

TANIA PEREZ

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Tania Perez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Tania Perez is an 11th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Tania Perez 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 Tania Perez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING HAROLD EUGENE  
"GENE" HAYWOOD FOR HIS  
SERVICE AS A EULESS POLICE  
OFFICER

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2013*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Harold Eugene "Gene" Haywood for his 31 years of public service as a police officer for the City of Euleless, Texas.

Gene began his career with Euleless in 1981. He was hired on as a jailer, and within a couple of months he was promoted to a sworn officer.

In 1988, Gene was one of the founders of the Field Training Program for Euleless. He wrote the Standard Operating Procedures and created the training program. In 1990, Gene founded the Euleless Honor Guard program. In 1991, Gene transferred to the Criminal Investigation Division where he worked as an investigator.

In 1993, he transferred to the Patrol Division and was promoted to corporal. During this period, Gene managed the implementation of the Field Training Program. He continued to train new officers and ensure that they were ready to meet the demands of police service. In 1994, Gene was assigned to the Tarrant County Auto Theft Task Force where he worked along with officers from several cities within the county to combat vehicle thefts.

In September, 2001, Gene transferred to Keys Alternative School to serve as a School Resource Officer. He finished his career at Keys where he was able to positively influence students.

During his tenure at Euleless, Gene has been nominated for Officer of the Year twice. He has received 15 commendations from citizens, other police agencies, and his peers. Gene

has served on the board of the Euleless Benevolent Peace Officer Association which provides city employees with scholarship money to their children and donates to other worthwhile causes.

Gene has accumulated 2,300 hours of training while at Euleless. He was certified as an Instructor in 1987. He received his Masters Police Officer Certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education in 2005.

Prior to his employment with Euleless Police Department, Gene served for five years as Sergeant in the Police Reserves at Winters Police Department in Winters, California, and then two years as a firefighter for South Placer Fire Department in Granite Bay, California. During this period of time in California, Gene served for six years in the National Guard from which he was honorably discharged in 1978. Before becoming a Euleless police officer, Gene worked for the University of Texas Health Science as a campus security officer.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in thanking Gene Haywood for his 31 years of public service as an officer of the Euleless Police Department.

AMPLIFY GYMNASTICS, 2013 WINNER OF SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S PHOENIX AWARD

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2013*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and perseverance of Paul Comstedt, Derek Hammeke, and Kip Johnson, owners of Amplify Gymnastics, and as the recipients of the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2013 Phoenix Award.

In May 2011, Paul, Derek, and Kip were preparing for the grand opening of their business, Amplify Gymnastics. Tragically, just days before the opening, an EF5 tornado tore through the Joplin community, destroying 20 percent of the city. In addition, their entire building was destroyed and a single slab of concrete was all that was left of the gym. In fact, on the day of the tornado Kip stopped by the gym to complete some finishing touches. During that time, the tornado ripped through the gym and a two-ton truck that Kip used for cover was thrown 20 feet. Thankfully, he survived.

After surviving the catastrophic event, the men were forced to rebuild their entire gym. Paul, Derek, and Kip applied for an SBA disaster loan to cover rebuilding costs and operating expenses. After 9 months of rebuilding, Amplify held its grand opening with over 200 young athletes registered. In the following months, Amplify added 300 more athletes and grew their staff from 10 to 23 employees. In just a few months following the grand opening, Amplify Gymnastics surpassed their five-year goal.

The efforts of these three men encompass all the characteristics of true entrepreneurs.

Despite overwhelming odds, Amplify Gymnastics has become a place in the community where local kids can train their bodies and exercise their minds. I am grateful for the contributions they have given to the Joplin community.

The Small Business Administration's Phoenix Award is awarded to businesses, public officials and volunteers who are tested by disasters like the Joplin tornado but work to overcome the disaster by rebuilding and helping their communities recover.

I would like to take this opportunity to express how grateful I am by the courage and ingenuity of Paul Comstedt, Derek Hammeke, and Kip Johnson. May God bless them and the continued recovery of the Joplin community.

CONGRATULATING THE TOWN OF  
MILLBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2013*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that the House of Representatives join me in congratulating the town of Millbury, Massachusetts on their 200th anniversary. Millbury has grown tremendously since its inception in 1813 as a small New England Mill town, from which their name and seal are derived. To celebrate their 200th anniversary, the people of Millbury have come together over the past year by facilitating community events to honor this historic day.

Millbury's rich history can be traced back to the 18th century when John Singletary built the oldest continuously running mill in the United States. The power of the Blackstone River provided the energy to run the mill and helped propel Millbury into the Industrial Revolution as a leading textile producer.

Millbury's significance is further punctuated as the historic summer home of President William Howard Taft's childhood, continuing this summer tradition into and after his Presidency. On one of his many trips to Millbury, he celebrated alongside their residents as they rung in their first 100 years.

The bicentennial celebration kicked off last June with a performance by the Massachusetts Symphony Orchestra. Continuing with tradition, Millbury recently celebrated the Period Ball. Millbury is also looking forward to the town parade this weekend. Similar town parades were held at the celebrations of Millbury's 100th, 150th, and 175th anniversaries. The celebration will culminate with Millbury's largest parade which features bands, antique cars, floats, and a fireworks display.

I would also like to recognize and thank the Millbury Bicentennial Committee, and the many volunteers for the hard work and dedication that they have devoted into the planning of this momentous event.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again congratulate the town of Millbury on their 200th anniversary. May this great American town continue to celebrate its rich history for years to come. I ask the House of Representatives join me in celebrating the history of Millbury on this very special occasion.