

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SHIRLEE AND TAYLOR
GANDY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, for the last three years Shirlee and Taylor Gandy of Fort Worth, Texas, have dedicated themselves to preserving an important piece of both Fort Worth and American history.

On November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy awoke in Fort Worth to find thousands of people standing in the cold rain outside his hotel.

The President was in Texas to unify his party leading up to the 1964 election. That rainy day in Fort Worth, he delivered two speeches. The first was delivered to the crowd waiting for him outside the Hotel Texas, and the second to the Chamber of Commerce.

The President greeted the crowd outside, shook hands, and gave a short but rousing speech received with excitement by those in attendance. He spoke of the progress our nation was making, as well as the challenges we faced. He in turn famously challenged the American people to bear the burdens of leadership.

Inside the hotel's ballroom, the President addressed the Chamber gathering, speaking of national defense and Fort Worth's historic role in the effort.

He left Fort Worth to a tickertape parade and the words of his final two speeches faded quickly in the wake of the tragic events that followed. The citizens of Fort Worth, the nation, and the world had just heard the final public thoughts of President John F. Kennedy. His visit was a triumph and his remarks, as much then as now, bear remembering.

Nearly 50 years after the President's death, Shirlee and Taylor Gandy have championed the effort to pay tribute to John Fitzgerald Kennedy, his Presidency, and his historic Fort Worth visit.

The Gandys led the cause, making a generous personal commitment to start the project, which includes a completed 8' bronze sculpture of the President by Texas artist Lawrence Ludtke.

They assembled a committee of friends and members of Downtown Fort Worth, Inc. to guide the process. But perhaps their most impressive contribution to the cause was their time.

They personally labored over all the painstaking details necessary to the project. Their labors were rewarded with a beautiful sculpture, handsome tribute design and a successful fundraising campaign. On February 27th of this year, the Gandys were joined by Fort Worth and Tarrant County dignitaries, including former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Jim Wright, to turn the first shovels of ground on this project. The JFK Tribute in Fort Worth will be complete in the fall of 2012.

When the Tribute opens in General Worth Square on Main Street, the themes of the Kennedy Presidency will find a new public outlet for expression. His last public address and his Fort Worth visit will be remembered in bronze and granite.

And perhaps just as importantly, the warm, genuine, enthusiastic reception President Kennedy received in Texas that has been so long overshadowed by an act of atrocity, will also be remembered.

On behalf of the people of Fort Worth, Texas and the United States of America, I wish to formally thank Shirlee J. and Taylor Gandy for their leadership in the creation of the JFK Tribute in Fort Worth.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT
LOUIS LOTTI, II

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Chief Robert Louis Lotti, II for his 30 years of service at the Belmont and Colma Police Departments.

Robert Lotti started his law enforcement career in 1984 as an officer with the Belmont Police Department. Three years later he was assigned to the traffic division as a motorcycle officer. In 1990, he was promoted to sergeant and served as a SWAT team member, team leader, and tactical commander. In 1997 and 2000 he completed two assignments as acting commander. In 2000, he was assigned as detective sergeant to the investigations bureau.

After protecting the residents of Belmont for 18 years, Sergeant Lotti moved to the Colma Police Department where he was hired as first commander. Within less than a year, he was promoted to chief in May of 2003.

Chief Lotti's dedication, commitment and professionalism are reflected in his many accomplishments, and awards. He is a founding member and architect of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office regional SWAT Team, a weaponless defense instructor, Academy instructor, and inner perspectives facilitator. From 2003–2012 he served on the San Mateo County Police Chief's and Sheriff Association—in 2009 as president. Since 2005 he has been on the Board of Directors of the North Peninsula Food Pantry. He also served the San Mateo County Gang Task Force, the Academy Advisory Board, and the Realignment Committee. In 1987, the Peninsula Council of Lions honored him with the Police Heroism Award and in 1996, he received a commendation from the Belmont Police Department.

During his tenure, Chief Lotti has worked on many homicide investigations, fatal accidents, even a pipe bombing case, but he says the most rewarding part of the job is helping people in need and giving back to the community—both out in the field and at the station.

He has been a mentor to his fellow officers who appreciate his optimism and great sense of humor.

He has volunteered as a little league umpire and sits on the board of directors for the North County Food Pantry and Dining Center of Daly City.

Chief Lotti, a lifetime resident of San Mateo County, was born in San Mateo, grew up in San Bruno, attended Terra Nova High School in Pacifica, and received his AA from Skyline College in 1982. He earned his BS in Human Services Administration and MPA in Public Administration from the College of Notre Dame in 1992 and 1997 respectively.

In his well deserved retirement, Chief Lotti is looking forward to spending more time with his wife of 26 years, Karen, and their four children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Chief Robert Louis Lotti, II on the occasion of his retirement after making our Peninsula communities and residents safer for three decades.

IN RECOGNITION OF SGT. STEVEN
B. DAVIDSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor SGT Steven B. Davidson. He is the human resource specialist with the U.S. Army Reserve's 490th Civil Affairs Battalion and currently attends the University of North Texas. Sergeant Davidson was honored earlier this year for his exemplary service to his country and his community as the 2012 Army Times Soldier of the Year.

Sergeant Davidson, along with several others from his unit, was given the opportunity to participate in a French Desert Warfare Course in Djibouti, Africa. Having endured days of food, water, and sleep deprivation, the soldiers embarked on the final march of the rigorous ten-day course. After marching for nine hours in 120 degree debilitating temperatures, one man collapsed and began seizing due to heat stroke. Sergeant Davidson went to his aid, cutting off the man's boots and uniform; he utilized the cut-up uniform pieces as bandages and applied the remaining scarce water to the fallen soldier. He was able to revive and stabilize his condition and saved the master sergeant's life.

Sergeant Davidson graduated with honors from the course in Djibouti and received an Army Achievement Medal for his life saving action and a Military Volunteer Medal for his service while deployed abroad. The Soldier of the Year honor highlights his ongoing military service as well as his sustained commitment to others. Sergeant Davidson volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters, mentors at-risk youth, and gives motivational speeches to elementary, middle and high school students.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Perhaps his most profound gesture was presenting his Air Achievement Medal to the man who taught him life saving techniques and served as a mentor, his Northwest High School athletic trainer.

Sergeant Davidson has demonstrated a deep passion for his country and his community. I want to express my appreciation for his commendable efforts on behalf of his fellow citizens within the 26th District and for his valuable service to the State of Texas and our great Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF WARREN
HECKMAN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Warren Heckman who has spent his life serving our community and sharing his passion for music with those around him.

As a teacher and band instructor, Mr. Heckman brought the joy of music to hundreds of students for more than thirty years. He started teaching at South San Francisco High School in 1950, and created the Blue Knights, a jazz ensemble that won countless awards and put South San Francisco High School's music program on the map. The Blue Knights were one of the first high school jazz ensembles and paved the way for similar programs around the country. This jazz group is still part of South San Francisco High School's music program today.

Mr. Heckman's passion for music spread to his students, many of whom have remained in touch with him. In 2006, 180 former Blue Knights from around the country gathered together for a reunion. Many of them continue to play music, both recreationally and professionally, a testament to Mr. Heckman's influence on his pupils at such a transformative age.

In 1958, Mr. Heckman received his Master's degree from San Francisco State University. He also earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music in 1949 and a teaching credential in 1950 from the University of California-Berkeley where he met his wife, Marie, who has since passed away.

During World War II, Mr. Heckman served his country in the United States Navy. He entered the Navy in 1943 one month after graduating from high school. He attended college in Missouri for 18 months, then transferred to midshipman school at Cornell University where he received his commission in May 1945. He attended Fire Control School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and was stationed aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Midway* CV-41. As a Fire Control Officer he spent one year on board the *Midway* until he was honorably discharged in July of 1946.

For many years, Mr. Heckman participated in community organizations, including a long tenure as a member of the South San Francisco Elks Lodge. In addition, he helped create the School Personnel Credit Union and led that organization for 17 years, contributing as a board member, secretary and president.

After retiring, Mr. Heckman began a successful business tuning pianos. At 87, Mr. Heckman continues to play the trombone with

a group of local musicians. Mr. Heckman believes that music is a lifetime adventure, and he's been playing the trombone since he was 7 or 8 years old.

Family has always been an important part of Mr. Heckman's life. He enjoys spending time with his son, Mark, and his daughter-in-law, Kathy, who live locally. His twin daughters, Patty and Tina, both live in Gridley, California. Mr. Heckman is also the proud grandfather of David, Sean, Kelly and JW, and the great-grandfather of James.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor the outstanding service of Warren Heckman to the city of South San Francisco and the whole of San Mateo County. He was a role model for other teachers, a beacon for his students, and he will be remembered as an exceptional human being for many years to come.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DON EDWARDS
SAN FRANCISCO BAY NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, the first urban national Wildlife Refuge established in the United States. The Refuge is dedicated to preserving and enhancing wildlife habitat, protecting migratory birds, protecting threatened and endangered species, and providing opportunities for wildlife-oriented recreation and nature study for the surrounding communities of the south San Francisco Bay area.

As of 2004, the Refuge spans 30,000 acres of diverse habitats throughout South San Francisco Bay, including open bay, salt ponds, salt marshes, mudflats, upland areas and vernal pools. Located along the Pacific Flyway, the Refuge hosts over 280 species of birds each year. Millions of shorebirds and waterfowl stop to refuel at the Refuge during the spring and fall migration. In addition to its seasonal visitors, the Refuge provides critical habitat to resident species like the endangered California clapper rail and salt marsh harvest mouse. Today, hundreds of thousands of people visit the Refuge each year to enjoy its diverse wildlife and habitats.

The Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge is part of a complex of six other wildlife refuges in the San Francisco Bay Area. Created by legislation signed by President Richard Nixon in 1972 as the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and administered since then by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it was renamed the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge in 1995 in recognition of Congressman Don Edwards' efforts to protect sensitive wetlands in the South San Francisco Bay.

I join in congratulating the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge on its 40th anniversary and I applaud the commitment of all who have contributed over these many years to preserving and protecting our precious San Francisco Bay.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HOLY
ANGELS CLASS OF 1969

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a rare and special occasion for 45 individuals who went to grammar school together 43 years ago. It is nothing short of remarkable that two thirds of the Holy Angels Class of 1969 will gather on this day of November 10, 2012 to reminisce and exaggerate old stories.

