

is located in Brazoria County in my congressional district. I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate the management and employees of BASF Freeport on 50 great years, and thank the people of BASF Freeport for their contributions to Freeport's economy.

The story of the BASF Freeport began when the owners of BASF Overzee N.V., a subsidiary of Badische Anilin- & Soda Fabrik A. G. (BASF), Ludwigshafen, Germany, and the Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Michigan, agreed to form Dow Badische Chemical Company. Dow Badische was endowed with the chemical process technology of the European parent as well as the managerial and marketing knowledge of their U.S. parent.

The new company chose a site adjacent to Dow Chemical's Texas Division of Freeport, Texas for its initial production. In December of 1959 the plant began producing Acrylic Acid and Acrylic Esters. In 1960 and 1961 the plants added production units for butanol and caprolactam.

Through the years, the BASF facility experienced tremendous increases in its capacity as well as in the number of production plants and employees that comprise the BASF Freeport workforce. For example, in 1967 BASF built a continuous butyl acrylate plant, while a new caprolactam complex was completed in 1968; and a new oxo alcohol facility was completed in 1970, adding 2-Ethylhexanol to the product line.

BASF acquired 100 percent ownership of Dow Badische in 1978. Soon after the change in ownership took place, two new chemical plants were constructed in Freeport, one an acrylic acid facility and the other a neopentyl glycol facility. Further significant expansions have included two acrylic monomers plants, an expansion to the polycaprolactam unit and most recently a new superabsorbent polymer plant.

In addition to its contributions to Brazoria County's economy, BASF has improved the life of the residents of Brazoria County through its steadfast support of numerous civic organizations. BASF has also earned the trust of its neighbors by making every effort to observe basic principles of safety and environmental performance in all its operations.

BASF Freeport's success is due to the commitment, hard work and innovative ability of its employees. I am certain that these same attributes will ensure a continued healthy growth for the company, which will, in turn, continue to benefit all of Brazoria County. It is therefore my pleasure to congratulate BASF Freeport on their 50th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING JOHN AND BONNIE ENSTROM FOR CREATING VETERANS LAKE PARK IN HONOR OF AMERICA'S VETERANS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor two of my constituents, true community servants, Mr. John and Bonnie Enstrom.

The Enstrom's built the Veterans Lake Park in Ramsey, Minnesota to honor our fallen heroes. The park hosts the only monument in State dedicated to all Minnesotans who lost

their lives as a result of the global War on Terror. The monument also contains a list of veterans who died in the Iraq war to protect our Nation's freedom.

Over \$1 million has been personally invested by the Enstrom's to ensure that the park is well-kept and beautiful. Veterans visit the park and enjoy its quiet, relaxing environment. It has been seen as a safe haven to help the Vets mentally and emotionally recover.

Our Nation's heroes sacrificed their comforts and safety so that Americans can enjoy their continued freedoms. For their great efforts, veterans deserve much from the American people. Its efforts like those of the Enstrom's that truly show our appreciation for these heroes.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate Mr. and Mrs. John Enstrom for their exemplary service to our Nation's heroes. The time and work that they both have sacrificed to serve the military men and women of our great State of Minnesota will not be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, on July 8, 2008, I was avoidably detained and missed three votes: H.R. 3981, H.R. 1423, and H.R. 4199.

Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 3981, "yes" on H.R. 1423 and "yes" on H.R. 4199. (vote Nos. 471, 472, 473)

HONORING COLONEL PAUL J. KENNEDY OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor COL Paul J. Kennedy of the United States Marine Corps. Colonel Kennedy is finishing his tenure as the Marine Corps liaison to the House of Representatives, and will soon head to my home State to take command of the Second Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

During the last 2 years, Colonel Kennedy has led the small contingent of Marines that serve as the direct interface between the Marine Corps and the members and staff of the House. Under his leadership, Colonel Kennedy and his colleagues have established strong professional relationships throughout this body, building trust, confidence, and mutual commitment between the Marine Corps and congressional leaders. His integrity, knowledge, and personal attention to the needs and interests of members have garnered great respect and appreciation throughout this Chamber.

I have particularly benefited from Colonel Kennedy's leadership as he has become an integral part of the efforts of the House De-

mocracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), which I lead along with Representative DAVID DREIER. During the last 2 years, our Commission has traveled to numerous far-flung destinations in the service of our mission to strengthen the capabilities of legislatures in developing democracies. Not only has Colonel Kennedy organized and escorted every single HDAC delegation, he has jumped at the chance to do so, foregoing travel to more luxurious destinations in favor of our trips to developing nations like Liberia, Afghanistan, and Haiti. He has strongly supported the mission of our Commission, and has moved mountains to ensure that we can carry out our work, no matter what complications arise.

