

But as a testimony to the church's importance in the community and to the perseverance of the spirit of Louisiana, Wesley United Methodist was rebuilt in its current location.

Today, the Wesley United Methodist Church continues a proud tradition of service, fellowship, and ministry—as a church at the heart of the city, with the city at heart.

IN HONOR OF THE RECIPIENTS OF LOUDOUN COUNTY'S SHERIFF'S OFFICE MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the achievements of some of the 10th Congressional District's bravest constituents. The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office held their 2015 Awards and Recognition Ceremony on Friday, February 19th to recognize the daily services and sacrifices provided by our local law enforcement. Selected from America's finest, and nominated by their peers, the following award serves as a testament to each officer's unwavering courage and dedication to protecting our community. The following individuals deserve the thanks and appreciation of not only the communities which they serve, but also that of their elected officials.

The Meritorious Service Award recognizes exceptional performance by a member within the scope of normal responsibilities. The following individuals deserve special recognition: Detective Nicholas Altom, Investigator Julian Berger III, Deputy Joseph Hacay and Deputy First Class Daniel Martynowicz. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these exceptional members of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office for protecting and serving our community day-in and day-out.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF HECLA MINING COMPANY

HON. RAÚL R. LABRADOR

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary of Hecla Mining Company. Formed in 1891 for the purpose of acquiring and trading mining claims in north Idaho's Silver Valley mining district, Hecla is the last of this district's pioneer mining companies and is now the largest primary silver producer in the United States.

Over the past 125 years, Hecla has weathered numerous storms including the Panic of 1893, the Great Depression, and two world wars. Minerals produced by Hecla, such as zinc and lead, have played key roles in our national defense while silver is a key ingredient for solar voltaic cells and modern electronic and medical devices. These resources provide the raw materials needed for economic growth across a myriad of sectors.

Today, Hecla is a vital part of Idaho's economy and communities. Hecla employs 1,300

individuals and has provided over \$1.5 million to support education, youth activities, community health and infrastructure through its charitable foundation in recent years. Additionally, Hecla employees serve on local school boards, as EMTs, elected officials, and firemen.

I recently visited Hecla's Lucky Friday mine in Mullan, Idaho, and saw firsthand the state-of-the-art mining practices that are used to extract silver from deep in the earth. Hecla is currently taking the Lucky Friday mine to 10,000 feet below the surface to open up more than 20 years of additional resources. Hecla has maintained an uncompromising commitment to better mining and worker safety and plays an important role in meeting the nation's mineral demands. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this great milestone for Hecla Mining Company.

TRIBUTE TO HANNAH D. LARSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Hannah Larson of Minden, Iowa, for being awarded the Good Citizen Award by the Council Bluffs Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). Hannah is a senior at TriCenter High School in Neola, Iowa.

Hannah exhibited all of the talents and skills needed to qualify for this award. They include dependability, service to others, leadership, and patriotism. Judges took into consideration several areas in grading her application including high school achievement, home and community activities, future plans, extra-curricular activities, and good citizenship. A second requirement was to write an essay on Our American Heritage and Our Responsibility for Preserving It. The essay was to focus on American rights and freedoms and the rights she would select to celebrate. Hannah was chosen to advance and represent the Council Bluffs Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in the southwest Iowa district competition.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Hannah for earning this award. She is a shining example of the future of our youth. I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Hannah for her interest in preserving our rights and freedoms. I wish her continued success in all her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING COLTON KEY ON RECEIVING THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA'S EAGLE SCOUT RANK

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Colton Key, of Willard, Missouri, on his recent achievement of the Boy Scouts of America's (BSA) top rank of Eagle Scout.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America. It is the culmination of many years of hard work and dedication, requiring countless hours of service, training and learning. An extremely exclusive honor, less than two percent of the 112 million scouts since the BSA's founding in 1910 have achieved the Eagle Scout distinction.

Becoming an Eagle Scout requires a significant amount of determination and self-discipline, traits which will no doubt serve to make Colton a better employee, family member, and American throughout his life. To achieve the rank, he demonstrated active teamwork in his troop, underwent numerous wilderness training tests, dedicated time to his community, and has adhered to the BSA oath's reverence for character, citizenship, and personal wellness.