The Sisters of the Holy Infant Jesus taught at Holy Angels, a Catholic school founded in 1952.

The Class of 1969 consisted of 45 students: Donna Abrahamsohn, Charlene Behnke, Robert Bernie, Kevin Chapot (deceased 2010), Raymond Ciardella, Shirley Conti, Richard Delgado, Mary Dillon, John Gallagher, Robert Gerughty, Randy Golobic, Susan Gomez, Joseph Gordon, Kathleen Griffin, Dennis Harvey, Stephen Haught, Loretta Kelly, Patricia Kerns, Catherine Lapachet, Carole Lindsey, Patrick McLoughlin, James McCarthy, Maura Moran, Paul Nannini, Bruce Olmanson, Thomas O'Shea, Mary Pinelli, George Putkey, Elizabeth Randall, Timothy Rea, Marie Antoinette Rodriguez, Mary Rushka, Kimberly Seitz, Debra Sola, Terrie Sottile, Marialena Spadaro, George Tinetti, Barbara Trapp, Robert Trapp, Linda Triccerri, Peter Woolery, Nina Varni, Thomas York, David Zanini, and Loretta Zolezzi.

By today's standards, a class of 45 is unheard of, but the Holy Angels students assert that it didn't harm any of them in their later lives. They moved on to careers in teaching, public safety, law enforcement, the military, the medical field, and more. Many of them stayed right here in the Colma and Daly City area, home to Holy Angels.

The class of 1969 was the first second grade class to celebrate their First Holy Communion in 1963, a year after Holy Angels church was built. All of the teachers at the school were nuns, except for Miss Sandy Sheffield—unanimously voted everyone's favorite teacher in the 4th grade for her innovative and fun teaching style. Until Miss Sheffield brought in a piñata, most students had never seen one.

Another teacher bringing fond memories to the students is Miss Whitney who taught all the dance routines for the annual May Day festivities. Each class performed a variety of folk dances on this popular day of games and raffles.

Back in the day, the TV show "The Man From U.N.C.L.E." brought out the best in a group of Holy Angel girls portraying themselves as secret agents. They would pass around secret messages in an empty Chapstick container and they would reveal the locations of dangerous enemy agents via walkie talkies. The Class of 1969 refuses to disclose whether one of the class members later joined the CIA.

Life at Holy Angels wasn't all fun and games. In 1963, televisions were not part of the regular classroom, but when President Kennedy was assassinated, the nuns brought in TVs so that the students could witness the funeral.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor the Holy Angels Class of 1969 which reminds all of us of

the ties that hold us together as members of our community and country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEW
BEDFORD AREA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce as the organization celebrates its 126th Annual Meeting this year.

Founded in 1885, the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce today serves ten communities situated along the South Coast of Massachusetts. Those ten communities, in addition to the city of New Bedford, include Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester, Wareham, and Westport. Over 210,000 Massachusetts residents are served by this Chamber as the organization guides local economic development, and encourages professional development among its members. The positive impact that the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce has had on Massachusetts' South Coast region over the course of its 126-year lifetime cannot be overstated, and I look forward to seeing the Chamber's continued success in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce upon its 126th Annual Meeting and in thanking this organization for its years of service to the South Coast community. I am certain that the Chamber's and its member organizations' future will be bright.

REMEMBERING KEMAL ATATURK

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, as countries in the Middle East undergo drastic change, they are redefining their political systems, looking to other countries in the region, like Turkey, to serve as examples of positive transition. In Turkey, November 10th is a date remembered for the premature death of Kemal Ataturk, the leader of modern Turkey who transformed that country from an agrarian society caught in the past to a modern, secular and forward looking western model. While the changes were recognized at the time as stunning, given recent developments in the region, Turkey's transformation is even more relevant and noteworthy today.

President John F. Kennedy noted:

The name of Ataturk reminds people of the historical successes of one of the great individuals of this century, the leadership that gave inspiration to the Turkish nation, far-sightedness in the understanding of the modern world and courage and power as a military leader. It is without a doubt that another example can't be shown indicating greater successes than the birth of the Turkish Republic and ever since then Ataturk's and Turkey's broad and deep reforms undertaken as well as the confidence of a nation in itself.

His leadership contributions were noted internationally. Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Winston Churchill, also wrote:

Ataturk's death is not only a loss for the country, but for Europe is the greatest loss, he who saved Turkey in the war and who revived a new the Turkish nation after the war. The sincere tears shed after him by all classes of people is nothing other than an appropriate manifestation to this great hero and modern Turkey's Ata.

As Co-chair of the Congressional Turkey Caucus and on behalf of Turkish Americans, I join my friends in paying tribute to a great man and a great leader. I congratulate the people of Turkey, and continue to work to remember Ataturk's legacy and his contributions to world peace and to the region.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE REOPENING
OF ST. EMERIC CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of St. Emeric Church, one of the 11 Cleveland Catholic Diocese parishes that will be reopening this year.

In 2009 it was announced that several of the Cleveland Catholic Diocese's area churches, including St. Emeric, were to close. However, just months ago, the Vatican overruled this decision and St. Emeric reopening its doors on and celebrated its first mass on Sunday, November 4, 2012. St. Emeric was the last of the 50 churches closed and was be the last of the eleven to reopen.

St. Emeric Church was founded in 1904 and has been home to many of the Cleveland area's Hungarian-American Catholic community. Prior to its closing on June 30, 2010, St. Emeric Church was home to nearly 650 parishioners.

The celebratory mass that ushered in the reopening of St. Emeric Church was held on November 4th, which is especially significant for the parish because it is also the feast day of St. Emeric. The mass was led by the parish's former pastor, Reverend Sandor Siklodi, who was transferred to Chicago's St. Stephen King of Hungary parish in 2010. Siklodi had served as St. Emeric's pastor for 24 years after being sent to the church by a Hungarian bishop in Romania. The parishioners of St. Emeric appealed for the return of Rev. Siklodi because he performs mass in their native Hungarian language.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the reopening of St. Emeric Church, a beloved parish that has returned to Cleveland's near West Side neighborhood.

LEXINGTON MEDICAL CENTER
WINS "PINK GLOVE DANCE"
VIDEO COMPETITION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Lexington Medical Cen-

ter in West Columbia, South Carolina, for winning the 2012 "Pink Glove Dance" video competition. Designed by Medline Industries, Inc., the Pink Glove Dance contest is designed to raise awareness about breast cancer and show support for cancer survivors.

Lexington Medical Center's video featured nearly 1,000 hospital employees dancing to the Katy Perry song "Part of Me" while wearing pink gloves. Lexington Medical Center beat 260 other health organizations. And, it was the second year in a row they won this contest.

We are fortunate to have the leadership of Lexington Medical Center President and CEO Mike Biediger, Board Chairman Dan Jones, and Director of Marketing Mark Shelley. Thank you to Lexington Medical Center for everything they do to treat cancer patients and educate our community about cancer prevention.

HONORING WORLD WAR II VET-
ERAN, AVIATOR AND PATRIOT
LT. VICTOR B. SCHOON

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great loss to our community, Lt. Victor B. Schoon, who passed away on September 25, 2012 at the age of 93. My heart goes out to his loving children, Andra Lew, Joanna Schoon-Kormo, and Marcus Victor Schoon; his grandchildren, Michael Lew, Kenneth Schoon, Julianna Marie Schoon, Eric Konno and Allison Konno; and the rest of his family, friends and loved ones. He now goes to join his loving wife, Dora Song, who passed away in 1999.

When Lt. Schoon enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1943, he did so during a time when Chinese Americans could not vote, could not immigrate to the United States, and could not even become citizens. But he enlisted anyway, regardless of the prejudice and discrimination he faced. Such was his patriotism to his country.

Within two short years of his enlistment, Lt. Schoon had become a First Lieutenant piloting his own B-17 over the European Theatre during World War II. He served with distinction, stationed with the 340th Bomb Squadron, 97th Bomb Group based in Foggia, Italy between 1944 and 1945.

During that time he saw air combat over the Balkans, Southern France, Germany, Rome, Arno and the North Appennines. And thanks to his bravery, skill and flying prowess, he flew 50 successful missions, bringing all of his 9 crew members home safely, and contributing to the Allies' defeat of the Axis powers and the end of the war.

For his efforts he was rewarded with the European, African and Middle Eastern Theater Service Medal; an Air Medal with 2-Oak Leaf Cluster; and a Distinguished Unit Badge.

He went on to receive an honorable discharge, enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley and earn a bachelor's degree in architecture. He became a successful architect, drawing custom office buildings for various prestigious firms and opened his own architectural firm in Hollywood.

But this selfless patriot, who dropped out of high school to help provide for his nine siblings after his parents' death, who enlisted in

the military despite the prejudice of the times and great personal danger to himself, and who went on to serve his community so admirably, died before receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross Medal he so deserved.

I urge my House colleagues to join me in honoring Lt. Schoon for his record of bravery, indomitable spirit and remarkable service to his community and to our nation.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JERRY A.
VITTARDI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Jerry A. Vittardi.

Jerry was born on January 18, 1925 to Matio and Anna Vittardi. He was a World War II veteran who served in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Jerry was married to his wife, Marianne, for 60 years and they had six children together: Richard, Renee, Gerianne, Marty, Mickey and Ed. Jerry and Marianne raised their family in Parma, a city in which they would remain and where he began a lifetime of public service.

In 1960, he was elected to the Parma City Council to represent Ward 2, serving as a councilman for 5 years. While serving the City of Parma, he gained a reputation as a trustworthy partner for others who were running for seats within the Democratic Party. He campaigned for Governor Richard Celeste, Senator Howard Metzenbaum, Congressman Ron Mottl, Attorney General Lee Fisher, Parma Mayor Michael Ries, for his son Councilman Martin Vittardi and for myself.

Jerry's dedication to public service continued throughout his life. In addition to serving as a Democratic Ward leader and Democratic Precinct Committeeman, he served as an electrical inspector for the City of Parma for 2 years from 1958–1960, and later served as a building inspector for the city from 1967–1980. From 1980 through the late 1990s, he worked for the State of Ohio, Ohio Lottery as a field representative. Heavily involved in the community, Jerry was also a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Cleveland and coached local baseball and softball teams. He strongly supported the local sports teams and loved watching the Cleveland Indians and the Cleveland Browns.

