EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE 190TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREECE'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, today, as we commemorate the 190th anniversary of Greece's independence, we not only reaffirm the ties that link our two great nations together as allies, but we also honor the accomplishments of so many Greek Americans who have made their home in New Hampshire and their immeasurable contributions to the Granite State.

One such Greek American who has dedicated his life to enhancing our community through public service is my friend, Manchester Mayor Ted Gatsas. Throughout his service as an Alderman, State Senator, and Mayor, he has dedicated his life to ensuring that we leave a better state to our children and grandchildren. Mayor Gatsas embodies the hard work, dedication, and fortitude that so many Greek Americans exemplify in our community.

This is a great day for Mayor Ted Gatsas, his wife Cassandra, and all Greek Americans who call New Hampshire home. I wish him the very best and many more years of service to our state.

LYCOMING COLLEGE BICENTENNIAL CHARTER DAY

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Bicentennial Charter Day of Lycoming College. Chartered on April 2, 1811, Lycoming College is a national liberal arts and science institution located in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The College is one of the fifty oldest colleges in the nation.

Lycoming College was founded in 1812 as the Williamsport Academy for the Education of Youth in the English and other Languages, in the Useful Arts, Science and Literature. From its inception, the Academy educated both men and women, and has provided students with financial aid.

The Reverend Benjamin Crever is credited with founding Lycoming College. Crever was a circuit-riding Methodist preacher who alerted the Baltimore Conference to the sale of the Academy, and in 1847 the Baltimore Conference purchased the Academy, subsequently opening the Williamsport Dickinson Seminary. Of the four schools Rev. Crever founded, Lycoming is the only one left operating as an educational institution.

During the term of the school's ninth President, Dr. John W. Long, Lycoming College became an accredited institution. In 1929, Williamsport Dickinson Seminary became the first accredited junior college in Pennsylvania, taking the name Williamsport Dickinson Junior College. The College then became a four-year college of the liberal arts and sciences in 1947, still under the leadership of Dr. Long. Lycoming College took its name in 1947 with reference to the local county and Native American word meaning "great stream."

In 1989, Lycoming College President Dr. James E. Douthat ushered in an era of increased enrollment and revised curriculum. Today, the school has more than 16,000 alumni and is recognized as a tier-one institution by U.S. News and World Report. Lycoming College provides undergraduate education to more than 1,400 students, offering over 30 majors culminating in a Bachelor's Degree of either Arts or Sciences.

Mr. Speaker, as a graduate of Lycoming College, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor this institution of higher learning on the anniversary of its Bicentennial Charter Day. Lycoming College's commitment to education for all, regardless of gender or financial situation, is to be commended. The College has continued to grow in influence and educational prowess since the Charter on April 2, 1811.

COTTONWOOD INC. AND ABILITYONE

HON. LYNN JENKINS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, the first priority of this Congress must be getting the American people back in the work place. I rise to support one program that is doing just that.

Today in Lawrence, Kansas the men and women at Cottonwood Inc., are manufacturing tie-down straps that our military uses to secure cargo in trucks, humvees, planes, ships and any other means of transportation.

But what makes Cottonwood particularly noteworthy, isn't just that they have been awarded the gold medal for excellence from the Defense Logistics Agency for 9 consecutive years, but that through the AbilityOne program many of the men and women assembling and packaging the tiedown straps have developmental disabilities.

The AbilityOne program provides employment opportunities to those who have severe disabilities by directing the Federal Government to purchase products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities.

The Kansans employed through this program are making significant contributions as citizens to our armed services and are productive members of the Lawrence community.

I proudly support Cottonwood, the AbilityOne Program and its workers in Kansas for making a difference in unemployment among people with disabilities both in Kansas and throughout the country.

HONORING MR. SANFORD BEECHER

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, Mr. Sanford Beecher to celebrate 50 years of practicing law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Sanford D. Beecher, Jr. was born on August 13, 1932. "Sandy" as he is more commonly known, was raised in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania and attended The Episcopal Academy.

After high school Sandy attended Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts. Upon graduation from Amherst, Sandy served our country in the U.S. Army's European Occupation of Germany from 1954–1956. After returning home, Sandy enrolled in the law program at the University of Pennsylvania, being admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar in 1961.

Sandy began his law career at Duane Morris & Heckscher in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, being admitted to the bar in 1961. Today he is "of counsel" to Klemeyer, Farley & Bernathy LLC in Milford, Pennsylvania.

Sandy married Sally Coder in 1954, and is the proud father of five children: Sharon, Susan, Sanford III, Stacey, and Sarah, and has been blessed with eleven grandchildren: Ryan, April, Tess, Gabe, Luke, Christian, Corey, Clayton, Emily, Claire, and Julia.

Sandy is an active member of the community having served as President of the Pike County Chamber of Commerce, the Pike County Ducks Unlimited, and the Pike County Bar Association. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Mercy Community Hospital and is an active member of The Church of the Good Shepherd, St. John the Evangelist.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sandy Beecher on his 50 year law career and ask my colleagues to join me in praising his commitment to his family, his community, and our nation.

KATHERINE MOORE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Katherine Moore for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Katherine Moore is a 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Katherine Moore is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and

perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Katherine Moore for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

COMMEMORATING THE SERVICE OF MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM D. RAZZ WAFF

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Major General William D. Razz Waff, who was promoted from Brigadier General to Major General by the United States Army Reserve on Saturday, February 26, 2011 at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

MG Waff began his military career by attending the Virginia Military Institute and then the University of Mississippi, where he graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Music Degree in 1976. He was commissioned through the Ole Miss Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Regular Army branch as a Distinguished Military Graduate Second Lieutenant in the Adjutant General's Corps. MG Waff served in active duty for four years at Fort Jackson, South Carolina: as the Executive Officer of the Advanced Individual Training Company; as Battalion Adjutant for the 11th Battalion, 4th Advanced Individual Training Brigade; as Executive Officer and Commander for the Fort Jackson Headquarters Company; and as Executive Officer/Adjutant of the Military Enlistment Processing Station.

After his service in active duty, MG Waff joined the United States Army Reserve. He has served in a number of commendable leadership positions across the country, which include: Training Officer of the 477th Personnel Service Company; G1 for the 1st Brigade, 85th Division; command of the Second Simulation Group, 1st Brigade, 85th Division; Chief of Staff of the 88th Regional Readiness Command; and Brigadier General for the Deputy Commanding General of the 99th Regional Readiness Command.

Major General Waff is a decorated hero with numerous accolades, which include: the Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters; the Army Achievement Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster; the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with the Gold Hourglass Device; the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, and the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal.

Currently, MG Waff is the Commanding General of the 99th Regional Support Command, where he is responsible for administrative, logistical, and facility support for more than 46,000 Army Reserve Soldiers in 439 units at 361 USAR centers and maintenance facilities in 13 states. Prior to his current duty assignment, MG Waff was the Deputy Commanding General of the United States Army Human Resources Command in Fort Knox, Kentucky, Alexandria, Virginia, and St. Louis, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in recognizing Major General William D. Razz Waff for his commendable dedication in protecting and serving the United States of America.

KAREN VILLAGRANA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Karen Villagrana for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Karen Villagrana is a 11th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Karen Villagrana is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Karen Villagrana for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

REDUCING REGULATORY BURDENS ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I don't believe anyone in this House supports truly duplicative or redundant regulation—and we should all be prepared to eliminate the headache and expense of unnecessary red tape wherever we find it. But that's not what's happening here.

In 2009, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit found in the National Cotton Council vs. EPA case that pesticides are pollutants whose discharge into our waterways is governed by the Clean Water Act. Today's legislation proposes to overturn that ruling and exempt pesticides from the Clean Water Act on the grounds that pesticides are already subject to registration under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

FIFRA registration is conditioned upon a finding that an approved pesticide "will not generally cause unreasonable adverse affects on the environment". While FIFRA registration weighs the costs and benefits of pesticide use nationally, it does not involve local assessments. For example, it does not consider whether a waterway is used for fishing or for swimming—or whether a waterway is already impaired. Indeed, with over 1000 waterways in the United States currently known to be impaired because of pesticide contamination, it is manifestly clear that FIFRA registration alone has not been sufficient to protect our nation's water.

For that reason, while I support efficient and effective regulation, I do not believe that exempting pesticides from the Clean Water Act is the answer to making sure our citizens have access to clean water. I urge a no vote.

JUDITH GONZALEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Judith Gonzalez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Judith Gonzalez is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Judith Gonzalez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Judith Gonzalez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS ON U.S.-TURKEY RELATIONS AND TURKISH AMERICANS

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Turkey Relations and Turkish Americans of which I am proud to serve as Co-Chair with Congressmen ED WHITFIELD, STEVE COHEN and GERRY CONNOLLY.

The Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Turkey Relations and Turkish Americans, otherwise known as the Turkish Caucus, was established nearly a decade ago by Representatives WHITFIELD, KAY GRANGER, and Robert Wexler to provide a platform for members of Congress to foster dialogue with our staunch ally, the Republic of Turkey, and in recognition of the valuable contributions made by Americans of Turkish descent to our society.

The Turkish Caucus and the Turkish Coalition of America, an educational organization serving to advance understanding on U.S.-Turkish issues, will be celebrating this important milestone today with a "Turkish Caucus Day."

The Turkish Caucus, established by two dozen members a decade ago, has grown into a formidable bipartisan caucus. In the last Congress, over a quarter of the total membership of the House had joined the Turkish Caucus. Today, in the 112th Congress, it has 106 members.

The important friendship between the United States and Turkey has proven enormously important since the beginning of the Cold War

and has only grown in importance since its end. Time and time again, the Republic of Turkey has stood firmly with the United States as we have pursued our shared goals in a region where we have few steady allies. Turkey, a fellow NATO country, is a vital partner and an example of a vibrant democracy in a region burdened with inequality. The country's importance has further increased over the past few months as the region is undergoing revolutionary changes.

The Turkish Caucus has become an effective platform to foster increased contacts and activities between different groups of Americans and Turkish citizens. These include meetings with our counterparts in the Turkish Grand National Assembly, which established a corresponding Turkish-U.S. Friendship Group as well as substantially increased meetings of both public and private representatives of Turkey with their American counterparts as well as with Turkish Americans. Members of the Turkish Caucus have played a leadership role in adding the voice of Congress to crucial matters related to U.S.-Turkey relations and our vital interests in the region.

Turkish Americans deserve a special thank-you for their role in expanding the membership as well as the vibrancy of the Turkish Caucus over the years. The recognition of the Caucus as a symbol of Congress' appreciation of our alliance and partnership with the Turkish nation by Turkish Americans has contributed to the rapid growth of the Caucus. On the occasion of Turkish Caucus Day, I salute Turkish Americans across the nation and thank them for their outstanding contributions to America and to strengthening the U.S.-Turkey partnership.

Our world is facing formerly unseen, monumental challenges. There is no doubt that now, more than ever, we need a strong U.S.-Turkey relationship that embodies democratic values, pluralism, secularism and respect for human rights. This kind of transnational relationship carries peace and prosperity dividends not only for the American and Turkish people, but also for the entire world.

With these thoughts, I invite my fellow members to join the Turkish Caucus on the occasion of ''Turkish Caucus Day'' and join us in this celebration.

JUAN DeLaTORRE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Juan DeLaTorre for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Juan DeLaTorre is a 9th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Juan DeLaTorre is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Juan DeLaTorre for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the American Red Cross, its employees, and volunteers on the occasion of Red Cross Month. Everyday the Red Cross provides care and comfort to individuals impacted by disasters. The Red Cross and its volunteers also provide training and education programs in communities around the United States.

In my area, the Tampa Bay Chapter works tirelessly to serve our community. Last year, the chapter and its thousands of dedicated volunteers responded to more than 400 local disasters, assisting over 500 families. It provided training in first aid, CPR, disaster preparedness, and water safety to more than 40,000 adults and children.

So far this year, the American Red Cross has responded to severe winter storms, wildfires, and flooding, among other disasters. They are currently working with their colleagues in the Japanese Red Cross to provide assistance to those affected by the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear crisis.

I thank the Red Cross for its continued service here at home and abroad and for the difference they make in the lives of disaster victims everyday.

JOEY QUINTANA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Joey Quintana for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Joey Quintana is a 8th grader at Bell Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Joey Quintana is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Joey Quintana for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO LEONARD SNOW

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Leonard Snow, who will turn 100 years old on September 14, 2011.

