

1919, Wiest, George S., Jr., Ladderman, Truck 02; 1975, Wiley, Joseph R., Firefighter, Ladder 27; 1920, Wilfrin, Harry, Hoseman, Engine 43; 1949, Wilkinson, Ray, Batt. Chief, Battalion 4; 1884, Williams, Henry, Hoseman, Engine 27; 1907, Wilson, Charles E., Foreman, Engine 11; 1945, Wilson, Howard, Hoseman, Engine 01; 1954, Wilson, Thomas, Firefighter, Engine 29; 1918, Wirth, Harry, Lieutenant, Engine 41; 1910, Wittig, Gustave, Foreman, Engine 15; 1942, Wolf, Frank W., Hoseman, Engine 33; 1872, Wolf, George W., Ladderman, Truck A; 1944, Woodruff, Francis, Hoseman, Engine 30; 1880, Woolston, William, Hoseman, Engine 23; 1991, Yale, Stephen D., Firefighter, Ladder 29; 1951, Young, Frank J., Batt. Chief, Battalion 2; 1919, Zorr, Charles, Hoseman, Pipe Line 2.

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#### HONORING RONDO PLAZA

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize residents of the historic Rondo neighborhood of Saint Paul, Minnesota as the community comes together to seek hope and healing. Earlier this fall, it was an honor to join community leaders to break ground on a Rondo Commemorative Plaza as a first step toward reconciliation for this neighborhood that was torn apart during the construction of the National Interstate Highway System in the 1960s. Like so many predominately black urban neighborhoods around the nation, cultural, social, and political trauma stemming from this civic wound still scars our community today.

Old Rondo was Saint Paul's largest and most prominent African American community centered around a once thriving street called Rondo Avenue. From the 1900 to the early 1960's African Americans migrated from the south to seek good jobs and Saint Paul's rich and vibrant quality of life. Generations created and invested in businesses, schools, civic organizations and families.

When plans were made for a National Interstate Highway System, people of color, those of limited means or political representation were not at the table. Designs for Interstate 94 landed squarely on Rondo. Over the cries and protest of its residents, bulldozers were brought in, and Rondo Avenue and the homes and businesses nearby were razed. This tight-knit community was devastated. During the decades since the freeway was built, longtime residents have worked hard to rebuild a community lost. Thanks to them today the spirit of Rondo's neighbors still burns bright.

Immutable leaders like Marvin "Roger" Anderson, Floyd Smaller, Nathaniel Khaliq, Debbie Montgomery and countless others have brought tireless dedication and commitment to restoring the Rondo spirit and community. They've begun successful local festivals like Rondo Days and the Selby Avenue Jazz Festival which bring community together in new ways to celebrate and chart a new future.

While, nothing can be done to undo the injustice that was done to the Rondo community more than four decades ago, that doesn't mean nothing should be done to help our residents remember our history so that we don't repeat it again. Anderson and other Rondo leaders are planning the Rondo Commemora-

tive Plaza as a tangible place to acknowledge and confront the dark chapter in Saint Paul's relationship with its African American community. It will be a place to remember the vibrant Rondo neighborhood, and continue moving forward into the 21st century—with all voices at the table.

This plaza will be a beautiful community gathering spot to learn about Rondo through written and oral presentations, music and art. It will serve as a social gathering place for all generations, for visitors to appreciate and remember the history of Rondo and the strength of residents that lives on.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the strong will and unassailable pride of the Rondo community as they build the Rondo Commemorative Plaza. We look forward to the grand opening of this special place and the big step in healing and reconciliation of the past.

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#### TRIBUTE TO ARJUN GANGA

### 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 Arjun Ganga, a senior at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, for earning a perfect score on his American College Testing (ACT) examination.

