

Veterans. I commend them for their tireless service and sacrifice to this country.

This year, with the passage of the G.I. Bill, 1.5 million post-9/11 military veterans will have access to a college education. This legislation will help fulfill the obligation America has to those with honorable wartime service. As a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee and the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations I regard this as the most important piece of veteran's legislation in a generation.

I commend Mr. Sundeen, Mr. Aldecoa and Mr. Griffen for their selfless dedication to the advancement of this legislation. These gentlemen have worked in the State of Arizona, as well in Washington, to make their elected officials fully aware of the importance of this bill.

The grassroots efforts of these three men will help this new generation of returning servicemembers make a more successful transition back to civilian life. This will not only benefit those veterans, it will also provide a tremendous boost to our nation's economy and productivity. The new G.I. Bill keeps our promise to provide better educational opportunities to the men and women who have valiantly protected this country and its liberties.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing these gentlemen for their efforts and their continued dedication to America's veterans.

**MR. BRUCE LEETZ AND NORTH
COAST DISTRIBUTING**

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize one of Northwest Indiana's exemplary companies. For nearly seventy years, North Coast Distributing has been a leader in the Northwest Indiana business sector, and while the company has seen much success, it is what they have done to give back to the community that makes them so vital to Northwest Indiana. For the third straight year, North Coast, in conjunction with Ivy Tech Community College of Northwest Indiana, will be providing the community with their "Fall Innovators Cafe" in an effort to share their expertise in operating a successful organization with regional and community leaders. This special event will take place on Thursday, September 25, 2008.

A local, family-owned beer wholesaler since 1939, North Coast Distributing, formerly Valpo Beverages, Incorporated, has become one of the premier distributors in the Midwest. The success they have seen, under the leadership of President and Chief Executive Officer Bruce Leetz, is in large part due to the core values of North Coast: Passion for business, Respect for each other and surroundings, Integrity to demonstrate the highest ethical and moral standards, Commitment to achieve goals, and in Excelling in everything they do. This commitment to excellence has led to many accolades at the local, state, and national levels for North Coast, who in 2007 became the first distributor to win both the Miller and Coors top distributor awards. While the many awards they have received are outstanding enough,

North Coast's commitment to corporate responsibility and to their community are the most impressive.

Led by Bruce Leetz, North Coast Distributing has always been committed to promoting responsible consumption and in giving back to the community, as is evidenced by their participation in the upcoming innovative session. A graduate of Valparaiso High School and Ball State University, Bruce has been employed with North Coast for over 45 years. In 1970, Bruce took over as President of the company, and his accomplishments, as well as the success of North Coast, have been astonishing. A true expert and legend in the industry, Bruce has served in many capacities, including: membership on the National Beer Wholesalers Association's Executive Board, as President of the Indiana Beverage Alliance for ten years, and as Chairman of both the Miller and Coors Distributor Councils. Like his company, Bruce has always been an active participant in his community as well, having served on the boards of the Northwest Indiana Forum, the Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce, and the Northwest Indiana Entrepreneurship Academy. He is also a past president of the Porter County United Way and the Valparaiso Rotary Club, and he is a Ruling Elder at the First Presbyterian Church in Valparaiso.

For his service to his community and his commitment his industry, both economically and socially, Bruce has received many accolades throughout the years. To name a few of these, in 2004, Bruce was recognized as a Miller Legend, a lifetime achievement award that is the Miller Brewing Company's highest honor. Also, in 2005, then Governor Frank O'Bannon presented him with the Sagamore of the Wabash award, one of the highest honors awarded by the Governor of the State of Indiana.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Bruce Leetz and North Coast Distributing on their success throughout the years and honoring them on their commitment to the people of Northwest Indiana. Bruce and the entire team at North Coast Distributing are to be commended for their dedication to improving Northwest Indiana.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND MEM-
ORY OF MRS. BARBARA
COLBECK**

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary life of Barbara Colbeck upon her passing at the age of 64.

For almost 50 years Barbara dedicated her life to liturgical music and her community. Born and raised in Detroit, Barbara attended Saint Lawrence Grade School and Holy Redeemer High School. There, she would meet and fall in love with her high school sweetheart William. They married, and spent 40 wonderful years together. A resident of Livonia, Barbara began to play piano and organ at St. Lawrence when she was in 7th grade. For 49 years she played at Detroit area Churches. She played liturgical music at St. Simon, St. Jude, was First Organist at St.

Colette, and finally served as Music Minister at St. Edith.

On August 17, 2008, Barbara passed away. A beloved mother, grandmother, daughter, and sister, she is survived by her husband William, sons Patrick and Christopher, daughter Cherlyn Sellepack, and grandchildren Michael, John, Carolann, and Julianna. Known by her friends and family for her generosity, her strength, and her smile, Barbara faced cancer with dignity and courage, never losing her faith or friendship for all. St. Edith Church was graced by her music and her smile for 23 years. Barbara Colbeck's music will live on in the memory of those who knew her.

Madam Speaker, Barbara Colbeck is remembered as a musician, cantor, teacher, mentor, and friend. Today, as we bid her farewell, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning her passing and honoring her lifetime of contribution to our community.

**TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN L. LANZA
OF THE BUFFALO POLICE DE-
PARTMENT**

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to honor the accomplishments of Officer Stephen L. Lanza of the Buffalo Police Department. He is truly one of Buffalo's finest, a loving son, an outstanding dad, a great brother, a wonderful neighbor and a loyal friend and a dedicated police officer.

Throughout Lanza's service as a Police Officer, he exemplified the term "public servant." After being appointed to the Buffalo Police Department in 1985, Lanza spent the next twenty-three years of his life dedicated to the people and city he was sworn to protect. For twelve of those years Steve served as a delegate to the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association and unselfishly volunteered as a delegate to several committees, including the Political Action Committee where he interviewed political candidates assessing who was most committed to public safety and making Western New York a better community.

Our community owes Officer Lanza a debt of gratitude for his tireless dedication to making South Buffalo a finer and safer place to live. He is currently a member of the International Police Association, Region 1, the 901 Social Service Organization West Seneca Chapter, and President of the Italian American Police Association. Lanza also contributes to the Federation of Italian American Societies and as a religious education instructor at Queen of Heaven Roman Catholic Church. He is also an avid political activist and volunteer.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank you for this opportunity to honor Officer Lanza for his dedicated service career on the Buffalo Police Department. I ask my colleagues to please join me in wishing Officer Stephen L. Lanza and his family continued good health and happiness in the years to come.