Mr. Snow was born in Au Sable Forks, New York, and has spent a lifetime giving back to his community and the nation as a whole. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the Pacific Theatre of World War II, helping to defend America and its allies in armed conflict.

Upon his return, Leonard took his gift for public service back to his hometown, serving as the Director of Head Start for Essex and Clinton counties, and also working on the Au Sable School Board for almost four decades. However, Mr. Snow's greatest source of pride is his three children, Stephen, Christine and Patricia.

Mr. Snow sets a fine example for everyone in the North Country. Through a focus on education, community service and strong family bonds, we can overcome many of the challenges that face the region.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Leonard Snow for his 100th birthday later this year, and I would like to again thank him for his service to the nation and his community.

KATHLEEN JACKSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kathleen Jackson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kathleen Jackson is a 7th grader at Wheat Ridge Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kathleen Jackson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kathleen Jackson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

MELISSA HOWLAND NAMED A MILITARY CHILD OF THE YEAR

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased earlier this month to receive a notice from Operation Homefront that Melissa Howland of Millis, Massachusetts, was named one of five recipients of the 2011 Military Child of the Year Award. Ms. Howland

and the other four winners will be presented with their awards next week, April 7, at a ceremony in Pentagon City. I regret very much that a previously scheduled engagement will have me on a plane to Massachusetts at the time of the award, but this is something of which Ms. Howland and her parents are entitled to be very proud, and I want to take the opportunity to note this here in the RECORD, both as a tribute to Ms. Howland, and as a tribute to Operation Homefront and the great work they do in reminding all of us of the continuing obligations we have in so many ways to the men and women of the U.S. Military.

Melissa Howland's father was sent to Iraq by our country in 2009, and he was in California without his family in 2007 and 2008. Ms. Howland has a blood disorder that leads to her immune system attacking the platelets in her blood, and this has required hospitalization to protect her from excessive bleeding. The dedication of the Howland family to our country and to each other is extraordinary, and I salute them and I salute Operation Homefront for this recognition of Melissa Howland and other students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the statement from Operation Homefront, describing the work that Melissa Howland has done and is doing, be printed here as an inspiration to others and as a chance for us to express our admiration and gratitude to the Howland family.

MILLIS STUDENT RECEIVES 2011 MILITARY CHILD OF THE YEAR® AWARD

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS—Operation Homefront today announced the five recipients of the 2011 Military Child of the Year® Award. The Navy recipient for this award is Melissa Howland, a 17-year-old 12th grader from Millis, Massachusetts.

The winners were chosen by a committee including active duty military personnel, Family Readiness Support Assistants, teachers, military mothers, and community members. Melissa will receive $5,000 and will be flown with a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C. for a special recognition ceremony on April 7, 2011.

''The sons and daughters of America's service members learn what patriotism is at a very young age,'' said Jim Knotts, President & CEO of Operation Homefront. ''Children in military families demonstrate leadership within their families and within their communities. This is what the Military Child of the Year® Award honors.''

Every Sunday, Melissa volunteers in the local hospital's maternity ward. It's the least she could do after doctors saved her life. Melissa suffers from a blood disorder that allows her immune system to attack the platelets in her blood. Without platelets her blood cannot clot and she could quickly bleed to death. As she was treated, Melissa was hospitalized several times when experimental treatments failed to work. Her father was deployed to Iraq in 2009 and stationed, unaccompanied, in California in 2007 and 2008. Still, Melissa managed to keep up her spirit and her grades. The diagnosis meant Melissa could no longer participate in the sports she loved, basketball and running. Instead, she turned her sights to community service. In 2010, Melissa donated 498 volunteer hours to 12 causes. Today, she still has to visit the doctor, often, and monitor her disease. But she is thriving and growing every day.

JOSLIN HOFFSCHNEIDER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Joslin Hoffschneider for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Joslin Hoffschneider is a 12th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Joslin Hoffschneider is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Joslin Hoffschneider for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay a special tribute to a historical leader not only for the Hispanic community but for workers all across America.

César E. Chávez was born on March 31, 1927 near Yuma, Arizona at a time of great discrimination and injustice.

He believed that the only way to get out of the circle of poverty was to work your way up and receive an education. With his family, César—as he is called by his most ardent followers worked in the fields all throughout California.

Along the way, César attended nearly 40 schools before joining the Navy at the age of 17.

After marrying in 1948, Chávez and his wife, Helen Fabela, settled in Delano. Soon after he became involved with the Community Service Organization, run by Fred Ross, a man who worked to better the lives of Mexican Americans in the state.

Working with the organization in the 1950s, Chávez became more familiar with the plight of farm workers in southern California, and in 1962 founded the National Farm Workers Association, later to become the United Farm Workers.

As a cofounder and president of United Farm Workers, César used nonviolent tactics to bring attention to the dangerous working conditions in the fields and the plight of exploited farm workers and their right to unionize.

At the same time, he studied the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, which led to his practice of nonviolence throughout his life.

Those beliefs meant turning to hunger strikes rather than violent means to draw attention to the plight of the farm workers.

César Chávez completed his 36-day Fast for Life on August 21, 1988. The Reverend Jesse Jackson took up where César left off, fasting on water for three days before passing on the fast to celebrities and leaders. The fast was passed to Martin Sheen, the Reverend J. Lowery, President SCLC; Edward Olmos, Emilio Estevez, Kerry Kennedy, daughter of Robert Kennedy, Peter Chacon, legislator, Julie Carmen, Danny Glover, Carly Simon, singer; and Whoopi Goldberg.

Today, on the 84th anniversary of his birthday, I stand to pay tribute to this hero who emerged from very little but left a tremendous impact on all of us decades later.

César died in his sleep on April 23, 1993 near Yuma, Arizona at the age of 66 years old. At the time, he was in Yuma helping farm workers.

This year, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar dedicated the site of the United Farm Workers Delano Field Office, known as ''Forty Acres'' as a National Historic Landmark.

On August 8, 1994, César Chávez was awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton. Helen Chávez, César's widow accepted the medal for her late husband, with an accompanied citation that included ''faced formidable, often violent opposition with dignity and nonviolence.''

In the words of President Clinton ''The farm workers who labored in the fields and yearned for respect and self-sufficiency pinned their hopes on this remarkable man who, with faith and discipline, soft spoken humility and amazing inner strength, led a very courageous life.''

For over ten years, I have fought for a national holiday to honor César Chávez, a man who not only carried the torch for justice and freedom, but was the beacon of hope for thousands without a voice.

The reach of his accomplishments stretches far beyond the Latino community. The battle for social justice is far from being over. But in the words of César Chávez, ''si se puede!''

During these hard economic times, let us not forget that history teaches us many things. True leaders are those who fight for those without a voice, and he was one that fought for many of those who didn't have voices.

On the anniversary of César's birthday, I encourage all Americans to remember César Chávez and honor him and his legacy.

I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor H. Res. 130, a resolution to encourage the designation of the fourth Friday of every March to be observed as ''César E. Chávez Day.''

JUAN GONZALEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Juan Gonzalez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Juan Gonzalez is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Juan Gonzalez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Juan Gonzalez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OPPORTUNITY AND RESULTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the so-called "Scholarship for Opportunity and Results Act" H.R. 471. Private school vouchers are not an effective way to improve student achievement.

I do not support private school voucher programs. Not only do these programs sometimes blur the line between church and state, but there is also little evidence that this type of reform actually helps students. In fact, I am very concerned that vouchers do nothing more than drain money out of our public school system, especially from the schools that need the most financial assistance from the federal government.

In 2004, I opposed the creation District of Columbia's private school voucher program and I have repeatedly voted against proposals to use federal funds to support voucher programs. H.R. 471 seeks to bring back to life a failed voucher program that Congress has already voted to end.

The bill before us today would spend another $100 million on a program that the evidence tells us does not work. Four separate U.S. Department of Education reports found that that the DC voucher program had no statistically significant effect on reading or math achievement. So why are we spending more today when the evidence is clear? We must not put ideology ahead of evidence. We must make decisions after weighing the evidence. If you do that, then you will oppose new funding for private school vouchers.

Further, this bill does nothing to help American students in the other 50 states. Parents, teachers, students, and school officials across New Jersey want to know what we are doing to address their needs. Why are we only talking about students in the District of Columbia?

I will continue to voice my opposition to this and other voucher programs that divert needed resources from our public schools and urge rejection of this measure.

IN SUPPORT OF THE COLORADO HUMANITIES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Colorado Humanities. The Colorado Humanities and State Humanities councils offer programs in every congressional district in this country. These programs strengthen individuals, families and communities. Councils support K–12 education, family reading programs, local heritage initiatives, veterans programs, public discussion forums, online state encyclopedias, book festivals, documentaries, lectures, library and museum exhibits, professional development and more. Without these programs many schools and small museums would go without essential educational programs.

The funding for these programs is possible through the National Endowment for the Humanities. Some have suggested the termination of the National Endowment for the Humanities. All of the participating councils stretch federal dollars by diligent fiscal management, strategic collaborations and leveraging of resources at the local level. Some of the programs including the online state encyclopedias can help generate revenue by providing an important resource for state tourism. Without federal funding councils could potentially lose the matching and in kind donations they use to double the federal funding they receive. The lack of federal support affects the future donation by private companies and donors. In 2010, the state councils used their funding to leverage $5.15 for every federal dollar awarded in grants, worked with 9,600 partner organizations and conducted programs in 5,700 communities nationwide.

The Colorado Humanities is an innovative leader, community resource and important partner for humanities programs. The Colorado Humanities is the only statewide organization exclusively dedicated to support humanities education for adults and children. They developed 57 unique programs and awarded 1504 grants in its 36-year history to support humanities education for adults and children. There are three annual community Chautauqua festivals, the Young Chautauqua history curriculum for K–12 students and the distribution of Colorado history documentaries to school and public libraries statewide. The Colorado humanities also provide schools with student writing competitions, the Colorado Book Awards, traveling exhibitions and numerous institutes for teachers.

The termination of NEA funding would impact numerous schools and museums in Colorado and the 7th Congressional District would lose multiple educational programs. Our nation's schools and museums already face budgetary cuts on the state level. Colorado Humanities demands little funding, practices diligent fiscal management and is staffed almost entirely by volunteers. The cuts proposed would eliminate an important program for all Colorado residents.

HONORING THE MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the sesquicentennial of the newspaper now known as the Marin Independent Journal. The publication's predecessor was first published on March 23, 1861, as a weekly chronicle of life in our unique corner of California. Marin County has changed a great deal in the 150 years since, but the enterprising and independent spirit of our people remains, and we are privileged that the IJ has been with us to capture it.

The IJ traces its roots back to our first local newspaper, the Marin County Journal, which in 1861 served a population of only a few thousand residents. It was a time when bears and mountain lions were still hunted in Marin hills, when the recipients of Mexican land grants still ran their own properties, and when the United States was just beginning its Civil War. The local paper covered it all with a particular taste for local news, culture, and opinion. In our sparse and isolated county, the newspaper was the voice for a community. In 1948, the Marin County Journal merged with the San Rafael Independent to form the Marin County Independent Journal, the county's premier daily ever since.

The story of the IJ is in many ways the story of Marin itself. The newspaper was there to report on Marin's iconic landmarks as they were first being built, from the celebrated Point Reyes and Point Bonita Lighthouses in the 1870s to Sausalito's Casa Madrona in the 1880s, the Golden Gate Bridge in the 1930s, and Frank Lloyd Wright's Civic Center building in the 1960s. The newspaper was there to capture local reactions to the crises our county has weathered, from the great earthquake of 1906 to the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989, from the Mt. Tamalpais fires of 1913 and 1929 to the New Year's floods of 2005.

The IJ also reminds us of how little has changed over the decades. A community defined by its independent farmers and ranchers in the 19th century has been largely urbanized, but its soul still resides in the small-scale, environmentally conscious family farming that Marin County champions today. A community that was once literally cut off from the rest of the world has become one that is now passionately engaged, but with a perspective that remains fiercely independent.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Marin Independent Journal. It is an advocate for our county, a forum for our people, and a reflection of everything that has made Marin the place we treasure.

