reached boot camp in the summer of 1981, she served as Platoon Guide and was nominated and competed for Trainee of the Cycle, a highly competitive title.

During SFC Amaro's career, she has collected many honors for exceptional service. She received her first medal while serving at Fort Benjamin Harrison; this honor was followed by ten other awards. Her decorations, including the National Defense Service Ribbon and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, show a rare level of dedication to our nation.

Shortly after returning from Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benjamin Harrison, SFC Amaro was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on November 1, 1982. She dedicated 13 years of service, eight active, in the 86th ARCOM before being promoted to Staff Sergeant and transferring to the 85th Training Division in Arlington Heights in 1993.

Not only has SFC Amaro been selfless in her service to this country, she simultaneously managed the competing demands of motherhood. In 1996, she transferred away from active duty to the Individual Ready Reserve so she could be home full time to care for her daughters Christina, Catherine, and Jacqueline. She then returned to the Army Reserves four years later to serve another ten years before retirement.

In that time, she served as the Senior Human Resource NCO for the 1st Brigade, 85th Division at Fort Sheridan, and as the Operations NCO for the Emergency Operations Center for the 416th Theater Engineer Command in Darien, Illinois. On December 10, 2010, exactly thirty years from her recruitment date, SFC Amaro completed her last day of service, marking twenty years of active duty and ten years in the reserves.

If SFC Amaro's military career were not enough of an achievement on its own, she has been a devoted mother of three, engaged in her community and children's schools, and remained an active parishioner at St. Leonard's church in Berwyn, Illinois.

Please join me in thanking SFC Amaro for a career of service to the United States and wishing her a long and happy retirement. She is truly an inspiration and a great American. I am proud to have SFC Amaro as a constituent and a fellow resident of the 3rd District.

IN HONOR OF JOHN M. GILLIS OF QUINCY, MA

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of John M. Gillis, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to his hometown of Quincy, Massachusetts, and to commend him for over fifty years of dedicated service to his community.

John was born on May 16, 1925, in Quincy, Massachusetts. He graduated from Quincy High School in 1942, where he served as captain of his football team. Subsequent to his graduation, John enlisted in the United States Marine Corp. He served with distinction in the South Pacific during World War II from 1943–1946. Upon completion of his service, John enrolled at Northeastern University, graduating in 1951. He served as captain of the 1950 Northeastern Football Team.

Upon graduation, John served as a Quincy firefighter, and then worked in the office of the state auditor. He was appointed Assistant Quincy City Clerk in 1957, and served until 1959. Additionally, John was the Chairman of the Registrar of Voters in 1959. He then served as Quincy City Clerk from 1959–1992. John was elected Norfolk County Commissioner in 1992, a position he holds to this day.

John is also an active member of his community. He served as Clerk of the Quincy City Council from 1959–1992; Chairman of the Licensing Board from 1963–1992, and currently serves as Trustee at the Norfolk Agricultural School, a position he has held since 1992. He is a member of the Quincy High School Athletic Hall of Fame, and is Grand Knight at the Ave Maria Knights of Columbus.

Known for his quick sense of humor and for his loyalty to his friends, John has had the good fortune to be married to his wife, Violet, for fifty-nine years. They are the proud parents of two children and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with the family, friends, and contemporaries of John M. Gillis to thank him for his remarkable service to his hometown of Quincy, Massachusetts, and to the United States of America.

HONORING POLTV, A NEW CHICAGO-BASED TELEVISION SERVICE FOR POLISH-AMERICANS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of PolTV, a new television service that will broadcast live news, entertainment, and sports programming straight from Poland into the homes of Poles living in America and abroad. The service, provided by Chicago-based Intercom Ventures LLC, will help connect Polish emigrant communities throughout the world with their native Poland.

PolTV will be the first platform to feature programming from both major Polish networks, TVN and TVP. The service will initially broadcast 15 Polish channels, including TVN International, and will offer over 20 channels within the first 60 days of launch. TVN International provides news and entertainment designed for Poles living abroad and features popular Polish films, TV shows, and documentaries. As Intercom Ventures' third ethnic television product, PolTV follows ShiqpTV, which provides programming for Albanians living abroad, and BosnaTV, which provides the same service for Bosnian emigrants. PolTV's innovative platform offers high definition television, video on demand, and various internet applications.

Founders Drilon Qehaja and Tony Hoti are two American immigrants from Kosovo who embody the American entrepreneurial spirit. Following the Kosovo War, Qehaja started a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) long distance phone company that enabled subscribers to connect with family and friends, providing a much needed sense of normalcy in the war-torn nation. At age 20, Hoti became the youngest financial advisor at the firm AG Edwards in San Diego and, after graduating from Roosevelt College in Chicago, opened a day spa in Chicago's Gold Coast at age 26. The two teamed up to found Intercom Ventures in 2006.

I have faith that the smart, consumer-driven PolTV service will have a unifying effect for the Polish-American community. By providing daily news from news channels operating in Poland, PolTV will increase Polish-Americans' access to personally relevant international news, thereby helping them to cultivate strong cultural, familial and community relationships. As a Polish-American and Co-Chair of the Polish-American Caucus, I am very excited about the possibilities for PolTV in the future.

Please join me in honoring Intercom Ventures for creating PolTV, a responsible community-driven company for the Polish-American population. I am confident that it will successfully provide excellent services for immigrants for many years to come.

HAMMOND SPORTS HALL OF FAME 2011 INDUCTION BANQUET

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and admiration that I offer congratulations to several of Hammond's most noteworthy athletes, as well as to others who have contributed to the legacy of Hammond's athletic programs. On Tuesday, March 8, 2011, the Hammond Sports Hall of Fame honored eight new inductees at its annual Induction Banquet, which was held at the Hammond Civic Center in Hammond, Indiana. The Hammond Sports Hall of Fame was established in 1987 to recognize and honor individuals for their significant contributions to Hammond's distinguished sports legacy. These eight individuals are an admirable group, composed of former athletes, coaches, and elected officials who have excelled in their athletic pursuits or supported Hammond sports and athletics in an extraordinary manner.

At this year's induction ceremony, the Hammond Sports Hall of Fame recognized and honored the 2011 inductees. The individuals who have so deservingly earned this high honor are: Thomas McDermott, Sr., Marty Jakubowski, Frank Carroll, Tom Burns, Jeff Yelton, Carla Eskridge Rogers, David M. Wilhelm, and Bill Atkins.

Hammond is very fortunate to have produced such a rich tradition of excellence among its athletes, coaches, and supporters. In unique ways, the Class of 2011 inductees have made extraordinary contributions and have added to Hammond's rich sports heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these outstanding individuals. Along with the current members of the Hammond Sports Hall of Fame, these new inductees have made a significant contribution to the continued excellence of Hammond athletics, and I am very proud to represent them in Washington, DC.