Jerry is survived by his children and 13 grandchildren: Joy, Greg, Amy, Vincent, Kristen, Jamie, Allison, Jessica, Mark, Leah, Michael, Holly and Eric. In addition, he was a beloved great-grandfather to 17. He had a very special place in his heart for his great-grandchildren baby Jack and baby Blake.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Jerry A. Vittardi. May his life of public service and his role as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather serve as an example to us all.

HONORING GIL WATERS

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gil Waters of Sarasota FL, born in 1927 and raised in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New York. By 1955, Gil graduated from Yale University, moved to Sarasota, married Elizabeth Boylston, served in the Navy during the Korean War, and started a family. Over the next 58 years, Gil left an indelible mark on Sarasota/Manatee County and the State of Florida. All while being a loving father to three children, Christopher, Robin, and Michael.

Gil founded the FCCI Fund in 1959. Upon his retirement in 1985, Florida Trend ranked FCCI as one of Florida's largest private companies. It was Florida's largest self-funded workers-compensation companies and one of the largest in the nation. Gil created WIMCO (Waters Insurance Management Company) in 1979 and FEISCO a, NASDAQ-listed, captive "reinsurance" company in 1980. In 1982, he founded Keep-Well Health Insurance. Gil, is an entrepreneurial visionary who revolutionized the workers-compensation insurance industry.

From 1956 to 1970, Gil served as Executive Secretary for Sarasota/Manatee County Gulf Coast Builders Exchange; Executive Secretary for Consulting Engineers Counsel of Florida; Public Relations Counsel for New College; and served as a Sarasota City Commissioner.

In 1970, Gil ran a successful State Constitutional Amendment regarding mobile home taxation. From 1977 to 1984 he became a statewide lobbyist for workers compensation in Tallahassee. Gil organized and served as first president of Florida Self Insurance Association, producing a wide ranging bill that passed the Florida State Legislature, providing wage-loss protection for injured workers.

Between 1987 and 2003, Gil spearheaded grassroots efforts to replace the Ringling Bridge. The Florida State Legislature honored him by renaming the bridge, "Gil Waters Bridge" on the Ringling Causeway. He was honored and humbled, and instead, requested a plaque be placed at the bridge paying tribute to every citizen who supported the construction of the fixed-span bridge.

In addition, he dedicated 40 years to developing condominium, single family, retirement and nursing communities. He also impacted municipal planning and growth, served his community and state as a philanthropist through public and private schools, Florida State's Asolo Repertory Theater, Florida West Coast Symphony Association, New College Music Festival, Sarasota Opera, Hermitage Artist Retreat, Sarasota Memorial Hospital, and others. He received environmental awards from the Audubon Society, Save Our Bays, and Sarasota Garden Club.

At 85, Gil enjoys traveling with his second wife, Elisabeth; however, he is never far from his 55-year vision to complete Sarasota's 1959 Architectural Plan—connecting Island Park/Marina Jacks to Main Street over U.S. 41, with a safe-walkable overpass; and, Main Street becoming a walkable city-center, daily attracting 1000's of visitors and residents. Gil likes to say, "Come for an hour, stay for the day!"

One of Gil's greatest honors occurred on December 27, 1999, when The Sarasota Herald Tribune named Gil one of "The 10 Most Influential Businesspeople of the 20th Century."

TRIBUTE TO RIVERSIDE COUNTY'S
RECIPIENTS OF OPERATION RECOGNITION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a group of individuals—heroes—who are receiving the recognition and honor they deserve for their service to our country. Operation Recognition is operated by the Riverside County Office of Education with assistance from the Riverside County Department of Veterans' Services. The program awards high school diplomas to veterans who missed completing high school due to military service in World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, or due to internment in WWII Japanese-American relocation camps.

A recognition ceremony was held on November 7, 2012, for the following individuals who received their high school diplomas through Operation Recognition:

Edward A. Alfaro; Anthony John Amoroso; Edward Barr; Leroy Burbidge; Justino Castillo; Harry J. Dillon; James N. Ellis; James Albert Finch; Irving G. Fowler; Robert Ray Gooch, Jr.; Herb Levine; Donald George Marion; Marvin Odell Pace; Anastacia P. Panarites; Thomas James Plouffe; Michael Loren Rittenhouse; Robert Rodriguez; Edward L. Ryan; Robert Irwin Stover; Glenn C. Waggoner Jr.; Robert Lee Williamson; James Verne Olson; and Thomas Eugene Butler.

Our country owes a debt of gratitude to all the above recipients for their service and sacrifice. I salute all the above individuals and congratulate them on receiving their high school diploma.

IN HONOR OF MR. RICHARD
GRIMMETT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Richard Grimmert, who is retiring after 38 years of dedicated service with the Congressional Research Service (CRS).

An Ohio native, Mr. Grimmert attended Kent State University, where he earned a Ph.D. in American history and focused on U.S. national security policy. Since joining CRS in 1974, Mr. Grimmert has been a specialist on defense and foreign policy issues. Specifically, his expertise lies in international arms trade, overseas U.S. military bases, war powers and intelligence. Throughout his time with CRS, Mr. Grimmert has worked intimately with Senate and House Select Intelligence Committees and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Mr. Grimmert has proven time and again that he is a vital asset to the U.S. Congress. His support and intelligence are evident in the

Arms Export Control Act, and the handling of the Iran-Contra Affair and aftermath of the attacks on September 11, 2001. Personally, Mr. Grimmert's vast knowledge of the War Powers Resolution has been of immeasurable value to me throughout my tenure in Congress.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the distinguished career of Mr. Richard Grimmert. His support has been unparalleled and his absence will be felt by every Hill staffer and member of Congress.

IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH PAUL
BROWN

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of my good friend, Joseph Paul Brown, who passed away earlier this year at 86 years young.

Joe Brown was a devoted family man, a realtor and business leader, an avid sportsman, a philanthropist, a mentor, and a role model. A native Southern Californian, Joe traced his roots on his mother's side to the first citizens of California, who arrived in 1775 by crossing the Sonoran Desert with Captain Juan Bautista De Anza.

At age 17, Joe joined the U.S. Coast Guard to serve his country during World War II. After his discharge, he attended Loyola University and graduated in 1950 with a degree in engineering. That same year he married his childhood sweetheart, Lydia T. Brucklemeir. They were married for 57 years until her death in 2004.

In the mid-1950s, Joe began his career as a developer and builder with the Janss Corporation. Through the years he served as president of the Janss Realty Co., which he later purchased, and as a vice president of the Janss Corporation. As such, he assisted in the development of more than 10,000 acres in the Conejo Valley area. One of his first projects was to join in the efforts to bring outside water to the valley, which enabled the area's growth.

As a leader in the Conejo Valley community, Joe helped bring numerous businesses to the area, including the development of the Oaks Mall Shopping Center and the sale of 2,000 acres from the Janss Family to MGM Studios, which had planned to move its operations to the area. While at Janss, he was intimately involved in the planning, development, and marketing of Sun Valley, Idaho, Snowmass-at-Aspen, and Northstar at Tahoe.

But Joe was most proud of his efforts to make the Conejo Valley a great place to live, work, and play. In addition to his successes in business, Joe, a devout Catholic, devoted himself to those in need. He founded the Men's Advisory Board to Mary Health of the Sick and helped form Many Mansions. He was a founding member of the board of Ventura County Community Foundation and volunteered on numerous advisory boards and committees for the City of Thousand Oaks and La Reina High School. He also was a member of the Board of Regents, California Lutheran University.

In recognition of his many successes, Joe was bestowed an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from California Lutheran University.

For his devotion and assistance to the Archdiocese, Joe was knighted into the Order of St. Gregory, the Order of Malta, and the Order of the Holy Sepulcher.

In 2005, Joseph found love for the second time with Dolly Principe. Dolly and Joe had known each other since the 1970s through their competing real estate firms, and over the years had remained friends. Fate brought them together again, and they fell in love and married later that year.

Joe is survived by Dolly; his three children, Joseph A. Brown, Madeleine P. Brown and Mark J. Brown; 12 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren; and many loving friends.

Mr. Speaker, Joseph Paul Brown was a longtime special friend and a talented businessman who was equally successful as a family man and philanthropist. I know my colleagues join me in remembering his great contributions to his community, and in extending our condolences to his family and many friends.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 45TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF NORTHEAST
OHIO NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH
SERVICES, INC.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services, Inc. NEON, as it celebrates its 45th anniversary.

NEON was established in 1967 as a network of community health centers to provide medical and dental services to the uninsured and underinsured in the Greater Cleveland area. Since its founding, NEON has strived to create healthy neighborhoods through accessible community-based health care. In 2001, NEON was selected as a National Community Center of Excellence in Women's Health.

NEON currently operates six health centers in the Greater Cleveland area; the East Cleveland, Norwood, Hough, Collinwood, Southeast and Superior Health Centers. The centers employ 35 physicians, 10 dentists and a staff of Certified Nurse-Midwives and other support personnel.

The health centers offer accessible, comprehensive primary care services, including adult medicine, pediatrics, family practice, OB/GYN, behavioral health, dental, optometry, podiatry services, x-ray, mammography, laboratory and pharmacy. Additionally, NEON provides patients access to social work, health education, family planning and nutritional counseling.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the 45th anniversary of Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services, Inc.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President

Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,244,708,707,467.25. We've added \$5,617,831,658,554.17 to our debt in 3 1/2 years. This is \$5.6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF SGT STEVEN
B. DAVIDSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Lewisville Area Chamber of Commerce. Through fostering job creation, encouraging education, and promoting strong business foundations, the Lewisville Area Chamber of Commerce has contributed to the success of small businesses in Lewisville since 1962. Its members, dedicated entrepreneurs and business owners, strive to improve our economy by following their mission of promoting economic growth for the local business community.

As a former small business owner, I know firsthand the importance of business expansion in the community, and this exceptional group has proven to be a driving force for local businesses. Their mission of promoting economic growth of the local business community through "Leading Business, Leading Lewisville," is a true testament to their sustainability over the past 50 years. It is an honor to celebrate this important anniversary with the Lewisville Area Chamber of Commerce, and I am privileged to represent the Lewisville Area Chamber of Commerce and Lewisville, Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. MARY P.
DENIHAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Mary P. Denihan, who is retiring after a long career of dedicated public service to the residents of Northeast Ohio.

