

in the country. Among white women, aged 45 to 64, the breast cancer rate in Marin has increased 72 percent in the last decade. Marin County's rates are approximately 40 percent higher than the national average and about 30 percent higher than the rest of the Bay Area. This is why early detection and education in women of all ages is so important.

In addition to this important legislation, we need to do more to prevent breast cancer deaths in women under the age of 40. Approximately 11,000 women under the age of 40 will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, of which nearly 1,300 will die. That's why I introduced the Annie Fox Act, H.R. 715, named after a young woman in my district who was diagnosed with breast cancer and died at the age of 35. This bill will authorize research into the causes of breast cancer in younger women and educate them about the risks of breast cancer.

It is important that we not only continue to fund preventative screenings, education and research for women over the ages of 45, but that we also do so for our younger women so that they may live long, healthy lives.

I applaud the passage of this important legislation and look forward to working with my colleagues to pass H.R. 715, the Annie Fox Act.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE GARFIELD MA-
SONIC LODGE

HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the 125th anniversary of the Garfield Masonic Lodge in Dubois, Pennsylvania. Established in 1882, the Garfield Lodge has selflessly served the DuBois community with high distinction for 125 years.

I commend the Freemasons for their work and for instilling in its members the virtues of charity, benevolence, brotherly love, and practicing the moral principles of life. Again, I extend my best wishes to the Garfield Lodge and to all of the individuals that continue its good work, as they celebrate 125 years of service in my district on May 4, 2007.

IN TRIBUTE TO MAJOR EUGENE
BARLOW ON HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, I want to recognize MAJ Eugene Barlow for his 23 years of dedicated service to our country. In his most recent assignment, he serves as the Chief, Air Force Congressional Fellows Branch, Congressional Inquiry Division, Office of Legislative Liaison with, additional duties as a White House Social Aide.

In June 1984, Major Barlow started his outstanding career as an enlisted Information Manager. He was selected for promotion to senior airman below-the-zone and later selected for promotion to staff sergeant under the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program. After assignments in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Legislative Liaison Directorate, Major Barlow was selected to attend Officer Training School. He was commissioned in 1996 and assigned to Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, as the Chief of Customer Support.

In August 1998, Major Barlow was selected for assignment to Kadena Air Base, Japan, where he served as Squadron Section Commander in the 67th Fighter Squadron. Before being handpicked for his current assignment, Major Barlow was assigned to his alma mater, the University of Maryland, as an Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing our sincere appreciation to MAJ Eugene Barlow for his outstanding service to both the Legislative and Executive Branches and our United States Air Force. We wish him the best as he transitions into a new career. Major Barlow is a true professional and a credit to himself and the United States Air Force.

CELEBRATING THE 136TH
ANNIVERSARY OF KERNERSVILLE

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the town of Kernersville, NC, which will celebrate its 136th anniversary this Saturday, March 31.

Kernersville is a town with a rich heritage dating back hundreds of years. Known as Kerner's Crossroads in the mid-1800s, the town of Kernersville was officially incorporated on March 31, 1871. It had a small but respectable population of 147. Today, about 20,000 call Kernersville their home in the heart of North Carolina's Triad region.

The town has experienced dramatic growth in recent years as it transitions from what was once a rural community to a town making its mark in the economically vibrant Triad area. In the midst of this transition, Kernersville has worked to preserve its unique small-town character and historic architecture.

One of the most notable relics of Kernersville's historic flavor is an exceptional home called Korner's Folly. Some people have called it the strangest house ever built. Others have said it looks more like a small castle straight from the heart of Germany than a home built in the heart of North Carolina. But regardless, today it is a historic museum and serves to illustrate the unique place Kernersville holds in the Triad region.

I applaud the vision of Kernersville's citizens to pursue commonsense growth policies without sacrificing the essence of what makes Kernersville Kernersville. Their efforts will ensure that this great town celebrates many more anniversaries, each one a tribute to an attractive community that offers a small town atmosphere with the benefits of a community nestled in the Triad.