JOSSIE FERRIS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jossie Ferris for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jossie Ferris is an 8th grader at Arvada K–8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jossie Ferris is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jossie Ferris for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT OF JAMES GREEN

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of James Green. A senior wrestler at Willingboro High School, James Green won the 145-pound division of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) Wrestling State Championship Meet on Sunday March 6, 2011 at Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall.

James Green is the first wrestler in Willingboro High School history to win a NJSIAA Wrestling State Championship. Only 30 seconds into the championship match, James had his first take-down. He went on to have five more take-downs and a reversal in the second period, which enabled him to achieve this historic victory.

I would like to extend my congratulations to James for his tremendous hard work and discipline. I would also like to congratulate James on finishing his senior year undefeated, with a record of 29–0. James finishes his impressive high school wrestling career with a record of 146–8.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the achievement of James Green in capturing the 2011 NJSIAA Wrestling State Championship and finishing the year undefeated. I ask you to join me in thanking James' coaches and teammates, as well as the teachers and student body of Willingboro High School, members of the Willingboro community and most especially James' family in lending their support to this incredible student-athlete. I wish James continued success in all his future endeavors.

JORDAN NICKS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jordan Nicks for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jordan Nicks is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jordan Nicks is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jordan Nicks for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL WALLACE ''CHIP'' GREGSON

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Lieutenant General Wallace ''Chip'' Gregson, a retired Marine, for his more than forty years of public service. He most recently served as the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs since 2009, and will leave this post on April 1, 2011. His contributions to our military's posture in the Asia-Pacific region and leadership on a wide variety of issues will be missed by many.

Before he retired from active duty in 2005, General Gregson served as Commanding General of Marine Corps Forces Pacific and Marine Corps Forces Central Command, where he managed more than 70,000 Marines and Sailors in the Middle East, Afghanistan, East Africa, Asia, and the United States. Prior to his command of Marine Corps Forces in Japan, he was Director of Asia-Pacific Policy in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. He has also served as the Chief Operating Officer for the U.S. Olympics Committee.

General Gregson graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1968, and received his first assignment the following year as a reconnaissance battalion officer in the Vietnam conflict. He later earned master's degrees in strategic planning from the U.S. Naval War College and international relations from Salve Regina College. He has also served as a military fellow for the Council on Foreign Relations, and was awarded an honorary doctorate in public service from the University of Maryland.

Throughout his career, the general's exemplary service earned him numerous awards and military decorations—including the Purple Heart. In his recent position with the Department of Defense, General Gregson recognized the strategic importance of Guam, indeed the entire region to our nation's economic and political security. He was a vanguard in leading efforts within the Department of Defense to address the needs of Guam so that the realignment of Marines from the III Marine Expeditionary Force from Okinawa, Japan is successful. He also immediately worked within the Department of Defense to address glaring issues with the realignment roadmap that could have been detrimental to the readiness of U.S. Marines in the Asia-Pacific region.

Further, General Gregson was instrumental in the development of the ''Green Guam'' concept which aims to conduct the realignment of Marines in an environmental responsible manner. Further it seeks to develop long-term economic and environmental sustainability benefits from this action. I also appreciated his efforts to provide a responsible framework in the most recent Quadrennial Defense Review to address broader training issues for all servicemen and women in the Pacific. I look forward to working with his predecessor and U.S. Pacific Command to continue addressing these matters.

General Gregson distinguished himself as an exceptional leader during his career in the Marines and as an Assistant Secretary of Defense. His commitment and dedication will be remembered for many years to come. I trust my fellow members of the House will join me in wishing the very best to the good general, his wife Cindy, and their two sons, on their future endeavors.

TRINITY OXFORD CHURCH IN NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA, PA CELEBRATING ITS 300TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the momentous 300th anniversary of the Trinity Church Oxford, one of the oldest churches in the United States, constructed in 1711 in what is now the Lawncrest neighborhood of Northeast Philadelphia.

The church's congregation pre-dates the building. A marble stone in the west wall of Church states that Church of England services were first held on the site in 1698 in a log meeting house that belonged to the Oxford Society of Friends. The Church still has in its possession the original land conveyance deed dated January 30, 1700. Queen Anne of England presented a solid silver communion chalice to the Church in 1713.

While small in physical dimensions, Trinity Church Oxford carries a rich history of rectors related to some of the most beloved people and institutions in our local and national history, including:

Rev. Aneas Ross (rector 1742–1758), the father-in-law of Betsy Ross and the brother of George Ross, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Rev. Dr. William Smith (rector 1766–1779, 1791–1798), who helped found the University of Pennsylvania

Rev. John Hobart (rector 1798–1801), who became bishop of New York in the new Protestant Episcopal Church formed after Independence and founded Hobart College.

Rev. Edward Buchanan (rector 1854–1882) who was the brother of President James Buchanan. The church school is named in his honor.

Frank Furness, acclaimed American architect who designed additions to the church in the mid-19th Century, decorated with Tiffany windows and elaborate woodwork.

At first tied to the Church to England, after independence Trinity's rectors helped to organize the Diocese of Pennsylvania of the new Protestant Episcopal Church and the church was admitted to its Convention in 1786.

As our nation grew and became more industrialized, Trinity Church Oxford welcomed industrialists and working class families to its congregation. A neighborhood that began as farmland and homes for gentry developed into a residential community for working people. With a parish house added in 1928 and a community center in 1962, Trinity Church Oxford holds true to its religious precepts of service, today housing a childcare center and hosting the Philadelphia Police Athletic League.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the generation of rectors

and parishioners of Trinity Church Oxford who have dedicated themselves to sustaining their spiritual home and ensuring its contribution to history and community.

A TRIBUTE TO THE WILLIAMSBURG PASSOVER FOOD DISTRIBUTION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important event occurring in my hometown of Brooklyn, New York on April 10, 2011. The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg in conjunction with the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty will be holding their annual Passover Food Distribution for poor Williamsburg families.

For families in need, Passover is one of the most difficult times to get by. Special Kosher for Passover food must be bought and there must be enough of it for all the holiday meals. Many poor Williamsburg families, most of whom have large households, would not be able to have a festive and joyous Passover without the UJO–Met Council Passover food distribution. Thousands and thousands of pounds of fruits, vegetables, chicken and grape juice are distributed to about 3000 families.

I also would like to note the assistance of Health Plus for their support of this special distribution and recognize in particular their CEO Tom Early, Director of Communications Kathryn Soman and Senior Community Relations Coordinator Jonathan Zalisky for their tireless efforts to make the distribution a success for the Brooklyn families that depend on it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the annual Williamsburg Passover Food Distribution.

HONORING ASSISTANT DEAN FOR PRO BONO AND PUBLIC INTEREST PROGRAMS, EVE BISKIND KLOTHEN

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eve Biskind Klothen for her outstanding accomplishments as Assistant Dean for Pro Bono and Public Interest Programs at Rutgers School of Law—Camden.

Dean Klothen was honored by Philadelphia VIP for her contributions to the non-profit legal community on March 9, 2011. Philadelphia VIP is a regional legal organization that provides free legal services to low income clients by recruiting and training volunteer lawyers to handle pro bono cases.

Dean Klothen earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and her J.D. from the Vanderbilt University School of Law. Prior to joining the staff of Rutgers, she worked in legal services in Georgia and as a federal agency fraud litigator in Washington, D.C. Dean Klothen also served as the founding director of Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent and as director of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

Since 2002, Dean Klothen has advanced and expanded the portfolio of pro bono and public interest programs at the Rutgers School of Law—Camden. Under her tenure, Rutgers—Camden law students and recent graduates have earned national accolades for their work in public interest law, including fellowships from Equal Justice Works, the Independence Foundation, and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute.

Her other professional activities include appointments to the Federal Judicial Nominating Commission for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the Civil Justice Advisory Committee for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania United States District Court. Dean Klothen is also a member, and served a year as chair of the University of Pennsylvania Law School Public Service Advisory Committee. She also serves on the boards of City Year Greater Philadelphia and MAZON: a Jewish Response to Hunger.

Dean Klothen's tireless efforts on behalf of the greater Philadelphia community have not gone unrecognized. Among the variety of awards she has been presented with are the Father Robert Drinan Award for Outstanding Public Service by the AALS; the Pro Bono Coordinator of the Year Award by the National Association of Pro Bono Coordinators, the Equal Justice Award by Community Legal Services in Philadelphia, the Outstanding Service Award by the Pennsylvania Bar Association, and the Excellence Award by Pennsylvania Legal Services.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Eve Biskind Klothen and thank her for her pro bono and public service accomplishments on behalf of the greater Philadelphia community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ANNUAL GREATER CLEVELAND BENCH-BAR MEMORIAL PROGRAM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the judges and attorneys who served the people of Northeast Ohio who died in 2010. These men and women will be remembered on Monday April 4, 2011, by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio and the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association at the Annual Greater Cleveland Bench-Bar Memorial Program at the Howard Metzenbaum U.S. Courthouse in Cleveland.

Ours is a "government of laws, not of men." This is a quote from John Adams and a concept that goes back to ancient Greece and is the root of our democratic principles. But the laws are not mere words on paper or the brick and mortar of which our courthouses are built. The law is made alive by the men and women who practice it every day in our municipal, state and federal courts. Through their professionalism, knowledge, and passion for the institutions of our democracy, they ensure that the people are given the full opportunity for the just resolution of their cases and controversies. We remember those professionals who, until their passing in 2010, gave life to the democratic principles or our great legal institutions.

We remember the Honorable Ann Aldrich, Frank D. Aquila, the Honorable Sam H. Bell, the Honorable Frank D. Celebrezze, James P. Conway, John R. Crombie, James H. Dempsey, Jr., Charles M. Driggs, Donald W. Farley, Stanley M. Fisher, Martin F. Franey, David R. Fullmer, Judd H. Gross, Irwin S. Haiman, J. Richard Hamilton, J. Bruce Hunsicker, Denise A. Jackson, Aaron Jacobson, Richard Leukart, James T. Lynn, Stanley B. Kent, Kenneth W. Kleinman, William I. Kohn, the Honorable Alvin I. Krenzler, George W. Lutjen, Howard A. Marken, the Honorable Thomas J. Moyer, the Honorable August Pryatel, Richard C. Renkert, Mark J. Savage, John E. Schoonover, Kenneth F. Seminatore, John E. Smeltz, Terry Ronald Smith, Marvin Sorin, Phillip P. Taylor, Stanley Tolliver, Michael R. Tucker, Nicholas Valentino, John R. Vintilla, Edmond A. Wigley, Allan J. Zambie, Robert I. Zashin, and the Honorable Joseph A. Zingales.

Mr. Speaker and honored colleagues, let us remember the great men and women of the law who left our physical world last year but also left their legacy of principle and passion for the law alive in our hands. Let us hope that today's attorneys and judges follow in their footsteps so that all of the people continue to share in the great institution of the law which makes our democracy great.

STATEMENT TO CONGRATULATE MAERSK ON THE FIVE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR SWITCH TO LOW-SULFUR FUEL

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today marks the five year anniversary of Maersk Line's voluntary switch to low-sulfur Marine Gas Oil for the main and auxiliary engines for their 188 ships docked in California ports. As a representative of the 37th District of California, home to the largest port complex in the country, I applaud them and thank them for being an example of corporate responsibility to the citizens of the world.

Maersk Line is the largest container shipment company in the world. Founded in 1904, Maersk operates over 550 vessels and employs 24,500 people in 125 countries across the globe.

This voluntary action increased costs for the company by $20 million, but the 60,000 barrels of low-sulfur fuel that they used have lead to short and long-term health benefits for the people of my District and throughout Southern California. In the past five years, this switch has reduced their ship's contribution to air pollution by 3700 tons through lowering their Sulfur-Dioxide levels by 95%, their Nitrogen Oxide levels by 6%, and their Particle Matter levels by 86%.

I would like to thank Maersk again for making this incredible change and look forward to seeing what they accomplish in the future.

IN HONOR OF VERA HALL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Vera Hall on the occasion of her 90th birthday. Vera is an exceptional individual and a longtime citizen-activist.

Vera was born and raised on a farm in Austinburg, Ohio. From an early age, she was interested not only in organic gardening, but also in politics and the arts; she especially enjoys attending performances of the Cleveland Orchestra. She graduated from Austinburg High School in 1939 and went on to attend The Ohio State University for two years, before U.S. involvement in World War I granted her the opportunity to go to radio school. She worked as a radio operator for 18 years. She also worked as a teletype operator in the airline industry, and eventually became a supervisor. She was actively involved in the Communication Workers of America, and served as its treasurer.

