homeland for their children, members organized again to establish a school. In 1903, St. John Nepomucene School was established, with an enrollment of 300 students.

As immigrants navigated their way through the difficult transition toward assimilation in America, St. John Nepomucene served as a haven of security, faith, support and assistance. As immigrants embraced the freedoms and ideals of their new nation, St. John Nepomucene served as a bridge between two worlds—connecting Fleet Avenue to their homeland across the ocean.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and celebration of the generations of spiritual leaders and parishioners who founded, supported and sustained St. John Nepomucene Church for 110 years. The leaders and members of St. John Nepomucene Parish, past and present, continue their tradition of providing faith and hope to individuals and families throughout Slavic Village.

HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL OF PAINTING

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the Hudson River School of Painting. The Hudson River School is the first American art movement. Begun in the early 1800s, the movement comprised three themes of American life at the time—discovery, exploration, and settlement. The style originally focused on landscape paintings of the Hudson River Valley and surrounding areas, before expanding to the nearby Catskill, Adirondack, and White Mountain ranges, eventually including locales far outside this narrow slice of upstate New York.

One of the Hudson River School's leading painters, Sanford Robinson Gifford, served in the New York State National Guard's Seventh Regiment during the Civil War. Mustered into service in defense of the Union, the Seventh Regiment's stay while in Virginia inspired Gifford to paint several scenes of the enlisted life. One of these paintings, ''Bivouac of the Seventh Regiment, Arlington Heights, Virginia,'' captures a scene at the heart of Virginia's 8th Congressional District.

The legacy of the Hudson River School, however, is much greater than the paintings hanging on museum and gallery walls across the nation. These paintings, depicting historical landscapes across our country, captured the hearts of the American people. The majestic landscapes, seen by millions of Americans, fueled an interest in the conservation movement as the public demanded that many of the sites depicted by the Hudson River School be preserved for future generations. This conservation movement quickly led to the establishment of the first national park in 1872, giving rise to the creation of the National Park Service in 1916. Hundreds of millions of visitors travel, explore, and enjoy these parks every year.

Adding to the legacy of the Hudson River School is New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. This landmark cultural institution was established with the help of artists from the Hudson River School of Painting, including Mr. Gifford. In addition to donating time, funds, and some paintings, these Hudson River School artists served as trustees and committee members.

Mr. Speaker, the impact of the Hudson River School is much greater than simply beautiful paintings of the mountainous river valley in New York. Its legacy can be found in our National Park system, our commitment to conservation and in our museums and cultural institutions enjoyed and appreciated by Americans all over the country.

SUPPORTING OUR CLOSEST ALLY, ISRAEL

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this week and even today Israel's terrorist enemies massively escalated their rocket attacks on our country's closest ally, Israel—Hamas has fired its rockets at large cities whose population has not been under attack for decades, including Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, the latter of which had never been subject to rocket attack. Sadly, three people have been killed.

Words cannot express the inhumanity and barbarity of these rocket attacks. The number of Israelis who live under daily threat of air attack has increased exponentially: more than a third of Israel's population lives in the Tel Aviv metropolitan area alone, which was last under rocket fire during the first Gulf War.

This is the moment for America to send a clear message: Hamas's rocket attacks are completely and totally unacceptable and unjustified and intolerable, their escalation even more so. The Israeli government has not only the right but the duty to defend its people. I want to recognize and applaud Israel for vigorously doing so, and for taking every reasonable precaution to avoid civilian casualties. I want to remind my colleagues that Hamas's goal is not to avoid civilian casualties, but to initiate conflict that will cause it, so that all the people killed, whether Israeli or Palestinian, are in fact Hamas's victims. Our hearts and prayers go out to their families.

HONORING WHITNEY MITCHELL

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship they have shown me during my six years of service in the Congress.

Whitney Mitchell has been an invaluable asset to my office since joining our team in February of 2009. Whitney's talents as a skilled and effective communicator were quickly recognized and rewarded with a series of promotions, ultimately achieving Press Secretary and Communications Director status. Few individuals on Capitol Hill have so effortlessly and skillfully developed a political acumen as sharp as Whitney's, or mastered the complexities of political nuance and communication as she has. Marking Whitney's strengths further still, she is also responsible for a broad portfolio of legislative issues for which she has proven her ability to rapidly research and synthesize voluminous amounts of information while also successfully reinterpreting complicated information into clearer, more comprehensible parts, the latter a critical skill to effectively communicate policy to our various constituent groups. In all, Whitney has been a trusted, loyal and exceptional member of my staff.

Whitney should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with Whitney and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Whitney and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Whitney Mitchell for her hard work on behalf of all of western North Carolina and the United States and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK OF MORRIS COUNTY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County, Morristown, New Jersey as they celebrate their 120th Anniversary this year.

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick is a national network of social organizations of men of Irish ancestry and affinity. Each local organization takes an active role in their community preserving the Irish history and heritage of its members while also participating in acts of charity. The purpose of each local Sons of St. Patrick organization is to provide an opportunity for Irish-Americans to meet in a spirit of comradeship for the common purpose of promoting, cultivating, celebrating and preserving interest in Irish arts, literature, history and culture.

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County was founded in the spirit of the first truly American St. Patrick's Day celebration