

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL  
COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Collegiate Honors Council on their 50th anniversary. The National Collegiate Honors Council serves over 325,000 honors scholars at over 800 colleges and universities, including Broward College in my district. Created in 1982, Broward College's Robert Elmore Honors Institute supports over 1,200 honor students annually.

Sixteen students from the college have been awarded the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, the second highest total in the Nation. Many of these scholarship recipients have gone on to be successful thinkers, working for companies such as Facebook.

In the words of founding director Dr. Mary Jo Henderson, "The essential worth of our honors programs is not resulting scholarship or award but the experience itself". I commend Broward College and the National Collegiate Honors Council for creating an experience that cultivates the leaders of tomorrow.

ESSAY BY EMILY JUE

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Emily Jue attends Clear Springs High School in League City, Texas. The essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past year and explain how that event has changed/shaped our country.

An important event that occurred this past year was the legalization of same-sex marriage throughout the country. Thousands of Americans gathered in Washington D.C. to hear the ruling of the Supreme Court on same-sex marriage. On June 26, 2015 the Supreme Court declared through a vote of 5-4 that all Americans would be able to marry nationwide, no matter their gender or sexual orientation. This ruling made the United States the twenty-first country to legalize same-sex marriage and specifically affected thirteen states that had a ban on same-sex marriage. This momentous event brought a new civil right to the United States and a victory to gay rights advocates.

The legalization of same-sex marriage has changed our country by offering the privi-

lege of marriage to couples that are not the traditional "male and female" couples. Marriage offers a promise of love and commitment within couples and through the legalization of same-sex marriage, couples of the same-sex are able to give the same commitment and love that traditional male and female couples are able to give. The legalization of same-sex marriage in the United States also represents acceptance and equality to those in the LGBTQ community by offering these people the same civil rights as other citizens in the country have. By giving this fundamental freedom to couples of the same-sex, the United States is able to offer equality to all couples regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

The legalization of same-sex marriage has also changed our country by normalizing and bringing acceptance to those of the LGBTQ community. By allowing people in the LGBTQ community to marry, the United States fosters a sense of acceptance to these people who are sometimes treated with disrespect and contempt. Through accepting same-sex marriage, the United States accepts those in the LGBTQ community which is a step towards the equality for all people and has had momentous impacts on the United States. By legalizing same-sex marriage, the United States moves one step closer to equality for all people, regardless of gender or orientation, and offers a beacon of hope to those in the LGBTQ community and a means for acceptance.

TRIBUTE TO SOPHIA S. AHMAD

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sophia S. Ahmad for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

Sophia is the vice president of public relations at the Greater Des Moines Partnership and works tirelessly to develop and promote the overall image of Central Iowa. Her work proves that Central Iowa is a perfect place to build a business, career, and a family. Sophia is among the most dedicated leaders in the community. She has volunteered her time to the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute's Curriculum Committee, Winefest Des Moines' Grand Cru, Couture for a Cause, and a number of other local volunteer organizations. Not only does Sophia dedicate herself to her work and her community, in her spare time she likes to play piano, because she's a professionally trained classical pianist.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Sophia in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents

to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Sophia on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

FOURTH DISTRICT OF COLORADO  
DELEGATES AT THE CONGRESS  
OF FUTURE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LEADERS

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize nine high school students from the fourth district of Colorado, who have been chosen to represent the state of Colorado as delegates at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. The students are Christine Evans of Lyons Middle-Senior High School, Benjamin Gryboski of Dayspring Christian Academy, Brandon Lelievre of Windsor High School, Alessandra Linero of Chaparral High School, Crystal Pike of Valley High School, Courtney Ross of Yuma High School, Hannah Spain of Douglas County High School, Sara Stavaski of Rock Canyon High School, and Hanna Storey of Douglas County High School.

The Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders is an honors program that recognizes exceptional high school students who are pursuing careers as engineers, scientists, or technologists.

These students are the future leaders of the STEM fields and our country. Through their studies, they have embodied the meaning of hard work and perseverance to achieve their goals, and will advance science and technology for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to recognize these nine students for their hard work and service to their community. I wish them luck in their future endeavors.

HONORING CARR'S STEAKHOUSE

**HON. ED WHITFIELD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carr's Steakhouse in Mayfield, Kentucky, on receiving the National Restaurant Association's "Restaurant Neighbor Award." This award was established to honor restaurants in the field of outstanding community service and involvement. Carr's Steakhouse is among four national winners to receive this award during a gala dinner tonight here in Washington, D.C.