Arjun 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. He was able to accomplish this impressive feat while still remaining active in a number of extracurricular activities, including: co-founding and co-directing the Des Moines Student-to-Student STEM Speaker Series, Science Bowl, tennis team, the Principal's Advisory Council, National Honor Society, student government, National Council on Youth Leadership, and the Silver Cord Volunteer Program.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Arjun 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 him and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

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#### 21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the 21st Century Cures Act. The bill is not perfect, but it makes important progress on key health and addiction treatments that will help people in Maryland and across the country.

Maryland's drug poisoning death rate is higher than the national average, with both urban and rural areas facing the scourge of opioid addiction and death. This bill will provide \$1 billion in funding to states for new pro-

grams to combat the opioid and heroin epidemic. It also takes critical steps to improve our nation's mental health system by reauthorizing several grant programs aimed at crisis response, behavioral health integration in pediatric primary care, and diversion from the criminal justice system to community-based services.

Additionally, the 21st Century Cures Act aims to improve the discovery, development, and delivery of medical treatments. It creates incentives for new scientists to begin their career in research, requires more input from patients, and modernizes clinical trials—all of which will help advance treatments for rare diseases such as childhood cancer.

The bill allocates over \$6 billion in new investments to implement vital health priorities such as the President's Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative that will help us to better understand the human brain and could lead to cures to diseases such as Alzheimer's. Additionally, the funding will go towards the President's Precision Medicine and the Vice President's Cancer Moonshot Initiatives by dedicating \$4.8 billion to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The inclusion of \$500 million for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will help make its approval process more efficient and accelerate treatments to patients. Maryland is proud to be home to so many federal agencies that are leading the fight to improve the health of all Americans, and I will keep fighting to provide the resources they need in this effort.

Furthermore, the package includes legislation I authored—Advancing Research for Neurological Diseases Act. It will create a neurological disease surveillance program at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which would provide a foundation for evaluating and understanding factors of neurological diseases like Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's.

While the bill includes important bipartisan provisions, I am concerned that this bill includes far less funding than what was included in the Cures package considered by the House last year. Additionally, Congressional Republicans refused to allow for the funding in this bill to be mandatory. Instead, Congress will have to vote annually to make the funding available as part of the appropriations process—the American people must hold us accountable to deliver on this promise. Finally, I still have concerns with some provisions that might impact patient safety, but I understand that FDA worked with Congress on the provisions that relate to their agency to provide feedback—much of which was incorporated. I look forward to continuing to work with the FDA through implementation to safeguard patients.

As a country, we must work together to combat drug addiction and prioritize medical research. The Cures Act moves this effort forward, but we are far from finished.

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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 600 on final passage of S. 294, the National

Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE NOMINEES FOR THE 2016 WASHINGTON POST PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2016 Washington Post Principal of the Year Award nominees for Prince William County Public Schools.

The Principal of the Year for Prince William County will receive the Washington Post Principal of the Year Award. Nominees must demonstrate the ability to:

1. Manage effectively.
2. Demonstrate and encourage creativity and innovation.
3. Foster cooperation between the school and the community.
4. Maintain a continuing dialogue with students, parents, faculty, and staff.
5. Keep abreast of developments in the field of education.
6. Encourage team spirit.
7. Demonstrate leadership and exemplify commitment.
8. Continue to play an active role in the classroom.
9. Maintain their position as principal throughout the 2016–2017 school year.

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the 2016 nominees for Prince William County Schools, Principal of the Year Award.

Neil Beech—Osborn Park High School.  
Andrew Jacks—Ashland Elementary School.  
Michael Lint—New Dominion Alternative Center.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Principal of the Year Award nominees for Prince William County Public Schools, and in thanking them for their dedication to leadership in our school system. Their continued service will ensure that Prince William County students are provided with a world-class education in a more vibrant learning community.

HONORING COLLEEN AND RICHARD DAVIS, ANGELS IN ADOPTION

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to introduce you and my colleagues to Colleen and Richard Davis, constituents of mine from the Shenandoah Valley in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia who have provided extraordinary support for mothers in crisis and their children.