Mary Denihan is currently the Senior Administrative Officer for the Cuyahoga Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA). She has previously held a number of roles assisting the public. Early in her career, she worked as the assault prevention coordinator with the Lake County Sexual Assault Center. She later joined Mothers Against Drunk Driving where she served as their state administrator.

Mrs. Denihan initially joined the Cuyahoga Support Enforcement Agency on January 28, 1991 as a support officer in the Establishment Unit. She was instrumental in the success of the Teen Paternity Project. She worked as a public information officer and senior public information officer before becoming a senior administrative officer. Throughout her tenure with CSEA, Mrs. Denihan has been an invaluable resource to my office in assisting our efforts to

fulfill the needs of the residents of my district. Her dedication and intellect will be missed throughout the entire community.

Following her retirement, Mary plans on spending more time with her family. She has been married to her husband, Bill, who currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County for 23 years. She is the proud parent of 4 children, 7 step children and 34 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the storied career of Mrs. Mary P. Denihan and congratulating her on her retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ROBERT
M. FRANKLIN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Robert M. Franklin, the tenth president of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, in honor of his retirement after 5 years as head of the school. He will be honored at a reception on Friday, November 9, 2012, in Atlanta.

A native of Chicago, Dr. Franklin is an alumnus of Morehouse College. He also received a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School in 1978 and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago Divinity School in 1985. In 1973, he received an English Speaking Union scholarship to attend the University of Durham in England. Dr. Franklin is also the recipient of honorary degrees from Bethune Cookman University, Bates College, and Swarthmore College.

Before he was the President of Morehouse College, Dr. Franklin served as the Presidential Distinguished Professor of Social Ethics at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. He was also President of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. In addition, he served as a program officer in the Human Rights and Social Justice Program at the Ford Foundation in New York.

Dr. Franklin is the author of three books: *Crisis in the Village: Restoring Hope in African American Communities* (2007), *Another Day's Journey: Black Churches Confronting the American Crisis* (1997), and *Liberating Visions: Human Fulfillment and Social Justice in African American Thought* (1989).

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Franklin has revolutionized Morehouse College in many ways during his five-year tenure as President. His vision for Morehouse College is that the institution will shape its students into Renaissance men who are well-educated and ethical leaders with a social conscience and committed to championing the causes of equality, justice and peace. During Dr. Franklin's tenure as President, Morehouse has continued to develop future leaders who are disciplined, altruistic, and wise.

Under Dr. Franklin's administration, Morehouse College has been recognized as the Nation's best liberal arts college by *Washington Monthly* and has been a recipient of more than \$60 million in federal grants as well as a number of gifts from prestigious organiza-

tions and donors. Dr. Franklin has been instrumental in the school's plan for the internationalization of its campus, with a special emphasis on curriculum and study abroad experiences. Moreover, significant updates and renovations have been made to Graves Hall, the oldest building on campus, as well as many other structures. In 2010, the Ray Charles Performing Arts Center was dedicated and this state of the art facility now serves as the practice and performance space for the College's world renowned Glee Club; the Morehouse Jazz Band; Morehouse College Jazz Ensemble; and "House of Funk" Marching Band.

One of the many things I admire most about Dr. Franklin is his unflinching dedication to Morehouse College. After graduating from the school in 1975, he came back years later to lead Morehouse in its mission to develop men with disciplined minds who will lead lives of leadership, service and self-realization. And he is still not gone for good! After a sabbatical as a Scholar in Residence at Stanford University's Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute, Dr. Franklin will return to Morehouse College as President Emeritus and Distinguished Professor, the college's highest honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Robert M. Franklin for his 5 outstanding years as President of Morehouse College, my beloved Alma Mater. He has transformed the lives of countless young men and inspired them to become our future leaders.

HONORING COUNCIL MEMBER
LARRY VAN NOSTRAN

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I announce the passing of Larry Van Nostran, who served the city of Lakewood for 37 years.

Larry was first elected to the Lakewood City Council in 1975. He is the longest serving council member in the city's history, and was serving his tenth term as a council member when he passed away Friday, November 9. During his 37 years on the council, he served as the Mayor of the city nine times.

Among Larry's most notable achievements was the founding of the Lakewood Youth Sports Hall of Fame in 1981 and its continued success for the past 30 years. The Hall of Fame has honored thousands of Lakewood youth during that time, and has helped promote a vigorous sports and recreational culture in the city. This strong tradition was nationally recognized by *Sports Illustrated* magazine, who named Lakewood "Sportstown USA" in 2004.

Larry was instrumental in helping create a high quality of life in Lakewood's neighborhoods and finding solutions to keep Lakewood's crime rate low. Larry began his service in Lakewood city government as a member of the Traffic and Safety Commission, and was a longtime member of the Public Safety Committee as a member of the city council. He firmly believed that there's not a more important value than keeping a community safe. He was a strong supporter of the Lakewood Award of Valor event, where public safety per-

sonnel, volunteers and residents are honored annually for their dedication, hard work and courage.

Larry was prominent in the development and expansion of senior services, which were scant before he was elected to the city council. Larry saw the initiation of Lakewood's DASH senior transit system and exercise and fitness programs at the city's two senior centers. He was also a champion of growing Lakewood's business and commercial base, which included modernizing the second largest shopping center in Los Angeles County, Lakewood Center Mall.

Larry was born in Seville, Ohio in 1933 and moved to Lakewood in 1958, just four years after the city was incorporated. He was active in Lakewood civic life for over 40 years, including membership in the Elks Club, Jaycees, Kiwanis Club, Lakewood Pan American Association, and Masonic Lodge & Scottish Rite.

As you are aware Mr. Speaker, many of our colleagues in city government have a fundamental impact on the lives of our constituents and they rarely get the recognition that they deserve. The city of Lakewood will miss Larry, and I stand with many in our community in sending my thoughts and prayers to his family. Thank you Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence for Larry Van Nostran, a true public servant, and I yield back the balance of my time.

IN HONOR OF ENDA KENNY, PRIME
MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF
IRELAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Enda Kenny, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland, on the occasion of the 2012 Mayo Society Banquet and Ball taking place on October 13, 2012.

Prime Minister Kenny was born in Islandeady, County Mayo on April 24, 1951 and obtained degrees from St. Patrick's College of Education and University College of Galway. Mr. Kenny boasts a long career in public service. Following a brief stint as a public school teacher, he began his public service career in 1975 when he was elected to the Dáil Éireann to fill his late father's seat.

Throughout his long career, Prime Minister Kenny served as the Minister of State for Education and Labour between 1986 and 1987. Additionally, between 1994 and 1977 he was the Minister of Tourism and Trade for Ireland. In 2002, he became the leader of his political party, the Fine Gael.

On March 9, 2011, Mr. Kenny was elected as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland. He is married to Fionnuala O'Kelly, and has three children, Naoise, Ferdia and Aoibhinn. The Mayo Society Banquet and Ball will also honor Mr. James Boland as the 2012 Mayo Person of the Year.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Prime Minister Enda Kenny and in recognition of his visit to Cleveland, Ohio on the occasion of the Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland's Banquet and Ball.

IN HONOR OF THE WINNERS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WINSLOW TOWNSHIP'S VETERANS DAY 2012 STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the winners of the Historical Society of Winslow Township's Veterans Day 2012 Student Essay Contest.

These nine students, in the 7th and 8th grades at Winslow Township Middle School and 12th grade at Winslow Township High School, wrote on what the word "freedom" means to them in their hearts. The moving prose of these young men and women is a testament to the patriotic spirit of the citizens of South Jersey and an inspiration to all Americans. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: KELLI O'NEIL, 7TH GRADE, 1ST PLACE WINNER

By definition freedom is; the power to determine action without restraint. But freedom means monumentally more than that to me. Speech, expression, faith these are only a few of the stripes on the beautiful rainbow that is freedom. Freedom is what sets America so high above the rest, what makes it such a beautiful place to live.

Every Sunday, millions of Americans go to church. Imagine if these millions of people were in a different country. Practicing their own religion may not be legal. Whilst this goes on for myself and to most Americans going to church feels like such a simple liberty.

As an adolescent female I am still in school getting an education and plan to continue through college. Now let's pretend I am in some other country for example. I would not be in school, I would be home doing housework caring for my siblings. Back in America I am permitted to wear whatever clothing I wish to wear; however, in some countries I shouldn't even show my own hair. All of these wonderful rights that I do have are given to me simply because America values freedom. Our flag flying through the air sings of freedom. And the graceful eagle soaring through the heavens screams freedom. Every day, I look at the things I do and wear and I am truly grateful for America and all of its freedoms.

I have the privilege of being in an honors writing class, and in this class I write exactly what I think and feel about any and every thing without fear of punishment by law. I cannot say the same for many other children in foreign countries. In these countries writing the way they feel about things like laws, politics, and leaders can result in great punishment. Without the freedom to express how I feel I don't know how I would survive. My opinions are who I am, and they are a piece of me.

Lee Greenwood once said, "proud to be an American Where at least I know I'm free, and I won't forget the men who died who gave that right to me." This is so incredibly true, and I would like to take this moment in time to put the spotlight on the soldiers who have passed away, our veterans, and our soldiers who are currently serving because they are the sole reason for all of these fantastic freedoms that me and my fellow Americans have today.

So, in conclusion, freedom is the biggest blessing ever bestowed upon the American people, and it is not to be taken for granted.

DEANNA PAUL, 7TH GRADE, 2ND PLACE WINNER

The first 10 amendments of the Constitution, or the Bill of Rights, set priceless rights and freedoms that Americans may enjoy. There is a rather large variety of them, ranging from the freedom of speech to just the right of traveling anywhere you want in the nation.

If you were to look in the dictionary for the word "freedom", you'd probably find that it means "free to do something or free of something", or anything within those lines. That'd be correct. The many freedoms that we as Americans have should be treated like gifts, as they are. However, our freedoms are often misused now, in a way our forefathers didn't intend them to be. For example, the freedom of speech, which is the freedom to say our opinions as long as they don't cause any harm to others, is now being used to bully and cause mental pain to citizens by Americans who want to cause trouble.

Nevertheless, our freedoms are still gifts and worth protecting. The many veterans who have fought for our country by sacrificing themselves, whether they were killed or wounded physically or mentally in battle or returned home intact, should and are respected by our nation. They fought or are fighting at the moment to keep things the way that they should be, to protect the millions of Americans who have the access to the freedoms in the Bill of Rights. Without those brave men and woman, we might not be the way we are today, as we would be vulnerable to other countries who mean harm to Americans because of our freedoms and policies.

