

District, Maro Kechichian, for her exceptional service to the community.

IN HONOR OF 2011 BRAIN
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN
OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Brain Awareness Week and the benefits of this informative week in educating students on brain science in my congressional district and across the country. During Brain Awareness Week, which is held March 14–20, neuroscientists around the globe educate K–12 students, senior citizens and the public at large on the wonders of the human brain. These activities include tours of neuroscience laboratories, museum exhibitions and classroom discussions on the elements of the human brain.

In my congressional district, neuroscientists at Washington University recognized Brain Awareness Week during their annual NeuroDay on March 5. Nearly 5,000 of my constituents walked through the St. Louis Science Center to learn about brain research and treatments in the area. The daylong event included exhibits called Hands-on Human Brains, The Buzz about the Electric Dish, Spying Tips from Horseshoe Crabs, The Teenage Brain on Prism Goggles, and The 6th Sense.

Today, in recognition of Brain Awareness Week, I would like to highlight a devastating neurological condition that affects millions of Americans: Multiple Sclerosis, MS. As a co-chair of the Congressional Multiple Sclerosis caucus, I understand firsthand how this devastating and chronic disease can rob people of their ability to walk, talk, or even tie their shoes. Today, MS is the most common central nervous system disease among young adults after epilepsy and is a lifetime ailment of unknown origin that affects more than 400,000 Americans. MS is diagnosed mainly in individuals between the ages of 20 and 50, with 2 of 3 cases occurring in women. Although a cause has yet to be found, MS is thought to be an autoimmune disease in which the body's natural defenses react against the myelin and nerve fibers in the central nervous system as though they were foreign tissue.

Mr. Speaker, both genetic and environmental factors are probably involved in the cause. Previous studies had suggested that MS susceptibility peaked before the age of 15; more recent, larger studies suggest that there is no exact age cutoff. Thanks to research conducted through the National Institutes of Health, NIH, and the National Science Foundation—our premier scientific enterprises—which continue to provide hope to the 50 million Americans who suffer from neurological disorders annually. For example, the NIH is leading the way to promising new treatments for MS. One NIH-funded study showed that so-called “progenitor” cells in the brain might be used to help regenerate areas of the brain that have lost myelin.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Brain Awareness Week and the contributions that scientists who study the brain and nervous system are making to understanding more about the onset of MS and the

innovation of potential treatments that can more effectively ease the pain and suffering of individuals who grapple with this crippling illness during the prime of their lives.

CONGRATULATING PARKVIEW
HIGH SCHOOL AND SIMPSON EL-
EMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. ROB WOODALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I proudly congratulate two schools from my district, Parkview High School and Simpson Elementary School, for having earned the prestigious 2011 Georgia School of Excellence Award.

The Georgia School of Excellence award is an annual honor awarded by the Georgia School Superintendent to the schools showing the greatest improvement or highest achievement across the state. Parkview High School and Simpson Elementary, both in Gwinnett County, tied as the 7th District school showing the highest achievement as measured by being in the top ten percent in reading and mathematics assessment scores. Each of the schools will receive a grant from Georgia Natural Gas.

I am extremely proud of the work being done at both of these schools and want to recognize Principal David Smith of Parkview High School and Principal Bron Gayna Schmit of Simpson Elementary School and their hard-working faculty and staff for their excellence in providing each and every student with a superior education and enabling each student to meet his or her full potential.

These two schools are in the Gwinnett County School District, a national leader in education and winner of the 2010 Broad Prize for Public Education, an award a competitive, nationwide award given to one school district each year that exemplifies superior overall student and administrative performance.

IN RECOGNITION OF BOY SCOUT
TROOP 1818 AND CUB SCOUT
PACK 1818

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pack 1818 and Troop 1818, the Jewish Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop that are based in my neighborhood in Mantua in Fairfax. Cub Scout Pack 1818 now boasts 34 boys ranging from Grade 1 to Grade 5. Chartered by the Olam Tikvah Men's Club since 2000, Pack 1818 provides an opportunity for these boys to take in a variety of sports, crafts, and outdoor activities, like hiking and camping.

