EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHANCELLOR HOWARD COHEN AND PATRICIA COHEN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to honor Purdue University Calumet (PUC) Chancellor, Dr. Howard Cohen and his wife, Patricia Cohen. On Saturday, May 7, 2011, Chancellor and Patti Cohen will be honored at an event for their many years of service in the field of education at Purdue University Calumet. Chancellor Cohen, with the support of Patti, has had a tremendous impact on numerous students and educators throughout Northwest Indiana and across the nation and their efforts are to be highly commended.

From 2001 to 2010, Patricia Cohen's commitment and partnership in support of her husband has been instrumental in the growth and development of Purdue University Calumet. Patti graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Wisconsin and also earned a master's degree in occupational therapy from Boston University. With her background in the medical field, Patti continues to share her knowledge with PUC and is a member of the PUC Honorary Nursing Organization: Sigma Theta Tau, Bet Mu Chapter. She is also a past member of the PUC Health and Wellness Committee. In addition, Patti has represented PUC on trips to universities in China, Poland, Spain, Oman, and Costa Rica. She has also established, planned, and hosted numerous campus and community events.

Howard Cohen is among less than a handful of academicians who I have dealt with over the last generation who I would describe as the ''best.'' Howard has used his inestimable intellect to impart wisdom to others. His leadership has introduced permanent positive changes throughout Northwest Indiana and our state. His vision has provided all of us with a guide to an improved and gentler future.

Additionally, Chancellor Cohen's professional and academic career led him to become a prominent, innovative leader in the field of education. In 1966, he graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Minnesota and went on to earn a master's degree and a doctoral degree from Harvard University. Since 2001, Dr. Howard Cohen has been Chancellor at PUC and also holds an appointment as Professor of Philosophy. Over the past ten years, Chancellor Cohen has dedicated his time and passion into making PUC the high quality, full-service university that it is today. PUC has expanded tremendously under the leadership of Chancellor Cohen. During his tenure, Chancellor Cohen has established student housing, constructed the Academic Learning Center and established nine centers and institutes of applied research. Labeled his signature project, Chancellor Cohen was influential in the implementation of the innovative experiential learning initiative, a program that blends traditional learning with hands-on, applied learning, which is now a curriculum requirement for all students seeking a bachelor's degree.

In addition to their truly impressive devotion to education and to Purdue University Calumet, Howard and Patti passionately serve the people of Northwest Indiana though their involvement in numerous community organizations. They have been married since 1968 and have two beloved children and two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Chancellor Howard Cohen and Patricia Cohen. Their inspiration continues to fuel the future of education and their life work has provided exceptional new opportunities in Northwest Indiana and across the nation. For their selfless, lifelong commitment they are worthy of the highest praise.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF EVA BLASZ EGRI AND THE MUSICAL CONCERT ''ZOCHRENU LECHIM''

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eva Blasz Egri, a Holocaust survivor whose spirit and strength serve as an inspiration to her family, friends, and her community.

Eva, a longtime friend of my constituent Len Romano, shared with him details of her tragic past in Auschwitz and the loss of her family during World War II. After returning to her home in Hungary after the War, Eva uncovered treasured songs that her father, Hazzan Shmuel Blasz, had given to a non-Jewish neighbor who risked his life to hide the precious music from the Nazis. Hazzan Blasz wrote these songs before the War when he served as chief cantor and musical composer for the Egr Jzr Temple in Hungary.

After uncovering these musical compositions in the basement of her home and keeping them to herself for decades, long after she moved to the United States, she recently decided to share these documents with Len.

I am proud to stand here today to honor Len and the distinguished cantors from the New York area who have worked hard to bring these songs to life by performing them in a concert at Temple Beth Sholom in Smithtown tonight.

Eva's resilience is a lesson to us all to find the hidden beauty in apparent tragedy and commemorate the lives and contributions of those whose lives were lost.

I applaud the efforts of so many in my district who have worked to bring Eva's music to the forefront and hold this special concert called ''Zochrenu Lechim,'' Remember Us Unto Life.