Personally, I'm so used to these freedoms that they seem ordinary and unimportant, but after reading so many articles about the lifestyles and other events occurring in other parts of the world, I feel extremely lucky—and proud. I've learned that not all countries are lucky enough to have the same rights and freedoms that we are able to have, and that's worth protecting.

While practicing these freedoms throughout your ordinary lives, remember: They're special. People are out there fighting; just for us to feel safe while exercising those rights we were given. Be grateful. Use them the way they were intended to be used. And most importantly, respect our veterans.

SARAH MARSHALL, 7TH GRADE, 3RD PLACE WINNER

Freedom is a lot of things. To an American citizen it is a privilege. To a mother in a dictated country it's a hope. Or to a government figure it is a law. But no matter what it means to different people, the definition of freedom will always be the same to me; a right.

Freedom can come in all different forms. For example; you could have freedom of speech, freedom of expression or freedom of religion. With freedom, I can speak out against almost anything (including our political and government system); I can choose and practice my own religion without fear of being abused or jailed, and so much more. Freedom is an important part to a great country.

In my opinion, everyone should be allowed to have freedom. It's not right to be killed or abused because of what you believe in or say. Some people take things like freedom, life and rights for granted. Not me. I will always remember that it is a huge privilege that a lot of people don't receive. I will also keep in mind not to abuse my rights and freedom because people died for it. They died for you and me, and everyone else in America to be able to express ourselves without risk. To have my rights taken away would be a dishonor. And I really hope that everyone who does have freedom realizes that.

In some countries, you can actually be shot at just for speaking your mind. A real life example of that is of a young female citizen from Pakistan. In Pakistan, they are currently fighting for women's rights. A young lady spoke her opinion on women having education and she was shot. This reminds us that we are lucky. Those of us in America wouldn't have been shot; we probably would've been rewarded. If the young women had been from the United States that tragic situation would never have happened due to the fact that women already have the right to education.

If you asked a professor what freedom means to them, the answer would be a thousand miles long. The answer is so long I couldn't fit it in this essay. But if it somehow wasn't clear how thankful I am for it, going to put it like this; Freedom is something to be thankful for. You should pray to your (a) god for it, discuss it at thanksgiving dinner, and visit the graves of those who died for it. You never know, thousands of miles away someone might be praying for the freedom you already have.

AKAASH PATEL, 8TH GRADE, 1ST PLACE WINNER

Freedom . . . Such a small word for a very meaningful definition. Every day of our lives we are presented with this right. However, what exactly does freedom mean to you? To me, freedom means the moral principle of being able to choose how you live your life. Before freedom we were told what to believe in. We had no say so on what our lives would be like. However, we, as a united nation celebrate and declare freedom; not as a privilege but as a right.

Our forefathers fought for the right of freedom. They put their lives on the line for the sake of other people's rights. We should always be grateful that our founding fathers gave us freedom. Moreover, we should constantly honor America's veterans and active military. They have and are putting their feelings for this country into actions, not words. A picture paints a thousand words.

USA has many veterans coming back from Afghanistan. Some have come back from Vietnam. Some are even coming back from top priority missions that they enlisted in. However, all of these men and woman have one definite thing in common, their reason. All war veterans' reason for fighting always traces back to freedom. They believe in freedom and know deep in their heart what it means to them. America's veterans were, are, and forever will be dedicated to freedom.

I think that freedom is a very unappreciated right. As a kid I woke up every day able to believe in what I wanted to. I was born into my religion. However I was not necessarily forced to accepting it. This was the perfect world our country's founders, veterans, and active military had created for me and everyone else to share. In spite of this, we truly do not honor this right enough despite the immense value it holds. You never miss something until you lose it.

In conclusion, freedom is essential in people's lives. We are free to choose any religion, believe in what we want, and do what we want. This entitlement to every US citizen keeps this country intact. In contrast, we would have never had this right unless our veterans and active military had not protected this sacred allotment. To sum it up, thanks to our brave and bold veterans and our courageous active military we live our lives and cherish freedom.

HARLEIGH MAE BURKE, 8TH GRADE, 2ND PLACE WINNER

In the 1700's, when our founding fathers began sculpting the Constitution of our nation, there was one thing they all agreed on: Freedom is a right all people should be given

from birth, and the work they do under this liberty is how they earn their fortunes. To earn a fortune and be successful under this freedom is what is known as the American Dream. What few know, however, is that freedom is not a gift to all humanity, but an exclusive to only some.

It is thanks to the forethought of the founding fathers, the continued cooperation of the United States Military, and above all the passion of the people which keeps our freedom alive today. However, this begs the question, what is freedom, and what precisely does it mean?

Freedom, to me, is not merely the ability to do as you please, when you please, as long as it does not impose upon others. Freedom is the lifeblood of humanity, what enables man to live and prosper and change the World for the better. Not everyone is gifted with such a thing, and some of the idealists and geniuses and potential reformers of our generation will not get a chance at this, and will live their lives in oppression, cast aside by their governments as another mere pawn in their machine of simple parts.

Freedom manifests itself in every aspect of American life, from the business you built up yourself, to the house you own, to the education your children earn. Freedom is business, the arts, what has allowed the United States to develop a culture unlike any other. To such aforementioned countries who lack the glorious endowment of liberty, our United States, with its military towering high in our defense, and fame, and above all, the ability for any mere man to forge a life of empire-like status, is not only a desirable place to be, but a utopia. Where anything can happen.

And so, I ask of you, look at yourself, what you have, and what you've done. Think for a moment of where you would be if you were assigned to a life, told what to think, what to feel, what to do. Would you be where you are? Would you have what you've achieved? This distinction is freedom, and freedom is the United States, its military, and its people.

ELENI FINKELSTEIN, 8TH GRADE, 3RD PLACE
WINNER

Imagine coming to America from another country. You see a flag billowing with pride in the front yard of a happy family's house. The whole family was unique. Different clothes, different hobbies, but they were all having a good time. You begin to wonder why your family could not be happy back home or have those smiles on their faces. Your life was bland; a dry piece of toast, just like everyone else's. Then you realized it was because you weren't given individuality. To me, freedom means having the right to be an individual.

In other countries, you don't always have the freedom that we have in America. Often, you cannot dress how you'd like, say what you'd like, or do what you'd like. There was no uniqueness at all. Here in America though, we have that ability to be me. I can proudly say that in America, I can be me.

Have you ever wanted to pursue an interest but you weren't allowed? Your whole future could've been already planned if you found a job using that special hobby! This situation may happen continuously in other countries, but not in America! America has the freedom to let you do what you want. There is such a vast field of occupations you can work in here. You don't have to be just a factory worker, or forced to go into war. I could grow up and make a living out of the weirdest job in the world, only because I have the freedom to do so.

Now switch places for a moment. Instead of picturing you coming to America, picture yourself leaving America to go to war. Vet-

erans are extremely grateful for the freedom we have in our country because they know what it's like in other countries. When they go to war in another country, they are sometimes adapting to that country's life style for a small amount of time. They turn into them. They may be forced to act like everyone else in that country. They are simply a replica of the person standing next to them, across from them, all around them. Then, when they return back to America, they get to experience the excitement all over again. All of the freedom comes back to them. Once again, they can say what they please, do what they please, and be who they please. It is clearly shown that America has the freedom that other countries don't because they can be who they are.

"Individuals, with liberty and justice for all." These are the words that ring on my head when I think of our country. We really are the land of the free, because we can be individuals.

EMILY OSTRANDER, 12TH GRADE, 1ST PLACE
WINNER

I have always been a fan of Veterans Day. Of course, this is mostly because November eleventh happens to be my birthday as well as a national holiday. But, I have continually enjoyed and respected it for the appreciation and recognition it bestows upon those who have made it their duty to protect and serve this noble country. Freedom, to me, is the ability to live peacefully, and be who you want to be, in a world that is not very accepting.

Without our armed forces, the idea of freedom would be impossible. With no one to serve our country, fight our battles, where would we be? I cannot imagine what life in America would resemble if it were absent of freedom. It would not be the America we know and care for if it were devoid of liberty, justice, and independence. Both of my parents' fathers served in the armed forces at some point in their lives. My maternal grandfather served in the Korean War and came back home with a bullet in his leg. Every year when he calls me to wish me a happy birthday, I make sure to thank him for that service and tell him that I am proud of him for it. Thus, I am exceptionally grateful to the active military and the veterans who have risked their lives for the sake of freedom at this very moment, and in the past.

Furthermore, serving in the military is the most significant occupation in the world, yet it is also the toughest. Copious amounts of U.S. citizens spend or have spent massive amounts of time away from their families and loved ones to carry out their obligations to this country. I know I could by no means ever accomplish or begin to go through what veterans and the active military have had to undergo. I have enormous respect for those with the strength and courage to join the armed forces, and they will forever have my support and admiration for their achievements. Because of these achievements, I am able to live freely and peaceably whereas citizens in other countries may not be able to live this way.

Hence, I believe freedom is the idea that you have the power to choose what and who you desire to be: you can decide what to strive for and what to accomplish in life. However, this free will is only achievable because of the work of the active military and veterans. This immense, courageous, life-risking group of people deserve, have earned, this national holiday to commemorate their successes and brave service to the United States of America.

HOPE BARNSTEAD, 12TH GRADE, 2ND PLACE
WINNER

Freedom. Only seven letters, but together they create a word with more power than

any other found in the English language. But how can such a commanding word be defined? The beauty of this word is that it has countless definitions. Freedom is the courage found in every active service member as they start every day not knowing what is in store for them. Freedom is seeing our American flag waving steadily in the night, surrounded by a sky full of bombs. Freedom is bowing your head in prayer at the park without fear of being reprimanded. Freedom is the last pen to leave a trail of ink for the final signature on the Declaration of Independence. Freedom is living in America, the land of opportunity, where we have the right to choose our own president amongst a world full of tyrants. Throughout history freedom has always come at a great price, starting in 1776, when the founding fathers declared our independence from Great Britain. These men laid their lives on the line to defend the belief that all men are endowed with certain definitive and undeniable rights that cannot be taken from them. From that time on, Americans have stood united behind the idea that we are a nation of individuals who are free to live in the absence of fear. Since we value individuality and illuminate it through self expression and self-government, we need not fear forced conformity, and that is what makes America great. Freedom to me is waking up every morning without apprehension. I don't have to worry about being a woman and wanting an education. I don't need to hide my religion from those around me because I know I am free to worship as I please. I don't have to be afraid of who will lead our country because we have a say in who runs the United States of America. Without the dedication, bravery, hard work, courage, strength, and leadership of our nation's military and other service members, this freedom may not have been sustained. It's hard to imagine the feeling the soldiers felt as they walked into concentration camps to liberate the living skeletons as the stench of burning flesh filled the air around them. Who can picture what is what like weaving through the jungles of Vietnam as the soldiers were constantly on guard for any Vietcong looking to take their lives? How can one come close to feeling the absolute terror of the US army as they traveled to Pakistan to take down the terrorizing Osama Bin Laden? Our troops are willing to sacrifice their lives so we can stay in a nation that lets us live ours. Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "We, and all others who believe in freedom as deeply as we do, would rather die on our feet than live on our knees," and we are blessed enough to live in a country that gives us that freedom.