Vera has also actively fought for social justice issues for many years. During the Vietnam War, she joined Women Speak Out for Peace and Justice, and served as their treasurer for 25 years. Her peace activism continues to this day; every weekend, she goes to the West Side Market to demonstrate against war. She is also active in the Single-Payer Action Network, the Western Reserve Alliance, Women for Racial and Economic Equality, United Farm Workers, and the Cleveland Indoor Garden Society. Vera is a proud single mother, a lover of music and the arts, and an avid traveler.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor of Vera Hall on her 90th Birthday. I extend my warm wishes to her on this special day.

HONORING THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th Anniversary of the Congressional Black Caucus.

What began forty years ago as a formation of 13 Members who set out to fight racial injustice has now grown nearly 3 times with 43 Members of the Congressional Black Caucus. The Caucus is a stalwart political force within the United States Congress. It is unfortunate that we yet remain in the struggle for the fight for social, educational, economic/financial, and health equality.

As an active member of the Caucus for nearly 2 decades, it is a pleasure to work among those who are the voice for our most vulnerable populations. Our Congressional Districts know no boundaries and for many of us, we are the Congressional Representatives for minorities who, otherwise, would not have representation on issues of importance to them and their families. It is no secret that what gives soul to these United States is our unique ability to seamlessly blend many cultures into one; and we do so respectfully. However, there are miles to go. Until we get there, we will continue to fight for the least among us on critical issues that impact minority communities.

Four decades as the conscience of the Congress was and still remains the reason we have stood the test of time. It is an honor to serve.

HONORING GARY MILLER OF ANNANDALE, MINNESOTA ON HIS RETIREMENT AS SHERIFF OF WRIGHT COUNTY

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Sheriff Gary Miller of Annandale for more than 30 years of service in law enforcement to Wright County, Minnesota. From his beginnings as a part time deputy in 1975, to his ten years as Sheriff of one of the largest law enforcement agencies in Minnesota, Sheriff Miller was a dedicated public servant whose contributions to his department and to Wright County cannot be measured.

While Wright County was growing rapidly, the Sheriff's department grew along with it, and Gary spent time in nearly every role as he rose through the ranks. The deputies under his leadership respected both him and his servant attitude. Sheriff Miller made a point to be a positive presence for the citizens he served and he was a familiar face in every city of Wright County.

During his term as Sheriff, Gary addressed a devastating growth in methamphetamine use helping to bring the number of methamphetamine labs in the county down to a near zero. Sheriff Miller also was known for his good fiscal management of the department, especially in recent years when the economy required lean management. One step towards this involved combining efforts with two other counties to create a state-of-the-art forensics lab that allows for quick and efficient processing of forensic evidence. In 2009, Sheriff Miller opened up a new law enforcement center and jail, a process that started only a year before he was first elected to Sheriff. That sense of completion is what led him to think about retirement, and his time as the county's highest law officer came to an end on January 3rd, 2011.

Like many counties across our Nation, the Sheriff's office in Wright County stands for justice and peace and we are grateful for all that they do to protect our families and neighborhoods. I ask this body, along with the Speaker of the House, to join with me in thanking Sheriff Gary Miller for his dedication to the Sheriff's department and to Wright County, Minnesota.

IN RECOGNITION OF CARL D. GLICKMAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the achievements of philanthropist and civil leader Carl D. Glickman who will be receiving Notre Dame College's highest honor, the 2011 Notre Dame College Medal on Saturday April 2. The medal is awarded to an alumnus, friend of the College, or civic leader in the Greater Cleveland community who exemplifies the values of Notre Dame College by demonstrating personal, professional, and global responsibility through their community service.

Glickman and his late wife Barbara have donated millions of dollars to scholarship funds and healthcare institutions. Recently, the Cleveland Clinic Foundation opened the Glickman Urological Institute, named for Carl and Barbara Glickman. Together with fellow Notre Dame College Medal recipient Samuel H. Miller, Glickman founded and contributed millions of dollars to the Cleveland State University Moses Cleaveland Scholarship Fund. He has also donated generously to Cleveland Central Catholic High School and the Diocese of Cleveland.

Carl Glickman has been president of The Glickman Organization, a real estate development and management firm, since 1953. He was formerly the Director of the Cleveland Port Authority. In the 1960s, Glickman served the City of Cleveland as a member of the Mayor's Committee on Urban Renewal and the Mayor's Task Force on Higher Education. Over the years, has served as chairman of several banks and medical facilities and on many boards in the Greater Cleveland community. Currently, he serves as trustee emeritus for the real estate investment firm Lexington Realty Trust and is on the board of directors of Bear Stearns Companies and John Carroll University.

Dr. Andrew P. Roth, president of Notre Dame College recently said that Glickman's "generosity to the health, welfare and education of all citizens of Cleveland deserves our utmost respect. He embodies the values of Notre Dame College and its founding Sisters by demonstrating relentless dedication to the community. We are honored to present the Notre Dame College Medal to this great benefactor of our city."

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is my privilege to bring to your attention this recognition to one of Northeast Ohio's great citizens, Carl Glickman, as he receives this high honor from Notre Dame College.

CONGRATULATING THE STERLING HEIGHTS REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce & Industry in recognition of their 50th anniversary.

Beginning in 1961 as a small, localized Chamber, the Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce & Industry has grown over the last 50 years to become a leading business organization in Macomb County with more than 1,600 members and sixth-largest in the State of Michigan.

The organization started out as the "Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce," becoming the

''Shelby-Utica-Sterling Chamber of Commerce'' in 1967, and in 1972 the ''Utica Area Chamber of Commerce,'' 1977 ''Northwest Macomb Chamber of Commerce,'' 1986 ''Sterling Heights Area Chamber of Commerce,'' and in 2009 the ''Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce & Industry.'' The Chamber's ''Heritage Communities'' of Sterling Heights, Utica, and Shelby Twp. are still home to almost 50 percent of the Chamber's membership, and the Chamber now has members in every Macomb County community.

As a testament to the Chamber's ability to evolve and strengthen with time, in 2010 they partnered with the Anchor Bay Area Chamber of Commerce and formed a collaborative relationship that capitalizes on the strengths of both Chambers.

The Chamber's mission over the last 50 years has been simple: To bring features, benefits and value to their members, and each and every day strive to bring a Return on Investment (ROI) to their members, and to make their Chamber the best business organization possible.

I have witnessed firsthand the success the Chamber has with accomplishing this goal. As we have all worked together to move Macomb County forward, the Chamber has been on the forefront working with multiple partners across the community toward common goals for the betterment of the businesses, communities and residents they serve.

In addition, I came to personally know longtime former Executive Director Lil Adams whom I was pleased to work with on a number of vital local transportation projects, and current President Wayne Oehmke. Each has provided the Chamber with active, dedicated leadership in the promotion of its mission.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce & Industry in recognition of their 50th anniversary and wishing them many more years of effective service to the Macomb County business community.

IN HONOR OF THE LAKEWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Lakewood Chamber of Congress on the occasion of its centennial celebration. For 100 years, the Chamber of Commerce has served as a vital resource for Lakewood's business community.

In 1911, the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce was founded, consisting of a board of 17 individuals. Since then, the Chamber of Commerce has grown into a thriving organization of over 375 businesses, making it one of the largest suburban chambers of the state. The Chamber of Commerce is instrumental in helping Lakewood businesses save money, advocate for pro-business legislation at the local, state, and federal levels, and offers an opportunity for these businesses to interact and work together to promote the City of Lakewood.

Throughout the past 100 years, the Chamber of Commerce has established numerous events and accomplished numerous objectives. Some of the more noteworthy achievements include the Taste of Lakewood, the Lakewood Magazine, Light Up Lakewood, the Lakewood Home Show, and the Community Scholarship program. It is also a co-founder of LakewoodAlive, an economic development corporation whose mission is to improve the quality of life of residents by creating alliances with community leaders, leveraging community assets and expanding the pool of available resources in order to facilitate economic stability and growth in the City of Lakewood.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce for its 100 years of outstanding service to the business community.

HONORING SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of the Honorable Shirley Chisholm, who was the first African-American woman elected to Congress (1969–83). She served with me as part of New York's congressional delegation and as a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

My dear colleague from Brooklyn was also the first African American to run for President of the United States when she declared her candidacy in 1972. Challenging all accepted practices of politics, this very junior Member of the House, an African American woman at that, by declaring for the Presidency, single-handedly raised the profile and aspirations of all those newly empowered Blacks and women of that era.

In addition to her inspiration as a pioneer of political achievement by minorities, Chisholm was a champion for improving the quality of life in inner city communities, and a tireless advocate for protecting the rights of women and children throughout the United States.

A historic figure in American politics who broke glass ceilings and set examples for future generations of leaders, Shirley Chisholm passed away at age 80 on January 1, 2005.

I introduced legislation today to posthumously award a gold medal to my former colleague and trailblazing friend, in marking this week's 40th Anniversary of the establishment of the Congressional Black Caucus, and in commemoration of National Women's History in March.

Above all of her firsts, Shirley wanted most to be remembered as a 'woman who lived in the twentieth century and who dared to be a catalyst for change.' I believe her legacy continues to inspire all of us to work for progress, and urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Shirley Chisholm.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN HAWLEY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Brian Hawley is one of these individuals. On March 24, 2011, Brian was honored as the ''Volunteer of the Year'' at the 111th Inaugural Celebration of the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce.

Brian Hawley is Chairman and Chief Financial Officer of Luminex. Founded in 1994, this privately held, global, growing, and consistently profitable company develops distinctive data storage products based on proven technologies that tackle the complex challenges of storing, archiving, distributing and protecting data.

In 2002 and 2003, Luminex was named to the Deloitte Fast50 list as being one of the fastest growing technology companies in Southern California. In 2003, Luminex was one of the select few companies named to both the Inc. Magazine ''Inc. 500'' and Deloitte ''Fast 500'' as one of the 500 fastest growing companies in the United States.

Along with his co-founders, Luminex received the Spirit of the Entrepreneur award in technology, the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce Small Business Eagle award, the UC Riverside Bourns College of Engineering Honored Alumni Award, and was honored as a California Small Business of the Year.

Luminex has twenty-seven employees headquartered in Riverside, California and additional development offices in San Diego, California and Beaverton, Oregon.

Prior to co-founding Luminex, Brian owned and managed Computer Systems International, a consulting firm specializing in corporate business computing and software development in a variety of industries.

Brian has served on the Riverside's High Tech Task Force, is past chairman and a founding member of the Riverside Technology CEO Forum, a past chair of the Science Technology Education Partnership, and is currently Chair of the Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee.

Brian has participated in the Chamber's annual advocacy trip to Sacramento, advocating for the best interests of the region. He was called upon by the California Chamber of Commerce to testify in support of a bill that allows employees greater flexibility in their work week.

In light of all Brian has done for the community of Riverside, the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce named Brian their Volunteer of the Year. Brian's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. He has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives this prestigious award.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. CARL HIRSCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. Carl Hirsch, a leading figure in the music industry in Cleveland and throughout the country.

Born in Shaker Heights, Ohio, Mr. Hirsch demonstrated a love for radio broadcasting from an early age. He graduated from Kent State University and began working in the music industry, swiftly becoming a big name in the business.

Mr. Hirsch was known for his ability to drive radio station ratings through the roof. He was the man behind such popular stations as WMMS—The Buzzard and WMJI—Magic in the Cleveland area and WHTZ–Z100 in New Jersey. He was also instrumental in bringing the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum to Cleveland. In recognition of his vast achievements, he was inducted into the Cleveland Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame, and received an honorary doctorate from Kent State University.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please rise with me in honor and remembrance of a dedicated and widely respected individual. Mr. Carl Hirsch was a legend in the radio industry, and his exuberance, generosity, and promotion of his hometown will not be forgotten. I extend my sincerest condolences to his fiancée, Cappy; his children, Lori and Scott; and to all of his friends and relatives.

THE PRIVATE CALENDAR

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, TED POE, JERROLD NADLER, DONNA EDWARDS, JOSÉ SERRANO and I would like to take this opportunity to set forth some of the history behind, as well as describe the workings of the Private Calendar. I hope this might be of some value to the Members of this House, especially our newer colleagues.

