Mr. GERLACH, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize Joseph J. Tarantino, recipient of this year’s Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award, for his numerous years of service to our community.

Joseph J. Tarantino is the President of Continental Realty Company Incorporated, based in East Norriton, Pennsylvania. He oversees fifty employees and agents and all seven of Continental Realty’s divisions, which include professional services in the areas of residential and commercial real estate, insurance, relocation, appraisals, new construction, property management and advertising & marketing.

In addition to his official capacity at Continental Realty, Mr. Tarantino has served as Chairman of the Montgomery County State Real Estate Commission, President of the Board of Directors of the Montgomery County Board of Realtors, and Federal District Coordinator of the National Association of Realtors. He has also maintained several community affiliations such as Chairman of the Borough of Bridgeport Revitalization Committee, President of the National Italian Political Action Committee, Chairman of the Central Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, Director of the American Heart Association and Director of the Pathway Schools.

Joseph Tarantino has been recognized on several occasions by his business peers as well as those in the community. He has been a recipient of the Realtors Active in Politics Award, the Central Montgomery County Board of Realtors Realtor of the Year Award and the Americans of Italian Heritage of Montgomery County Outstanding Citizen Award. All of the honors and awards he has received, as well as the positions of leadership Mr. Tarantino has held are a true testament to the hard work and dedication he has shown toward his profession and community. Joseph J. Tarantino is an exemplary citizen for which Montgomery County can be truly proud and I can not think of a more deserving individual to receive the Chamber of Commerce’s Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me today in recognizing and honoring Joseph J. Tarantino for all that he has done over the years to make Montgomery County, Pennsylvania a better place to live.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Mr. Johnny J. Butler, Esquire, recipient of the 2003 Laborers’ Local Union 332 Outstanding Community Leader Award. It is a privilege to recognize a person whose commitment to community has enriched the lives of countless individuals.

Mr. Butler is an attorney with the law firm of Booth & Tucker, LLP of Philadelphia where he focuses on government relations, management consulting, and employment law. He is active in the many aspects of the community including the Prince Hall Masons & SHRiners and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Mr. Butler sits on the Board of Trustees for both the Mother Bethel Foundation and the Drexel University College of Medicine, and is cochairman of the Scotland School for Veterans Children capital campaign.

In the past, Mr. Butler was Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. Under his leadership, there was a statewide enhancement of workforce development programs and policies, a reform of the state’s workers compensation system, and establishment of PennSafe, a workforce safety initiative. Mr. Butler also served as the acting General Counsel of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Assistant Counsel with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and has taught both law and management courses at Howard University and Temple University, respectively.

Mr. Speaker, Johnny Butler is a model citizen. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Butler for his lifetime of service and dedication to labor and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, Patricia A. Lee has made significant contributions to her community through her entrepreneurial and volunteer activities. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable individual.

Mr. Speaker, Johnny Butler is a model citizen. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Butler for his lifetime of service and dedication to labor and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, Patricia A. Lee has made significant contributions to her community through her entrepreneurial and volunteer activities. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable individual.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Suffolk County Volunteer Firemen’s Association 2003 “Firefighters of the Year.”

This year, the Association is honoring 1st Asst. Chief James M. Cummings, Ex-Captain Robert Souhrada and Firefighter Daniel Boucher of the Bay Shore, NY Fire Department. The testimonial of Chief Michael K. Cummings demonstrates the commitment of these three brave men.

On March 19, 2002, at 18:31 hours the Bay Shore Fire Department was alerted and sent out for a structure fire (signal 13) at 103 Second Avenue. Immediately after going on the air, the Bay Shore base was informed by Suffolk County FireCom there was a child hanging out a window. At 18:33 hours, Engine 3-1-2 and 1st Asst. Chief J ames Cummings, 3-1-3L went (signal 2) enroute to the scene.

While the crew of 3-1-2 began preparing to enter the building with an attack line, 1st Asst. Chief J ames Cummings arrived at the scene and realizing due to heavy smoke and intense flame that time was running out for the trapped victims elected to effect a rescue through the second story front window. As he entered the room, directly in front of the window was 3-year-old J ohn Thomas. Chief Cummings immediately pulled him to his arms and proceeded to the window.

As Chief Cummings was affecting the first rescue, Firefighter Dan Boucher had completed his ascent of the stairs. Firefighter Boucher, unaware that anyone else was in the room, entered the front room. Both Cummings and Boucher arrived at the second floor and entered the room where the child was hanging out.

