

Chen, as well as President Li Haijun for their extraordinary work. Also, please help me recognize Fort Hays State University President Dr. Edward H. Hammond, Provost Dr. Larry Gould, Assistant Provost for Strategic Partnerships Cindy Elliott, and the many others who have help foster this relationship and contributed to ten years of remarkable results. It is my hope that SIAS International University can continue its success in enriching the lives of students and communities both in China and here in America for decades to come.

RECOGNIZING BEACON GROUP SW
AND THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the AbilityOne Program, which in the last year, has helped more than 40,000 Americans who are blind or who have severe disabilities gain skills and training that ultimately led to gainful employment. The Beacon Group SW implements this program in my district in Southern Arizona.

The AbilityOne Program, formerly known as the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program, harnesses the purchasing power of the federal government to buy products and services from community based non-profit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. This program gives Americans with disabilities opportunities to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence and quality of life. This program provides essential assistance to a segment of the population that has one of the highest levels of unemployment in our country.

I am proud to acknowledge the important work of the Beacon Group, which since 1952, has provided training and employment services to people with disabilities. The history and mission of the Beacon Group stands as a clear example of why this program is a winning proposition for all parties involved.

In the past year the Beacon Group employed over 25 individuals with severe disabilities through AbilityOne contracts. With the help of AbilityOne and other programs the Beacon Group served over 1,700 individuals and their families in the community.

The direct impact of these services on the lives of Americans with disabilities cannot be overstated. For an individual with a severe disability who has never had the opportunity to hold a job, be independent, participate in community life, or contribute their talents to society; the AbilityOne Program and agencies like the Beacon Group are invaluable.

I am pleased to acknowledge the tremendous accomplishments of the AbilityOne Program and the dedication and commitment of Steven R. King the President and CEO of the Beacon Group and his staff. Each day they assist individuals with disabilities to find meaningful employment and assume their rightful place in our nation's workforce. I also want to commend each AbilityOne employee for their hard work and their participation in this important program.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RESTORING THE INTEGRITY OF AMERICAN STATISTICS ACT OF 2009

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, I am reintroducing a very important piece of legislation with my colleagues Mr. DENT, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. GERLACH to establish the Census Bureau as an independent agency. Because the founding fathers believed it to be indispensable to the basic principles of democratic representation, the decennial census was given a constitutional mandate. A scientific endeavor of such importance should be viewed by the American public to be completely independent and non-partisan. It is time to give the Census Bureau the independent status commensurate with the scientific agencies that are its peers, such as NASA, the National Science Foundation, and others. Elevating the Census Bureau to the status of an independent agency is a powerful statement to the American people and their leaders that the decennial census and the other critical surveys conducted by the Census Bureau are protected, and that our government will summon the best demographers, statisticians, scientists and managers we can find to lead this vital agency.

HONORING AMERICAN LEGION
POST 1066

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the American Legion's Post No. 1066 in Massapequa, New York and recognize its contributions to our country and their community on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

Members of this post have served in many foreign wars including Korea, Germany, and Vietnam, actively defending the freedoms and liberties that we cherish so much as Americans. Furthermore, several members of Post No. 1066 have also served as members of our local police and fire departments, as well as local emergency responders. As the Ranking Member of the House Homeland Security Committee, I am particularly appreciative of their dedication and hard work.

Over the years, these veterans have served my district on Long Island in a number of ways. They have opened their doors to the community to serve as a food collection site for the Interfaith Nutritional Network and to collect items to send to our servicemen in Iraq and Afghanistan. Additionally, they have collaborated with the American Red Cross to act as a disaster shelter for their neighborhood. They actively support local charities and host fundraisers for their benefit.

I am proud to represent these veterans who have served our country. They duly deserve praise for their continued participation as active citizens of New York and the United States. I would like to thank them for their leadership and continued service to our country.

HONORING KENNETH W.
MACGREGOR

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kenneth W. MacGregor. Kenneth passed away on January 9, 2009 after battling cancer. He was an outstanding advocate for public education and providing a better future for our children.

After graduating from Michigan State University, Kenneth taught high school government and coached swimming. He became active in the Michigan Education Association and was instrumental in the development of their Political Action Committee. Working in the Michigan Education Association's Government Relations Department, Kenneth was active in promoting education issues in both Lansing and Washington. He advocated for public education and public education employees at all levels of government. During his 30 year career he implemented strategies that made the Political Action Committee a force to be reckoned with and emulated.

During Gary Owen's tenure as the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, he tapped Kenneth to serve as his Director of Public Affairs. In 2001 he joined the National Education Association's political team and worked as the Field Manager, Government Relations West. He retired from this position in 2006.

Even after his retirement, Kenneth still devoted time to political causes. He was an active backer of "Get out the Vote" campaigns. He had a can-do frame of mind and always believed that students deserved the best education possible.

Kenneth was married to Sue MacGregor for 21 years. They have two sons and five grandchildren. He is also survived by his mother and two brothers.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the memory of Kenneth W. MacGregor. His legacy lives on in the classrooms and public schools of Michigan and across our nation. Because of his life's work, students have gained better resources, better teachers, and better services. The public education system has lost a great supporter and I mourn his passing.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL
THAT WILL ADDRESS THE NEED
FOR A FOURTH PERMANENT
JUDGESHIP FOR THE DISTRICT
OF HAWAII

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce with Congressman ABERCROMBIE a bill that would convert the fourth temporary judgeship for the District of Hawaii to permanent judgeship status.

The fourth temporary judgeship for the District of Hawaii was created in 1990 by Public Law 101-650. Although the judges appointed to temporary judgeships have lifetime appointments, legislation creating temporary judgeships usually specifies that the first vacancy in