

RECOGNIZING DIDLAKE, INC. AND  
THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a program which in the last several years has helped more than 40,000 Americans who are blind or who have significant disabilities gain skills and training that ultimately led to gainful employment: The AbilityOne Program.

The AbilityOne Program harnesses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. This program affords Americans with disabilities the opportunity to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits and gain greater independence and quality of life.

This comes within a segment of the population that has suffered from significant, chronic and unacceptable unemployment. However, opportunities realized through the AbilityOne Program have done much in helping to bring people who are blind or have significant disabilities into a working society. I am proud to recognize Didlake, Inc., located in Virginia's 11th district, as one shining example of a nonprofit agency working through the AbilityOne Program to enrich the lives of people with disabilities.

For more than 40 years, Didlake has provided a wide-range of resources to expand opportunities for people with disabilities in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Didlake offers training and support services to people with significant disabilities leading to employment on federal, state and local contracts such as facility management, mailroom operations, administrative services, fleet management, product packaging and more.

The mission of Didlake stands as a true example of why community nonprofit agencies and programs like AbilityOne are a winning proposition for all parties involved. For an individual with a significant disability who has never had the opportunity to hold a job, be independent, participate in the community, or play an important role in society; the training and support that organizations like Didlake offer, and the employment opportunities afforded through partnership with the AbilityOne Program are truly invaluable.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I extend my support to the AbilityOne Program. I also want to commend the dedication and commitment of Didlake President and CEO Rex Parr and his staff for helping individuals who have significant disabilities find employment. Their work helps people live fuller lives and become more active members of society. I also commend each AbilityOne employee who works every day to improve their lives and support our federal government's mission.

CONGRATULATING JAMES J.  
FLAHERTY, VICE PRESIDENT  
AND GENERAL MANAGER OF  
GENERAL DYNAMICS IN SCRAN-  
TON UPON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. James J. Flaherty, who is retiring as Vice President and General Manager at General Dynamics in Scranton, Pennsylvania, after a long and distinguished career in the Army munitions industry.

A son of James Flaherty, Sr. and Jean Joyce Flaherty, Mr. Flaherty was raised in Pittston, Pennsylvania, where he graduated from St. John's High School in 1960. A 1963 graduate of Penn State University, Mr. Flaherty joined Chamberlain Manufacturing Corporation, Scranton Division, where he held numerous engineering positions until 1969 when he was promoted to engineering supervisor of the forging operations.

In 1972, he was promoted to operations manager after which he was elevated to Assistant General Manager in 1976. In 1978 he was transferred to Chamberlain's New Bedford, Massachusetts, operations where he remained, until 1986 when he was promoted to Vice President and General Manager. He served in that post until 1991 when the New Bedford operations ceased production and he was relocated back to Scranton as Vice President and General Manager of that division.

In 2000, he was promoted to Executive Vice President and, in April, 2003, he was named President of Chamberlain Manufacturing Corporation. In 2006, after General Dynamics acquired Chamberlain, Mr. Flaherty was named Vice President and General Manager of the Scranton operations.

Mr. Flaherty was a member of the ARMS Public Private Task Force, Executive Advisory Committee, and the Industrial Committee of Ammunition Producers. He is also Past President of the Board of Directors of the Northeast Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center. He serves on the Board of Directors of the local chapter of the Salvation Army, is a member of the Lions Club and was an elected member of the Moscow Borough Council.

In February, 2009, Mr. Flaherty was inducted into the Honorable Order of St. Barbara by the U.S. Field Artillery Association and that same year was awarded the W. Francis Swingle Award by the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Mr. Flaherty is married to the former Sheila Redding of Pittston. The couple has two children and five grandchildren and plan to reside in Oriental, North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Flaherty for an outstanding career. His contributions to his profession, his community and his nation have been exemplary and he has been responsible for inspiring many others to emulate his example and his achievements.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK  
OF LIZ CARPENTER

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor and remember my dear friend and women's rights crusader, Liz Carpenter, who passed away recently at the age of 89.

