

Martin Luther King said, “The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.”

HBCUs do not just educate—they build character.

The Bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus will create and explore legislation that will increase support for HBCUs, such as the Higher Education Act, America COMPETES, and Appropriations.

The Bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus will also work to connect HBCUs to funding opportunities that ensure schools have the resources needed to educate and prepare students for the global workforce.

My focus is to support and continue my work with Texas Southern University and other HBCUs by:

- finding growth opportunities for HBCU students and graduates;

- working with private industry to connect students to jobs, internships, and scholarships; and

- opening up doors to HBCU students interested in coming to Capitol Hill.

Each Congressional Black Caucus member works to expose HBCU students to global experiences to learn about other cultures.

My office worked to assist students in my district in going on a trip to China—for many it was their first travel outside of the state of Texas.

That one experience transformed their lives—by expanding their horizon from being local to global.

JACOB FRESON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jacob Freson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Jacob Freson is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jacob Freson 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 Jacob Freson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING SOUTHWESTERN ENERGY UPON RECEIVING THE EMPLOYERS EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to help recognize Southwestern Energy (SWN) for receiving the Employers Excellence Award for Energy Efficiencies and Environmental Improvements from the Northeast Pennsylvania Manufacturers and Employers Association. This prestigious award is meant to honor businesses in northeastern Pennsylvania that have shown a commitment to providing energy-efficient solutions and environmental conservation. By continuing to harness domestic energy sources in the most efficient manner possible, while also preserving the environment for future generations to enjoy, SWN has provided my constituents with a superior quality of life that permeates all aspects of the community.

With over 80 years of experience in identifying and extracting domestic natural gas sources, SWN has helped lead the effort toward energy independence. This leadership and success continues to be dependent upon the dedication to their employees and to the communities in which they operate. Northeastern Pennsylvania has benefited tremendously from Southwestern Energy’s commitment to environmentally conscious means of extracting our state’s natural resources. I had the opportunity to meet with community leaders at the Tunkhannock, PA facility to witness firsthand the regional investment and economic impact of Southwestern Energy’s projects in my district.

Launching their Energy Conserving Water (ECH2O) program in 2012, SWN pledged that for each gallon of fresh water used in their operations, they would replenish or offset an equivalent amount through conservation and innovation. In 2015, Southwestern Energy made significant progress toward their goal of achieving water neutrality in Pennsylvania. With the completion of the Fall Brook Acid Mine Drainage Treatment and Restoration Project, SWN has improved the water quality in the Susquehanna River throughout my district.

Mr. Speaker, Southwestern Energy’s contributions to energy security and natural resource conservation in my district and state have been profound. Upon receiving the Employers Excellence Award for Energy Efficiencies and Environmental Improvements from the Northeast Pennsylvania Manufacturers and Employers Association, Southwestern Energy has affirmed their place among leaders in our communities. I look forward to witnessing the continued involvement of SWN in my district and state, and am confident that their contributions to my constituents will have a lasting impact.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Number 172 on S. 1890, I am not recorded because I was absent for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

IN HONOR OF 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CATHEDRAL

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of St. Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Cathedral located in the district I represent in Manhattan, New York. It was the first Armenian church established in New York City.

After fleeing to the United States in the late 19th and early 20th century following the Hamidian Massacres and Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire, the Armenians of New York City did not have their own church to worship in together. They held religious services in various churches, most of which were located in the neighborhood of the current cathedral. Purchasing a church was initially proposed in 1913. A successful fundraising effort allowed construction to begin for what was then known as the central cathedral of the Armenian Apostolic Church in 1915. The Cathedral officially opened its doors in 1916, but parishioners celebrated the Cathedral’s centennial throughout 2015 at the same time as the centennial of the Armenian Genocide in Ottoman Turkey in 1915.

For over a century, St. Illuminator’s Cathedral has played a significant role in advocating for Armenians in the U.S. and around the world. Many Genocide survivors found their refuge in the United States, entering the country through Ellis Island. St. Illuminator came to serve as shelter to many of them once they arrived. Today, there remains a vibrant congregation, inspiring their community through faith and service.

I extend my congratulations to the pastor, Rev. Fr. Mesrob Lakissian who has led the church for 10 years, the Board of Trustees, and all members and friends of St. Illuminator, and wish them many more years of success and service to the Armenian American community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the anniversary of St. Illuminator’s Cathedral and its contributions to the Armenian American residents of Manhattan, Queens and Brooklyn as well as the larger Armenian American community in the United States.