Of the four House Calendars, the Private Calendar is the one to which all Private Bills are referred. Private Bills deal with specific individuals, corporations, institutions, and so forth, as distinguished from public bills which deal with classes only.

Of the 108 laws approved by the First Congress, only 5 were Private Laws. But their number quickly grew as the wars of the new Republic produced veterans and veterans' widows seeking pensions and as more citizens came to have private claims and demands against the Federal Government. The 49th Congress, 1885 to 1887, the first Congress for which complete workload and output data is available, passed 1,031 Private Laws, as compared with 434 Public Laws. At the turn of the century the 56th Congress passed 1,498 Private Laws and 443 Public Laws—a better than three to one ratio.

Private bills were referred to the Committee on the Whole House as far back as 1820, and a calendar of private bills was established in 1839. These bills were initially brought before the House by special orders, but the 62nd Congress changed this procedure by its rule XXIV, clause six which provided for the consideration of the Private Calendar in lieu of special orders. This rule was amended in 1932, and then adopted in its present form on March 27, 1935.

A determined effort to reduce the private bill workload of the Congress was made in the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. Section 131 of that Act banned the introduction or the consideration of four types of private bills; first, those authorizing the payment of money for pensions; second, for personal or property damages for which suit may be brought under the Federal tort claims procedure; third, those authorizing the construction of a bridge across a navigable stream, or fourth, those authorizing the correction of a military or naval record.

This ban afforded some temporary relief but was soon offset by the rising postwar and cold war flood for private immigration bills. The 82nd Congress passed 1,023 Private Laws, as compared with 594 Public Laws. The 88th Congress passed 360 Private Laws compared with 666 Public Laws.

Under rule XV, clause five, the Private Calendar is called the first and third Tuesday of each month. The consideration of the Private Calendar bills on the first Tuesday is mandatory unless dispensed with by a two-thirds vote. On the third Tuesday, however, recognition for consideration of the Private Calendar is within the discretion of the Speaker and does not take precedence over other privileged business in the House.

On the first Tuesday of each month, after disposition of business on the Speaker's table for reference only, the Speaker directs the call of the Private Calendar. If a bill called is objected to by two or more Members, it is automatically recommitted to the committee reporting it. No reservation of objection is entertained. Bills un-objected to are considered in the House in the Committee of the Whole.

On the third Tuesday of each month, the same procedure is followed with the exception that omnibus bills embodying bills previously rejected have preference and are in order regardless of objection.

Such omnibus bills are read by paragraph, and no amendments are entertained except to strike out or reduce amounts or provide limitations. Matters so stricken out shall not be again included in an omnibus bill during that session. Debate is limited to motions allowable under the rule and does not admit motions to strike out the last word or reservation of objections. The rules prohibit the Speaker from recognizing Members for statements or for requests for unanimous consent for debate. Omnibus bills so passed are thereupon resolved in their component bills, which are engrossed separately and disposed of as if passed separately.

Private Calendar bills unfinished on one Tuesday go over to the next Tuesday on which such bills are in order and are considered before the call of bills subsequently on the calendar. Omnibus bills follow the same procedure and go over to the next Tuesday on which that class of business is again in order.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to describe to the newer Members the Official Objectors Committee, the system the House has established to deal with Private Bills.

The Majority Leader and the Minority Leader each appoint three Members to serve as Private Calendar Objectors during a Congress. The Objectors are on the Floor ready to object to any Private Bill which they feel is objectionable for any reason. Should any Member have a doubt or question about a particular Private Bill, he or she can get assistance from objectors, their staff, or from the Member who introduced the bill.

The amount of private bills and the desire to have an opportunity to study them carefully before they are called on the Private Calendar has caused the six objectors to agree upon certain ground rules. The rules limit consideration of bills placed on the Private Calendar only shortly before the calendar is called. With this agreement of March 31, 2011, the members of the Private Calendar Objectors Committee have agreed that during the 112th Congress, they will consider only those bills which have been on the Private Calendar for a period of seven (7) legislative days, excluding the day the bill is placed on the calendar and the day the calendar is called. Reports must be available to the Objectors for three (3) calendar days. It is agreed that the majority and minority clerks will not submit to the Objectors any bills which do not meet this requirement.

This policy will be strictly enforced except during the closing days of a session when the House rules are suspended.

This agreement was entered into by: The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS), and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO).

I feel confident that I speak for my colleagues when I request all Members to enable us to give the necessary advance considerations to private bills by not asking that we depart from the above agreement unless absolutely necessary.

IN HONOR OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION OF CLEVELAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland for their groundbreaking work to promote and improve Cleveland's Central Neighborhood.

Founded in 1996, the Sisters of Charity Foundation focuses on improving the health status and educational outcomes of Cleveland's residents and children. Beginning in 2006, the Foundation has commissioned research and held discussions, focus groups, and panels in order to determine the health and education priorities for Cleveland's Central Neighborhood. From this research, they developed their ''Five A's'' framework of funding. In order for them to fund a program, the program must be available, affordable, accessible, adequate, and residents must be aware of its existence. They have raised over $330,000 in local funding for the Central Neighborhood and are planning to create a Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood with the help of a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing and honoring the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland for their outstanding work in promoting the Central Neighborhood of Cleveland. Their recognition of the neighborhood's promise and potential, coupled with their drive to improve the situation of those living there, makes the Foundation a wonderful asset for the community.

UNFPA AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, imagine a country where women are systematically raped, children are given guns to fight wars and most of the population struggles to live on $2 a day. This horrific almost unimaginable scenario is the reality for women and children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This month, the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health and Human Rights held a very timely and important hearing on the crisis in the DRC and what America can do to help address the situation and end the violence.

The systematic and relentless sexual violence faced by women in the DRC is an unconscionable violation of human rights. In 2008, I introduced H. Res. 1227 which reaffirmed our chamber's abhoration and condemnation of rape as a weapon of war in the Congo.

The systematic rape of women in the DRC must end and this was forcefully were raised at the hearing by witnesses including Cindy McCain and Ms. Francisca Vigaud-Walsh of Catholic Relief Services. I could not agree more.

In the Congo, many international actors are working to end the violence and they need the support of the US as they work in a very difficult political environment to end the violence.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, plays a key leadership role on the ground in addressing sexual based violence in the DRC. UNFPA aids survivors of sexual violence by providing medical care, economic and social rehabilitation, and legal assistance. The Fund has trained thousands of armed forces on protection and care for survivors.

In Kasai Oriental, North and South Kivu, thanks to global support for UNFPA's efforts, over 15,000 sexual violence survivors have received medical care. In camp Kibaki, home to 200,000 displaced people, UNFPA provides kits to test for and treat sexually transmitted infections, post exposure cleansing for rape cases and clean safe delivery kits.

Moreover, UNFPA played a key advocacy role in the 2006 adoption of the DRC law on sexual violence, expanding it to include sexual harassment, forced pregnancy, forced sterilization and other brutal practices.

Yet, the House Republicans passed an appropriations bill calling for zero funding for UNFPA. This is both unconscionable and nonsensical. Why would we have a hearing to call attention to the dire situation in the DRC and how America can help and then at the same time defund one of the key international organizations addressing the needs and well being of rape survivors?

I recall back to 2008 when my colleagues in the U.S. Senate held a similar hearing in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee several Republican Senators expressed their shock and dismay in learning about the violence and in particular the incidence of traumatic fistula from rape. Why, they asked, is not more being done? These were the same Senators who had voted to defund U.S. support to UNFPA—the lead agency addressing fistula. This would be ironic if it was not so irresponsible.

My Republican colleagues raised the same tired and discredited arguments about UNFPA's country program in China earlier this month. UNFPA is clearly and firmly on the record in opposition to the heinous "one-child policy" and continue to promote changes in China to a human-rights-based and voluntary approach to family planning. It is UNFPA who has raised the issue about the dramatic gender disparity and societal imbalance that results from sex-selection abortion and how critical it is to end this practice and promote the well being of girls. Indeed, what UNFPA's small human rights based program in China is doing are exactly the kind of pressure my Republican colleagues claim they want to see happen in there. Moreover, we have a longstanding agreement on language that ensures that in our contribution to UNFPA, no U.S. funds are spent in China, no U.S. funds are spent on abortion services and all U.S. funds are kept in a segregated account to be able to track these things. We are the only one of UNFPA's 180 donors who put restrictions on our contribution.

In the coming weeks as decisions are made on the final budget, it is imperative that the United States continues its financial and moral support for the life-saving work of UNFPA. The women in the Democratic Republic of Congo and everywhere else where UNFPA works are counting on us.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT ACT OF 2011

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I introduce the District of Columbia Medicaid Reimbursement Act of 2011 today to increase the Federal Government's reimbursement for a portion of the District of Columbia's Medicaid costs because the District is the only city, except for New York City, that pays any portion of Medicaid, an expense that is carried by the Federal Government and States. New York City, the jurisdiction that powers the economy of New York State, contributes a 25 percent share for Medicaid costs, while the state pays 25 percent, less than the District's federally mandated 30 percent contribution. The District's continuing responsibility for the share of Medicaid costs that are borne by entire states is a major component of the District's structural deficit and a threat to the financial stability of the city itself, according to the District's chief financial officer. Today, considering high unemployment in the District and the expansion of Medicaid eligibility under the new health care reform law, effective 2014, now is the time to make the District's Medicaid burden more equitable.

Under the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 (Revitalization Act), Congress recognized that state costs are too high for any city to shoulder. To address this unfairness in the District, the Revitalization Act transferred certain state responsibilities from the District to the Federal Government, including prisons and courts, and the Act increased the Federal Medicaid reimbursement to the District from 50 to 70 percent, partially relieving this burden. The city continues to carry many state costs, however.

In 1997, a formula error in the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital allotment reduced the 70 percent Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) share, and as a result, the District received only $23 million instead of the $49 million it was due. I was able to secure a technical correction in the Balanced Budget Act of 1999, partially increasing the annual allotment to $32 million from fiscal year 2000 forward. I appreciate that in 2005, Congress responded to my effort to get an additional annual increase of $20 million in the budget reconciliation bill, bringing D.C.'s Medicaid reimbursements to $57 million as intended by the Revitalization Act.

However, this amount did not reimburse the District for the years the federal error denied the city part of its federal contribution, and in any case, of course, was not intended to eliminate the District's structural deficit, which this bill partially addresses.

The bill is the eighth in my "Free and Equal D.C." series. The series of bills addresses inappropriate and often unequal restrictions placed only on the District and no other U.S. jurisdiction.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF GUNNERY SERGEANT DARWIN LEAVELL

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and pay tribute to Gunnery Sergeant Darwin Leavell, United States Marine Corps, on the occasion of his transfer from the House liaison office. I, and many other members of this chamber, have had the pleasure of working with Gunnery Sergeant Darwin Leavell over the past two and a half years during his service with Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs and as the Congressional Liaison Staff Non-Commissioned Officer of the U.S.M.C. Liaison Office in the House of Representatives.

Gunnery Sergeant Leavell distinguished himself through exceptional meritorious service while serving as the Staff Non-Commissioned Officer of Legislative Affairs. Every day he served in direct support of not only the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs but in direct support of every member of Congress, every Marine and every American. His keen abilities in organization, interpersonal relationships, and communication were extremely critical to the successful accomplishment of the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs' mission. His achievements and ability to get the job done have always been effective and noteworthy.

During his time in the Liaison office, Gunnery Sergeant Leavell was able to develop and execute legislative strategy for the United States Marine Corps that was instrumental in creating a fiscal and policy landscape conducive to training and equipping the nation's most elite fighting force, ensuring their success on the battlefield. He routinely turned broad guidance into action which energized the Office of Legislative Affairs and members of Congress alike. His actions allowed the Marine Corps to engage members of Congress and their staffs, directly facilitating the increased emphasis on improving Congressional relationships.

While leading the House Liaison Office through the extraordinary challenges associated with Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and the ongoing Global War on Terror, he concurrently ensured that a myriad of daily Congressional communications, assignments and events were executed flawlessly. During Gunnery Sergeant Leavell's tour as the Legislative Affairs Staff Non-Commissioned Officer, he accomplished the full spectrum of the Marine Corps' legislative mission. He exemplified the candor and knowledge that we have come to expect from the Marine Corps and he played a key role in maintaining superb relationships between the Marine Corps and the House of Representatives.