Mr. Cummings immediately pulled the child to safety and handed him to Mr. Boucher who then carried the child out of the room. The child was then placed on the floor in the room and a search commenced for the missing family member. After searching throughout the living area, Mr. Cummings located the second victim in the bedroom where she had been trapped in the room. Mr. Cummings and Mr. Boucher then took care of the remaining victims as medical and fire department assistance was enroute.

Mr. Cummings, a retired Major in the U.S. Air Force, has been a member of the Suffolk County Fire Department since 1975. He is a 26-year veteran of the department and has not only served as a member but also as a Fire Chief. He is a dedicated, hardworking and caring individual.

Mr. Boucher, a 16-year veteran of the Suffolk County Fire Department, has served as a member and a Captain of the Bay Shore Fire Department. He is a very dedicated and caring individual.

Mr. Cummings, a 26-year veteran of the Suffolk County Fire Department, has served as a member and a Fire Chief. He is a dedicated, hardworking and caring individual.

Mr. Boucher, a 16-year veteran of the Suffolk County Fire Department, has served as a member and a Captain of the Bay Shore Fire Department. He is a very dedicated and caring individual.

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HON. ZOE LOFGREN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 21, 2003
Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, in the 106th Congress, we passed the Child Citizenship Act to automatically confer U.S. citizenship on foreign-born children adopted by U.S. citizens. Our immigration law has also long recognized that children born outside our country to an American father and a foreign national mother are citizens as long as their fathers take the steps necessary to achieve their child's citizenship.

Unfortunately, there remains a group of forgotten sons and daughters who, despite being born to American fathers, cannot take advantage of the Child Citizenship Act or other existing provisions of law.
The only children born in Vietnam to American servicemen and Vietnamese women during the Vietnam War. They have lived through devastation during the Vietnam War, have been mistreated by the Vietnamese government because of their mixed race, and many not recognized as United States, but only as legal permanent residents.

There is no doubt that they are the sons and daughters of American fathers. We already made that determination when we admitted them to the United States as legal permanent residents.

To correct this unfair inequality in our law, I have introduced the Amerasian Naturalization Act of 2003 to ensure that Amerasians are accorded U.S. citizenship just like the offspring of other American fathers.

I hope this Congress will act swiftly and pass the Amerasian Naturalization Act. It is time for us to finally close a chapter in our history that has too long denied Amerasians the opportunity to become citizens and be recognized as the Americans that they are.

HONORING THE NATIONAL TRAINING AND INFORMATION CENTER'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORGANIZING NEIGHBORHOODS AND THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACT
HON. DANNY K. DAVIS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 21, 2003
Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Gale Cincotta 30 years ago had a vision that led to the founding of the National Training and Information Center (NTIC) for neighborhood residents to become experts on identifying and resolving the issues on mortgage and insurance redlining, HUD/FHA abuses and community-level drug problems in the inner city.

President Carter appointed Ms. Cincotta to the National Commission on Neighborhoods where she chaired the Reinvestment Task Force. In 1990, NTIC’s work, along with that of 9 local organizations, on community-based anti-drug initiatives was recognized by President Bush senior at a White House luncheon. Ms. Cincotta served on the National Commission on Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing, established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and she was a member of the Community Investment Advisory Council of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago.

Ms. Cincotta and the National Training and Information Center established a multi-ethnic, multi-racial coalition of community organizations whose mission is to build grassroots leadership and strengthen neighborhoods through issue-based community organizing. NTIC helps build organizations with the resources and capacity to: (1) identify local issues that impact the urban areas, (2) develop effective strategies to address the root causes of issues, and (3) create opportunities for the organizational leadership to negotiate with business decision-makers. NTIC’s primary focus is to provide training and technical assistance to a wide range of groups who are willing to promote and foster community organizing as goals for obtaining affordable housing for families, establishing drug prevention programs for the sick and assist in the fostering of neighborhood and community investments to improve better living conditions for people.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the efforts and accomplishments of Gale Cincotta and the National Training and Information Center for their 30th anniversary for empowering the people to organize to bring about change and progress in improving the lives of people from all walks of life.

Mr. Speaker, in the 106th Congress, we passed the Child Citizenship Act to automatically confer U.S. citizenship on foreign-born children adopted by U.S. citizens.

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