Mr. Speaker, by attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, Colton has set himself on the path to achieve future success, and I'm proud to count him among my constituents. His dedication in completing the required benchmarks and community service requirements to reach the Eagle Scout rank is indicative of his ability to accomplish whatever goals he sets his mind to. I wish Colton luck with all his future endeavors, and urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this momentous achievement.

GIRLS OF STEEL

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Girls of Steel robotics team on winning the Engineering Inspiration award at the 2016 Queen City Regional FIRST Robotics Competition in Cincinnati, Ohio. This is the most prestigious award at FIRST, and it honors the team that does the most to increase appreciation for engineering in its community and embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST.

The Girls of Steel also won the Entrepreneurship Award at the 2016 Greater Pittsburgh FIRST Robotics Competition in California, PA. This award recognizes the team that developed the best business plan to identify, manage, and accomplish its objectives.

I think that winning these awards speaks volumes to the dedication with which these young women are pursuing "STEM" careers, along with the hundreds of hours they have spent conducting outreach in their community.

FIRST, which stands for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology," is an organization dedicated to engaging our students in STEM fields. Hundreds of thousands of students gain practical, team-based engineering experience through FIRST every year. The FIRST Robotics Competition allows these students to apply creativity and critical thinking in the demanding and competitive field of robotics, all while instilling a strong sense of pride in participants.

As a founder and co-chair of the Congressional Robotics Caucus, I believe competitions like these are incredible tools for helping the next generation to explore potential careers in STEM. I've witnessed firsthand the incredible

economic growth and development that these fields can bring in my home district, and I strongly believe that they are crucial to our nation's future prosperity. For encouraging young people in these pursuits, I want to commend organizations like FIRST for their important work.

In addition to their success at these competitions, the Girls of Steel have also been featured in American Girl Life: Get Your Science On!, Xploration Earth 2050 "The Future of Robotics Makers and Innovators", and they will be featured this year in an original documentary series called "What We Teach Girls," which takes a close look at what girls are being taught around the globe. Recently, they even met with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at Carnegie Mellon University and had the opportunity to speak with her about the design of their robot and why they joined Girls of Steel.

Sixty-one young women from 8th through 12th grades associated with schools located in and around the Pittsburgh area are members of this year's Girls of Steel. In recognition of their hard work, intelligence, and teamwork, I would like to mention each of these inspiring young ladies by name. They are Alexandria Adams, Vishni Agrawal, Arushi Bandi, Margaret Begg, Emilia Bianchini, Kimball Bruning, Julia Bukowski, Emma Burnett, Melissa Burnett, Hanna Chen, Mulin Chen, Claire Cummings, Hope DiGioia, Samantha Eppinger, Clarisa Espinoza-Delgado, Rozie Fero, Corinne Hartman, Kristina Hilko, Sydney Hnat, Madelyn Human, Anna Jablonowski, Katelyn Johnson, Isabelle Kowenhoven, Jisue Lee, Sophia Lee, Shiyu Liu, Huiyun Liu, Sofia Liouvet-Nava, Gayathri Manchella, Jordan Martinez, Svea McCann, Sree Mekala, Cheyenne Meyers, Claire Morton, Gigi Nieson, Anne Kailin Northam, Jimin Oh, Maddie Oppelt, Helen Paulini, Lehka Pendyala, Eden Petri, Riley Pottinger, Priya Ray, Isabella Salvi, Lauren Scheller-Wolf, Cate Seay, Sarah Seay, Anzu Sekikawa, Alexa Selwood, Swathi Senthil, Kriti Shah, Makayla Shreve, Kavya Soman, JeanMarie Trichel, Mikayla Trost, Langley Turcsanyi, Molly Urbina, Anja Vogt, Becca Volk, Ziya Xu, and Natalie Young.