As I have gotten to know Colonel Kennedy, I have been tremendously impressed, not just by his professionalism and integrity, but also by his commitment to the United States Marine Corps. He treats the men and women under his direction in the Marine Liaison office with great respect and has taken particularly seriously his duty to mentor young Marines of lower rank. As he leaves to take command of a 5,000-Marine unit, his attention to the development of younger Marines will no doubt be greatly valued.

Colonel Kennedy has also been able to share with members of Congress detailed and valuable insights into the war in Iraq. Having served as a Battalion Commander in Anbar Province in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom II, Colonel Kennedy gained first hand experience in helping our nation confront the new and complex challenges that war has highlighted.

While Colonel Kennedy will be sorely missed by this institution, we can take comfort in the knowledge that a man of such tremendous personal character and ability will continue to serve and strengthen the United States Marine Corps and the 5,000 Marines under his command at Camp Lejeune. Let me offer my heartfelt appreciation and best wishes to Colonel Kennedy as he embarks on this new assignment.

IN SUPPORT OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues GEORGE MILLER (CA-7) and SAM FARR (CA-17) to introduce the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex Establishment Act. As its title indicates, this bill would unite the Bay Area's seven separate national wildlife refuges into a single wildlife complex in order to leverage greater federal funding for these unique habitats.

The Antioch Dunes, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay, Ellicott Slough, Farallon, Marin Islands, Salinas River, and San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuges together constitute our nation's largest collection of urban wildlife refuges, totaling more than 46,000 acres. Together, they are home to hundreds of wildlife species—including over 128 threatened or endangered animals and marine mammals that depend on these refuges to survive. Because they support endangered wildlife in close proximity to millions of people, these refuges face unique and growing challenges.

Unfortunately, federal resources have not kept pace with the massive increase in refuge size and management demands. That shortfall puts the refuges at risk. For example, the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge was identified by Defenders of Wildlife as one of the nation's ten most threatened wildlife refuges in 2004. Its wetlands have been drastically altered by urbanization and many areas have been filled to create more land. As a result, the San Francisco Bay is now one-third smaller than its original size.

In addition to rare flora and fauna, these refuges offer other benefits. In hosting more than 1.5 million visitors every year, they serve as powerful economic engines for northern California. Their urban setting provides opportunities to educate surrounding communities about the need for environmental preservation. Restored wetlands also provide cost-effective shoreline protection and counter sea-level rise caused by global warming. In fact, the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has determined that restoring wetlands and protecting those that remain represents an immediate opportunity for enhancing carbon absorption—a key to combating global warming.

The San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex Establishment Act is very simple. It authorizes such sums as may be necessary for the development, recovery, and acquisition of refuge lands and the restoration of fish and wildlife habitat. This bill is endorsed by Save the Bay, an environmental organization that has been fundamental in protecting and restoring the wildlife oases in the Bay Area's urban environment.

I urge Members to join us to protect this crucial part of our environment. By enacting this bill, we are taking an important step toward saving rare California wildlife from extinction, fighting global warming, and preserving a beautiful part of our country that can be enjoyed by future generations.

HONORING U.S. COAST GUARD
CAPTAIN ROBERT W. DURFEY, JR.

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in honoring the notable career of a distinguished member of the United States Coast Guard, and a constituent, Captain Robert W. Durfey, Jr.

Captain Durfey has led an exemplary career, having served in the United States Coast Guard for over 30 years. He has amassed a vast institutional knowledge after decades of experience in a wide variety of operational, command, and staff assignments. In addition, his dedication to his fellow man and community is deep and ingrained, as evidenced by his volunteer work rebuilding housing for victims of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Captain Durfey graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science in History/Government. In 1994, he earned his Masters in Public Admin-

istration from the J.F.K. School of Government at Harvard University. He has served at six Air Stations and five Groups along the west, gulf and east coasts as well as Puerto Rico. He has logged over 4800 helicopter flight hours and has flown more than 400 Search and Rescue missions.

He served as a Deck Watch Officer on a Buoy Tender in Alaska before going to Naval flight training to become a helicopter pilot, where he became Coast Guard Aviator #2113. Just prior to his Boston assignment, Captain Durfey commanded the Coast Guard's largest Group-Air Station combination, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. His helicopter and boat crews prosecuted over 1,800 search and rescue cases annually. He also commanded Group-Air Station Humboldt Bay, in northern California, between 1998 and the summer of 2000.