TRIBUTE TO THE SMITHSONIAN
INSTITUTE'S SAN ANTONIO
MUSEO ALAMEDA

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, on behalf of Texas's 20th Congressional District, it is my honor to welcome the Smithsonian Institution to San Antonio as it officially launches its first formal affiliate, the Museo Alameda, from April 12 to 15, 2007. The National Center for Latino Arts and Culture is the only organization in the country that maintains formal partnerships with the Smithsonian Institution and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts—important milestones in the development and appreciation of the diversity of the United States of America. Through its programming, the Museo will showcase stories of the Latino experience through art, history and culture.

The 4 days of opening festivities will begin with Tito Puente, Jr.'s Orchestra, the Latino Giants of Jazz, at the Gala Pachanga in Historic Market Square. It continues with John Quiñones of ABC as master of ceremonies for the opening festivities and concludes with Linda Ronstadt as headliner for *Canciones de mi Padre*, a concert for the people. I along with the Museo Alameda thank the Ford Motor Company, AT&T, and the Anheuser-Busch Foundation for their commitment and friendship in making the museum a reality.

From its inception as the vision of its founding chairman, Henry R. Muñoz III, to its designation as the first of more than 150 affiliates bridging the Smithsonian Institution across the country, the museum has impacted our country and our historic city. Through the years of planning and development, the unique and vibrant Museo Alameda has captured the imagination and inspired the support of countless admirers. The Nation's families are invited to visit our museum, to be inspired by it, and to appreciate the diversity, contributions and pride which Latinos bring to our Nation's greatness. It is time for these stories to be told.

HONORING JOE HOLLSTEIN

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Joe Hollstein, who is retiring after 28 years of service to the city of Ceres.

Joe Hollstein has admirably served Ceres and its residents since 1979. In most cases, Joe has supervised most of the capital projects that have occurred in Ceres for nearly three decades. Joe was instrumental in getting new wells drilled to increase the water supply and he explored the possibility of tapping into surface water. Joe also increased water storage capacity by having ground water reservoirs constructed which added to the city's firefighting capabilities.

Seeing a need to expand the city's wastewater treatment plant, Joe has worked continually on this project with the latest development to develop a sewer line to Turlock from Ceres.

As a traffic engineer, Joe has always been a valued resource to the community and surrounding areas. He has worked from day one with Cal Trans to widen Whitmore Avenue Overpass and to revise the Mitchell Road interchange. In spite of funding delays, Joe has continued to provide technical expertise on these projects and have kept them as a focal point for the local Council of Governments.

Joe has continued to be responsive to the public and its concerns by hosting public hearings and meetings to allow for public input. It is not unusual for Joe to personally respond to the residents on matters of concern to them.

In addition to public works infrastructure projects, Joe has maintained a vision for acquisition of land for parks and city owned buildings. He worked closely on the design of the public safety building and the new fire stations.

Joe continued to find unique ways to fund the community's growth and needs. He was very proactive in establishing special assessment districts to bring additional funds to the city—the establishment of street lighting and landscape maintenance districts. These districts were established in Ceres at a time when few cities had special district fees.

Outside of city hall, Joe has continued his commitment to the community; Joe has diligently volunteered his time to pruning the beautiful roses at Smyrna Park and to the restoration of the Daniel Whitmore Home.

Throughout his career with the city of Ceres, Joe Hollstein has been a consummate public servant. He has utilized his skills and experience for the betterment of the community. Joe has not limited his work to his own department but worked to provide facts and figures for other city projects.

I am honored to rise today to recognize the work of Joe Hollstein and to honor him for his many years of distinguished service to the Ceres community. I wish him the very best in his retirement.

IN SUPPORT OF THE VETERANS'
CARE ADVOCATE ACT

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will ensure that recovering veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have access to a strong patient advocate should they encounter bureaucratic road blocks to their recovery.

This legislation is in response to the appalling stories that have recently come to light regarding substandard outpatient care at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. On March 5, I participated in an oversight hearing at Walter Reed of the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs where we heard from recovering soldiers coping with filthy outpatient living conditions and a needlessly cumbersome bureaucracy.

One of the conclusions I reached from this hearing is that veterans are, in some cases, on their own once they leave the excellent Department of Defense inpatient health care system. These men and women are being forced to navigate an onerous bureaucracy and man-

age their own outpatient care—even after traumatic brain injuries. This is an unacceptable betrayal of the men and women who have so bravely answered the call to duty.

