

past few days, about how some of Wall Street's biggest banks are planning to give millions of dollars in bonuses. I am outraged by this. I have to ask myself, "Where is the common sense of these Wall Street bankers? Where is their patriotism? Where is their shared sense of sacrifice?"

I grew up during World War II. When this Nation was in trouble then, all Americans stood together; all Americans made sacrifices—the working men and women of this country and the barons of industry. This current crowd on Wall Street just doesn't seem to get that. And that is a shame.

It was important for the government to help save the American financial system from ruin. It was close to going off a desperately high cliff in the autumn of 2008. That would have been devastating for the Missouri families I represent. Was I angered that the government had to take emergency action? You bet I was—as were the folks in whose shoes I stand each day in Washington.

Action was needed in large part because Wall Street tycoons had gambled with risky mortgage backed securities and because the government was not shining its regulatory light fully on these risky investments. And, many Wall Street firms rewarded employees with exuberant pay packages based on get-rich-quick financial transactions.

In February 2009, Congress directed Treasury to review and set strict guidelines on executive compensation at financial institutions receiving assistance under the 2008 Emergency Economic Stabilization Act. Treasury has been doing that under the direction of Kenneth Feinberg, who runs the Office of the Special Master on executive compensation at the department.

I am saddened that Congress would have to create a special office to help this greedy bunch find their moral compass. And, I am even more saddened that Wall Street banks would continue to think it appropriate to cut enormous bonus checks when so many American families are out of work and many others are very deeply concerned about their economic future. Can't the Wall Street crowd see how their pay schemes are interpreted in middle America? Can't they understand that their profits are occurring because the American people made serious sacrifices to right the Nation's economic ship?

I am not yet convinced that the Treasury Secretary, the Federal Reserve Chairman, or the President have worked hard enough to press this compensation issue with the Wall Street community. That is why Congress has been working on several bills to establish more sensible policies in this area and in financial regulation more broadly.

I fully realize that American companies must retain good workers to be competitive in the global marketplace and it takes pay to do that, but I am angered that executives at firms that received federal taxpayer assistance do not possess the common sense to share in the sacrifices being made by the American people during this tough economic climate. I urge them to take a step back and to reconsider their actions.

HONORING ROBERT AMMON FOR  
HIS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH  
THE CORFU FIRE DEPARTMENT

### HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I pay tribute to Mr. Robert Ammon for his 50 years of service as a member of the Corfu Fire Department in the village of Corfu, New York.

Over his five decades of service with the Department, Bob has held numerous leadership positions with the volunteer Department, including President, Vice-President, Trustee, Chairman of Carnivals and Parade Chairman.

In addition to his various official leadership roles, Bob has also been instrumental in numerous other community and fundraising events, including raising funds for the original building that housed the Corfu Fire Department and also for finalizing the sale of the Department's current facility.

Bob is a true hero who has risked his life countless times over the course of his service to the department and community. The village of Corfu is fortunate to have the Corfu Fire Department serving the community, and to have had Bob as part of the department for the last 50 years.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me in recognizing Bob Ammon's 50 years of dedicated service to the community.

### HONORING RUTH ARDEN

### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ruth Arden, the longtime Executive Director of St. Paul's Community Center. Ruth was a passionate advocate for the homeless, the impoverished, and for the welfare of the entire Toledo community. She first became involved with the center in 1975, when, as the outreach director for St. Paul's United Methodist Church, she took on the role of the center's first director. Although the job was initially supposed to have been temporary, Ruth's innate kindness, combined with the state of Ohio's decision to close mental hospitals, meant that her stay at the center turned out to be much longer than expected. Those discharged from the hospitals "hovered into the doorways" at the center, noted St. Paul's co-director Marcia Langenderfer, and in the face of such pressing need, Ruth simply could not turn people away.

Over the next 34 years, Ruth transformed St. Paul's from a small operation in a church basement into a \$1.2 million organization that served 100,000 meals annually and supervised 12 transitional apartments as well as a 30-bed homeless shelter. "I think she would have worked forever," Ms. Langenderfer said, adding that Ruth "was very strong-willed and always determined to help this population."

Yet Ruth's desire to make this world a better place was not limited to those whom she

served at St. Paul's. An enthusiastic art lover, she participated in the Toledo Museum of Art's Children's Program and, from 2003 to 2007, served on the board of the Toledo Artists' Club. Additionally, Ruth belonged to the Rotary Club of Toledo and was on the board of the Coalition for Housing and Homelessness in Ohio from 1983 to 2003. In 1991, Inc. Magazine named her a finalist for the publication's prestigious Entrepreneur of the Year award.

I first met Ruth in 1983, and was floored by the way in which this remarkable woman seized every opportunity to remind others to be both grateful and kind. "We would go to church," her daughter Kimberly Arden Chandler recalled, "and on the way home, she would drive us through neighborhoods where people didn't have as much as we did and told us how lucky we were." It was a valuable lesson for Kimberly and her two siblings, and Ruth dedicated her life to teaching it to everyone she encountered. Yet she never asked for praise. She helped others not for her own self-satisfaction or for recognition from the community, but because it was simply the fair and noble thing to do. The size and success of St. Paul's Community Center is a shining testament to her perseverance, her zeal, and her overwhelming compassion. Ruth amazed me as a freshman Congresswoman, and her achievements continue to amaze me still. It is only right that she should now receive America's wholehearted gratitude and appreciation for her outstanding accomplishments and extraordinary life.

Ruth will be greatly missed in Toledo: she grew up there, raised her children there, and spent decades working to improve her hometown. A graduate of Waite High School, the University of Toledo, and Baldwin-Wallace College, Ruth was preceded in death by her son, Kris Kontak. We offer our heartfelt condolences to her daughters, Kimberly Arden Chandler and Karen Kontak; son, K. Reynold Kontak; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and her dear friend Jim Gottron.

I know that Ruth's family and friends are deeply comforted by the legacy she left behind and the memories they share. She helped so many people over the course of her rich and full life, and her efforts are ones for which all of us are profoundly grateful. May she be blessed with a restful peace, and may we always remember the life and good deeds of Ruth Arden.

Her achievements on behalf of our community benefited others too often forgotten in our technologically pigeonholed society. She painstakingly bestowed on our community a lasting endowment of vision and institutional capacity to serve the homeless and forgotten in the heart of Toledo. Indeed, Ruth gave this community heart. What was even more amazing was that she was of a position in life where this pursuit was not necessary to her existence. Her conscience and spiritual mission impacted thousands of people for the better. Her life stands as a bright star whose light points the path for those wise enough to follow its gleam.