

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF BRIAN O'NEILL

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of one of the grand pioneers of the National Park Service, Brian O'Neill.

Brian was a passionate and dedicated advocate for our National Parks. He served as a magnificent steward of our beloved treasure, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) encompasses 76,000 acres of land and 50 miles of shoreline within Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo Counties, and includes world-famous sites such as Alcatraz Island, Muir Woods and the Presidio of San Francisco. It is the most visited unit of our National Park System, receiving more than 20 million visitors annually, and is one of the largest urban National Parks in the world.

Brian O'Neill's leadership in our National Parks spanned more than 28 years. As General Superintendent of the GGNRA, Brian met the challenge of leadership in every measure. His enthusiasm soared to the heights of the giant redwoods of Muir Woods, his spirit of partnership spanned the Golden Gateway from Fort Point to Fort Baker, and his vision saw to the Farallone Islands and beyond.

On a daily basis, Brian inspired a staff of 425 employees, a volunteer force of over 20,000 and more than 30 major facility and program partners. Under his leadership, GGNRA has developed park operational partnerships that have served as national and international models.

Brian was a prominent figure in the transitioning of the Presidio of San Francisco from a military installation to a National Park. For more than two centuries, the Presidio stood as the Sentinel of the Golden Gate. Today, thanks to a strong public-private partnership, the Presidio has been transformed into a National Park like no other, and as a place of peaceful reflection and recreation for all people. The transformation of the Presidio from Post to Park has been exciting in its innovation, and is due in large part to Brian's leadership.

For more than a century, Fort Baker played a key role in the defense of San Francisco Bay. Today, thanks to the leadership and commitment of Brian, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY and many others, Fort Baker offers a world-class retreat and conference center, a hands-on children's museum and learning center, and the Institute at the Golden Gate dedicated to dialog and action on global environmental issues. Ft. Baker's post-to-park transition was truly a collaborative effort that brought together the entire community—a hallmark of Brian O'Neill's leadership. Moving forward, Ft. Baker will play a key role in advancing the cause of both local and global environmental stewardship and preserving our planet for our children and the future.

Another highlight of Brian's lifetime of accomplishment was returning Crissy Field from the barren, broken asphalt of a former World War II airstrip to the historic wetlands and verdant marsh along the Presidio's window to the Bay. Crissy Field was one of the first attempts to restore historic wetlands along San Francisco Bay, and the first effort ever in San Francisco. Brian worked with Toby Rosenblatt, the Haas family and many others to bring the resources, talent and energy together in a great success that provides public recreation and environmental restoration. Today, Crissy Field serves as an example of the important alliance that can be developed between local and federal partners for the benefit of the community and for the entire National Parks system.

Brian provided leadership for the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, the Bay Area Open Space Council, the Association for the Central California Biosphere Reserve, the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association, the Headlands Institute, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's California Advisory Council, the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council and the Save-the-Bay Association Advisory Council. He was a key advisor to the Department of the Interior on partnership matters.

As Phillip Burton, a goliath of our National Parks, stated when he created the law preserving GGNRA and the Presidio, "Even in a remote setting, the features of this park would be outstanding." In furtherance of Phillip Burton's vision, Brian O'Neill's enduring legacy is an outstanding National Park that is sustainable, and accessible for all to enjoy, and is a great source of pride to all of us.

My colleagues in Congress and I are deeply saddened by his passing, and are grateful for the legacy of natural beauty and cultural heritage he has left for future generations to enjoy. We will miss his enthusiasm, his spirit and his vision. I hope it is of comfort to his wife Marti, and his children Kim and Brent, that so many of us share in their loss.

JOB CREATION THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2352) to amend the Small Business Act, and for other purposes:

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2352, the Job Creation through Entrepreneurship Act of 2009. This legislation comes at a critical time, as small businesses across the country are struggling to access credit and make payroll.

This legislation will create new small business development programs to increase ac-

cess to credit, provide training on contract procurement and green entrepreneurship and offer additional guidance to veteran-owned small businesses veterans looking to start their own businesses upon returning home from service. This legislation will play a critical role in putting Americans back to work and helping established small businesses grow during these tough economic times.

I represent South Florida, which has 1.1 million small businesses—one of the highest concentrations of small businesses in the country. Unfortunately, in 2008, SBA loans in South Florida fell approximately 40 percent—10 percent higher the national average. I've met with countless small business owners in my district who, despite strong credit and responsible lending histories cannot access credit at a reasonable rate. These new and enhanced entrepreneurial development programs will serve as a lifeline for small business owners in my home state of Florida, and throughout the country. By providing one-on-one counseling, continued guidance and support for potential entrepreneurs and struggling small business owners, we can help our small business community weather these tough economic times, increase sales and get our economy back on track.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation,

TRIBUTE TO SAINT JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to acknowledge the St. John's Baptist Church of Scotch Plains, New Jersey on the celebration of its centennial anniversary. Established in 1909, St. John's has continuously served the needs of its congregation and the community.

Throughout the illustrious history of St. John's Baptist Church, effective leadership has been at the core of all the accomplishments the church has had. Beginning with Pastor Parson and continuing with Pastors Gatewell, Hamlett, Sweeney, Glover and the current pastor, Rev. Dr. Kelmo Curtis Porter, Jr. St. John's has made many physical enhancements over the years. In addition to its leadership, the success of all of St. John's initiatives can be attributed to the faith, hope, commitment and prayers of the loving membership that fill the pews of this landmark facility. In fact, many of St. John's congregants have been members of the church all of their lives and some are second or third generation members. Clearly, this degree of devotion is representative of the marvelous ministries taking place within the church.

A Gala being held on May 17, 2009 at Pines Manor in Edison, New Jersey in honor

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

of this important milestone will feature a variety of distinguished supporters, ministers and friends. The theme of the centennial, "100 Years Working for the Lord" celebrates the story of a church deeply rooted in faith and Christian values. Those values include integrity, caring and preaching the word of God. St. John's is blessed to have a membership that is proud of its roots, passionate about its present and hopeful for its future.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues agree that St. John's Baptist Church and the surrounding community have every right to be pleased with the lasting contributions the church has made to the residents of Scotch Plains. I am pleased to congratulate St. John's on its first 100 years.

HONORING TRUSTEE JOSEPH
DEVLIN

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Devlin for his forty years of devoted service to the Village of Roselle. After his long service to the Village, he has announced that he plans to retire.

Joe's first experience in elected office was in 1969, when he was elected Village Trustee. He served as Mayor from 1973–1981, and then returned to his post as Trustee from 1981 to 2009.

Through the years, Joe has been an insightful observer, keen in his understanding of the long-term challenges facing the Village. Throughout his career, he has tackled challenges with deft skill, deep understanding, and strong personal integrity.

While Roselle has gone through many changes over the years, one thing has remained the same. Trustee Devlin has kept a steady hand to the wheel, working tirelessly for the benefit of his community.

Joseph Devlin has been an advocate for the people of Roselle since his very first days in office. He has affected countless lives, and left an indelible impression on Roselle and its residents.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, Joseph Devlin is a remarkable man who has dedicated his life to serving the people of Roselle. Please join me in honoring him for his extraordinary career.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONOREES OF THE
LEXINGTON DEMOCRATIC CLUB

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the honorees of the Lexington Democratic Club's Annual Dinner and its 60th Anniversary celebration. At its 60th Anniversary celebration at the Yale Club in Manhattan, the Lexington Democratic Club is honoring its living former Presidents, State Committee Members, and District Leaders.

As the first political club dedicated to reform in New York City, the Lexington Democratic

Club has sought to increase inclusive civic participation, promote transparent, open government, and support the merit-based selection of judges. Its leaders reflect the best ideals of the Club and have devoted their volunteer efforts to supporting the Club's proud mantle of reform.

Among those being honored are Ann Pinciss Berman, Joanne Bing, Jonathan L. Bing, John Bradley, William Bryk, Reita Cash, David L. Cohen, Pat Falk, Conrad Foa, Neil V. Getnick, Brenda Goodman, Zachary R. Greenhill, Roger Grimble, Paul Hellegers, Russell Hemenway, Nikki Henkin, Bernard E. Jacob, Barbara Kloberdanz, Richard Lane, Heather K. Leifer, Robert J. Levinsohn, Andrew Lowenthal, Robin Marsico, Trudy L. Mason, Gail Melhado, John K. Mills, Jane Lowe Parshall, Peter Philip, Robert Plautz, Warrie Price, Joanne Pugh, Lawrence M. Rosenstock, Marjorie Sachs, H. Richard Schumacher, Felice Shea, Diane Staab, Michael Stolzer, Alexander M. Tisch, David Tyson and Roger Waldman. Many of these individuals went on to win political office, to be elected as judges or to take on other roles in public service. All of them care deeply about the community and have worked to make New York City a better place to live.

Throughout its storied, sixty-year existence, the Lexington Democratic Club of New York City has proudly carried the banner of reform and good government. It is fitting that, as the Club celebrates the conclusion of its sixth decade, its members honor those civic and political leaders who were inspired by its noble ideals and who worked with such dedication and energy to effect them.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me recognizing the significant contributions to our civic and political life made by the 2009 honorees of the Lexington Democratic Club of New York City.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday and missed roll-call vote 279. If present, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF STUDENTS OF HARVARD
ELLIS TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the gifted students of my district from the Harvard Ellis Technical High School of Danielson, Connecticut. On May 15, 2009, the students won awards at the 6th Annual Plastics Expo held at Quinebaug Valley Community College, QVCC, in Danielson, Connecticut. The expo paired teams of students from six area high schools with representatives from local plastics companies. This is the second time that Ellis THS has en-

tered the competition. Over six months, they worked with their company team of WEB Industries Hartford, Inc., manufacturer of film products, to design, create, test, and market a product using the company's technology.

They won for their product, the "Eagle Air," a filter screen that uses three layers of plastic screening to filter out the smallest particles of pollen in the air. The device is translucent and can be adjusted to fit any window. Their presentation included a PowerPoint, prototype models, a video commercial, and a detailed book describing their process.

The students won both the "People's Choice Award" and the "Judges' Award." The People's Choice Award was determined by the vote of the audience and the Judges' Award was determined by a team of three judges chosen for their expertise in engineering, design, and marketing. Team members included Andrew Conkey, Abigail Corcoran, Victoria LaMonda, Sara Rondeau, Cameron Fisher, Elana Shong, Holley DeParasis, Nicole Carlson, and Justin Fortier. The group leaders were Kathy Burr and Laura Burke. The team MVP was Nicole Carlson. The Department of Commerce, Quinebaug Valley Plastics Institute, and the QVCC College Career Pathways Program supported the event to promote workforce development.

Madam Speaker, I am proud and pleased to honor these nine students and their team leaders for their innovative creation, sound business practices, and teamwork. These students have a bright future and signal that eastern Connecticut is a place for research, technology, and product development. I also commend the efforts of the sponsors of the Annual Plastics Expo in building partnerships between students and local businesses, and in promoting excellence in trade and technology. I ask my colleagues to join me and my constituents in recognizing these contributions.

HONORING COACH EDWARD
STANLEY TEMPLE

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Edward Stanley Temple, a man whose dedication to coaching track and field has earned him recognition as Tennessee's most honored and accomplished track and field coach.

Born September 20, 1927 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Coach Temple was himself an all-state athlete in track, football and basketball. Temple graduated from Tennessee State University (TSU) in Nashville, Tennessee, earning both Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees. For forty-four years, he served as the head women's track coach at TSU and taught sociology.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Coach Temple's "Tigerbelles" dominated the sport of track and field, earning a total of 23 Olympic medals, 13 of them gold. Coach Temple's Tigerbelles won their first medal in the 1952 Olympic Games when fifteen-year-old Barbara Jones Slater became the youngest woman to win an Olympic gold medal in track and field. One of the most notable Tigerbelles, Wilma Rudolph, became the first female athlete to

win three gold medals during the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome, Italy.

Coach Temple was the head women's track coach for two consecutive U. S. Olympic teams, in 1960 and 1964, as well as an assistant coach for the 1980 games. In addition to his coaching ability, Coach Temple was also a strong proponent of education and to his credit, thirty-nine of the Tigerbelle Olympians graduated from college with one or more degrees.

Coach Temple continues to contribute to the greater Nashville community as an active member of the YMCA, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Nashville Sports Authority, New Hope Academy and Clark Memorial United Methodist Church.

On Tuesday, May 26, 2009, Coach Temple will be honored for his lifetime of achievements at an event in Nashville, Tennessee named "The Man, The Memory, The Mission."

Today, I join the citizens of my district in honoring Coach Edward Temple and his inspiring legacy that lives on in Nashville and throughout the world.

IN TRIBUTE TO EDWARD J. MALLOY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ed Malloy, an extraordinary man who has served with distinction as President of the New York State and New York City Building & Construction Trades Councils, representing more than 200,000 working men and women across the great Empire State. Mr. Malloy has also served as Vice President of the New York State AFL-CIO, as an Executive Board Member of the New York City Central Labor Council, and as a member of the Board of Directors of the New York Building Congress.

Prior to his leadership of the Building and Construction Trades in New York, Mr. Malloy served as the chief executive officer of the Enterprise Association of Steamfitters Local Union 638. A proud veteran of the United States Army, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the State University of New York—Empire State College, and earned a certificate in Labor Studies from Cornell University's New York School of Industrial Relations.

As President of the Building and Construction Trades since 1992, Mr. Malloy dedicated himself to fighting for union members across New York State. Working with private sector leaders and government officials alike, Mr. Malloy justly developed a reputation for being a fierce advocate for working men and women who always kept labor movement's critical mission at the forefront, but also never hesitated to reach out to management in a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation. Under his tenure, important new infrastructure and real estate projects were launched and completed and countless new jobs were created, all within a framework of fairness and justice for the laborers he represented. Particularly noteworthy have been Ed Malloy's successes in negotiating agreements between unions and their employers that have saved millions in taxpayer dollars.

Ed Malloy has played a pivotal role in transforming the composition of New York's unionized construction workforce and helping previously under-represented minorities in achieving equal opportunities. Today, more than half of all apprentices in the construction trades are members of minority groups in no small part thanks to his leadership. Ed Malloy also helped launch "Helmets to Hardhats," a national program that fast-tracks veterans of the armed forces into promising careers in the industry.

Mr. Malloy's leadership was an integral element in forging the historic Project Pathways agreement, which directs talented high school students toward vocational careers through a symbiotic partnership of New York City public education and the apprenticeship system of the Building and Construction Trades. This innovative collaboration brings essential opportunities to new generations of American workers. Through Ed Malloy's leadership, participating unions have thus far invested \$4 million of post-secondary scholarship funds to the Project Pathways program. In today's era of global competition and financial uncertainty, Mr. Malloy has remained devoted to providing young people with the skills they need to flourish in meaningful jobs at good wages.

Mr. Malloy has devoted himself in service to the community and to his beloved family. A past recipient of the Ellis Island Medal and Grand Marshal of the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade, he has also served as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, New York State Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the Police Athletic League, and as Chairman of the National Museum of Catholic Art and History, among many other well-known and well-respected institutions. He has been a family man throughout his life, devoted to his wife, Marilyn, his two daughters, Theresa and Anne, and his seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Ed Malloy, a great American whose life's work has improved the lives and working conditions of countless individuals.

IN HONOR OF MIKE CURRAN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a talented and dedicated public servant, Mike Curran. For the past twenty-three years Mike has been the director of the NOVA workforce board. NOVA is a nonprofit, federally funded employment and training agency that provides customer-focused workforce development services in cooperation with the local community of business owners and educators in Silicon Valley. NOVA was founded twenty-five years ago and Mike has been the director for all but two of those years. Under his leadership, NOVA has received international recognition for its ability to design, develop, and deploy cutting edge operations that meet the unique talent development needs of Silicon Valley. It goes without saying that it is Mike's leadership and vision that has made this possible. He has been described as "a premier example of the

Silicon Valley work ethic—tireless, unstoppable, someone with his finger on the pulse of how employment affects our daily lives" and I cannot agree more. Mike has dedicated his life to community organizing, development, and service. His commitment to Silicon Valley is lifelong—Mike was born and raised in Silicon Valley and has chosen to make his home there with his wife Elaine and their two children, Brendan and Megan. As we celebrate Mike Curran's retirement from NOVA workforce board, I cannot help but be saddened by it. However, I am certain that this is not the end of Mike's service to Silicon Valley or his commitment to making a difference in the day-to-day lives of the people in our community.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING SPC LESTER M. DANLEY FOR RECEIVING THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE CITATION FOR HEROISM

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, SPC Danley was assigned as a machine gunner with Company D, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry; and

Whereas, SPC Danley was involved in a combat mission near Bong Song, Vietnam on December 10, 1967; and

Whereas, SPC Danley repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire in order to give his fellow soldiers time to evacuate their wounded comrades; and

Whereas, SPC Danley went so far as to move his vehicle directly into the line of enemy fire in order to protect another disabled armored personnel carrier; and

Whereas, SPC Danley was able to inflict numerous enemy casualties during the facilitation of his comrades' evacuation with no regard to his own personal safety; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate SPC Lester M. Danley on winning the Bronze Star with "V" Device for heroism and gallant action. We recognize the incredible determination, loyalty, courage, and valor he displayed for his comrades on that day in December 1967, and all the days of his service to the United States Army.

A TRIBUTE TO J. PAUL RUSSELL

HON. LARRY KISSELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker there was a time in our communities across the Eighth District that in addition to our own family and our church family, many of us were also part of the same work family. We marked time by the whistle blowing to change shifts and met our friends at the gate as we were coming and going. Even if you worked for a different mill than others we all shared a common experience. After 27 years in the textile industry, I

have a very large work family and a man I considered the father of that family passed away April 19.

J. Paul Russell was a visionary, not only in the textile industry but as a community leader as well. With Mr. Russell's passing, Montgomery County has lost a true legend and one of its most impassioned leaders.

Mr. Russell had a personal interest in all his employees. He treated all people with respect. He knew the names of their children and grandchildren. I worked closely with his son Charles during my time at the mill, and Charles treated people the same way. It is why people chose to work at the Mills for 20 or 30 years.

It was this type of determination and commitment that helped our communities prosper, and that we miss so much now that so much of the textile industry is gone.

Mr. Russell was part of the "Greatest Generation" and he had that entrepreneurial spirit. The textile industry was just one of his many contributions to our community. He was instrumental in bringing the county airport to Star and the hospital to Troy.

During those years, so many of us here in Montgomery County relied on the Russell family for our livelihood. For a period of many years, the Mill employed 800 people from our community. But it wasn't just jobs that the Russell family provided, it was community leadership. They didn't just live in our communities—they were our county commissioners, Boy Scout leaders, served on town board—much of which Mr. Russell did himself.

There were and are Mr. Russell's in every community across our District. We all know how our communities have been affected by the loss of the textile industry. It was not only the loss of jobs which we still struggle to replace, but it was the loss of leadership as well. These families provided so much leadership in our community, and it was all gone so quickly.

One of the things I will always remember about J. Paul Russell was his spirit. He was an amazing person, one that attacked life with gusto, not just in his work but when he was having fun as well. He lived his life to the fullest.

This is a chance for me to honor, not only Mr. Russell and his family for their contributions, but to all of those people who make a difference in our community.

Those special people are scattered throughout our District. They spend their time doing things they know will better their community and make a difference in the lives of the people around them. It is the best legacy we can hope to leave. It is the legacy that J. Paul Russell has left. Mr. Russell will dearly be missed by his family, friends, and community, and his contributions made to our community.

PROFESSOR CHARLES E. DIRKS

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my good friend Professor Charles Dirks, on the occasion of his retirement from Los Angeles Mission College. I have had the pleasure of working with him on important issues in our community for more

than two decades and know firsthand of his many accomplishments.

Professor Dirks comes from a long line lineage of community activists, a lineage that has helped fuel his tireless fight for Southwest College, Mission College and the entire Los Angeles school system.

Upon graduating from Occidental College, Professor Dirks got an invitation from R. Sargent Shriver, the Director of the Peace Corps to join "Ghana One" and teach in the very first Peace Corps group. During this time, he built two schools in Ghana and helped build the first public library in Liberia. He also set up community development training programs for the Peace Corps in Puerto Rico and helped build flood control dams in Kenya. This experience led to his lifelong mission of rebuilding and working in the Los Angeles education community's areas of need.

By joining the community college district, and becoming the Faculty Guild President, Professor Dirks helped erect permanent buildings in the north-east San Fernando Valley, where a college was most needed. A long time volunteer in politics, he used his experience as a co-campaign coordinator for Bobby Kennedy to lobby then-city councilman Tom Bradley on getting permanent structures on the Southwest College campus.

Professor Dirks knows that "it takes a village" and over the years he has received numerous accolades and great support from his community. He is deserving of commendation for his tireless campaign to secure adequate higher education in the northeast San Fernando Valley. With a combination of union backing and political tenacity, Professor Dirks was able to secure a budget for Mission College from then Governor Deukmajian. As one of the founding faculty members of Mission College, he was instrumental in organizing the faculty into a union and putting together support for a permanent site and buildings. The Chancellor and both the California State Senate and Assembly have named Professor Dirks "The Faculty Father of Mission College."

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in saluting Professor Dirks for his impressive career and dedication to the people of the San Fernando Valley, and to congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in proud support of H. Res. 931, a resolution recognizing National Foster Care Month. I thank my friend and colleague on the Ways and Means Committee, Chairman McDermott, for sponsoring this important resolution.

During National Foster Care Month, we pay tribute to the half million children presently in the child welfare system and the many others in the network—mentors, volunteers, friends, extended families, and organizations who fill in the gaps in Federal and State coverage to help these young people find their way.

In Georgia, there are thousands of children living in foster care. These young people—of

all race, ages, and backgrounds—were victims of neglect and abuse. Madam Speaker, as parents we know that children require stability and permanency to thrive. Love and security help the development of healthy and confident young adults. Sadly, due to circumstances beyond their control, foster children are uprooted from their homes and represent the one of largest constituencies of displaced people in the United States. In fact, numerous studies show the increased difficulties foster children must overcome, especially the lack of support for foster care youth as they transition to adulthood and independence.

Child welfare services have a shared goal to find safe, stable, and loving homes for these young people. Unfortunately, this dream is not always realized. Last year, Congress passed and the President signed the Fostering Connections to Success Act. This legislation was an important step in improving the nation's child welfare system, but more can be done. I look forward to continuing to work with my friends and colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support to improve the experiences of those young people living in and preparing to exit foster care.

Madam Speaker, each and every young person has a right to a childhood. During National Foster Care Month, I hope that communities around the country really come together and think of ways to improve the lives of young people in the child welfare system.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING STAFF SERGEANT JOSEPH SOLVEY FOR RECEIVING THE SILVER STAR MEDAL CITATION FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Staff Sergeant Solvey was assigned as a Private First Class to Infantry Company E, 104th Infantry Regiment, US Army; and

Whereas, Staff Sergeant Solvey was involved in a morning attack near Bettborn, Luxembourg on December 22, 1944; and

Whereas, Staff Sergeant Solvey refused an evacuation order and, though injured, put himself at substantial personal risk to eliminate a German tank threatening to break the American position; and

Whereas, Staff Sergeant Solvey enabled his company to accomplish its objective by moving in the face of fire and showing great personal courage and valor; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Staff Sergeant Solvey on winning the Silver Star for gallantry in action. We recognize the tremendous sacrifice, determination, and courage that he displayed that day in December 1944, and all the days of his service to the United States Army.

HONORING COLONEL SCOTT
VANDER HAMM

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Scott Vander Hamm, commander of the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota, for his commendable record of service to our country. Colonel Vander Hamm is leaving Ellsworth for a new assignment, but his efforts have left a lasting impact on Ellsworth, my state of South Dakota, and the security of our country.

Over the course of a career that has seen him earn the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Bronze Star, Colonel Vander Hamm has logged more than 4,200 hours as a pilot, which adds up to 167 days in the air. He has flown the B-52, the B-2 and now the B-1. He flew a combat mission the first night of Operation Iraqi Freedom, a mission Col. Vander Hamm has referred to as one of his most memorable flights. As the 7th Operations Group Commander, Colonel Vander Hamm also led planes in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and the expeditionary group he commanded flew over 900 combat and combat support missions.

However, Colonel Vander Hamm describes himself as an officer first and an aviator second. At Ellsworth, he commanded the largest B-1 combat wing in the U.S. Air Force, with 29 aircraft and more than 4,300 personnel. His organizational skills and drive kept that force in top shape, ready to respond to a crisis at a moment's notice.

He's also a proud family man. His wife Joanna, seven daughters and four sons have all helped shape the Colonel into a great leader of men and women. The Vander Hamms have become an important part of the Ellsworth family and their looming absence will be felt by the entire base.

The leadership and diligence shown by Colonel Vander Hamm and our nation's other military commanders are second to none. I am personally immensely grateful for the values and honor that soldiers such as he have instilled in the fabric of our society. And I am sure the people of South Dakota and the entire country join me in thanking him for his sacrifices in helping keep all of us safe.

Madam Speaker, it is with enduring pride and respect that I rise today in recognition of Col. Vander Hamm and his service at Ellsworth Air Force Base. The state of South Dakota will miss him, but we are all fortunate that his service to our nation continues.

HONORING CHARLIE WINTERS

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Charlie Winters. Mr. Winters was an ordinary Florida businessman who played an extraordinary role in history.

In 1948, he provided an aircraft to the Jewish armed forces in pre-war Israel for its de-

fense during the Israeli Independence War. Had Mr. Winters and other Americans not provided this assistance at such a critical time, Israel may not have survived as an independent state and become one of our Nation's staunchest allies. However, Mr. Winters was not honored at the time for his heroism. Instead, he was arrested and convicted under the "Neutrality Act" for his role in Israel's founding. In fact, he was one of a handful of Americans convicted and he was the only one to serve a prison sentence.

Mr. Winters was released from prison on November 17, 1949 and lived a humble and quiet life thereafter in Miami. In 1984, Mr. Winters passed away, and never told his family about his story. But, his obituary in the Miami Herald was entitled "Charles Winters, 71, Aided Birth of Israel," and noted that he was honored by the late Golda Meir, and had earned "a place of distinction among the Americans who banded together clandestinely at the end of World War II to help Jews establish a state in Palestine."

Last year, several of my colleagues and I sent a letter to the United States Justice Department, asking for a posthumous pardon for Mr. Winters. We are grateful that President Bush issued a pardon in December, thereby clearing Mr. Winters name and providing comfort to his family.

Today, the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County's Jewish Community Relations Council will be hosting Jimi Winters, the son of Charlie Winters, to honor the memory of his father. While I regret that I cannot be with them today, I join them in their celebration of Mr. Winters' memory. Mr. Winters' actions helped secure the independence of the state of Israel, thereby establishing a beacon of democracy in the Middle East.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately Monday night, May 18, 2009, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 300, S. 386 and H. Res. 442 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 267, on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 300, Congratulating Camp Dudley YMCA of Westport, New York, on the occasion of its 125th anniversary, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for Rollcall No. 268, on suspending the Rules and agreeing to the Senate Amendments to the House Amendments on S. 386, the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for Rollcall No. 269, on suspending the Rules and passing H. Res. 442, Recognizing the importance of the Child and Adult Care Food Program and its positive effect on the lives of low-income children and families, I would have voted "aye."

A PROCLAMATION HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (PFC) EUGENE F. WOOD FOR RECEIVING THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE CITATION FOR HEROISM

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, Whereas, PFC Wood was assigned as a rifleman to Company C, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division; and

Whereas, PFC Wood was involved in a combat mission in Vietnam on January 10, 1968; and

Whereas, PFC Wood's company came under heavy enemy fire while moving to the aid of another company; and

Whereas, PFC Wood saw a fellow soldier fall wounded in an open rice paddy between his position and the enemy position; and

Whereas, PFC Wood completely disregarded his personal safety and immediately moved forward to treat his wounded comrade; and

Whereas, PFC Wood sustained multiple wounds from automatic weapons fire while attending to his comrade but refused to retreat or stop his treatment; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Private First Class Eugene F. Wood on winning the Bronze Star with "V" Device for heroism and gallant action. We recognize the incredible determination, loyalty, courage, and valor he displayed for his comrades on that day in January 1968, and all the days of his service to the United States Army.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OMAHA DISTRICT OF THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the establishment of the Omaha District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 75 years ago. Since that time, the Omaha District of the Corps has performed admirably in a wide range of duties, and today manages more than a billion dollars worth of civil works, military construction, and environmental restoration projects. Members of the Omaha District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers currently serve in Afghanistan and Iraq as part of the Global War on Terror.

When the Omaha District was established in 1934, its initial mission was the construction of the Fort Peck Dam in Montana. That project was the first of many that resulted in the construction of a total of 6 dams along the main stem of the Missouri River that provided necessary jobs during the Great Depression. This was just part of the Corps' efforts to harness the mighty Missouri River basin through construction of a vast set of engineering projects

which control flooding, facilitate commerce by improving navigation, generate electricity, and spur agriculture. These projects evolved into a flood control system that has prevented over \$25 billion in flood damages to date.

During World War II and the Cold War, the Omaha District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was involved in numerous aspects of our nation's defense. It constructed the assembly plant for the B-29 Superfortress and the B-26 Marauder, and gained technical expertise in constructing runways which proved valuable for Army Air Force training. The Omaha District also was involved in the construction of the Northern Area Defense Command in Colorado, facilities for Space Command, and various missile control and launch facilities throughout the Midwest. Following the Cold War, the Omaha District helped lead on environmental remediation by removing ordnance from closed bombing ranges, containing below ground chemical plumes, and remediating landfills and wetlands.

