has led to 20 Purple Hearts being awarded to veterans, a feat that deserves recognition and applause. As a member of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 28 Grand Haven, Dr. Petras got his start in 2019 when he sought out to learn more about a significant figure in the post, Charles A. Conklin. After digging through National Archives documents, military documents, and numerous publications, he sent over the information he found for review to the U.S. Army who then affirmed Conklin's eligibility for the Purple Heart. Dr. Chris Petras' determination in ensuring these soldiers are recognized for their sacrifice and service is truly admirable.

I had the great honor of working alongside Dr. Petras to help Verla Thomas acquire the posthumous Purple Heart medal and WWI Victory medal for her father's service. Several members of the military, veterans, and local residents attended the award ceremony in honor of her father's legacy. It was a truly touching moment to present Verla with these awards. She serves as an inspiration for my team and our district as we seek to give others the recognition they deserve.

RECOGNIZING NOAH COX

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Noah Cox for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Noah has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Noah, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Noah's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K-8 and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Noah Cox on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call No. 116 on April 12, 2024. Had I been present, my vote would have been Nay.

COMMEMORATING GRAND RIVER PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR WINNING AP PROGRAM AWARDS

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence of Grand River Preparatory, a High School of Michigan's Third Congressional District. I commend the faculty at this high school for their dedication, perseverance, and performance. They were recently awarded with the 2023 AP Honor Roll Platinum Award and the 2023 AP Access Award for their ability to go above and beyond in making college preparatory resources accessible to students.

These awards are given to schools in which the percentage of underrepresented and low-income students involved with the school's AP Program is the same or greater than the percentage of underrepresented students in the school's graduating class. In 2023, over 4,000 schools participated in the consideration of this award. On behalf of myself and our West Michigan community, I applaud Grand River Preparatory for becoming the only high school in Michigan to achieve this major accomplishment.

The Grand River Preparatory High School has been a constant example of excellence by outperforming peers in surrounding schools by 3.5 months each year, according to research done by Stanford University. The school's teachers, students and employees have worked tirelessly to assure that all students can pursue their dreams in an equitable way.

Mr. Speaker, once more I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Grand River Preparatory High School. There is no doubt that these young students have a prosperous future ahead of them.

RECOGNIZING GABRIEL SANCHEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gabriel Sanchez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Gabriel has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Gabriel, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Gabriel's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Gabriel Sanchez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

OPPOSING H.R. 6603 AND H.R. 5826

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise concerning my votes on H.R. 6603 and H.R. 5826 on April 16, 2024.

With regard to H.R. 6603, I fully support the use of the Foreign Direct Product Rule to restrict Iran's ability to develop weapons technologies, especially technologies used by Iran for its April 2024 attack on Israel. However, H.R. 6603 would represent a counterproductive restriction of the flexibility that has enabled the Commerce Department to effectively restrict Iran's access to materials and technology that can be used to produce drones and missiles. While I have no concerns about expanding the application of the Foreign Direct Product Rule to include the additional categories enumerated within the bill, I believe this expansion must be done in coordination with U.S. partners to avoid creating an outcome that hurts our allies without addressing Iranian proliferation. This bill would threaten relationships with key partners, including the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and others that have allowed the United States to effectively counter malign actions by the Iranian government and I voted no as a result.

With regard to H.R. 5826, I voted no out of concern that Section 8 of the bill could result in reciprocal actions from Iran to restrict the travel of Iranians to the United States—preventing asylum-seekers and others from escaping Iran's authoritarian government. The bill would additionally prevent thousands of Iranian Americans from being able to visit family in Iran and similarly restrict visas by journalists, educators, and other visitors who contribute to positive connections between the people of Iran and the outside world. I also

oppose provisions in Section 6 of H.R. 5826 that would break with decades of diplomatic precedent and undermine U.S. capacity to negotiate with Iran by restricting how Iranian government officials can travel to the United States to attend meetings at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

HONORING KARL KREISER FOR 28 YEARS OF COACHING AT COLUMBIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Karl Kreiser on his retirement after serving as a coach to Columbia High School Basketball for 28 years.

Karl served a total of seventeen years as the Girls Varsity Head Coach, while also coaching the varsity boys' team for four years and acting as the skipper for the boys' junior high team for an additional seven years.

Karl followed in the footsteps of his father, Elmer Kreiser, the Columbia Boys Basketball Coaching legend who established the program's legacy across the Commonwealth.

Respected on and off the court, Karl's coaching was defined by his mentorship. The focal point of his leadership was ensuring his players knew the importance of giving back to the people in the community.

The legacy of Coach Karl Kreiser is displayed all around the Crimson Tide gymnasium in the form of banners and trophies adorning the walls. Over his nearly three decades of coaching, Karl won 431 games. In his last four seasons with the Girls Varsity Team, Columbia won three section crowns, a league title, while making it to four district championships, and three state playoffs.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Coach Karl Kreiser on a remarkable career and wish him well as he begins his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING ADRIIONNA HIGUERA MARTINEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Adriionna Higuera Martinez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Adriionna has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Adriionna, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Adriionna's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Adriionna Higuera Martinez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.