

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

the district cannot be filled after a certain date. In the 1990 bill, this time frame was determined to be ten years after each temporary judgeship was filled. That meant that Hawaii could not fill a temporary vacancy occurring after October 2004.

Currently, the District of Hawaii has four active judges. However, if any of these judges become inactive, by taking senior status or otherwise, the district will not be able to replace that judge because of the ten-year limitation, which has long passed. This would place a great burden on not only the three remaining active judges, but also on the litigants themselves, especially civil litigants. Due to the right to speedy trial, felony cases regularly bump civil trials off the calendar, leading to long delays to get to court for civil litigants. Civil cases include disputes involving personal injury, civil rights, the environment, business, and other non-criminal matters.

The Judicial Conference of the United States has previously recommended that Hawaii's fourth temporary judgeship be converted to permanent status. The conversion was included in the 2007 Judicial Conference Judgeship Biennial Recommendation.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this and other initiatives that will address our need for additional federal judgeships across the country.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RONALD  
ANTHONY PARISE

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 2009*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Ronald Anthony Parise. Dr. Parise led an admirable life of service to our country through his dedication to the space program and his exemplification of the ideals of good citizenship.

Dr. Parise was a distinguished native of Warren, Ohio, a graduate of Western Reserve High School and a physics graduate of Youngstown State University in 1973. He developed one of his deepest, life-long interests at the age of eleven when he became licensed for Amateur Radio. Dr. Parise's love of radio guided his life of research and exploration from his academic work to his work in space.

While at Youngstown State University, Dr. Parise's interest in astronomy and exploration flourished. He was a prominent member of the Astronomy Club at Youngstown State and a technician at the planetarium. After graduating from Youngstown State, Dr. Parise furthered his education by earning a Master's degree and a doctorate at the University of Florida.

In 1984, Dr. Parise was selected by NASA to be a payload specialist. He made two remarkable trips into outer space, once in 1990 aboard the space shuttle *Columbia* mission ASTRO-1 and once in 1995 aboard the space shuttle *Endeavor* mission ASTRO-2. Dr. Parise logged an astonishing total of 614 hours in space and traveled 10.6 million miles.

As payload specialist, Dr. Parise took his admiration of astronomy and his respect of radio to a new level. He used his passion for astronomy and radio to develop Amateur Radio on the International Space Station. This

development used a simple ham radio to communicate from space to Earth. The creation of Amateur Radio on the International Space Station was essential because it allowed schools to speak with astronauts and learn about space exploration. Dr. Parise established the radio communication link that inspired countless students to study and seek careers in vitally important scientific fields. This radio connection brought about the interest and devotion to outer space that we see today.

Dr. Parise also pioneered the operation of a telescope in space. He completed hundreds of observations regarding ultraviolet rays and x-rays in space. Dr. Parise's observations created a greater understanding of how celestial objects affect the birth of a star. These observations also expanded our knowledge of the complex life cycle of a star. As recognition for his accomplishments, NASA awarded Dr. Parise twice with its Space Flight Medal.

However, Dr. Parise's love of science did not end after his last space flight. After leaving NASA, he continued to inspire students to pursue careers in science as a motivational speaker. He traveled to many different schools to spread his enthusiasm and knowledge of science.

Dr. Parise led an impressive public life, but he also led an impressive family life. Ron Parise was known as a man who put his family and friends first and always valued the relationships in his life, especially his relationships with his wife and two children.

After a long and courageous battle with cancer, Dr. Ronald Anthony Parise passed away at the age of fifty-seven on May 9, 2008. Dr. Ronald Anthony Parise touched countless lives through his contributions to his community, his nation, and the world of science, and for this he will never be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVE KING**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 2009*

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, on roll-call No. 89 I was not able to reach the House floor to cast my vote before the vote was closed. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

THE SUSAN BROWNELL ANTHONY  
BIRTHDAY ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 2009*

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month—along with my Democratic colleague Congressman MICHAEL ARCURI—to introduce the Susan Brownell Anthony Birthday Act. This bill will designate the third Monday in February as a day to celebrate the legacy of Susan Brownell Anthony, a pioneer of the women's rights movement, and its leader for more than 50 years.

Born on February 15, 1820, Susan Brownell Anthony met Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1851

and attended her first women's rights convention in Syracuse in 1852. At that convention she was inspired to join the fight for women's suffrage, asserting that this was "the right women needed above every other." The first proposal for women's suffrage was presented to Congress in 1868, and the first formal women's suffrage amendment to the Constitution of the United States was introduced in January 1878. For 35 years after that first proposal was made, Susan Brownell Anthony appeared before every Congress to ask for passage of a suffrage amendment, demonstrating her unwavering dedication to the cause. Her last public words before her death on March 13, 1906 were "Failure is impossible."

Unfortunately, Susan Brownell Anthony did not live to see her dream of women's suffrage become a reality, but thankfully her heroic efforts were not in vain. On May 21, 1919, the House of Representatives passed the 19th amendment, and two weeks later, the Senate followed. The Secretary of State, Bainbridge Colby, certified the ratification on August 26, 1920. The text of the 19th amendment states that "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

The United States has previously recognized Susan Brownell Anthony's tremendous contributions to our Nation. To commemorate her legacy, a marble statue of her and her women's rights colleagues, Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, was dedicated in the United States Capitol in 1921. Susan Brownell Anthony's picture appeared on postage stamps in 1936 and 1955. Her home in Rochester, New York, has been a National Historic Landmark since 1966, and in 1979, her image was placed on a dollar coin.

I am proud that the work of Susan Brownell Anthony and her fellow suffragists has been acknowledged and honored in these ways. However, as the founder and leader of the women's movement in the United States, Susan Brownell Anthony deserves a permanent place in our history. Passage of the Susan Brownell Anthony Birthday Act would make March 3 the first Federal holiday that celebrates the birthday of a woman, and would allow all women and men in the United States to celebrate and honor the legacy of a true American hero.

CONGRATULATING THOMAS J.  
HROMISIN

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 2009*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Thomas J. Hromisin, the 2009 recipient of the Man of the Year Award from the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Mr. Hromisin is a son of Jerry and Mary Ellen Hoban Hromisin, having been born April 30, 1983.

He attended St. John the Baptist Elementary School and Seton Catholic High School where he graduated in 2001 as vice president of the senior class. He has been a lifelong