

"Bob" Burger for his leadership, determination and dedication as a community leader in Toledo, Ohio.

Bob Burger, "Mr. Neighborhood," who recently turned 80 years old, has given unselfishly of his time and ability to help rebuild and revitalize our city, particularly the East Toledo neighborhoods. Beginning in his home community of East Toledo and then extending his reach for community betterment city wide, he started this quest back in 1972 when he founded River East Associates and served as its first president. Mr. Burger also played a major part in the creation of River East Revitalization Corporation in 1974; that organization helped create a comprehensive plan for redevelopment of East Toledo's main business district along Main Street, Front Street and Starr Avenue.

Mr. Burger is particularly well known in our community as a director of the Neighborhood Improvement Foundation of Toledo, Incorporated (NIFTI) from 1978 through 1994. He is also well known in our community as a veterans leader. He is currently commander of the Arthur Daly American Legion Post 334 and he previously served as commander of the Veterans of Foreign War Post 2510 in 1974 and 1975.

No one of us can ask more than to be given the years to do good for others. Bob Burger's patriotic dedications have yielded exactly that—and inspired an entire city to take hold of itself and transform its parcel by parcel, block by block into the Toledo for tomorrow. The power of his gentle personality, his kindness, skill, and vision have helped enlarge and build forward a real ethic of community in Toledo. How fortunate we are.

Such are his contributions to our community that Toledo City Council has begun the process of renaming a portion of Starr Avenue as "Bob Burger Avenue," which is only appropriate because it is located in the heart of the River East Main business district that Mr. Burger has done so much to promote and advance. For his part in revitalizing one of our great communities, I wish to recognize the contributions of Robert Burger and congratulate him on having a street renamed in his honor. It is particularly appropriate to name a major arterial in his home community in his honor for surely he has been a lifeline to the citizens of the community.

CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL  
NURSES WEEK

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2005*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, as I rise today to celebrate National Nurses Week, May 6–12, 2005, I would like to start off by reciting a passage of a poem written for Florence Nightingale—the original nurse who began the revolution that would bring us the health care we know today:

Now God sent this woman to succour the  
brave  
Some thousands she saved from an untimely  
grave  
Her eyes beam with pleasure, she's boun-  
teous and good  
The wants of the wounded are by her under-  
stood.

Mr. Speaker, while this poem was a dedication to the care and ease the "Lady-in-Chief," as Florence Nightingale was called during the Crimean War, brought to the soldiers as they laid in pain, it can easily be applied to the nurses that are thoughtfully attending to the needs of the sick and wounded today.

From a mere ache in the neck, to recovery after surgery, nurses are the ones who are consistently by their patients' side, taking care of their daily needs. By the time a patient leaves, his or her nurse will know not just what the patient needs in order to complete his or her medical treatment, but what makes the patient laugh and what makes the patient cry. A great nurse makes the difference between a tolerable stay in the hospital and endurable pain, or an insufferable wait and excruciating agony.

Today, our country relies on the tender care of 2.4 million nurses, who are truly the silent heroes of our health care system. Their diverse occupation provides comfort to women and men of all ages, illnesses, and professions, beginning from their first day on earth to their very last. Nurses across this country deserve the same support and consideration as they have given to us, and as I stand here today to honor their tireless work and selfless acts.

Mr. Speaker, I also ask my colleagues to join me in giving their undivided attention to the crisis of nurse shortage in our nation.

Mr. Speaker, as health care costs continue to rise, and as the number of uninsured has climbed to its highest number ever of 45 million Americans, nurses across this country are being overstretched and underappreciated. Consequently, the backbone of our health care system is starting to falter, as the number of registered nurses drops to its slowest growth rate since 1980.

Enrollments in nursing schools are not meeting the demands of the population, and job burnout is causing current nurses to leave the profession. According to the June 2001 issue of *TrendWatch* published by the American Hospital Association, 75 percent of vacancies in hospitals nationwide are nursing positions.

Mr. Speaker, for the first time in history, the nurses of our country are suffering in a wounded profession. Let us work together to ensure that incentives are provided so that the younger generation considers becoming a part of one of the oldest and most venerable professions again. Let us be at the side of our nurses as they are at our side during our time of need.

It took nurses 29 years before they were able to get a week of recognition for all of the hard work they put into our society year-round. Let us make sure it doesn't take another 29 years before we start tending to the needs of their profession. They need more training, more research and more resources—I hope our budgets begin to reflect these priorities.