In 1982, the Corps added environmental cleanup to its mission. Since that time the Corps has provided technical expertise to the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund cleanup projects. In fact, the Corps' Omaha District became the Center of Expertise for Hazardous and Toxic Waste. Individuals trained at this facility have assisted in EPA environmental cleanup of projects in California and Pennsylvania. The Omaha District continues to take the lead in remediation of hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste sites in current and former military sites.

For 75 years, the Omaha District has answered the nation's call for service. I commend the Omaha District Corps' continued commitment to military construction, improving civil works and environmental restoration both in Nebraska and throughout our nation under the current leadership of Colonel David Press. The Omaha District of the U.S. Corps of Engineers has earned the recognition of Congress on the celebration of the 75th anniversary of its founding.

IN HONOR OF MEMORIAL DAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor our fallen veterans this Memorial Day on May 25, 2009. Our veterans, as well as our troops, risked their lives and their livelihoods for their country and for our freedom. They deserve our utmost respect and appreciation.

Memorial Day was initially called Decoration Day. After the Civil War, Americans honored fallen soldiers in the Union and Confederacy by decorating the soldiers' graves. After World War I, Memorial Day became a day to honor all American soldiers who died in war. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day as a national holiday celebrated on the last Monday in May. Today, the national celebration of Memorial Day is held at Arlington National Cemetery. It is a ceremony of sincere solemnity, as well as one of great pride because it pays tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice while defending the American flag.

While we pay tribute to our fallen heroes, it is important that we also recognize those vet-

erans who fought valiantly and returned home to their loved ones. Our nation's heroes who fought so bravely to defend the American Dream also deserve the opportunity to achieve it. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), on any given night in this country, between 150,000 and 200,000 adult veterans live on the streets, in shelters or in community-based organizations. Unfortunately, approximately 150,000 homeless heroes do not have access to the vital permanent housing and supportive services they need each year.

Last year, I introduced H.R. 3329: The Homes for Heroes Act to address this problem. My bill will provide shelter for homeless veterans and their families and help prevent low-income veteran families from falling into homelessness. On July 9, 2008, the Homes for Heroes Act passed the House by a vote of 412-9, but did not make it through both chambers. Fortunately, the author of the Senate companion bill, former Senator Barack Obama, is now the President of the United States. Therefore, I look forward to working with this Congress and our current President to pass this very important legislation in the 111th Congress. The Homes for Heroes Act will truly honor those who have sacrificed for our country by providing them with the assistance they deserve and have so deeply earned.

I ask all of my colleagues and fellow Americans to pause and observe the great sacrifice that our fallen heroes and veterans made for our beloved country. Our military men and women were there to answer their nation's call to duty and now our government must prove that we will be there for them. In words, deeds and actions, our nation's heroes have earned it. This is the least a grateful nation can do.

THE 21ST CENTURY GREEN HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2187, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act.

Schools all over my district are struggling to find the money to pay for the most basic school repairs, let alone the funding to upgrade school facilities to meet the needs of 21st century learners.

It is estimated that the national need for school construction and renovation is somewhere between \$100 billion and \$300 billion. While school construction funding has traditionally been a State and local responsibility, the magnitude of the challenge warrants a small Federal role—a role that could help Lewistown Community High School in my district repair a leaky roof and replace World War II era equipment.

The bill before us authorizes \$6.4 billion to address unmet school modernization needs. Additionally, the bill guarantees that our nation's lowest-achieving school districts receive a minimum grant of \$5,000 for school enhancement projects.

I am also pleased that this bill encourages schools to make energy efficient improve-

ments. By dedicating the majority of funds to green building projects, H.R. 2187 will save schools an average of \$100,000 each year in energy costs alone—enough to hire two additional full-time teachers, purchase 5,000 new textbooks, or buy 500 new computers.

Education infrastructure is not an expenditure, it is an investment in our Nation's future. Many of our students are being taught in unsafe and unhealthy conditions that make high-quality learning impossible. H.R. 2187 turns crumbling schools into environments ripe for learning.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to vote for H.R. 2187.

HONORING POLICE OFFICERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS DURING POLICE WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 426, a resolution that honors and celebrates National Peace Officers' Memorial Service Observance Day on May 15, 2009 and National Police Week, May 11-15, 2009.

President John F. Kennedy first proclaimed May 15th as National Peace Officers' Memorial Day. Every year on this day, we celebrate the lives and honor the deaths of our fallen law enforcement officers. We also recognize the important role that our peace officers play in the daily lives of all citizens, and the responsibilities, hazards, and sacrifices of their work.

As a former police officer, I salute those law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in 2008 and continue to honor those police officers who gave their lives in past years. I join my colleagues on the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus in urging continued support for programs, such as the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, to hire additional police officers and help law enforcement acquire the latest crime-fighting technologies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and paying respect to our fallen heroes. In these difficult and changing times, we honor their work to protect our communities and families and promote safety and peace on our streets. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING CORPORAL CARLOS M. EASTERDAY FOR RECEIVING THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE CITATION FOR HEROISM

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Corporal Easterday was assigned as a Private First Class to Company E, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division; and Whereas, Corporal Easterday was involved in a combat mission near Kumsong, Korea on August 8, 1951; and

Whereas, Corporal Easterday exposed himself to two separate fixed automatic weapons positions in order to relieve his platoon from deadly suppression fire; and

Whereas, Corporal Easterday eliminated both positions with expert use of both rifle fire and hand grenades while completely unsupported and exposed to enemy fire; and

Whereas, Corporal Easterday's actions allowed his platoon to advance on the flank of their objective and quickly capture it, saving lives and material with the speed of its accomplishment; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Corporal Carlos M. Easterday on winning the Bronze Star with "V" Device for heroism and gallant action. We recognize the incredible determination, loyalty, courage, and valor he displayed for his comrades on that day in August 1951, and all the days of his service to the United States Army.

IN HONOR OF BRENT LARKIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Brent Larkin, upon his retirement as Editorial Page Director of the Plain Dealer, where his political columns and news stories inspired emotion, provoked thought and blazed across the pages of our City's daily newspaper for nearly thirty years.

A native Clevelander, Brent Larkin graduated from Brush High School in 1965. He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Ohio University, and later a doctorate of law degree from Cleveland Marshall College of Law in 1986. He was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1987.

Brent's interest in Cleveland's political scene was sparked in 1970, when he was hired by the Cleveland Press to cover the news at Cleveland City Hall. In 1976, he was named the newspaper's politics editor. In 1981, he joined The Plain Dealer as a politics writer then later as a columnist. In 1991, he was named director of The Plain Dealer's opinion pages. Brent Larkin has been honored several times over the years for his work in journalism, including an induction into the Cleveland Press Club Hall of Fame in October of 2002. Brent's editorial columns deftly highlighted Cleveland's political and social scenes for Ohio's largest newspaper.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Brent Larkin, upon his recent retirement from The Cleveland Plain Dealer. Fearless in expressing his opinion, his columns were entertaining, informative and above all, his ability to zero in on the heart of an issue in just a few strategically written paragraphs earned him a constituency of readers that kept coming back to see what he would write next.

TAIWAN'S INVITATION TO THE
WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, at the end of last month, Taiwan received an invitation from the World Health Organization (WHO) to attend this year's World Health Assembly (WHA) meeting as an observer under the name "Chinese Taipei." The WHA weeklong meeting started a few days ago on Monday, May 18, 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland.

This week marks the first time Taiwan has been allowed to participate in a meeting or activity of a specialized United Nations agency since losing its UN membership to China in 1971. I have seen some label Taiwan's participation a "breakthrough" and I have heard the "goodwill of the mainland authorities" praised.

Yes, we should celebrate the announcement that Taiwan will finally be permitted to participate in the WHO. But we also need to remind ourselves that participation as an "observer" does not give Taiwan the right to vote. In addition, Taiwan's participation is not permanent; it comes only under Beijing's sponsorship on a one-year-at-a-time basis. While we are grateful that Taiwan has been given the chance to attend the WHA meeting, I hope that Taiwan's 23 million people will one day be represented at the WHO as a full fledged participant.

We all remember that in 2003 Taiwan was struck by an outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS. By the end of May 2003, 483 probable cases had been reported. A total of 60 people died. Worries over SARS subsequently hampered international travel and commerce, dealing a serious blow to Taiwan's economy. This morning, Taiwan reported its second case of H1N1 flu.

Despite these outbreaks, China continues to block Taiwan's full and equal membership in the WHO. Disease knows no borders and I believe the current threat of a worldwide epidemic demonstrates Taiwan's need for the highest level of access to the WHO as possible.

In addition, I would prefer to see Taiwan join the WHO under the name "Taiwan," which, after all, is the name of the country. Taipei is merely Taiwan's capital.

When I was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2002, some of my colleagues had already been campaigning for Taiwan's inclusion in the WHO for more than five years, ever since Taiwan launched its campaign to participate in the WHO in 1997.

I am concerned that that Chinese approval is becoming a prerequisite for Taiwan's participation in any international organization, and that countries will begin to view China as Taiwan's suzerain. If this view becomes the accepted international norm, Taiwan's current status as an independent, sovereign state would be undermined.

It is an outrage that China has essentially blocked Taiwan from participating in the WHO for so long. I firmly believe that the health of Taiwan's 23 million citizens should not be used as a political weapon. I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in continuing to support Taiwan's full and equal membership in the World Health Organization.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTH
MAUI COASTAL PRESERVATION
ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the North Maui Coastal Preservation Act of 2009, a bill directing the National Park Service to study the suitability and feasibility of designating certain lands along the northern coast of Maui, between Sprecklesville and Paia, as a unit of the National Park System.

The citizens of Maui strongly support preservation of this coast, which provides important open space and public beach areas. Thousands of post cards in support of creating a national park or national seashore along this coast have been sent to me and to my predecessor.

This beautiful coastline is under significant development pressure. Its closeness to major population centers in Maui and its popularity with both visitors and residents makes protecting access a major concern.

Supporters of this park have asked that it be named after Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink, a native of Maui who grew up in the Hamakua Poko/Paia area. While this bill, which authorizes a study, does not direct what the prospective national park would be named, I would certainly support naming it after Patsy Mink, whose commitment to the people of the island and state was without question.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

MR. SCOTT HOLUPKA

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. Scott Holupka, recipient of the Citizen of the Year Award from The Optimist Club of Dundalk, Inc. Scott has dedicated his time and talents to the constant improvement and revitalization of the Dundalk community.

Scott is a life-long resident of Dundalk, Maryland, and a native to the Three Garden Village in southeastern Baltimore County. He went on to attend nearby Dundalk High School. In 1983, he graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a Ph.D. in sociology. Soon after graduating, he returned to Dundalk, where he immediately began working on a project called the "Greening of Dundalk." The recycling effort included in this program was the first of its kind in Baltimore County.

Since then, Scott has held positions in many community organizations including president of the Board of the Family Crisis Center, co-creator of the Southeast Neighborhood Development Coalition, member of the Baltimore Citizens Planning and Housing Association, president of the Greater Dundalk Community Council, and cofounder of the Dundalk Renaissance Corporation. These organizations are just a glimpse into the busy, community-oriented lives Scott and his wife, Amy, have led.

The Citizen of the Year award is given annually to an individual in the Dundalk community who demonstrates leadership, civic responsibility, and accomplishment. Scott not only possesses all of these qualities, but he goes above and beyond in every community activity in which he is involved. He was recently inducted into the Dundalk High School Alumni Hall of Fame, and will soon receive an award from the Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mr. Scott Holupka on this memorable occasion. Scott is admired by others in the community, and deserving of the prestigious Citizen of the Year Award. His dedication to Dundalk is apparent in every aspect of his life, and the community is truly a better place because of him.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DR. HENRY
T. KING, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Dr. Henry T. King Jr., a renowned lawyer and great man of peace, and in honor of his dedication to his country, community and to international human rights. Dr. King died at home on May 9, 2009, at age 89.

Dr. Henry King was a distinguished scholar of international law, international trade, and international human rights. Shortly after graduating from Yale Law School and while practicing law in New York at Millbank, Tweed & Hope, Dr. King learned about Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson's appointment as Chief Prosecutor of war criminals at Nuremberg. With the encouragement of his wife, he left for Nuremberg in 1946 with Justice Jackson as one of the youngest of 200 prosecutors. As one of the prosecutors working on the Nuremberg Trials, he worked on the convictions of many Nazi officials, including Walther von Brauchitsch, Erhard Milch, Hermann Goring, and Albert Speer. Dr. King was deeply affected by what he saw upon stepping off the train in Nuremberg. Surrounded by the rubble of bombed out buildings and people begging for food, he vowed at that time to dedicate his life to the prevention of war.

Following the Nuremberg Trials, Dr. King served as Chief Counsel for the Marshall Plan. Between 1961 and 1981 he was Chief International Corporate Counsel at TRW, Inc., the position which brought Dr. King to Cleveland. For the last 28 years, he taught at Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland while practicing law at Cleveland's Squire Sanders & Dempsey. Upon his arrival at Case Western Reserve, he established the Canada-U.S. Law Institute in partnership with the University of Western Ontario. The Institute holds an annual conference in Cleveland, which I have had the pleasure of participating in a number of times since my career in Congress began in 1997. This year, I had the honor of addressing the conference about the commoditization of Great Lakes water.

Throughout his illustrious career, Dr. King continued his activism in the struggle for peace through international law. He pushed

for the creation of the International Criminal Court as a member of the international delegation in Rome to establish that court in 1998. After the delegation failed to include wars of aggression as war crimes, he continued to push for that with other delegates until they ultimately adopted a reference to the crime of war of aggression in the court's statute. Additionally, Dr. King served as a member of the American Bar Association's Task Force on War Crimes in the former Yugoslavia. He also believed that democracies which trade with one another tend to not go to war and advocated for international trade rules and statutes as another avenue toward peace.

Dr. King received an honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Laws by the University of Western Ontario in 2003. In 2004, the government of Canada appointed Dr. King Honorary Consul General for Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. Dr. King was truly a pioneer in promoting peace through international law and was cited in the Plain Dealer by David Crane, Syracuse University Professor and Chief Prosecutor of Sierra Leone President Charles Taylor as "the George Washington of modern international law."

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of one of the great men of our time, Dr. Henry T. King, Jr. He will be greatly missed by those in the peace community working on issues of international humanitarian justice under the rule of law. Despite his absence, his work will continue to inspire countless activists and lawyers around the world who follow in his footsteps.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
ANNIVERSARY OF NAACP

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the NAACP for one hundred years of promoting equal rights and fighting for the eradication of racial prejudice within the United States. The NAACP is the largest and oldest civil rights organization in the United States. It currently has more than half a million members and supporters throughout the United States and the world who serve as advocates for civil rights in their communities.

On February 12, 1909, the 100th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's birth, the NAACP was founded in response to race riots in Lincoln's hometown of Springfield, Illinois. From the time of its founding, the NAACP has recognized that racial justice is important for every single American. This is reinforced by the fact that the organization has always been led by a diverse group of Americans from many races and backgrounds. These leaders came to the organization because, as Dr. King so eloquently described, "All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality."

The NAACP played a pivotal role in overturning disenfranchisement, racial segregation in public schools, and discriminatory hiring practices. It fought for the passage of the Civil Rights Acts of the 1950s and 60s, the Voting Rights Act, and the Fair Housing Act. The work of the NAACP paved the way for the election of Barack Obama—another of Illinois' favorite sons—as our first African American

President, one hundred years after the founding of the NAACP. The NAACP continues to work on ensuring equal access to education, health care, and jobs.

On the 100th anniversary of its founding, I would like to celebrate the NAACP and its many important accomplishments towards securing equal rights of all persons.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF CLAUDE DAVIS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Claude Davis on the occasion of his 101st birthday for his lifetime of service to his community and to his country. Throughout his life, Mr. Davis has been leader in Northwest Florida, and I am pleased to honor such an admirable American.

Born in 1908, Claude Davis enlisted in the United States Navy in 1926 at the age of 18 and served for over twenty years. Mr. Davis fought in World War II and was aboard the USS Saratoga aircraft carrier during two separate torpedo attacks by the Japanese. He also commissioned the USS Antietam in 1945. Recently, Mr. Davis visited the WWII Memorial for the first time as part of the Second Emerald Coast Honor Flight.

After his retirement from the Navy in 1946, Claude purchased a farm in Santa Rosa County, Florida and began a lifetime of service to his local community. He was the first agent for the Florida Farm Bureau Fire Insurance Company, where he remained for 25 years. Mr. Davis became president of the Farm Bureau, and helped organize the annual Santa Rosa County Farm Tour, an event conducted each year by the Santa Rosa Agricultural Committee to increase agricultural awareness in the area. As one of the original organizers of the Warrington Presbyterian Church and the Warrington Kiwanis Club, Claude's record of service to the community is outstanding and deserving of this recognition.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to thank Claude Davis for his lifetime of dedication and service to others. My wife Vicki and I wish to congratulate him and his entire family on this momentous occasion.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF
HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL USA

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Hostelling International USA for 75 years of service to youth travel.

Hostelling International USA was founded in 1934 to improve and promote international understanding of the world and its countless cultures through hostelling. Hostelling International operates and maintains almost 70 hostel accommodations throughout the United States, with over 4,000 locations worldwide.

These inexpensive and safe facilities range from high-rise buildings with hundreds of beds to small remote hostels in rural setting found throughout Alaska.

Hostel volunteers act as ambassadors for their communities and for our nation by administering travel education programs to young and old. Alaskan hostels have welcomed and housed guests since the early 1960's, in a diverse set of locations including: Central Juneau, Ketchikan, Nome, Anchorage, Delta Junction, Fairbanks, Haines, Homer, Sitka, Tok, Willow, Girdwood, Slana and Ninilchik.

I commend Hostelling International USA for its 75 years of continued quality service.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
MAYOR, THE COMMON COUNCIL
AND THE RESIDENTS OF THE
CITY OF LACKAWANNA ON THE
OCCASION OF THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THEIR MUNICIPAL
INCORPORATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to the Mayor, the Common Council and the residents of the City of Lackawanna on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of their municipal incorporation.

The fortunes of this great City are emblematic of the struggles of the entire region. Having experienced the difficulties associated with the decline of heavy industry in recent decades, Lackawanna has turned the corner and now demonstrates a new spirit of hope and optimism under the leadership of its esteemed Mayor and Council.

Due in significant part to the diligence and hard work of the Mayor and the Council, the site of the former Bethlehem Steel plant—long a symbol of post-industrial decay and disinvestment, is now a beacon of progress as it is home to the nation's largest urban wind farm. This project is a testament to the tenacity of the Mayor, the Council and the people of this great city, and has been a symbol of the resurgence of the entire region. Through this effort, Lackawanna has demonstrated that the time has come to build upon our industrial past and move toward a prosperous, green future.

On this 100th Anniversary, I would like to congratulate the great City of Lackawanna on its recent successes and to thank the leadership for shepherding innovative ideas to preserve and enhance the Great City of Lackawanna. I commend and thank Lackawanna residents for the example they have set for other communities in Western New York. As we celebrate our history, we also acknowledge that our best days are immediately in front of us, and that progress and prosperity are on the horizon. I wish the leadership in the City of Lackawanna and its people the best of luck in the future as it continues to grow and prosper.

HONORING THE LOUISIANA
HONORAIR VETERANS

HON. JOHN FLEMING

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a very special group from Northwest Louisiana.

On May 16, 2009 a group of 104 veterans and their guardians flew to Washington with a very special program. Louisiana HonorAir is providing the opportunity for these Louisiana veterans to visit Washington, DC on a chartered flight, free of charge. For many, this will be the first and only opportunity to visit the memorials created in their honor. These brave men and women, from my home state of Louisiana, deserve the thanks of a grateful nation for everything they have sacrificed for our freedom.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thank them for their unselfish service.

Robert M. Acosta, Edward E. Allen, William J. Archambeau, Francis W. Artley, Carl A. Barr, Clifford A. Birchfield, Joe E. Bizet, Richard E. Blake, Dudley H. Boddie, Roy Timon Buckner, Robert L. Bufkin, Jesse E. Burkheart, Adolph B. Campbell, Williard E. Charrier, James A. Clark, George Cockerham, Claude M. Corbett, Joe R. Crain, Alonza Crawford, Joe H. Curtis, Willie V. Dark, R. Debusk, Sammuel D. Doles, Thomas B. Erwin, Jack B. Evans, James E. Evans, Frank H. Falkenberry, Daniel W. Fallin, James, L. Fallin, James H. Fisher, Frank H. Ford, John C. Foster, Paul D. Gandy, Jesus Garcia, James C. Gardner, Leo J. Garner, Leon C. Green, Claude Gully, Joseph Warren Harris, Tom N. Havard, James W. Helton, Charles M. Henley, Edward J. Heuer, John N. Holman, John L. Iles, Joe M. Ivey, Loin Jacob, James Prentice Johnson, Alvin B. Kessler, Oscar C. Laborde, Charles A. Lammons, Joseph H. LeBeau, Gus D. Levy, Clayton E. Manning, W.C. Mayfield, Mary E. McMahon, Leonard S. Micinski, Charles E. Monson, McLuther Monzingo, Donald R. Moreau, Lucien L. Oldham, Elmore C. Owens, Lester L. Pace, Frederick E. Parker, Robert A. Peiser, J.L. Pennington, Carlos B. Perez, Wallace P. Perryman, James Ferrell Reeder, James E. Rigal, Kenneth Roberts, Richard Roy, James G. Sandifer, Ira R. Schulling, Luther E. Self, Geroge E. Shanks, Whilman G. Sheets, James L. Shelton, Cecil O. Simmons, Shirley R. Simmons, Richard D. Smart, Shurman C. Smith, Robert A. Stacy, Roy E. Stickman, Fletcher Thorne-Thomsen, Maurice S. Thrasher, Carroll E. Timmons, Bobby G. Turrentine, Howard V. Walker, Clomer Walton, Ray M. Ward, William B. Wardlaw, Carl J. Waters, Billy J. Wells, Claude O. West, G.F. White, James Wilson, Allen J. Wiltz, Marcus D. Wren.

HONORING MR. HELMUTH J.H.
BAERWALD

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Helmuth J.H. Baerwald who is

retiring after faithfully serving the residents, businesses and elected officials of East Norriton Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania for 32 years.

Mr. Baerwald's distinguished career of public service to East Norriton started in May 1977 when he became the Township's Finance Officer and Assistant Manager. A little more than three years later, he was appointed Township Manager and Secretary/Treasurer.

Evidence of Mr. Baerwald's outstanding leadership during the last four decades abounds. He was instrumental in the building of a Veterans Memorial at Old Stanbridge Street and Germantown Pike. He was a driving force in establishing a sister city program between East Norriton and Treptow-Kopenick, Germany. And his prudent investment and management practices helped the Township acquire a 35-acre municipal complex, including the Township offices, storage facility and highway department garage.

Mr. Baerwald earned the respect of his peers and elected officials with his sharp administrative skills, which have been invaluable as the Township has grown. In addition to serving the Township, Mr. Baerwald selflessly gave his time to several organizations, including the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors and the Montgomery County Association of Township Officials.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the outstanding service and extraordinary career of Helmuth J. H. Baerwald and all who dedicate their careers to serving the public.

A LIFETIME OF SERVICE BY
MARGE JOHANNES OF SAUK
RAPIDS, MINNESOTA

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Marge Johannes of Sauk Rapids, Minnesota as she celebrates her 90th birthday. Marge is known as "Grandma Marge" to the students at Pleasantview Elementary School, where she volunteers as a Foster Grandparent, a role she has played for over 20 years.

As a Foster Grandma, Marge spends four hours a day helping students and assisting the teachers. She even takes time to provide childcare for the Adult Basic Education classes. When many students and teachers are taking a break from school, Grandma Marge helps with the summer school programs in the Sauk Rapids-Rice School District. She is the definition of grace, bringing a love of learning to the schools at which she volunteers and sharing a smile with all she meets. All the students know that her favorite book is the dictionary, because she likes to learn something new every day and she spreads that kind of earnest enthusiasm everywhere she goes.

It is my honor to rise to wish Grandma Marge a "Happy Ninetieth Birthday" today and to thank her for her lifetime of service to her community. She is a teacher to us all, demonstrating the important values of service and citizenship. But, to the children, she is so much more: She's a member of their family; their Grandma Marge.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN RED
CROSS EVERYDAY HEROES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today on behalf of one of our country's most honored and respected organizations, the American Red Cross. Each year, the Genesee-Lapeer Chapter of the Red Cross acknowledges individuals who have shown tremendous courage, kindness, and selflessness through acts of goodwill and heroism. 14 individuals will be honored at the annual "Salute to Everyday Heroes" on Friday, May 29th in Grand Blanc, Michigan.

Everyday Heroes are selected for acts of bravery related to fire, rescue, and lifesaving, and are awarded to those who live in Genesee or Lapeer Counties, or if the rescue occurred in one of the two counties.

This year Trooper Bradley Ross and Trooper David Stokes will receive the Law Enforcement Award. Robert Elliott and Timothy Knott will be recognized with the Emergency Medical Response Award. Firefighters Jason Abbey, Dustin Lucius, Al Morea, Nick Schulz, Josh Sturgis, and Pat Whalen will be honored for their work. The Youth Good Samaritan Award will be given to Brandon Howe and the Adult Good Samaritan Award will be given to Jack and Jean Seibert. Myla Swanson will be recognized with the Workplace Good Samaritan Award. Judge Robert E. Weiss will be posthumously honored with the Community Good Samaritan Award.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the courageous, altruistic accomplishments of these 14 persons. They have generously acted without thought to their own safety to assist others in danger. They have earned the title of "hero" and I am grateful for their service to our community.

HONORING TYNGSBOROUGH,
MASSACHUSETTS

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the bicentennial anniversary of the town of Tyngsborough, Massachusetts. Known as the "gateway to the White Mountains," Tyngsborough is a unique and diverse community, defined by innovative businesses, rich history, and hardworking families. I am proud to honor the people of Tyngsborough for their spirit of innovation and success as they celebrate this milestone.

With its distinct location along the Route 3 corridor between Boston and New Hampshire's mountains, Tyngsborough continues to draw new residents and businesses as it grows in both size and prosperity. Leading companies in the fields of software, energy, materials, and technology have chosen Tyngsborough for their headquarters.

Tyngsborough's location also makes it a popular leisure destination thanks to the 1,000-acre Lowell-Dracut-Tyngsboro State

Forest, which features miles of trails for hiking, cycling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling as well as ponds and streams for fishing and water sports. This land has long held special significance to the Native Americans who first settled along the banks of the Merrimack River above the Pawtucket Falls. The preservation of the natural beauty afforded by the river and woods is an important goal of the community and one that I particularly applaud.

I am proud to honor Tyngsborough's bicentennial, and I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the people of Tyngsborough another 200 years of innovation and success.

HONORING THE KNIGHTS OF CO-
LUMBUS LIGHT OF CHRIST
COUNCIL 8726

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Knights of Columbus, Light of Christ Council 8726, for its 25 years of outstanding charitable work and dedicated service to three parishes in western Berks County, Pennsylvania.

Since its founding in June 1984 at the St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, Council 8726 has grown to more than 200 members committed to nurturing spiritual growth and a tremendous desire to help anyone in need.

The members' selfless service has included financial backing and volunteer work in support of St. Mary's Shelter for single mothers, a Veterans Memorial monument in Whitfield, a Special Olympics basketball tournament, and weekend soup kitchens that feed hundreds who would otherwise go hungry in the Reading area.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Knights of Columbus, Light of Christ Council 8726, upon its 25th Anniversary and recognizing the exemplary efforts of the Council's members in serving and supporting Berks County churches, communities and charities.

NEW CHARGES BROUGHT UP
AGAINST BAHA'I LEADERS IN
IRAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, May 14 marked the one-year anniversary of the imprisonment of the seven member national committee of the Iranian Baha'is. According to CNN reports, the seven Baha'i leaders may now face charges of "spreading of corruption on Earth" which carries the threat of the death penalty under Iran's penal code. The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom recently released their 2009 report which recommends that the State Department designate Iran a country of particular concern due to its gross violations of religious freedom. Such violations include the execution of over 200 Baha'i leaders since 1979, the desecra-

tion of Baha'i cemeteries and places of worship, and the violent arrest and harassment of members of the Baha'i faith. As the Administration seeks diplomatic engagement with Iran, I urge them to make human rights and religious freedom an integral part of the dialogue. Human dignity and freedom must not be made a sidebar as the Administration seeks to engage the Iranians.

HONORING STEPHEN REISTER

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor America's entrepreneurs, those distinguished individuals who support our communities, drive innovation, and keep our nation strong. Small businesses bring fresh ideas to the table, develop the resources to meet the demands of an ever-changing world, and make a meaningful impact on our neighborhoods. Entrepreneurs are responsible for providing 60 to 80 percent of all new jobs, giving them the potential to propel rapid economic growth and expand ever-developing fields. Some of the country's largest companies began as start-ups in small offices, homes and garages exploring these new fields. Limited only by their imagination, these firms performed cutting-edge work in emerging industries that have become the very foundation of our society.

As our nation and the world face the most difficult economic conditions in decades, entrepreneurs have the potential to lead us back to prosperity. The resiliency and adaptability shown by small businesses in past recessions demonstrate their capability to meet the challenges standing in their way and emerge stronger than ever. America's small businesses will drive the economic recovery from this downturn and our economy will rebound. Times may be tough, but America's entrepreneurial spirit is tougher.

To recognize the monumental achievements of our nation's small firms, the Small Business Administration (SBA) has declared May 17-23 as the 46th Annual National Small Business Week. The House Small Business Committee is celebrating all our country's hard-working entrepreneurs by saluting the Heroes of Small Business, those men and women who have shown the strength, leadership, and resourcefulness that keeps our economy moving forward.