Though the Carr family has had extensive ties to the community through their BBQ business in town for more than 60 years, Carr's Steakhouse is only six years old but already has an impressive record of giving back. The restaurant hosts an All-Kids-In event that raises funds to assist children enrolling in youth sports and activities, regardless of a

family's ability to pay. They also donate excess food to local homeless shelters; provide meals for the area's high school football teams; partner with community and school groups to host fundraisers as well as the community's Empty Bowls Project to support local food pantries.

Carr's Steakhouse sees community involvement as a win-win for the restaurant as well as the community. This was exhibited recently when General Manager, Daniel Carr, hosted a fundraiser for Princess Theaters of Mayfield. Saddled with outdated amenities and technology, the theater was struggling to stay afloat and in desperate need of upgrades. Carr decided he wanted to do more than raise money—he wanted to send a strong message to the theater's owner that the community was behind them. The response was overwhelming when Carr provided a free meal for a donation to the movie theater. In just a few hours, the 200-seat restaurant raised more than \$5,000 to be used for stadium seating and digital projectors.

This is just one of several examples of Carr's Steakhouse going above and beyond to help their community. Businesses such as Carr's Steakhouse make me proud to represent the First Congressional District of Kentucky and I am pleased they are receiving the recognition they deserve for their ongoing commitment to the community.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF BEN SLADE FROM THE ST. SIMONS LAND TRUST

**HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ben Slade and all of his accomplishments as Executive Director of the St. Simons Land Trust.

Over the last 11 years, the St. Simons Land Trust has worked to preserve land on St. Simons Island, Georgia, which is home to 12,000 residents, a multitude of marshes, creeks, rivers, and fish, as well as the endangered North Atlantic Right Whale. The Land Trust works with willing property owners to preserve the beautiful land of this region and its significance to Georgia's natural habitat.

Mr. Slade has worked with the St. Simons Land Trust since its inception, leading the company from a small group to an organization that now includes 1,250 member households and 776 acres of land. During his time with the organization, Mr. Slade's numerous accomplishments have been critical to the environmental success of the island. One of his most important accomplishments was his leadership in the purchase of the 604 acre Cannon's Point area on St. Simons—the last intact maritime forest on the island.

Over Mr. Slade's career, he has continuously worked to aid the St. Simons community including his time as the Chairman and CEO

of the First Federal Savings Bank of Brunswick, the founding Chair of Habitat for Humanity of Glynn County, and President of the Chamber of Commerce.

Later this year, Mr. Slade will retire as the Executive Director of the St. Simons Land Trust. I rise today to recognize his effort and accomplishments in bettering the island of St. Simons and wish him the best with his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO ZACHARY BALES-HENRY

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Zachary Bales-Henry for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

Zachary serves as a real estate broker at RE/MAX Precision, a firm he started with his business partner, and works tirelessly to provide outstanding customer service to his clients throughout the home buying process. Zachary's resume outside of his professional life is just as impressive. He has started his own foundation that is dedicated to providing scholarships for students with learning disabilities. Zachary was also recently elected to the Windsor Heights City Council, where he continues his dedication to community involvement and improving the lives of others.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Zachary in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Zachary on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

CUBA-U.S. RELATIONS BY EMILY GUENTHER

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Emily Guenther attends Dawson High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is Cuba-U.S. Relations.

The United States and Cuba severed relations in 1961 because of speculation that the Cuban government could not be trusted. At that time, Fidel Castro established trade ties with the Soviet Union amid rumors that the U.S. was using the embassy for spies, which caused tension between the two. And for more than 50 years the conflict between the two countries has continued.

But in July of 2015, Cuba and The United States re-established relations and opened embassies in Havana and Washington D.C. This event has triggered much debate; with many Americans believing that this is an opportunity to regain trust with Cuba and open new areas of growth. This has been a hot topic in Washington because of the different views and opinions from both sides.

Many favor renewed relations as positive step, especially for the people along the coast with many immigrants settling in places such as Florida. They also argue that with mutual cooperation on issues such as exploration for oil, and increased trade and tourism, this can be a large boost of economy that will be crucial in the building of ties with Cuba.

Others have reacted more negatively and strongly oppose mending relations until numerous issues are addressed. Some find that Fidel Castro not being punished for his dictatorship and the lack of human rights is unfair for the citizens of Cuba.

After the new relations were addressed some things were changed quickly such as travel to and from Cuba becoming a lot easier, and few minor business deals being established. But as some relations have been established, most things remain the same; the embargo of trade with Cuba by the U.S. is still in place, which only Congress can change. And Cuba remains a communist government without free elections and still has questionable human rights issues that must be addressed. There continues to be much debate with little change since both embassies were established, and it will be difficult to undo relationships that have been hardened for many years.