

opportunities substantial enough to afford housing. Homeownership is a measure of financial security, and without the means to obtain such security, the number of homeowners will continue to drop.

We cannot disregard the efforts of minorities to succeed in obtaining the American dream. Minorities deserve equal opportunity to homeownership. Therefore, I urge my fellow colleagues to raise awareness against the devastation of foreclosure.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF
THE 369TH CORPS SUPPORT BATTALION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in this tribute to the families and members of the Armed Forces during National Military Families Week. I know the people of the 15th District of New York join me in thanking these individuals for their sacrifice and service to this country. I am sure that this august body appreciates the hard work and sacrifice of our men and women in defending the interests of this nation.

I want to specifically extend my appreciation to two groups of servicemen and servicewomen. First, I want to thank the Reservists and National Guardsmen whose lives have been disrupted by the call of service in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the War on Terrorism. Under the condition that they would serve when needed by this country, these individuals were trained and volunteered to take to arms when the country was in danger.

Today, they have become the backbone of our military engagement in hostile territories. The National Guard and Reserve forces are nearly half of the U.S. forces in Iraq at the moment. Thirty-one of the 80 U.S. military deaths in Iraq last month were Reservists.

Many Reservists and National Guardsmen had not made long-term plans for an engagement such as this. At home, their spouses, children, and families fret about their whereabouts, their safety, and when they will see these brave men and women again. Their jobs continue without them and, while their companies remain loyal to their service, the possibility grows that they will eventually be phased out or will fall behind in their careers. They unfortunately are placed in jeopardy in their civilian lives while at service to this nation.

They are faced with the financial and emotional obligations of remaining loving providers for their families. I and a grateful nation appreciate their sacrifice and welcome their return with open arms. Their bravery and their experience nonetheless often calls some of them back into service to fulfill obligations to colleagues still on tour. I thank the men and women of our National Guard and Reserves for their dedicated service to their nation. It is a true testament to their dedication and patriotism to this country.

Second, I must recognize the dedicated and patriotic work of the 369th Corps Support Battalion, the "Harlem Hellfighters." Like the men and women in many of our districts, Harlem Hellfighters have displayed an impressive record of service in their engagement in Iraq.

The unit has received 11 Bronze Stars, 2 Military Service medals, and numerous Army commendations.

Mobilized on December 5, 2003, the unit has been to Kuwait and to southern Iraq near An Nasariyah and performed at least three significant missions, including leading the operations of twenty other units from March 2004 to January 2005. Over this time they delivered over 8 million gallons of fuel to U.S. and coalition forces, fueled over 2,700 aircraft and over 145,000 service vehicles, issued almost 25,000 cases of meals-ready-to eat (MREs), and logged over 2.5 million miles.

In addition, the Harlem Hellfighters completed numerous local projects including the adoption of an orphanage in An Nasariyah, and the monitoring of a school reconstruction project. I am very proud of the work of the 369th. They put their hearts and mind into these tasks and are diligent and strong champions of this country. Without their tireless effort, the capacity of our armed forces would have been limited in Iraq.

While the arduous work of the brave men and women is quite impressive, I must also recognize the sacrifices of the family members of the 369th. While the Harlem Hellfighters have been deployed for over 2 years in the Middle East, their wives, parents, and children have been without them. These family members have had family reunions and backyard barbeques, have taken their first steps and attended their first day of school, and have worried and cried about the location and service of their Hellfighter. They have endured and suffered much while their patriotic family member was serving this great country. I owe these individuals my sincerest appreciation and thanks.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives takes a moment out of its day to recognize National Military Families Week and to honor the families and friends of our armed forces. I believe we should spend every moment working to acknowledge their contributions and to reward their noble contributions to the security and welfare of our nation.

A TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR "BUTCH"
NILES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Arthur "Butch" Niles. Arthur H. Niles was born and raised in Brooklyn's Bedford Stuyvesant village, where just about the entire village raised him. "Butch" as family and friends lovingly know him, was born smack dab in the middle of 14 children, parented by Anton and Lillian Niles. He attended P.S. 44, J.H.S. 35 and Boy's High School. Since he was an outstanding athlete, his basketball skills helped him earn the Four Friends' scholarships to Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia where he captained the team his entire 4 years. Mr. Niles graduated from the Virginia Union University with Bachelors degree in Sociology as well as achieved lifetime membership to the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

After a brief stint in the Eastern Professional Basketball League, playing for the Scranton

Miners, a minor league team of Boston Celtics, "Butch" return to Bedford Stuyvesant. Along with a few of his brothers and the community friends, he organized the original legendary "Soul in The Hole" Basketball tournament. This activity became a sports and cultural extravaganza for youth and their families that occurs every summer and features African Dancers, drummers, poetry readings and great ball games.