I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing and thanking Mr. Stephen Reister for his tremendous accomplishments on behalf of small businesses. Mr. Reister has been with Steel-T Heating and Air Conditioning for nearly 20 years, joining the company after it was purchased by his family in 1989. The company is one of the leading heating and air conditioning contractors in the Denver and northern Colorado area. Mr. Reister's contributions to the industry have earned him a place on the national furnace PID team for Carrier Corporation, the world's leader in heating and cooling solutions, and several awards for raising awareness and sales of more environmentally friendly products.

Mr. Reister is an active member of his community, serving as a board member of the Colombine Valley Water and Sanitation District.

He is also involved in community organizations including the Colorado Fellowship of Christian Athletes CMT Board and The Gift of Warmth Program.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Reister has exemplified the remarkable accomplishments of which America's entrepreneurs are capable. This week, he will testify before the House Small Business Committee to share his story. I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join with me in honoring him for the extraordinary work he has done for the small business economy. His efforts demonstrate that if given the right resources, America's small businesses can be the catalysts that lift our economy from the current downturn and put us on the road to recovery.

CONGRATULATING THE SOUTH
BEND ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL
MOCK TRIAL TEAM

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the victory of the South Bend Adams High School team in the National Mock Trial Competition. The championship culminates a year of successes for the "Usual Suspects," a team which won its second straight state championship. It was the perfect finish to a season full of intense training and practice. The victory caps a record of twelve state titles in the thirteen years of the mock trial program at Adams.

The exceptional members of the Adams Mock Trial team include: Josh Courtney, Jenn Deeter, Ellis Smith, Chris Silvestri, Adam Kern, Gabe Young, timekeeper David Kern, and student coaches Kieran Neal and Allie Soisson. The team was led to victory by coaches Lucas Burkett and Professor Jay Tidmarsh and faculty advisor Judith Overmyer.

Mock Trial competition involves not only knowledge of the law, but also the ability to plan both defensive and prosecutorial strategies and act the parts of lawyers and witnesses. The Adams team prepared a cunning defense and excelled at portraying believable witnesses and convincing lawyers while developing their communication, research, and organizational skills. Chris Silvestri distinguished himself among the participants by earning the "Best Witness" award.

The Adams Mock Trial team has achieved a memorable ending to an extraordinary year of competition. I offer my congratulations to the members of the team, the coaches, John Adams High School students, faculty and staff. I also offer my thanks and congratulations to members of the community, including local attorneys and judges, who supported the team on the road to this impressive accomplishment. The Adams Mock Trial team has represented Indiana, the City of South Bend, their school and themselves with excellence and distinction.

RECOGNIZING MAY AS HUNTINGTON'S
DISEASE AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize May as Huntington's Disease Awareness Month. In support of those with Huntington's Disease and of finding a cure, I have cosponsored H.R. 678, "Huntington's Disease Parity Act of 2009." This bipartisan legislation sponsored by Rep. BOB FILNER (D-CA-41) would eliminate the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for those suffering from Huntington's Disease.

Huntington's Disease is a progressive degenerative neurological disease that causes total mental and physical deterioration in as few as 12 years and currently no cure exists. Already 20,000 Americans have been diagnosed with Huntington's and 6.5% of the population, or 200,000 individuals, are at risk for this disease.

The physical, emotional, and mental alterations a victim of Huntington's Disease undergoes are extreme to say the least. Even in the initial stages, patients are unable to continue employment and they must rely on family care and Social Security Disability Income. A similar neurological disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, received a waiver for the 24-month waiting period in 2000.

H.R. 678 would help to alleviate suffering that those diagnosed with Huntington's Disease must face every day. Implementing this legislation would not only help those diagnosed with Huntington's but also the families that have been financially devastated by this degenerative disease.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues in Congress and the public at large to recognize this important month.

IN HONOR OF FRANKLYN KELLOGG

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my friend, Franklyn Kellogg, on the occasion of his 90th Birthday and in recognition of his dedication to his community and a life lived with a great sense of humor, energetic spirit, joy for living and positive outlook.

Mr. Kellogg grew up in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio. After high school, he joined the army and served as a military police officer during WWII. Following the war, he came back to Cleveland and began his lifelong vocation of protecting others, first as a firefighter and then as Fire Chief of City Cleveland. Mr. Kellogg was a leader in evolving

safety training and techniques, many of which are still used today in Ohio and across the country.

Mr. Kellogg was one of the first firefighters in Cleveland to be trained as a certified paramedic. He became a top-notch instructor, training firefighters and paramedics, even travelling as far as California with requests for his training expertise. Mr. Kellogg has earned a nationally-known reputation as being one of the best arson investigators in the country, and has been consulted numerous times by fire departments in Ohio and across the country. Several of Mr. Kellogg's arson cases are still used today as models in firefighter training courses, including courses taught at Cuyahoga Community College. He continues to be an active member of his community and of the Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont, the church he has attended since childhood.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of Mr. Kellogg's 90th Birthday. His kindness and commitment to community leadership and service continues to be evident in all he does. I stand in honor and gratitude of Mr. Kellogg's lifelong service to our community and I wish him the best as he and his family celebrate his 90th birthday.

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE NORTH SEA
FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, residents of Long Island, New York are truly fortunate that our local firefighters are also our neighbors. Since 1934, residents of the Peconic Bay hamlet of North Sea have relied on the professionalism of the all-volunteer North Sea Fire Department, and today I proudly rise to mark the 75th anniversary of its founding.

To date, 2009 has been one of the busiest years on record for the North Sea Fire Department, as they have responded to more fire calls than any other department in Suffolk County. Each has been answered with the speed, skill and courtesy that has been the department's calling card for 75 years.

Madam Speaker, while the children of North Sea may be upset that the firefighters have not been able to lavish their customary level of attention on the department's annual Fourth of July carnival and fireworks, their parents can rest assured that their neighbors at the firehouse are devoted to keeping the community safe any hour of the day or night. I offer my thanks and best wishes as they continue their tradition of community service for many years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EMPOWERING MEDICARE PATIENT CHOICES ACT ESTABLISHES A PHASED IN PROGRAM TO SUPPORT SHARED DECISION-MAKING IN MEDICARE BY EQUIPPING BENEFICIARIES WITH UNBIASED, EVIDENCED-BASED RESOURCES THAT CAN HELP THEM BE BETTER INVOLVED IN TREATMENT DECISIONS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Empowering Medicare Patient Choices Act of 2009.

The onset of an illness creates intense stress and anxiety for patients and families. In addition to the weight of a diagnosis, patients struggle to learn about their illness and determine which treatments to pursue. During this time, people often feel helpless and unprepared to make such critical decisions, but it doesn't have to be that way. We have the opportunity to improve both the quality of health care and patient satisfaction by better engaging patients and families in treatment decisions.

The Empowering Medicare Patient Choices Act will create a shared decision-making process between physicians and patients within Medicare, offering incentives for doctors to provide resources such as DVD's and web-based, interactive programs. These materials provide unbiased, evidence-based information on treatment options. After reviewing the decision aids, patients and families are better prepared to have meaningful conversations with their doctors to determine the course of action right for them.

The legislation introduces shared decision-making into Medicare in three phases. Phase I is a three-year period pilot program allowing 'early adopting' providers to participate, providing data and serving as Shared Decision-Making Resource Centers. Phase II expands the pilot for a three-year period during which a larger pool of providers will be eligible to receive reimbursement for the use of certified patient decision aids. The final stage requires providers to use patient decision aids for certain conditions as a standard of practice.

Shared decision-making is a common-sense program that will improve quality of care, but more importantly, support patients and families during difficult times.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INDEPENDENCE AT HOME ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Independence at Home Act. I would like to thank my colleague and fellow co-chair of the bipartisan Alzheimer's Task Force, Mr. CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey, for working with me on this important legislation.

As health care reform efforts move forward, we have a golden opportunity to provide high-

quality care for our most vulnerable seniors right in their own homes at dramatically lower costs. The bi-partisan Independence at Home legislation we are reintroducing today aims to better coordinate care for Medicare beneficiaries with multiple, debilitating chronic diseases, including Alzheimer's, congestive heart failure, diabetes and other chronic conditions.

In many cases, our frail elders prefer to remain in their own homes, in the comfort of familiar surroundings, rather than enter a nursing home or hospital. Our current health care system does a poor job caring for seriously ill Americans, who often are "lost in transition", struggling to manage multiple illnesses as they transition between emergency room, hospital, nursing facility and home. The Independence at Home Act holds great promise for reducing hospitalizations, preventing medication errors, and lifting the spirits of those who, after a lifetime of contributions to our society, deserve the dignity and peace of mind that comes with living independently.

This legislation builds on successful house calls programs operating around the country and at the Department of Veterans Affairs by establishing a 3-year pilot program in Medicare that would enable beneficiaries with chronic, complex conditions to receive the care they need in their own homes. These patients see roughly 14 physicians and fill about 50 prescriptions each year. Due to a lack of coordination between their many doctors, these patients often receive disjointed care, conflicting information, and multiple diagnoses for the same symptoms. At the same time, Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions account for a highly disproportionate share of Medicare spending.

The Independence at Home Act creates a three year pilot program that utilizes a patient-centered health delivery model to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions can remain independent, in their homes, for as long as possible. Our model is a better, more coordinated way of getting these patients the care they need by physicians who know them and are experienced in managing their unique needs.

The Independence at Home care teams tasked with coordinating the care of these patients will be comprised of qualified and experienced physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners. Participating organizations will be required to produce improved health outcomes, demonstrate patient and caregiver satisfaction, and show that their methods result in savings to Medicare. In order to realize these savings, our bill holds participating providers accountable for demonstrating a minimum savings of 5 percent to Medicare. As an incentive, providers are able to keep a portion of savings they achieve beyond the initial 5 percent. Whereas our current health care system runs up costs by reimbursing for the volume of care, the Independence at Home model incentivizes the value of care.

This proposal also encourages the adoption of electronic medical records and other technologies that will result in more efficient and cost-effective care. And, to help address the existing shortage of primary care physicians, this bill develops a new, promising career path for primary care physicians who can own and operate Independence at Home organizations and receive reimbursements for house calls.

The Independence at Home Act addresses the needs of patients with multiple chronic dis-

eases and holds providers accountable for producing savings. As such, I believe this bill to be a critical part of our efforts to reform health care because it will produce better, coordinated care and reduce costs. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House to turn our "sick-care" system into a true health care system, and I look forward to working on this bill with my colleagues as efforts proceed to pass comprehensive health care reform this year.

CONGRATULATING CHRIS ECONOMAKI, THE 2009 RECIPIENT OF POCONO RACEWAY'S BILL FRANCE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Chris Economaki, the dean of motorsports journalists, who has dedicated himself to the promotion of a national sport that has enriched the lives of countless people for more than 60 years.

Mr. Economaki is the first journalist to receive this award, first presented in 1977, which is dedicated to the memory of William H. G. France, the founder of NASCAR. This award is presented annually to a person, organization or corporation that has made outstanding contributions to the sport of NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Racing.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1920, Mr. Economaki's father was a Greek immigrant while his mother was a great niece of Robert E. Lee. He witnessed his first auto race in Atlantic City at the age of nine and was immediately hooked on the sport. He started his career at the age of 13 selling copies of National Speed Sport News newspapers. He wrote his first column at the age of 14 for the National Auto Racing News. In 1950, he became editor of the National Speed Sport News. He began a column for that publication, titled "The Editor's Notebook," that he still writes more than 50 years later. He eventually became owner, publisher and editor of the National Speed Sport News. His daughter, Corinne Economaki, is the current publisher and the paper is still considered "America's Weekly Motorsports Authority."

His autobiography is entitled "Let Em All Go: The Story of Auto Racing by the Man Who Was There."

Mr. Economaki worked as a race track announcer in the 40s and 50s. He covered races at Indianapolis, Daytona, LeMans and many other locations. His motorsports coverage on radio and television became legendary.

Mr. Economaki has been the recipient of numerous major motorsports award and he was inducted into the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America in 1994. The Economaki Champion of Champions Award is named after him. A day at the Dodge Charger 500 at the Darlington Speedway race weekend is named "Chris Economaki Day." The press room at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway was named the "Economaki Press Conference Room" in 2006. He appeared as a pit reporter in two motion picture films, "Stroker Ace" and "Six Pack."

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Economaki on this notable occasion. His contributions to the motorsports industry have been economically rewarding to countless families across America and have improved the quality of life for so many. Mr. Economaki epitomizes the spirit of American entrepreneurs and his example is inspirational to the generations who will follow him.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF SALLY MATTHEWS

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th birthday of Mrs. Sally Matthews, which will take place on May 30, 2009. Sally, a lifelong resident of Jersey City, New Jersey, is the proud mother of two sons and six grandchildren. Throughout her life, Sally has been an outstanding public servant and professional. She worked for the New Jersey State Board of Children's Guardians from 1925 to 1942. Sally was subsequently employed as a legal secretary, receiving the distinction of being the Hudson County Legal Secretaries Association's Legal Secretary of the Year in 1970. Sally has always taken the time to give back to her community, having volunteered at St. Aedan's Rectory in Jersey City and having been a charter member of St. Aedan's Golden Club, 41 years ago. As Sally and her friends gather on June 1st to celebrate her 100th birthday, I wish her, on behalf of myself and the people of the 9th Congressional District of New Jersey, the very best as she reaches this exciting milestone in her life.

IN HONOR OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX
CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION AND THE 2009
HELLENIC HERITAGE FESTIVAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Greek Community of Cleveland, Ohio, and the members and leaders of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation of Cleveland as join fellow community members this Memorial Day weekend to celebrate the heritage and culture of Greece at the annual Hellenic Heritage Festival.

The oldest Greek Orthodox Church in Cleveland, the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation was officially incorporated on February 15, 1913. Located on the corner of West 14th Street and Fairfield Avenue in the Historic Tremont District of Cleveland, it was the only Greek Orthodox Church to exist in the Greater Cleveland area until 1937. Today, it remains an active parish with an internationally-accredited Greek School.

For more than thirty years, members of the Greater Cleveland Community have gathered on the grounds of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation to partake in the annual

Hellenic Heritage Festival, a wonderful community and family event that is enjoyed and shared by Clevelanders of all ethnic backgrounds. The event reflects the values of our community: faith, family, heritage and diversity. The festival is also a time of remembrance and honor—remembering our ancestors and relatives whose struggles, tragedies and triumphs will be remembered and revered from generation to generation, and honoring the numerous and significant contributions made to our community and our nation by Americans of Greek heritage.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Greek-Americans throughout our community and throughout our nation. I also stand in recognition of the members and leaders of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, whose individual and collective commitment to preserving and promoting the history and heritage of their beloved Greek homeland serves to enrich the diverse fabric of the Greater Cleveland Community.

HONORING SOMPOP JANTRAKA
AND HIS SCHOOL DEPDC

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the extraordinary vision and compelling work for peace of Sompop Jantraka and his school, DEPDC—the Development and Education Programme for Daughters and Communities.

Mr. Jantraka understands the necessity for caring intervention in order to save the young, innocent, poverty-stricken masses of the world. He has toiled tirelessly and fearlessly, in the face of danger, organized crime and desperation and oftentimes abandonment by parents of their offspring, to prevent child trafficking in the Mekong sub-region of Thailand's "Golden Triangle." He has made this cause, above many others, one of the main purposes of his life.

DEPDC is Thailand's first pro-active center for the prevention of child trafficking. It began with modest beginnings, nineteen "daughters" in a small house. And because of the incessant commitment to the preservation of children's futures, DEPDC has to-date prevented over 3,000 "daughters" and "sons" from being sold and from other forms of child exploitation. DEPDC has achieved this colossal feat by helping children gain access to adequate schooling and protective, safe sheltering.

Being a man of great humility, Mr. Jantraka has not sought acknowledgement but yet stands as a giant amongst many because of the success of his passion. In September 2008, Mr. Jantraka received a Rockefeller travel grant to participate as a panelist at the "Clinton Global Initiative" Annual Meeting in New York City in order to provide his expertise and insight. In March 2008, the University of Michigan awarded Mr. Jantraka its "Wallenberg Medal" for humanitarian service. It is my hope that Mr. Jantraka's work will continue to bring light to this severe, international pandemic that is encroaching upon and threatening the human rights of children across the globe.

It has been said of Mr. Jantraka that, with few resources and many enemies, he has

been a strong force in the fight against human trafficking. Sompop Jantraka is not only a living example of passion and concern manifesting into tangible humanitarian works, but he also serves an inspiration to the world, reminding us of the great fellow citizens we can be and invoking the compulsion to be the great fellow citizens we should be.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER HELEN
DONOHOE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sister Helen Donohoe who was called into eternity on Holy Saturday night, April 11, 2009, surrounded by her beloved Sisters, the Religious of the Sacred Heart.

My family was especially blessed to have Sister Helen as our dearest friend for decades. She was gentle, intelligent, loving, wise and holy. The following was read at Sister Donohoe's Memorial Mass celebrating her life:

On November 30, 1918, two and a half months premature, Helen Dorothy Donohoe, the youngest of ten children, was born into a loving and faith-filled family to Patrick and Frances Brogan Donohoe in San Francisco, California. Her father and all her grandparents were immigrants from Ireland. One of her earliest memories was of the family gathering around a large dining room table to say the rosary, a devotion that her father began and which lasted her lifetime.

When she was only four years old, her father died of leukemia, leaving her mother a 41 year-old widow with ten vibrant children. Helen reported that all her siblings were at home until she was six years old, when her oldest brother, Hugh, later a Bishop, entered the seminary. She attended St. Agnes parochial school and Notre Dame High School. During these years two of her older sisters became Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur; two brothers entered the Jesuits; other siblings married. When Helen was seventeen, her mother would not allow her to enter the Notre Dame novitiate, and her brother would not allow her to attend a state college, so she chose the San Francisco College for Women, Lone Mountain, run by the Religious of the Sacred Heart. Helen reported being very aware of how prayerful the nuns were. After three years of college, she wanted to enter religious life, but her mother insisted that she finish college. She even recalled being torn between the Notre Dame Sisters and the Religious of the Sacred Heart. The latter won out.

In August of 1940, she arrived with three other candidates at Kenwood, Albany, New York—the novitiate of the Society of the Sacred Heart. Her eyes were so bad that she ended up working in the sacristy and the library, instead of doing needlework. On February 22, 1943, Helen pronounced First Vows in the Society and returned to the Academy in San Francisco to teach in the elementary school. In May of 1945, she was sent to bed for three months when doctors feared she had incipient tuberculosis. The life of Sister Josefa was a great help during that time. Afterwards, she was sent to recuperate in San Diego, Old

Town, where the first Religious of the Sacred Heart were forming a community and preparing to move to the newly founded San Diego College for Women, later to become the University of San Diego.

By 1946 Helen returned to Atherton, enrolled at Stanford University, and began work on an M.A. in History and later changed to Economics—a long, arduous journey. During this time she was finally professed in Rome on February 9, 1949. By 1951 she received her M.A. in Economics, and she was assigned to Lone Mountain to teach both history and economics and to be junior counselor. From that year until 1967, Helen held a variety of positions at Lone Mountain: Professor, counselor, and assistant to the Dean, until she was named Assistant to the Superior, and later Superior.

One of the young nuns, Mary Jane Tiernan, who arrived from the noviceship at El Cajon, California at that time reports: “Dear Helen broke ranks and hugged me in welcome. I will never forget her and that warm hug in the midst of an austere scene. She was always warm and loving to me, the youngest in the community. Because of her I maintained my equilibrium in a changing world. She had a laugh, almost a talking giggle, when she thought someone or something was funny. I can still hear it. Throughout my life she was a loving presence. I do know that she was anxious, but she always had that ready Irish sense of humor despite her fears.”

By 1975 Helen became a member of the Western Province Provincial Team, serving with two provincials. In this time period she took a sabbatical, spending a year at Oxford, England, and having exciting excursions in Europe. In 1985 she was Superior at the Society’s retirement facility in Atherton, followed by two years in charge of hospitality at the provincial house in St. Louis. After returning West, Helen worked in hospital chaplaincy, and eventually for nine years as Director of the Oakwood Retirement Center.

Those who knew Helen best describe her as gentle, loving, deeply loyal and full of life, open to possibilities, responsible, but light. As one friend said, “Helen was an absolute delight; she was full of fun and stories. She evoked many good laughs.” One of her great gifts was that of hospitality in a variety of roles. People felt loved and cared for when Helen was around. Her close friend Sister Be Mardel, said, “Helen was physically fearful—terrified of being on the edge of a precipice, wary of heights and speed and winding mountain roads. She was, however, steadfast. One could always count on her. She was always ready to help, to support, to listen, and always ready to laugh at herself. A few years ago, Helen said to me, ‘You know, I’m ready for anything,’ and she added, ‘I’ve had a big grace.’ And, indeed, she did, and that deep peace and calm stayed with her right up to the end.”

In 2004 Helen moved to Oakwood, where, surrounded by her Sisters, she died peacefully on Holy Saturday night, April 11, 2009. Mary Jane Tiernan wrote, “When I heard that Helen had gone to God, I knelt down in my house and prayed for her and to her. What joy and love she nurtured me with during the years. I know she now enjoys life to the fullest with a shy smile and a twinkle in her eyes.”

Madam Speaker, I ask that the entire House of Representatives join me in extending our

sympathy to the Religious of the Sacred Heart and the Donohoe family. Heaven is enhanced with Sister Helen’s presence. She left our world better for how she lived her life, for all those she educated, and for her countless acts of love.

HONORING ALBIN GRUHN

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor Albin Gruhn of San Anselmo, California, who passed away March 18 at the age of 94. Mr. Gruhn was a respected and beloved labor leader and consumer rights activist whose calling was the welfare of the working people of California. His 36 years as president of the California Labor Federation and his role as a founder of the Association of California Consumers were at the heart of a remarkable career.

Mr. Gruhn was born in Eureka, California, in 1915. At the age of 19 he began working for the Hammond Lumber Co. where he joined the Sawmill and Loggers Federal Union. A strike shortly afterwards resulted in the deaths of three union picketers and deeply affected him, resulting in a life-long commitment to the labor movement.

He was also blacklisted as a result of his participation in the strike but soon found employment in construction, joining the Laborers Local where his membership continued for over 60 years. At the age of 22, he became secretary of the Central Labor Council of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties and led that council for over 20 years.

In 1940 Mr. Gruhn was first elected to what is now the California Labor Federation as district vice president and became its president in 1960. He led with skill, enthusiasm, and passion until his retirement in 1996. He helped build the organization into a strong and effective advocacy group for the rights of workers, inspiring several generations of political and labor leaders along the way.

During the 1960s, Mr. Gruhn was also a founder of the Association of California Consumers, California’s first consumer group, and later became a founding officer and then president emeritus of the Consumer Federation of California. He also devoted some of his considerable energies to the California Apprenticeship Council and the California Constitution Revision Commission as well as serving on various state commissions. These were appointments over the decades by five California governors and covered a variety of issues from fair housing to air pollution. One of the commissions dealt with children and youth, reflecting his deep involvement in the annual scholarship program established by the California Labor Federation.

Mr. Gruhn was always politically active as a means of supporting the causes he believed in. From campaigning for Franklin Roosevelt at the age of 17 to serving as an Adlai Stevenson delegate in 1956, he stayed engaged in the process. In 1944, he founded the Northern California AFL Political League.

Mr. Gruhn was married to the former Dorothy Coon for over 37 years. Dorothy pre-

deceased him in 2005, and the couple are survived by a large family of eight children, 14 grandchildren, and 17 great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Albin Gruhn was proud to fight for working people, and all those with whom he came in contact—from family and friends to political leaders and co-workers—drew inspiration from his commitment. It is fitting in honoring him today to remember the remarks he always used to conclude his labor speeches: “In unity there is strength. United we stand, divided we fall. An injury to one is an injury to all.”

HONORING ALBIN GRUHN

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor Albin Gruhn of San Anselmo, California, who passed away March 18 at the age of 94. Mr. Gruhn was a respected and beloved labor leader and consumer rights activist whose calling was preserving and improving the welfare of working people in California. His 36 years as president of the California Labor Federation and his role as a founder of the Association of California Consumers were at the heart of a remarkable career.

Mr. Gruhn was born in Eureka, California, in 1915. At the age of 19 he began working for the Hammond Lumber Co. where he joined the Sawmill and Loggers Federal Union. A strike shortly afterwards resulted in the deaths of three union picketers and deeply affected him, resulting in a life-long commitment to the labor movement.

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Mr. Gruhn supported the causes he believed in by staying politically active. From

campaigning for Franklin Roosevelt at the age of 17 to serving as an Adlai Stevenson delegate in 1956, he stayed engaged in the process. In 1944, he founded the Northern California AFL Political League.

Mr. Gruhn was married to the former Dorothy Coon for over 37 years. Dorothy predeceased him in 2005, and the couple is survived by a large family of eight children, 14 grandchildren, and 17 great grandchildren.

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HONORING ALBIN GRUHN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor Albin Gruhn of San Anselmo, California, who passed away March 18 at the age of 94. Mr. Gruhn was a respected and beloved labor leader and consumer rights activist whose calling was the welfare of the working people of California. His 36 years as president of the California Labor Federation and his role as a founder of the Association of California Consumers were at the heart of a remarkable career.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE PROSTHETIC AND CUSTOM ORTHOTIC PARITY ACT OF 2009

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues to introduce the “Prosthetic and Custom Orthotic Parity Act of 2009 (PCOPA).” At a time when health care costs are rising by about 7 percent annually, the financial hardship on those in need of prosthetic and custom orthotic devices is devastating. Yet, by expanding coverage for prosthetic and custom orthotic devices so that it is on par with other types of essential care, not only will provide amputees with proper treatment, which will allow them to experience a better quality of life, but save our health care system money in the long-term. That is, prosthetic and orthotic devices often dramatically decrease secondary health problems for those in need of such a device.

The Prosthetic and Custom Orthotic Parity Act would address the significant health insurance inequity that amputees in our society currently face by requiring insurance companies that offer prosthetic and custom orthotic services to provide the same level of coverage as they do for medical and surgical services. Specifically PCOPA would provide coverage of prosthetic and custom orthotic devices, as well as their repair and replacement, under the same terms and conditions applicable to the other medical and surgical benefits provided under the health insurance policy.

Currently, eleven states have addressed this problem and have enacted prosthetic and/or custom orthotic “parity” legislation. Furthermore, prosthetic and/or custom orthotic parity legislation has been introduced and is being actively considered in thirty other states.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation that will help put an end to the inequity many Americans who have lost a limb by way of a tragic event as well as those living with cerebral palsy and

alike, experience when denied coverage by their insurance company.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 18, I was absent for three rollcall votes. If I had been here, I would have voted: “yea” on rollcall vote 267; “yea” on rollcall vote 268; and “yea” on rollcall vote 269.

INTRODUCTION OF COERCION IS NOT HEALTH CARE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Coercion is Not Health Care Act. This legislation forbids the Federal Government from forcing any American to purchase health insurance, and from conditioning participation in any Federal program, or receipt of any Federal benefit, on the purchase of health insurance.

While often marketed as a “moderate” compromise between nationalized health care and a free market solution, forcing every American to purchase a government-approved health insurance plan is a back door approach to creating a government-controlled health care system.

If Congress requires individuals to purchase insurance, Congress must define what insurance policies satisfy the government mandate. Thus, Congress will decide what is and is not covered in the mandatory insurance policy. Does anyone seriously doubt that what conditions and treatments are covered will be determined by who has the most effective lobby. Or that Congress will be incapable of writing a mandatory insurance policy that will fit the unique needs of every individual in the United States?

The experience of States that allow their legislatures to mandate what benefits health insurance plans must cover has shown that politicizing health insurance inevitably makes health insurance more expensive. As the cost of government-mandated health insurance rises, Congress will likely create yet another fiscally unsustainable entitlement program to help cover the cost of insurance.

When the cost of government-mandated insurance proves to be an unsustainable burden on individuals and small employers, and the government, Congress will likely impose price controls on medical treatments, and even go so far as to limit what procedures and treatments will be reimbursed by the mandatory insurance. The result will be an increasing number of providers turning to “cash only” practices, thus making it difficult for those relying on the government-mandated insurance to find health care. Anyone who doubts that result should consider the increasing number of physicians who are withdrawing from the Medicare program because of the low reimbursement and constant bureaucratic harassment

from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Madam Speaker, the key to effective health care reform lies not in increasing government control, but in increasing the American people's ability to make their own health care decisions. Thus, instead of forcing Americans to purchase government-approved health insurance, Congress should put the American people back in charge of health care by expanding health care tax credits and deductions, as well as increasing access to Health Savings Accounts. Therefore, I have introduced legislation, the Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act (H.R. 1495), which provides a series of health care tax credits and deductions designed to empower patients. I urge my colleagues to reject the big government-knows-best approach to health care by cosponsoring my Coercion is Not Health Care Act and Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VACCINE SAFETY AND PUBLIC CONFIDENCE ASSURANCE ACT OF 2009

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing important legislation with my colleague Mr. SMITH that I hope will go a long way to restoring public confidence in governmental vaccine-safety monitoring agencies. Public confidence in vaccine-safety is critical to maintaining the effectiveness of our Nation's vaccine program in preventing the spread of infectious disease. However, this confidence has been shaken by the actual or perceived conflicts of interest that may arise in the current system by which federal government agencies compete for funds or promote high immunization rates while concurrently promoting vaccine-safety. In addition to possible conflicts of interest, the public has serious concerns with the safety of vaccines or multiple vaccine schedules that may result in vaccine-related injuries. This legislation aims to build and maintain public confidence by putting measures in place to ensure the integrity and quality of vaccine-safety research. It is absolutely necessary that the American public have total and complete trust in the safety of our Nation's vaccine program, which is why I introduce this legislation today.