When I think about Liz Carpenter, I cannot help but be reminded of her colorful personality and her remarkable fortitude. At a time when women were just beginning to tear down gender barriers, she was working tirelessly to prove that she was capable, even overly-capable, of the jobs that were assigned to her. Her tireless spirit eventually paid off, and it is impossible to remember her without remembering her countless accomplishments for women and all Americans.

A sixth-generation Texas, Mrs. Carpenter was born in Salado, Texas. She went on to study at the University of Texas, and in 1942, shortly after graduating, she moved to Washington, D.C. where she found a job working at an independent news bureau. Her early years were spent working in journalism, and after marrying her husband, Leslie Carpenter, they opened the Carpenter News Service. Together they gathered news in Washington, D.C. and grew their business until they had 18 newspaper clients across the South and Southwest. With her husband, she had two children.

In 1960, Mrs. Carpenter joined Lyndon B. Johnson's vice presidential campaign, and after the assassination of President Kennedy, she penned the 58 words that President Johnson spoke shortly after receiving the oath of office. She remained with President Johnson until 1969 when he decided against seeking a second term as President. She remained in Washington until 1976 at which time she moved to Austin where she lectured on journalism at the University of Texas and was involved with the Lyndon B. Johnson Library. In 1981, after the death of her brother, she took in his three children and raised them to adulthood. Additionally, she was the author of four books.

A strong supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment, Ms. Carpenter actively worked to see the rights of women enshrined in the Constitution. She was a passionate feminist and was a co-founder of the National Women's Political Caucus.

Madam Speaker, only 30 short days ago, I visited with Liz Carpenter. She was alert and well and still had as her number one interest the status of women. She suggested a state wide meeting on women, and was primarily concerned about the education of younger women. At the time, she encouraged me to continue the fight for more and better opportunities for all women across the country.

Madam Speaker, I am saddened by the loss of Ms. Carpenter, but I am grateful for her work, longevity, and strength. We will miss her vibrant personality, and I am heartened to know the world is a better place because of her. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in honoring her memory and celebrating her life.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF DR. JUDITH FALKENRATH

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today to recognize Dr. Judith Falkenrath for her distinguished service to the Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) and her years of dedicated service to the well-being and educational development of children in Northern Virginia.

During the last 24 years, Dr. Falkenrath has had immeasurable impacts on the lives of countless children and their families. Beginning in 1986 and continuing for 12 years, Dr. Falkenrath worked with the Fairfax County Office for Children. There she served as Early Childhood Specialist for Community Education as well as Education Coordinator for Fairfax County Head Start.

In 1998, Dr. Falkenrath joined ACCA. Founded in 1967, ACCA was created to address the needs of the working poor in our community. Since that time, ACCA has grown and diversified the services that they offer. Currently ACCA is an alliance of 26 churches in the Annandale area and together they provide assistance in areas such as Child Development Center, Family Emergency Services, Housing Repair, Furniture, Meals on Wheels, Scholarships, Shelter Assistance, and Transportation.

Believing that all children deserve quality care and education, Dr. Falkenrath, as Director of the Child Development Center, has provided leadership and dedication in providing quality preschool education and in furthering the goals of ACCA in reaching out to the poor and disadvantaged in our community. All children are accepted regardless of their circumstances or background.

Although Dr. Falkenrath is retiring from ACCA, where I know she will be sorely missed, I am pleased to note she is continuing to serve the children of Fairfax County as a member of the Child Care Advisory Council.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Judith Falkenrath for her years of service and also in congratulating her on the occasion of her retirement. Her efforts and leadership have been a great benefit to the children of our community, and truly merit our highest praise.

HONORING CAROL A. MEISSNER

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated service of Ms. Carol A. Meissner. In her 32 years of service to the Town of Evans, Ms. Meissner has helped to advance many important initiatives and has tirelessly served her community.

