C.E.O. of the Tacoma, Washington-based Columbia Bank, for being named a Community Banker of the Year by American Banker magazine.

Melanie joined Columbia Bank in 1993 and ten years later was named its Chief Executive Officer. Under Melanie's leadership, Columbia Bank acquired five other banks, increasing the bank's assets by fifty percent. These actions have helped Dressel transform Columbia Bank into a regional power.

Despite the bank's growth, Melanie has remained close to traditional community banking practices. Columbia Bank is committed to giving individuals and businesses in the Pacific Northwest a safe, secure, and customer-focused banking option.

Throughout her tenure, Columbia Bank has consistently been honored as one of the region's best places to work. The bank is regularly featured on the Puget Sound Business Journal's ''Washington's Best Workplaces'' list and listed as ''One of Washington's 100 Best Companies to Work For'' by Seattle Magazine. Even during challenging economic times, it is encouraging to see Columbia Bank going the extra mile to ensure employee satisfaction.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Melanie Dressel. Her dedication to community banking has helped grow Columbia Bank to provide exemplary service its customers, employees, and our community.

RECOGNIZING SUSAN STECHNIJ

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the work of Susan Stechnij in the Palm Beach area of Florida. Susan is one of the landlords at the Everglades Inn, a member of the Homeless and Housing Alliance of Palm Beach County. She shares my passion for helping the homeless in the community and in the fight to prevent and end homelessness.

Recently, Susan was honored with an award to denote her special contribution to the homeless people of West Palm Beach. The Lord's Place, a nonprofit organization focused on ending the cycle of homelessness in the area, honored Susan with the Unsung Heroine Award. She was awarded this honor for helping a dying homeless man find relief in the last few weeks of his life. Due to her hard work, the man was able to live comfortably in an apartment rather than facing the difficult conditions that the homeless are faced with on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, Susan deserves to be recognized for her heroic efforts. People like Susan serve an important role in communities across the state of Florida and the country. Her compassion and selflessness in helping those less fortunate is commendable, and I am proud to recognize her as a Hastings' Hero.

IN RECOGNITION OF NICK AND TRACY BROWN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Nick Brown and Mrs. Tracy Brown for their immeasurable contributions to their community and the subsequent honor they have received during Prevention First's ''Fly Me to the Moon'' Gala on February 4, 2012. The Browns are valuable members of my district and assets to their communities and country. Their actions are truly worthy of this body's recognition.

Mrs. Tracy Brown has admirably served on numerous boards for various organizations throughout Monmouth County, New Jersey. She is a hardworking member of the Monmouth Medical Center Foundation Board and has dedicated countless hours to the Ranney School Annual Fund committee. Mrs. Brown has also co-chaired the Count Basie Gala, Prevention First Gala and the Visiting Nurses Association Show House Gala. Tracy is a member of the Prevention First Executive Committee and remains an integral part of its Board. Together, Tracy and Prevention First's continued efforts have had a resounding effect in preventing alcohol and other drug usage in young adults throughout the local community.

Nick Brown's generosity as a philanthropist and valued member of the community is evident through his service. Mr. Brown is the Managing Director and head of Financial Product Brokerage, North and South America, at GFI Group. He is a partner of Jersey Partners, serves as a director of the Financial Markets Association and was formerly a member of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York's Foreign Exchange Steering Committee. In addition to his professional endeavors, Nick currently serves on the boards of the Center to Prevent Youth Violence and the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank, New Jersey. He also served as a high profile board member for the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence for 12 years. Nick remains an active board member of HELP USA, a charitable organization dedicated to providing quality housing and on-site supportive services to guide individuals towards independence and self-sufficiency. Together, the Browns have been blessed with five beautiful children, Kristina age 24, Kelli age 22, Peter age 12, Laney age 6, and Lexi age 5.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Nick and Tracy Brown for receiving the honors bestowed by Prevention First. Mr. & Mrs. Brown's unending generosity and charitable activities have undoubtedly touched many lives and have helped countless people throughout New Jersey.

IN SUPPORT OF FAIR TRIALS AND ACCESS TO COUNSEL FOR THOSE WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Ensuring Mental Competence in Immigration Proceedings Act. My legislation will make immigration proceedings more fair and humane for individuals with mental disabilities, and help prevent wrongful deportations and indefinite detentions. Specifically, this bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to ensure that immigration judges will have the authority to stop proceedings or appoint counsel when an individual is not competent enough to represent him or herself due to a mental disability.

