

well-being of HIV-positive women and children in Africa. Mother of seven—four of which were adopted from East Africa—Jess entered the pediatric health care world as a therapist, helping patients in Illinois and Kentucky for 10 years.

Today, Jess pursues her passion for collaborating with other mothers to help them dream, grow and unleash their full potential through her personal health and wellness business, Isagenix, which assists parents and families in Jefferson County in finding solutions for weight loss, healthy aging, energy, performance and additional income opportunities. In addition to her passion for empowering families and promoting healthy lifestyles, Jess takes her family to Ethiopia and Uganda each year to give business grants to single mothers who are HIV-positive. Through this act of servitude, Jess demonstrates her belief that every woman deserves to be empowered to live out her life with hope, dignity and confidence—regardless of surroundings or circumstance.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jess Wiederholt for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

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TRIBUTE TO EVAN BURNHAM

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Evan Burnham, a senior at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, for earning a perfect score on his American College Testing (ACT) examination.

Evan is one of only 2,235 students out of 2.1 million 2017 high school test-takers who earned this very rare honor. He was one of five students in his Valley High School class to earn the top composite score of 36, a milestone that had never before been reached in the school's history. Evan is known for being a naturally good test taker, and went into the ACT examination well-prepared. He has not yet decided what will be his field of study but his interests are chemistry and environmental science. With the work ethic he has displayed on his ACT examination, I am confident he will excel no matter what route he decides to take.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Evan for his hard-work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Evan and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROGER WILLIAMS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 599 on final passage of H.R. 6392, the Systemic Risk Designation Improvement Act of 2016, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX  
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Fairfax Education Association (FEA) and two of its remarkable leaders.

For over 50 years FEA has served as the voice of Fairfax County educators. Throughout its history FEA has upheld its mission of service to educators while demanding the highest standards of education for the children of Fairfax County.

FEA leadership is largely responsible for setting the goals of the organization and focusing resources necessary to achieve those goals. Kimberly Adams, who has served as President of the FEA since 2013, has embraced the mission of the FEA and worked to expand community outreach programs to garner support for and understanding of the contributions of public education to the prosperity and quality of life for Fairfax County residents. Throughout her tenure, Kimberly has been a fierce advocate for funding our school system as well as providing support to our educators.

As a former member and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I understand firsthand that the success of our local communities is tied directly to the quality of our school system. I have been proud to partner with the FEA on many occasions to ensure that Fairfax County public schools remain among the best in the country.

I have often said that public service is a noble profession and this is especially true when it comes to the issue of education. I commend Kimberly for her advocacy and thank her for lending her voice for these last three years as FEA President. Although she may be returning to her "former life" as a librarian, I have no doubt that she will continue to stay engaged in the important issues facing our community, our educators, and our children.

Succeeding Kimberly in the role of President of the FEA is Kevin Hickerson. I congratulate him on his election and wish him great success going forward. Kimberly's shoes will certainly be difficult to fill, but I have no doubt that Kevin will continue the progress that has been made by the FEA during the last 50 years.

It is possible to tell a great deal about the health of a community by the level of civic engagement that is exhibited by its residents. If the spirited conversations held throughout our community on education are any indication, then Fairfax County remains a picture of civic health. The efforts of Kimberly Adams, Kevin Hickerson, and the FEA are a large part of that, and I trust that they and the FEA as a whole will continue to play a vital role in ensuring that our teachers and our students succeed for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Kimberly Adams and Kevin Hickerson as well as all of the members of the FEA for their immeasurable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND  
WORK OF ROBERT I. THOMAS

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the significant leadership of a selfless motivator and inspirational man, Robert Thomas. Robert Thomas touched countless lives in his storied career within the Dallas Independent School District as a teacher, coach and administrator. Though he is now passed, his attention to people will survive him.

Mr. Thomas is a real Dallasite and a native of one of the finest neighborhoods in south Dallas—Oak Cliff, or more specifically, "The Bottom." He attended Lincoln High School where he played football and ran track. After high school, Mr. Thomas went on to Wiley College for one year, before leaving to serve his country in the United States Army for two years. After his service, he returned to Wiley College, where he won two national championships in 1956 and 1957, and was named an All-American.

After his storied athletic career, he was determined to dedicate his passion for sports to the generation younger than he. In 1958, he became a physical education instructor at George Carver Elementary School, yet he would truly start his coaching career at Lincoln High School as a football and track coach in 1962. Robert would go on to enjoy a storied career in coaching and athletic administration work that included a staggering win record, city championships, two district championships and one co-championship.

In reward for his hard work, Robert was appointed to the position of Assistant Athletic Director for the Dallas Independent School District in 1982. He served in this position until 1993, when he was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Athletics in 1993. He held this position until he retired in 2000.

Robert Thomas brought success in athletics to Dallas throughout his entire career. But more important than any of that, he touched the lives of so many young people, showing them that hard work can give them what they deserve, in a world with more resources than he ever enjoyed. He was never bitter, and always loving. He will be sorely missed.

Robert was preceded in death by his wife, Eula Faye Thomas, parents, Hester and Lindon Thomas, sister Dorothy Thomas Mayes. He is survived by his three sons, Kenneth, Gregory and Ricky Thomas; brothers, L.T. Thomas, Wilson Thomas and Bernard Thomas; three grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, as well as by several nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives and the children and adults that loved him so in Dallas.

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CLERMONT COUNTY SHERIFF A.J.  
"TIM" RODENBERG

**HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Clermont County Sheriff A.J.