

handlers need to keep the dogs comfortable and able to complete their important jobs. Frank also includes letters and cards from local students in the care packages. Most recently, Frank has partnered with Macopin Middle School in West Milford. In the fall and winter, the "Paws of Love Campaign" at the school was able to raise \$1,200 for our soldiers and canine companions.

As a dog owner, I understand the important traits of loyalty, courage, and dependability that these dogs give to our Armed Forces. Today, one day shy of the Military Working Dogs' 68th birthday, I recognize the important work of Military Working Dogs and thank their owners, trainers, handlers, and supporters for all they do for our soldiers and our Nation.

RECOGNIZING DIANNE VILLANO,
FOUNDER OF SUPPORT OUR MARINES

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Dianne Villano, the founder of Support Our Marines, Inc., in St. Pete Beach, Florida, who has dedicated herself to sending packages and correspondence to Marines who are stationed overseas. For the past four years, Ms. Villano, the owner of a local fitness company, has gone out of her way to actively support the troops, donating over 30 hours a week of her time to directing her non-profit organization.

After losing her fiancé during the September 11th terrorist attacks, Ms. Villano began supporting the troops in 2005 by sending mail and packages to those serving overseas. In 2007, she officially founded Support Our Marines in order to send packages to Marines on active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. Her initial contact with the Marines began when she discovered a Web site where Marines posted facts about their living conditions, experiences, and general needs while they were on duty overseas. She chose to focus her efforts on Marines stationed on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan, because often, servicemembers in remote locations rarely receive packages. Since founding her organization, Ms. Villano has sent over 4,500 boxes of food and other items requested by the troops, between 40 and 60 packages a month, to over 115 contacts within the Marines who then distribute the items within their companies.

Additionally, Ms. Villano works diligently to secure funding for her organization to pay the costs to ship packages overseas. Support Our Marines is a registered nonprofit in Florida and Ms. Villano recently filed for 501(c)(3) status in order to be able to more actively solicit donations. Currently, she funds much of the mailing and acquisition costs with her own paychecks.

Ms. Villano also works to raise awareness about deployed Marines by competing in triathlons and running events while wearing military gear weighing about 20 percent of her body weight. She has competed in over 20 events, each of them with photographs of fallen Marines attached to her military gear and each in honor of a specific Marine from units she has adopted.

Recently, Ms. Villano was honored by being named as the first runner-up for the local Jef-

erson Award for Public Service which recognized her outstanding community service and dedication to the troops. She chose to present her award to a wounded Marine who had inspired her during her work for the Marines and presented it to him at the James A. Haley Memorial Hospital where he was recovering from a head injury. Additionally, she has been named as an associate member of the local Marine Corps League and has received the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Department of State.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Villano is an extraordinary, selfless woman who deserves to be recognized for her outstanding service to the troops and for her continuing efforts to support them. I would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication as she continues to devote her time and attention to our heroes on the front lines of the war on terror.

CONNOR HAYES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Connor Hayes. Connor is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Connor's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Connor has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Connor can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Connor Hayes for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

MANUEL RAYMOND "RAY" SOUZA

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ray Souza as he is completing his term as President of the Western United Dairymen.

Mr. Souza is respected throughout California as one of the foremost experts on dairy policy and is a passionate advocate for California dairy producers. He is a well-known and respected leader in his local community, the California dairy industry, and in national organizations. He is the owner and operator of Mel-Delin Dairy in Turlock, California, a family dairy established by his grandfather in 1930. He started as a teenager with a 4-H cow that he purchased at an auction and has been making their living on milking cows ever since.

Mr. Souza takes an active role in his local community. He is a member of numerous community organizations including the Turlock

Chamber of Commerce, Stanislaus County Farm Bureau and many others. Mr. Souza was recognized as the Chamber's Ag Leader of the year in 1994. Mr. Souza was appointed to the Stanislaus County Fair Board in 1996, a position he still holds.

Mr. Souza has been a member of the Western United Dairymen since its inception in 1984. He has served on the board of directors for over 10 years and is currently completing his second term as President. In this capacity he has testified before Congress on issues related to the dairy industry and advises members of Congress on real world impacts of dairy policy decisions. The quality of leadership that Mr. Souza has provided to the Western United Dairymen has been critical to the success and growth of the organization.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring my good friend, Mr. Ray Souza, for his leadership, dedication, and outstanding service to Western United Dairymen.

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL" REILLEY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to a fine American, William "Bill" Reilley, Sr., on an occasion when he and his business have received a prestigious honor: the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009.

His success has been recognized by the industry. In 2001, Bill was named the International Dealer of the Year, an honor awarded to one International dealer who exhibits the highest commitment to best-in-class customer service. He was a multi-finalist for the American Truck Dealers' Dealer of the Year and the Wisconsin Truck Dealer of the Year awards. With this most recent award, Bill has received the Circle of Excellence Award a total of 15 times. The Circle of Excellence awarded by the International dealer organization of Navistar, Inc., honors International truck dealerships that achieve the highest level of dealer performance with respect to operating and financial standards and most importantly, customer satisfaction. It is the highest honor a dealer principal can receive from the company.

He started his career with International Harvester in 1963 and eventually left to become the International dealer in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Bill's business acumen has successfully positioned the company for continued success, growing Lakeside International, LLC, from one location to six while concurrently increasing revenues from \$14 million to more than \$100 million annually. Lakeside International employs 200 people in all. The company remains a family venture with Bill's son, Bill Reilley, Jr., being named successor, assuring consistent leadership and growth for years to come.

Bill has achieved this level of accomplishment and recognition through many years of hard work and service to his industry and community. He recently transitioned from his leadership role as board chairman of St. Anne's Center for Intergenerational Care in Milwaukee, a nationally recognized facility. He