He was promoted to the rank of Captain during a year of strategic studies at the Air War College (2000–2001), which included training on terrorism, intelligence and overseas travel to Israel and Syria. He has had two major commands and most recently served as the Chief of Governmental Affairs and Public Affairs for the Admiral of First Coast Guard District, which oversees the northeast portion of the United States. The area of responsibility includes eight States from Maine to New Jersey.

As the United States Representative for the Tenth District of Massachusetts for the last twelve years, I have had the opportunity to work with and get to know Robert Durfey both as a professional and as a man. He has lived his life with a concern for others and the safety of our country. Robert Durfey is a gifted individual whose interpersonal skills are unsurpassed and who commands the respect of his subordinates and peers. As he retires from the United States Coast Guard, I want to add my best wishes to the chorus of accolades he has already received. I salute him and may God bless him in all his future endeavors.

HONORING THE BOAT LIVERY OF
BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE, NEW
YORK, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS
100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Boat Livery of Blue Mountain Lake, which next month will celebrate its 100th birthday. Throughout the past century, the Boat Livery of Blue Mountain Lake has continuously provided services in boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing and other recreational activities to residents and visitors alike in the glorious Adirondacks region of New York State. I would like to join with my distinguished colleague from the New York State delegation, the Honorable JOHN MCHUGH, who represents Blue Mountain Lake in Congress, in saluting the Boat Livery of Blue Mountain Lake on the occasion of its centennial anniversary.

Blue Mountain Lake lies in the heart of New York's Adirondack Park. Inspired by the Rev-

erend William Henry Harrison Murray's best-selling 1869 edition of "Adventures in the Wilderness" or "Camp Life in the Adirondacks", vacationers started to visit Blue Mountain Lake after the conclusion of the Civil War, and it became a tourist "hot spot." As visitors arrived in droves, an entire industry developed in response, spawning stately inns and travel guides who offered boat tours and facilitated participation in outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, boating, hiking and camping.

The Boat Livery of Blue Mountain Lake was founded on August 2, 1908 during the heyday of the great camps established by prominent Americans such as Andrew Carnegie, J.P. Morgan, Dr. Thomas Durant, Coulis Huntington, Alfred Vanderbilt and the Hochschild family, many of whom resided in what is now the 14th Congressional district of New York. Since then, the Boat Livery has made available a wide array of rental pleasure craft to visitors to this uniquely beautiful part of our great Nation. It also has offered scenic boat cruises on original wooden launches.

Blue Mountain rises to a majestic height of 3,759 feet, offering stunning views of the shimmering Blue Mountain Lake dotted with islands. With a year-round population of fewer than 200 people, the tiny town surrounding the mountain remains picturesque, preserving its rustic charm despite the presence of thousands of visitors who pass through each season. Blue Mountain Lake is one of the cleanest, clearest lakes in the 48 contiguous states. It continues to draw thousands of city dwellers who are seeking refuge from their muggy, urban homes.

In 1933, Richard Collins and his wife Hectorine purchased the Boat Livery of Blue Mountain Lake and operated it until 1955. In 1955, Russ and Edna Barrowman purchased it and managed it until 1977 when it was bought by Robert and Judi Booth. Robert, Judi, Quin and Parker Booth currently operate the Livery's rowboats, canoes, steamboats, conduct tours and make available to tourists small and large pontoon boats, kayaks, canoes, paddleboats, windsurfers, day-sailers, sunfish, water skis, tubes, wakeboards, and many other vessels. In addition, they organize the special scenic trips in historic antique tour boats: the Towahloondah, dated 1920; the Osprey, dated 1916; and the Neenykin, dated 1916. These authentic vessels are inspected yearly by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, and remain an integral part of the rich diversity of recreational activities at Blue Mountain Lake. On 2-hour tours across Blue Mountain on the old wooden launches, Eagle and Utowana Lakes, guides regale visitors with stories of the 19th century's great camps, recounting the history of the area's lumberjacks and celebrated fishing and hunting guides. Their stories feature the camps, hotels, steamboats, workers and players of the era.

Madam Speaker, I rise to request that my distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to the tremendous contributions to the preservation and enjoyment of the Adirondacks region made by the Boat Livery of Blue Mountain Lake on the occasion of its centennial anniversary.