GRATITUDE FOR THE SERVICE OF MARIO V. DISPENZA

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, Judiciary Crime Subcommittee Chairman BOBBY SCOTT and I would like to take this opportunity to thank one of the most productive and dedicated members of the Judiciary Committee staff, Mario Dispenza. For the past two years, Mario has served as a counsel for the Committee, working principally with the Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security Subcommittee.

Mario came to the Judiciary Committee on a detail from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), where he has worked for 20 years. After graduating with honors from Kean University, he began his distinguished career with the ATF as a special agent in Cleveland, quickly moving up through the ranks to become a Program Manager in the Office of Professional Responsibility and Security Operations. While working for the ATF, Mario studied in the International Human Rights Programme at the New College of Oxford University, and earned his law degree with honors from The George Washington University Law School.

Mario's tenure with the Committee included work on legislation of critical importance to our nation's criminal justice system. He ushered several important measures through the Committee and the full House, including during the 110th Congress: H.R. 923, the "Emmet Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act,"; H.R. 1199, the "Drug Endangered Children Act of 2007"; H.R. 1759, the "Managing Arson Through Criminal History (MATCH) Act of 2007"; H.R. 1943, the "Stop AIDS in Prison Act of 2007"; H.R. 2286, the "Bail Bond Fairness Act of 2007"; H.R. 2878, the "Enhanced Financial Recovery and Equitable Treatment Act of 2007"; H.R. 3480, the "Let Our Veterans Rest in Peace Act of 2007"; H.R. 3456/S. 231 to Reauthorize the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistant Grant Program at Fiscal Year 2006 Levels through 2012; H.R. 3971, the "Deaths in Custody Reporting Act of 2008"; H.R. 4056/S. 2565, the "Federal Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Act of 2007"; H.R. 4238, the "Literacy, Education and Rehabilitation Act of 2007"; H.R. 4300, the "Juvenile Justice Accountability and Improvement Act of 2007"; H.R. 5057, the "Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2008"; H.R. 5938, the "Former Vice President Protection Act of 2008"; H.R. 6083, To authorize funding to conduct a national training program for State and local prosecutors; H.R. 6295/S. 3598, the "Drug Trafficking Vessel Interdiction Act of 2008"; H.R. 6838, the "Campus Safety Act of 2008"; H.R. 4110/S. 973, the "Restitution for Victims of Crime Act of 2007" and H.R. 845, the "Criminal Restitution Improvement Act." During the 111th Congress, Mario has been integral to the progress of: H.R. 738, the "Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2008"; H.R. 748, the "Center to Advance, Monitor, and Preserve University Security (CAMPUS) Safety Act of 2009"; H.R. 503, the "Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2009"; H.R. 1741, the "Witness Security and Protection Grant Program Act of 2009"; H.R. 1667, the "War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2009"; and the Department of Justice reauthorization appropriations.

We would like to thank the ATF for their generosity in lending such an able, responsible, and genial member of their team to the Congress. Mario will be missed, for he has become a trusted colleague, mentor, and friend to many members of the staff and Committee. We wish him the best of luck and extend our deepest gratitude for his service and professionalism.

HONORING ALBIN GRUHN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor Albin Gruhn of San Anselmo, California, who passed away March 18 at the age of 94. Mr. Gruhn was a respected and beloved labor leader and consumer rights activist whose calling was the welfare of the working people of California. His 36 years as president of the California Labor Federation and his role as a founder of the Association of California Consumers were at the heart of a remarkable career.

Mr. Gruhn was born in Eureka, California, in 1915. At the age of 19 he began working for the Hammond Lumber Co. where he joined the Sawmill and Loggers Federal Union. A strike shortly afterwards resulted in the deaths of three union picketers and deeply affected him, resulting in a life-long commitment to the labor movement.

He was also blacklisted as a result of his participation in the strike but soon found employment in construction, joining the Laborers Local where his membership continued for over 60 years. At the age of 22, he became secretary of the Central Labor Council of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties and led that council for over 20 years.

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Mr. Gruhn was always politically active as a means of supporting the causes he believed in. From campaigning for Franklin Roosevelt at the age of 17 to serving as an Adlai Stevenson delegate in 1956, he stayed engaged in the process. In 1944, he founded the Northern California AFL Political League.

Mr. Gruhn was married to the former Dorothy Coon for over 37 years. Dorothy predeceased him in 2005, and the couple are survived by a large family of eight children, 14 grandchildren, and 17 great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Albin Gruhn was proud to fight for working people, and all those with whom he came in contact—from family and friends to political leaders and co-workers—drew inspiration from his commitment. It is fitting in honoring him today to remember the remarks he always used to conclude his labor

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HONORING ALBIN GRUHN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor Albin Gruhn of San Anselmo, California, who passed away March 18 at the age of 94. Mr. Gruhn was a respected and beloved labor leader and consumer rights activist whose calling was the welfare of the working people of California. His 36 years as president of the California Labor Federation and his role as a founder of the Association of California Consumers were at the heart of a remarkable career.

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HONORING ALBIN GRUHN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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In 1940 Mr. Gruhn was first elected to what is now the California Labor Federation as district vice president and became its president in 1960. He led with skill, enthusiasm, and passion until his retirement in 1996. He helped build the organization into a strong and effective advocacy group for the rights of workers, inspiring several generations of political and labor leaders along the way.

During the 1960s, Mr. Gruhn was also a founder of the Association of California Consumers, California's first consumer group, and later became a founding officer and then president emeritus of the Consumer Federation of California. He also devoted some of his considerable energies to the California Apprenticeship Council and the California Constitution Revision Commission as well as serving on various state commissions. These were appointments over the decades by five California governors and covered a variety of issues from fair housing to air pollution. One of the commissions dealt with children and youth, reflecting his deep involvement in the annual scholarship program established by the California Labor Federation.

Mr. Gruhn was always politically active as a means of supporting the causes he believed in. From campaigning for Franklin Roosevelt at the age of 17 to serving as an Adlai Stevenson delegate in 1956, he stayed engaged in the process. In 1944, he founded the Northern California AFL Political League.

Mr. Gruhn was married to the former Dorothy Coon for over 37 years. Dorothy predeceased him in 2005, and the couple are survived by a large family of eight children, 14 grandchildren, and 17 great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Albin Gruhn was proud to fight for working people, and all those with whom he came in contact—from family and friends to political leaders and co-workers—drew inspiration from his commitment. It is fitting in honoring him today to remember the remarks he always used to conclude his labor speeches: "In unity there is strength. United we stand, divided we fall. An injury to one is an injury to all."

TRIBUTE TO CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to commend Congregation B'nai Israel in Millburn, New Jersey on its groundbreaking ceremony on Sunday, April 26, 2009. Congregation B'nai Israel, under the leadership of Rabbi Steven Bayar decided to commit to an over six million dollar renovation project in spite of the tenuous economy and worrisome financial markets.

Congregation B'nai Israel is blessed to have financial commitments of \$5.2 million from its members for this important project. The most significant part of the renovation will be a new, two story building for B'nai Israel's nursery and religious school. Fortunately, the decision to go ahead with the renovation will guarantee jobs for local construction crews and a revenue stream for suppliers of building materials.

It is a pleasure for me to celebrate with the members of Congregation B'nai Israel, Rabbi Bayar, Mayor Sandra Haimoff and others as they take this leap of faith in moving forward with the project. This initiative will serve as a model to other entities that may be contemplating similar projects but have been reluctant to proceed in today's challenging economic times. It is this kind of dedication and steadfastness that will help propel our Nation forward and bring us back to a sense of prosperity and hopefulness.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues agree that Congregation B'nai Israel has made the right decision in continuing with its renovation project and demonstrating its faith to the community it serves. I am pleased to recognize Congregation B'nai Israel and proud to have it in my Congressional District.

RECOGNITION FOR HISTORICAL SOLDIERS' RELOCATION PROJECT

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reaffirm a sacred principle that has guided and inspired our Armed Forces for more than two centuries. That principle—

“leave no man behind”—was given new meaning in Southeastern Arizona on May 15 and 16, 2009.

On those dates, 58 American soldiers who died while serving their country were reburied in an emotional ceremony. The flag-draped caskets holding the remains of these soldiers were carefully transported from Tucson to their final resting place at the veterans cemetery in Sierra Vista.

What made this ceremony so poignant was not the journey from one Arizona city to another. This reburial also was a journey through time. These men who once wore the military uniform of our country died between the 1860s and 1880s. Their remains, as well as the remains of four civilians, were unearthed during an excavation project in downtown Tucson.

My hometown has undergone many changes since the late 19th century. Then, Arizona was decades away from becoming a state and our military was nothing like the global fighting force it is today. Yet then and now we adhere to the principle that no soldier who died for his country should be left behind. This principle—like the Constitution these soldiers fought to defend—transcends eras and endures through the ages.

The reaffirmation of this principle would not have been possible without the men and women of the Historical Soldiers' Relocation Project who dedicated their time and energy to make sure our soldiers were given an honorable and dignified burial. These patriotic citizens worked tirelessly to organize a ceremony that would reflect the significance of the occasion. No detail was overlooked, from the Victorian style cemetery to the marble headstones made for each of the deceased. The flag covering each casket was the thirty-five star flag—the flag under which these soldiers once served.

The remains of the soldiers were given every honor we should give all who have served our nation in the Armed Forces. The soldiers were placed among the other honored dead of our military after being escorted by more than 200 veterans on motorcycles from Tucson to their new resting place at the Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery. I was honored to be a part of this escort.

All of this would not have been possible without the commitment of the members of the Historical Soldiers' Relocation Project. They are: Joey Strickland, Joe Larson, Bob Strain, Larry McKim, Ingrid Ballie, Tom Dingwall, Earl Devine, Col. Bob White, Dr. Randy Groth, Dan Ferguson, Donald Nelson, Paul Weishaupt, Angela Moncur, Bill Hess, Ty Holland, Mike Rutherford, John Clabourne, Lynn Roehsler, Dave Schultz, Jan Groth, Joe Smith, Phil Vega, Stephen Siemsen, Clarence “Shorty” Larson, Timothy J. Quinn, Jim Bellomy, Jacob Loveron, Jeremiah Sprat, Logan Daynes, 1st Sgt. Matthew A. Putnam, LCDR Shannon Willits, SSGT Timothy Diggs, David Schreiner, John Prokop, Roger Anyon, Marlessa Gray M.A. RPA, Dorothy Ohman, Jim De Castro.

I commend them for their work on this important project and for ensuring we rightfully honor all those who have put on the uniform to serve our country.

IN HONOR OF ALBIN GRUHN

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor Albin Gruhn of San Anselmo, California, who passed away March 18 at the age of 94. Mr. Gruhn was a respected and beloved labor leader and consumer rights activist whose calling was the welfare of the working people of California. His 36 years as president of the California Labor Federation and his role as a founder of the Association of California Consumers were at the heart of a remarkable career.

Mr. Gruhn was born in Eureka, California, in 1915. At the age of 19 he began working for the Hammond Lumber Co., where he joined the Sawmill and Loggers Federal Union. Shortly after, a strike resulted in the deaths of three union picketers and deeply affected him, resulting in a lifelong commitment to the labor movement.

Mr. Gruhn was also blacklisted as a result of his participation in the strike but soon found employment in construction, joining the Laborers Local, where his membership continued for over 60 years. At the age of 22, he became secretary of the Central Labor Council of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties and led that council for over 20 years.

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marks he always used to conclude his labor speeches: “In unity there is strength. United we stand, divided we fall. An injury to one is an injury to all.”

INTRODUCING THE PROTECT PATIENTS' AND PHYSICIANS' PRIVACY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Protect Patients' and Physicians' Privacy Act. This legislation protects medical privacy, as well as quality health care, by allowing patients and physicians to opt out of any federally mandated, created, or funded electronic medical records system. The bill also repeals the sections of Federal law establishing a “unique health identifier” and requires patient consent before any electronic medical records can be released to a third party.

Congress has refused to fund the development of a unique health identifier every year since 1998. Clearly, the majority of my colleagues recognize the threat this scheme poses to medical privacy. It is past time for Congress to repeal the section of law authorizing the Federal unique health identifier.

Among the numerous provisions jammed into the stimulus bill, which was rushed through Congress earlier this year, was funding for electronic medical records. Medicare providers have until 2015 to “voluntarily” adopt the system of electronic medical records, or face financial penalties.

One of the major flaws with the federally mandated electronic record system is that it does not provide adequate privacy protection. Electronic medical records that are part of the federal system will only receive the protection granted by the Federal “medical privacy rule.” This misnamed rule actually protects the ability of government officials and state-favored special interests to view private medical records without patient consent.

Even if the law did not authorize violations of medical privacy, patients would still have good reason to be concerned about the government's ability to protect their medical records. After all, we are all familiar with cases where third parties obtained access to electronic veteran, tax, and other records because of errors made by federal bureaucrats. My colleagues should also consider the abuse of IRS records by administrations of both parties and ask themselves what would happen if unscrupulous politicians gain the power to access their political enemies' electronic medical records.

As an OB/GYN with over 30 years of experience in private practice, I understand that one of the foundations of quality health care is the patient's confidence that all information the patient shares with his or her health care provider will remain confidential. Forcing physicians to place their patients' medical records in a system without adequate privacy protection undermines that confidence, and thus undermines effective medical treatment.

A physician opt out is also necessary in order to allow physicians to escape from the inefficiencies and other problems that are sure to occur in the implementation and management of the Federal system. Contrary to the

claims of the mandatory system's proponents, it is highly unlikely an efficient system of mandatory electronic health records can be established by the Government.

Many health technology experts have warned of the problems that will accompany the system of mandatory electronic medical records. For example, David Kibbe, a top technology adviser to the American Academy of Family Physicians, warned President Obama in an open letter late last year that existing medical software is often poorly designed and does a poor job of exchanging information. Allowing physicians to opt out provides a safety device to ensure that physicians can avoid the problems that will inevitably accompany the government-mandated system.

Madam Speaker, allowing patients and providers to opt out of the electronic medical records system will in no way harm the practice of medicine or the development of an efficient system of keeping medical records. Instead, it will enhance these worthy goals by ensuring patients and physicians can escape the inefficient, one-size-fits-all government-mandated system. By creating a market for alternatives to the government system, the opt-out ensures that private businesses can work to develop systems that meet the demands for an efficient system of electronic records that protects patients' privacy. I urge my colleagues to stand up for privacy and quality health care by cosponsoring the Protect Patients' and Physicians' Privacy Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE KA'U COAST PRESERVATION ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Ka'u Coast Preservation Act, a bill directing the National Park Service to assess the feasibility of designating coastal lands on the Ka'u Coast of the island of Hawaii between Kapao'o Point and Kahuku Point as a unit of the National Park System.

Late last year, the National Park Service issued a reconnaissance report that made a preliminary assessment of whether the Ka'u Coast would meet the National Park Service's demanding criteria as a resource of national significance.

The reconnaissance survey concluded that "based upon the significance of the resources in the study area, and the current integrity and intact condition of these resources, a preliminary finding of national significance and suitability can be concluded." The report goes on to recommend that Congress proceed with a full resource study of the area.

Although under significant development pressure, the coastline of Ka'u is still largely unspoiled. The study area contains significant natural, geological, and archeological features. The northern part of the study area is adjacent to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and contains a number of noteworthy geological features, including an ancient lava tube known as the Great Crack, which the National Park Service has expressed interest in acquiring in the past.

The study area includes both black and green sand beaches as well as a significant

number of endangered and threatened species, most notably the endangered hawksbill turtle (at least half of the Hawaiian population of this rare sea turtle nests within the study area), the threatened green sea turtle, the highly endangered Hawaiian monk seal, the endangered Hawaiian hawk, native bees, the endangered and very rare Hawaiian orange-black damselfly (the largest population in the state), and a number of native endemic birds. Humpback whales and spinner dolphins also frequent the area. The Ka'u Coast also boasts some of the best remaining examples of native coastal vegetation in Hawaii.

The archeological resources related to ancient Hawaiian settlements within the study area are also very impressive. These include dwelling complexes, heiau (religious shrines), walls, fishing and canoe houses or sheds, burial sites, petroglyphs, water and salt collection sites, caves, and trails. The Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs through the study area.

The Ka'u Coast is a truly remarkable area: its combination of natural, archeological, cultural, and recreational resources, as well as its spectacular views, are an important part of Hawaii's and our nation's natural and cultural heritage. I believe a full feasibility study, which was recommended in the reconnaissance survey, will confirm that the area meets the National Park Service high standards as an area of national significance.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

RECOGNIZING JUDITH BISHOP

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judith Bishop, who is retiring as Executive Director of the Fort Worth & Tarrant County YWCA at the end of May, 2009.

The YWCA of Fort Worth & Tarrant County offers programs at three different facilities in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The programs provide various services and promote increased financial growth, leadership, education and training opportunities for women. These facilities also provide safe housing, child care, crisis intervention, and social services transitionally homeless women.

Ms. Bishop has served as the Executive Director of the Fort Worth & Tarrant County YWCA for twenty years. During her time as Executive Director, Ms. Bishop has shown continued dedication to providing community service and helping those in need. Judith has been persistent in her mission to ensure that all children, regardless of circumstance, have the same opportunity to be successful in life.

Madam Speaker, it is with great appreciation that I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Judith Bishop. I salute Ms. Bishop for all of her hard work and altruism. I am confident that her contributions to the YWCA will touch lives for years to come. It is an honor to represent Judith Bishop and the YWCA of Fort Worth and Tarrant County in the 26th Congressional District of the U.S. House of Representatives.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MERCURY-FREE VACCINES ACT OF 2009

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing an important piece of legislation with my colleagues Mr. SMITH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BURTON, and Mr. ACKERMAN that will protect infants and young children from mercury, a known neurotoxin, in vaccines. This legislation builds on the policy recommendations issued in July 1999 by the Public Health Service, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians. That policy proclaimed "[The] Public Health Service, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and vaccine manufacturers agree that thimerosal-containing vaccines should be removed as soon as possible." Mercury is well established as a neurotoxin and is particularly harmful to the developing central nervous system. Given that mercury remains in some childhood vaccines and that some infants are likely to receive mercury-containing flu vaccine in the upcoming flu season this bill puts in statute definite timelines for the elimination of mercury from vaccines to eliminate this exposure in children and reduce this exposure in adults. It is incumbent upon us to ensure the immunizations we provide our children are free from harmful neurotoxins, which is why I proudly introduce this legislation.

HONORING RICHARD C. PROTO

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Richard C. Proto, former Director of Research for the United States National Security Agency. A great civil servant to our nation, Mr. Proto was born and raised in Connecticut, and he attended New Haven public schools growing up. He played with the Wilbur Cross 1958 New England High School basketball champions and received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut. Mr. Proto went on to receive his Master's degree in mathematics from Boston College in 1964 and joined the NSA following graduation, where he remained for 35 years. During his time with the NSA, Mr. Proto received the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Service and the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal. After his retirement in 1999, he remained an advisor to the intelligence community, the national laboratories, and the Institute for Defense Analysis at Princeton, until his death in July of 2008.

In a formal ceremony on May 18, 2009, the United States NSA dedicated its Symposium Center to Richard C. Proto, in honor and recognition of his dedicated service to the agency. During the ceremony, Mr. Proto was praised by his former colleagues and recognized for his creation of the still-relied upon "Proto Algorithm." Mr. Proto's family was present and participated in the ceremony. Family members included his brother, Neil

Proto, sister, Diana Proto Avino, and four of Mr. Proto's cousins.

His parents, Matthew and Celeste Proto, were active in Connecticut's civic and political life. Celeste immigrated to the United States in 1916 from Italy. Mr. Proto's pride for his Italian heritage led him to also found the Antonio Gatto Lodge of the Sons of Italy in Laurel, Maryland.

I am honored to join with others in praise for this remarkably-gifted and dedicated public servant from Connecticut. Mr. Proto's strategic and practical aid to the protection of our nation and our country's troops—from the Cold War to the Gulf War—is deserving of recognition and admiration. I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring the life of this great man.

2009 TOP COPS—SERGEANT PAUL
E. JOHNSON

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today recognizing the outstanding law enforcement officers across our country who received a 2009 TOP COPS award from the National Association of Police Organizations, NAPO. Today, especially, I want to highlight the work of a Sergeant in my home state of Washington and thank him for his exemplary public service.

Sergeant Paul E. Johnson of the Olympia Police Department was recognized as an Honorable Mention TOP COPS award recipient. Johnson, a Sergeant in the Patrol Unit, is a 29-year veteran of the Olympia Police Department and has served in various capacities, including several stints as a detective, as well as serving as Sergeant in the Narcotics Task Force and Detective Bureau. Johnson is known department- and city-wide for his attention to detail, his professionalism working with residents and staff, and the pride with which he wears his uniform: all hallmarks of policing "the Olympia way", a policy guided by professional enforcement, prevention, planning and coordination. Johnson's son, Corey, is also an officer with the Olympia Police Department and I wish him the very best throughout his career in law enforcement.

As a 33-year veteran of law enforcement and the co-chair of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, this is a topic close to my heart and it is a pleasure to recognize a wonderful public servant such as Sergeant Paul E. Johnson—and the rest of the recipients around the country—for being honored by NAPO with a TOP COPS award. As this House and law enforcement officers continue to serve the people of the United States, I know this House will continue to serve and support our law enforcement officers.

A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF
THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Japan America Society of Southern California, a non-profit charitable and educational organization dedicated to fostering friendship, understanding and relationship building opportunities for the people of Japan and the United States, on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

Sixteen American and Japanese volunteer leaders in Los Angeles founded the Japan America Society of Southern California in 1909. These visionaries understood the long-term role that such a unique organization could play in their diverse community and were committed to its establishment during a period of increasing anti-Asian sentiment. The fledgling society soon grew to as many as 800 members by the time of the opening in Los Angeles of the first Consulate General of Japan in 1915.

Since those early, formative years, the Japan America Society has undertaken the primary responsibility for forging relationships between Americans and the Japanese in Southern California. Its mission is to promote mutual understanding and to strengthen economic, cultural, governmental and personal relationships between Americans and the Japanese.

The Japan America Society offers unique opportunities to become involved in the business and cultural relationship between the two countries. Its active calendar of events includes breakfast and luncheon programs, business networking mixers, weekend family events, and programs highlighting art, music, fashion, film, performing arts and other special activities. Annual events include the Anniversary Gala Dinner, Golf Classic & Tennis Open, Family Fishing Trip and Family Whale Watch Cruise, Japan America Kite Festival® and United States-Japan Green Conference.

Throughout the year of its Centennial, the Japan America Society is celebrating its history by presenting an extraordinary series of programs focusing on the United States-Japan relationship. It will showcase Japan-related programming through collaborations with numerous Japanese-American and Japanese organizations, and other cultural and educational organizations throughout Southern California and Japan.

The Japan America Society's Centennial Dinner & Gala Celebration, scheduled for June 15, 2009, at The Globe Theatre, Universal Studios Hollywood, will commemorate the important role of the United States-Japan relationship, past, present and future.

The future agenda of the Japan America Society includes the establishment of a Japan America Language Center that will offer comprehensive introductory, advanced and business Japanese-language courses for Los Angeles residents. These language courses will be designed to build and improve upon the language skills of non-native Japanese speakers so they can more fully appreciate Japanese history and culture and open doors to

lasting personal and professional relationships. Other specialized courses and workshops will be offered, including shodō (Japanese calligraphy). In addition, the Center will cater to native Japanese speakers living in Los Angeles by providing English conversation (ESL) classes and a Japanese Language Teacher Training Program.

The society also plans to expand the elementary school Hitachi Japanese Kite Workshops that take place throughout Southern California, including Los Angeles, every fall. The workshops are "hands-on," in-classroom special events that help to teach our very young children the concept of different perspectives. They also provide a positive introduction to Japan and Japanese culture through the building of a traditional Japanese kite. Led by Japanese kite masters from Japan, elementary students learn how to build and fly a Japanese bamboo and washi (rice paper) kite. To date, nearly 4,000 students have benefited from this program.

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of the Japan America Society of Southern California's 100th Anniversary, I join today with fellow leaders from throughout the state in recognizing Board Chairman Robert Brasch, Co-Vice Chairs Kappei Morishita and Nancy Woo Hiromoto, President Douglas Erber, the Board of Directors, the Board of Governors and the organization's employees and members for their outstanding work to promote mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and the United States. I extend my thanks on behalf of the residents of the 34th Congressional District for their passion to provide educational opportunities for school children and their determination to strengthen economic, cultural, governmental and personal relationships between Americans and Japanese, and I wish them many years of continued success.

EDWIN WAY TEALE HISTORICAL
MARKER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take this time to recognize the Indiana Historic Bureau's unveiling of one of their 500 historical markers to honor the late Pulitzer Prize author, photographer, naturalist, and former Porter County, Indiana, resident, Edwin Way Teale (1899–1980). The historical marker is located at the center of Furnessville, Indiana, where Edwin Way Teale and his family once lived. Furnessville, a community with undefined borders, lies between Pine and Westchester townships, at the north end of Porter County. An unveiling ceremony of the historical marker will take place on Saturday, May 30, 2009, in the center of Furnessville near Musette Lewry, estate of the late American Naturalist, Edwin Way Teale.

Edwin Way Teale put Furnessville on the map with his autobiographical book *Dune Boy: The Early Years of a Naturalist*. The book was an account of the time he spent as a child on the farm owned by his grandparents, Edwin and Jemina Way, discovering the dunes of Northwest Indiana. In 1915, his grandparents' farm burned down. Next, The Maples, in the center of Furnessville, became home to his

grandparents, and many years later, was the home of Teale's wife, Nellie, and their son, David. Eventually, Musette Lewry was built on this foundation. Trent D. Pendley, who purchased Teale's home in Furnessville, applied for the State Historical Marker, which was approved in October 2007 by the Indiana State Library after undergoing significant study. There are only about 500 of these larger markers throughout the State of Indiana. The criteria for the State Historical Marker is based on the national significance of the site or honoree.

Edwin Way Teale was born on June 2, 1899, in Joliet, Illinois. As a child, his fondest memories were the summer months he spent on the Furnessville farm owned by his grandparents. It was this time spent in Indiana, as a child, that became the backdrop for Teale to discover his love, respect, and wonder of nature. His grandparents gave him the freedom to explore the surrounding landscape, which became the most significant influence on his future career as a writer and naturalist. Teale went on to study English Literature and received a Bachelor of the Arts degree from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. During this time, he met his wife, Nellie Donovan, and they were married in 1923. Teale then began his writing career after graduating with a Master of the Arts degree from Columbia University in 1926. Edwin and Nellie had one son, David, who died in battle during World War II. In honor of their son, Edwin and Nellie collaborated on a four-book series detailing natural seasonal changes across the United States. In 1965, Teale won the Pulitzer Prize for *Wandering Through Winter*, a book that was part of this series, which is an account of the four winter months he and his wife spent traveling through the United States. He also won the John Burroughs Award for nature writing, and went on to publish thirty books in his lifetime. Edwin Way Teale passed away on October 18, 1980.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Indiana Historic Bureau's unveiling of the State Historical Marker to honor one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Edwin Way Teale. For his notable, and highly respectable literary and environmental influence both nationally and in Northwest Indiana, he is worthy of the highest praise. I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Edwin Way Teale and acknowledging the Indiana State Historical Marker in his name as a tremendous source of pride for Northwest Indiana.

COMMENDING GUAM ANIMALS IN
NEED (GAIN)

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Guam Animals in Need, GAIN, organization for their service to our community and for their leadership in a recent effort to rescue greyhounds. After a greyhound race track closed on Guam, GAIN led efforts to rescue the greyhounds by finding caring owners on island to adopt the abandoned dogs, and by helping to transport the

majority of the greyhounds to shelters in the mainland.

Chartered in 1989, GAIN is a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing cruelty toward animals and to providing shelter for animals in need. GAIN's efforts have also included educating our community on animal welfare. In 2001, GAIN expanded its services by assuming management and operation of our island's animal shelter.

GAIN has led numerous initiatives over the years to improve animal welfare on Guam. It has been instrumental in taking stray animals off the streets and reducing the number of stray animals through the annual Spay Neuter Assistance Program, operated by visiting and local veterinarians and volunteers. This program has resulted in the sterilization of over 3,500 dogs and cats. GAIN also successfully partnered with local businesses and community organizations to provide support through the Adopt a Kennel project. These businesses and organizations are recognized with a sign placed on their sponsored kennel. Furthermore, GAIN has facilitated the adoption of thousands of animals by caring pet owners through their Shelter Adoption Program.

GAIN recently received national attention resulting from their efforts to help over two hundred greyhounds that needed homes after the sudden closure of the greyhound race track on Guam. For several months after the track's closure, GAIN rescued abandoned greyhounds in villages and remote areas. The organization and its members cared for these greyhounds and searched for responsible pet owners in our community to adopt them. GAIN worked with the management of the former race track to address the large number of greyhounds needing adoptive homes. GAIN partnered with mainland greyhound advocacy groups to help rescue the greyhounds on Guam, including the Greyhound Protection League; Home Stretch Greys; North Coast Greyhound; and Greyhound Friends of Massachusetts. Continental Airlines contributed to this effort by providing discounted air fares to transport some greyhounds on flights to the mainland.