I nominated Colleen and Richard Davis for the Angels in Adoption program of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute this year because, even with three children of their

own, including one special needs adopted child, Colleen and Richard Davis opened their home to two infants in need.

Colleen had been dedicating her time and energy to residents of the New Eve Maternity Home in Winchester, Virginia, a home for pregnant women in need. At the New Eve home, Colleen met a young woman with twin newborn boys who was having difficulty caring for her babies. Colleen and Richard generously offered to take the twins into their home and care for them until the mother was able to provide a stable home.

For more than two years now, Colleen and Richard Davis have welcomed these two children into their family and have raised them as their own. These acts of extraordinary generosity are inspired by a sense of loving compassion for their neighbors in need.

Mr. Speaker, stories of unsung heroes like Colleen and Richard Davis are taking place throughout our nation and I ask that we remember with gratitude these “Angels in Adoption” who are making a significant difference in our communities. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Colleen and Richard Davis, and wishing them all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JOSE R. RODRIGUEZ AS AN OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVANT

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jose R. Rodriguez for his tireless work as Director of Operations and Grants Coordinator.

I first met Jose when he began an internship in my office in 2013 and from the beginning he stood out as an exceptional worker. After only a few weeks, he was hired as Constituent Services Representative where he helped many of my constituents and their families with housing, immigration, and veterans issues. He was part of the team of case-workers that helped recover and save over \$500,000 for residents of Florida’s Ninth Congressional District.

After a few months on the job, he proved to be a valuable asset, capable of handling multiple roles with great knowledge and skill. For this reason he was promoted to Director of Operations, where he was responsible, among other things, for overseeing the administrative operations of my district offices. He also served in a dual role as Grants Coordinator and helped many local municipalities and non-profit organizations seek federal funding. Jose was able to help bring over \$7 million dollars in federal funds for various local organizations, including money for education and first responders.

As further proof of his tenacity, Jose was able to complete his law degree while working fulltime and raising two beautiful children, Josue and Deborah.

As Jose’s tenure in my office comes to an end, I want to recognize his service to my office and the community, and I wish all the best to him and his family.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ALLEN PARK HISTORICAL MUSEUM ON THE DATE OF ITS PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Allen Park Historical Museum on the date of its Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 75th Anniversary Fundraiser. The Allen Park Historical Museum has served as an important venue for the metro Detroit community to educate individuals about the background of historically significant events that have shaped our country.

Located in a farmhouse built in 1888, the Allen Park Historical Museum has provided Allen Park and the surrounding communities with a free and accessible forum to learn about the history of the city and pivotal events in American history. The Museum displays police and firefighter memorabilia as well as military artifacts and cultural objects like furniture and toys that showcase life from different eras. In addition to regular exhibits, the Allen Park Historical Museum also periodically sponsors fundraisers to engage with the community while providing resources for the museum. These additional events allow historians and other experts to further explore our nation’s heritage in different contexts.

The Allen Park Historical Museum not only serves as a venue for residents of Allen Park and surrounding areas, but also provides important resources that help educate southeast Michigan about historically significant events. The underwriting of experiences like Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day underscore the community’s commitment to ensuring that critical milestones in American history are placed in the proper context. It is heartening to see the Allen Park community play a leading role in promoting American history, and I am confident that the museum will continue to host engaging and relevant exhibits that educate and entertain individuals of all ages.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the success of the Allen Park Historical Museum on the date of its Pearl Harbor Day fundraiser. The museum provides cultural enrichment through its documentation of historical events through its exhibits.

TRIBUTE TO JIM DERMODY

**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 Jim Dermody, Principal of Lewis Central Middle School in Council Bluffs, Iowa, for being named the Administrator of the Year by the Iowa Talented and Gifted (ITAG) Association.

Jim has been an outspoken advocate for ITAG programs at Lewis Central Middle School, recognizing that success requires participation from the whole school, not just special ITAG instructors. He utilizes partnerships