The status quo isn't working. Judges who in good faith have terminated deportation cases because of a person's inability to participate based on mental disability have had their decisions overturned. Consequently, these cases end up in an ongoing loop that keeps these individuals in costly, inhumane detention or results in their unfair deportation.

Examples of immigrants and U.S. citizens with mental disabilities who have been unjustly detained or deported include:

An immigrant from Mexico with severe cognitive disabilities who was declared incompetent by an immigration judge in which he was unrepresented by counsel. His case was put on hold and the Department of Homeland Security allowed him to linger in detention for four and a half years, at a cost to taxpayers of about $300,000;

A 50-year old legal permanent resident with schizophrenia who had lived in New York more than 30 years was ordered by a New York court to serve 90 days in a mental institution for trespassing. Instead, he was transferred to a detention facility in Texas, where he received no medication for weeks. He then faced a proceeding without counsel, and was deported to the Dominican Republic so quickly that his family did not know what had happened to him until he was gone;

A citizen who had bipolar disorder and developmental disabilities was deported to Mexico, and subsequently to Honduras and Guatemala. It took four months to return him to the United States. ICE officials claim that he signed a statement indicating he was a Mexican national—he was not.

All of these events could have been avoided if immigration judges had the tools they need to properly adjudicate cases involving individuals with mental disabilities, and if these individuals had access to counsel. We cannot allow citizens and immigrants to be wrongly deported or remain in indefinite detention simply because they have a mental disability. By granting judges the ability to discontinue proceedings when an individual is mentally incompetent or to appoint counsel so that the individual receives a fair adjudication, this bill will reduce the costs of long detentions and delayed proceedings and make our immigration system more just.

The National Association of Immigration Judges has asked Congress for reform. Over fifty organizations including Human Rights Watch, the National Disability Rights Network, the American Civil Liberties Union and the American Immigration Lawyers Association endorse the Ensuring Mental Competence in Immigration Proceedings Act. This legislation is the right thing to do for mentally incompetent detainees, for our courts, and for taxpayers. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PORT EVERGLADES DIRECTOR PHILLIP C. ALLEN

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions and celebrate the seven years of service that Phillip C. Allen has given to the South Florida community as Director of the Port Everglades. Under his leadership and guidance, Port Everglades has become an economic powerhouse for South Florida.

Mr. Allen's commitment to creating jobs and fostering economic opportunity in our community is evident in his accomplishments. He helped craft a 20-year master plan for development of the port, and facilitated three critical expansions that are expected to create 7,000 new jobs in South Florida and 135,000 jobs statewide. Under his leadership, the port has grown substantially to accommodate our growing tourism industry, which has brought some of the world's largest cruise ships to Florida. Even more impressive is his plan to dredge the port in advance of the widening of the Panama Canal, which sets the stage for South Florida to serve as a bustling center for international commerce upon its completion in 2014.

Given his many contributions to our local economy, it should come as no surprise that on November 4, 2011, Mr. Allen was named South Florida Business Leader of the Year. I can think of no person more deserving of this honor than Mr. Allen, a leader who understands that building state-of-the-art infrastructure is imperative if we wish to give our businesses a competitive advance in the global marketplace. I commend Mr. Allen for his years of hard work and dedication, and pledge to him my continued support for the development and expansion of the Port Everglades in the years to come.

HONORING JACK DELEO

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, Mr. Jack DeLeo, as he is recognized by UNICO National, Scranton Chapter, as ''UNICAN of the Year.''

Upon receiving this award, Mr. DeLeo has served as president of the Scranton Chapter and is currently sitting Chairman of the Board for the organization. Mr. DeLeo has exemplified the motto of UNICO, 'Service Above Self,' and has long put the needs of his community first.

Mr. DeLeo served his country with courage and dignity during the Vietnam War as a soldier in the U.S. Army. Mr. DeLeo has, more recently, dedicated himself to worthy associations including the Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

At home, Mr. DeLeo is an active parishioner of St. Lucy's Church. He previously served as president of the Lackawanna County Columbus Day Association and currently sits on its Board of Directors.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Mr. Jack DeLeo, and ask my colleagues to join me in praising his commitment to his community and our Nation.