Throughout his time here in the House, Gunnery Sergeant Leavell effectively responded to several thousand congressional inquiries, many of which gained national level attention. Gunnery Sergeant Leavell successfully planned, coordinated and escorted over 50 international and domestic Congressional and Staff Delegations. His detailed coordination with foreign government officials, U.S. State Department, and senior military officials ensured that each delegation was conducted professionally. His attention to detail and anticipation of requirements allowed Representatives to focus on fact-finding and gleaning new insights that informed critical decisions to support the people of the United States. He has made lasting contributions to the House of Representatives. I am proud to have had the opportunity to work with Gunnery Sergeant Leavell and I thank him for his devoted service to this great nation.

TRIBUTE TO DEBBI HUFFMAN GUTHRIE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Debbi Guthrie is one of these individuals. On March 24, 2011, Debbi will be honored as the "Citizen of the Year" at the 111th Inaugural Celebration of the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce.

Debbi Huffman Guthrie is retired from her 27 year career as the third-generation owner of a roofing company established by her grandfather in 1921. Since 1993, Debbi has served as a Director with Provident Bank, a publicly-traded, community bank established in Riverside in 1957. Debbi is the current and former member of numerous organizations including: member, Riverside Community College District Capital Campaign Executive Committee; Chair, Riverside Aquatics Complex Fundraising Committee; Chair, Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce Inaugural Ball Committee; Chair, ATHENA of the Inland Valleys Committee; Member, Board of Directors—Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce; Member, Riverside Sport Hall of Fame Induction Celebration Committee; Trustee, University of California Riverside Foundation; Chair, University of California Riverside A. Gary Anderson Graduate School of Management Dean's Leadership Council; Chairwoman, Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce; Chair, Governmental Affairs Committee and Leadership Riverside Program, Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce; President and Member, Kiwanis Club of Riverside; President, Riverside Community College District Foundation; State Director, ATHENA Foundation; March Air Force Base Military Affairs Committee (Honorary Commander's Program); Inland Empire Council Boy Scouts of America, Distinguished Citizens Committee; and Junior League of Riverside.

Debbi is the recipient of many awards including: the 2010 Riverside YWCA Irene Bonnett Volunteer of the Year; the 2010 Riverside Downtown Partnership Roy Hord "Volunteer of the Year;" the 2003 Association of Agency Executives, Spirit of the Non-Profit Award; the 2003 Gold Key Award, Soroptimist Club; the 2001 Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award; the Riverside Community College Inaugural Community Service Award; the 2001 Kiwanis International George Hixson Fellowship Award; the 2001 President's Award, Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce; the 2000 Management Leader of the Year, Private Sector, UC Riverside A. Gary Anderson Graduate School of Management; and the 1999–2000 Volunteer of the Year, Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce.

In addition to her continued involvement with Provident Bank and her volunteer commitments in Riverside, Debbi now lives part-time in southern Utah where she takes pride in working with her husband to manage their 1300 acre ranch. She enjoys being with her family, horseback riding, house-boating on Lake Powell, hikes in Zion National Park and international travel with friends. Debbi is a native of Riverside and attended Ramona High School and California State University, San Bernardino. Debbi and her husband, Jim, have four adult daughters and four grandchildren.

In light of all Debbi has done for the community of Riverside, the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce named Debbi their Citizen of the Year. Debbi's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. She has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she receives this prestigious award.

HONORING COBORN'S INCORPORATED OF ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA, UPON BEING NAMED GROCERY HEADQUARTERS MAGAZINE INDEPENDENT RETAILER OF THE YEAR

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief Executive Officer Chris Coborn and all the employees of Coborn's Incorporated upon being named the Independent Retailer of the Year by Grocery Headquarters magazine. Based in St. Cloud, Minnesota, Coborn's has become a fixture in communities across Minnesota and the upper Midwest.

A uniquely American story, Chris is a fourth generation Coborn in a business that always puts family first. The work ethic and drive that led Chester Coborn to open a one-man market in 1921 still influence the decisions that are made today, and innovation has made Coborn's a leader in store development, club opportunities and consumer marketing.

Though he runs a range of businesses from a grocery distribution center to the bakery for each store, Chris never sacrifices quality. His retail stores—Coborn's, Cash Wise, and Save-A-Lot—are known for their emphasis on service to the customers that are considered family. The contributions this company gives back to the communities in which they operate are marked by service and giving. In 2010, $2.3 million dollars was donated to the Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts. Donations were also designated toward high school scholarships and higher learning at St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud Technical College, St. John's University, and the College of St. Benedict.

Additionally, matching employee contributions to the United Way and fundraising opportunities for local groups create a true sense of community among more than 6,000 employee/owners who also participate in an employee stock ownership program. These are just additional ways that Coborn's Inc. treats its employees like family.

Mr. Speaker, Coborn's Inc. is a business that emulates family principles, hard work and service at every level. I ask that this body join with me in recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of Coborn's Inc. as they are named the Independent Retailer of 2011 by Grocery Headquarters Magazine.

HONORING THE 2011 WILLINGBORO HIGH SCHOOL BOYS WINTER TRACK TEAM

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Willingboro High School Boys Winter Track Team. On February 2, 2011 the Willingboro Chimeras captured the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) Central Jersey Sectional

Group II Championship Title. After winning the Sectional Group II Championship with 61 points, the Willingboro Chimeras went on to place third in the New Jersey State Group II Championship Meet.

During the 2011 Sectional Championship Meet, Chimeras' runner, Darius Holmes, won both the 55 Meter Hurdles and 400 Meter Races. Holmes also anchored the 1,600 Meter Relay Race alongside teammates Matt Dash, Daquan Watson and Isaac Williams. Rounding out the first place finishes for the Willingboro Chimeras was Isaac Williams in the high jump competition and Traven Mable in the shot put competition.

I would also like to congratulate Darius Holmes. He won the NJSIAA State Group II 400 Meter Race during Willingboro's impressive third place finish at the state championship meet. This is Willingboro's first state championship title since 2004.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the achievement of the Willingboro High School Boys Winter Track Team in seizing the 2011 NJSIAA Central Jersey Sectional Group II Championship Title.

I ask you to join me in thanking the coaches, teachers and student body of Willingboro High School, as well as the parents and local community, who all made this victory a reality. I wish the Willingboro Chimeras continued success in next year's winter track season.

REDUCING REGULATORY BURDENS ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this legislation. Pesticide pollution in our waterways impairs fish habitats, threatens drinking water, and creates dead zones in our oceans. In its most recent "National Water Quality Inventory; Report to Congress," the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined that pesticides are the sixth leading cause of water quality impairment in estuaries. In Oregon, according to the EPA, 19 of our water bodies are considered pesticide-impaired. If ingested in drinking water at high levels, pesticides can cause a range of health problems from cancer to birth defects to kidney and liver damage to nervous system effects.

This legislation would overturn a recent court decision requiring EPA to issue Clean Water Act permits for certain pesticide discharges. It doesn't make sense to take away these tools from the EPA without replacing them with something better. The EPA has struggled to address agricultural run-off and other non-point source pollution under the Clean Water Act, and these sources will continue to be exempt from permitting requirements. But point source discharges of pesticides that leave a residue in waterways, which is the subject of this legislation, is something that the EPA can address and has now been compelled to address by a Federal appeals court. While the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) requires registration of pesticides and evaluation of their impact on human health and the environment, it does not involve a performance standard for specific bodies of water. In areas where pesticides have impaired water quality, I believe it makes sense to provide the EPA with tools to address that impairment.

I have heard a number of concerns from the agricultural community in my district about the specific standards being applied here as well as the increased burden of filling out paperwork. I look forward to working with stakeholders in my district to ensure the new requirements are not unreasonably burdensome. I would also support additional resources from the Federal Government to help counties, municipalities, public utilities, water districts, farmers, ranchers, and forest managers deal with any additional costs association with the permit requirements.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT OTIS ''BOB'' PRICE

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. McCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Otis "Bob" Price, a dedicated community leader and friend who passed away on Wednesday, February 9, 2011, at the age of 79. Bob was a family man committed to public service who always looked to give back to our community, our State, and our Nation.

Bob was born in Abilene, Kansas on January 4, 1932 and moved with his family to San Luis Obispo in 1937. The Price family eventually moved to Bakersfield in 1947 where he graduated from Kern County Union High School (now Bakersfield High School) in 1949. In 1952, Bob was drafted by the U.S. Army and became a Mess Sergeant in the 5th Army.

After being honorably discharged from active duty, Bob returned to Bakersfield. His career at the Bakersfield Police Department soon began after a police sergeant from church suggested that he apply. This recommendation set up his successful 32-year career with the Department. Bob spent his first 30 days in "rookie school," as it was called, and was quickly promoted to "motor cop." According to his family, Bob loved being a motorcycle cop and according to him he "had a motor in (his) garage when (he) made Chief of Police." Bob rose through the ranks having made Sergeant in 1964, Lieutenant in 1966, Captain in 1970, and eventually Chief of Police in 1973. He retired in 1988 after 15 years as chief.

He was elected Mayor of the City of Bakersfield in 1992 and he spent eight successful years in office before his second term ended in 2001. Bob worked to help Bakersfield continue to prosper during this time by working on projects like the Centennial Garden arena, the downtown streetscape, and the restoration of the Fox Theatre.

During the final years of his life, Bob still worked to help his community. Bob helped me by serving as district coordinator in my California State Assembly office when I was first elected. Then in 2009, Bob saw that the Bakersfield Police Department was overcrowded because the department was understaffed and, as was always his way, Bob found a solution. He started a program to bring in retired police department staff to help with all of the paperwork.

Bob loyally served his community in a distinguished career. He was a strong, genuine, straight talking leader and he will be dearly missed. Additionally, he will always be remembered as a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. Bob and his first wife Dorothy, who had a long battle with cancer, had two sons Fred and Donald.

Bob is survived by his wife, Sandi and his son, Fred, his grandchildren, Erin and Robert, and Sandi's daughter Kim and her husband Jim, and their children Audrey, Robert, and Lauren. His life was devoted to serving his community. He will be remembered as a man of deep faith, a strong leader, and a role model who remains respected by many.

TRIBUTE TO SENIOR AIRMAN MICHAEL J. HINKLE II

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, we rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, Senior Airman Michael J. Hinkle II. Today we ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died while serving our country.

Hinkle grew up in my hometown, Corona, California, with his father Michael Hinkle Senior and stepmother Cynna Hinkle. He spent summers in Michigan with his mother and stepfather, Robert Jakowinicz.

Senior Airman Hinkle followed in his father's footsteps joined the Air Force in December of 2005 and his first overseas post was in Okinawa. In 2008, Hinkle reenlisted with the Air Force and was stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base, SD, in November of 2008. Airman Hinkle deployed to the 386th ECS from the 28th Communications Squadron at Ellsworth in November. At a memorial service held by the members of the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing for a fallen Marauder on March 19, Hinkle's fellow service members paid tribute to his constant smile and easy going attitude. Major James Hewitt, 386th ECS commander, stated:

> ''Even though Mike's life was short, it was full of accomplishments and honor. Mike joined (the Air Force) and immediately headed off to become a cyber transport systems journeyman. There could not have been a better career field for Mike to join. Mike loved computers, networking and gaming. He loved being a COMM geek.

Airman Hinkle's fellow Airmen fondly remembered him for his positive attitude; Hinkle was known for stepping up to the plate and helping out whenever he was needed. Airman Hinkle accomplished so much during his short time and he will be dearly missed by his unit and all who knew him. He was buried in Michigan earlier this week. Airman Hinkle was 24 years old. He is survived by his father, mother, stepfather, stepmother, five stepsiblings and a brother.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Senior Airman Hinkle, who bravely chose an honorable life of

military service. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. The day the Hinkle family learned of the death of their son and brother was probably the hardest day they have ever faced and our thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude go out to the family and friends of Airman Hinkle. There are no words that can relieve their pain and what words we can offer only begin to convey our deep respect and highest appreciation.

Senior Airman Hinkle's family have all given a part of themselves in the loss of their loved one and we hope they know that his service and the goodness he brought to this world will never be forgotten.

INTRODUCTION OF SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO COUNTER ANTI-MUSLIM SENTIMENT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the federal government should take steps to counter anti-Muslim sentiment, along with additional cosponsors. Over the last decade, the American Muslim community has confronted a festering level of suspicion which has manifested itself in hostile government policies and bias from the general public. A CBS/New York Times poll released in mid-September showed that as many as 20 percent of Americans said they have negative feelings toward Muslims because of the September 11th terrorist attacks. While Congress has confronted some of the more violent manifestations of this bias, the general climate faced by the community has continued to create barriers to full participation in public life that should be addressed by official government policy.

