Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Chairman of the House Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee to congratulate Admiral James M. Loy, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard on his magnificent career and to thank him for his long service to America. Admiral, we wish you and your wife Kay every happiness as you begin this new posting and thank you both for your dedication to service and duty.

IN RECOGNITION OF MATTHEW F. RYAN, PRINCIPAL OF THORNDYKE ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Matthew F. Ryan, Principal of Thorndyke Road Elementary School in Worcester, Massachusetts. Mr. Ryan has been an educator in the Worcester Public Schools for past 36 years, and he is retiring at the conclusion of the school year.

During his distinguished career with the Worcester Public Schools, Mr. Ryan has served as a teacher, guidance counselor, and principal to thousands of students across the City of Worcester. Indeed, as principal of Thorndyke Road Elementary School, Mr. Ryan worked diligently to instill pride in his school, boosted its reputation and academic achievements, welcomed parent involvement, and most importantly developed a school climate that fostered respect and encouragement for each student. His parting accomplishment is the construction of the Thorndyke Neighborhood Trail, which will be dedicated on May 31, 2002.

Mr. Ryan is also deeply involved in the Worcester community. As a member of St. George's Catholic Church, Mr. Ryan is an active participant of the Diocesan Peace and Justice Committee as well as the Faith Into Action Homeless Coalition.

Mr. Ryan graduated from Worcester State College, received a Master's Degree from Assumption College, and was a Jacob Hiatt fellow at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education. In addition to his educational and professional accomplishments, Mr. Ryan is the father of five and grandfather of four.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that the entire House of Representatives joins me in congratulating Mr. Ryan on his long career of service to the Worcester Public Schools, and wishes him the best of luck in retirement.

RAISING THE DEBT WITHOUT A DEBATE

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, due to their poor economic planning, today Republicans are attempting to, increase the amount the Federal government can borrow—not through a direct, democratic vote—but by slipping it quietly into the Supplemental Appropriations bill. They're not specifying how much they want, they're not telling us how they plan to spend it, and most importantly, they're not telling us how they plan to pay it back.

Every Member in this body knows that an increase in the debt limit has a monumental impact on our economy. However, under this Republican procedure, there is no chance to debate or offer alternatives to one of the most important decisions made by this Congress, The state of our economy affects the lives of all American families and businesses, not just today, but especially in future years as the Baby Boomers begin to retire. However, what we know today is that the federal government is in a deficit, and $4 trillion of the surplus has disappeared in one-year—the largest fiscal reversal in our nation's history.

Mr. Speaker, before approving a substantial increase in our borrowing authority, Congress has an obligation to review our long-term budget policies in light of the dramatic reversal in our nation's fiscal condition. We should not, as the Republicans are proposing today, blindly pile debt onto future generations. It is fiscally irresponsible.

VIRGINIA A. SLOAN: TEACHING THE JOY OF READING

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Virginia A. ''Ginny'' Sloan upon the occasion of her retirement after 31 years as an educator, all of them for the Oscoda Area Schools. Ginny deserves high praise for her devotion to teaching and her passion for ensuring every student left her classroom equipped with more than just the basic reading skills necessary for a productive life.

Ginny has always recognized the importance of reading as the one educational skill upon which all other learning is based. Throughout her tenure, she continuously sought to improve the methodology and the mechanisms for teaching reading. She was instrumental in establishing and developing the school district's ''Right to Read Program,'' and its ''Secondary In-Service Reading Program.'' Ginny also was a driving force in curriculum development for the district, most notably her work on a committee that reviewed Language Arts texts and materials for elementary grades.

Ginny's pioneering efforts and innovations were vital to implementing a suitable curriculum as the backbone of Oscoda's excellent school system. So many of the hours and effort put forth by Ginny took place long after the work day had ended. It is difficult to fully grasp the commitment of time and energy made by dedicated teachers such as Ginny Sloan, but their families understand. Ginny would be the first to acknowledge that the accommodations made by her husband, Jim, and their family, played an important role in her success.

Achieving success in the teaching profession often comes without much recognition or reward. In Ginny's case, she has earned an ''Excellence in Education'' certificate from the Oscoda Area Schools Board of Education and was recognized for 8th Grade achievements on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program test. However, those awards serve as only a small measure of her value as a school teacher. The true yardstick of her success is the gift of learning she bestowed upon her students, something that can never be taken away from them.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to Ginny for all that she has done for students, teachers and the entire community. Top-notch educators like Ginny Sloan are all too rare. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ginny Sloan for a job well-done and in wishing her a successful and enjoyable retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JACK KOSZDIN AND GEORGIA MERCER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Hillel Councils of CA State Northridge University (CSUN) and Valley and Pierce Community Colleges in paying tribute to my good friends, Jack Koszdin and Georgia Mercer, who are being honored this evening at Hillel's Gala Dinner.

