

TRIBUTE TO RAY GAESSER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ray Gaesser of Corning, Iowa for being named the next President of the American Soybean Association.

Founded in 1920, the American Soybean Association represents America's soybean farmers on issues vital to the soybean industry across the country and across the globe. The national, grassroots membership that comprise this great organization creates, promotes, and implements policies to improve the thriving soybean industry.

Ray Gaesser has farmed since his father's passing when he was just 15 years old. In 1979, two years after marrying his wife Elaine, the couple moved to the Corning area to begin a modest farming partnership. Today, the Gaessers farm nearly 6,000 acres of corn and soybeans and are an essential component of the Iowa farming community. As a member of the Iowa Soybean Association for nearly 30 years, Ray has won numerous awards while serving in several leadership roles. Mr. Gaesser served as President of the Iowa Soybean Association in 2007, was a member of Iowa's Products Advisory Committee from 2006 to 2011, and was awarded the Iowa Master Farmer Award in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, Ray's selection as the next American Soybean Association President is the culmination of a lifelong commitment to farming and a testament to the world-class agriculture industry of our great state. It is an honor to represent Mr. Gaesser, his family, and all of the hardworking farmers of Iowa in the United States Congress and I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in thanking our nation's farmers, congratulating Ray on his outstanding efforts, and wishing him continued success on the job ahead. Thank you.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. SANDRA E. MADRID

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Dr. Sandra E. Madrid, who was recently awarded the 2013 Latino Heritage Award by the City of Seattle's Latino City Employees organization and Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn.

The Latino Heritage Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to Seattle through initiative, innovation, leadership, and commitment to the Latino community. Dr. Madrid has been an active member of her community for many years and has made it her priority to empower minority groups and promote Latino involvement.

Dr. Madrid recently retired from the University of Washington School of Law and has worked diligently on issues important to diverse communities in our region. Sandra has long advocated on behalf of women and children and the underrepresented. She is also an inspirational mentor and educator to young individuals and professionals.

Dr. Madrid currently serves as a board member for the United Way of King County, Seattle Children's Hospital, Seattle Art Museum, and YMCA. In addition to serving on more than 30 boards in the past 20 years, she was also the first Latina to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Seattle Children's Hospital.

Dr. Madrid's dedication to the Latino community has made her a widely respected advocate and leader. Her work is commendable and we are fortunate to have her expertise representing our region.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Dr. Sandra E. Madrid on her contributions to the City of Seattle.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Dr. Stephanie Abramoske-James served in the United States Army from 1986 to 2007. She joined the Military Police Corp in 1986 where her first assignment was in Fort Hood, Texas, and was later deployed to Honduras. In 1990, she joined the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, where she protected three Secretaries of Defense and investigated, processed, and supervised thousands of criminal investigations. In 2003, she deployed to Iraq as a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a Forensic Science Officer to gather evidence against Saddam Hussein for the offense of genocide. In her 21 years of distinguished service to the U.S. Army, Dr. Abramoske-James has received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, four Meritorious Service Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, and numerous other decorations.

As a resident of Plano, Texas, Dr. Abramoske-James continues to be an active servant to her local community. She created an ongoing CSI summer camp to mentor high school students interested in forensic science. She has been a volunteer consultant with the Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center, and is currently working on mentoring programs for at-risk youth in Plano ISD. She is also one of three faculty advisors to the Student Veterans of America at Collin College. Her vast knowledge, remarkable experiences, dedication to justice, as well as her commitment to her students makes her a superb educator and a role-model for all.

Dr. Stephanie Abramoske-James, let me both thank and congratulate you on your ex-

ceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

CHARLIE AND MARILYN WALLACE CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two of my constituents, Charlie and Marilyn Wallace, who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a vow renewal ceremony in my Texas district office this week. These two native Texans have spent half of a century together, and I am proud to honor them.

Charlie and Marilyn first met on April 6, 1963, at the University of Texas at Austin during its famous, festive tradition of Round-Up weekend. In a series of random events, some acquaintances conspired to set Charlie and Marilyn up on a blind date. Marilyn, a senior English major, reluctantly accepted Charlie's invitation to the Round-Up talent show and dance with great reservation because Charlie was an Aggie! Yes, prior to his graduate studies at UT, Charlie earned his bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M.

That evening, Charlie called Marilyn from her dorm lobby where male students were required to wait for their dates. He told her he was wearing a blue suit with a red tie and to "look for the ugliest one in the room." [Marilyn mistakenly first approached the wrong guy, also wearing a blue suit and red tie, who gave her a strange look when she said, "Charles?"] Fortunately, she found the right man soon thereafter.]

Midway through the evening, Marilyn had the uncharacteristic, passing thought: "It might be fun to be married to a man like this." It wasn't a typical date for Charlie either: In addition to the talent show and dance, he gave Marilyn a tour of his chemical engineering research lab and even played his guitar for her.

Marilyn graduated in August of 1963 and went on to teach English at Houston ISD's Austin High School, her alma mater, but Charlie made sure she didn't get away before she finally accepted his proposal on August 1, 1963. Charlie presented Marilyn with an engagement ring on September 21, 1963, and they were married December 21, 1963, in Houston at the Epworth Methodist Church.

Upon Charlie's completion of his master's degree in August 1964, he accepted a job with Shell Oil Co. that started with an intensive training program and work assignments at Shell's locations throughout Louisiana. During the Louisiana years, Marilyn was a substitute teacher, and she also held various administrative assistant positions that included one at LSU's agronomy department where she was well-regarded for her outstanding work and professionalism. Of particular note is that Marilyn served as a volunteer teacher during the Integration of the Louisiana Public School System and taught typing to Special Education students. Charlie and Marilyn also were involved in a Prison Ministry that they started at