

has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jared Kinate for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

FORT BEND COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE EARNS STATE RECOGNITION

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's Office for receiving the Texas Fire Marshals Association's Achievement of Excellence Award and a Letter of Appreciation from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE).

The Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's Office was recognized for their excellent performance in fire prevention. This achievement award is the only formal recognition for performance excellence of organizations given by the TxFMA. In addition, the Letter of Appreciation identifies the Fire Marshal's staff for their leadership as a TCOLE agency. Our community is safer thanks to the dedication of our first responders in the Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's Office. We thank them for their service and their sacrifice.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second District of Texas, congratulations again to the Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's Office for earning this distinction. Thank you for your dedication to keep our community safe.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEPHANIE FARMER

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Stephanie Farmer of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, for her service to the United States and her local community.

Ms. Farmer honorably served our country in the U.S. Air Force. Following her service, she returned home to Delaware County to teach. She brought enthusiasm to the classroom that had a tremendous impact on the students she taught. After years of teaching Ms. Farmer was asked to accept the Assistant Principal position at Tinicum School in Essington. In this capacity, she has become known as a devoted, caring educator who pushes her students to be their best.

One particular area in which Ms. Farmer challenges her students is reading. She intensified the focus on her school's Summer Reading Program—which challenges grade schools to read the most books over their summer break. Thanks to her devotion, her students consistently lead other elementary schools in this competition.

Her passion for learning and the energy she brings to school has proven infectious. Her efforts have helped her students gain more from

their education than what they otherwise would have.

I commend Ms. Stephanie Farmer for her life of service to her students, community, and country. I wish her and her students much continued success.

HONORING CHRISTIAN LEECH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christian Leech. Christian is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 247, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Christian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Christian has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christian Leech for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMEMORATING CENTRAL INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING THE NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2017

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Central Intermediate School in Washington, Illinois for receiving the U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon.

Since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has awarded the Blue Ribbon to schools across the country based on their overall academic excellence. This year, 342 schools across the nation were awarded the National Blue Ribbon, including Central Intermediate School. Central Intermediate School prides itself on helping students recognize their full potential. What started as a one-room, rural school building in the 1830s has turned into one of the premier schools not only in Central Illinois, but in the United States.

Central Intermediate School has a long history of academic excellence, earning numerous awards over the past decade. Led by Principal Brian Hoelscher, the faculty has developed an effective curriculum to meet the academic needs of all students and encourage community involvement.

It is an honor to represent the students, faculty, and administrators at Central Intermediate School. Their dedication to education, and their students, makes them a deserving recipient of the National Blue Ribbon, and more importantly, an example for schools all across the nation.

LEAH DEVINE NAMED OUTSTANDING WEST VIRGINIA WORLD LANGUAGE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2017

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following article congratulating Leah Devine being named Outstanding West Virginia World Language Teacher of the Year.

[From the Inter-Mountain]

ELKINS NATIVE WINS TEACHER OF THE YEAR HONOR

ELKINS—A local Spanish instructor and Elkins native recently earned teacher of the year honor.

Leah Devine, an online Spanish teacher with the West Virginia Virtual School was named Outstanding West Virginia World Language Teacher of the Year by the West Virginia Foreign Language Teacher's Organization in October.

"Languages, culture knowledge and understanding international customs all can broaden a student's perspective and encourage the student to see the world through new eyes. When students can reflect on the greater world, they can also in turn reflect on their own language, communities, customs and daily practices," Devine said about the value of learning languages and developing global and cultural literacy.

Devine teaches virtually in five counties in the state, including Randolph, Monroe, Greenbrier, Summers and Kanawha. Within these counties, she instructs students at Western Greenbrier Middle School, DuPont Middle School, Mountain View Middle School and Peterstown Middle School, Pickens School, Summers County Middle School and Summers County High School.

"Basically, the students are on online curriculum most of the time, but three days out of the week, I call them and I teach them," Devine said. "When I teach them lessons, they're seeing the same things I'm seeing and we're doing a lot of the same skills we would be doing if we were in a face-to-face setting—such as answer this question, ask your neighbor this or tell me what color shirt you're wearing."

She went on to say the classes are proficiency based and interactive while they are primarily conducted over phone or online.

While the majority of her teaching is done virtually, Devine said she is able to visit her students three times per year.

Before she began teaching virtually, Devine taught for six years in a face-to-face classroom setting. She is now in her 12th year of teaching.

"Part of what I do is I go visit my students and teach them face-to-face, and when I'm there we do cultural activities," Devine said. "Some of the things I've done is teach about the food made in Venezuela, and I was able to bring the students from Pickens to El Gran Sabor for a field trip."

She explained students were to order in Spanish when they visited the restaurant, and several months later, the students made Venezuelan cuisine for their parents.

"They were taking what they learned food-wise to cook and prepare a meal using recipes in Spanish," Devine said.

Devine earned a masters in instructional design and technology from West Virginia University. She is also the immediate past president of the West Virginia Chapter of American Association of Teachers of Spanish

and Portuguese, and the secretary of the West Virginia Foreign Language Teachers' Association.

When she was a student at Elkins High School, Devine studied Spanish with Brad Martin, longtime language teacher at EHS.

