

have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

SUCCESS STEMS FROM HARD  
WORK

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kalpana Vaidya of Sugar Land, Texas for being a Distinguished Finalist in the Texas' Top Youth Volunteers of 2016, given by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Kalpana is a senior at Stephen F. Austin High School and a scout in the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council troop. Her community service project, "The World of Science" is a hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education (STEM) activity for kindergartners up to eighth-graders. Now becoming an annual affair, her project was sponsored by the Austin High School Honor Society and helped them raise \$2,000. Kalpana's activity has also attracted organizations such as the Houston Natural Science Museum and the Baytown Nature Center. Her efforts in creating this activity led her to become a distinguished finalist in The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. These awards recognize talented young men and women across America that have graciously served their communities.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Kalpana Vaidya for being a Distinguished Finalist. We are so proud of her and can't wait to see what she does next.

HONORING REVEREND FREDERICK  
CRAWFORD

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise during this month, dedicated to the celebration of African Americans who have made great contributions to the world, to pay tribute to Reverend Frederick Crawford for his many years of compassionate service and tireless work to improve the lives of our community residents.

Reverend Frederick Crawford is the Senior Pastor of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church and the founder of Faithbook, which is a public group on Facebook designed to inspire and encourage via the internet. Established in 2014, Faithbook has more than 3,000 members and counting. This group was designed by Rev. Crawford to encourage, strengthen, and pray for believers in Christ. Members are welcomed to post prayers, words of encouragement, scriptures, testimonies, prayer requests, sermons, pictures, videos, and advertisements of church events.

Reverend Crawford is a native of the Bronx. He is the oldest of four children born to Reverend Dr. Fletcher and Mother Arnetta Crawford. He graduated from Eastern Mennonite College and Seminary where he earned a Bachelor's of Science in Business Adminis-

tration and Minor in Religious Studies. He continued his studies at Alliance Theological Seminary, Unification Theological Seminary and later obtained a Bachelor's of Theology from American International Theological Seminary. He was ordained to be the Assistant Pastor of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church by Dr. Fletcher Crawford in August 1988.

Reverend Crawford is the third generation of his family to serve as pastors of Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church. His father, Dr. Fletcher Crawford served for fifty years and his grandfather, Rev. Jeremiah Crawford, organized this community institution in 1946. Prior to his leadership at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Reverend Crawford was the pastor at the First Calvary Baptist Church in Harlem, NY for twenty years before being called back to Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church in 2006. Upon Dr. Fletcher Crawford's retirement, Rev. Frederick Crawford was installed as Pastor at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church on August 20, 2006. Pastor Crawford is happily married to Lady Antoinette Crawford, and they have four children; Lamont, Shapri, Hezekiah, and Chloe.

Under his leadership, Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church has created numerous programs to assist families in the Bronx. Many of those programs focus on addressing a serious issue in the Bronx—hunger and food insecurity. Through Reverend Crawford's leadership, Union Grove feeds more than 1,000 families every year during Thanksgiving Week, providing them with enough food for a family of four for a week. The church also runs an important food pantry that offers needy Bronxites produce, meats, breads, dairy, juice, water, dry and can goods at no charge. Additionally, Reverend Crawford leads a daily Summer Food Program at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, which provides more than 300 meals for breakfast and lunch for those in need. The church is also very involved in numerous other issues as well and has an annual Back To School Health and Community Awareness Fair that helps students prepare for school and includes free food, entertainment, clothes, books and book bags. Pastor Crawford has also created Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration to engage the community in honoring Dr. King. I have had the honor of speaking at this important community event several times.

As Reverend Crawford has made Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church an integral member of the Bronx community, he has also been called to serve in leadership roles in numerous other organizations. He has served as the President of the Baptist Minister's Evening Conference of the Bronx, NY, and is also a member of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater New York and Vicinity, the United Missionary Baptist Association and The National Baptist Convention USA. Rev. Crawford has received numerous awards and accolades including the Religious Community Leader Award in 2007 from the NAACP.

Reverend Crawford is a pillar of our community, and it is only fitting that he is honored for his work on behalf of others. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Rev. Frederick Crawford for his consistently remarkable dedication to service and longstanding commitment to improving our community.

TRIBUTE TO BRENNA  
WESTERGAARD

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brenna Westergaard for earning an American FFA Degree. Brenna was recently awarded at the National FFA Convention and Expo in Louisville, Kentucky on October 31, 2015. She was a member of the Adair-Casey FFA Organization and is the daughter of Lori Westergaard and Kevin Westergaard.

The American FFA Degree is awarded to members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to FFA and made significant accomplishments in their supervised agricultural experience. Brenna had to meet certain requirements, such as studying agriculture for three years in high school, earning money in an agriculture field and investing that money into her business, participation in community service and having a record of outstanding leadership ability and community involvement.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders like Brenna in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to reach her goals. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her on receiving this esteemed designation, and wishing her nothing but the best of luck in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF EFFIE YEAW

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2016*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Effie Yeaw Nature Center as it celebrates its 40th anniversary. As its board of directors, staff, volunteers, and local nature enthusiasts gather to celebrate this wonderful occasion, I ask all of my colleagues to join men in recognizing and honoring the Effie Yeaw Nature Center for its contributions to the Sacramento Region.

The American River is an incredibly important part of our region and Effie Yeaw is the only environmental education center on the 23-mile American River Parkway. The 80-acre nature preserve with river access, oak woodlands, meadows, and ponds truly engages children and adults of all ages through their interactive exhibits and programs. These programs are essential to teaching our youth about the importance of protecting our local environment and the animals that inhabit it.

In 1955 Effie Yeaw, a teacher and environmental educator, began leading natural history walks in an area now known as the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and Nature Area, located along the American River in Carmichael. Effie Yeaw's efforts to raise awareness for preserving the lands along the river have been critical to the health of our local ecosystem. Her concept of a "Parkway" along the river has served as a guiding principal that has shaped the landscape of our region for the better.