The greyhound rescue effort was a significant and combined effort for Guam's animal welfare community. Under GAIN's leadership, non-profit organizations and community groups worked together to provide care and medical services to the greyhounds. As a result of GAIN's efforts, to date, 136 greyhounds have been successfully relocated to shelters and homes in the mainland and 23 greyhounds have been adopted in local homes. This rescue effort continues as GAIN and its volunteers work to locate the remaining abandoned greyhounds and to find homes for all the dogs from the former race track.

I commend the Guam Animals In Need organization for their service to our community and for their commitment to caring for animals on Guam.

CONGRATULATING THE DALLAS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Dallas Chamber of

Commerce as they celebrate 100 years of excellence.

Founded in 1909 when the Board of Trade merged with the Commercial Club, the 150,000 Club, and the Freight Bureau, the Dallas Chamber of Commerce has emerged over a century as one of the largest member-driven organizations of businesses in the nation. Membership currently represents 3,000 businesses of all sizes and consists cumulatively of 600,000 employees. The Dallas Regional Chamber is committed to the betterment of the region through active involvement in public policy, economic development, and member engagement.

The Dallas-Fort Worth area has grown significantly in the past century and the Dallas Chamber has been there through all of it. Institutions such as Southern Methodist University, the Federal Reserve Bank, DFW airport, UT Southwestern Medical Center, and DART rail have all grown and benefited from the contributions of the Dallas Chamber.

The Chamber has also been active in the effort to ensure the region's future success through its educational outreach programs. Programs such as the Job Shadowing program and the Principal Executive Partnership, which builds relationships between educational and business leaders, illustrate the Dallas Chamber of Commerce's investment in aspects of our region's education to help provide for a well trained workforce and a stronger North Texas economy for the future.

Madam Speaker, I commend the Dallas Chamber for its long-standing service to the North Texas region, and I congratulate the organization on its centennial anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL
TRAILS DAY RESOLUTION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the House Trails Caucus, I am pleased to introduce a resolution highlighting National Trails Day®, which will fall this year on June 6, 2009.

National Trails Day, which was founded by the American Hiking Society, is held every year on the first Saturday of June. It is a day of public events celebrating trails coordinated by the American Hiking Society in partnership with local trail clubs, parks, government agencies, and businesses. On this day, more than 1,500 trails events will take place around the country, including hiking, paddling, biking, horseback riding, bird watching, running, trail maintenance, and other activities.

I am introducing this resolution to highlight the importance of this day and to call attention to our Nation's network of trails. Trails improve our quality of life, whether they are urban paths running through major metropolitan areas or wilderness tracks leading to remote mountaintops. Some of my favorite moments have been spent running or biking on the Leif Erickson Trail in Forest Park or hiking on the Timberline Trail around Mount Hood.

Trails provide Americans with opportunities to engage in activities that improve our physical and mental health and they promote a greater understanding of nature and a connection to communities. In addition, the hundreds

of thousands of volunteers who care for our nation's trails understand the value of volunteerism and stewardship of our public landscapes.

This resolution recognizes the contribution of trail volunteers and organizations, highlights the opportunities trails provide to improve our physical and mental health, supports the goals and ideas of National Trails Day, encourages people to observe National Trails Day, and applauds national, State, and community agencies and groups for their work in promoting awareness about trails.

I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating National Trails Day and recognizing the value of America's 200,000-mile trail network. On June 6, I hope we can all take time to join our constituents in doing trail maintenance, hiking, or another fun outdoor activity in honor of this day.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. RHEA
PAUL

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Rhea Paul, a resident of Milford, Connecticut, for her lifetime of dedication to the improvement of quality-of-life for children who suffer from language and significant developmental disorders, for serving as a teaching professor who has mentored hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students, and for contributing extensively to the research in autism and language disorders as she prepares for her investiture as President of the Connecticut Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Dr. Paul currently serves as a Professor at the Edward Zigler Center in Child Development and Social Policy within the Yale University School of Medicine, where in 2008 she became the first woman in her field to be awarded a Yale professorship. She has published over 70 papers in refereed journals and her textbook, *Language Disorders from Infancy Through Adolescence: Assessment and Intervention*, is considered the gold standard by scholars, clinicians and students alike.

Dr. Paul, who specializes in autism studies and preliteracy development, has been the recipient of numerous awards in recognition of her enormous contribution to the field of Speech Communication Disorders including the Millar Award for Faculty Excellence in 1988, an American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Fellowship in 1991, the Editor's Award from the American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology in 1996, and the Faculty Scholar Award from Southern Connecticut State University in 1999. She is the widow of Dr. Charles Isenberg, who passed away in 1997, and the proud mother of three grown children.

Today, I would like to recognize Dr. Rhea Paul as she begins her term as leader of Connecticut's professional association of speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and professional affiliates. I am truly proud that such an accomplished woman resides in my Congressional District, and grateful for the energy and advocacy Dr. Paul demonstrates on behalf of children with communication disorders

and their families. I offer my best wishes to her and the Connecticut Speech-Language-Hearing Association in their future endeavors.

MEMORIAL DAY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, this Memorial Day Weekend, we remember the brave men and women who have given their lives in battle, and we also honor the veterans who served in prior engagements and the troops currently in uniform. Throughout our history, brave Americans have fought for freedom and democracy around the world, and today we remember them for their noble service. We honor our troops and veterans through our deeds and our words, reaffirming our commitment to support our troops and providing our veterans with the benefits they deserve.

Over the last few years, Congress has made historic gains for America's troops, veterans, and military families. Among these accomplishments include a New GI Bill to restore the promise of a full, four-year college education for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, the largest increase in history for veterans' healthcare and other services, and significant strides in rebuilding the American military and strengthening other benefits for our troops and military families. This Memorial Day I pledge to continue this critical work to put America's troops and veterans first.

I know that more remains to be done. I will never stop fighting to ensure we do right by the men and women who serve our nation and defend our freedom. This Memorial Day, please join me in paying tribute to the brave men and women from Northwest Indiana, and all of America, who gave their lives in defense of freedom and democracy.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE MEN
AND WOMEN FROM NEW JERSEY'S
3RD CD, MEMORIAL DAY
2009

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. ADLER. Madam Speaker, in honor of Memorial Day, May 25, 2009, I would like to recognize service members from the 3rd Congressional District of New Jersey that have made the ultimate sacrifice in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom:

SPC Ryan Baker, United States Army—
Browns Mills, NJ

SSG Robert Chiomento, United States
Army—Fort Dix, NJ

CPT Gregory Dalessio, United States
Army—Cherry Hill, NJ

PFC Vincent Frassetto, United States Marine
Corps Reserves—Toms River, NJ

SGT Bryan Freeman, United States Army
Reserves—Lumberton, NJ

SSGT Anthony Goodwin, United States
Marine Corps—Westampton, NJ

SSG Terry Hemingway, United States
Army—Willingboro, NJ

MAJ Dwayne Kelley, United States Army
Reserves—Willingboro, NJ

MAJ John Pryor, United States Army Re-
serves—Moorestown, NJ

CPL Thomas Saba, United States Marine
Corps—Toms River, NJ

LTCOL John Spahr, United States Marine
Corps—Cherry Hill, NJ

SPC Philip Spakosky, United States
Army—Browns Mills, NJ

Within our military, servicemen and women demonstrate the highest level of heroism and bravery. The presence of these heroes makes our nation stronger and safer. The loss of any service member is painful. This Memorial Day we, as we should ever day, honor and give thanks to these men, and all other Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen who have given their lives in service to our country. We mourn their loss, and we offer prayers to their families. God bless our service members and their families.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, during final consideration of H.R. 627, Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act of 2009, I inadvertently voted "aye" on roll call vote 277 when I had intended to vote "nay". I would like the record to reflect that I am proud of my long support of sensible policies and regulations that promote the health and safety of children and families from gun violence, including within our parks.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. STEVEN C. LaTOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 915, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVEN
C. LATOURETTE.

Bill Number: H.R. 915.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Lake
County, OH

Address of Requesting Entity: 1885 Lost
Nation Road, Willoughby, OH 44094 USA.

Description of Request: To authorize and make funds available to Lake County, OH for the purchase of Lost Nation airport from the City of Willoughby. The transaction will help maintain the capacity of the national aviation system. Up to \$1,220,000 will be made available to Lake County, OH for the purchase.

TRIBUTE TO PAT BOONE

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the legendary singer, actor and author

Pat Boone of Nashville, Tennessee, for his 75th birthday on June 1. I want to take a moment to recognize his tremendous accomplishments and thank him for all he has contributed to Tennessee, our country and across the world.

Pat continues to give back to the community through charitable and educational organizations. For 32 years, he has played a significant role in the growth and success of Bethel Bible Village, a residential group home in my hometown of Chattanooga, Tennessee, that provides a happy, healthy and godly environment for children of families in crisis. Through golf tournaments, banquets and auctions, Pat has helped raise more than \$2.7 million for this ministry and the families it serves.

Before graduating from Columbia University in 1958, Pat had already signed a multi-million dollar recording contract and had various television and movie deals, including hosting The Pat Boone Chevy Show. Through the course of his successful career, Pat started two record companies and released more than 30 Gold Record albums, including "Ain't That a Shame," which climbed the charts to number one in 1955. He is the Billboard number ten all-time top record artist and a member of the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

Pat's writings are as well known as his entertainment and have been translated into multiple languages, allowing people across the world to read his works. His first book, *Twixt Twelve and Twenty*, was a number-one best-seller in the 1950s and can now be found in school and church libraries across the nation. Pat Boone has proven himself an inspiring and successful writer, authoring more than 15 books.

Pat has served as the National Spokesman for the March of Dimes, the National Association of the Blind and other worthy charities. As the Entertainment Chairman of the National Easter Seal telethon, Pat helped raise over \$600 million dollars to help handicapped children and adults. He currently is helping build a worldwide Internet "blood bank" to help solve the recurring blood shortages in certain parts of the world.

Pat and his wife of 55 years, Shirley, initiated Mercy Corps, one of the most respected humanitarian relief organizations in the world. What started as a small relief effort in Cambodia, now operates in more than 22 countries and delivers millions of dollars in food and basic necessities to those in need.

Pat Boone is an accomplished man of integrity, loyalty and outstanding leadership. He has positively shaped our community in Chattanooga, providing hope and encouragement to a generation of children at Bethel Bible Village and I am proud to recognize his accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR GENE CAREY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the former Mayor Gene Carey for his years of service to the City of Lewisville and the North Texas Region.

Gene Carey has a long tenure of public service in Lewisville where he served as

Mayor for nine years, a City Councilman for seven years and a member of the city's Park Board for four years. His experience supported his philosophy that Mayor is not a position you start at, rather a position you work up to. Carey is known as a principled and ethical leader with a calming effect on the community.

Although he is leaving his position on the City Council, his hard work has resulted in projects that will serve as a reminder of his work for years to come. Under his leadership, Lewisville has seen the securing of new funding for infrastructure and neighborhood improvements, and the revitalization of Old Town Lewisville. Mayor Carey has offered strong guidance at a time when the city saw valued economic developments. He, along with his fellow City Council members also worked hard to provide a new jail facility.

During Mayor Carey's tenure, Lewisville saw major efforts to improve the overall quality of life for its citizens with passage of parks and library funding that has resulted in a new library and several areas where families can safely gather to enjoy a day away from hectic schedules. He was a strong advocate for a cultural arts center that will soon break ground.

His work has earned him the respect of fellow public servants. Council members will be quick to tell you that Carey always made sure all citizens had their voice heard, whether the issue be large or small. A fellow Council Member stated, "For 20 years, Gene Carey served with honor and integrity. With his quiet humility he has led the City Council and staff in making Lewisville one of the best places to live in North Texas".

Gene Carey is also respected for his deeds beyond city government. He is family man and a member of Lakeland Baptist Church. He served as President of Christian Community Action in Lewisville and is a graduate of the Lewisville Citizen's Police Academy. He also has the distinction of Honorary Police Officer. He is a professional with a well known sense of humor.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mayor Gene Carey for his years of hard work and dedication given to the citizens of Lewisville and North Texas. I am proud to represent him in Washington. His service sets a standard of devotion and true leadership, one that will endure.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
AFFORDABLE GAS PRICE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Affordable Gas Price Act. This legislation reduces gas prices by reforming government policies that artificially inflate the price of gas. While the price of gas has not yet reached the record levels of last year, over the last 2 months the average price of gas has risen approximately 16 percent. In some areas, the price of gas is approaching \$3.00 per gallon. There is thus a real possibility that the American people while soon by once again hard hit by skyrocketing gas prices.

High gas prices threaten our fragile economy and diminishes the quality of life for all

Americans. One industry that is particularly hard hit is the trucking industry. The effects of high gas prices on the trucking industry will be reflected in increased costs for numerous consumer goods, thus further harming American consumers.

Unfortunately, many proposals to address the problem of higher energy prices involve increasing government interference in the market through policies such as price controls. These big government solutions will, at best, prove ineffective and, at worst, bring back the fuel shortages and gas lines of the seventies.

Instead of expanding government, Congress should repeal Federal laws and policies that raise the price of gas, either directly through taxes or indirectly through regulations that discourage the development of new fuel sources. This is why my legislation repeals the Federal moratorium on offshore drilling and allows oil exploration in the ANWR reserve in Alaska. My bill also ensures that the National Environmental Policy Act's environmental impact statement requirement will no longer be used as a tool to force refiners to waste valuable time and capital on nuisance litigation. The Affordable Gas Price Act also provides tax incentives to encourage investment in new refineries.

Federal fuel taxes are a major part of gasoline's cost. The Affordable Gas Price Act suspends the Federal gasoline tax any time the average gas prices exceeds \$3.00 per gallon. During the suspension, the Federal Government will have a legal responsibility to ensure the Federal highway trust fund remains funded. My bill also raises the amount of mileage reimbursement not subject to taxes, and, during times of high oil prices, provides the same mileage reimbursement benefit to charity and medical organizations as provided to businesses.

Misguided and outdated trade policies are also artificially raising the price of gas. For instance, even though Russia and Kazakhstan allow their citizens the right and opportunity to emigrate, they are still subject to Jackson-Vanik sanctions, even though Jackson-Vanik was a reaction to the Soviet Union's highly restrictive emigration policy. Eliminating Jackson-Vanik's threat of trade-restricting sanctions would increase the United States' access to oil supplies from non-Arab countries. Thus, my bill terminates the application of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 to Russia and Kazakhstan, allowing Americans to enjoy the benefits of free trade with these oil-producing nations.

Finally, the Affordable Gas Price Act creates a Federal study on how the abandonment of the gold standard and the adoption of freely floating currencies are affecting the price of oil. It is no coincidence that oil prices first became an issue shortly after President Nixon unilaterally severed the dollar's last connection to gold. The system of fiat money makes consumers vulnerable to inflation and to constant fluctuations in the prices of essential goods such as oil.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Affordable Gas Price Act and end government policies that increase the cost of gasoline.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF OTTAWA, OHIO

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Congressman ROBERT E. LATTA extends his congratulations on the occasion of the One-Hundred Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Village of Ottawa, Ohio; and

Whereas, Ottawa, Ohio has been a proud member of the Northwest Ohio community since 1833; and

Whereas, the citizens of Ottawa, Ohio provide friendship and tradition to all those in Northwest Ohio; and

Whereas, Ottawa, Ohio has a long history of fostering business, education, and community relationships; therefore, be it

Resolved, The people of Northwest Ohio are grateful for the service of the citizens and employers of Ottawa, Ohio. Ohio's Fifth Congressional District is well served by their dedication and support. We wish Ottawa, Ohio all the best during its celebration the One-Hundred Seventy-Fifth anniversary.

HONORING SILVIO J. PICCINOTTI

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor Silvio J. Piccinotti of Petaluma, California, who passed away April 19, 2009, at the age of 100. Silvio was a fixture of the community for most of those years as it developed from an agricultural center to a small city with a variety of businesses but true to its rural roots.

Like many of their contemporaries in the area, Silvio's parents emigrated from the Italian-speaking area of Switzerland to the dairy ranching area of nearby Marin County where Silvio was born. They moved to Two Rock near Petaluma when he was an infant, and he worked on the local ranches as he grew up. In 1930 he purchased a ranch with his brother Americo, retiring from that business in 1975.

But Silvio is most known for his lifelong passion for draft horses, a passion he shared with the community. He was a founding member of the Northbay Draft Horse and Mule Club and tutored many young enthusiasts. He participated with his horse team and wagon in the Sonoma County Fair and the Harvest Fair and was especially appreciated at events in Petaluma, such as the annual Butter and Eggs Day parade. For 25 years he also sponsored an annual draft horse Wagon Train through Sonoma and Marin Counties.

Silvio was predeceased by his wife Alice and is survived by his son Vernon S. and his grandson Vernon J. Piccinotti as well as his dear friend Ellen Wight.

Madam Speaker, in 2005 the Sonoma County Horse Council appropriately inducted Silvio into its Equus Hall of Fame. His true fame lies with the generations of locals who

will remember the wagon rides and the teams of draft horses that brought them joy and represented the spirit of the community.

RECOGNIZING MAURO LUNA'S SERVICE TO THE U.S. PROBATION SERVICE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to celebrate the retirement of Mauro Luna from the U.S. Probation Service. His 22-year career in Laredo exhibits his native and lifelong dedication to the city and its people.

It was at Mary Help of Christians School that Mr. Luna developed his high standard of morals and ethics that he later exhibited as an officer and supervisor. He brought this leadership to his job everyday, and positively impacted those he interacted with through the course of a day.

Mauro Luna found education to be the cornerstone to any successful life and career, so after graduating from J.W. Nixon High School he went on to earn his degree from the University of Texas-Austin and his MBA from Laredo State University. During this time Mr. Luna married Maria Martinez and had two children, Marcos and Massiel Melinda.

Madam Speaker, now after 11 years with the Juvenile Department and 22 years with the U.S. Probation Office I find great pleasure in wishing Mauro Luna a long deserved retirement so he may spend more time with his family and hunting.

EXTENDING THE SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME BENEFITS PROGRAM TO AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM, PUERTO RICO, AND THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I have introduced today legislation that will extend the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits program to American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Specifically, this legislation would amend Section 303 of the Social Security Amendments of 1972 to make qualified residents of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands eligible to receive supplemental security income.

The Supplemental Security Income program assures a minimum cash income to all aged, blind, or disabled persons. Section 301 of the Social Security Amendments of 1972 established the Supplemental Security Income benefits program and ended matching grant programs to the 50 states and the District of Columbia for assistance to aged, blind, and disabled individuals. It is important to note that the House bill in 1972 included the territories under the proposed SSI program, but the final bill did not include that provision. SSI was extended to the Northern Mariana Islands in

1976, while American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands remain under the old matching grant programs with limited Federal funding.

Territorial governments currently receive non-entitlement, federal-state grants under Title I (Grants to States for Old-Age Assistance for the Aged); Title X (Grants to the States for Aid to the Blind); Title XIV (Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled); and Title XVI (Grants to the States for Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled) of the Social Security Act for programs designed to assist the needy, aged, blind, and disabled. Residents of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands who would otherwise qualify for SSI benefits are shortchanged under the current Aid to the Aged, Blind, or Disabled (AABD) Program where the federal payment is \$637 per individual compared with an average payment under the AABD program on Guam being \$100. American Samoa is at a greater disadvantage, receiving no AABD funds.

The legislation which I have introduced today would bring uniformity and fairness in annual payments by the federal government for all eligible persons residing in the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the territories under the SSI program and is one step in ensuring equity in Federal health programs for the territories.

I look forward on working with my colleagues to advance this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REAFFIRMATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE RESOLUTION

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. GOODLATTE, Madam Speaker, Article VI of the U.S. Constitution declares that "this Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof . . . shall be the supreme law of the land." Since its beginning, our nation has operated under the fundamental principle that the people of the United States should determine their own destiny.

However, recently there has been a deeply disturbing trend in American jurisprudence. The Supreme Court, the highest court in the land, has begun to look abroad, to international laws, regulations and opinions to interpret the U.S. Constitution. This is a very frightening prospect considering these materials are crafted by bureaucrats and non-governmental organizations with virtually no democratic input.

This new trend is a threat to both our Nation's sovereignty and the democratic underpinnings of our system of government. Our Nation's founders acknowledged this very danger when they decreed in the Declaration of Independence that King George had "combined to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution and unacknowledged by our laws."

The contrast between this language in the Declaration of Independence and that of many of our Supreme Court justices could not be clearer. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg told the New York City Bar Association in 2005, "I will take enlightenment wherever I can get it. I don't want to stop at a national boundary."

Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor made the prediction that the Supreme Court will rely "increasingly on international and foreign courts in examining domestic issues . . .," as opposed to relying solely on our Constitution as the basis for its rulings.

Indeed, with the laws of an entire world of nations to choose from, citing foreign laws and opinions encourages cherry-picking the foreign precedents that suit the desired outcome of the one citing them. It promises to be a very convenient tool for any federal judge or justice seeking to stretch the meaning of our Constitution beyond its original meaning.

As elected representatives of the people, we cannot stand by and let this occur any longer. We must return the focus of federal judges to their role as interpreters of the Constitution, not importers of foreign laws and opinions.

The Supreme Court is charged with making final pronouncements about our Constitution, which is uniquely American. Each of our nation's judges, as well as Supreme Court justices, took an oath to defend and uphold the U.S. Constitution—and it is time that Congress reminds these unelected officials of their sworn duties.

That is why I am introducing this resolution today, which expresses the sense of Congress that Federal judges and justices should not cite foreign judgments, laws, or pronouncements when interpreting the U.S. Constitution. This common sense resolution sends a strong, clear message that the Congress is not willing to simply stand idly by and see our nation's sovereignty weakened.

I believe the judicial branch is guaranteed a very high level of independence when it operates within the boundaries of the U.S. Constitution. However, when judges and justices begin to operate outside of those boundaries, Congress must respond. We must be steadfast guardians of the freedoms that are protected in the Constitution of the United States of America.

I urge the Members of this body to support this important resolution.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL DIONYSIOS
ANNINOS

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Dionysios Anninos, who will assume Command of the United States Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Central District, located in Baghdad, Iraq on July 7, 2009.

There is without a doubt, few, if any, men who are as capable or prepared to oversee engineer projects in Iraq than Colonel Anninos. However, it is with reluctance and a heavy heart that we bid farewell to an officer who has served the Hampton Roads region of Virginia so well.

For almost three years, Colonel Anninos has commanded the Norfolk District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As Commander, Colonel Anninos managed the Corps' water resources development and navigable waterways operations for five river basins in the Commonwealth of Virginia. A key contributor to Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts, Colonel Anninos also oversaw projects helping to create jobs while improving the Nation's aging infrastructure.

From maintaining the critical intercoastal waterways and the Great Dismal Swamp Canal, to laying the groundwork for the Deep Creek Bridge in Chesapeake, Colonel Anninos has demonstrated a level of professionalism and excellence that I have only rarely had the benefit to witness.

For the many Virginians and residents of North Carolina within the sixteen counties and 5,000 square miles that lie within the Chowan River Basin, Colonel Anninos will be remembered for his tireless leadership to address the flooding there. Because of his efforts, we can look forward to a comprehensive Reconnaissance Study to investigate the flooding beginning in the next several months. In addition, Colonel Anninos' persistence and resourcefulness were central to bringing together federal, state, and local officials in a local-federal partnership to install a system of early-warning gauges on the River, which has risen to six of its highest flood levels in the last eleven years.

Under Colonel Anninos' command, the Norfolk District has also provided support in response to several natural disasters within Virginia and some of our Nation's greatest natural disasters, including Hurricanes Katrina and Ike. All the while his District provided engineering support to Overseas Contingency Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan serving side-by-side with our men and women overseas.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, the residents of the Chowan River Basin, and the residents of the Fourth congressional District of Virginia, I express my gratitude to Colonel Anninos for his service to our Nation, and for his friendship. I wish Colonel Anninos, his wife Catherine, and his two sons the very best as he continues to serve our great Nation.

CONGRATULATING ERIC YANG,
WINNER OF THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Eric Yang, who won first place in the 2009 National Geographic Bee.

I had the pleasure of finding out that Eric had advanced to the final round of the National Geographic Bee, and I was ecstatic to hear that he won. Eric, who is a 7th grader from The Colony, Texas, captured the 1st place title in the tie-breaker round. Eric did not miss a single question during the entire final round, in a competition that National Geographic reported as their most difficult competition to date. Eric is now the proud recipient of a \$25,000 scholarship, a trip to the Galapagos Islands, and bragging rights for life.

More than just a geography buff, Eric demonstrates his giftedness in several other aspects of his life. An avid pianist, Eric placed first in the Dallas Jazz competition three years in a row. He also conquers in chess, reads anything he can get his hands on, and has an insatiable curiosity. I am encouraged by the in-

quisitiveness we see in this talented young man. Young people like Eric are the guiding lights we will look upon in the future to better our society.

I am proud to recognize Eric Yang for his great accomplishment. It is a distinct privilege to represent Mr. Yang in the 26th District of Texas, and I wish him the very best for a bright future.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE MCGOVERN

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the State of Rhode Island and those whose lives have been impacted by Special Olympics Rhode Island, I would like to pay tribute to Mike McGovern, a man who has dedicated his life to the fulfillment of dreams of many with intellectual disabilities.

After a long and accomplished career serving in various leadership capacities for Special Olympics Rhode Island, Mike has decided to retire. He served as Assistant Executive Director from 1988 through 1998 before taking on the role of Executive Director in 1998. Over the last two decades, Special Olympics Rhode Island has benefited from his talents in fiscal management, fundraising, public relations, personnel management, and compliance with accreditation requirements established by Special Olympics, Inc.

Without a doubt, Mike's greatest satisfaction has come from watching young children with intellectual disabilities defy stereotypes and low expectations. Witnessing the children develop into confident, productive members of society is one of the many motivations that have empowered Mike over the course of his career. Additionally, Mike has been the driving force behind the success that Special Olympics Rhode Island has enjoyed in its commitment to being an athlete-centered program. His enthusiasm and guidance has ensured that Special Olympics Rhode Island is one of the most innovative and dynamic sports organizations in the state.

Mike McGovern remains a true friend to all those whose lives are touched by a person with developmental disabilities. Special Olympians across Rhode Island will miss his dedication and devotion as an individual who truly exemplifies the true meaning of Special Olympics, sport, spirit, and splendor.

CLOUD AND LAKEVIEW HOSPITALS
BEING NAMED AMONGST THE
TOP 100 HOSPITALS BY THOMSON
REUTERS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, to congratulate and honor St. Cloud Hospital and Lakeview Hospital in Stillwater, Minnesota for being named to the Top 100 Hospitals list by Thomson Reuters. The people of St. Cloud and Stillwater know how great their hospitals

are and I'm thrilled to see the staff members and administrations receive this recognition.

The Top 100 Hospitals evaluates short-term, acute care and non-federal hospitals on the overall care of a patient, including rate of medical complications and adherence to clinical standards, fiscal responsibility and patient satisfaction. We are fortunate to have high medical standards in this country and St. Cloud and Lakeview Hospitals demonstrate day in and day out that they take the Hippocratic oath to "do no harm" very seriously.

Lakeview Hospital was listed as a Small Community category winner. St. Cloud Hospital was recognized for its work in the Teaching Hospitals category, which only makes this hospital's achievements that much more important as it is a place where future doctors and administrators can learn how to create the best patient experience. St. Cloud Hospital was also one of 23 hospitals to receive the Everest Award, which recognizes the hospitals with the most improvement over a five-year period.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor these two institutions, St. Cloud and Lakeview Hospitals, as some of the top hospitals in the nation. Their recognition by Thomson Reuters as Top 100 Hospitals validates the pride Minnesota takes in their hospitals and other care facilities. As a small business owner working closely with the medical community, I am pleased to see that the people of St. Cloud and Stillwater have some of the best hospital care available to them in the country. Congratulations to everyone who works with these hospitals and to the communities that support them as their own.

IN TRIBUTE TO NEWT HEISLEY

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, displayed prominently in my district office is an autographed medal featuring the POW/MIA flag. It was given to me and signed by Newt Heisley, the designer of the famous image. The black-and-white flag is a symbol of a Nation's gratitude, respect and commitment to those who never came back. In 1998, legislation I authored was signed into law mandating that the flag be flown above Federal buildings on six days a year, including Veterans and Memorial Day. We will never forget.

Newt Heisley died on May 18, at 88. He led a rich life committed to serving his country, to family, and to his artistic passion—forces that would ultimately inform the design of his seminal work.

In the early 1940s, after graduating from Syracuse University with a Fine Arts degree, Heisley joined the Army Air Forces—where he served heroically as a pilot in the Pacific Theater in World War II.

After the war, Heisley put his artistic talent to work, joining an advertising agency in New Jersey—where he lived with his wife, Bunny, and son, Jeffrey. Hoping to follow in his father's footsteps, Jeffrey entered Marine Corps training but returned emaciated and sick with hepatitis.

Soon after his son's homecoming in 1971, Heisley was tasked with designing a flag for

the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia. Heisley settled on a silhouette of a gaunt man, barbed wire and guard tower. Below that, he wrote "You are not forgotten."

To Heisley's surprise, the flag became a national icon. In 1988, it flew over the White House for the first time, and in 1990, Congress adopted it as the official symbol of appreciation for POWs and MIAs.

Despite the newfound fame, Heisley kept his humility. "I did it for the men who were prisoners of war or missing in action. They're the real heroes," he told the Denver Post in 2002, the same year he wrote his autobiography, *Faith Under Fire*.

This Memorial Day, I will be thinking of them—and Newt Heisley. In words of my dear friend Dave Albert, the former Lomita Councilman, whose failed attempt to get his local post office to fly the POW/MIA flag inspired the 1998 law, Heisley "was a true patriot for the POW/MIA cause, and he will never be forgotten."

