

I particularly commend the educational training programs available from Fairfax Public Access in the fields of radio and television production. Thousands of individuals have successfully been trained in these fields by Fairfax Cable Access Corporation and their training program is now listed in the Adult Education catalogues for the local public schools systems.

In recognition of excellence, the Fairfax Cable Access Corporation has been awarded numerous Telly Awards which honors the very best in local, regional, cable and internet programming. The winners of this prestigious award are chosen from the thousands of entries received each year from all 50 states and 5 continents.

Madam Speaker, the quarter century of excellence from the Fairfax County Cable Access Corporation is a true success story, both for the organization and the many citizens it serves. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the achievements of Fairfax Cable Access Corporation and to applaud their commitment to communication, education and service to the community.

HONORING THE MICHIGAN CENTRAL RAILROAD PASSENGER TRAIN STATION

HON. MARK H. SCHAUER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. SCHAUER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor today the Michigan Central Railroad Passenger Train Station in Jackson, Michigan as they celebrate the Second Annual National Train Day and the 140th Anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad.

On May 10, 1869, in Promontory Summit, Utah, the "golden spike" was driven into the final tie that joined 1,776 miles of the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railways, ceremonially creating the nation's first transcontinental railroad. These railways provided jobs for thousands of Americans. Now, 140 years after the "golden spike" connected east and west, there's never been a better time to take the train.

In an era of many constant challenges and changes that face our daily lives and at a time when we all share the same pressing concerns about environment and energy conservation, trains are a more energy-efficient mode of travel than either autos or airplanes. The historic Michigan Central Railroad Passenger Train Station opened its doors to the public on September 1, 1873 and is the nation's oldest train station in continuous active use.

I am proud to join with the Jackson community in honor of this coast-to-coast celebration of the way trains connect people and places.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE AMBULANCE ACCESS PRESERVATION ACT

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicare Am-

bulance Access Preservation Act. This bill would ensure that my constituents in Massachusetts, and people across the country, continue to have access to ambulance services. Ambulance service providers are a critical part of our country's first responder and health care systems. In fact, as we discuss how to reform our health care system I can think of nothing more fundamental than ensuring that people have access to life-saving emergency ambulance care.

We all know the importance of ambulance services. Many of us see them every day transporting ill or injured individuals to the hospital. Some of us have even been transported and received pre-hospital care in an ambulance. Dedicated, skilled professionals work in these ambulances, ensuring that patients receive the care they need and ensuring that communities are prepared in the case of a disaster. The need to ensure the availability of these services is clear. Yet, Medicare reimbursement policy has harmed rather than helped to reach this goal.

Under the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, Congress authorized the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to develop a Medicare ambulance fee schedule. The rates developed under the fee schedule were significantly below what it cost many providers in Massachusetts to deliver services. In May 2007, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) confirmed this problem by determining that Medicare reimburses ambulance service providers on average 6 percent below their costs and 17 percent below cost in "super rural" areas. Ambulance providers aren't even breaking even in Medicare—Medicare reimburses ambulance providers below their costs for every person they transport.

Congress has recognized this shortfall and included temporary Medicare ambulance relief provisions in both the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) and the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA). However, all of these provisions expire at the end of 2009. To address this problem, I have worked with ambulance service providers in my state to develop a permanent Medicare relief package.

My legislation would increase reimbursement to rural and urban ambulance suppliers by 6 percent, and super rural providers by 17 percent. These numbers are consistent with the GAO report. This package will ensure not only continued availability of ambulance services, but also that ambulance service providers will be able to maintain standards of providing quality health care to patients.

As we address health care reform, we must begin by remembering the basics. Ambulance services are a fundamental part of our health care system. Congress must ensure that all Americans continue to have access to ambulance services and that the dedicated men and women who provide ambulance services have the tools and resources they need to serve patients when timely, expert medical care is needed most. I ask my colleagues to join me in this effort by cosponsoring this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on May 13, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my vote for rollcall No. 249.

Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 249—aye, on agreeing to the amendment.

THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE FILIPINO VETERANS FAMILY REUNIFICATION ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act, a companion to Senator AKAKA's bill of the same name, which will provide for the expedited reunification of the families of our Filipino World War II veterans.

As you know, Filipino veterans are those that honorably answered the call of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and served alongside our armed forces during World War II. They fought shoulder to shoulder with American servicemen; they sacrificed for the same just cause. We made a promise to provide full veterans' benefits to those who served with our troops. And while we have recently made appreciable progress toward fulfilling that long-ignored promise, we have not yet achieved the full equity that the Filipino veterans deserve.

In 1990, the Congress recognized the courage and commitment of the Filipino World War II veterans by providing them with a waiver from certain naturalization requirements. Many veterans thereafter became proud United States citizens and residents of our country. However, allowances were not made for their children and many have been waiting decades for petition approval.

The Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act would allow for the further recognition of the service of the veterans by granting their children a special immigration status that would allow them to immigrate to the United States and be reunified with their aging parents. It is important to note that the Filipino soldiers who fought under the command of General Douglas MacArthur at this critical time in our nation's history represent a unique category. These soldiers were members of the United States Armed Forces of the Far East. They were led to believe that at the end of the conflict they would be treated the same as American soldiers. It took more than sixty years to begin to make good on our commitment. The Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act recognizes the special circumstances of this group of soldiers.

I look forward to working with my colleagues by providing for the reunification of our Filipino World War II veterans with their families.

