

Commerce, serves on the board of the Cyprus Children's Fund, and has served as Treasurer of the World Federation for Overseas Cypriots (POMAK). He is a member of the Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE) of the North and South American Region, as well as the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, AHEPA. And, while his involvement in these and many other organizations is as extensive as the plethora of honors he has received, Andy's family is his proudest accomplishment. He and his lovely wife Anna have been blessed with two children and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate my dear friend, Andy Comodromos, and thank him for his devotion to the Cypriot-American community, both in the great State of New Jersey and across the Nation.

HONORING LINDA JACKSON-WHITMORE ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Linda Jackson-Whitmore, an extraordinary teacher who will soon retire. Her students refer to her affectionately as Ms. J. Ms. J started teaching at Washington High School in Fremont, California in 1975 as a drama instructor, director, choreographer and Performing Arts Club advisor. She transferred to Irvington High School in Fremont, California in 1978, performing the same duties.

Ms. J has been on the staff of Irvington High School as the Artistic Director for 31 years and Artistic Director of the Irvington Conservatory Theatre since 1990 where she has directed two major productions each year and over 70 shows during her professional career.

Adding to her extra-curricular duties, she volunteers as Advisor for the Black Student Union Club, Advanced Dance Club, Hip Hop Dance Club and the Step Club.

In 1986 she was accepted as a Fulbright Exchange Teacher and taught in London for a year. Another acknowledgement of her teaching excellence was her selection as Mentor Teacher in Theatre Arts for the Fremont Unified School District in 1984–1986 and 1997–98.

Ms. J has also served as a part-time instructor in the Theatre Arts Department at San Francisco State University, San Francisco Community College and serves as a high school outreach instructor for Ohlone Community College, a position she has held since 1999.

She received her Bachelor of Arts and Secondary Teaching Credential in 1973 from San Francisco State University. In 1980 she received her Masters of Arts and Community College Credential from the University of San Francisco. She is a member of the California Teachers Association, Educational Theatre Association, International Thespian Society, National Education Association, Fremont Unified School District Teachers Association, Na-

tional Forum of Black Administrators, Black Women Organized for Political Action and a Life Member of the NAACP.

Ms. J is the recipient of many honors and awards that include the International Thespian Society Most Inspirational Theatre Educator Award and the California Congress of Parent/Student/Teacher Association of Outstanding Service Award, in addition to recognition of her community service.

Ms. Linda Jackson-Whitmore has given many students, through the years, guidance in the theatre arts and will leave a lasting legacy as the instructor who gave a thespian voice to our youth. I join her colleagues in wishing her well in her well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN HARDWICK

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and legacy of John Hardwick. John Hardwick was the personification of a community servant. Born in Miami on March 27, 1970, Hardwick grew up in Hallandale, Florida. It is in the City of Hallandale that he touched the lives of so many with his hands and his heart.

Hardwick served as president of the Class of 1988 of Hallandale High. By the age of 19 he started his own business as a barber and three years later he chose to reinvest and renovate his business rather than relocate. He would go on to serve on the Hallandale Beach Chamber of Commerce board of directors, he was instrumental in founding Top Shops, a consortium of mostly minority owned beauty salons in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, and he also served on the committee that gave his often forgotten community a name, "The Palms of Hallandale."

Hardwick's community service efforts sent young children to see live theatre, he was instrumental in organizing the city's Martin Luther King Day parade, and he fought to remove a sanitation transfer station thereby keeping his community beautiful. In general, Hardwick was the type of individual who could give you a haircut while simultaneously educating you about the events in your community. He was the cornerstone for personal grooming and civic awareness. Hardwick's life was cut short last week by complications he suffered from a stroke at the young age of 41.

Mr. Speaker, John Hardwick kept his community looking good and feeling good because he was a good person. It is with privilege and sadness that I honor his life today.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. KAREN BOUNDS

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Mrs. Karen Bounds of

Hermiston, Oregon. Today millions of young people across the country are graduating and looking forward with hope and confidence to the next step in their lives. Whether it is college, service in our armed forces, or civilian employment, young adults are prepared for success by the caring and invested teachers they encountered throughout their education. Karen was one such teacher.

It is with a note of sadness that I honor Karen today, because I do so on the occasion of her retirement. For more than 20 years, she has taught essential courses including English, history, and government at Hermiston High School, which is located in my district. Future students at HHS will, regrettably, miss the opportunity to learn from Karen's knowledge and enthusiasm as well as her manifest passion for teaching and compassion toward her students.