This year, Tiger Cubs include: Jacob Boyett, Elijah Fischer, Benjamin Golden, Ari Pearlstein, Nathan Rothberg, Isaac Saiger, and Matthew Wurmser. Wolf Cubs include Jacob Book, Nathan Chernys, Ben Engler, Daniel Fertel, Alex Frame, Zach Grossman, Sebastian Jones, Aidan Jupiter, Jacob Hemmerdinger, Rueben Hemmerdinger, Sol-

omon Hutchins, Ben Neifeld, and Zachary Shmargal-Ellison. Bear Cubs include Mitchell Akawie, Samuel Goldberg, Jared Johnson, Michael Krasovskiy, Ilan Nabathkhorian, Lars Rosen, and Jacob Rutzick. First year Webelos include Solomon Jones while second year Webelos include Joshua Ackerman, Kenny Book, David Chernys, Daniel Dorlester, Jordan Lamar, and Aaron Shurberg.

I am especially pleased to note that these last six boys—the second year Webelos—will transition to Boy Scouts during a ceremony this evening. Each of those boys has earned the Arrow of Light award.

After they become Boy Scouts, the number of Boys in Troop 1818 will equal 18, which in Jewish tradition corresponds to Life. Troop 1818, which is only three years old, has emerged as an important force for so many boys' lives. Troop 1818 provides opportunities to build lifelong skills and values, and make lasting friendships through weekly activities and a variety of outdoor programs. The boys have a chance to earn merit badges in such diverse areas as engineering, camping, orienteering, nuclear science, and first aid. This past year, boys from Troop 1818 got to learn CPR, build and sleep in a snow igloo, and attend the 100th anniversary National Jamboree with Scouts from around the country and world.

Troop 1818 currently includes Benjy Ackerman, Max Chernys, Jamie Frame, Josh Hone, Casey Lamar, Ezra Lapidus, Levi Meerovich, Josh Rutzick, Sam Rutzick, Ezra Postelnek, Yosef Postelnek, and Zach Watts. These boys have made significant accomplishments over the past year—earning merit badges and multiple rank advancements—which they will receive at their semi-annual Court of Honor this weekend.

Finally, I'd like to also recognize Robert Book, who founded Troop 1818 and current serves as Committee Chair for Pack 1818. An Eagle Scout himself, Robert is being recognized this weekend for his accomplishments by being presented with the Shofar Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in congratulating these scouts and also in thanking the troop leaders, parents and families for their dedication to our youth.

A TRIBUTE TO ANITA MARTIN,
29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2011

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women during the month of March.

I stand today to pay tribute to Anita Martin of Altadena, who for many years, has spent an extraordinary amount of time and energy helping our nation's veterans. Every other week, Anita and her husband of 23 years, Walter, volunteer at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System's West LA Domiciliary. They assist veterans with the necessary paperwork for benefits claims, advocate for their health care, help them find shelter, lend a

hand to homeless veterans, and act as liaisons with veterans' families and the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. In addition, the Martins raise funds, have donated clothing, computers, a washer and dryer for women veterans, arranged for a bank to provide direct deposit for the veterans at the West LA Domiciliary, and visit veterans on a regular basis.

Anita is active in several military service organizations. She is currently President of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Unit 1898, Junior Vice President of the Department of California's Ladies Auxiliary Military Order of the Purple Heart, and Senior Vice President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 280 in Pasadena. In addition to Anita's contributions to veterans, she has volunteered extensively in Altadena for years with such organizations as the Altadena Sheriff's Station, where she ran their program for abused women, the Altadena Old Fashion Days Parade, Christmas Tree Lane Association, and Franklin Elementary and Eliot Middle Schools. Along with her husband, Ms. Martin formed a Neighborhood Watch Program in their Altadena neighborhood, provided guidance to others in forming their own Neighborhood Watch Programs, and for their leadership the Martins received the Governor's Award for Best Crime Prevention in 1992 from then-Governor Deukmejian.

Anita and Walter's business, Martin's Famous Louisiana Sausages (formerly Martin's BBQ) has donated food for years to organizations such as Sacred Heart Church, various homeless shelters, the American Legion, the Altadena Sheriff's Station, and the USO. Most recently, Anita and Walter organized a program where several economically challenged senior citizens received gift cards and shopped for food at a local grocery store, with the assistance of JROTC students.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Anita Martin, for her service to the community and especially to our nation's veterans.

HONORING GEORGE E. NORCROSS,
III AND HIS COMMITMENT TO
COOPER UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George E. Norcross, III for his service to Cooper University Hospital and the health care community of South Jersey.

Mr. Norcross, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Cooper Health System, was named the "2011 Healthcare System Trustee of the Year" by the New Jersey Hospital Association.