Additionally, I want to convey my sincere appreciation to the faculty and staff of Carnegie Mellon University's Field Robotics Center, who have mentored the Girls of Steel since 2010. Because of their efforts, more young women can experience real-world technological challenges and learn from some of the nation's best at solving these problems. These experiences will certainly benefit these young women in the future.

I look forward to hearing about their progress as they advance to the FIRST Championship in St. Louis—the final and largest competition of its kind, a.k.a. the Super Bowl of robotics. This will be their sixth consecutive trip in six years, and they will be competing against top teams from all over the world. I congratulate the Girls of Steel and wish them all continued success in their academic and professional endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF JUDGE SOL
BLATT, JR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the citizens of South Carolina are mourning the loss of one of its most respected judges with the death of Judge Sol Blatt, Jr., on April 20, 2016. He was nominated by President Richard M. Nixon. The Blatt family, of Russian-Jewish heritage, is beloved in Barnwell County for their dedicated service. His passing was recognized in an editorial in the Charleston Post and Courier on April 23, 2016:

Sol Blatt, Jr., earned his stellar reputation not for making big headlines but for his long tenure as a fair, courteous and intelligent federal judge—a standard that all judges should aspire to attain.

Judge Blatt practiced law in his native Barnwell for 25 years before 1971 when he was appointed a U.S. District Court judge in Charleston. He became a chief judge in 1986.

And in 2006, he became the longest-serving federal judge in South Carolina history.

In honor of that distinction the U.S. district judges in South Carolina signed a resolution naming the first-floor courtroom in Charleston's federal courthouse the Solomon Blatt Jr. Courtroom.

Would that every judge in that courtroom, where he usually presided, could conduct himself as impressively.

Judge Blatt's father was the prominent speaker of the S.C. House for 33 years. Like his father, Sol Blatt, Jr., attained prominence for public service, which he handled with grace and competence.

Mr. Blatt, 94, died Wednesday night at his home in Charleston.

He will be remembered for his remarkable judicial temperament.

Indeed, it was as if the American Bar Association had him in mind when it outlined the tenets of judicial temperament: "compassion, decisiveness, open-mindedness, sensitivity, courtesy, patience, freedom from bias and commitment to equal justice."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,210,345,265,252.22. We've added \$8,583,468,216,339.14 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO LEONA AND GEORGE
HOLLINS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Leona

and George Hollins of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on March 21, 1956 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

George and Leona's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, George, Cheryl, Greg, and Jamie, and their grandchildren and great-grandchildren truly embodies Iowa values. It is families like the Hollins' that make me proud to represent our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF CHEMICAL DIS-
TRIBUTORS' RESPONSIBLE DIS-
TRIBUTION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the National Association of Chemical Distributors' Responsible Distribution program. I want to congratulate NACD and its members for their commitment to continuous performance improvement in every phase of chemical storage, handling, transportation, and disposal.

Chemicals are the building blocks of our modern world. They make most aspects of our lives easier, safer, and better. Chemical distributors formulate, blend, re-package, warehouse, transport, and market the chemical products produced by large-quantity manufacturers. In my district, 15 chemical distribution facilities, including Douglas Products and Packaging Company, have a total economic impact of more than \$18 million and provide more than 112 high quality jobs. Throughout the country, the chemical distribution industry accounts for close to \$15 billion in economic impact.

In December 1991, the member companies of NACD embarked on their most important mission—the inception of Responsible Distribution. Responsible Distribution is a mandatory, third party verified environmental, health, safety, and security program. Responsible Distribution provides a proven framework for the health, safety, environment, and security aspects of handling storing, and delivering chemical products and is mandatory for all NACD members, who represent 90 percent of all chemical distribution industry sales.

NACD and its nearly 450 member companies are vital to the chemical supply chain, providing products to more than 750,000 end users in industries as diverse and essential as construction, healthcare, electronics, pulp and paper, water treatment, and many others.

With Responsible Distribution, NACD members deliver 80 tons of product every minute, maintain a safety record that is nearly twice as good as all manufacturing combined, and pursue continuous improvement in every phase of the chemical distribution process while demonstrating sensitivity and responsiveness to public concerns.