As Evans Town Clerk she helped modernize the Clerks office and improved both efficiency and quality of service. She served two terms as the president of the Erie County Town Clerk's Association and she was honored as

the New York State Town Clerk of the year in 2001.

Ms. Meissner's service to her community goes well above her role as Town Clerk. She also has been active in local schools, working to register graduating seniors and teaching younger students about the value of being an engaged citizen. Working with local youth is a passion of Ms. Meissner's, she sponsors a youth baseball and soccer team, and she is a guest reader at her local elementary school.

In addition to serving the young adults of her community Ms. Meissner also serves honorably as a member of The Town of Evans Volunteer Fire Company's Ladies Auxiliary. Throughout her years of service Ms. Meissner has had an impact on countless projects and programs, and she has assuredly made her community a better place. For her service she has received Certificates of Appreciation from the Town of Evans Lions Club, and The Future Business Leaders of America.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Ms. Carol A. Meissner for her dedication to her community. She is an excellent role model for the young adults she works with, a leader for her fellow community members, and a shining example of what it means to be a public servant. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Carol Meissner on her retirement from the Town of Evans Office of the Clerk.

HONORING ZANE ERIC CLARK

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zane Eric Clark, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 87, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zane has been very active with his troop participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Zane has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zane Eric Clark for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMEMORATING MARCH AS RED CROSS MONTH

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize March as National Red Cross Month. The American Red Cross has provided assistance and comfort to communities stricken by disasters large and small since it was founded in 1881 by Clara Barton. For over 100 years, the American Red Cross has continued to help ensure our communities are prepared and resilient in the face of future disasters.

Madam Speaker, at home and abroad, one in five Americans is touched by the Red Cross every single year. On September 29, an 8.0 earthquake in the Pacific Ocean generated tsunami waves in American Samoa, Samoa and Tonga, killing more than 170 people. The district I represent, the 37th of California, has the largest population of Samoans in the continental United States, so this tragedy directly impacted many families in my district. I would like to recognize the American Red Cross for their invaluable assistance and quick response in providing relief after this event. I can attest to the good work they did when I traveled to American Samoa to deliver supplies donated by my constituents. The American Red Cross mobilized 90 volunteers to provide food, water, and relief supplies, as well as tracing services for families separated during the disaster. The Samoan Red Cross mobilized 200 volunteers to distribute relief items and support camps sheltering the homeless, with the goal of assisting 15,000 people.

In my district, the Greater Long Beach Chapter of the American Red Cross has 590 registered volunteers. They have certified 32,160 people in CPR/first aid, AED and water safety skills, and more than 4,330 people have received disaster preparedness training through health fairs, speaking engagements or trained in preparedness classes. In addition, the Disaster Action Teams (DAT) responded to 33 local emergency operations, opened 3 shelters and provided disaster shelter and food to 58 individuals, and financial support to 39 families. Finally, our volunteer youth group served 1,000 needy adults and children at their annual Holiday Project.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in applauding the hard work of the American Red Cross volunteers and celebrating March as American Red Cross Month.

CONGRATULATIONS TO UMB BANK

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, Chairman FRANK and I would like to extend our congratulations to UMB Bank, its officers, directors, shareholders and employees on being designated by Forbes magazine as the second-best bank in America in 2009. UMB Financial Corporation headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, is a \$10.2 billion bank founded in 1913 with first day deposits of \$1,100.00. Six generations of the Kemper family have owned and/or operated UMB. Currently Mariner Kemper is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Peter deSilva, is the President and Chief Operating Officer, Peter Genovese is the Vice Chairman and Michael Hagedorn is the Chief Financial Officer. UMB operates in seven states—Missouri, Illinois, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Arizona and is the second largest bank holding company headquartered in Missouri.

The Bank's shared corporate vision is "To be recognized for THE unparalleled customer experience." One of the corporation's shared values is "Customers First—We do the unparalleled to create an environment that consistently exceeds the expectations of our customers."