

A TRIBUTE TO EMILEE  
RICHARDSON

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Emilee Richardson for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Emilee has the determination and drive to be successful in all of her pursuits, which is highlighted by her exemplary work with the Science Center of Iowa. As the Marketing and Communications Manager, she utilizes her management abilities to develop new programs, like the Girls in Science Initiative to encourage girls to explore careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. In her free time, she serves on several boards to help young people in her surrounding community such as the Lead Like a Lady, Young Nonprofit Professionals Network and American Marketing Association Iowa. In all aspects of her life, Emilee is an example of the hard work and service that makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Emilee in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Emilee on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

HONORING LYDA HILL

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Lyda Hill, the 2015 recipient of the J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award from Southern Methodist University's Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility.

Ms. Hill has been a philanthropic fixture in the Dallas community for many years and has generously donated to the many causes in which she strongly believes. An alumna of the Hockaday School in Dallas, Ms. Hill donated \$20 million to fund the all-girls school's science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) program. Ms. Hill recently donated \$10 million to the "I Stand for Parkland" campaign at Parkland Hospital in Dallas and \$50

million to the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center's Moon Shots Program in Houston which has a goal to eliminate cancer through improved detection and treatments.

Ms. Hill has tirelessly advocated for science through her generosity and time dedicated to the causes in which she believes. In 2013, Ms. Hill was recognized as the only single woman on the Philanthropy list for her estimated hundreds of millions of dollars in donation to organizations focused on "game-changing" innovation and science research. In 2010, Ms. Hill became a member of The Giving Pledge, an initiative created by Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett that encourages the world's wealthiest people to commit a large majority of their wealth to charity. Ms. Hill certainly gives strategically and generously and has pledged to donate all of her assets to charity, mostly during her lifetime.

Ms. Hill is the daughter of the late Margaret Hunt Hill, for whom the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge which spans the Trinity River in Dallas was named. Ms. Hill supported the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge project and several other community revitalization projects in the Dallas area. Ms. Hill has chaired non-profit groups such as the Crystal Charity Ball, Junior League of Dallas, and the Dallas and Texas chapters of the American Heart Association.

Ms. Hill was the recipient of the President's Volunteer Action Award and the Best of America Award in 1985 and in 1988, she was named "Outstanding Volunteer in Texas" by the Governor. Ms. Hill has earned many awards throughout her lifetime as her contributions to health, science, public radio, education, and veterans generously continue. I appreciate the opportunity to recognize and congratulate Lyda Hill on the occasion of her winning the J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award.

PAOLA OBISPO'S ESSAY

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Paola Obispo attends Manvel High School in Manvel, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

In order for our current government to function at its optimal levels, participation in our democracy is vital. If citizens of the United States are not aware of how the political process works they are powerless and have furthermore failed to aide their country in reaching its full potential. It is imperative that today's citizens be knowledgeable about politics because it is only by actively participating in our political system that

change and improvement will come to our nation. The question "Why should people be politically active?" has a simple answer. People should be politically active so that the government reflects the interests of the people who are being governed. In order for all important problems in our government to be addressed all stakeholders must make known their intent to be heard.

The bigger and better question in politics should be: Why are some groups of people not voting or further becoming politically active? According to the PBS News hour website, only 34.6% of eligible voters turned up for the 2014 midterm election.<sup>1</sup> This number had not been so low since 1944 when World War II was being fought. Statistics like this reveal the truth behind our democracy and the fact that the majority of the people do not rule as most Americans do not participate.<sup>2</sup> Although considerably more people do vote in presidential elections the percentage only rises to 58.2%.<sup>3</sup> This new presidential turnout percentage while impressive compared to the midterm participation percentage appears dull when compared to political participation found around the world. It would be easy to point an accusatory figure at those how abstain from voting as lazy, irresponsible, and ignorant people who deserve underrepresentation. However, by accepting this stance it is assumed that a vast number of Americans poses those negative characteristics. Therefore, there must be an underlying cause to this systematic disenfranchisement epidemic.

Possible causes to this disenfranchisement would include the effects of voting dilution through political gerrymandering and restrictive voting procedures. It is impossible to deny that gerrymandering those not occur as the odd shapes that compromise districts speaks for itself and the fact that they tend to always benefit the artist of such bizarre and abstract divisions leaves a lot to be said. However despite laws that prohibit this malicious practice, lawmakers still blatantly ignore the law. This act is not only harmful to the opposing part as they lose an election, it is harmful to democracy itself as it teaches Americans that their voice is not important and will be impeded by those very people meant to protect their liberty. Another possible cause of voter discouragement could be stricter voting requirements such as the Voter ID law that was conveniently passed right before the election. The most malicious aspect of this law is that it was passed right before an election and stripped many voters of their right to vote.

HONORING CONSUELO RAYMOND  
KAZEN

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Consuelo Raymond Kazen, a lifelong Laredoan and wife of our former colleague, the late Congressman Abraham "Chick" Kazen, Jr.

Consuelo R. Kazen died Sunday, March 22, 2015 in Laredo, Texas. Over the course of her long life, Mrs. Kazen gave her "considerable creative talents and passion" to a number of community organizations, building up a reputation as a widely revered citizen and well-respected teacher.

She was actively involved in the Pan American Round Table, the Texas Senate Ladies Club, the Texas State Teachers Association,