Lastly, I want to recognize our colleagues who served as nurses prior to joining us in the House of Representatives—EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, LOIS CAPPS and CAROLYN MCCARTHY. I applaud your tireless work in raising nursing issues to a level of national significance, thereby improving our nation's healthcare delivery system.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MAURIZIO  
IZZI, NEW AMERICAN CITIZEN

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2005*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mr. Maurizio Izzi of Rome, Italy, and in welcoming him as he becomes a fellow American citizen. On May 11, 2005, Mr. Izzi will take the oath of allegiance at Faneuil Hall in Boston. On Saturday, May 14, family and friends will gather to celebrate this milestone in Mr. Izzi's life.

Mr. Izzi follows in the tradition of his great aunt, Maria Valente, who became a citizen in 1961 and now resides in Arlington, Massachusetts. In the year 2000, Mr. Izzi took his first job in the United States at the Empire State Building as a Configuration Management Consultant. On May 20, 2000, he married his lovely and charming wife, the former April Peloquin. They now reside in Hopedale, Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, we are all fortunate to live in this land of opportunity, and Mr. Izzi embodies the qualities that have made our nation great: a spirit of perseverance, industriousness, devotion to family and love of country. It is a pleasure to welcome him as a fellow American citizen.

IN HONOR OF MR. JOHN PEDRO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2005*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of California Highway Patrol Officer John Pedro, an influential member of the Santa Cruz community. On June 3, 2002, Officer Pedro was tragically killed in a traffic collision that occurred while attempting to overtake and initiate an enforcement stop on a vehicle. Officer Pedro is survived by his wife Colleen, daughter Sara, mother, Kay and sisters, Kathy and Tammy.

Officer Pedro was born in Watsonville, CA on June 17, 1965 and graduated from Watsonville High School in 1983. He obtained an Associate of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts and Music. Officer Pedro joined the United States Military as an Army Reservist in 1989. He subsequently transferred to the Air Force Reserves in 1991. While playing trombone for the Air Force Band, he met the love of his life, Colleen. Officer Pedro married Colleen on March 27, 1993. They were soon blessed by the birth of their daughter, Sara, on March 19, 2000.

Officer Pedro entered the California Highway Patrol Academy on July 31, 1989 and graduated on December 21, 1989. His first assignment was with the San Jose CHP. He also worked in the Redwood City CHP, Hayward CHP, Coastal Division, Gilroy Inspection Facility, and Santa Cruz CHP. Throughout his career as an officer, Officer Pedro had always expressed a desire to develop his expertise in the field of commercial vehicles, specifically focusing on highway safety and enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, I am joined by Officer Pedro's family and friends to honor his life and contributions to the community. In appreciation for

his duty, the California State Senate via Concurrent Resolution No. 67, officially designated the location of State Route 1 between Harkins Slough Road and the Pajaro River Bridge, in Santa Cruz County, as the "CHAP Officer John Pedro Memorial Highway". Through this dedication, our community will eternally remember the sacrifices made by Officer Pedro and others who have laid down their lives to fulfill a pledge of unwavering dedication to the people of the State of California

---

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2005*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, last week, on Roll Call vote 150, I was not able to vote. Please let the record show that had I been present, I would have voted Yes on House Resolution 210, supporting the goals of World Intellectual Property Day and recognizing the importance of intellectual property in the United States and worldwide.

---

IN TRIBUTE TO MIGUEL  
CONTRERAS

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2005*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues from California, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, Mr. BACA, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. CAPPS, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. COSTA, Ms. SUSAN DAVIS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. LEE, Mr. LOFGREN, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. NAPOLITANO, Ms. ROYBAL-AL-LARD, Ms. LINDA SÁNCHEZ, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. STARK, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. THOMPSON, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WAXMAN, and Ms. WOOLSEY, to pay tribute to Miguel Contreras, who died unexpectedly on Friday, May 6, 2005. As Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and a Vice President of the California Labor Federation, Miguel was a friend to many of us in Congress from California. More importantly, he was a staunch champion for working families in Los Angeles and throughout the country whose leadership brought much needed vigor to our Nation's labor movement.

As the son of migrant farmworkers, Miguel grew up in Dinuba, California, where he worked in the Central Valley's fields from the age of 5 alongside his parents and 6 brothers. Following his parents' example, Miguel became active in the labor movement, where his skills were recognized by the legendary Cesar Chavez, who hired him as a union representative for the United Farm Workers. For 6 years, Miguel worked under Chavez, gaining critical leadership, strategic, and political skills at the helm of one of our Nation's greatest civil rights heroes.