COMMENDATION OF DR. CHAD AUDI

HON. HANSEN CLARKE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Chad Audi, CEO and President of the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries (DRMM) in Detroit, Michigan. February 2012 marks Dr. Audi's 15th year serving Wayne County through his work at the DRMM.

Dr. Audi began working in the DRMM's finance department in 1997 and rose to become the Vice President of Finance and Administration. Later, he was appointed to the position of Chief Operating Officer. In 2005, Dr. Audi was selected to serve as the CEO/President of the DRMM.

Dr. Audi is a well-respected member of the community who has formed strategic partnerships with outside organizations, agencies, and individuals and found creative and cost-effective ways to serve DRMM's clients in a friendly, spiritually supportive environment.

The DRMM is the country's largest rescue mission and is committed to sharing the gospel of the love of Jesus Christ. The DRMM provides hope to the disadvantaged, abused, and homeless people in Wayne County.

Under the leadership of Dr. Audi, the DRMM serves one million meals to the homeless and hungry annually. The DRMM provides over 1,600 community members a day with shelter, food, substance abuse treatment, case management, transitional jobs, and spiritual mentoring.

The DRMM has also opened the Cornerstone Bistro in Highland Park, Michigan. The Cornerstone Bistro is a sit-down restaurant and ''cornerstone'' of a culinary apprenticeship program run by the DRMM and Wayne County Community College. This program helps DRMM clients receive on-the-job training and a culinary arts associate degree.

I commend Dr. Audi's tireless work improving the quality and range of services available to those in need in our community.

It is with great honor that I recognize Dr. Audi and his work at the DRMM creating a brighter future for Wayne County residents.

HONORING BROOK HILL SCHOOL'S ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, the Brook Hill School is a vibrant non-denominational Christian school which opened its doors in the fall of 1997. A three-fold mission permeates every aspect of Brook Hill's existence: (1) to provide excellence in college preparatory education, (2) to affirm the gifts and challenge the potential of each student, and (3) to encourage students to honor God through Christ-like character.

It is with enormous pride that I recognize and congratulate the Brook Hill School in Bullard, Texas, on its incredible athletic achievements during recent school years in which they achieved several state championship titles. This past fall of 2011, the Brook Hill Guard reached the pinnacle of success by winning the Division III State Football Championship, after being state finalists two years in a row in 2009 and 2010.

The Brook Hill Guard also captured the state championship title in Baseball during 2010–2011, as well as the state championship title in Boys' Golf that school year. As if that were not impressive enough, Kirby Vinson won the individual State Champion title in the Girls Track & Field discus. Also, Austin Langemeier won the individual State Champion title in both the Boys Track & Field 800 Meter Run and the 1600 Meter Run.

The superb 2010–2011 school year was preceded in 2009–2010 by the Brook Hill Boys achieving the incredible feat of advancing to the State final championship game in baseball, basketball, soccer, and football. That was topped off with the Girls' Golf team winning the State Championship outright that same year. It also must be noted that Courtney Thomas shown brightly by winning the State Champion title in the Shot Put event of Boys' Track & Field.

These achievements could not have been possible without the tireless preparation of each individual team member, and the commitment of the coaches to proper preparation themselves followed by the intense training, inspiring, and directing of the very talented players under their supervision. Such vast excellence in athletics in all of those sports at all levels requires the kind of community and school-wide support that Brook Hill students, parents, and community backers provided.

A key lesson that has obviously been instilled in the Brook Hill students is that uncompromising dedication and hard work ultimately yield great success.

Again, congratulations go out to the Brook Hill School students, coaching staff, faculty, and the entire community of support in and around Bullard, Texas, as their legacy is now recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that will endure as long as there is a United States of America. Their excellence in so many areas and pursuits make it my great honor to be their servant in the United States House of Representatives.

HONEST BUDGET ACT OF 2012

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, Americans deserve a genuine and predictable government that shoots straight. As Thomas Jefferson wrote, ''The whole art of government consists in the art of being honest.'' How can the people hold their representative accountable when Congress and their President distort the basic facts?

Many of my colleagues and I are dismayed by the dysfunction in the process. We've seen firsthand the insider tricks and schemes used to distort the budget and hide new spending. We've learned that these loopholes are deeply