ADAM WHITE 12TH GRADE, 3RD PLACE WINNER

When you hear the word "freedom," you might not have the same definition of the word as the person right next to you. All definitions of the word are similar in meaning, but all are influenced by each of our own past history and ways of thinking. I have thought extensively on this word's definition, pondering on what "freedom" means to me, and I now believe that freedom is the ability to live life normally and enjoy it without the fear of oppression or harm.

Many of us take this for granted. In other countries, their citizens might not have this same luxury. We, as a nation, are very lucky to live life like this. Unfortunately, it can come with a heavy price. We have been able to live this way only because we know that we are being protected by hard-working men and women who wish only to serve our nation. These men and women are the members of the Armed Forces. Each and every day, they risk their lives to protect ours no matter where they are, whether they're in a small town in the U.S. or a small town in the

Middle East. They make sure that nothing happens to us so that we can continue living the way we do.

However, as mentioned before, such a luxury comes with a price. Some members of our active military are lucky enough to return home with their lives, but some aren't. Yet this has not stopped people from joining the military in the past before. In World War II, when the world was threatened by one of the most infamous leaders in history, did we surrender? We did not, and hundreds of thousands of people were ready to defend our country and what we believed in, even if it meant traveling overseas, or being haunted by the gruesome memories of war for the rest of their lives, or to die trying. Our veterans faced these same consequences and have to hurdle over the same obstacles, and that didn't stop them from doing their duty. They protected us to make sure that we could forever keep our freedom and our rights from the hands of our enemies.

We have much to thank of our veterans and of our active military for their services to this country and for their services to us. Without them, we would not have the same freedoms as we do now. Our world would be completely different without them. But thankfully they are here to save us when we need them most. Thankfully, with these men and women as our guardians, we can continue to live life normally and enjoy it without the fear of oppression or harm.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE REOPENING OF ST. JAMES CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of St. James' Church, one of the 11 Cleveland Catholic Diocese parishes that will be reopening this year.

In 2009 it was announced that several of the Cleveland Catholic Diocese's area churches, including St. Barbara's, were to close. However, just months ago, the Vatican overruled this decision and St. James' will be reopening its doors on Wednesday, July 25, 2012.

St. James Church was founded in 1908 as the founding parish for the cities of Lakewood and Rocky River. For more than a century, St. James has been a house of worship and gathering for the Catholic residents of Lakewood, Ohio.

After Bishop Lennon's 2009 announcement parishioners gathered together and formed Friends of Saint James/Save Saint James in an effort to stop the closing of their church. The members of Friends of Saint James/Save Saint James are committed to the preservation of Saint James as a parish and an architecturally significant structure in the City of Lakewood. They have dedicated themselves to the development of a long range financial plan for capital improvements and maintenance of the church and its programs.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the reopening of St. James' Church, a beloved parish that has returned to the City of Lakewood.

TRIBUTE TO ROSEMARY BOURNS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Rosemary Bourns, who passed away on Wednesday, September 26, 2012. Rosemary was a pillar of the community in Riverside, California and she will be deeply missed.

In 1947, Rosemary and her newlywed husband Marlan moved to California from Michigan, and they began their electronics components manufacturing company in humble settings—the garage of their new home in Pasadena. While Marlan took care of the engineering side of the business, Rosemary oversaw the books and made sure that their house could accommodate the seven engineers working with her husband. The couple eventually moved the company, now renamed Bourns, Inc., to Riverside in 1950 to boost manufacturing operations in order to keep up with rising demand.

In her free time, Rosemary loved telling stories and arranging flowers. She and her husband always accomplished things as a team, from starting their business to moving it to Riverside. They also selflessly gave back to their community. In 1992, the Bourns family gave the University of California, Riverside (UCR) the single-largest donation it had received to that date, a \$6 million gift for its new College of Engineering, eventually named Bourns College in the family's honor. In the years that followed, they continued to support the College, and the west engineering building was named Bourns Hall.

The way in which Rosemary lived her life should serve as reminder to others that an individual with drive, perseverance and a stellar work ethic can do great things. In 2000, Rosemary and her husband were recognized as UCR Laureates, and in 2010 the family was honored by the Inland Empire Center for Entrepreneurship with its Lifetime Award. University of California, Riverside Chancellor Timothy P. White said of Rosemary, "On the UCR campus, Rosemary Bourns' name has been synonymous with the accomplishments of strong, hardworking women . . . She will always be honored through the accomplishments of the faculty and students in the Bourns College of Engineering."

In addition to her husband, Rosemary is survived by her son Gordon; daughters Linda Hill, Anita Macbeth and Denise Moyles; 14 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Rosemary will always be remembered for her incredible contributions to business, her work ethic, generosity, and love of family. Her dedication to her work, family and community is a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to Rosemary's family and friends; although Rosemary may be gone, the light and goodness she brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

IN HONOR OF CZECHOSLOVAK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Czechoslovak Independence Day, which is being celebrated at Cleveland's National Bohemian Hall on October 26 through 28, 2012.

Czechoslovak independence was declared on Wenceslas Square on October 28, 1918 and the Czechoslovak Republic was established. Thomas Masaryk was both the founder and the first president of the Czechoslovak Republic, often referred to as the "First Republic." Although Czechoslovakia only lasted two decades because of Nazi Germany's occupation of the Czech Lands in 1938, Czechs continue to view October 28 as the day of their national founding.

Bohemian National Hall was built in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1897 to cultivate friendships, charity and benevolence among the Bohemian nationalities. Included in their priorities were gymnastics, education and the advancement of their culture. Thomas Masaryk made two visits to Cleveland in his lifetime, one in 1902 and another in 1918 where he spoke at the National Bohemian Hall. Located in Cleveland's Slavic Village neighbor, today Bohemian National Hall serves as the home to the Czech Cultural Center.

This year's celebration of Czechoslovak Independence Day will be celebrated by Cleveland's Czech community and Sokol Greater Cleveland at Bohemian National Hall between October 26 and 28.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the anniversary of Czechoslovak Independence Day, October 28, 2012.

LEXINGTON COUNTY IS FIRST

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the following article was published recognizing the leadership of Lexington County, South Carolina, as a Purple Heart County in the Lexington County Chronicle on September 20, 2012:

LEXINGTON IS THE FIRST PURPLE HEART COUNTY

Lexington County became the first in the state to be designated as a Purple Heart County.

A resolution was read before Lexington County Council, Sept. 11, that named Lexington a Purple Heart County.

"It's a recognition and a show of support for not only Purple Heart recipients, but for veterans and all of those who served," said Stan Thornburgh.

Thornburgh, of Lexington, is a past commander of the Col. Charles Murray Memorial Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The chapter is based in Columbia, but many of its members live in Lexington County.

Thornburgh received the Purple Heart after being wounded in Vietnam in 1969.

Purple Heart recipients are military personnel wounded as a direct result of enemy action.

Councilman Bobby "Gravedigger" Keisler sponsored the resolution to designate Lexington County as a Purple Heart county.

"It is important to support veterans and the people who served our country," Keisler said. He said James Miller asked him to sponsor the Purple Heart designation. Miller, of South Congaree, is the state commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Miller lives in Keisler's district.

"It's an honor to do it," said Keisler, who served a six-year stint in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era.

John B. Testruth is the Adjutant of Chapter 402. The chapter is the largest of the 13 in South Carolina. It has 298 members. Testruth said the Purple Heart Chapter also raises funds to donate to causes for veterans. He also said the county is supportive of veterans in general.

"Lexington is a very patriotic county," Thornburgh said. "People are supportive and appreciate those who served."

IN RECOGNITION OF PULASKI DAY
2012

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Polonia Foundation of Ohio as they unite the Polish community in remembrance and celebration of General Casimir Pulaski, for his legacy and dedication to the people of Poland and United States of America.

Born on March 4, 1747 in Warzka, Poland, General Pulaski achieved great military success in Poland with his focused leadership and strategies in fighting the Russian forces in Poland. By 1777, General Pulaski had become one of the most renowned cavalymen in Europe and was actively recruited by Benjamin Franklin to assist in the American quest for liberation.

Sympathetic to the American cause, General Pulaski sailed to America and was made head of the newly formed American cavalry during the Revolutionary War. General Pulaski had a deep level of commitment to the American cause, spending his own money to feed and equip his troops. General Pulaski was involved in many significant battles during the Revolution. His ultimate stand took place in Savannah, Georgia on October 1779, where he led a valiant charge against British artillery. General Pulaski was shot and died a few days later.

This year's celebration will be held on October 20 at Cleveland's City Hall Rotunda and will feature Dr. Marek Dollar, Ohio's Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland. Dr. Dollar is also the Dean of the Engineering College at Miami University.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of General Casimir Pulaski, who made the ultimate sacrifice in his fight to secure the ideals of the American Revolution. An American hero, General Pulaski's life and legacy serves as a reminder of the vital contributions and great achievements by Polish immigrants within our Cleveland community, and throughout America.

IN HONOR OF JUDGE COLLEEN
TOY WHITE

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of my good friend Judge Colleen Toy White, who was recently honored by the Gold Coast Veterans Foundation with its General Roger L. Brautigan Excellence in Leadership Award.

I have known Judge White since she served as Chief Deputy in the Ventura County District Attorney's Office. We both trace our roots to Oklahoma, and share and respect the values of family, and of upholding the Constitution and the rule of law.

