

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