In May Congress passed H. Con. Res. 88, reaffirming the TRA and the Six Assurances as the linchpin of our relationship and earlier in the 114th Congress, the House passed legislation regarding Taiwan's participation at the World Health Assembly and INTERPOL. With the passage of H. Con. Res. 88, the people of Taiwan may be assured that Congress will continue to develop and grow our prosperous relationship.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in a message of continuing friendship to the people of Taiwan, and in wishing them a Happy Double Ten Day.

IN HONOR OF LOUDOUN FIRST RESPONDERS

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the tremendous work of some of my constituents at the Loudoun First Responders. The Loudoun First Responders exemplify the very best of the traditions of public service to their community. Their dedication to a high standard of conduct allows them to remain fearless while making a positive impact in the lives of their neighbors.

Becoming a First Responder takes unwavering devotion. The Loudoun First Responders answer the calls of their neighbors in need with a limited amount of equipment, all while providing efficient and immediate care to ill and injured patients. These individuals are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, and the environment. They constantly adapt to function in uncommon situations in order to keep my constituents safe.

Within the Loudoun First Responders, the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, the Leesburg Police Department, the Middleburg Police Department, the Purcellville Police Department, the Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management, our healthcare providers, as well as 16 volunteer fire-rescue corporations operating out of 19 stations all work tirelessly to protect our citizens. These individuals' dedication and skills greatly impact the community in which they serve. We readily commend them for their hard work and sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that my colleagues join me in thanking the Loudoun First Responders for the outstanding service they have provided, and continue to provide, to our great Commonwealth. I wish them the best as they continue to serve and protect all in Virginia's 10th Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE AND DEAN OLSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Joyce and Dean Olson of Minden, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on July 16, 1966 at the United Church of Christ in Minden, Iowa.

Joyce and Dean's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Bonnie, Pam, and Dee, and six grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

OGDENSBURG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GRAND OPENING

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Ogdensburg International Airport located in St. Lawrence County, New York. The airport is owned by the Ogdensburg Bridge & Port Authority and has undergone a major expansion project.

The sizeable expansion of the Ogdensburg International Airport is impressive in its scope and the time within which the project was completed. The runway of the airport has been extended to accommodate larger planes, and the terminal and parking lot have been modernized and expanded for increased use and traffic. These additions and improvements have allowed the Ogdensburg International Airport to partner with new airlines and offer additional flights, and will strengthen both the direct and indirect economic impact of the facility on the community.

This expansion project will enable airlines partnering with the Ogdensburg International Airport to offer low cost airfare, making travel to the North Country easier and more convenient. It is my hope that this airport will act as a signal to investors, both in and out of the area, that Ogdensburg can support growing industries and expanding businesses. These improvements will provide returns on investments for the future, and will help establish a North Country presence beyond upstate New York.

Congratulations to St. Lawrence County, the City of Ogdensburg, the Ogdensburg Bridge & Port Authority, and the Ogdensburg International Airport. I wish you all the best for continued success in the future.

US–UK TRADE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the days leading up to the Brexit referendum, the President told our friend, Britain that if they were to leave the European Union, they would end up at the "back of the queue" for a trade deal. What an absurd statement to make to our most important ally. Throughout history we have worked side by side with the U.K. to overcome global crises. After the disastrous foreign policy for the last eight years, America has few true friends left in this world. A free trade agreement between the U.S. and the U.K. should not be at the back of the line, but at the front.

The U.S. and Britain share a common heritage and values. We also have a deep and longstanding trade relationship grounded in our complimentary economies. The U.S. exported over $76 billion in planes, helicopters, spacecraft, and aircraft parts to the U.K. in 2014. Our inability to work towards a trade agreement with the U.K. will negatively affect more than 40 Aerospace companies in Texas alone. We are Britain's most important trading partner. The U.S. imports over $56 billion in goods every year from Britain and 20 percent of our exports bound for the EU end up in the U.K. market. We are also a major investor in the British economy, with U.S. foreign direct investment nearing $588 billion in 2014. Unlike the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), a trade deal with the U.K. would be simple to broker. It could be as easy as expanding NAFTA to include the U.K., or creating a new model for more simplified trade agreements with individual countries in the future. A trade agreement with the U.K. would not only deepen our close friendship, but would also chip away at non-tariff regulatory barriers that are being built around the European Union, such as the different requirements for testing the safety of cars and drugs. A more streamlined and efficient trading relationship would reap benefits for both Washington and London.

Britain's exit from the EU should be looked at as an American opportunity. The prospect of a bilateral U.S.–U.K. trade agreement is exciting; such an agreement would promote economic freedom, champion national sovereignty, and create a new model for other bilateral trade agreements.

We have entered a strange time in politics—one in which free trade has never been more unpopular. Brexit presents a unique opportunity to demonstrate the positive impacts of free trade with one of our closest allies. We have already seen what can happen to global markets if the U.K. appears isolated: in the wake of the Brexit referendum the British pound plummeted by 7.6 percent against the dollar. Britain's continued seclusion will only cause more harm than good for the rest of us. And it doesn't end there. Economic disaster in London will translate into a reassessment of military and diplomatic relations in Washington. For the Administration to ignore both these risks and opportunities is a disservice to both our interests and those of our friends across the pond.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California. Fifty years ago on September 18, the

Eastern District of California opened its doors to serve the people of counties across California, including those who live in my hometown of Sacramento. Over the last half-century, the judges, attorneys, and staff of the Eastern District have worked tirelessly to ensure that justice is served, that cases are adjudicated efficiently and fairly, and that the law is respected and upheld.