Jack Koszdin and Georgia Mercer are very special people who have generously given their time, effort and dedication to Hillel and to our community as a whole. Jack is a practicing attorney with whom I had the privilege of practicing law for nearly six years. He is one of the most skilled and knowledgeable practitioners in the field of worker's compensation in the entire country and is a relentless defender of the judicial rights of our labor force. Before entering the legal field as an attorney, Jack was a great teacher with a huge heart and a wonderful sense of humor. He counts teaching at UCLA and serving as a law a professor at the University of West Los Angeles among his many accomplishments.

Jack is continually striving to resolve issues in our educational and legal systems. He is a member of the Board of the San Fernando Valley Child Guidance Clinic and one of the Board of Directors of the Cerebral Palsy Association. He has been a legal advisor to the Valley Labor Political Education council and has held numerous prestigious judicial positions including Judge pro Tem of the Workers' compensation Appeals Board and Municipal Judge Pro Tem for the San Fernando Valley. He also participates in the State Insurance Commission Study of Workers' Compensation and Medical Benefits.

Georgia has more than 25 years of experience in education, communications and public affairs. Her accomplishments are legion and her energy boundless. She now serves as the Chair of CSUN's Hillel's Board of Directors as well as on the Boards of the CSUN Foundation, Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services, Valley Trauma Center, Valley Alliance of the Jewish Federation Council, and Friends of the Family. She is also an elected and distinguished member of the Community Board of Trustees. As President of this Board from 2000–2001, she led a campaign for a $1.2 billion facilities bond measure for upgrading the modernizing all nine college campuses that ultimately won 67% voter approval. Georgia is a gifted and dedicated activist who knows how

to get things done and who never fails to take on a challenge.

During the past several decades, I have been privileged to work with Jack and Georgia on issues of concern at local, State and Federal levels and have valued their friendship and counsel. It is my distinct pleasure to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Jack Koszdin and Georgia Mercer for their outstanding contributions to our community and thanking Hillel at CSUN, Valley and Pierce Community Colleges for its great work generally, and for making tonight's Gala Dinner a wonderful success.

NEW YORK'S YMCA CELEBRATES ITS 150TH BIRTHDAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the YMCA of Greater New York in celebration of its rich and vital 150 year history.

Throughout its history, the ''Y'', as many of us know it, has spanned three distinct historical periods. The first, from 1852–1902, is marked by a commitment to help newcomers to the city and the creation of programs of social change to help groups impacted by war, population shifts and industrial changes. The New York ''Association'' was staunchly abolitionist and formed a commission to minister to soldiers in camps and hospitals, and on the battlefields of the Civil War. After the War, new YMCA programs were started for African Americans, railroad workers and young boys from urban centers.

From 1902–1952, the YMCA expanded its scope to all areas of public life and affairs, and women became members. Racial integration was attained nationally in the 1940s and much earlier in many New York City YMCA branches. The YMCA's expertise produced numerous vocational, skills training and job placement programs during these years.

From 1952–2002, the YMCA focused aggressively on urban programs to help girls and boys, and their families, in the city. Programs were developed to deal with poverty, youth unemployment, delinquency and drug abuse, and many programs were put on wheels, such as Jobmobiles and Youthmobiles, in order to be located in the neighborhoods most in need. In New York City, during fiscal crises and national recessions, the YMCA maintained its firm commitment to the city through large-scale childcare and expanded family programs. A growing emphasis on physical fitness led to many new program offerings, such as aquatics, cardiovascular fitness and sports leagues, including two sports invented at the YMCA in the late 19th century—basketball and volleyball.

In the past decade, the YMCA of Greater New York also has become a presence in nearly 200 public schools in every school district in the City. In partnership with the United Way and the New York City Board of Education, the Virtual Y currently enrolls 7,500 children and is expanding. Teen Action NYC, currently operates in five schools and provides academic support, life skills and career planning. Most recently following 9/11, the YMCA of Greater New York has developed programs in response and made its 20 branches available for a variety of community needs. In 2002, the YMCA of Greater New York serves 170,000 youth and 200,000 adults.

Throughout its 150 years, the YMCA of Greater New York has been a model of public/private partnerships with a close connection to the City's business and civic leadership. Early lay leaders, such as William E. Dodge Jr., J. Pierpont Morgan and Cornelius Vanderbilt II, were among the most prominent businessmen and philanthropists of their time. Former elected officials, such as Governor Thomas Dewey and Major John Lindsay, served on the YMCA board. Mayors David Dinkins, Rudolph Giuliani and Michael Bloomberg have all been proactive supporters of YMCA community centers and programs.