Miguel later joined the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees' (HERE) Union Local 2 in San Francisco, where his coordination of a citywide major hotel walkout led to the biggest wage and benefit increases in history for the 14,000 member local union. His efforts spread beyond California to hotel organizing efforts in Nevada and New York.

Following a 3 year stint as political director of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, Miguel was elected Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Federation in 1996. As head of the Federation, Miguel oversaw the operation of 350 local unions and more than 800,000 union members. Under his leadership, the Federation became a powerful voice for working families throughout Los Angeles, leading successful organizing and wage improvement campaigns for janitors, bus drivers, mechanics, trauma center workers, and thousands of other workers.

As the first Latino elected to head Los Angeles County's powerful labor organization, Miguel opened the door for thousands of Latino and immigrant workers throughout Southern California to the union movement and better wages and health benefits. In doing so, he transformed the face of not only the labor movement in Los Angeles, but of local, city, and State elected officials, and, inevitably, the city and State as well.

The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor has become a model for union organizations across the Nation. At a time when union membership is waning in other areas of the country, it grew quickly in Los Angeles County under Miguel's leadership. The superior labor organization he developed in Los Angeles and its successes are just a part of Miguel's enduring legacy to those most in need in our society.

As Members of the California Congressional delegation, we honor Miguel as champion for working families. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Maria Elena Durazo, and his sons Michael and Mario, during this difficult time.

Miguel Contreras's passing is not only a tremendous loss for working families in Southern California, but also throughout the Nation. His tremendous strategic skills and dedicated passion to improving the lives of others are rare and will be missed sorely by thousands of working men and women he called his brothers and sisters.

---

COMMENDING THE MARINE CORPS  
OFFICERS OF THE 11TH SPECIAL  
BASIC COURSE ON THEIR 54TH  
REUNION

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2005*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Marine Corps officers of the 11th Special Basic Course who are celebrating the 54th anniversary of their commissioning with a reunion during the week of May 12-15, 2005.

The officers of the 11th Special Basic Course (11th SBC) at Quantico, Virginia, start-

ed training in the fall of 1951 and completed their training in March 1952. Although the class was a relatively small one, with just over two hundred officer candidates, they represented one hundred and eight different colleges and universities. Candidates from 36 States, the District of Columbia and Guam were in this class, making it one of the most representational Marine Corps basic officers' courses.

During the Korean War the class had its share of officers who distinguished themselves in combat. Rod Skinner, Harvard '51, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously for valor. John Word received the Navy Cross, the second highest award that our Nation can bestow for courage. Others were awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart. The class also had its share of men wounded and killed in combat action.

Although only a comparatively few members became regular officers, many served and retired from the Reserves while pursuing careers in law, education, religious ministry, athletics, engineering, business, and politics. Among those who were career officers of the Corps was a former Member of Congress, the Honorable Ben Blaz, Notre Dame '51. Ben served 30 years in the Marine Corps and achieved the rank of Brigadier General before retiring and subsequently embarking on a political career. He was one of my predecessors as the Congressional representative from Guam in this, the House of the People.

It is a great honor for me to memorialize the visit of these Marine veterans, their families and friends, to the capital of our Nation for whom they carried their swords in her defense.

Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to those who have served and to those who currently wear the uniform of our armed forces. We therefore welcome the Marine Corps officers of 11th Special Basic Course (11th SBC) on their reunion and we recognize their contributions to our Nation.

The Marine veterans and their families include: Robert Altick, Leslie Altick, Al Bailey, Mary Bailey, Charles Bentzen, Constance Bentzen, John Bickley, Anne Bickley, V. Ben Blaz, Ted Brothers, Charles Clifford, David Curry, Natalie Curry, Frank Delaney, Martha Delaney, Thomas Fallon, Mary Fallon, Marshall Figgatt, Alan Figgatt, Benis Frank, Marylou Frank, Tina Cooper, Erika Helgeson, William Keating, Robert Land, Joan Land, Thomas Land, James Land, John Lussenhop, Kay Lussenhop, Gene Moyers, Fern Moyers, Herbert Oxnam, Betty Oxnam, Richard Paschal, Len Paschal, Jordan Peck, Henry Pruitt, Mary Pruitt, Thomas Qualls, Chayne Stinemetz, Larue Stinemetz, Spatz Thomaidis, Virginia Swisher, Stanley Wilson, and Barbara Wilson.

To the Marine Corps officers of the 11th SBC and their families, may you always know that our Nation appreciates the sacrifices that you have made and that your patriotism continues to inspire the generations of Marines who follow in your footsteps. *Semper Fidelis.*