

HONORING RACHEL WHEELER FOR HER TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO HAITI

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Rachel Wheeler of Lighthouse Point, Florida.

At 11 years of age, Rachel has succeeded in raising over \$170,000 to build houses in Haiti. She first learned of the nation's extreme poverty 2 years ago after attending a presentation by Food for the Poor President and CEO Robin Mahfood. Rachel took immediate action and set a goal to build 13 homes, each costing \$2,600. Her campaign included chamber meeting announcements, television news appearances, a webpage, and advocacy throughout her school and neighborhood. Her zeal and devotion were met with widespread support, and she soon expanded her goal to a 25-residence village that includes larger homes. Now, Rachel would like to expand her project to include a school.

Though Rachel first launched her efforts prior to the earthquake that devastated the nation's capital, Port au Prince, those efforts are now even more invaluable in the tragedy's wake. Having spent much of my career fighting for the people of Haiti, I am both honored and humbled by Rachel's work. She has been able to garner coast-to-coast support and was named one of the country's top 10 youth volunteers in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards competition. We here in Washington can certainly learn from her tenacious spirit, prodigious initiative, and momentous impact. If Rachel can do it, why can't we?

Mr. Speaker, I am most impressed that despite the fact that this remarkable young lady has accomplished more in her 11 years than many do in their lifetimes, she readily acknowledges that her efforts have only just begun. Rachel's vision and success are a shining example not only to her peers, but to anyone who has ever questioned how much of a difference one individual can truly make. As I rise to honor her passion and dedication today, I look forward to the great things she will undoubtedly accomplish in the future.

BREANNA ANDREWS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Breanna Andrews for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Breanna Andrews is an 8th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Breanna Andrews 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 Breanna Andrews for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED EDUCATION CAREER OF HOWARD BERGER

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of Howard Berger, Superintendent of the Tulare Joint Union High School District, who is retiring at the end of this school year. Howard spent his entire career teaching and guiding high schools in Tulare. His awards and accomplishments are so numerous that there is not enough time today to list them. What I can say is that for the people of Tulare there is no need for a list. Anyone who knows Howard also knows that he is a Tulare institution.

After graduating from California State University, Hayward in 1968, Howard began his teaching career in Tulare County. Howard admits that he only intended to spend a year at Tulare Union High School teaching Social Studies. Fortunately for students and parents that school year stretched to 1983. Howard has said that what kept him in Tulare was the great community spirit and commitment to education of its residents. During 1972–1973, Howard also taught Social Studies and English at Cherry Avenue Middle School.

In 1975, Howard began his distinguished career as an academic administrator, becoming Chair of the Social Studies Department at Tulare Union High School. Further success followed like clockwork. In 1986, Howard was named Assistant Principal at Tulare Western High School and in 1989 he was selected Principal at Tulare Union High School. In 2006, Howard had the honor of being named Superintendent of the Tulare Joint Union High School District. Under his leadership, Tulare opened a third high school, Mission Oak, a milestone in Tulare history. Mission Oak High School will see its first graduating class this year.

During his time as Principal and Superintendent, there were numerous accomplishments, honors and awards reflecting Howard's leadership of Tulare high schools. Recognition came from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the State of California, the federal government, and national education associations, including a Bill & Melinda Gates grant to participate in a national educational study.

Howard's career as Principal and Superintendent will be remembered as an important chapter in Tulare County history. What should also be remembered was that Howard was first and foremost a teacher. As he has said, "I think in my whole career the experience I've enjoyed the most was teaching. You see immediately the impact you've had."

For 43 years, the citizens of Tulare have had the privilege of Howard teaching and guiding their students. Forty-three years is a long time. In Howard's office there is also a

43-year-old Fisher 150 record player that he bought with his first paycheck from the school district. Like the record player, many changes have occurred in Tulare, the State of California, and the nation. Howard successfully steered Tulare high schools through them all. It is hard to imagine Tulare schools without Howard. As he enjoys his retirement, I hope Howard will also have time to reflect on his legacy and know that he had a lasting impact on the lives of thousands of high school students and their families.

IN HONOR OF BOB GRIFFITH

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert Griffith who is retiring as the longest ever serving President of Woods Services in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Woods Services, located in Langhorne, Pennsylvania is a facility that provides a home environment for people with developmental disabilities, challenging behaviors and other special needs. Their approach is unique and their philosophy one of inclusion and caring. For nearly a century, they have held true to its original mission, "To help each individual reach his or her highest level of achievement, whatever it may be."

For Woods and many of the people it serves this mission would not have been become a reality without the steady leadership of Robert Griffith.

Robert has been an advocate for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities for nearly 35 years. During his tenure at Woods, both the physical facility and his positive impact on the community have grown immensely.

I am proud to honor the tenure of Robert Griffith and continuing to support his work for the most vulnerable among us.

HONORING JESSE T. REYNOLDS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jesse T. Reynolds. Jesse's service to this Nation during World War II exemplified the highest characteristics of the service men and women who bled and died to preserve freedom.