The YMCA of Greater New York's fundraising efforts, including its Capital Campaign for Kids, are supported by hundreds of corporations and foundations that recognize the YMCA's major and continuing commitment to the youth and families of New York City. This support is led by the YMCA of Greater New York's 14 Corporate Champions: AT&T,/AXA Financial, Bloomberg, Con Edison, Credit Suisse/First Boston, Deloitte & Touche, Deutsche Bank, JPMorganChase, Merrill Lynch, Metropolitan Life Foundation, New York Life, Pfizer, PriceWaterhouseCoopers and UBS/PaineWebber.

Mr. Speaker, 150 years after the YMCA of Greater New York first came into existence it is now bigger and better than ever before. As such, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable organization on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO 9/11 HEROES

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on March 19, 2002, I stood on the House floor to recognize and celebrate the 181st Anniversary of Greece's declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire.

As I stated on that day, the Hellenic community, as every community in New York and worldwide, was hit heavily by that travesty of 9/11.

Fortunately, we have members of the Fire Department, Police Department, Port Authority, military and other volunteers who will continue to lead this war and to protect us on the homeland and abroad. They are lead by Captain John Casamatis, Nicholas Biancoviso (NYPD), Sgt. Emanuel Vrettos (Triborough Bridge & Tunnel Authority), Paul Pallas (NYPD), Demetrios Kaloudakis (NYPD), Constantine Kaloudakis (NYPD), US Marshall John Svinos, Nicholas Mitsinkos (NYPD), Special Agent Genie Poumpouraas (Secret Service), Steve Savvas (NYPD) and Athanasios Ganosis (NYPD).

We salute the clergy and volunteer heroes, lead by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, His Grace Bishop Andonios Parapoulos, His Grace Bishop Savas Zembillas, Fathers John Angel, James Antokas, John Heropulos, Alexander Karloutsos (Port Authority Chaplain), Michael Kontogeorge, Alexander Leondis, James Moskovitis, James Moulketas, Geore Orfanakos, Paul Panos, Angelo Pappas, Nicholas Rafael, John Romas, Elias Villas, and Decons Niktarios Morrow and Panteleimon Papadopoulos. The volunteers include: Sofia Cotzia, George C. Zouvelos, Tony Benezatos, Maria Andriotis, Keana Balahtsis, Marissa Costidis, Jerry Dimitriou, Fran Karivalis, Michael Karloutsos, Xanthi Karloutsos, Ioanna Kekropidou, Theo Nicolakis, Andrea Pappa, Nitsa Sinanis, Gkorge Schira, Nick Terizis, Harry C. Zouvelos and Dina Theodosakis to name a few.

Today, as every day, we pay tribute to the heroes of 9/11. We will not forget you! Zeto E Eleftheria (Long Live Freedom), Se Ollo to Kosmo (In the entire world).

INTRODUCING A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE 102ND FIGHTER WING OF THE MASSACHUSETTS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, without question, September 11th, 2001 was one of the most tragic days in our nation's history. Millions of lives were adversely affected by the terrorist acts that were perpetrated in New York City, Washington, DC and Pennsylvania. However, like so many times before, Americans from across the country rose to the challenge of defending this great nation. Out of this dark period came amazing stories of heroism, patriotism and selflessness. Today, I rise to introduce a joint resolution, on behalf of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation, that pays tribute to a group of men and women who played an indispensable role in defense of the nation during and following September's terrorist attacks.

Before most of America could come to grips with what was happening on the morning of September 11th, the 102nd Fighter Wing of the Massachusetts Air National Guard, located at Otis Air National Guard Base, had assumed its position as the tip of the spear in defense of the nation's skies. Known as the Minutemen, in honor of their Revolutionary War forefathers, the 102nd became the nation's first airborne responders when it scrambled two F–15s just six minutes after being informed of the hijackings. Within the first hour, the wing launched six armed aircraft on Combat Air Patrol over New York City and Boston. Incredibly, with significantly fewer pilots and maintainers than their active duty counterparts, the 102nd generated, loaded and accepted fourteen aircraft in less than seventeen hours for around-the-clock combat operations. As a result of its ability to respond so quickly and effectively, the 102nd Fighter Wing became the country's lead air defense squadron for Operation Noble Eagle.

In the first three days of the national crisis, the 102nd flew forty-six sorties and better than 160 hours protecting every major city in the Northeast Air Defense Sector. During this period, the 102nd was the country's sole clearance and identification authority and their flawless execution expedited the flow of medevac