The legislation I am introducing today, The Veterans' Care Advocate Act, would create an ombudsman in each military medical facility to assist in the care and overall well-being of recovering service members. The ombudsman will help patients overcome bureaucratic entanglements and ensure they receive the care they need. If the system breaks down, the ombudsman will go to bat on their behalf and cut through the bureaucracy.

Numerous accounts at Walter Reed describe patients not understanding where to obtain services and assistance and not knowing what services are available to them. The ombudsman will provide a forum for service members and their families to formally appeal to or seek review from the Department of Defense, receive information about services, and obtain help with paperwork.

My bill would also require the Secretary of Defense to effectively advertise the services of the ombudsman so that service members and their families know who to turn to for help with the bureaucracy. Finally, this bill would require regular reports to Congress on the status of the ombudsman program, including a description of the number and location of ombudsman positions established, a description of the services being provided by the ombudsman, an analysis of the effectiveness and timeliness of the services provided, and the adequacy of Federal resources for the ombudsman to carry out its entire mission.

Madam Speaker, I strongly believe that the cost of the war must include the care of the warrior. The Veterans' Care Advocate Act is just one step of many that will be required to ensure that recovering soldiers receive the care they were promised and the care they deserve.

Later today, as part of the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act, I will offer an amendment that will improve the medical care case manager and service member advocate provisions in the legislation. The underlying legislation creates two new positions as part of the team of doctors, nurses and staff caring for recovering soldiers: a medical care case manager and a service member advocate.

First, the medical care case manager will assist in understanding the service member's medical status and conduct a review, at a minimum of once a week, of the soldier's medical status to ensure that he or she is receiving the necessary medical care. Second, the service member advocate assists the service member in cutting through the bureaucratic red tape and looking out for the service member's overall welfare and quality of life.

My amendment requires that the Secretary of Defense conduct outreach to all service members and their families, advising them that the medical care case manager and service member advocate positions are there to help. The Secretary must also describe the nature of their services and how they can be contacted. The purpose of my amendment is to help assure that recovering members of our military are made aware of the resources available to them.

Furthermore, the amendment ensures that the medical case manager and service member advocate have the resources they need to expeditiously carry out the responsibilities and duties of their position.

I am pleased that the Wounded Warriors bill takes a number of important steps to improve the management of medical care, personnel actions, and quality of life issues for our soldiers. Combined with the hospital-based ombudsman created by my bill, the creation of these two positions will help ensure that our soldiers get the quality care they deserve.

A TRIBUTE TO PETRUCCI E.
HARRIS, MSW, LCSW, DCSW

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Petrucci E. Harris. Petrucci Harris was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and is the younger of two daughters born to Timothy and Bessie Hardy. Her family moved to Long Island, New York, while she was still a child. After graduating from public school in New York, she attended Morgan State University in her hometown of Baltimore.

Ms. Harris' first professional job was with the Suffolk County Head Start Program as a teacher, then a center director and later the county program coordinator. It was the experience of working with economically disadvantaged preschool aged children and their families which provided her with the motivation to return to school.

Ms. Harris was granted a fellowship by the National Institutes of Health which assisted her in earning a Masters of Social Work from the State University of New York's School of Social Welfare at Stony Brook. She also studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Urban Health Planning; Ackerman Institute for Family Therapy; New York University Ehrenkranz School of Social Work Post Masters Certificate Program; and the Mind/Body Institute of Harvard Medical School's Continuing Education Program.

Petrucci Harris has been employed in various areas of mental and behavioral health throughout her career. This includes the University of Louisville's Medical School Department of Psychiatry; Bingham Child Guidance Clinic; and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Newark Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine where she was an adjunct faculty member as well as Coordinator of Social Work Services for many years. She worked on many projects for the inclusion of cultural content into the curriculum for immigrant psychiatric residents.

Ms. Harris served as a field instructor for graduate students at the New York University Ehrenkranz School of Social Work for several years. She was also an adjunct professor and faculty advisor for students at the NYU Wagner College where she taught the ethno cultural issues in social work practice course. She is currently a field instructor for Rutgers University's School of Social Work.

Ms. Harris is a member of the National Association of Social Workers, Academy of Certified Social Workers, Diplomat in Clinical Social Work, and a Certified Supervisor of Clinical Social Work. Her commitment to improving the general quality of life through service to others is carried out in her pledge to community service as a Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.