Jesse was aboard the USS *MacDonough* when it was anchored in Pearl Harbor the morning of December 7, 1941. Jesse was among the first to spot the incoming Japanese aircraft that morning and informed the only officer on board of the pending attack. After Pearl Harbor, Jesse was assigned to the newly commissioned USS *Radford*, where he served in support of the Battle of Guadalcanal and in the Battle of Kula Gulf, where Jesse helped rescue the survivors of the USS *Helena*.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, I proudly ask you to

join me in commending Jesse T. Reynolds for his accomplishments with the United States Navy and for his service to the United States of America during World War II.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID
LEADBETTER

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. David Leadbetter, the recipient of the 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA).

For over thirty years, Mr. Leadbetter has helped golfers achieve lower scores and improve their game. He is a world renowned golf instructor and known for his innovative teaching techniques. Initially starting out as a player, he participated in the European and South African tours prior to coming to fame for correcting Nick Faldo's swing in the 1980s. Among his many students are the famed Greg Norman, Nick Price, Ernie Els, and Michelle Wie. His students have greatly benefitted from his creative teaching methods and valuable advice; many of them hold major championship titles and individual worldwide titles. Aside from being the world's number one golf instructor and serving as coach to countless professional golfers, Mr. Leadbetter has academies worldwide to nurture new talent and share his love of golf. His extensive knowledge of golf also extends to seven golf instruction books, instructional DVDs, and television programs.

This prestigious award from NGCOA recognizes Mr. Leadbetter's contributions to the game of golf. His love for golf is evident in his dedicated efforts to helping others improve their game. Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Leadbetter on this great honor. I wish him all the best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 330 for H.R. 1627, I am not recorded because I was absent. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

COMMEMORATING JEWISH
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in commemorating May as Jewish American Heritage Month and celebrating the many achievements the Jewish community has made to American culture and society.

While Jewish people make up only two percent of our nation's population, they have been a vibrant group contributing to American society for over 350 years.

The Jewish American community is a vibrant piece of the American fabric.

They have worked tirelessly to increase tolerance and understanding, while working to decrease anti-Semitism around the country.

Their community has organized innovative educational forums and cultural exchanges to help bring people together and promote our country's diversity.

The Jewish community in my District and surrounding areas is active and engaged on several fronts including in literature, politics and medicine.

I congratulate them for all their hard work and look forward to working with them in the years to come.

I hope all Americans will join me in celebrating Jewish-American Heritage Month and taking pride in the unique contributions that our Jewish community has made to our nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF HILDA
GRIGORIAN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hilda Grigorian, a Glendale resident who has dedicated herself to helping those in need around the world, often in some of the most challenging and dangerous locations.

Hilda Grigorian was born and raised in Iran, and migrated to the United States in 1978 in pursuit of the American dream of education and career. Hilda achieved both of these goals—she obtained a bachelor's degree and MBA and is currently working toward her Ph.D. at Walden University. She also worked in the private sector for over two decades, focusing on international development.

Hilda began her international relief efforts with a trip to her motherland of Armenia, where she volunteered to help small businesses. After several visits to Armenia's rural villages, she established a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) called Armenia Village Operation, which she started with her own funds and other private funding. The program implemented important projects in the rural villages of Armenia.

In 2005, Hilda traveled to Afghanistan to work with a USAID-funded program to help vulnerable, widowed women with business planning and access to funds to regain their businesses which were destroyed by the Taliban. She then worked for UNDP in the youth development project. In 2008, she began working for USAID Afghanistan as a Field Program Officer, stationed in the Province of Nangarhar, which borders Pakistan. In 2009, she was transferred to the remote, rural Province of Ghor in Western Afghanistan, where she helped people implement community development programs, created jobs through cash for work projects, and ensured a fair distribution of food to the people of Ghor.

Hilda's selfless dedication to the people of Afghanistan has immeasurably benefited some of the most at-risk people in the world, and

has demonstrated the generous spirit of Americans toward those in crisis. She thrived in an environment that afforded her very basic living conditions, with no luxuries or amenities we often take for granted.

I ask all Members to join me in thanking Hilda Grigorian for her unwavering commitment to the people of Armenia and Afghanistan and wish her well in all future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was giving the keynote address at the second annual Native American Health Conference. Due to transportation constraints, I was unable to make it back to the Capitol to vote for H.R. 1383, H.R. 1627, and H.R. 1657. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all of these important bills.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUT
TROOP 890 IN LAKE HIGHLANDS,
TEXAS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Boy Scout Troop 890 in Lake Highlands, Texas, celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year.

Chartered in 1961, Troop 890 was founded to help shape and prepare the lives of the boys and young men in Dallas by teaching them the principles of Scouting. Over the past fifty years, the dedicated efforts of the leaders, the Scouts, and their parents have made Troop 890 a signature organization in Lake Highlands, Texas and it has become one of the largest and most well-known Boy Scout troops in Dallas.

The leaders of Troop 890 are committed to helping these scouts develop strong moral character and adhere to the ideals of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The Lake Highlands community that considers the Troop to be an asset, encourages parents to be actively involved and Scouts to take on leadership roles and mentor younger Scouts. Since the first Eagle rank presentation in 1963, approximately 450 individuals, including my sons, Bill and Alex, have achieved the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. Over the years, I have watched many Scouts become mature and responsible young men of great character.

Troop 890 has made the local community a stronger and better place. Their commitment to serving others is evident in the hundreds of hours devoted to various community service projects. I know Troop 890 will continue to positively impact Dallas and promote the importance of Scouting.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me congratulating Troop 890 on their 50th Anniversary. I wish Troop 890 many more years of Scouting!