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF LEWIS WILLIAM SEIDMAN

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Lewis William "Bill" Seidman, who died on May 13, 2009 at the age of 88. Bill was well-known and respected not only in the Grand Rapids area, but throughout our nation. He spent a great deal of his life serving our country, and he was a role model from the Greatest Generation. He was also an enthusiastic supporter of his home town of Grand Rapids, Michigan; it is the city I call home, and I have seen first-hand how his passion for public service has improved our community. He is well-known nationally as head of the Resolution Trust Corporation, which was ultimately responsible for cleaning up the Savings and Loan scandal.

Bill was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan on April 29, 1921. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1943, served honorably in the Navy in the Pacific theater, during World War II, and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. His record as a communications officer on a Navy destroyer during some of the key battles in World War II clearly shows Bill Seidman's unselfish demeanor. Bill always put his country first.

After the war, he obtained a law degree from Harvard and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Michigan. Bill married Sarah "Sally" Berry in 1944, and they had six children, 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Bill had a large hand in shaping West Michigan as we know it today. He founded and was president of the television station WZZM in Grand Rapids. Bill actively encouraged the Michigan legislature to create a state college in 1963 to serve the Grand Rapids area; this has now grown to become Grand Valley State University (GVSU).

Bill's role in galvanizing support for Grand Valley State University was critical in its creation. His affiliation with GVSU is among his proudest legacies. The institution is now a

world-class university that serves over 20,000 students in West Michigan. Bill once said, "There's nothing that I've done in life that gives me more satisfaction than seeing how Grand Valley State University is delivering on its promise to the Western Michigan area."

Bill helped reform the State of Michigan's financial management practices under the leadership of Governor George Romney in the 1960s. He later was appointed by President Gerald R. Ford as Assistant for Economic Affairs, and focused primarily on controlling inflation. He went on to co-chair the White House Conference on Productivity under President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Seidman is most well-known for his service as the fourteenth chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. He was appointed in 1985 by President Ronald Reagan at a time when the nation's savings and loan financial system was descending into a crisis caused by ill-considered lending, in which hundreds of firms failed. This led Congress to form the Resolution Trust Corporation (RTC), which was the entity ultimately responsible for cleaning up the Savings and Loans scandal. Bill was appointed as head of the RTC by President George H. W. Bush. Mr. Seidman stated during a speech in Tokyo on September 18, 1996, ". . . the banking problems of the 80s and 90s came primarily, but not exclusively, from unsound real estate lending."

Bill never stopped working. As an expert on economic and financial matters, he was a regular commentator on CNBC, and an authoritative speaker on our current economic crisis.

Bill's pursuit of public service was a passion born from his drive to do what was right for the country, and for those close to him. He loved his country, and believed public service was a noble and important calling. The nation is far better off for his devoted public service.

I extend my most heartfelt sympathy and prayers to his wife and family. We will all miss him greatly.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, reasonable gun restrictions are the cornerstone of the Second Amendment. Unfortunately, opponents of sensible gun laws have taken advantage of every opportunity to undermine the common-sense regulations that keep our communities safe and uphold our Constitution.

Earlier this year, these opponents stalled historic efforts to provide District of Columbia residents with a voting representative in Congress by including unrelated amendments legalizing semiautomatic assault weapons in the District. Today, while the House considers H.R. 627, the Credit Cardholders Bill of Rights, which will grant stronger protections for consumers facing excessive credit card fees, arbitrary interest rate increases, and unfair agreements with credit card companies, we also are faced with an unrelated amendment allowing loaded firearms to be carried in parks. These gun provisions have

no place in this bill and loaded firearms have no place in parks. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing these harmful changes.

When the Bush Administration issued its regulations allowing national park visitors to carry loaded, concealed, and operable guns, it was clear these changes were not designed to protect Americans visiting parks. The Bush regulations aimed to overturn reasonable restrictions that had existed for nearly 30 years enabling park visitors with proper permits to carry firearms, as long as they were rendered inoperable with either a trigger lock or by disassembly. Fortunately, on March 19, 2009, U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly halted the Bush Administration's regulations from going into effect.

Today, with this amendment, the gun industry seeks to go beyond the Bush Administration's suspended regulations and put into law extreme rules that allow park visitors to openly carry rifles, shotguns, and semi-automatic weapons in national parks. This reckless and irresponsible policy will dramatically increase the risk of shooting protected wildlife, vandalizing historic monuments, gun-related accidents for children and families visiting these parks. We cannot allow this dangerous policy to be passed into law.

Our national parks are America's sacred treasures and we must ensure their conservation and the safety of all who visit them. Madame Speaker, I fear that with this amendment, we are sacrificing our national parks and the safety of American families for the wishes of the gun industry and we will set a very dangerous precedent.

**JOB CREATION THROUGH
ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACT OF 2009**

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I voted yesterday in support of our Nation's small business and for the passage of the "Job Creation through Entrepreneurship Act of 2009", H.R. 2352.

Small businesses play an integral role in the United States economy. Small businesses employ more than half of all workers in the private sector and generate 60 to 80 percent of new jobs in this country. The entrepreneurial development programs developed by this bill will help small businesses not only survive the current downturn, but allow them to expand and create new jobs.

I am particularly pleased that this bill creates Veterans Business Centers for veteran entrepreneurs. Our nation was built by citizen-soldiers, yet too often, our veterans have difficulty finding well-paid, rewarding work in the nation they served and protected. According to the Department of Labor, we need to do more to help our youngest veterans find gainful employment. Veterans between the ages of 18 and 24 had an unemployment rate of 14.1 percent; nearly double the rate of those between the ages of 25 to 34 (7.3 percent). It is unacceptable that hundreds of thousands of veterans who have risked their own lives to defend our country can't find jobs, and many endure homelessness and lives of poverty after they return home. Our brave men and

women in uniform have given so much for this country; it is right that the Congress help ensure that our returning soldiers have jobs when they come home.

I also am pleased that this bill increases the amount of entrepreneurial development training that will be offered through online training. I have long supported greater use of online job training, which is why I introduced H.R. 145, the Online Job Training Act of 2009, which amends the Workforce Investment Act to provide grants to states that establish or improve workforce training programs on the Internet. I have seen the value of online job training first-hand at a successful pilot program in my state run by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development and Rutgers University. Online training allows workers to access needed development services during the time most convenient for them and in a location most convenient for them—scheduling around jobs, child care, and elder care responsibilities. Offering entrepreneurial development training online will expand the reach of this training to reach more workers and increase the impact of these existing programs.

The Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act will build on the investments that this Congress made through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This bill will provide further aid to our small business and continues our efforts to put the economy back on the track to recovery.

**REMEMBERING DR. NORVAL POHL,
FORMER UNIVERSITY OF NORTH
TEXAS PRESIDENT**

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Dr. Norval Pohl, the former president of the University of North Texas, located in Denton, Texas.

Over his six-year tenure as the 13th President of UNT, Dr. Pohl made several prominent, lasting contributions that will benefit the university's students for years to come. Among other accomplishments, Dr. Pohl helped establish the College of Engineering, and oversaw the creation of Discovery Park, a brand new 105,000 square-foot chemistry building, and a student recreation center, which was later named after him.

More important is the relationship he cultivated between faculty and students. Dr. Pohl always kept his door open to students, making time to listen to their ideas and concerns and give advice. Under Dr. Pohl's guidance, UNT truly became a student-centered university. Not even a brave struggle with cancer kept him from giving his time to the students who sought his counsel.

Dr. Pohl earned his Ph.D. in Quantitative Systems from Arizona State University, and received an M.B.A. in Management and a B.A. in Psychology from California State University at Fresno. In addition to his years at UNT, Dr. Pohl's career saw success at Northern Arizona University, the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, and finally at the Prescott campus of Embry-Riddle University, where he served as Chancellor and Provost.

My thoughts go out to his wife Dr. Barbikay Bissell Pohl, and sons Chandler and Prescott, as well as a long list of family and friends. Dr. Pohl will be greatly missed by the many that are fortunate enough to have known him.

**275TH ANNIVERSARY OF
TEWKSBURY MASSACHUSETTS**

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 275th anniversary of the founding of the Town of Tewksbury, Massachusetts.

From its inception, Tewksbury has contributed to the rich history of Massachusetts and the country. Tewksbury began as a small collection of farms that now exist alongside the technological powerhouses of the new millennium. Businesses that call Tewksbury home conduct cutting edge research in the areas of energy, defense, digital entertainment, and medicine. From the American Revolution through the industrial revolution and now the information technology revolution, Tewksbury has emerged as a successful, innovative, and vibrant community.

I am proud to honor Tewksbury's 275th anniversary, and I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the people of Tewksbury another 275 years of innovation and success.

MRS. CAROLYN MROZ

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mrs. Carolyn Mroz, recipient of the Humanitarian Award from The Optimist Club of Dundalk, Inc. Carolyn has been selected to receive this award because of her dedication to the Dundalk community over the last several decades.

Born in Dundalk, Maryland, Carolyn graduated from Sparrows Point High School but has not lived in the Dundalk Community for 34 years. Moving to Howard County in the 1970s so her husband could be closer to his job, Carolyn has remained active in her home community despite her physical distance from it.

Today, Carolyn is the President of Bay-Vanguard Federal Savings Bank, a company her father started in 1959. Her father began his work at the bank working with families from the steel yards and factories, leading him to establish conservative banking principles that Bay-Vanguard still operates by today. Sticking to her father's policies, Carolyn has kept the bank healthy in the current economic crisis, posting a zero percent foreclosure rate on home loans.

The Humanitarian of the Year award is presented to individuals who benefit the communities of Dundalk and Edgemere even though they do not reside in the area. In addition to Carolyn's efforts in the banking sector, she has been the president of the North Point Peninsula Community Coordinating Council,

where she now serves as secretary. Additionally, she has served as president of the Todd's Inheritance Historic Site, helping to raise over \$500,000 for the renovation of the Todd House on North Point Road in Edgemere.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mrs. Carolyn Mroz on this memorable occasion. Her dedication to the community of Dundalk is apparent in every aspect of her life despite her not residing there, and the community is truly a better place because of her.

INTRODUCING A BILL HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TAKAMIYAMA DAIGORO TO THE SPORT OF SUMO AND TO UNITED STATES-JAPAN RELATIONS

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that recognizes the contributions of Jesse Kuhaulua, known professionally as Takamiyama Daigoro, a trailblazer in the sport of sumo wrestling.

Maui-born and a graduate of Baldwin High School in Wailuku, Jesse made his debut as an aspirant in Japan's national sport in the winter of 1964 in Osaka. At the time, he knew little of the Japanese language and the subtleties of the sport itself. In this initial test, he wondered if his stay in Japan would be counted in weeks or months.

On June 15, 2009, Takamiyama Daigoro will retire from a 45-year long sumo career filled with historic milestones. This day marks the day before his 65th birthday by which senior members of the sport must retire.

Takamiyama Daigoro was the first United States born wrestler to enter the sport of sumo. In 1972, he became the first foreigner to win the Emperor's Cup, a top division championship in the sport. He was also the first foreign-born wrestler to climb to the sumo's third highest rank of *sekiwake*. Takamiyama also stands as the only foreigner to open his own stable, to train future generations in the sport, after he stopped actively competing himself.

Takamiyama opened the door for others from Hawaii to join him in this most ancient of sports. This group includes Saleva'a Atisano'e, also known as Konishiki, who became the first foreigner to reach the second-highest rank of *ozeki*; as well as Chad Rowen, also known as Akebono, who became the first foreigner to hold the highest rank of sumo, that of *yokozuna*; and Fiamalu Penitani, also known as Musashimaru, who became the second foreigner to hold the title of *yokozuna*.

I urge my colleagues to support this recognition of Jesse Kuhaulua, a true ambassador of aloha spirit.

MOREEN BLUM

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my good friend, Moreen

Blum, who was recently honored by the Sherman Oaks Democratic Club for her outstanding contributions to democratic politics in the San Fernando Valley. I have known Moreen for over two decades and have had the pleasure of working with her on many important issues in our community.

A long time volunteer in local politics, Moreen was born in Cleveland, Ohio. She joined the Navy when she was 20 years old and was a member of the Waves until 1952. Shortly after moving to Los Angeles in 1959, she formed the West Hollywood Democratic Club and was a Golden Girl at the John F. Kennedy nominating convention. Currently, she is President Emeritus of the Sherman Oaks Democratic Club, and is very active as the president and founder of the Summerville Democratic Club. Her noteworthy achievements were recognized by the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley, as she was presented with the Dorothy Mayer Award. She serves as a worthy example to all political activists.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in saluting Moreen Blum for her impressive career and dedication to the people of the San Fernando Valley.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LARRY KISSELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 18, 2009, I was unable to vote as I was participating in an Armed Services Congressional Delegation meeting at Ft. Bragg and missed three rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 267 to pass H. Res. 300, Congratulating Camp Dudley YMCA of Westport, New York, on the occasion of its 125th anniversary; "yea" on rollcall No. 268 to pass S. 386, the "Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009"; and "yea" on rollcall No. 269 to pass H. Res. 442, "Recognizing the Importance of the Child and Adult Care Food Program and its Positive Effect on the Lives of Low Income Children and Families."

RECOGNIZING MAYOR VIC BURGESS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Vic Burgess who will be retiring from the City of Corinth this month after many years serving his community.

Since 2003, Mayor Burgess served selflessly in the non-paying position and also served for over five years as a City Council Member before being elected as Mayor. Mayor Burgess also held the position of County Judge for four years. His commitment to his community is further illustrated by his service as a volunteer police reserve officer for the City of Lewisville for six years and as a reserve officer for the Denton County Sheriff's Department for two and a half years.

As Mayor and former City Council Member, Vic Burgess demonstrated professionalism, integrity, enthusiasm and dedication to the city and citizens of Corinth. A fellow Council Member stated that, "Mayor Burgess had a steady guiding hand to lead in good and bad times. He put the city on a good path for the future."

It is with great honor that I recognize Mayor Vic Burgess for his years of hard work and dedication given to the citizens of Corinth and North Texas. I am proud to represent him in Washington and honor his service and devotion that demonstrates true leadership.

HONORING JAMES F. VESELY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, today I pause to honor a man who spent more than 40 years using his exceptional journalistic skill, integrity and ethic to promote civic engagement and help educate his readership and many others in the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

James F. Vesely retired from The Seattle Times on Friday, May 15, 2009. He oversaw the editorial pages at The Times since 2001 after holding the position of associate editorial page editor for the previous 10 years. During his tenure at the largest newspaper in my home state of Washington, Mr. Vesely consistently pushed The Times editorial pages and its writers to think independently, write accurately and report fairly. And, with an outstanding journalist with a lifetime of experience under his belt in the lead, the editorial page and its writers did just that. During a tremendously difficult time for newspapers throughout our country the editorial pages at The Times spoke consistently, accurately and uncompromisingly.

Before joining The Times in 1991, Mr. Vesely spent much of his career in the Midwest, including ten years in Detroit with The Detroit News. He also worked as a consulting editor for the Anchorage Times and as a visiting editor at The People's Daily in Beijing. In the mid-seventies, he was a Journalism Fellow at Stanford University and was a member of the National Conference of Editorial Writers for the past 15 years.

Mr. Vesely's involvement in civic engagement was the true barometer of his positive effect on citizens looking to "get involved" in their communities and government. In 2005, Mr. Vesely took the time to moderate a forum I held in the 8th District on Social Security and he and The Times Editorial Board hosted, moderated and submitted questions at many political debates—races I was involved in and a variety of others. Mr. Vesely also offered his time to CityClub, a non-profit, non-partisan education organization dedicated to informing citizens and building community leadership, in order to facilitate healthy dialogue and educational opportunities for people in the greater Seattle area. He never rested in educating himself and others to make our corner of the country a more informed, vibrant place to live.

With the retirement of James F. Vesely from The Seattle Times, the Pacific Northwest is losing an informed voice of reason and the journalism profession is losing a wealth of experience, wisdom and generosity. I wish Mr.

Vesely the best in retirement. He told *The Times* on May 13 that he was “plan(ing) to do a lot of fly-fishing”; that sounds like a great start.

AMENDING THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A HEALTH SURVEY REGARDING NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDERS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I introduced legislation to amend the Public Health Service Act for the purposes of providing the resources necessary for the Department of Health and Human Services to survey the health of Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders (NHOPI). Specifically, the bill I have introduced today would amend Part B of Title III of the Public Health Service Act to authorize the award of a contract or grant by the Secretary of Health and Human Services for the express purpose of developing a health survey targeting Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders residing in the United States and the Freely Associated States in the Pacific Region.

In 1997, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) revised federal data collection standards to recognize the significant demographic, historical, cultural, and ethnic differences that exist between Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders and Asian Americans. These important distinctions are not simply cultural or historical, but also encompass unique health and socio-economic challenges among the different populations. The standard requires that Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander data be collected, disaggregated and reported separately from Asian American data by all federal agencies no later than January 1, 2003.

As of 2007, however, not all federal agencies are in full compliance with OMB Revised Directive 15. In the places where limited agency data do exist, they are not made publicly available or it takes years to release. On a national level, the sample size of the NHOPI population in studies and reports is not represented because of a lack of data—resulting in meaningful information and statistics being unavailable to health organizations, federal, state, territorial and local agencies and policymakers.

Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander communities are eager to move forward with their efforts to improve public health. This scientific survey would establish baseline health information to inform health policy and interventions so that individual and community health can be properly tracked and evaluated. Additionally, it would provide critical information for both NHOPI communities' health care providers and organizations that work with these communities to develop appropriate health care strategies for public health education and resources.

I look forward on working with my colleagues in addressing this need and advancing the larger cause of eliminating health disparities.

TRIBUTE TO ALL VETERANS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, President Abraham Lincoln said a Gettysburg, “The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.”

I rise today to honor those who have fallen in defense of our country, and I do so recognizing that history won't remember what a guy like me has to say.

But it's important for those who served, and those who serve, to know we will always take the time to remember, and say thank you.

I rise to recognize the sacrifices of the Soldier holding the line in Gettysburg, the Sailor defending the fleet in the South Pacific, the Marine landing at Inchon, South Korea, and the Airman patrolling the skies over Vietnam.

Madam Speaker, we mark this holiday at a time when our sons and daughters are keeping watch over the streets of Baghdad and the mountains of Afghanistan.

We mark this holiday as a reminder that in conflicts past, present, and future, a generation of Americans will answer the call and pay the price of freedom.

While there is never doubt that they will do their duty and serve their country, let there never be doubt that we will stand by them and remember their service and their sacrifice.

You may know that my hometown, Chicago, has one of the nation's largest Memorial Day parades.

But you probably don't know about another, smaller, commemoration.

Dan Wenserski is a gentleman from my district who knows about paying tribute to his brothers and sisters who wore the uniform.

For as long as many can remember, Dan has paid his respects to those who served this country since its inception.

Each year, Dan unpacks flags that had draped the caskets of the fallen to create an Avenue of Flags at Rosehill Cemetery.

He believes it is important to pay tribute to all who sacrificed and served.

As an 85-year-old veteran of World War II, Dan shuns the spotlight, preferring to honor his fallen colleagues than receive honor himself.

But this Memorial Day, I ask all to join me in honoring and thanking Mr. Daniel Wenserski.

Mr. Wenserski saw combat in the European theater and returned from World War II as a 21-year-old with three purple hearts.

He is commander of Amvets Post 243.

Dedicated veterans like him are a national treasure.

We must remember them not only with memorials but in how we dedicate ourselves to the unfinished work of our Republic.

We must remember Lincoln's pledge to, “care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan.”

That means we can't just use this day to pay homage to those who are lost.

We need to remember those who remain behind.

We need to remember the mother or father who has to raise a family alone, and the children who are left with only a photo.

We have, and must continue to make great strides during this Congress to help that mother and that father.

We must not allow the lessons learned during this day go unheeded during every other.

We must dedicate every day to taking care of our veterans and their families, as they have taken every one of their days to dedicate to us.

I'd like to thank all of our veterans for the freedoms we all take for granted, and wish you and your families all the very best on this Memorial Day.

CLOUD AND LAKEVIEW HOSPITALS BEING NAMED AMONGST THE TOP 100 HOSPITALS BY THOMSON REUTERS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I congratulate and honor St. Cloud Hospital and Lakeview Hospital in Stillwater, Minnesota for being named to the Top 100 Hospitals list by Thomson Reuters. The people of St. Cloud and Stillwater know how great their hospitals are and I'm thrilled to see the staff members and administrations receive this recognition.

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Lakeview Hospital was listed as a Small Community category winner. St. Cloud Hospital was recognized for its work in the Teaching Hospitals category, which only makes this hospital's achievements that much more important as it is a place where future doctors and administrators can learn how to create the best patient experience. St. Cloud Hospital was also one of 23 hospitals to receive the Everest Award, which recognizes the hospitals with the most improvement over a five-year period.

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RECOGNIZING MICHAELA RODENO
OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the many contributions made by my good friend, Michaela Rodeno, to the California wine industry and to Napa County. After serving 20 years as CEO of St. Supery Vineyards and Winery, Ms. Rodeno is retiring to become the winery's first CEO Emeritus.

Ms. Rodeno began her career in the wine industry in 1972 as the first female tour guide at Beaulieu Vineyard in Rutherford. She quickly capitalized on her college major in French Literature by impressing the first French wine company to invest in California with her linguistic skills. She became the second employee hired at Domaine Chandon, which quickly became one of Napa County's premier wineries.

Ms. Rodeno remained with Domaine Chandon for 15 years, advancing to the position of Vice President of Marketing. While there, she developed one of the first winery "clubs" in the industry, which eventually grew to more than 100,000 members. While at Domain Chandon, she also earned her MBA at the University of California, Berkeley.

In 1988 she was offered the position of CEO at St. Supery, another French-backed winery. St. Supery Vineyards and Winery is known for its innovations in winemaking and its commitment to consumer education and their Napa Valley Estate Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon and meritage blends, Elu and Virtu, have earned critical acclaim and many awards.

A true pioneering woman in the wine industry, Ms. Rodeno was one of the original co-founders of Women for WineSense, a national organization promoting wine as part of a healthy, balanced lifestyle. She is a founding director of the Wine Marketing Council, has chaired the Meritage Association and the Napa Valley Wine Auction and has also served on the boards of the Wine Institute and the Napa Valley Vintners.

She and her husband, Greg, live on a 25 acre ranch near Oakville planted in Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Grigio grapes and also own another 40 acres planted in Bordeaux varieties in Pope Valley. Although nearly all of the family's grapes are sold to Napa Valley wineries, they do produce a small amount of Sangiovese under their own Villa Ragazzi label.

Madam Speaker, it is fitting at this time that we honor Michaela Rodeno today for her many accomplishments. She has had a distinguished career in the wine industry and will be long remembered for her many contributions and innovations. We wish her all the best, and I am proud to call her my friend.

ON THE OBSERVANCE OF
MEMORIAL DAY

HON. THOMAS S. P. PERRIELLO

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, as we prepare to observe Memorial Day, I rise to pay tribute to all those who have fallen in defense of our country. From Appomattox Courthouse to the National D-Day Memorial, the veterans of central and southern Virginia stand as a testament to the virtues of sacrifice and selfless service. I am proud to work for those who have given so much to our nation.

I firmly believe the best way to honor the veterans of past generations is to take care of the veterans alive today. Since coming to Congress, I have served as an active member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, working hard to ensure that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs continues to uphold its commitment to this Nation's veterans. I have been a co-sponsor of H.R. 1016, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009, a bill which would authorize Congress to provide VA medical care appropriations one year in advance of the start of each fiscal year. An advance appropriation would provide the VA with a year to plan how to deliver the most efficient and effective care to an increasing number of veterans with increasingly complex medical conditions.

Taking care of our veterans also means helping them take care of their families. In today's economy many of our veterans are returning home after extended deployments only to find that the jobs they left behind no longer exist. I recently introduced H.R. 1098, the Veterans Worker Retraining Act of 2009. H.R. 1098 will help address the growing problem of veteran unemployment by reinstating and making permanent the rate increase for On-the-Job Training (OJT) benefits available to eligible veterans through the Department of Veterans Affairs. OJT offers veterans and members of the Guard and Reserve an alternative to attending a college or university by using their education benefit to obtain employment training.

As a Nation we have prospered because we have always had brave men and women willing to answer the call to arms in times of great uncertainty. May God bless all those who have fallen in the name of freedom and all those who stand vigilant to protect it.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOMAS
BYRNE

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Thomas Byrne, former Mayor of St. Paul, Minnesota who died on Sunday, April 5. While the city of St. Paul mourns the loss of a great civil servant, it is also a time to reflect on the legacy of this remarkable Minnesotan.

Elected St. Paul's mayor in 1966 and again in 1968, Mr. Byrne's time in office is remem-

bered for his commitment to community and transparency, and for his abiding love for the great city of St. Paul. He was dedicated to the idea that government best serves its people when it is accessible and open to all, an idea that to this day underpins the very spirit of Saint Paul's local government.

During his very first year as mayor, Thomas Byrne brought back one of St. Paul's most festive traditions, its annual St. Patrick's Day parade. While the Irish-themed celebration may be the most tangible result of Byrne's time in office, his legacy runs much deeper. He managed to pass a city-wide housing law, and helped make St. Paul the first city in the United States to pass a human rights ordinance, all while fostering an environment of open dialogue that has become tradition in St. Paul. When protestors once staged a peaceful sit-in at his office, Mayor Byrne brought them coffee and doughnuts, a testament to his approach to politics.

Thomas Byrne was an exceptional man not only for his service to the city of St. Paul, but for his service to our great nation. After growing up in St. Paul, where he attended Cretin High School, Mr. Byrne enrolled at the University of St. Thomas for a bachelor's degree in education. He put his own education on hold, however, to serve as a navigator for the Army Air Corps during World War II. Stationed in Italy, he flew over 50 missions before returning home to receive his bachelor's degree from St. Thomas, and a master's degree in education from the University of Minnesota.

Both before and after his career as mayor, Thomas Byrne worked as a teacher and administrator for the St. Paul public school system. He served on the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Commission, the Minnesota Municipal Commission, and in his local Veterans of Foreign Wars post. He was a member of the Holy Spirit Men's Club and Choir, the St. Paul Federation of Teachers, the St. Paul Volunteer Bureau, his local American Legion chapter, and countless other community groups from Little League to the Knights of Columbus.

Thomas Byrne was the true embodiment of an active, involved citizen. A profound love for his community motivated him to give back in every way he could. Like so many Minnesotans, however, he still found time to fish at the family cabin in Northern Minnesota.

On behalf of myself, the City of St. Paul, and the state of Minnesota, I wish to honor the life and legacy of Thomas Byrne. I offer my thoughts and my prayers to Mary Therese Byrne, Thomas' wife of 63 years, and his three remaining children, Tim Byrne, Joseph Byrne, and Margaret Allen.

HONORING BRIAN O'NEILL

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Brian O'Neill, one of the great visionaries of the National Park Service, who passed on May 13, 2009.

For 25 years Brian served as Superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreational Area, a vast swath of 75,500 acres in San Mateo and San Francisco Counties and across the Golden Gate in Marin County

in my congressional district. His influence on the Golden Gate National Recreational Area (GGNRA) and on our entire national park system was immense, and will last far into the future.

Brian O'Neill was born in 1941 in Washington D.C. and grew up there. In high school he teamed up with his mother, Virginia and his twin brother, Alan, to found a nonprofit organization to expose urban children to the wonders of national parks. After graduating from the University of Maryland, he joined what was then the Bureau of Outdoor Education, and worked on park planning. The Bureau's name was changed to Heritage Recreation and Conservation Service and later was merged into the National Park Service. In the early 70's, Brian had the opportunity to pitch the idea of urban national parks to President Nixon, who became an enthusiastic backer, and signed legislation creating the GGNRA in 1972. Nine years later Brian became Assistant Superintendent of the park and in 1986, he became its Superintendent.

When Brian first hiked through the GGNRA's fragrant headlands in his green uniform and flat brimmed hat, the park was a beautiful, but in many cases, crumbling collection of former military installations looking out on the broad Pacific and busy San Francisco Bay. Yet these places were steeped in history and brimming with potential. What it took to bring it all together was a passion for parks, a commitment to solid planning and the personal skills to create partnerships—all attributes of Brian O'Neill.

During Brian's tenure he strengthened and expanded the non-profit partnerships at Fort Mason, Fort Baker, the Presidio and the Mann Headlands. Where else could you visit a national park and see such well regarded and varied institutions as the Magic Theatre and Antenna Theatre, the Discovery Museum, the Marine Mammal Center and the headquarters of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary? Where else could you hike through the magnificent redwood cathedral of Muir Woods and the same day hear an internationally known economist lecture at Cavallo Point?

The GGNRA under the leadership of Brian O'Neill became a place to enjoy nature and to learn about nature; a place to renew your spirit and expand your potential; a place to encounter the Bay Area's history and to prepare for its future. It was, and is now, a place for hikers, cyclists, equestrians, dog walkers, artists, educators, environmentalists, wind surfers, college kids and city kids, tourists from near and afar, and ordinary folks, taking just a few minutes to leave the city's bustle, enter the park's natural splendor and get away from it all.

It would be simplistic to say that the Golden Gate Recreational Area became everything to all people because, of course, it can't. Despite its urban interface, it is a national park, and the mission to preserve and protect its natural and cultural resources is always in tension with human uses. Brian's not always so fun job was to find ways to resolve these kinds of conflicts. For this job, he had an affability that diffused conflict, an encyclopedic knowledge of Park Service policies and regulations, and a crafty and creative mind. He never seemed to back down, but he found ways to churn out solutions to the most difficult and complex problems.

