

that the Girl Scouts will continue to affect positive change and help inspire girls across the nation. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the Girl Scouts of the United States of America and their outstanding service to our country.

ZACHARY NIELSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Zachary Nielson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Zachary Nielson is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Zachary Nielson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Zachary Nielson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON HUSKIES MEN'S CREW TEAM ON WINNING THE 110TH INTERCOLLEGIATE ROWING ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Washington Men's Crew Team for winning the 110th Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships (IRAs) on June 2, 2012.

From the moment that they began their grueling training, the University of Washington Huskies exemplified sportsmanship, athleticism and perseverance. Their discipline was rewarded when the Huskies won all five events at the IRAs—the first time in IRA history that a single program has swept five races. This victory marks the first time in more than 70 years that the Huskies have won consecutive national titles, and it finishes a season where the Huskies won every race in which they competed.

The Men's Varsity Eight—Sam Ojserkis, Dusan Milovanovic, Alex Bunkers, Ryan Schroeder, Mijo Rudelj, Sebastian Peter, Sam Dommer, A.J. Brooks, and Robert Munn—easily surpassed the standing record for the IRA championship. In fact, every Husky boat also set a championship record on their way to victory.

As we celebrate the long tradition of crew at the University of Washington, I want to commend Coach Michael Callahan, and all of the

talented athletes of the Husky Men's Varsity Crew Team for their truly historic season. I wish them continued success in the future.

HONORING MAUREEN WIGGINS SHOEMAKER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an advocate of literacy and research communications, Mrs. Maureen Wiggins Shoemaker.

Mrs. Shoemaker was born in Sumner, Mississippi. She attended R. H. Bearden Elementary School (formerly West District High School), and graduated from West Tallahatchie High School in 1974. She has received degrees from Coahoma Jr. College, Jackson State University, and also received a Master's in Elementary Education from Mississippi Valley University.

Mrs. Shoemaker's passion for literacy led her to continue her studies in Library Science at Southern University in Louisiana. Mrs. Shoemaker has served R. H. Bearden Elementary School and West Tallahatchie High School faithfully through her efforts to renovate and improve the technology sustainability in both libraries.

Mrs. Shoemaker has been an asset to the West Tallahatchie School District, due to her ability to recognize and address the dire needs of the students in the Tallahatchie School District. In addition, she has remained active in her community working with the Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility and Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids of Mississippi (SPARK). Through these partnerships, Mrs. Shoemaker has been able to spread her passion for literacy among supporters of all ages.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Maureen Wiggins Shoemaker for her continued efforts to support literacy in the State of Mississippi.

TRIBUTE TO RONALD BLOCKER

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Third Congressional District of Florida and myself, I rise now to offer tribute to the career and success of my friend, Mr. Ronald Blocker, who served as the Superintendent for Orange County Public Schools for the past 12 years. A visionary and scholar Mr. Ronald Blocker is a true leader of the Central Florida Community, and the great State of Florida.

We are encouraged by Mr. Blocker's accomplishments while serving as the superintendent since July 2000; it was under his leadership that the graduation rate in Orange County, Florida, is at the highest level it has ever been with the dropout rate at the lowest. A man dedicated to education, Ronald Blocker earned degrees in educational leadership and counselor education from the University of

Florida. He worked as a school psychologist and principal. As the districts first black superintendent, Mr. Blocker made a name for himself and in 2011 he was named Florida Superintendent of the Year by the Florida Association of District Superintendents.

Mr. Blocker has received many accolades and honors including the John M. Tiedtke Lifetime Achievement Award from United Arts of Central Florida; he was named the District Reading Leader of the Year by the Florida Department of Education's Just Read, Florida! Division; named the Florida Art Education Associations Superintendent of the Year; and received the Florida Superintendent's Award for Volunteer/Community Involvement. Recipient of the Chairman's Award from the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission, Mr. Blocker has made a lasting contribution to the economy of Orange County. His influence in the Central Florida community has not gone unnoticed either, he was ranked eight on a list of the 50 most powerful people in Central Florida and among the top 25 most powerful by a panel of community leaders.

He served as the President of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents; a member of the American Association of School Administrators; Florida Association of School Administrators, and the Council of Great City Schools.

Described as an "advocate of children", and "a teacher's superintendent", Mr. Blocker was able to build new schools, and replace and upgrade 128 older facilities. With 33 new schools opened under his guidance and 62 replaced or restored, Mr. Blocker reduced overcrowding and removed 1,000 portable classrooms and raised the Orange County School District to an "A" Rating 3 years in a row.

Recently by virtue of Orange County and the School Board, he has been honored with the renaming of the Orange County Public School building to the "Ronald Blocker Educational Leadership Center." Mr. Blocker has worked to ensure healthy revenue that will continue to preserve the quality of education that the Third Congressional District and Central Florida Community deserves and needs, with his high expectations for employees and students. Mr. Blocker's theme of "One Vision, One Voice," is a message we can all truly stand by.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 18, 2012, I attended a visitation in the 17th District of Illinois and was unable to cast my vote for rollcall Nos. 379 and 380.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the bill by Senator MIKE LEE, S. 684, to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Alta, Utah, which passed by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 383-3.

I would also have voted "yea" on the bill by Senator CARL LEVIN, S. 404, to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Alta, Utah, which also passed by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 380-0.