"I learned a great deal from Mr. Martin as his student, and as I started my professional career I became increasingly aware of how phenomenal of a teacher and role model he is," Devine said. "(Martin) has inspired other language teachers around the area and has multiple former students currently teaching world languages."

She also noted 20 years ago Martin was awarded the teacher of the year award by the West Virginia Foreign Language Teachers Association.

In March, Devine will travel to Atlanta for the Southern Conference on Language Teaching to represent the Mountain State as teacher of the year and compete for the regional title.

"I'll also attend workshops to learn things that will help to improve our profession that I can bring back and share with West Virginia students as well as my peers and colleagues," Devine said.

While she said she does not currently have plans to teach any additional languages, she hopes to learn more, possibly Italian and Portuguese.

"We live and teach in an interconnected world where learning languages is a key to unlocking opportunities," Devine said. "It is our duty as language teachers to help our students build confidence and skills that they can use to explore the world around them and the global community."

VETERANS TRANSPLANT COVERAGE ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 1133, the Veterans Transplant Coverage Act. This legislation enables the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide organ transplants for veterans, even if the live donor is a non-veteran, at the facility of their choice. Current law restricts coverage for veterans receiving an organ donation from a non-veteran. This policy means that children, siblings, and other non-veteran family members that are matches and willing to donate are not eligible to receive VA care for the operation.

The Veterans Transplant Coverage Act was inspired by the Nelson family from Texas. When veteran Charles Nelson needed a kidney transplant, his son, Austin, was a match. When it came time for the operation, the VA healthcare system denied the Nelsons coverage because Austin was a non-veteran. The VA's decision forced the Nelsons to solicit donations to ensure that Charles could still have this lifesaving transplant surgery. The Veterans Transplant Coverage Act will ensure that no other American hero is denied transplant coverage ever again.

The restrictions set forth by our current law have life or death consequences for the men and women that have bravely served our nation. I fully support H.R. 1133 to allow the VA to provide organ transplants for veterans when the living donor is a non-veteran.

IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT
EDWARD DANIEL MAGINN

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Sergeant Edward Daniel Maginn of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, for his service in the United States Marine Corps and for his work as a federal law enforcement official.

Sgt. Maginn served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969. After his service abroad, the Sergeant served as Paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division for two years. During his time in the military, Sgt. Maginn received numerous awards. These honors included the National Defense Ribbon, Parachute Wings, and the Vietnam Service Ribbon.

After his time in the military, Sgt. Maginn wished to continue his career of service. In 1988, he began working as a federal police officer. On September 11th, 2001, after witnessing the World Trade Center Towers collapse, his commanding officer asked for volunteers to rescue victims of the tragedy. Sgt. Maginn volunteered without hesitation. His humanitarian spirit also took him to New Orleans in 2005 to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

After the Department of Homeland Security was created in the wake of the September 11th attacks, Sgt. Maginn joined the Department as a Hazmat Tech Officer, an integral part of the Special Response Team.

Sgt. Maginn's selfless acts prove his lifelong devotion to serving others. I thank Sergeant Edward Maginn for his continued service and I commend his tireless dedication to community and country.

HONORING MATTHEW JOHN LEWIS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew John Lewis. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 251, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Matthew has served his troop as the Historian and Senior Patrol Leader, earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and become a Brotherhood member in Order of Arrow. Matthew has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Matthew leveled the area with paving stones and constructed 40 feet of fence for Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew John Lewis for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of Amer-

ica and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF LEONARD
HILL

HON. MARK WALKER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2017

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent—Leonard Hill from Guilford County. I am honored to acknowledge constituents who selflessly answered the call to serve and defend our freedom. A United States Army Air Corps veteran of World War II and member of the Greatest Generation, Mr. Hill served his country with honor. Self-sacrifice, personal responsibility, and humility are traits this generation embodied. The tremendous strides our country has made since World War II are a direct result of these great Americans. North Carolina is truly fortunate to have Mr. Hill, an outstanding representative of our community and country. I join with his family, friends, and the Sixth District in thanking Leonard Hill for his dedicated service to the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIVES OF DR. ZIA
HASSAN AND MR. ABDUL
HAMEED DOGAR

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2017

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the lives of Dr. Zia Hassan and Mr. Abdul Hameed Dogar who passed away on October 29 this year of natural causes.

Dr. Hassan and Mr. Dogar were widely known for their work in both their home and Muslim-American communities.

Abdul, affectionately known as Dogar Hasib, immigrated to the United States in March of 1962. As a civil engineer, he worked for the Illinois Department of Transportation designing roads that link our communities and move millions of people in the Chicagoland area every day. In addition, he served as a Director of the Islamic Foundation of Illinois for over 40 years.

Dr. Hassan, a widely published engineer and businessman, immigrated to the United States in 1956. He was the Dean Emeritus of The Illinois Institute of Technology's Stuart School of Business, Chairman Emeritus of the Islamic Foundation of Illinois, a Fellow of the American Society for Quality, and served as an examiner for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

Together, their passion for community work drove them to found the Islamic Foundation of Illinois, now one of the largest Islamic Centers for religious practice and education in America. Their dedication to their communities helped Muslim-Americans in the Chicago area pursue educational and professional achievements to further the development of our community.

I want to recognize Dr. Hassan and Dogar Hasib for their accomplishments and hard work on behalf of their friends, family and the