Karen has never been one to call it a day after putting in the minimum number of hours; she has consistently volunteered her time and resources to enhance the educational opportunities available to her students. Many times over the years, for instance, Karen brought groups of exemplary students to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Close Up program, which gives high school students firsthand exposure to their nation's capital. She also dedicated much of her time to training Hermiston's successful Mock Trial team and escorting it to district and state competitions.

Karen never missed an opportunity to expose her civics and government students to the real work of government. I myself enjoyed the opportunity to address her class as a guest speaker. It will come as no surprise that the questions I faced from her students were pointed and informed. It was a pleasure to meet those students and witness their interest and curiosity about our system of government. It is more important than ever that Americans take an active and informed interest in their government, and Karen equipped her students with the foundation essential for doing so.

A California native, Karen met her husband of 45 years, Roger Bounds, while attending their alma mater, Stanford University. Karen and Roger raised four children and, as you might imagine, Karen's efforts on behalf of her students represent just a fraction of the commitments she has assumed over her years as a teacher, a mother, and an involved citizen. Between the kids' sporting and scholastic events, Karen found the time to participate in many community-service organizations, including as a founding director of the Desert Arts Council, which has brought live performances to Hermiston for almost three decades, and as a member of the vestry of Saint John's Episcopal Church.

Mr. Speaker, I acknowledged a trace of sadness in marking Karen's retirement from Hermiston High School, but it is just a trace. I am delighted that she will have even more time in retirement to dedicate to her family, her friends, and her community in Hermiston, Oregon.

On behalf of that community, which I am pleased to represent, I thank Karen Bounds for her years of service and dedication to the students at Hermiston High School. While she will be missed, we wish her a long, productive, and enjoyable retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR, MR. JOSEPH SANTELLI

### HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual who exemplifies a successful small businessperson in our country, Joseph Santelli, who was recently honored, by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

The week of May 16–20, 2011 was the 48th Annual National Small Business Week. This is a time when the President of the United States and the country as a whole recognizes and honors the contribution that small businesses are making to our nation. Small businesses are the engines of growth and innovation, and Mr. Santelli, who was honored by the Small Business Administration of Western Pennsylvania, is truly moving his small businesses towards greatness. Mr. Santelli took the honor of being the 2011 local and state Small Business Person of the Year in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Joseph Santelli is the President of Santelli Tempered Glass, located in Monessen, PA. He was involved in the glass and window industry for many years prior to selling tempered glass himself. For fifteen years prior he sold tempering furnaces to companies so they could make the glass. With an ambition to grow his business and some help from outside investors, Mr. Santelli ventured into the manufacturing of tempered glass.

With his investment in the business, Mr. Santelli set up the first tempered glass outfit of its kind east of the Mississippi River. As his business became more successful, Mr. Santelli was able to buy out his business partner and expand his operation to factories in the states of Indiana and Florida.

Through his exploration of tempered glass, he has helped change the lives of residents throughout Pennsylvania and the United States. This type of tempered glass won't shatter if it is broken and greatly reduces injury in case of an accident. Recognizing that success bears responsibility, he has given back to the community by donating tempered glass for Habitat for Humanity projects and to ABC-TV's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition."

In this tough economic time, small businesses are creating jobs, innovative products, and services people need. They are the engine of economic growth. Mr. Santelli epitomizes intuitive and responsible business practices in this country. Mr. Speaker, I would once again like to honor Mr. Santelli for his extraordinary work and commitment as a small business owner.

### AUGUSTINE ABEYTA TRIBUTE

### HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Augustine Abeyta for his service and heroism defending the United States of America. The Colorado native is a decorated

veteran who helped defend our country and our values during one of its most trying periods.

Mr. Abeyta enlisted shortly after the outbreak of World War II, in 1944. As an infantryman, he fought in two campaigns in Germany and Ardennes. His bravery in both arenas was quickly recognized and earned him two Bronze Campaign Ribbons. Almost a year after his enlistment, he was wounded in Germany by an enemy combatant on Christmas Day, 1944. He was given the Purple Heart for the injuries he suffered protecting his country.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand and pay tribute to a man who served the United States with such valor. His sacrifices are an inspiration and I am truly grateful for his service.

### HONORING MR. KENNETH AHLSTROM

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the late Kenneth Ahlstrom of Dunkirk, New York.

