

CONGRATULATING COURTNEY ELTRINGHAM ON RECEIVING THE BRIGHTON ASSEMBLY OF GOD'S GOLD MEDAL AWARD

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Courtney Eltringham, who was recently honored with the Brighton Assembly of God's Gold Medal Award, the highest achievement in the Assemblies of God Girls Ministries program.

To be honored with the Brighton Assembly of God's Gold Medal is the culmination of a 13 year journey of devotion to God that begins in kindergarten and finishes at the end of high school. The Girls Ministries program strives to instill Christian values and virtues in the young women who will be the future of our nation.

To be honored with a gold medal, girls must go above and beyond the requirements for completing the five levels of clubs offered by the ministries. Medal awardees must also have read the Bible twice, the New Testament three times, memorized portions of scripture and have met weekly with a sponsor who helps to guide them spiritually.

Mr. Speaker, Courtney Eltringham has not only displayed an uncommon level of spiritual devotion during her time in the Girls Ministries program, but also a measure of determination and commitment that will undoubtedly serve her well through her life. On behalf of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District, I urge my colleagues in congratulating her on this well-earned achievement.

TRIBUTE TO WEST CENTRAL COMMUNITY ACTION

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the West Central Community Action of Harlan, Iowa for 50 years of service to southwest Iowa. The 50th anniversary is a testament to the great work performed daily by the staff professionals at the West Central Community Action Agency.

Established 50 years ago, West Central Community Action provides program services to low-income families and individuals in ten southwest Iowa counties (Cass, Crawford, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, and Shelby). The mission of West Central Community Action is "empowering families and individuals to achieve their highest potential." During 2015, the agency received grant revenues of over \$17 million to provide services to 7,203 families and 17,206 individuals. The agency has 200 employees which provides work experience and training opportunities to 70 senior aide participants. West Central focuses on assisting low-income families and individuals to acquire useful skills and while gaining access to new opportunities to have economic self-sufficiency.

I commend West Central Community Action of Southwest Iowa and its staff for providing

dedicated, committed and crucial services to families and individuals. There is great work being accomplished every day at West Central Community Action. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating West Central Community Action for achieving 50 years of service. I wish them and all of the staff continued success in the future.

MAUREEN MAHONEY—EVA MURILLO UNSUNG HERO AWARD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus (VRC) advocates for crime victims. JIM COSTA (CA) and I founded the VRC 10 years ago when we were first elected to Congress. During its 10 year existence, the VRC has taken the lead in protecting programs that provide critical support for victim services throughout the nation, including the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPPRA). Each year the members of the caucus join together to honor outstanding individuals who have given their time and service to helping victims. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Caucus.

On behalf of Congressman COSTA and myself, we are proud to honor Maureen Mahoney with the Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award. Nominated by Congressman SETH MOULTON, Maureen is recognized for her efforts in preventing domestic violence. This award is named for Eva Murillo—an individual who cared deeply about advocating for victims and survivors of violent crime. Each year, an award bearing Eva Murillo's name recognizes an individual—or pair of individuals—who utilized his or her experiences to triumph over personal tragedy and raise awareness for the needs of crime victims.

Maureen tragically lost her parents, Dr. Hugh and Ruth Mahoney, and her brother John to an incident of violent crime in December 1975. On the 40th anniversary of this tragedy, Maureen and her family organized a community event in Tewksbury, Massachusetts to celebrate and honor the lives of their parents and brother. This event tribute was dedicated to addressing domestic violence, as Maureen recognized that violent criminals are often impacted by domestic violence situations in their youth.

Maureen donated all of the money raised at the event to local organizations in the Tewksbury area, including the Center for Hope and Healing, The Michael B. Christensen Community and Family Support Center, The United Teen Equality Center, and the Tewksbury Police Department. Maureen's own experiences translate in her work as a life coach, where she works with survivors of tragedy like herself. I am proud to recognize her efforts today with the Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award.

And that is just the way it is.

CLAIRE LEFEVERS EARNS GIRL SCOUTS GOLD AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Claire LeFevers for earning the prestigious Girl Scouts Gold Award, their highest honor.

Claire is a senior at St. Thomas Episcopal School in Sugar Land, Texas. Her extraordinary community service project that earned her the Girl Scouts Gold Award consisted of a group effort, led by Claire, to fix up the outer grounds of a Care Center, located in Schulenburg, Texas. There, the service group built outside furniture and brought decorative potted plants. In addition to this project, Claire also worked with outside organizations in the community, in efforts to provide the Care Center with necessary materials for their residents. Through her hard work, Claire's group directly helped 70 people. The Gold Award is administered to less than five percent of high school aged scouts who exemplify incredible leadership measures through practical, yet impactful projects. We are so proud of Claire, and we thank her for graciously serving her community.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Claire LeFevers for receiving the Girl Scouts Gold Award.

HONORING JERUSALEM OUTREACH CHILD & ADULT LEARNING CENTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Jerusalem Outreach Child and Adult Learning Center in Charleston, MS. It is locally referred to as JOCI (Jerusalem Outreach Center Incorporated).

JOCI was established as a nonprofit organization in the year 2000. JOCI was one of the partners in a county wide effort to provide service to citizens living in hard to reach and underserved communities in Tallahatchie County like Paynes and Glendora. JOCI's goal is to meet the educational and health and social welfare needs of both children and adults regardless of race. Their partner Glendora Economic and Community Development Corporation (GECDCo) focused on the development needs of the communities like housing, recreation, jobs, and more.

In order to achieve the above goals JOCI hosts health fairs and provides a long list of services. The services include, but are not limited to: personal counseling, referrals to outside resources, depending on the issue; social therapy for special needs clients; child care; after school care and services; educational classes; tutoring; and more. Since 2000, JOCI's record of achievement has attracted new partners to their effort: Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute, Quality Stars, the Department of Human Services,