The Fort Baker Retreat and Conference Center is a case in point. At first it was to be a rather large public-private endeavor, but that disturbed residents and the City of Sausalito, who asked for my help. The Secretary of Interior intervened, more than a year of negotiation ensued, and the City of Sausalito eventually sued unsuccessfully to halt the project. Brian O'Neill listened and piece by piece he put together a new planning process that resulted in the project's downsizing, the selection of a local developer, new public meetings, and a campus that utilizes green building materials, solar energy, and transportation management.

Fort Baker is now the pride of the Park Service and Sausalito, and it couldn't have turned out so well without the persistence and varied skills of Brian O'Neill. What could have become a political quagmire became instead, Brian O'Neill's triumph.

Madam Speaker, there are a lot of people who are going to miss Brian O'Neill, his big smile, his twinkling blue eyes and his obvious enjoyment of his job. My consolations especially go to his wife Marti, his mother, Virginia, his twin brother Alan, and his two adult children, Kim and Brent. They have so much to be proud of. Brian O'Neill has left us a rich legacy in a park that is as wonderfully expansive as the man himself.

Brian O'Neill was an institution, but also a warm, caring human being, a friend . . . and a great dancer.

CONGRATULATING TAIWAN ON ITS PARTICIPATION AS AN OBSERVER IN THE 62ND WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, as the 62nd World Health Assembly convenes in Geneva this week, I rise to congratulate Taiwan's participation as an observer. This occasion is a significant milestone for Taiwan because it marks the first time since withdrawing from the United Nations 38 years ago that Taiwan is rejoining a United Nations-related body as an observer.

I have been a longtime supporter of Taiwan's meaningful participation in the World Health Organization. The outbreaks of SARS, avian influenza, and most recently, the H1N1 flu, have made it clear that public health problems know no borders. With the great potential for the spread of infectious diseases across countries and continents, it is critical that all parts of the world, including Taiwan, be given the opportunity to participate in international health cooperation forums and programs.

In 2004, Congress demonstrated unequivocal support for Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization by enacting Public Law 108-235, which authorized the secretary of state to initiate and implement a plan to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual World Health Assembly. I applaud this year's decision to finally grant Taiwan a seat at the table of this critical global health forum. May this occasion mark the beginning of Taiwan's growing involvement in other international organizations.

BEST WISHES TO DR. JAMES BILLINGTON, LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise to present my best wishes to Dr. James Billington, the Librarian of Congress, as he celebrates his 80th birthday on June 1. He is a friend and an exceptional steward of the Library of Congress.

The Library, a priceless although perhaps underappreciated resource, has evolved into so much more than a Congressional collection. It is truly the nation's library, containing a diverse multi-media collection of 140 million items on more than 600 miles of shelves.

It is our good fortune that this institution has been wisely directed since 1987 by James Billington, a scholar and an outstanding public servant. During his tenure, Dr. Billington has expanded the Library's collection to include not just hardcopy works, but digital and interactive material as well. Dr. Billington has displayed a commitment to public access and engagement by sharing the Library's priceless collections widely and also delving more deeply to generate knowledge and distill wisdom. I look forward to the continued development of innovative programs such as the National Digital Library and now the World Digital Library, and the annual National Book Festival on the Mall. In his inaugural address as Librarian he said, "This place has a destiny to be a living encyclopedia of democracy, not just a mausoleum of culture, but a catalyst for civilization."

I take great inspiration from the Library's art and architecture, and also in knowing that the Library of Congress is here for all. We've formed the bipartisan Congressional Library of Congress Caucus to promote this world class resource and to show appreciation for the Library, its collections, curators, and Librarian.

Thanks to Dr. Billington's vision and efforts the Library of Congress is now a must-see destination for visitors in Washington. I greatly appreciate his efforts and leadership of this esteemed institution, and wish him the best.

THE END OF THE LONG MARCH

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, on this Memorial Weekend, when we remember the sacrifices of the men and women who fought for our freedom and democracy, I would like to call my colleagues' attention to a powerful essay that appeared in the Japan Times last month. It was written by one of my constituents, Dr. Lester Tenney who is a survivor of the Battle of the Philippines, the Bataan Death March, a "Hell Ship," and a Mitsui coal mine. He recalls that at his first prison camp, the Japanese commandant turned to the American prisoners of war (POWs) and told them that they were "lower than dogs" and "they (the Japanese) would treat us that way for the rest of our lives." Then he said, "We will never be friends with the piggy Americans."

Yet the Japanese commandant who belittled this brave American was wrong. The United States and Japan have become friends and close allies, a result we welcome. Dr. Tenney's anger has been tempered by the many Japanese people who have welcomed him to Japan. Personal friendships and common goals heal many wounds.

Most important, Dr. Tenney reports an important development in US-Japan relations that cements the trust between our people. This year, the Government of Japan has apologized finally and officially to all former POWs of Japan. The Japanese are also considering including the American POWs in a program for peace, friendship and exchange. I hope that they will follow through with this. It is this spirit of reconciliation and remembrance that makes this American Memorial Day so significant.

THE END OF THE LONG MARCH

(By Lester Tenney)

Carlsbad, CA.—Sixty-seven years ago this month, on April 9, 1942, I was surrendered to the Japanese Imperial Army on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines. At my first prison camp, the Japanese commandant turned to the American prisoners of war (POWs) and told us that we were "lower than dogs" and "they (the Japanese) would treat us that way for the rest of our lives." Then he said, "We will never be friends with the piggish Americans."

For a long time I thought he was right. But we have both changed. This year, I welcomed the Japanese government's first official apology to the American POWs, 63 years after our liberation.

If my fellow soldiers or I had known the consequences of being a POW of the Japanese, we would have fought to the death. After three long months of jungle fighting against a better-equipped invasion force, the American and Filipino troops were starving, sick, exhausted and out of ammunition.

At surrender, we were immediately forced to march 105 km through the steaming Bataan Peninsula without food, water, medical treatment or rest. Today, the Bataan Death March is remembered as one of the worst war crimes of World War II.

I will never forget my buddies who were shot simply for trying to get a drink of water; crushed by a tank for stumbling; bayoneted just because they could not take another step; or forced at gun point to bury alive the sick. I bear a deep scar where a Japanese officer on horseback brought his samurai sword down on my shoulder.

Those who survived the Death March faced over three years of unimaginably brutal imprisonment. Many, like me, were herded into "Hell Ships," packed shoulder to shoulder without food or sanitation and shipped to factories, mines and docks across the Japanese Empire. The survivors were literally sold to private Japanese companies to work sustaining wartime production.

I dug coal in a dangerous Mitsui Corporation-owned mine. Like all POWs, I was overworked, beaten, humiliated and starved. The damage and suffering we endured from these companies' employees were comparable to, and sometimes worse than, that inflicted upon us by the Imperial Japanese military. Among World War II combat veterans and former POWs, those who were prisoners of the Japanese have the highest percentage of post-traumatic stress disorders. To say the least, we POWs had and still have intense feelings about Japan.

Yet the Japanese commandant who belittled his American captives was wrong. The United States and Japan have become

friends and close allies—a result we welcome. My anger has been tempered by the many Japanese people who have welcomed me to Japan. Personal friendships and common goals heal many wounds.

Our unfortunate history came largely to closure in a personal meeting with the Japanese ambassador to the U.S. and his wife last November. I was finally able to tell a Japanese official my story. He heard of my humiliations, saw my scars and learned of my Japanese friends who have helped me overcome my POW trauma.

I asked for the ambassador's help in requesting three things from his government so that justice is achieved for POWs: (1) an official apology; (2) an appeal to companies to apologize for their wartime use of POWs; and (3) a reconciliation project.

In December, the ambassador wrote me with news for which I have waited decades. His letter said that Japan's government extends "a heartfelt apology for our country having caused tremendous damage and suffering to many people, including those who have undergone tragic experiences in the Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor Island in the Philippines."

This acknowledging gesture was followed in February by a Cabinet-approved statement to a member of the Diet that extended the apology to all "former POWs." It is the first official apology specifically to mention POWs or any particular group hurt by Imperial Japan.

We POWs accept these long-sought apologies and now ask Japan to state them for all to hear and understand. I trust that my two other requests will be fulfilled soon. It has taken nearly seven decades, but Japan's recognition of its mistreatment of POWs attains historic justice and brings fullness to the U.S.-Japan relationship. A future of a peaceful alliance is what we really wanted in the first place.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL
OF THE VILLAGE OF KENSINGTON

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Village of Kensington on the occasion of its centennial. As one of New York's most unique and historic communities, Kensington is a quiet treasure on the North Shore of Long Island. With its beautiful green space, stylish architecture, and warm-hearted residents, Kensington has become synonymous with pleasant living.

The original vision for a "planned colony" on Long Island which would become Kensington, was the brainchild of the President of Aetna Bank in New York, Charles Finlay, and his partner, E.J. Rickert. With the farmland they purchased, Mr. Finlay and Mr. Rickert envisioned a community of spectacular homes amidst natural beauty, while maintaining proximity to the local railroad station. Their vision became a reality when in February 1909, the Kensington Association was created to organize Village improvements, including roads, landscaping, utilities, pool facilities, and walkways.

Rickert and Finlay built Kensington's famous white gates, modeled from those of London's Kensington Gardens, and named the Village after its new landmark. Improvements to Kensington continued, while honoring Rickert's

and Finlay's vision for maintaining the natural beauty of the area. By a unanimous vote of Kensington's residents, Kensington became an incorporated village on November 28, 1921.

While a lot has changed around Kensington since that time, the Village has remained a wonderful community in which to raise a family and live out the American dream. Despite the hustle and bustle of the world's greatest metropolis just a few miles away, Kensington continues to be a community of tranquility. Its welcoming white gates will always symbolize the hospitable nature of its residents. I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in honoring Mayor Susan Lopatkin, Deputy Mayor Gail Strongwater, Trustees Howard Diamond, Alina Hendler, and Gregory Keller, Village Clerk/Treasurer Arlene Giniger, and all the people of the Village of Kensington on their 100th anniversary.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MRS.

CARRIE SUE WILLIAMS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Mrs. Carrie Sue Williams, who passed away on May 6, 2009, at the age of seventy-seven. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this fine woman.

Mrs. Williams was born Carrie Sue Martin on August 19, 1931, in Summit, Mississippi to Sam and Florence Martin. She was the eighth of nine children the Martins would have.

A woman of faith and quiet strength, Mrs. Williams' father passed away when she was young and she would often credit her mother's demeanor and ability to stay focused while raising nine with making a huge impact on her life.

United in holy matrimony on November 22, 1953, in Chicago, Illinois, Carrie Sue and Pastor Ephraim Williams stood by each other's side for more than 55 years. They have been blessed with two children, Gwendolyn Sue and Ephraim Jr., four grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren.

Affectionately known as "Sister Sue," Mrs. Williams was a life long student devoted to God. During her studies, she attended Conroe Normal Industrial College, Andrews Bible College, and The Golden Gate Southern Baptist Extension. She graduated from the Southern Baptist Seminary Extension and the National Baptist Convention Certificate of Progress Program.

Additionally, Mrs. Williams undertook two years of pastoral training from local seminaries in Sacramento. She regularly attended conferences and seminars in religious programs, and completed enough hours of college level education to have earned her two master's degrees.

Always the devoted wife and mother, Mrs. Williams believed strongly that she had been called to be a pastor's wife, and defined her role as supporting her husband fully and being available for his needs.

Being devoted to her husband and his work as a pastor at St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church, Mrs. Williams traveled extensively

with him on church duties throughout the country and world. Their travels took them to 32 States and countries in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East.

Madam Speaker, I hereby recognize and honor Mrs. Carrie Sue Williams for her life of service and dedication to her family, friends, and community. Mrs. Williams was a cheerful and loving woman who reached out to those in need and practiced what she believed in every day. She will be greatly missed.

HONORING CHIEF RON SHIELDS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Ron Shields of the Brownsboro Police Department and recognize his exceptional service and contributions to his country, the State of Texas and his community.

His exemplary career in law enforcement has touched communities throughout Texas. As an instructor with the East Texas Police Academy at Kilgore College, Chief Shields has helped train more than 500 peace officers. Chief Shields represents public service in the highest regard.

Before his career in law enforcement, Chief Shields served his country honorably as a member of the Army National Guard.

As the Congressman for the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Chief Ron Shields for his many years of public service and innumerable contributions to his country, state and community. Chief, on behalf of all the constituents of the Fifth District, I would like to extend our most sincere thanks.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, in adherence to the Republican Earmark Standards for the FAA Reauthorization, H.R. 915, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman DON YOUNG.

Bill Number: H.R. 915.

Section: 814.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Municipality of Anchorage.

Address of Requesting Entity: 632 W. 6th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501.

Description of Request: The legislation enables airport land at Merrill Field to revert to the Municipality of Anchorage rather than the Federal Government. The Muni would like to use the land to expand the highway that runs by Merrill Field.

Requesting Member: Congressman DON YOUNG.

Bill Number: H.R. 915.

Section: 103.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Alaska DOT&PF.

Address of Requesting Entity: 4111 Aviation Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99519-6900.

Description of Request: This provision would allow the continuation of the Alaska Aviation Safety Project to conduct 3-dimensional mapping of Alaska's aviation corridors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, May 20, I was absent from the House of Representatives due to an emergency dental procedure, and thus I missed rollcall votes Nos. 276-278. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Nos. 276, 277, 278.

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 896, "Helping Families Save Their Homes in Bankruptcy Act of 2009." I would like to thank Chairman CONYERS of the House Judiciary Committee and Chairman BARNEY FRANK of the Financial Services Committee for their leadership on this issue. I also would like to thank Arthur D. Sidney of my staff who serves as my able Legislative Director. This issue is now before this body again for consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill because it provides a viable medium for bankruptcy judges to modify the terms of mortgages held by homeowners who have little recourse but to declare bankruptcy.

This bill could not have come at a more timely moment. This bill is on the floor of the House within weeks after the President's address before the Joint Session of Congress where President Obama outlined his economic plan for America and discussed the current economic situation that this country is facing.

To be sure, there are many economic woes that saddle this country. The statistics are staggering.

Home foreclosures are at an all-time high and they will increase as the recession continues. In 2006, there were 1.2 million foreclosures in the United States, representing an increase of 42 percent over the prior year. During 2007 through 2008, mortgage foreclosures were estimated to result in a whopping \$400 billion worth of defaults and \$100 billion in losses to investors in mortgage securities. This means that one per 62 American households is currently approaching levels not seen since the Depression.

The current economic crisis and the foreclosure blight has affected new home sales and depressed home value generally. New home sales have fallen by about 50 percent. One in six homeowners owes more on a mortgage than the home is worth which raises the possibility of default. Home values have fallen nationwide from an average of 19 percent from their peak in 2006, and this price plunge has wiped out trillions of dollars in home eq-

uity. The tide of foreclosure might become self-perpetuating. The nation could be facing a housing depression something far worse than a recession.

Obviously, there are substantial societal and economic costs of home foreclosures that adversely impact American families, their neighborhoods, communities and municipalities. A single foreclosure could impose direct costs on local government agencies totaling more than \$34,000.

I am glad that this legislation is finally on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. I have long championed in the first TARP bill that was introduced and signed last Congress, that language be included to specifically address the issue of mortgage foreclosures. I had asked that \$100 billion be set aside to address that issue. Now, my idea has been vindicated as the TARP today has included language and we here today are continuing to engage in the dialogue to provide monies to those in mortgage foreclosure. I have also asked for modification of homeowners' existing loans to avoid mortgage foreclosure. I believe that the rules governing these loans should be relaxed. These are indeed tough economic times that require tough measures.

Because of the pervasive home foreclosures, federal legislation is necessary to curb the fall out from the subprime mortgage crisis. For consumers facing a foreclosure sale who want to retain their homes, Chapter 13 of the Bankruptcy Code provides some modicum of protection. The Supreme Court has held that the exception to a Chapter 13's ability to modify the rights of creditors applies even if the mortgage is under-secured. Thus, if a Chapter 13 debtor owes \$300,000 on a mortgage for a home that is worth less than \$200,000, he or she must repay the entire amount in order to keep his or her home, even though the maximum that the mortgage would receive upon foreclosure is the home's value, i.e., \$200,000, less the costs of foreclosure.

Importantly, S. 896 provides for a relaxation of the bankruptcy provisions and waives the mandatory requirement that a debtor must receive credit counseling prior to the filing for bankruptcy relief, under certain circumstances. The waiver applies in a Chapter 13 case where the debtor submits to the court a certification that the debtor has received notice that the holder of a claim secured by the debtor's principal residence may commence a foreclosure proceeding against such residence.

This bill also prohibits claims arising from violations of consumer protection laws. Specifically, this bill amends the Bankruptcy Code to disallow a claim that is subject to any remedy for damages or rescission as a result of the claimant's failure to comply with any applicable requirement under the Truth in Lending Act or other applicable state or federal consumer protection law in effect when the non-compliance took place, notwithstanding the prior entry of a foreclosure judgment.

S. 896 also amends the Bankruptcy Code to permit modification of certain mortgages that are secured by the debtor's principal residence in specified respects. Lastly, the bill provides that the debtor, the debtor's property, and property of the bankruptcy estate are not liable for a fee, cost, or charge incurred while the Chapter 13 case is pending and that arises from a debt secured by the debtor's principal residence, unless the holder of the claim complies with certain requirements.

I have long championed the rights of homeowners, especially those facing mortgage foreclosure. I have worked with the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee to include language that would relax the bankruptcy provisions to allow those facing mortgage foreclosure to restructure their debt to avoid foreclosure.

Because I have long championed the rights of homeowners facing mortgage foreclosure in the recent TARP bill and before the Judiciary Committee, I have worked with Chairman CONYERS and his staff to add language that would make the bill stronger and that would help more Americans. I co-sponsored sections of the Manager's Amendment and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Specifically, I worked with Chairman CONYERS to ensure that in section 2 of the amendment, section 109(h) of the Bankruptcy Code would be amended to waive the mandatory requirement, under current law, that a debtor receive credit counseling prior to filing for bankruptcy relief. Under the amended language there is now a waiver that will apply where the debtor submits to the court a certification that the debtor has received notice that the holder of a claim secured by the debtor's principal residence may commence a foreclosure proceeding against such residence.

This is important because it affords the debtor the maximum relief without having to undergo a slow credit counseling process. This will help prevent the debtors credit situation from worsening, potentially spiraling out of control, and result in the eventual loss of his or her home.

The bill relaxes certain Bankruptcy requirements under Chapter 13 so that the debtor can modify the terms of the mortgage secured by his or her primary residence. This is an idea that I have long championed in the TARP legislation—the ability of debtors to modify their existing primary mortgages. Section 4 allows for a modification of the mortgage for a period of up to 40 years. Such modification cannot occur if the debtor fails to certify that it contacted the creditor before filing for bankruptcy. In this way, the language in the Manager's Amendment allows for the creditor to demonstrate that it undertook its "last clear" chance to work out the restructuring of the debt with its creditor before filing bankruptcy.

Importantly, the bill amends the bankruptcy code to provide that a debtor, the debtor's property, and property of the bankruptcy estate are not liable for fees and costs incurred while the Chapter 13 case is pending and that arises from a claim for debt secured by the debtor's principal residence.

Lastly, I worked to get language in the bill that would allow the debtors and creditors to negotiate before a declaration of bankruptcy is made. I made sure that the bill addresses present situations at the time of enactment where homeowners are in the process of mortgage foreclosure.

Texas ranks 17th in foreclosures. Texas would have fared far worse but for the fact that homeowners enjoy strong constitutional protections under the state's home-equity lending law. These consumer protections include a 3 percent cap on lender's fees, 80 percent loan-to-value ratio (compared to many other states that allow borrowers to obtain 125 percent of their home's value), and mandatory judicial sign-off on any foreclosure proceeding involving a defaulted home-equity loan.

Still, in the last month, in Texas alone there have been 30,720 foreclosures and sadly 15,839 bankruptcies. Much of this has to do with a lack of understanding about finance—especially personal finance.

Last year, Americans' personal income decreased \$20.7 billion, or 0.2 percent, and disposable personal income (DPI) decreased \$11.8 billion, or 0.1 percent, in November, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Personal consumption expenditures (PCE) decreased \$56.1 billion, or 0.6 percent. In India, household savings are about 23 percent of their GDP.

Even though the rate of increase has showed some slowing, uncertainties remain. Foreclosures and bankruptcies are high and could still beat last year's numbers.

Home foreclosures are at an all-time high and they will increase as the recession continues. In 2006, there were 1.2 million foreclosures in the United States, representing an increase of 42 percent over the prior year. During 2007 through 2008, mortgage foreclosures were estimated to result in a whopping \$400 billion worth of defaults and \$100 billion in losses to investors in mortgage securities. This means that one per 62 American households is currently approaching levels not seen since the Depression.

One in six homeowners owes more on a mortgage than the home is worth raising the possibility of default. Home values have fallen nationwide from an average of 19 percent from their peak in 2006 and this price plunge has wiped out trillions of dollars in home equity. The tide of foreclosure might become self-perpetuating. The nation could be facing a housing depression—something far worse than a recession.

Obviously, there are substantial societal and economic costs of home foreclosures that adversely impact American families, their neighborhoods, communities and municipalities. A single foreclosure could impose direct costs on local government agencies totaling more than \$34,000.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALBIN GRUHN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor Albin Gruhn of San Anselmo, California, who passed away March 18 at the age of 94. Mr. Gruhn was a respected and beloved labor leader and consumer rights activist whose calling was the welfare of the working people of California. His 36 years as president of the California Labor Federation and his role as a founder of the Association of California Consumers were at the heart of a remarkable career.

Mr. Gruhn was born in Eureka, California, in 1915. At the age of 19 he began working for the Hammond Lumber Co. where he joined the Sawmill and Loggers Federal Union. A strike shortly afterwards resulted in the deaths of three union picketers and deeply affected him, resulting in a life-long commitment to the labor movement.

He was also blacklisted as a result of his participation in the strike but soon found employment in construction, joining the Laborers

Local where his membership continued for over 60 years. At the age of 22, he became secretary of the Central Labor Council of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties and led that council for over 20 years.

In 1940 Mr. Gruhn was first elected to what is now the California Labor Federation as district vice president and became its president in 1960. He led with skill, enthusiasm, and passion until his retirement in 1996. He helped build the organization into a strong and effective advocacy group for the rights of workers, inspiring several generations of political and labor leaders along the way.

During the 1960s, Mr. Gruhn was also a founder of the Association of California Consumers, California's first consumer group, and later became a founding officer and then president emeritus of the Consumer Federation of California. He also devoted some of his considerable energies to the California Apprenticeship Council and the California Constitution Revision Commission as well as serving on various state commissions. These were appointments over the decades by five California governors and covered a variety of issues from fair housing to air pollution. One of the commissions dealt with children and youth, reflecting his deep involvement in the annual scholarship program established by the California Labor Federation.

Mr. Gruhn was always politically active as a means of supporting the causes he believed in. From campaigning for Franklin Roosevelt at the age of 17 to serving as an Adlai Stevenson delegate in 1956, he stayed engaged in the process. In 1944, he founded the Northern California AFL Political League.

Mr. Gruhn was married to the former Dorothy Coon for over 37 years. Dorothy predeceased him in 2005, and the couple are survived by a large family of eight children, 14 grandchildren, and 17 great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Albin Gruhn was proud to fight for working people, and all those with whom he came in contact—from family and friends to political leaders and co-workers—drew inspiration from his commitment. It is fitting in honoring him today to remember the remarks he always used to conclude his labor speeches: "In unity there is strength. United we stand, divided we fall. An injury to one is an injury to all."

URGING ALL AMERICANS AND PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONALITIES TO VISIT THE NATIONAL CEMETERIES, MEMORIALS, AND MARKERS ON MEMORIAL DAY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 360, "Urging all Americans and people of all nationalities to visit the national cemeteries, memorials, and markers on Memorial Day". I would like to thank my colleague Representative DAVID ROE for introducing this resolution, as well as the co-sponsors.

I do not believe there is a person in this body, or a person in this building, who does not feel a remarkable pride in the presence of the men and women who serve in our Nation's

military. Their incredible sacrifices and courage in the face of innumerable hazards have been critical to the preservation of the freedom, security, and prosperity enjoyed that we as Americans have come to love, enjoy, and even expect.

Likewise, I do not believe there is a person in this body, or a person in this building, who does not feel an intense tragedy in seeing these men and women make the ultimate sacrifice—whether it is seeing the loss of such extraordinary Americans, or the immense pain and sympathy for their families and loved ones.

When the United States has fought in wars outside and inside of its borders to restore freedom and human dignity, they were the ones who made the true sacrifices. The United States has spent its national treasure and shed its blood in fighting those wars.

Our government has sought to do its part in honoring these brave men and women. The National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs maintains 128 national cemeteries that serve as the final resting place for nearly 3,000,000 of these veterans and their dependents. Each year, millions of Americans visit these national cemeteries, memorials, and markers.

Across the globe, we find similar efforts. Overseas sites annually recognize Memorial Day with speeches, a reading of the Memorial Day Proclamation, wreath laying ceremonies, military bands and units, and the decoration of each grave site with the flag of the United States and that of the host country.

Wherever the proud fallen American soldier is honored, these splendid commemorative sites inspire patriotism, evoke gratitude, and teach history.

My residents of my city, Houston, have long honored their veterans. Within city limits stands the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center. It was awarded the Robert W. Carey Organizational Excellence Award in 2005, the Robert W. Carey Circle of Excellence Quality Award in 2007, and re-designation for Magnet Recognition for Excellence in Nursing Services in 2008.

The MEDVAMC serves as the primary health care provider for more than 120,000 veterans in southeast Texas and over 13,000 from Houston. Veterans from around the country are referred to the MEDVAMC for countless medical services, and their outpatient clinics logged nearly 900,000 outpatient visits in fiscal year 2008 alone. All this in a state with over 1.7 million veterans, 247,000 of which are disabled and over 25,000 buried in her soil.

There is another great example that comes to mind, of how my district has honored those who defend them. In Memorial Plaza, stands a pillar holding a stone globe; written on the pillar are several names of US soldiers, fallen in the Second World War, as well as a quote by Father Dennis Edward O'Brien, chaplain of the U.S. Marines:

“IT’S THE SOLDIER: When the country has been the need, it has always been the soldier! It’s the soldier, not the newspaper who has given us Freedom of the Press. It’s the soldier, not the poet, who has given us Freedom of Speech. It’s the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the Freedom to Demonstrate. It’s the soldier who salutes the flag, serves under the flag and whose coffin is draped by the flag who gives the protester the right to burn the flag. And it’s the

soldier who is called upon to defend our way of life!”

That is why I proudly join my colleagues in strongly urging Americans and people of all nationalities to visit national cemeteries, memorials, and markers on Memorial Day. It is so that they may see words like these, even if it is only once a year, and know where the spirit of American generosity, sacrifice, and courage are displayed and commemorated.

IN APPRECIATION OF SUPER-INTENDENT OF SCHOOLS BARBARA OLDS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER-

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, Barbara Olds has served the children of South San Francisco as a teacher, principal, Superintendent and everything in between for more than forty years, since taking her first job as a teacher at South San Francisco High School in 1966.

Superintendent Olds' legacy of service is a remarkable achievement, one truly fitting of recognition. She is set to retire at the end of this academic year to give herself time to pursue her many and varied interests.

Barbara Olds was the type of teacher that kids tell their parents about and parents pray that their children get assigned to her classroom. To Barbara, instruction never ended at the bell and learning was never confined to textbooks. During her 14-years as a teacher, Ms. Olds tirelessly gave of her free time for the benefit of her students and fellow educators, serving as Director of Student Government, Director of Student Activities, and serving the South San Francisco Classroom Teachers Association in many capacities—including as a member of the Negotiating Council and as both President and Vice President.

Since moving into school administration in 1979, Barbara served as an Assistant Principal for Discipline and Attendance, then Counseling and Guidance, before being named Principal of South San Francisco High School in 1991.

In 2003, her excellent work, unparalleled standing in the community and clear passion for education led the SSF Unified School District Board of Trustees to elevate Barbara Olds to the position of Superintendent of Schools. Since that time the district has thrived, despite difficult financial times.

Barbara Olds received her Bachelor of Arts and Secondary Teaching Credential from San Francisco State University and a Master's of Public Administration from the College of Notre Dame in Belmont. She further advanced her education with an IDEA Fellowship in 1989.

Madam Speaker, I have been privileged to know Superintendent Olds these many years and can attest to the fact that she shaped thousands of young minds and encouraged countless students to engage in their world and pursue their dreams. Her love and passion for education was passed onto her son, Robert, who continues the family tradition as a fourth grade teacher.

Our community and our nation are better places because of the work of Barbara Olds.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the grateful citizens of the City of South San Francisco, I thank her and wish Barbara much joy and success in the years to come.

HONORING POLICE OFFICERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS DURING POLICE WEEK

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 426, “Honoring police officers and law enforcement professionals during Police Week”. I would like to thank my colleague Representative JERRY MCNERNEY, as well as the co-sponsors, for introducing this resolution.

I stand in support of this important resolution, because police officers of every rank and from every walk of life are working every day to keep communities across our nation safe. These hard working men and women perform a variety of duties to pursue justice and maintain public safety, and selflessly put their lives on the line to keep their neighbors and countrymen safe.

These Americans are reminded of these threats all too often—in just the last decade, hundreds of police officers were killed in the line of duty, and in just the first four months of 2009 more than 40 officers around the country have made the ultimate sacrifice. And as if that weren't bad enough, police officers and law enforcement personnel have been not been immune to the collapse of our economy, and have been adversely affected by the current economic situation.