Mr. Ahlstrom was a proud, patriotic American. He served in the United States Navy during World War II aboard the USS Phoenix in the southwest Pacific. During his service, Mr. Ahlstrom participated in 25 landings in New Guinea, New Britain, the Philippines, and Borneo.

Professionally, Mr. Ahlstrom worked for many years as a salesman with Eber Brothers Wine and Liquor Corporation. Throughout his life, Mr. Ahlstrom demonstrated a deep commitment and devotion to his local community. For more than 50 years, Mr. Ahlstrom has remained active in the American Legion Post 62, serving as treasurer, post commander, an officer of the board of directors and county vice commander. Concurrent with his service at Post 62, he also belonged to the VFW, Dunkirk Exempt Firemen, Dunkirk Lakeside Club, First Ward Falcon Club and the Buffalo Bills Booster Club. Mr. Ahlstrom had served on the Boys State Committee and the American Legion Baseball Scholarship Committee and was a past president and member of the Dunkirk High School Marauder Booster Club. He also had served as secretary-treasurer at Willowbrook Park Cemetery.

Of the many significant accomplishments of his life, Mr. Ahlstrom took the greatest pride in his family. Married to Nancy Ahlstrom for more than 63 years, Mr. Ahlstrom was patriarch of a great Western New York family that includes 8 children, 17 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. His is a wonderful legacy that each family member may cherish for years to come.

It is with great pride that I rise today, only a few days after our Memorial Day holiday, to honor and commemorate that service of Kenneth Ahlstrom. I hope that you will join with me, Mr. Speaker, and the entirety of our membership in the House in expressing the condolences of the House to the Ahlstrom family.

### HONORING THE WORLD WAR II VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the World War II veterans from my district who are traveling to Washington, DC, with Honor Flight Chicago, a program whose goal is to provide as many World War II veterans as possible the opportunity to see the World War II Memorial here in Washington, DC, a memorial that was built to honor their courage and service.

The American veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen traveling here today answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the European Campaign to the Pacific Asian Theatre to the African Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorial. I am proud to submit the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Joseph F. Bialek, Stephen N. Bobic, George Bosy, Norman N. Breyer, Ralph W. Brockman, Peter G. Broustis, Simon Bult, Joseph W. Burke Jr., Joseph J. Buzinski, Ingemar C. Carlson, John E. Carlson, James E. Carson, John F. Casper Jr., George P. Charnas, Lehman L. Cheshier, William C. Corrigan, Raymond E. Craig, John S. DeHesus, Arthur J. DeLorenzo, Cyril E. Diskin, James V. Doherty, Raymond J. Donovan, William J. Doyle, John T. Dryja, Eileen L. DuPont, Willard E. Duvall, Irving Ellis, Robert L. Elmer, Robert E. Engdahl, Charles L. Ettner, Guy R. Franzese, Julian L. Friedman, William Froelke, Alfred E. Galuszka, Olaf E. Gjojik, Norman Goone, Lester F. Guenther, Gilbert V. Hancock, Robert J. Heinzen, Vernon W. Hill, Donald M. Hintz, Andrew A. Hitzelberger, Rick J. Jimenez, James H. Kinnard, Fred W. Klooster, Alfred R. Koszyk, Guenther C. Krieger, Walter M. Krulac, Andrew F. Kwinn, Lloyd L. Lage, Seymour Laurie, John E. Lavelle Sr., Thomas W. Leo, Irving Lerner, James T. Letarte, Marcel L. Levesque, C. Russell Lockwood, Joseph Mann, John C. Marias, Richard W. Martial Sr., Marvin P. McGreal, Marion M. Mitchell, Edward J. Moran, William J. Nicholson, John Oberholz, Louis J. Olmetti Sr., David Perlman, Richard A. Pevitts, John J. Plisky, Joseph J. Pratl, Emil D. Pribula, George B. Renner, Arthur O. Reynnders, William G. Rieker, Robert H. Riplow, Frank J. Rock, James A. Rossi Sr., Edward T. Ryan, Charles John Sauer, Donald P. Schoo, Robert F. Shields, Edward C. Siessmann, Paul Sternfeld, Howard W. Surret Sr., Anthony J. Thomas, Robert Tinucci, John G. Torhan, Eugene Tronvig, Howard Vander Meer, Robert W. Vehlow, Dorothy Vesely, Lawrence Wallach, Frank Washburn, Albert J. Wiener, Elmer F. Wilhelm, Robert L. Winscott, Theodore Woytowicz, Joseph F. Zajac, Richard S. Zidek