Judge White combined those values with drive, talent, and intelligence and rose from a law clerk in the prosecutor's office to become the chief assistant district attorney, the number two position. She also brought those values and qualities to the bench when she was appointed to the Ventura County Superior Court by Governor Pete Wilson.

Mr. Speaker, the General Roger L. Brautigan Excellence in Leadership Award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the cause of veterans.

Judge White knows of veterans' needs directly. Her husband, Art Bliss, is a retired naval officer and several of her nephews are active military.

Her knowledge of veterans' needs led her to provide the ground work and to advocate for a veterans court. Judge White now presides over the veterans court, in addition to presiding over the domestic violence court, elder abuse court, and mental health court.

In addition, Judge White has been instrumental in assisting other courts to develop veterans programs.

Outside of the courtroom, Judge White is active in community organizations involving our youth and education. She served on the Board of Trustees of the Ventura/Santa Barbara College of Law and is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Ventura College Foundation. She served as president of the Board of Directors of Interface Children Family Services of Ventura County and was a past president and member of the Board of Directors of the Child Abuse and Neglect, an organization dedicated to the protection of children.

She was appointed Chairperson of President Reagan's Council on the Peace Corps and was appointed to a second term by President George H.W. Bush.

Not surprisingly, Judge White has won numerous awards for her service to the law and her community.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Colleen Toy White is a deserving recipient of the General Roger L. Brautigan Excellence in Leadership Award. It has been an honor for me to call Toy White my personal friend for a long time. She is someone for whom I have the highest respect, and I know my colleagues join my wife, Janice, and me in congratulating Toy for this great honor.

IN HONOR OF CHRIS TREPAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Chris Trepal, who is retiring from the Earth Day Coalition, one of the major forces in Northeast Ohio to promote environmental education, protection, and advocacy.

In the late 1980s, as the nation coalesced around how to best acknowledge the 20th anniversary of the first Earth Day of 1970, Chris was a parent, educator, and volunteer for the Sierra Club. Called by Governor Richard Celeste, Chris attended an organizing meeting at Cleveland State University and was moved to action to fight for the environment. Along with Scott Sanders, Chris co-founded the Earth Day Coalition in 1990 and until her retirement was co-director with Sanders.

In the last 23 years, Chris has been a visionary who organized the "Annual EarthFest" and "Walk or Bike for the Earth." Every spring at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, the EarthFest has been the largest and longest-running environmental education event in the State of Ohio. It is widely attended and is the place-to-be for non-profits and leaders who want to promote their causes.

For more than 10 years, Chris worked with the region's best environmental education experts, naturalists, and interpreters to establish the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve, formerly Dike 14. Officially opened in February 2012, the Preserve is 88 acres of wild lands along Lake Erie in the heart of Cleveland with almost 300 species of birds who live and migrate on the site along with butterflies and mammals such as the red fox, mink, coyote, deer and others. Chris led the Earth Day Coalition's efforts to convene and be the fiscal agent for the collaborative effort to establish the Preserve.

Chris is a founding member of the City of Cleveland's Air Pollution Advisory Committee, created by city ordinance. She has worked on clean air issues such as Diesel Hot Spots, idle reduction, and reining in mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants and the proposed City of Cleveland waste incinerator (which was stopped, based in part on the Earth Day Coalition's advocacy).

Chris Trepal is the recipient of numerous awards for the work she has done over the years, including: Conservationist of the Year by the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District; Outstanding Conservationist Award by the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo; Award for Outstanding Service by the Lee-Seville-Miles Citizens; Greater Cleveland Woman of Achievement Award from the YWCA of Cleveland; Certificate of Environmental Achievement from the National Awards Council for Environmental Sustainability; Golden Spruce Award from the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission; and the Excellence in Education Award from the Better Business Bureau.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the many achievements of Chris Trepal as she makes the transition from her successful career as co-director of the Earth Day Coalition to the next phases of her life in retirement and wishing her much success in her next endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF CARROLL L. "LEW" WATSON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Lew Watson who is retiring as Mayor of the City of Lincoln, Alabama, on the 40th anniversary of the day he first took the oath of office.

Carroll L. "Lew" Watson was born in Norfolk, Virginia, to Carroll and Ruth Watson on May 9, 1943. He graduated from Lincoln High School in 1961 and graduated from the University of Alabama with a Bachelor's of Art degree in 1965.

After graduation from college, he joined the United States Army where he served until September of 1969 when he retired at the rank of Captain. He later attended Birmingham School of Law and received his Juris Doctor degree on May 23, 1982.

Watson was first elected mayor in 1972 at the age of 29 when Lincoln's population was a little over 1,100. Over the years, Lew was able to help build local infrastructure and help recruit industries like Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, LLC which helped the city grow and prosper to what it is today. During his time in office the city's population grew by over 450 percent.

Watson's children include Carroll Lewis Watson and his wife Alyson, Samantha Bluhm and her husband Patrick, David G. Watson and his wife Azumi, and Jessica Laffosse and her husband Michael.

Mr. Speaker, we join his friends and family in this surprise celebration in his honor. We will miss Lew's leadership in Lincoln, and wish him the very best.

HONORING FORMER FIRST LADY MRS. CLAUDIA ALTA "LADY BIRD" JOHNSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of former First Lady, Mrs. Claudia Alta "Lady Bird" Johnson. Mrs. Johnson, wife of President Lyndon Baines Johnson, was known for her prominent role in public service, and for her lifelong efforts to beautify public places across the country.

As First Lady, Mrs. Johnson promoted the conservation and beautification of our public lands. She believed that by making these civic improvements, we could help pay tribute to our great country. One of Mrs. Johnson's greatest rehabilitation efforts took place right here in Washington, DC, where she oversaw the planting of thousands of flowers throughout our Nation's capital.

Driving from her home in Texas to Washington, DC, Mrs. Johnson expressed concern

with the uninviting appearance of our Nation's Interstate highways. Ultimately, President Johnson signed the "Highway Beautification Act" into law in 1965, enhancing the scenic views of our highways and byways. In 1999, when Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt presented Mrs. Johnson with the Native Plant Conservation Initiative Lifetime Achievement Award, he noted that the First Lady had been a shadow Secretary of the Interior for much of her life. Today, we continue to enjoy the benefits of the First Lady's efforts to beautify our roads and highways.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the centennial of Mrs. Johnson's birth, we hold in great regard the value of these national improvements by preserving the beauty of our lands—through constant revitalization and conservation. We have Mrs. Johnson's unifying grace to thank for her contributions to the American landscape, and I am pleased to recognize these lasting contributions by the former First Lady from Texas.

HONORING MR. CABLE TELEVISION IN NORTH CAROLINA—JACK W. STANLEY

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, I take this occasion to honor Jack W. Stanley—a great personal friend for many years—as he retires from 45 years of service in the cable television industry. Jack has been a true pioneer in the industry, helping to lead its growth from a service designed merely to extend over-the-air broadcast signals into hard to reach areas to what it is today—an industry that makes available to homes across the nation hundreds of linear video channels, on-demand programming, high-speed broadband services, digital telephone services, home networking and home security services. It is an industry that is driven by innovation and private investment. And Jack has seen it all and helped make it happen.

In any conversation with Jack, it doesn't take long to find out about his roots—rural Georgia. He is proud to be a country boy. His professional life to this day remains grounded in the clay of Dodge County, Georgia, where he grew up in modest circumstances on his family's farm and learned the lessons of hard work and respect for others that he has carried with him throughout his career. Jack graduated from South Georgia Technical College where he studied Electronics Technology and completed an Executive Management Development Program at Denver University.

Most recently, Jack has served as the Regional Vice President for Government Relations for Time Warner Cable with responsibility for North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Alabama. In this role, he has represented his company before various governmental bodies and coordinated its advocacy on important issues affecting the cable industry. Jack enjoyed many successes in this challenging role, including developing positive relationships with federal, state and local govern-

mental leaders and helping to ensure consistent and fair regulatory treatment for cable operators.

For the bulk of his working career, Jack served in a variety of operational roles in the cable television industry, including successfully leading cable systems in Georgia, Texas and North Carolina. He served as Division President of Time Warner Cable's Greensboro Division, where he managed a staff of some 700 employees. Under his leadership the Division was top-ranked in customer satisfaction and consistently exceeded the established business metrics.

He is known among his peers as an innovative leader who is committed to exceptional customer service and who has the ability to forge positive relationships with consumers, employees and public officials. In 1988, Jack developed the first set of service standards for Time Warner Cable, which quickly became the basis for national industry standards and are still in use today. This commitment to customer service was recognized with a Chairman's Award and the National Public Affairs Award of the Maryland and Delaware Cable Association. As anyone who has worked with him will tell you, Jack always has the customers' interests foremost in his mind in any decision impacting the business.

Jack carried this customer commitment over to his service to the industry. He served four separate terms as President of the North Carolina Cable Telecommunications Association where, in addition to being a terrific leader and gracious colleague, he was instrumental in establishing a college scholarship program to help provide higher education opportunities for children of members of the cable industry. Providing opportunities for others has always been a driving focus of Jack's career.

Jack has also been an active leader in the community. He was appointed by former Governor Jim Hunt to represent the cable industry on a task force where he was instrumental in establishing a partnership between the Association of Public Telecommunications and the cable industry in OPEN/Net, a virtual "town hall" that provided citizens direct access to state and local leaders via cable technology. He eventually served on the APT Board for two terms. He also served on numerous other boards, including the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research, and the Greensboro Partnership.

Jack enjoys golf—and he's really good at it. You want to be on Jack's team in business and golf—especially golf! He has a passion for history, and realizes his most important accomplishment is his family, which includes twelve grandchildren.

The depth of his experience and knowledge about the cable industry is matched by the depth of his character and judgment. When you shake hands in an agreement with Jack Stanley, you do not have to wonder whether you have a deal.

A modest man, who came from modest means, he doesn't seek attention—but he deserves it. Jack is a true Southern gentleman in the best sense of that term.

I join with all of the residents of the Sixth District of North Carolina in honoring Jack for his fine career and to wish him all the best as he enters, what I am sure will be, a very active and productive retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS SZASZ

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD "The Man versus the Therapeutic State," by Jacob Sullivan of Reason magazine. This piece pays tribute to Dr. Thomas Szasz, who passed away on September 8th of this year.