Throughout its history, the Eastern District of California has been fortunate in the quality of its leadership. Judge Myron D. Crocker served as the District's first Chief Judge, followed closely thereafter by Judge Thomas J. MacBride. Judge MacBride served in that capacity for eleven years, making him the longest-serving Chief Judge in the history of the Eastern District. Judge Philip C. Wilkins followed Judge MacBride as Chief Judge in 1979, and was in turn succeeded as Chief by Judge Lawrence Karlton in 1983. In 1990, Judge Robert E. Coyle became the court's fifth Chief. His term ended in 1996, when the duties of Chief were assumed by Judge William B. Shubb. Judge Shubb remains on the bench as a Senior District Judge to this day. He was succeeded as Chief by Judge David F. Levi, who held the post for four years until resigning his commission to train the next generation of legal minds as Dean of Duke University School of Law. Judge Garland E. Burrell served as Chief from 2007 to 2008, when he was succeeded by Judge Anthony W. Ishii. After Judge Ishii's tenure as Chief concluded in 2012, Judge Morrison C. England, Jr. assumed the reins of the District Court's leadership. The current Chief Judge of the Eastern District is Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill.

The Eastern District of California has, from its inception, been one of the hardest-working district courts in the United States. Today, the court has the heaviest weighted caseload in the Ninth Circuit. The fact that the Eastern District's docket carries more cases than most other courts in the country means that the judges, attorneys, staff, and volunteers of California's Eastern District are some of the most dedicated and effective people in our country's entire judicial system. I am proud to represent so many who do the critically important day-to-day work of adjudicating cases, dispensing justice, and upholding the rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Eastern District of California on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF PAM HILLERY

HON. RYAN K. ZINKE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Pam Hillery of Havre, Montana. After a four-year battle with Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS), Pam passed away peacefully in the presence of her family late Wednesday night, September 15, 2016. This was a profound loss, not only for Havre, but for all of Montana.

I was truly saddened to hear the news Thursday morning. I only had the privilege of meeting Pam and her husband Paul once, but they left a lasting impression on me and my staff. Last year, Paul and Pam made the long trek from Havre to Washington to advocate for legislation that would prioritize finding cures for chronic diseases like ALS. At the time, the House was still crafting and debating a solution. I remember kneeling down next to Pam and listening to her story. Despite being bound to a wheelchair, her passion and dedication were truly inspirational. She knew her fate, but was still striving for a better future with those afflicted with this terrible disease. In Pam's own words, "I'm not hopeful, but I'm not hopeless." It was this fervent spirit that led me to cosponsor and help pass the 21st Century Cures legislation in the House of Representatives.

While I only knew Pam for a short time, it became immediately and abundantly clear why her passing is such a loss to Havre, Montana, and our nation. Her honest passion had the ability to inspire people to action. The town of Havre knows this better than anyone else. Pam epitomized what it means to be an active participant within the local community. She served on the Havre City Council for nine years, even after being confined to a wheel chair and losing her ability to speak. She was politically active, fighting for the causes close to her heart. From Missoula to Helena, she was constantly in motion no matter what it took. Most importantly, she was a loving and dedicated mother and wife to her children and husband. Pam leaves behind her husband Paul and children Caroline and Dolan. To each of them, you have mine and Lola's sincerest condolences.

Mr. Speaker, although Pam is no longer with us, I call upon this Congress to commemorate her lasting impact. Whether serving her community as part of the Havre City Council or navigating the halls of Congress for causes close to her heart, she made a positive impression at every single turn. She will be sorely missed by us all.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $19,520,012,359,884.18. We've added $8,893,135,310,971.10 to our debt in 6 years. This is over $7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO SHANNON SMITH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shannon Smith for being honored as Iowa's Adviser of the Year for the Future Business Leaders of America. She is a business instructor at Creston High School in Creston, Iowa.

Future Business Leaders of America helps over 230,000 members prepare for careers in business and related fields. Its mission is to bring business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs. Ms. Smith was nominated by her students and recognized with this award at the 2016 National Leadership Conference.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Shannon Smith for her service as a teacher to students at Creston High School and congratulate her on this award. It is an honor to represent Shannon in Congress, and I wish her nothing but the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE SUNY PLATTSBURGH UPWARD BOUND 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 50th anniversary of the State University of New York at Plattsburgh's Upward Bound Program. Upward Bound prepares high school students for success in college and professional careers. Since its founding in 1966, nearly 1500 students in the Plattsburgh area have completed the program.

Through Upward Bound, high school students are afforded the opportunity to attend career fairs, shadow jobs, and complete internships. Each year, participants of the SUNY Plattsburgh Upward Bound Program provide over 6,000 hours of community outreach in Plattsburgh. This specific Upward Bound Program gives students the incredibly unique opportunity to take part in leadership experiences such as ocean classroom sailing, Adirondack wilderness trips, and participation in the National Leadership Congress.

SUNY Plattsburgh's Upward Bound is one of the oldest Upward Bound Programs in the country. In the past fifty years, over eighty percent of Upward Bound Alumni across the United States have pursued secondary education immediately after high school graduation and more than fifty percent of those students have been able to complete their post-secondary education.

Upward Bound Plattsburgh offers programming throughout the school year and during the summer as well, encouraging students to participate with their families. During the school year, the program offers college visits and bi-weekly counseling sessions, while in the summer, more than 45 classes are offered daily, covering every subject from math to history, foreign languages and the sciences. In addition to these classes, cultural experiences and leadership opportunities are offered every week.

The SUNY Plattsburgh Upward Bound Program has done a tremendous job of empowering and uplifting high school students since its founding in 1966. I want to wish its teachers, administrators, students, and alumni continued success in the future.