IN RECOGNITION OF DONNA YEE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Dr. Donna L. Yee for her ongoing efforts to improve and strengthen services to older persons in the Sacramento region. As Donna's colleagues, friends and family gather to honor her work, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual.

For over thirty-five years, Donna has been helping those in need of long term care. Since making Sacramento her home for the last decade, she has diligently worked and provided leadership to assure that social services are available, accessible, and acceptable to all elders.

Donna received her Master of Social Work from the University of Washington and her Ph.D. in Social Policy at the Heller School, Brandeis University. Prior to moving to Sacramento, she had most recently worked for the National Pacific Asian Center on Aging in Seattle and for the Institute for Health Policy at Brandeis University.

Since 2000, Donna has served as Chief Executive Officer of the Asian Community Center in Sacramento, which is one of the largest and most successful nonprofit organizations in my district. By identifying, developing, and providing culturally sensitive health and social services for older adults, the Asian Community Center enhances the general welfare and quality of life for a wide group of Sacramentans.

Donna has brought national recognition to the many programs that the Asian Community Center operates. The Center's Rides Transportation Program, which gives rides to seniors who can not drive themselves, won the Senior Transportation Action Response Special Recognition Award from the Beverly Foundation in October, 2008. In addition, the Asian Community Center's Nursing Home has earned the highest rating of five stars from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Agency.

Throughout her career, Donna has focused on capacity building, Medicare access, client-centered care, adult day care, assisted living, case management, hospital services for the aged, and has consistently provided support for the elderly and Asian Pacific Communities. In doing so, Donna has made her mark as one of Sacramento finest leaders.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Dr. Donna L. Yee for her lifetime of efforts to promote the quality and access of services for our senior citizens. She has done a tremendous job at the Asian Community Center and on behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Fifth Congressional District of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in acknowledging her work.

RECOGNITION OF ARMED FORCES DAY: UNITED IN STRENGTH

HON. MARK H. SCHAUER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. SCHAUER. Madam Speaker, I am proud and it is my distinct privilege today to honor the men and women who have served our country. President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday, Armed Forces Day, for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country. On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department—the Department of Defense—and acknowledges the sacrifices Americans have made for freedom. Armed Forces Week has been celebrated every May since 1950. This period of time gives civilians a chance to appreciate the sacrifices of the men and women currently on active duty, those serving in the Guard and Reserve, and all those who served before them.

Sons and daughters of Michigan have answered their nation's call. We are humbled by those who show us that there is no greater love than this: to lay down your life in service to your neighbor. We honor those who take this risk every day. Today we remember those who have shown this greatest love and remember their families. As we gather today let us honor and commend the men and women who have served and currently serve in the military, for which we are forever grateful. May they know of the high esteem in which they are held by their family, their friends, their community and the great State of Michigan.

HONORING DOWNTOWNTOWN AREA SENIOR CENTER ON ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Downingtown Area Senior Center as it celebrates 35 years of outstanding service to senior citizens in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

The extremely hard-working and exceptionally dedicated staff at the Center provides an array of positive and informative programs that allow seniors to make new friends, enrich their lives and remain engaged in the community.

Madam Speaker, the Downingtown Area Senior Center will celebrate its 35th anniversary on Friday, May 15th, 2009, and I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the Center for reaching this special milestone and recognizing the valuable contributions the Center provides in improving the quality of life for the Downingtown area's senior citizens.

RECOGNIZING DR. H. RAY HOOPS ON HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Dr. H. Ray Hoops on his outstanding service to the University of Southern Indiana (USI). Dr. Hoops is retiring after 15 years of extraordinary service to USI and the community.

During his tenure as USI's second president, Dr. Hoops has increased university enrollment, forged important partnerships with community leaders, and improved the university's academic record. His leadership has left a lasting mark on USI's physical appearance too, with many new state-of-the-art facilities.

Dr. Hoops is also an influential and visionary leader in the Evansville community. He serves on the Deaconess Hospital Board of Directors, the Evansville Education Roundtable, and the Southwest Indiana Economic Development Task Force. He is a former director and chair of the Indiana Conference of Higher Education.

Dr. Hoops has served as a tireless advocate for the students and faculty of USI. As an alumnus, I appreciate his work to bring additional opportunities and support to this outstanding educational institution. He will be missed, but I'm sure he's ready to spend his days hunting for pheasant instead of hunting for endowments. I wish him all the best.

TRIBUTE TO DEWAR'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a leading small business in our community, Dewar's Family Candy and Ice Cream Parlor, which is celebrating 100 years of operation in Bakersfield, California this weekend.

James H. Dewar started this family business in 1909 with a belief in quality ingredients no matter the cost. He felt that his customers should get the same quality every time they tasted a Dewar's chew, and they have been for the past 100 years. Dewar's is original from the bottom up; they still grind their own nuts, and make their own ice cream, ice milk, and peanut butter. The same recipes are being used by the current keepers of the legacy, Michael Dewar and Heather Dewar Cook, grandchildren of James Dewar.

I have been going to Dewar's my whole life, and particularly enjoyed a quick trip to Dewar's after school when I attended Bakersfield High School down the street. My children, Connor and Meghan, join my wife Judy and me in enjoying Dewar's on a regular basis in the same old-fashioned ice cream parlor we enjoyed in our youth. I always order a George's Special—that combination of homemade vanilla ice cream with chocolate sauce and banana in a milkshake that cannot be