Butch has always had a revolving respect with the people of central Brooklyn, especially the youth. He always felt that the power of the people could be realized most effectively by fostering a mutually trusting relationship with the youth.

After meeting Lucille Rose in the early 1970s, Arthur is credited for organizing the first Bedford Stuyvesant Central Youth Council, Inc. He met George Glee and Margo Butts at Vanguard Urban Improvement Association Inc., where he was employed as a Coordinator. Arthur worked with the young men and Margo worked with the young ladies and together they improved the lives of thousands of young people, many of whom went on to be accountants, teachers, union leaders and other professionals. Mr. Niles is in his 26th year with the agency, during his tenure he has placed over 500 youth from Bedford Stuyvesant in primarily Historically Black Colleges and Universities, developed a culinary School and created the safe Passage for central Brooklyn teens.

He developed 21 units of affordable housing through the 1661 Macon Houses L.P. and manages another 105 units in Bedford Stuyvesant. Other developments include SUNY Downstate Medical Satellite and Interfaith Medical Center. He is a member of Community Board #3 serving on the By-law's, Land Use and Economic Development committees. He is also a member of Bedford Stuyvesant Economic and Physical Development task force. For his outstanding devotion to community service Butch has received numerous awards over the years like the Community Leadership Award from the Borough President, the Continuous Service Award from Omega Psi Phi, the Youth Development Award from the Mayor's Office, and the Businessman of the year '04 from the Republican Congressional Committee.

Arthur and his wife Margo have 2 grown children. His hobbies include travel, collecting jazz, playing golf and tennis and of course watching basketball. Mr. Speaker, Arthur "Butch" Niles has continuously worked towards improving the lives of the youth of the community as well as his commitment and generosity in helping others has made him more than worthy of our recognition today.

IN HONOR OF MS. BETH GUISLIN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Beth Guislin for her years of dedication as an employee of the University of California and for her contribution to the world community.

Beth began her career with the University in 1976 at the Los Angeles campus. After leaving UCLA, she continued her work at the

Santa Cruz campus of the University of California system. As UCSC's Director of Instructional Computing, she built a campus institution respected by both faculty and students that enhanced the campus' reputation for undergraduate education by providing a space for students to publish their work and gain needed employment skills.

Beth has also shared her expertise with people around the world through her love for travel. She served as a mental health counselor for Americans living in Bangkok during the Vietnam War, was a field assistant for the Smithsonian-sponsored Arun Valley Wildlife Expedition in Nepal and contributed to the betterment of public health in Thailand. Beth is also fluent in Thai, and as a Peace Corp volunteer, she acted as a liaison between the Thai Ministries of Health, Agriculture, and Education in the area of nutrition and was involved in the establishment of markets for locally produced foods in some of Thailand's rural areas.

Beth is also an expert sailor with 19 years of experience as a member of a Los Angeles crew for international cruises and races. One of the highlights of her sailing experience includes sailing from California to Tahiti.

Mr. Speaker I wish to honor Beth Guislin, upon her retirement from the University of California, for her compassion and dedication to education. Her actions serve as an example of how to live life to the fullest, while selflessly giving back to those in need here and around the world. I join the University in commending Beth for her leadership in instructional computing and international public service, and I extend my sincere best wishes for her retirement and future endeavors.

HONORING VINCENT J. TONUCCI
FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE
TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and community members who have gathered to pay tribute to an outstanding member of our community and a dear friend, the Honorable Vincent J. Tonucci. Retiring just last year after 9 terms as the State Representative for Connecticut's 104th District, Vinny has dedicated a lifetime of hard work and dedication to the Naugatuck Valley.

In his 18 years as a State Representative, Vinny has a long and proud history of legislative accomplishments for his District and the state of Connecticut. Sponsoring and introducing legislation aimed at improving the quality of life for children, defending the environment, protecting health care for seniors, and providing for local economic development, Vinny was dedicated to ensuring that a variety of important issues were debated and addressed. Throughout his nine terms in Connecticut's General Assembly, Vinny developed a distinguished reputation as a public official—accessible to his constituents and fighting for their best interests. His career has been a reflection of all that an elected representative should be.