In my home city of Houston, nearly 70 officers of the law have been killed in the line of duty, and 11 police officers have fallen in the past decade alone.

The most recent tragedy came less than six months ago, when Police Officer Timothy Scott Abernethy was shot and killed during a foot pursuit of a suspect who fled following a traffic stop. Officer Abernethy had lost sight of the man as he chased him around a building in an apartment complex. After going around the corner the man hid behind a gate and then shot the officer in the head as he ran by. Tim was transported to Memorial Hermann Hospital where he succumbed to his wounds a short time later. He is survived by his wife, son, daughter, parents, and siblings.

Before him, there was Police Officer Gary Allen Gryder. He was struck and killed by a drunk driver while directing traffic at a construction site on the Katy Freeway. The drunk driver drove through a barricade and struck Officer Gryder and another officer without braking. The vehicle continued until striking a brick wall. Gryder is survived by his wife, son, step-daughter, two grandchildren, parents, and two sisters.

And before either of them, there was Officer Rodney Joseph Johnson. Officer Johnson had stopped a large white pickup truck occupied by a man and woman on Randolph at Braniff, just south of Hobby Airport, at about 5:30 p.m. He placed the male driver—who, it would turn out, was in the country illegally—under arrest after he was unable to produce a drivers license. After handcuffing the male, he placed

him in the backseat of the patrol car and then returned to the driver's seat. The subject in the backseat was able to move his hands to his front, retrieve a concealed handgun, and then shot Officer Johnson in the back of the head four times.

Despite being fatally wounded, Officer Johnson was able to push an emergency button, alerting dispatch to the incident. When other officers arrived, the male was still handcuffed and sitting in the patrol car, and the weapon was recovered. Officer Johnson was taken to Ben Taub Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

For these reasons, and more, our country has found respect for these brave men and women throughout its history. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation declaring May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, and to designate the calendar week in which May 15 occurs as Police Week.

And it is this tradition that we continue today, as this body, the House of Representatives, honors police officers for their efforts to create safer and more secure communities, and who risk their lives daily to protect Americans.

I wholeheartedly agree with my colleagues that Police Week provides an opportunity to honor police officers and law enforcement personnel for their selfless acts of bravery, and that police officers and law enforcement personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice should be remembered and honored.

So let there be no doubt that the House of Representatives expresses its strong support for the Nation's police officers and law enforcement personnel.

IN APPRECIATION FOR THE EXCEPTIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE OF
MARILYN MILLER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER—

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, the end of every school year is a time of change as graduates move on and students move up. In California's Twelfth Congressional District, this school year ends by bidding farewell to an unparalleled education professional, Marilyn Miller, Superintendent of the Hillsborough City School District.

Ms. Miller came to our community in 1975, with ten years of teaching under her belt in Southern California and Illinois. Her experience, passion for teaching and devotion to her students were immediately recognized and within five years, Marilyn was promoted to Principal of South Hillsborough School. In 1984, she was given even greater responsibility when she moved to William H. Crocker Middle School, where she stayed until ascending to the Superintendent's position 17 years ago.

Under Superintendent Miller's extraordinary leadership, Hillsborough schools have been singled out for local, statewide, national and even international awards. Nine times in her tenure, Hillsborough schools have been

named a California Distinguished School, while on ten occasions the district has been awarded a J. Russell Kent Award for outstanding programs in San Mateo County public schools. Under Marilyn's stewardship, Hillsborough schools have also received four National Blue Ribbon Awards and in 1993, received the "Best in Services Recognition" from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

As both a principal and superintendent, Marilyn's tireless dedication has led to numerous public and private grants for her school system, including funding for science, technology, reading and reforming curriculum.

Madam Speaker, I know from personal experience that everything Marilyn has done in her educational career has been to further the excellence and opportunities of the children in her care. Nevertheless, she has been singled out for numerous personal recognitions, including being a finalist for the National Safety Council's Principal of the Year; elected President of the Association of California School Administrators; State Coordinator of the California Partnership Network Schools; Chairperson of the ACSA Middle School State Conference; and awarded College of Notre Dame, Belmont's Alumna of the Year; Hinsdale, Illinois' Teacher of the Year; and San Mateo County's Outstanding Educator.

Marilyn has represented our community and our nation at international conferences, including presenting to the Stockholm School of Economics and serving as the United States representative to the New Leaders Conference in Singapore. In addition, she regularly attended the nationally-acclaimed Harvard University Superintendents' Forum.

Marilyn Miller studied History and English at the University of California, Berkeley before transferring to San Jose State University for her Education Degree. She went on to receive a Masters in Public Administration at Belmont's College of Notre Dame.

Madam Speaker, Marilyn has earned her retirement, even if the hole she leaves will be impossible to fill. She recently welcomed a new grandson, Cole, who with granddaughter, Erin, will happily occupy whatever free time Marilyn finds herself with. She and her always supportive husband, Dr. Arthur Miller, will now be able to spend more time with the little ones as well as their daughter Ashleigh and sons Garreth and Heath. As with all great public servants, their service is largely dependent on the amount of support they receive at home, so it is fitting to thank Marilyn's loving family for sharing their wife and mother with the greater community for all these years.

PACT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, H.R. 1676, the Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act of 2009 or PACT Act. This bill was introduced by Representative WIENER of New York. This leg-

islation makes it a federal offense for any seller making a "delivery sale" to fail to comply with all state excise tax, sales tax licensing, and tax sampling laws. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I also thank my legislative director, Arthur D. Sidney.

Every year tens of billions of cigarettes disappear into a lucrative black market for tobacco products and are trafficked throughout the world. Smuggling harms public health and minors by undermining tobacco tax policies. Smuggling also makes tax-free cigarettes available to minors who might otherwise quit smoking. It is reported that cigarette smuggling also helps finance criminal activity and terrorist organizations.

By diverting cigarettes while they are in the wholesale distribution chain, large-scale smugglers generally avoid all taxes. Increasingly, cigarette smuggling is on the rise throughout the United States. The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has reported that the number of ATF tobacco smuggling investigations has increased from 10 in 1998 to 425 in 2005. Some of these investigations and convictions have occurred in Texas.

Currently, the Jenkins Act, 15 USC 375, requires any person who sells and ships cigarettes across a state line to a buyer, other than a licensed distributor, to report the sale to the buyer's state tobacco collection officials. Compliance allows states to collect a cigarette excise tax. There are misdemeanor penalties for violation. Smugglers are circumventing the Jenkins Act by virtue of internet-based tobacco sales. Sales of tobacco through the internet have resulted in the loss of billions of dollars in tax revenue.

The Contraband Cigarette Trafficking Act, 18 USC 2342, makes it illegal for persons to knowingly ship, transport, receive, possess, sell, distribute, or purchase contraband cigarettes or contraband smokeless tobacco. It also prohibits a person from knowingly making any false statement or representation with respect to information required by law to be kept in the records of any person who ships, sells, distributes cigarettes in excess of 10,000 in a single transaction.

Cigarette smuggling is on the rise due to the internet and sales to and between Native American tribes and others. The PACT Act introduced by the Honorable Anthony Weiner makes it a federal offense for any seller to fail to comply with all state excise tax, sales tax licensing, and tax stamping laws. This bill also increases the Jenkins Act's existing penalties from a misdemeanor to a felony. It further empowers states to enforce the Jenkins Act against out of state sellers sending delivery sales into its territory by giving the Attorney General the power to seek injunctive relief and civil penalties. The Act prohibits the shipment of cigarettes and tobacco through the U.S. Postal Service and provides the ATF with the ability to inspect a distributor's business. Refusal to submit to inspection results in additional penalties. Internet sellers are required to verify a seller's age and identity through databases and the person accepting delivery must verify age and identity when signing for delivery.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN APPRECIATION OF BARBARA
PLETZ

HON. JACKIE SPEIER-

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, San Mateo County has one of the most respected Emergency Medical Services agencies in the nation. Much of that success is due to EMS Program Administrator Barbara Pletz, who retires May 21st after 21 years of dedicated and inspired service.

Under Barbara's leadership, the San Mateo County EMS system has been transformed into a nationally recognized model of excellence. The department has been singled out for many honors, including the Award for Excellence from the International Association of Fire Chiefs, International City-County Management's Award for Outstanding Partnerships, the Helen Putnam Award for Excellence in Public Safety from the League of California Cities, and a commendation from the National Council for Public-Private Partnerships.

Barbara Pletz has advanced emergency medical services in San Mateo County by, among other things, encouraging public-private partnerships, working with hospitals to develop the County's Trauma and Stroke Plans and helping develop the San Mateo County Mental Health Assessment and Referral Treatment Program.

Ms. Pletz is a registered nurse with over 35 years of health care experience, including a quarter century in emergency medical services. She is past president of the Emergency Medical Services Agency Administrators' Association of California and was its Legislative Chair from 1998–2004. She is also past president of the California Emergency Department Nurses Association and was one of the very first commissioners on the California State EMS Commission.

Besides honors bestowed on her department, Ms. Pletz has received personal acclaim, including the Distinguished Service Award from the Emergency Nurses Association, the Circle of Service Award from the California State Association of California, and the Lawrence M. Herman Award for Legislative Advocacy from the American Heart Association.

Madam Speaker, all of us in San Mateo County are sorry to see Barbara go, but we wish her much joy and adventure as she pursues her love of travel and experiencing new foods and cultures. Our county is a better place because of her service and for that we are eternally grateful.

ENHANCED OVERSIGHT OF STATE
AND LOCAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today in support of H.R. 2182, the "Enhanced Oversight of State and Local Economic Recovery Act." I would like to

thank my colleague Representative TOWNS for introducing this bill and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2182, amending the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Supporting this bill will ensure that those people responsible for monitoring and accounting the \$787 billion currently being allocated through the Recovery Act are able to do so both fairly and efficiently. I would also like to thank my legislative director, Mr. Arthur D. Sidney, for all his hard work.

This bill will require federal agencies receiving funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, subject to guidance from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), to reasonably adjust applicable limits on administrative expenditures for federal awards to help award recipients defray costs of data collection, auditing, contract and grant planning and management, and investigations of waste, fraud, and abuse required under such Act.

The "Enhanced Oversight of State and Local Economic Recovery Act" modifies the Recovery Act and provides state and local governments the flexibility to set aside a portion of their stimulus funds, up to .5% of such funds, in addition to any funds already allocated to administrative expenditures, to conduct planning, management and oversight investigations to prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse.

Furthermore, H.R. 2182 will permit the Administrator of the General Services Administration (GSA) to provide for the use by state and local governments of GSA federal supply schedules for goods or services funded by such Act. The GSA schedules are pre-negotiated federal contracts for a range of common goods and services, for stimulus projects. In addition, this bill will make participation by a firm that sells to a state or local government through such schedule, voluntary as well as require the OMB Director to issue guidance to ensure accurate and consistent reporting of "jobs created" and "jobs retained" data.

There is much concern that state and local governments are unable to meet the oversight demands placed on them by the Recovery Act. The stimulus calls for unparalleled oversight and accountability, so we must provide those whose job it is to root out waste, fraud, and abuse with the adequate tools to get the job done. Our state and local governments are on the front lines of this monumental effort to fight mismanagement of Recovery Act dollars and their success is vital to making the stimulus work. Not initially providing funds for state auditors under the Recovery Act was an omission that needs to be rectified. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL WOMEN'S
HEALTH WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 120 "Supporting the goals and ideals of National Women's Health." I would also like to extend my gratitude to my distinguished colleague from New York, Representative MAURICE D.

HINCHEY, for introducing this important legislation. I thank my legislative director, Arthur D. Sidney.

National Women's Health Week is a weeklong health observance coordinated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health (OWH). National Women's Health Week empowers women to make their health a top priority. With the theme "It's Your Time," the nationwide initiative encourages women to take simple steps for a longer, healthier, and happier life. During National Women's Health Week, communities, businesses, government, health organizations, and other groups work together to educate women about steps they can take to improve their physical and mental health and lower their risks of certain diseases. Important steps include: getting at least 2½ hours of moderate physical activity, 1 hour and 15 minutes of vigorous physical activity, or a combination of both each week; eating a nutritious diet; visiting a health care professional for regular checkups and preventive screenings; avoiding risky behaviors, like smoking and not wearing a seatbelt; and paying attention to mental health, including getting enough sleep and managing stress.

Research has established the existence of persistent racial and socioeconomic disparities in women's health in the United States. We know that coronary disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women. But, nearly twice as many women in the U.S. die of heart disease and stroke every year as die from all types of cancer. Yet, multiple studies have shown that women are less likely than men to be referred for invasive cardiac procedures.

While the life expectancy of women in the United States has risen, as a group, African American women have a shorter life expectancy and experience earlier onset of such chronic conditions as diabetes and hypertension. If we look at the death rates for diseases of the heart, African American women are clearly at risk with 147 deaths per 100,000. When we look at cervical cancer, we see that the incidence rate of invasive cervical cancer is higher among Asian-American women. Yet, we cannot explain the causes of these higher rates.

Disparities are perhaps most alarming when we look at HIV/AIDS. Twenty-two percent of Americans currently living with HIV are women, and 77 percent of those are African American or Hispanic. Many people are shocked to know that AIDS is the second leading cause of death among African American women age 25 to 44.

There are nearly 40 million women in America who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups. These women suffer disproportionately from premature death, disease, and disabilities. Many also face tremendous barriers to optimal health. This is a growing challenge in our nation.

The challenge is even greater when we consider the aging population. By the year 2050, nearly 1 in 4 adult women will be 65 years old or older, and an astonishing 1 in 17 will be 85 years old or older. We must ensure that our Federal agencies are in the forefront, working to find solutions to the challenges our nation faces in caring for the health of our women.

It is important to celebrate National Women's Health Week to remind women that taking care of themselves is essential to living

longer, healthier, and happier lives. Women are often the caregivers for their spouses, children, and parents and forget to focus on their own health. But research shows that when women take care of themselves, the health of their family improves. During National Women's Health Week it is important to educate our wives, mothers, grandmothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, and girlfriends about the steps they can take to improve their health and prevent disease. After all, when women take even the simplest steps to improve their health, the results can be significant and everyone can benefit.

H. Con. Res. 120 is an important way to support the women of this nation, and I am proud to stand today in support of this important legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation as well.

MEMORIAL DAY

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, each year Memorial Day is an important time to honor the fallen, renew our support to the wounded and recognize the commitment and heroism of those who serve the United States.

In my district this weekend the headstones of the Los Angeles National Cemetery, as those in hundreds of cemeteries across the country, will be surrounded by flowers and by loved ones paying their respects to the departed. In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, these serene and mournful fields honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we so cherish.

The sanctity and preservation of our nation's battlefields, monuments and institutions are of utmost importance to ensure that future generations can pay their respects to those who have fought. One of my constituents, Leon Cooper, has been tireless in his efforts to raise awareness about the build-up of garbage and debris at Red Beach in Tarawa Atoll in the remote Pacific island nation of Kiribati. On this site, in a span of just a few days in November 1943, nearly 1700 Marines and Navy personnel were killed and over 2000 more wounded in heavy fighting.

I applaud Mr. Cooper for his commitment. Recently his story about the Battle of Tarawa and its aftermath, *Return to Tarawa: The Leon Cooper Story*, debuted on the Discovery Network. This documentary, narrated by Ed Harris, provides a remarkable window into the events surrounding both the battle itself and Mr. Cooper's involvement, and is a great service to future generations.

I encourage our local U.S. Embassy in Fiji to work with the Government of Kiribati on sanitation and conservation projects that would provide long-term solutions for maintaining the coastline and preserving the area. It would be a tribute to our veterans and a great benefit to the Kiribati people.

While we honor those fallen and veterans from generations past, we must also honor the needs of our soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. The past three years have seen a remarkable increase in support for our nation's veterans, including the strengthening of quality health care, funding increases to treat

traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder, a record increase in veterans' educational funding, and other improvements to address deficiencies in medical facilities and housing.

The 30th congressional district is home to the West Los Angeles Veterans Medical Center, the largest VA hospital in the continental United States. The West LA VA was built on land that was generously donated in 1888 to serve as an Old Soldiers' Home. I am pleased that a State Veterans Home is being constructed on the property and that the VA is moving forward to develop long-term therapeutic supportive housing on the campus. In addition, I am delighted that the Fisher Foundation has built a facility on the property where veterans' families can live while their loved ones are getting medical treatment at the hospital. These are all appropriate uses that are consistent with the deed and will benefit our nation's veterans.

I remain opposed, however, to the VA's consideration of any plan that would divert portions of this land for commercial uses. That is why I am pleased that Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN and I were able to have legislation passed by Congress and signed by the President to prohibit the sale or commercialization of the campus. I will continue my work with local veterans groups, elected officials and the community to ensure that the property of the West LA VA is preserved for programs that benefit and serve our veterans.

As Americans join together this Memorial Day, let us properly thank those who stand in harm's way, far from home, living under continual risk and fighting under the stars and stripes to preserve and defend the freedoms that all Americans cherish and hold dear. We owe these brave men and women an enduring debt of gratitude.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans are taught to work hard and make money and to buy a house, but we are never taught about financial literacy. In these tough economic times, it is imperative that Americans know about financial literacy; it is crucial to our survival. Americans need to be prepared to make informed financial choices. Indeed, we must learn how to effectively handle money, credit, debt, and risk. We must become better stewards over the things that we are entrusted. By becoming better stewards, Americans will become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders and citizens.

I am reminded of how important this issue is to American society, as I was invited to attend a financial literacy roundtable panel at the New York Stock Exchange late last month. The panel was sponsored by the Hope Literacy Foundation. The panel was moderated by John Hope Bryant. I was surrounded by some of the great financial literacy experts in the nation. At the roundtable, I discussed the importance of financial literacy for college and

university students. It is important that students be taught financial literacy. The facts about students and financial literacy are astounding.

In 2008, 84 percent of undergraduates had at least one credit card. This figure is staggering. Young people who themselves might not even have a job are able to get credit cards. This is astounding because it begins the cycle of indebtedness.

Recent studies have indicated that young people do not even know basic financial topics such as the impact of student loans on one's credit, how to balance a checkbook, and the impact of automobile loans on one's credit.

Because of my concern that young people are not sufficiently informed about financial literacy, I have offered this amendment: To require financial literacy counseling for borrowers, and for other purposes.

This amendment is important because approximately two-thirds of students borrow to pay for college according to the Center for Economic and Policy Research. Moreover, one in ten of student borrowers have loans more than \$35,000. Passing this legislation will ensure that our nation's college students will be more prepared when incurring student loan debt and help them to avoid default as student loans severely impact one's credit score. Currently there is about \$60 billion in defaulted student loan debt.

Many students do not understand the reality of repaying student debt while taking out these loans. While most Americans have debt of some kind, student loan repayment is especially scary, as one cannot just declare bankruptcy and have their loans discharged. Due to the lack of financial literacy counseling for borrowers, student loan payments are often higher than expected. Recent grads are unable to afford the monthly payments resulting in them living paycheck to paycheck, acquiring credit card debt and in extreme cases, grads leaving the country in order to avoid repayment and debt collectors.

Students and parents are not currently receiving the proper or any information of the burden that their student loans will have once they graduate. This is possibly a result of the relationship between student loan companies and universities, as some lenders offer universities incentives to steer borrowers their way.

College campuses are one place that young Americans are introduced to credit and the possibility of living beyond their means. With proper loan and credit counseling the burden of debt incurred in college could be greatly reduced. Especially in this time of recession, financial literacy is one of the most important tools that we can give to our students in order to ensure their success in the future.

This amendment will provide financial literacy training to students and will require a minimum of 4 hours of counseling including entrance and exit counseling. Counseling will include the fundamentals of basic checking and savings accounts, budgeting, types of credit and their appropriate uses, the different forms of student financial aid, repayment options, credit scores and ratings, as well as investing.

I support the bill and urge my colleagues to do likewise.

H.R. 627 prevents card companies from unfairly increasing interest rates on existing card balances—retroactive increases are permitted only if a cardholder is more than 30 days late,

if a promotional rate expires, if the rate adjusts as part of a variable rate, or if the cardholder fails to comply with a workout agreement.

The bill requires card companies to give 45 days notice of all interest rate increases or significant contract changes (e.g. fees).

Requires companies to let consumers set their own fixed credit limit that cannot be exceeded.

Prevents companies from charging "over-the-limit" fees when a cardholder has set a limit, or when a preauthorized credit "hold" pushes a consumer over their limit.

Limits (to 3) the number of over-the-limit fees companies can charge for the same transaction—some issuers now charge virtually unlimited fees for a single violation.

Ends unfair "double cycle" billing—card companies couldn't charge interest on debt consumers have already paid on time.

If a cardholder pays on time and in full, the bill prevents card companies from piling additional fees on balances consisting solely of left-over interest.

Prohibits card companies from charging a fee when customers pay their bill.

Many companies credit payments to a cardholder's lowest interest rate balances first, making it impossible for the consumer to pay off high-rate debt. The bill bans this practice, requiring payments made in excess of the minimum to be allocated proportionally or to the balance with the highest interest rate. Protects Cardholders from Due Date Gimmicks.

Requires card companies to mail billing statements 21 calendar days before the due date (up from the current 14 days), and to credit as "on time" payments made before 5 p.m. local time on the due date.

Extends the due date to next business day for mailed payments when the due date falls on a day a card company does not accept or receive mail (i.e. Sundays and holidays).

Establishes standard definitions of terms like "fixed rate" and "prime rate" so companies can't mislead or deceive consumers in marketing and advertising.

Gives consumers who are pre-approved for a card the right to reject that card prior to activation without negatively affecting their credit scores.

Prohibits issuers of subprime cards (where total yearly fixed fees exceed 25 percent of the credit limit) from charging those fees to the card itself. These cards are generally targeted to low-income consumers with weak credit histories.

Prohibits card companies from knowingly issuing cards to individuals under 18 who are not emancipated.

Requires reports to Congress by the Federal Reserve on credit card industry practices to enhance congressional oversight.

Requires card companies to send out 45-day notice of interest rate increases 90-days after the bill is signed into law; the remainder of the bill takes effect 12 months after enactment.

82 PERCENT OF CREDIT CARDS ALLOWED UNLIMITED PENALTY RATE INCREASES

When credit card accounts become past due, companies frequently impose penalty interest rate increases on outstanding balances, on top of late fees averaging \$39. The penalty interest rate can lead to a significant increase in the cardholder's level of debt, and may continue to apply long after the cardholder has re-established a track record of responsible payment behavior.

The Pew Health Group studied all credit cards offered online by the largest 12 issuers, which control nearly 90 percent of outstanding credit card debt in America. The study included more than 400 credit card products. Based on a new analysis of this data, we found that 82 percent of credit cards allowed issuers to impose penalty interest rate hikes that could last indefinitely, giving responsible cardholders no right to return to the originally agreed interest rate.

"CURE PERIOD" PROVISION WOULD HELP CURB PENALTIES AVERAGING \$500 PER YEAR

The median allowable penalty interest rate was 28 percent per year, adding nearly 14 percentage points to the average non-penalty interest rate. This penalty would cost \$140 annually for every \$1,000 in credit card debt, or nearly \$500 per year for a typical repriced account. In most cases, these added costs can continue as long as the account is open, regardless of the cardholder's subsequent payment behavior.

The Federal Reserve has announced rules to help limit penalties it deems "unfair and deceptive." But even under those rules, Americans will be on track to pay credit card companies more than \$7 billion per year in penalty interest charges—unless congressional leaders adopt an important new Senate proposal.

The proposal, often called a "cure period" or "pathway back," enables consumers to reverse penalty interest rates by making on-time payments for six months. Cardholders who pay on-time during the cure period can reduce penalty interest charges by half or more.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

JOB CREATION THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2352) to amend the Small Business Act, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 2352 "Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act of 2009." I would also like to extend my thanks to Representative HEATH SHULER of North Carolina for introducing this important legislation. This will amend the Small Business Act in a number of ways that will help small businesses throughout the United States.

America is home to more than 26 million small businesses that represent more than 99.7 percent of all employers. Small businesses create half of our gross domestic product, and up to 80 percent of the new jobs nationwide. Recent studies have shown that supporting small businesses is good for the American economy. In fact, for every \$1 invested, small businesses will contribute \$7 to the economy. H.R. 2352 provides small businesses and entrepreneurs the tools and resources they need to succeed and thrive. Entrepreneurial development programs helped create 73,000 jobs last year alone.

The vibrancy of our economic prosperity depends on the ability of our nation's small busi-

ness community to adapt to opportunities at home and abroad. The skill required to navigate the many regulations imposed by the Federal government is essential to maximize any business plan. Alliances made between the private sector and government allow small business owners to be empowered by the Federal regulatory process and not the victim of it.

WOMEN

H.R. 2352 will accomplish many different initiatives pertaining to helping small businesses. There are specific stipulations that will enable women-owned businesses. It will revise the Small Business Administration's women's business center program to publish grants and establish a process for centers regarding administration matters. It will also authorize administrations to provide financial assistance to private nonprofit organizations to conduct projects for the benefits of small businesses owned and controlled by women as well as women's businesses centers performance measures to be established. H.R. 2352 will also require the National Women's Business Council studies to include the impact of the 2008–2009 financial markets crisis on women-owned businesses. H.R. 2352 will broaden the Women's Business Centers Program by improving and expanding business development resources for women entrepreneurs by increasing counseling and training facilities for this sector, particularly targeting underserved areas.

GENERAL

In addition to supporting women small business development the bill creates a grant program for SBDCs specifically designed to assist small firms in securing capital such as the new small business lending generated under the Recovery Act. The Recovery Act contains numerous provisions to generate new small business lending, such as increasing from 85% to 90% the amount of an SBA-backed loan that the government guarantees—with estimates that the Act will generate \$21 billion in new lending and investment for small businesses.

H.R. 2352 also creates new entrepreneurial development programs. It establishes, for the first time, a nationwide network of Veterans Business Centers to provide specialized entrepreneurial training and counseling to our nation's veterans. It also creates new support services for Native American-owned small businesses.

CONCLUSION

Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy in Houston and across America. But for too long, small businesses have found it difficult or impossible to compete for federal contracts. I am proud to support legislation that fixes this problem and gives hard-working small businesses a fair shake. I urge my colleagues to support this bill as well.

TRIBUTE TO THE DAUGHERTY MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT CENTER AT THE NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER, CORONA DIVISION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a young man who died in

service to his country and whose name will be forever immortalized at the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) in Corona, California. Cryptologic Technician, Technical, Petty Officer First Class Steven P. Daugherty is an American hero and I know that the men and women who work at NSWC, Corona are honored to have his name grace their new Joint Warfare Assessment Laboratory Building. Today, Armed Forces Day, would have been Steven's 30th birthday.

Steven P. Daugherty was born in Apple Valley, California, and was killed in action July 6, 2007, in Baghdad, Iraq, by an improvised explosive device (IED). Steven excelled at an early age: he was student of the month at Barstow High School and made the honor roll at Barstow Community College. After graduating with an associate's degree in liberal studies, Steven enlisted in the Navy, where he worked as part of an elite Navy SEAL team.

On that fateful day in July, Petty Officer Steven and his team were returning from an important mission when their vehicle struck an IED, killing him and the two other members of his unit. According to the National Security Agency, the work he and his team performed earlier in the day played a decisive role in thwarting a dangerous group of insurgents trying to kill coalition forces. Today, across from our Nation's Capitol, Steven rests in peace in

the sacred ground of Arlington National Cemetery.

Steven was respected by his peers as a professional and dedicated cryptologic technician, and his work was vital to the success of important combat missions. He was a decorated Sailor, having been awarded a Bronze Star (with combat "V" for Valor), the Purple Heart, a Combat Action Ribbon and other medals and commendations. His name is inscribed on National Security Agency's Memorial Wall, "They Served in Silence." Steven is also the first formal recipient of the National Intelligence Medal for Valor.

Steven was a loving 28-year-old father to an adoring 5-year-old son; a loyal brother to three fellow warfighters—two Airmen and one Soldier, Richard, Robert, and Kristine; and a faithful son to his parents, Thomas and Lydia.

Most of all, Steven P. Daugherty was a patriot who gave the full measure of devotion defending America's freedom.

In naming this important building to honor the sacrifice of Petty Officer Steven P. Daugherty, the Navy dedicates to him the latest addition to the Nation's premiere Joint Warfare Assessment Laboratory at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Corona Division. The Daugherty Memorial Assessment Center will stand as an ever-present reminder of Steven—and to every Sailor, Marine, Soldier, and Airman who has given their life in defense of this country. This dedication also commemo-

rates the groundbreaking work NSWC, Corona is doing to support the Joint IED Defeat Organization in its mission to combat the threat of IEDs against our Armed Forces.

In addition to supporting needed counter-IED efforts, the Daugherty Memorial Assessment Center greatly enhances NSWC Corona's ability to support key national missions. NSWC, Corona will provide Strike Group interoperability assessment needed to certify ships for deployment; provide critical flight analysis for all Navy surface missile systems; provide performance assessment of Aegis and Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense ships throughout their entire lifecycle; and finally, NSWC, Corona will centralize, process, and distribute the Navy's combat and weapon system data on one of the largest classified networks in the Department of Defense.

The Daugherty Memorial Assessment Center is a state-of-the-art analysis and assessment asset that gives the Nation extensive capability to protect our Armed Forces, our country, and our freedom. May the new Daugherty Memorial Assessment Center serve as a reminder to the men and women who carry out the mission of NSWC, Corona how very important their work is to our troops. And may we pledge to always remember Steven P. Daugherty; the goodness he brought to our world and the sacrifice he has made will never be forgotten.