As a member who represents a district with on of the greatest concentrations of American Muslims in the nation, I believe that this sense of Congress is a logical step toward sending the message that this group of proud citizens should be able to enjoy the rights guaranteed under the Constitution to the same extent as all other Americans. Throughout diverse cities and small towns across the country, American Muslims have a long history of playing crucial roles in law enforcement and the armed forces, and as business leaders, doctors, lawyers, and teachers. However, there exists in our nation today a disturbing and dangerous trend of anti-Muslim rhetoric and bigotry, evidenced by attacks against individuals, religious institutions and entire communities.

The United States is a country founded on the principles of tolerance and religious freedom, as embodied in the First Amendment of the Constitution. The protection of these principles is vital to the ongoing sense of community shared by the diverse peoples and religious groups of this nation. Targeting American Muslims for scrutiny based on their religion goes against the core principles of religious freedom and equal protection under the law. Moreover, the practice erodes trust in government and law enforcement at all levels, which, in turn, undermines public safety.

The American Muslim community should be able to rely on the federal government to lead the effort in fostering an open climate of understanding and cooperation. These communities must be shielded from the threat of violence and suspicion that was at the heart of last January's thwarted attack against the Islamic Center of America in Dearborn, Michigan. They should also be able to rely on law enforcement's fundamental integrity and respect for First Amendment protected rights. Only through a balanced examination of the challenges facing the nation will we establish a strong policy framework for protecting security, while respecting the Constitution and the interests of affected communities.

This sense of Congress is an attempt to set the record straight and counter the perception of growing anti-Muslim rhetoric. Congress has a solemn duty to ensure that its actions do not fuel misconceptions about, and prejudices toward, any faith community, including the American Muslim community and Islam. Scores of religious, civil rights, law enforcement, and national security leaders and organizations representing diverse Americans and areas of expertise are concerned about messages which appear to target the American Muslim community, sending counterproductive messages both domestically and internationally. It is essential that the federal government send the message that we all must work together to guarantee the security of our country and that no community should be singled out for suspicion.

RECOGNIZING DR. MARIE ROSSMANN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Marie Rossmann on being named the Texas State Assistant Principal of the Year. Dr. Rossmann has worked diligently to promote the high educational standards of the 26th District of Texas. She has been an educator for two decades, and has maintained her passion and optimism.

Most recently, Dr. Rossmann spearheaded the Yellow Project. With the Yellow Project, Dr. Rossmann seeks to ''assist teachers with specific interventions which enable students to become more successful in the classroom.'' This effort is unique in that it encourages teachers to take the entire child into account when coming up with a way to address his or her particular needs. It is so easy to think about the education system as one giant entity, but Dr. Rossmann reminds us that it is in fact a system composing many individual students.

It is this determination and insight that made Dr. Marie Rossmann an obvious choice for the Texas State Assistant Principal of the Year. I am encouraged to know there are people like Dr. Rossmann who are making an impact on our children's lives. Please join me in recognizing this world class educator on her wonderful work.

TRIBUTE TO GERALDINE FERRARO

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute and appreciation of Geraldine Ferraro, who blazed a trail for all women, especially in government, and dedicated her life to public service.

Gerry and I shared many priorities, many of which were grounded in our similar experiences. As a former PTA president in Queens, New York, I felt a unique kinship with Gerry, who taught elementary school in Queens. In these capacities, we came to better understand the struggles families faced, the unmet needs of children, and the opportunities—and, indeed, our responsibility—to exercise our precious rights to improve our communities for all our fellow citizens.

One of only three women in her law school class, she advocated for women and children in countless pro bono cases in family court, including during the years she spent at home raising her own children. Gerry's sense of commitment to justice and opportunity for abused women and children was rivaled only by her success. In the Queens District Attorney's office, she led the Special Victims Bureau, prosecuting domestic violence, child abuse, and sex crimes. She gave voice to thousands who desperately needed an advocate and improved the quality of life and safety for all New Yorkers.

Then as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Geraldine Ferraro fought day-in and day-out in the continuing struggle for women's rights, especially in the workplace. Before any of us knew the injustice Lilly Ledbetter faced in a tire manufacturing plant 900 miles from New York, Gerry was working to ensure women received wages, benefits, and pensions equal to their male counterparts. She laid the groundwork for the Lilly Ledbetter equal pay legislation we passed only two years ago.

The first Italian-American and the first woman on a major-party presidential ticket, Geraldine Ferraro crystallized for millions of women and girls that gender should be no obstacle to public service and national leadership. Hillary Rodham Clinton, NANCY PELOSI, and other strong women in government have benefited from the foundation she laid as the Democratic Party's Vice Presidential nominee in 1984, and she inspired countless women to pursue elected office and assert their power as voters and active civic participants. Thanks to her efforts, the United States is stronger and more representative of our diverse and vibrant population.

Her leadership did not end when she left the halls of Congress. As U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, she was a highly effective voice for women and families not just in the United States, but worldwide. She donated a great deal of her time and talent to highly respected charitable organizations and causes.

Once diagnosed with multiple myeloma, she fought her illness for 12 years with the same tenacity and determination that were the hallmarks of her professional career. I was privileged to be part of honoring Geraldine with the Eleanor Roosevelt Legacy Committee's 2009

Lifetime Achievement Award. She stirred the hundreds of women packed into a New York City ballroom with her words of inspiration, her grace, and her commitment to advancing the health and well-being of others, even as she faced the fight of her life.

In 1984, Geraldine proudly proclaimed as the Vice Presidential nominee, ''America is the land where dreams can come true for all of us.'' She didn't just believe this in her gut; she did everything in her power to ensure that, through equal opportunity, every girl and boy throughout the United States and around the world has the means to pursue their dreams of a productive and successful life.

I was privileged to know Geraldine Ferraro, and she leaves a proud legacy of courage, principled advocacy, and greater opportunity. All Americans owe her a debt of gratitude for her service and leadership.

HONORING LAFAYETTE STRIBLING CHAMPIONSHIP WINNING BASKETBALL COACH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Coach Lafayette Stribling, Championship Winning Basketball Coach and Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Hall of Famer.

Lafayette Stribling, a native of Carthage, Mississippi in Leake County graduated from Harmony High School in Carthage. He attended Mississippi Industrial College in Holly Springs, Mississippi where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree and later a Master of Science Degree from Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi. Coach Stribling has also studied at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Stribling coached high school boy's basketball for 26 years winning 741 games and 17 out of 19 Conference Championships. He was named Coach of the Year of the Choctaw Conference six consecutive years, and his team was Class BB State Champions in 1980. In addition to coaching boy's basketball, Stribling coached girl's basketball for four years. In the 1981 regular season, both the boys and girls teams were undefeated winning 67 consecutive games. He coached baseball for 15 years and won the 1971 State Championship. Subsequently, three players from that championship team went on to play baseball professionally. Throughout his 26 year high school sports career, Coach Stribling never had a losing season.

Coach Stribling spent over 20 years as the coach of the Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) Delta Devils in Itta Bena, Mississippi. During Stribling's tenure, the Delta Devils captured four SWAC regular-season titles and earned three SWAC tournament titles which lead to three trips to the NCAA Tournament (1986, 1992, 1996). Stribling was the winningest coach in Mississippi Valley State University history, with a record of 315–307.

Coach Stribling's accomplishments at Mississippi Valley included taking a squad that was down in the early 1980s and turning them into conference champions. In 1985, his Delta Devils team played on national television against the number one team in the nation, Duke University. The game, televised on ESPN, saw Mississippi Valley fight a tough contest against the Blue Devils. At halftime, the Delta Devils led by three. Early in the second half, they led by seven, only to see Duke rally for an 85–78 victory. Though, the Delta Devils did not take home the win, their performance very well may have earned them a different type of victory. At the time, Mississippi Valley State University was facing closure. After a strong performance from the Delta Devils, the national attention Stribling's squad received arguably may have breathed life back into Mississippi Valley State University, forcing state legislators to reconsider closing its doors.

In 2005, Coach Stribling retired from Mississippi Valley State University as head coach of the Delta Devils. Soon, thereafter he came out of retirement and began coaching the Tougaloo College Bulldogs. In 2007, under the tutelage of Coach Stribling, the Bulldogs won their first conference championship in the school's history. That same year, Coach Stribling was named Gulf Coast Athletic Conference Coach of the Year and the bulldogs went on to play in the National Tournament.

At 76 years-old, Coach Stribling still believes his players should ''work hard and play even harder''—that is in the classroom and on the court. His firm concept of ''academics before athletics'' left the 54 year coaching veteran with only seven of his original thirteen players in the 2011 National Tournament when some of his players became academically ineligible. In essence, Coach Stribling says, ''You can look at it two ways. I always look at my glass as half full, not half empty. All seven of my guys know they are going to play every night. They are ready. I tell them we have seven players. That's two too many. You can't use but five at a time.'' To date, The Tougaloo Bulldogs have won three championships in just five seasons.

Coach Lafayette Stribling has inspired his players to never give up on or off the court. He has survived prostate cancer and congestive heart failure and continues to enjoy every moment of the game.

Again, I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting Coach Lafayette Stribling, a living legend and an inspiration to all Mississippians.

TRIBUTE TO COACH PAUL BRIGGS

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Coach Paul Briggs, a great football coach who passed away on Monday, February 14, 2011, at the age of 90. Coach Briggs was Bakersfield High School's head football coach from 1953–1985. During those 33 seasons, his teams won 210 games, including four Central Section championships.

Coach Briggs was born in Providence, Rhode Island and grew up in Grand Junction, Colorado. He joined the Navy in 1943 and earned a Bronze Star for bravery and a Purple Heart. He played football at the University of Colorado and on the 1948 Detroit Lions. Then, Coach Briggs began his coaching career in 1949 at Rocky Ford High School in Colorado.

Continuously recognized for his great achievements in sports, Coach Briggs was a member of numerous halls of fame: the California Coaches Association Hall of Fame, Bob Elias Kern County Hall of Honor, Bakersfield High School Driller Football Hall of Fame, the University of Colorado Hall of Fame, and Citizens Athletic Foundation High School Hall of Fame. As a former player on one of Coach Briggs' Drillers teams, he was extremely knowledgeable about the game and was a tremendous leader.

Coach Briggs left Bakersfield High School after the 1985 season and continued his work with young athletes coaching at Orange Coast College. He spent 20 years there before retiring in 2005, having spent 57 years as a football coach.

Coach Briggs was a local icon and served as a great role model for the thousands of athletes he coached and taught during his career. He is survived by his daughter Paula and son-in-law Tom Parsons, grandsons Russell and Kevin Parsons, sisters Virginia Wilhite and Janet Dodrill, and his five nieces and six nephews.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH M. ALIOTO

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a friend of mine, Joseph ''Joey'' Alioto who passed away peacefully at his home on March 21, 2011 after a brave battle with cancer. He will be deeply missed.

I knew Joey through one of his many passions, Alioto's Restaurant which started as a fresh fish stall on San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf in 1925. He was often found greeting guests at the door with a big smile. He had a quick wit and a generous nature that was always welcoming.

Joey has joined his parents, Antoinette and Nunzio, and his sister, Michelle, and is survived by his wife of 36 years, Judy Alioto, and their four children Nunzio, Marc, Alexa, and Joey; his two siblings, my friend Francesca, Rose Marie Violante and her husband Cosmo; his mother-in-law, Ada Barone, his sister-in-law, Sister Claire ''Bonnie'' Barone, his brother-in-law, Joseph Barone and his wife Maricela. Uncle Joey was blessed with the love and support of his five nieces and nephews—Rochelle and her husband Kenneth Simurdiak, Matthew Violante, Gina and her husband Eric von Esmarch, Alessandro and Giancarlo Barone, and his five great grand nieces and nephews.

