

Colorado, I wish to extend our admiration and profound gratitude for this most honorable American. Our thoughts and prayers are with his widow, Meaghan, his parents, Christopher and Lee, and his five brothers.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
THOMAS CARNEY

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2008*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a gentleman who has quietly spent the last twenty-five years making a difference in our community. Prior to 1983, Thomas Carney would never have described himself as, in his own words, a "bunny hugger". However, while out on a walk that year in our desert community, he came across two desert tortoises that had been badly damaged by heavy equipment on a construction site. One did not survive, but the other one did, due to the care and compassion of Mr. Carney.

This one day occurrence put Mr. Carney on a course in life he could never have imagined—tortoise advocate. He is now a member of the Arizona Chapter of the National Turtle and Tortoise Society. This group is dedicated to the study and conservation of these endangered animals.

I feel that it is important to recognize people like Thomas Carney. He saw a problem and educated himself about how to help these gentle creatures. He is now an advocate for desert tortoises and donates his time to educating others.

Too often, we overlook the little things in life that really make a difference. Mr. Carney, I want to recognize your efforts. I say congratulations and thank you very much for a job well done.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE  
PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS OF  
THE 26TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the individuals from the 26th District of Texas who are currently serving with the Peace Corps in countries all across the globe. Elizabeth Bryant, Blake Childs, Genevieve Dozier, Justin Fleury, Philip Hernandez, Kareem Mansour, and Marianne Montalvo are among the 8,079 Peace Corps Volunteers currently serving 74 countries at 68 posts worldwide.

More than 190,000 citizens of all ages and backgrounds have worked for the cause of peace in 139 countries since the organization was founded in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy. Peace Corps Volunteers have made momentous and long-lasting contributions around the world in agriculture, business development, information technology, education, health and HIV/AIDS, youth, and the environment.

As we have all seen before, it is possible that a single person can be capable of chang-

ing the world. Therefore I know the impact made by these seven individuals is simply unimaginable. Elizabeth, Blake, Genevieve, Justin, Philip, Kareem, and Marianne are currently stationed in 7 different countries for two-year terms. Their commitment to world peace is a trait that is to be commended and their passion for service is something to be both appreciated and emulated.

One of my heroes, President Ronald Reagan, often spoke about the importance of voluntary service. He once said it is like "a spirit that flows like a deep and mighty river through the history of our Nation." These selfless individuals exemplify the character and moral fiber of philanthropy.

The Peace Corps provides an invaluable service to the world and I believe it is important that we recognize that service. The admirable men and women who dedicate their time to serving others truly make this world a better place. It is an honor to represent seven of those individuals in the 26th District of Texas. I am proud that these exemplary citizens, who undoubtedly act as role models to those who wish to follow in their footsteps.

IN HONOR OF THE RIBBON CUTTING FOR NEW YORK EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY'S EAR INSTITUTE

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the ribbon cutting for New York Eye and Ear Infirmary's Ear Institute. This spacious new facility, located on the 9th Floor of 380 Second Avenue, will provide hope to thousands of individuals who are suffering from hearing loss.

The Ear Institute is a state-of-the-art facility that brings together ear specialty services from the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, Beth Israel Medical Center and the Children's Hearing Institute. The \$2.7 million renovation encompasses 15,150 square feet and will provide care to approximately 15,000 patients each year. A center of excellence in auditory health care, it includes a Hearing and Learning Center, the Cochlear Implant Center, a Hearing and Balance Disorders Center and a Vestibular Rehabilitation Center. The Institute's physicians will include specialists in otology and neurotology, as well as some of the world's most respected medical researchers in otolaryngology.

Hearing loss is America's number one birth defect and a leading cause of disability affecting 28 million Americans of all ages. Most adults over age 60 lose approximately 1 percent of their hearing annually, making hearing loss one of the most universal problems of aging. Hearing loss leaves people isolated from the community and unable to participate in many activities. Using innovative technology, the Ear Institute can literally transform the quality of people's lives. At the Ear Institute ribbon-cutting, I met profoundly deaf individuals who, thanks to innovative techniques used by the Infirmary's exceptional medical staff, were now able to hear, including children who could hear well enough to participate in

mainstream classrooms, adults who were able to return to their jobs, and seniors who were able to enjoy a better quality of life.

The Ear Institute will build on the excellent programs that the Infirmary has offered for many years. The Infirmary's Cochlear Implant Center is one of the largest in the United States, and participates in numerous national and international research protocols. The Infirmary pioneered innovative procedures that have restored hearing to thousands of profoundly deaf individuals, including infants as young as six months and adults.

The Infirmary also specializes in diagnostic services for people with hearing and balance disorders, and the new Ear Institute is equipped with some of the latest technology for helping diagnose problems, including rotational chair testing, dynamic Platform Posturography, pure tone and speech audiometry, advanced auditory brainstem and middle latency testing.

Founded in 1820, the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary is the oldest specialty hospital in the Western Hemisphere and was the first hospital to provide clinical training to medical students. The Infirmary is currently a teaching hospital affiliated with New York Medical College. With more than 20 residents and fellows graduating each year, it is considered one of the finest training programs for ophthalmologists and otolaryngologists in the world today.

With some of the most advanced diagnostic and treatment facilities available anywhere in the world, the Infirmary is often the first user of innovative technology, such as the first clinical high-resolution ultrasound biomicroscope in the United States. The Infirmary performs more than 23,000 surgical procedures and treats approximately 142,000 people on an outpatient basis each year. Its Eye Trauma Center treats more emergency eye cases than any other facility in New York.

Madam Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the exceptional achievements of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary and in celebrating the opening day of its new state-of-the-art Ear Institute.

CONGRATULATING SHARON DOYLE  
ON HER OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2008*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sharon Doyle on receiving Tempe Leadership's Outstanding Community Leadership Award. I am especially pleased to recognize Sharon because she is not only a worthy recipient, but a long-time family friend from my home town, Tempe, Arizona. This award recognizes outstanding leadership achievements and service that contribute to improving the quality of life in Tempe.

Sharon is also a fellow educator, retiring after thirty years as a speech and language pathologist in the Tempe Union High School District. This award represents years of community service which at the present time involves service to sixteen different committees and organizations. Although Sharon is retired,