Dr. Szasz, a trained psychiatrist, was the leading opponent of what he labeled the "therapeutic state." For over fifty years, in 35 books, and hundreds of articles, Dr. Szasz defended human liberty and dignity against modern psychiatry. Modern psychiatry, of course, insists that behaviors which deviate from some arbitrary norm serve as signs or symptoms of organic "mental illnesses" (although the physiological mechanisms never seem to be clearly identified, much less explained). Since "sick people" are incapable of controlling themselves, it is the responsibility of government to protect them by constraining their ability to make harmful choices.

This is the mentality that Dr. Szasz fought against so valiantly. By applying the philosophy of liberty to psychiatry, Dr. Szasz undermined the "individual as helpless victim" mentality that helps justify restrictors on personal liberty when it comes to drugs, fatty foods, sodas, pornography, gambling, etc. Dr. Szasz clearly understood, and predicated, the rise of the therapeutic nanny state.

No doubt Dr. Szasz could have enjoyed a successful career had he moderated his views or kept quiet instead of presenting a principled challenge to the psychiatric-government complex. But Dr. Szasz was one of those rare individuals who could not be silent when liberty was threatened. For his courage in speaking truth to power, Dr. Szasz was rewarded with ridicule and scorn from the gatekeepers of "respectable" opinion. However, Dr. Szasz did find a receptive audience among the ranks of the liberty movement, where he quickly earned a place as one of the movement's most distinguished thinkers. With the recent growth of the liberty movement, I would not be surprised if Dr. Szasz's influence becomes greater in the next several years. Certainly, all of us who work for individual liberty should be grateful for Dr. Thomas Szasz's contributions to the cause of freedom.

[From Reason.com, Sept. 19, 2012]

THE MAN VERSUS THE THERAPEUTIC STATE

(By Jacob Sullum)

The New York Times obituary for Thomas Szasz, who died this month at the age of 92, says his critique of psychiatry "had some merit in the 1950s . . . but not later on, when the field began developing more scientific approaches." That's a paraphrase of historian Edward Shorter, whose judgment reflects the conventional wisdom: Szasz called much-needed attention to psychiatric abuses early in his career but went too far by insisting on a fundamental distinction between actual, biological diseases and metaphorical diseases of the mind.

In fact, however, Szasz's radicalism, which he combined with a sharp wit, a keen eye for obfuscating rhetoric, and an uncompromising dedication to individual freedom and responsibility, was one of his greatest

strengths. Beginning with *The Myth of Mental Illness* in 1961 and continuing through 35 more books and hundreds of articles, the maverick psychiatrist, driven by a "passion against coercion," zeroed in on the foundational fallacies underlying all manner of medicalized tyranny.

The idea that psychiatry became scientifically rigorous soon after Szasz first likened it to alchemy and astrology is hard to take seriously. After all, it was not until 1973 that the American Psychiatric Association (APA) stopped calling homosexuality a mental disorder.

More often, psychiatry has expanded its domain. Today it encompasses myriad sins and foibles, including smoking, overeating, gambling, shoplifting, sexual promiscuity, pederasty, rambunctiousness, inattentiveness, social awkwardness, anxiety, sadness, and political extremism. If it can be described, it can be diagnosed, but only if the APA says so. Asperger's, for instance, will cease to exist when the fifth edition of the APA's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) comes out next year.

As Marcia Angell, former editor of *The New England Journal of Medicine*, observed last year in *The New York Review of Books*, "there are no objective signs or tests for mental illness—no lab data or MRI findings—and the boundaries between normal and abnormal are often unclear. That makes it possible to expand diagnostic boundaries or even create new diagnoses in ways that would be impossible, say, in a field like cardiology." In other words, mental illnesses are whatever psychiatrists say they are.

How "scientific" is that? Not very. In a 2010 *Wired* interview, Allen Frances, lead editor of the current DSM, despairing that defining mental disorders is "bullshit," in an online debate last month, he declared that "mental disorders most certainly are not diseases."

Then what exactly are they? For more than half a century, Szasz stubbornly highlighted the hazards of joining such a fuzzy, subjective concept with the force of law through involuntary treatment, the insanity defense, and other psychiatrically informed policies.

Consider "sexually violent predators," who are convicted and imprisoned based on the premise that they could have restrained themselves but failed to do so, then committed to mental hospitals after completing their sentences based on the premise that they suffer from irresistible urges and therefore pose an intolerable threat to public safety. From a Szaszian perspective, this incoherent theory is a cover for what is really going on: the retroactive enhancement of duly imposed sentences by politicians who decided certain criminals were getting off too lightly—a policy so plainly contrary to due process and the rule of law that it had to be dressed up in quasi-medical, pseudo-scientific justifications.

Szasz specialized in puncturing such pretensions. He relentlessly attacked the "therapeutic state," the unhealthy alliance of medicine and government that blesses all sorts of unjustified limits on liberty, ranging from the mandatory prescription system to laws against suicide. My own work has been powerfully influenced by Szasz's arguments against drug prohibition, especially his discussion of its symbolism and its reliance on a mistaken understanding of addiction, and his criticism of paternalistic interventions, such as New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's recently approved soda serving ceiling, that conflate private and public health.

I will always be grateful for Szasz's courage and insight, and so should anyone who shares his passion against coercion.

SUPPORT CLEAN ENERGY
VICTORY BONDS**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to an important piece of legislation that I and more than a dozen co-sponsors support—the Clean Energy Victory Bonds Act of 2012, H.R. 6275. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this bill to help create our Nation's clean energy economy.

The Clean Energy Victory Bonds Act would create a new U.S. Treasury savings bond that would support the development of our domestic renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors. The bond would support programs with a proven, successful track record in areas such as wind, solar, geothermal technology, fuel cell development, closed loop biomass and other renewable technologies. The bond would also support home efficiency measures, hybrid electric vehicles and charging stations.

The Clean Energy Victory Bond would be available for as little as \$25, allowing most Americans access to this investment opportunity that can play a key role in generating the energy we need as a world leader. Just as the WW II Victory Bond helped our Nation make the profound economic shift that the war effort required, the Clean Energy Victory Bond can help shift today's economy to the renewable energy foundation that our times now require.

Once enacted, the Clean Energy Victory Bond will leverage \$50 billion in investment to provide up to \$150 billion in both public and private financing for clean energy technologies. This investment would create at least 1.7 million good jobs across the country. It is crucial that the United States increase investment in renewable energy if we are to compete globally as other nations surge forward with their own clean energy infrastructure and technology.

Now more than ever, we must take bold steps to address our energy security needs for the long term, and by allowing Americans to invest safely in renewable energy we can make significant progress toward that goal. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the Clean Energy Victory Bonds Act of 2012, H.R. 6275, to build America's clean energy future. The well-being of our grandchildren and of our Nation as a whole depends on our ability to meet our energy needs through cleaner, renewable sources.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF MASTER
SERGEANT MAVIN D. TASBY**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice of MSG Marvin Tasby on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force. For the last 4 years, Master Sergeant Tasby has served the Air Force and our Nation as a legislative liaison here in Congress.

Master Sergeant Tasby is affectionately known to many of us in Congress as “Taz.” For 26 years, the United States Air Force, and indeed the entire Nation, has benefitted from Taz’s talents, experience, and devotion.

As we honor Taz, we also honor all of those who wear our Nation’s uniform.

When our airmen and airwomen serve, their families serve as well. Today in paying tribute to Master Sergeant Tasby we also express our gratitude to his wife Katrina, his sons Jordan and Justin, and his mother Jessie.

After enlisting in the Air Force in 1986 in Shreveport, Louisiana, Taz served across the United States and around the world. He has worked in the Office of the Air Force Reserve and served as a member of the 93rd Bomb Squadron and the 140th Fighter Wing.

A key part of Taz’s latest posting, as a legislative liaison, has been escorting Members of Congress around the world. Indeed, Taz has served as part of 50 fact-finding missions to 62 countries around the globe. In doing so, he has earned the respect of Members and staff. He is known around the world by State Department officials and foreign nationals.

Personally, I’ve been proud to have Taz by my side in 16 countries—from Afghanistan to the United Kingdom, many of them more than once. We’ve been together in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and North America. We’ve gone into war zones in Afghanistan and Iraq and we’ve travelled to meet with the heads of parliaments from around the world.

Taz spends countless hours planning every detail of a trip and ensuring logistics are executed perfectly. I’ve seen firsthand Taz’s resourcefulness, attention to detail, and overall commitment to excellence.

Taz has been rightly honored with a number of medals throughout his 26 year career. These include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

The Air Force song is a tribute to those, as it says, “who love the vastness of the sky.” When we sing that song, four times we proclaim, “Nothing will stop the Air Force!”

Those words are true about the Air Force because of our airmen and airwomen. They are true because of people like MSG Marvin Tasby.

RECOGNIZING MR. CRAIG
ANTHONY WASHINGTON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Craig Anthony Washington, an accomplished attorney and elected official from Houston, Texas. Mr. Washington is being inducted into the State Bar of Texas Legal Legends Project this month for his exemplary contributions to the legal profession and the pursuit of equal justice under the law.

The Texas Legal Legends Project recognizes exceptional lawyers who have worked to uphold the integrity of the courts, and to honor those who have exceeded their professional obligations to ensure fair and thorough advo-

cacy. Mr. Washington has been tireless in his efforts to defend those without a voice in our legal system by challenging discriminatory practices.

Craig Washington was born in Longview, Texas. He grew up in Houston and, after high school, enrolled in Prairie View A&M University at the age of 16 with the high hopes of becoming a dentist. Mr. Washington had charisma and determination even at a young age, and he managed to convince the dean into accepting him into the law school program with future plans to transfer into dentistry. Instead, his passion for law dominated his academic career. Four years later, he would graduate with honors and become the assistant dean and an assistant professor of law at his alma mater.

Mr. Washington’s tenure as a legislator, first in the Texas House, the Texas Senate, and then in the U.S. House of Representatives, was distinguished by this same unwavering devotion to the underserved and his constituents. He was known and respected for his expert knowledge of criminal law throughout his public service in the Texas House, Texas Senate and in the U.S. Congress. As a lawmaker, he proved to be a commanding orator and political strategist, and no legislation regarding the criminal justice system was passed without his review and expert analysis.

Mr. Speaker, it is rare to find an individual who is both passionate about affecting positive social change and improving the lives of so many. He is a tremendous criminal defense lawyer as well as an American analytical genius, and I stand today on this floor where he stood many years ago to salute Mr. Washington. I am proud to call him my friend.