Joey generously contributed his time and resources to many local civic events and causes including Fisherman's Wharf Merchant Association, Fisherman's Wharf Community Benefit District, JIGs (Just Italian Guys), Kevin Collins Foundation, The Olympic Club, One Child at a Time, Ronald McDonald House, Salesian Boys' & Girls' Club, St. Ignatius Booster's Club, St. Ignatius Alumni, St. Ignatius Fathers' Club, Special Olympics, Toys for Tots Foundation, and numerous local school fundraisers. He served as President of the Port Tenants Association and the Fisherman's Wharf Merchant Association. In April of 2009, he was

given the esteemed honor of being named the ''Man of the Year'' for the Salesian Boys'' & Girls' Club. He was a person of great humility who constantly showered those around him with the abounding generosity of his heart. He will always be remembered for his passion for life, his love of music—especially opera, his sense of humor, and his generosity of heart.

Yesterday a memorial service celebrating Joey's extraordinary life was held at Saints Peter and Paul Church in San Francisco. Joey will always be remembered for his incredible work ethic, generosity, love of family, and sense of humor. His dedication to his family and community are a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to Joey's family and friends; although Joey may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

AFGHANISTAN WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 28, which would require the removal of all U.S. forces from Afghanistan by December 31, 2011.

Last Congress, I voted to give the President a year to plan for an orderly withdrawal from Afghanistan. I also voted to defund military operations except for the minimum needed to safely withdraw. I am disappointed that those measures failed, but I am even more disappointed that the administration has not yet acted decisively to chart a clear course to bring our troops home.

We are spending billions of dollars a month to prop up a corrupt Afghan government that has not proven capable to the challenges of governance. Flawed elections, rampant bribery, blatant nepotism, banking abuses, and a lack of accountability have crippled the best efforts of the international community to establish rule of law. After nearly a decade of conflict, it is time to step back, reevaluate, and correct our course.

Thanks to the efforts and sacrifices made by our troops and coalition partners, we have seen successes in the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan. CIA Director Leon Panetta has estimated that the number of al Qaeda operatives remaining in Afghanistan has substantially diminished. We should not minimize the gains our troops have made. But we must recognize that when open-ended nation building eclipses our original military objectives, we commit our blood and treasure to an uncertain, costly, and unconstrained course.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a perfect bill. But I believe it is the best way to send a clear message. I applaud President Obama for disengaging us from Iraq. Now it is time to do the same from Afghanistan. Let's do what it takes to bring our troops home.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF LOIS LEES CLUMECK

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Lois Lees Clumeck, who passed peacefully into eternity at her home in San Mateo, California, on March 21, 2011, at the age of 97 years. She was the pillar of her family . . . a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother.

Lois Clumeck raised her family to live life to the fullest and help others do the same. Her daughter Jill and son-in-law John Freidenrich took this message to heart, becoming active philanthropists committed to causes in medicine, education, and art. The passion and philanthropy that the Clumeck and Freidenrich families have demonstrated have transformed countless lives and left a legacy of light and love.

After Jill was diagnosed with breast cancer, Lois became particularly passionate about aiding women with breast cancer through an organization the family created, Breast Cancer Connections. Just as Breast Cancer Connections provided a support network for families struggling to cope with the disease, Lois was always the support network for her entire extended family, whom she deeply cherished.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest condolences to Lois Clumeck's children . . . Jack and Gloria Clumeck, and Jill and John Freidenrich; her grandchildren, Linda, Alan, Karen, Danny, Gail, Andrew, Eric, Amy, Cindy, and Adam; and her great grandchildren, Benjamin, Lauren, Evan, Danielle, Jacqueline, Samuel, David, Theodore, Lucille, Beverly, Sylvia, Justin, Jacob, Ross, and Alexa.

Lois' devoted daughter Jill once said, ''Find something you're passionate about and give as much as you can to that, and you will feel a richness beyond all riches.'' Lois Clumeck found her passion in people, and her life was rich beyond measure because of it. The memory of her words and deeds are a blessing, and I'm especially grateful to have known such a remarkable woman. She made her community better and strengthened our nation with her love, her generosity, her gentleness and her integrity.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN HAWLEY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California, are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Brian Hawley is one of these individuals. On March 24, 2011, Brian will be honored as the ''Volunteer of the Year'' at the 111th Inaugural Celebration of the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce.

Brian Hawley is Chairman and Chief Financial Officer of Luminex. Founded in 1994, this privately held, global, growing, and consistently profitable company develops distinctive data storage products based on proven technologies that tackle the complex challenges of storing, archiving, distributing and protecting data.

In 2002 and 2003, Luminex was named to the Deloitte Fast50 list as being one of the fastest growing technology companies in Southern California. In 2003, Luminex was one of the select few companies named to both the Inc. Magazine ''Inc. 500'' and Deloitte ''Fast 500'' as one of the 500 fastest growing companies in the United States.

Along with his co-founders, Luminex received the Spirit of the Entrepreneur award in technology, the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce Small Business Eagle award, the UC Riverside Bourns College of Engineering Honored Alumni Award, and was honored as a California Small Business of the Year.

Luminex has twenty-seven employees headquartered in Riverside, California, and additional development offices in San Diego, California, and Beaverton, Oregon.

Prior to co-founding Luminex, Brian owned and managed Computer Systems International, a consulting firm specializing in corporate business computing and software development in a variety of industries.

Brian has served on Riverside's High Tech Task Force, is past chairman and a founding member of the Riverside Technology CEO Forum, a past chair of the Science Technology Education Partnership, and is currently Chair of the Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee.

Brian has participated in the Chamber's annual advocacy trip to Sacramento, advocating for the best interests of the region. He was called upon by the California Chamber of Commerce to testify in support of a bill that allows employees greater flexibility in their work week.

In light of all Brian has done for the community of Riverside, the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce named Brian their Volunteer of the Year. Brian's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. He has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives this prestigious award.

HONORING WOMEN IN THE CLASSROOM

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, El Paso, Texas has a history of producing strong, passionate, and caring educators who motivate and engage our children to become lifelong learners. As a parent and grandparent, I am grateful for the contributions of our teachers in the El Paso area, and today in honor of Women's History Month, I want to take this opportunity to honor women who are serving as teachers in El Paso.

There are so many dedicated and talented women in the schools of the 16th congressional district of Texas who deserve to be recognized and thanked for their commitment to providing the best possible education to our children. From Rosa Guerrero, a pioneer in education who was awarded a lifelong membership to the Texas Parent Teachers Association and was the first Hispanic woman in El Paso to have a school named after her, to our more recent Texas Teachers of the Year, we have been blessed with many dedicated and talented women in the classroom. Across the country, female educators make up 76 percent of the classroom workforce and serve as the core of the teaching profession, inspiring and supporting our youth. El Paso has been particularly blessed with incredible female educators and their work has been recognized year after year by the State of Texas and the Texas Teacher of the Year program. I am proud to note that El Paso has had ten Texas Teachers of the Year and six have been strong and passionate women.

Today's teachers are working under a tough budget crisis. Yet, in such difficult times our teachers continue to work hard every day to educate and inspire our children. Education is one of the fundamental building blocks of our Nation, and our teachers deserve to be acknowledged for all of their hard work and dedication.

In honor of Women's History Month, I would like to salute all the women in our classrooms in the 16th District of Texas, and also enter the names of the previous female recipients of the Texas Teacher of the Year Award from my congressional district.

NAMES OF EL PASO'S FEMALE TEXAS TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Yushica Walker, Texas Teacher of the Year for 2010—Morehead Middle School

Christine Gleason, Texas Teacher of the Year for 2009—Fabens High School

Dana K. Boyd, Texas Teacher of the Year for 2007—Dolphin Terrace Elementary School

Kyann McMillie, Texas Teacher of the Year for 2004—Canutillo Elementary School

Rosa E. Lujan, Texas Teacher of the Year for 1992—Ysleta Elementary School

Rita Harlien, Texas Teacher of the Year for 1982—Eastwood High School

HONORING MR. BLAS CASTAÑEDA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Mr. Blas Castañeda. Mr. Castañeda is the External Affairs and Economic Development Officer at Laredo Community College in Laredo, Texas. He dedicates his career to educating the next generation of highly skilled workforce and fostering growth in the business community in Laredo and South Texas.

Mr. Castañeda contributes to the community of South Texas by fostering close working relations between public and private partnerships and regional planning for public and higher education. He is continuously and proactively engaged with the local, state, and international businesses along the Texas-Mexico border. As Laredo Community College's economic development officer, he has brought major capital facilities for the Laredo Community College. He is the leader in developing and maintaining the distance learning program that is part of the virtual college of Texas online systems. Mr. Castañeda also established the Laredo District V Scholarship Bound program in 1989, which has awarded several hundred thousand dollars in scholarships to talented youth of limited income.

His career began when he was elected council member to the Laredo City Council in 1988 and served for eight years, including as Mayor pro tempore. Governor Ann Richards appointed him to the Texas Workforce Investment Council in 1990 where he served for four years. By 2006, he was on the Board of the Future of the Region Inc. as Ex-Officio President and as President. This organization serves a 47-county, non-profit economic development initiative that addresses key issues in South Texas. In January of 2009, Mr. Castañeda was nominated to be a member of the South Texas Workforce Solutions Board and he represents Adult and Continuing Education. He also serves on the Board for the Texas Migrant Council, which promotes family literacy, education, and consumer education in Texas, Ohio, Wisconsin, Indiana, New Mexico, Iowa, Oklahoma, and Nevada. Mr. Castañeda continues his efforts for the community as a member of organizations including Big Brother/Big Sister, Rio South Texas Workplace Literacy Council, and the Texas Community College Teachers Association.

Mr. Castañeda is a highly respected member of the South Texas community. He has received numerous awards such as the Liberty Bell Award, the "Salute to Labor" Star Award, and the Tejano's High Achievers Award. The Laredo Independent School District recently named him a "Tiger Legend" for his dedication and for serving as a role model to Laredo's youth.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize Mr. Blas Castañeda's accomplishments and service in South Texas. His tireless efforts for economic development and education have truly impacted the community.

TRIBUTE TO DEBBI HUFFMAN GUTHRIE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Debbi Guthrie is one of these individuals. On March 24, 2011, Debbi will be honored as the "Citizen of the Year" at the 111th Inaugural Celebration of the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce.

Debbi Huffman Guthrie is retired from her 27-year career as the third-generation owner of a roofing company established by her grandfather in 1921. Since 1993, Debbi has served as a Director with Provident Bank, a publicly traded, community bank established in Riverside in 1957. Debbi is the current and former member of numerous organizations including: member, Riverside Community College District Capital Campaign Executive Committee; Chair, Riverside Aquatics Complex Fundraising Committee; Chair, Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce Inaugural Ball Committee; Chair, ATHENA of the Inland Valleys Committee; Member, Board of Directors—Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce; Member, Riverside Sport Hall of Fame Induction Celebration Committee; Trustee, University of California Riverside Foundation; Chair, University of California Riverside A. Gary Anderson Graduate School of Management Dean's Leadership Council; Chairwoman, Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce; Chair, Governmental Affairs Committee and Leadership Riverside Program, Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce; President and Member, Kiwanis Club of Riverside; President, Riverside Community College District Foundation; State Director, ATHENA Foundation; March Air Force Base Military Affairs Committee (Honorary Commander's Program); Inland Empire Council Boy Scouts of America, Distinguished Citizens Committee; and Junior League of Riverside.

Debbi is the recipient of many awards including: the 2010 Riverside YWCA Irene Bonnett Volunteer of the Year; the 2010 Riverside Downtown Partnership Roy Hord "Volunteer of the Year"; the 2003 Association of Agency Executives, Spirit of the Non-Profit Award; the 2003 Gold Key Award, Soroptimist Club; the 2001 Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award; the Riverside Community College Inaugural Community Service Award; the 2001 Kiwanis International George Hixson Fellowship Award; the 2001 President's Award, Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce; the 2000 Management Leader of the Year, Private Sector, UC Riverside A. Gary Anderson Graduate School of Management; and the 1999–2000 Volunteer of the Year, Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce.

In addition to her continued involvement with Provident Bank and her volunteer commitments in Riverside, Debbi now lives part-time in southern Utah where she takes pride in working with her husband to manage their 1300-acre ranch. She enjoys being with her family, horseback riding, house-boating on Lake Powell, hikes in Zion National Park and international travel with friends. Debbi is a native of Riverside and attended Ramona High School and California State University, San Bernardino. Debbi and her husband, Jim, have four adult daughters and four grandchildren.

In light of all Debbi has done for the community of Riverside, the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce named Debbi their Citizen of the Year. Debbi's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. She has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she receives this prestigious award.