Vinny's remarkable commitment to community and public service extends well beyond

his time in the General Assembly. Prior to his election to Connecticut's House of Representatives, he served on the Board of Alderman in the City of Derby as well as a member of the Naugatuck Valley Capitol Planning Committee. Among the many local service organizations which benefit from his good work, Vinny is a member of the Webster Hose Fire Department, St. Michael's Society of Ansonia, Derby Elk's Lodge, and the Valley Association of Realtors. He also serves on the consulting committee at Emmett O'Brien Regional Vocational School, the Board of Directors of the Lower Naugatuck Valley Boys & Girls Club, the Birmingham Group of Ansonia, and the Valley United Way. Vinny is a tireless advocate—always ready to lend a helping hand and a powerful voice on behalf of the businesses, organizations, residents, and families of the Naugatuck Valley.

Through his good work as an elected official and community volunteer, his warmth, compassion, and generosity made a difference not only in the communities that he represented, but for families across Connecticut. For his many years of outstanding public service, I am proud to stand today to join his wife, Cindy, daughters, Cara and Christa, family, friends, constituents, and the communities of Derby and Ansonia in extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Honorable Vincent J. Tonucci. He has left an indelible mark on this community and a legacy that will serve as an inspiration for generations to come.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE AND CAREER
OF ACTRESS ANNE BANCROFT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the distinguished life and career of actress and friend Anne Bancroft.

Anne's legendary career spanned more than 50 years and included honors and awards for roles performed in film, television, and on the stage. Most notable among these were her Oscar, Emmy, and Tony awards, an accomplishment achieved by only a select few.

Born to a family of Italian immigrants on September 17, 1931, in the Bronx, New York, Anne quickly developed a love for performance. By the time she was 4-years-old, Anne was already taking dance and acting lessons. When she was 9, she famously wrote on a fence behind her childhood home, "I want to be an actress." Little could she have known then what a splendid acting career lie in front of her.

After studying at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York, she moved to Hollywood in 1950 to pursue her dream. Her first film, "Don't Bother to Knock" in 1952 starred Marilyn Monroe and Richard Widmark. It was her role in 1962's "The Miracle Worker," however, that really launched Anne on the path to becoming an acting legend. She famously portrayed Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's dedicated and truly determined teacher. For her effort, she was rewarded with the Academy Award for Best Actress. 1967's "The Graduate" is the film that sealed Anne Bancroft's place in

American popular culture. Co-starring with Dustin Hoffman, she became the very embodiment of the character of Mrs. Robinson. Mike Nichols, the film's director, recently remarked that Anne's "beauty was constantly shifting with her roles, and because she was a consummate actress, she changed radically for every part." Additionally, Arthur Penn, who directed her in both the stage and film versions of "The Miracle Worker," said that she was an actress who "can play anything." I can think of no higher complement that can be said of an actor.

Anne's death is truly a loss to American culture. Fortunately, her wonderfully-talented performances will live on for future generations to watch and enjoy.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Anne Bancroft whose life and legacy has been a source of enjoyment for so many. My thoughts and prayers are with Anne's beloved husband, director Mel Brooks, and son, Maximilian.

HONORING MARY ANN KECKLER,
HERNANDO COUNTY, FL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise a hard-working woman, Mrs. Mary Ann Keckler, who is dedicated to supporting local veterans. Hernando County is fortunate to have Mrs. Keckler in our community.

Mrs. Keckler served in the United States Navy from 1959–1962. She currently heads Hernando County's Veteran Affairs Roundtable and is commander of the local Disabled American Veterans.

Mrs. Keckler has joined forces with Hillsborough County veterans advocates to raise money for Operation Haley House, the local version of the Fisher House. Donations to Operation Haley House will provide the families of injured American soldiers a place to stay when visiting loved ones undergoing long-term rehabilitation. Many area families are faced with the high costs of expensive room and board when visiting relatives at the James A. Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa. Plans are currently under way to begin building what will be known as the Haley House to elevate this costly burden on military families.

Mary Ann's efforts to improve the lives of injured American soldiers and their families deserves to be recognized.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to represent Mary Ann Keckler, and to honor her for working with our local veterans.

PREMATURE BIRTH: A SILENT,
GROWING HEALTH CRISIS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, prematurity is a serious and growing problem in the United States. It is the number one cause of infant death in the first month of life. In February