A member of the Board of Trustees of the Cooper Health System since 1990, and Chairman since 2006, Mr. Norcross has brought significant improvements to the South Jersey health care community. Among his accomplishments are the expansion of the South Jersey and Camden Health Sciences Campus and the establishment of the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, which plans to open its doors in 2012.

Through his strong leadership and dedication to Cooper University Hospital, Mr. Norcross has helped influence development of the surrounding neighborhoods, including new and revitalized housing, the establishment of three parks and aesthetic improvements to streets and landscaping.

In addition to his work on the Board of Trustees of Cooper University Hospital, Mr. Norcross serves as Chairman of the Annual Cooper Norcross Run the Bridge, a 10k race that supports the Larc School in New Jersey, a school for children with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Norcross on his receipt of the "2011 Healthcare System Trustee of the Year" award and thank him for the service he has provided to Cooper University Hospital and the residents of South Jersey.

HONORING DARRYL VANDERVORT

HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Darryl Vandervort of Dixon, Illinois. Darryl has served as President and CEO of Katherine Shaw Betha Hospital in Dixon, Illinois since 1989. During his tenure, Darryl oversaw significant organizational growth, including five major hospital additions, the opening of seven satellite locations, and the formation of the 65-physician KSB Medical Group. KSB Hospital employed 394 people when Darryl was named CEO in 1989; it's now the largest employer in Lee County, with 1,112 employees. Darryl's focus has always been to provide the best possible medical treatment and patient experience. His contributions at KSB Hospital have improved the local quality of life and strengthened the local economy.

Darryl has also been a true community leader. Darryl was recognized for his exemplary commitment to community service when he was named Citizen of the Year in 1996 by the Dixon Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Darryl's contribution to the Sauk Valley area is a permanent reminder of his community spirit, vision, and hard work.

As Darryl Vandervort concludes his 28-year tenure at KSB Hospital, the people of the 14th Congressional district recognize his distinguished career and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. BOB
MORGAN

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mr. Bob Morgan, this year's recipient of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's Man of the Year Award.

Mr. Morgan was born in Carbondale, PA. He graduated from Wyoming Valley West High School and King's College. Bob is currently employed as a Financial Advisor, Assistant

Vice President with PNC Investments where he specializes in providing advice on asset/liability management, retirement and wealth transfer needs for clients of the Kingston and Edwardsville branch offices of PNC. Bob and his wife, Marcella, have two children.

Bob is currently beginning his 13th term as the Treasurer for the Greater Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. Bob has also served as President of the Society, on the Awards Committee, and on the Planning Committee for the Friendly Sons Annual Golf Tournament. Bob is a Past President, Vice President, and member of the Board of Trustees of the Wyoming Valley Serra Club. He is also a member of the St. Conrad's Young Men's Society, Plymouth Council 984 Knights of Columbus, and Bishop Hafey Assembly Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus. Bob currently serves as an officer of the Holy Redeemer Football Parents Club, and he and his wife, Marcella, served as Chairpersons of the March of Dimes Signature Chefs Auction in 2007 and 2008.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Morgan has dedicated himself to serving our community. His avid volunteerism has helped many of his neighbors, and his continued mission to stand up for his fellow citizens should be admired. Mr. Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Bob Morgan on receiving this year's Greater Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's Man of the Year Award.

RECOGNIZING MARCIA CARR AS
THE 2011 OKALOOSA COUNTY
EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PRO-
FESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Marcia Carr as the 2011 Okaloosa County Educational Support Professional of the Year. I am honored to recognize her achievements and her dedication to the students and teachers of Northwest Florida.

Mrs. Carr has spent twenty years in the Okaloosa County School District, including seventeen years at Riverside Elementary School in Crestview, Florida, where she is the Media Specialist. While Mrs. Carr is responsible for organizing and managing the Media Center, her contributions at Riverside Elementary go far beyond her duties in the Media Center.

Each morning Mrs. Carr braves the elements to supervise the safety of students who walk and ride their bikes to school. Mrs. Carr's day does not end when school lets out. She helps to coordinate the after school tutoring program, providing snacks and taking attendance. When the tutoring is finished, Mrs. Carr manages the transportation for each student. She knows exactly how each student is supposed to get home, and she rides the bus route twice a week to make sure that every student arrives home safely.

Marcia Carr goes above and beyond the call of duty. In her role as the Media Specialist, she is the consummate professional. Her commitment to serving the students of Riverside Elementary is evidenced by the hours she puts in before and after school.