HONORING MR. DENNIS KAHN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Dennis Kahn, the 2011 Honoree for the American Cancer Society's Cuisine for the Cure Event, for his struggle in overcoming cancer and his remarkable contributions to the community I serve in Western New York.

Dennis, a highly regarded attorney, has dedicated his life to representing those facing significant challenges in their own lives and professions. Also a loving and devoted husband to Carrie and father to Max, Dennis exemplifies the strong values that make communities like Buffalo great.

Yet nothing could quite prepare Dennis for the challenge he faced in the fall of 2009, when he found out that he had stage 4 cancer in his parotid gland. Like so many other cancer patients, Dennis's diagnosis hit him like a ton of bricks. And after enduring surgeries and an aggressive radiation and chemotherapy regimen, we are lucky to have him here with us today to share his story and the lessons he has learned from it.

Like many other cancer survivors and their families, Dennis wants to give back and help others like him. The struggles of people with cancer are unique—not knowing whether your body is actively growing cells that will harm you can be sheer terror. To handle this amid all of life's normal challenges is overwhelming. Dennis's commitment to help other patients and survivors is notable, making him worthy of being honored at this year's Cuisine for a Cure event.

We need more advocates like Dennis to raise awareness about cancer in our communities. Let his story be a lesson to us, to inspire us, and to continue to fight to alleviate suffering due to cancer in our lifetime. I often say that cancer research is a continuum, and it needs to be maintained, and that we can't just stop and start. Advocates like Dennis remind us of this promise.

HONORING THE AMERICAN PARKINSON DISEASE ASSOCIATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Central Susquehanna Valley Chapter of the American Parkinson Disease Association.

The American Parkinson Disease Association helps over 1.5 million Americans who live with this progressive disorder of the central nervous system. This year, the APDA is celebrating its 50th anniversary, currently sponsoring 45 chapters which focus on local fundraising efforts and awareness, 55 information

and referral centers which serve the needs of those with the disease and their caretakers, and over 1,000 support groups throughout the United States. The APDA has worked tirelessly over the past 50 years in fulfilling their mission to ''Ease the Burden—Find the Cure'' through research, patient and family services and education.

In conjunction with Geisinger HealthSouth, the Central Susquehanna Valley Chapter has hosted this Walk-A-Thon on Sunday May 1, 2011, to increase awareness across the state of Pennsylvania, and I am honored to be included in such a noble and selfless cause.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor those who work with the American Parkinson Disease Association. I commend the efforts of the Central Susquehanna Valley Chapter and Geisinger HealthSouth in hosting this Walk-A-Thon and advancing Parkinson's disease research across the country.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF LIONEL WAYNE MAGEE III FOR HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man who was selected to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy. Lionel Wayne Magee III will follow in his parents' footsteps by serving our country in uniform.

Magee, an 18-year-old senior at Seoul American High School on Yongsan Garrison, the Republic of Korea, is poised to attend the prestigious academy this fall. With him he brings an enormous amount of leadership and passion to the incoming class of cadets. While attending high school, Magee was committed to a range of extracurricular activities including varsity football, Taekwondo, National Honor Society, Boys State, Eagle Scout as well as numerous volunteer hours in support of the community.

Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a first-rate education while providing those who undertake it some of the most challenging and rewarding opportunities of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Lionel Magee on his acceptance into the U.S. Air Force Academy and in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 3, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.

Our first priorities in the House of Representatives must be helping to foster job creation and supporting middle class families. More than four months into the 112th Congress, we have not considered one bill that would achieve these goals.

This deceptively named bill claims that it would enact a government-wide prohibition on federal subsidies for abortion and health insurance plans that cover it. In truth it is an unprecedented and extreme attempt to limit health insurance coverage for American women, raise taxes on small businesses, infringe on the legally protected rights of American Servicewomen, and make this legal, constitutionally protected medical procedure inaccessible to women.

This bill would eliminate tax credits for families and small businesses to purchase comprehensive health insurance plans. This would result in substandard health care for millions of Americans.

Unprecedented, H.R. 3 would change the tax code to promote an anti-choice agenda. This bill would allow women to use tax preferred saving accounts for abortion care only in cases of rape, incest, or when their life is in danger. Under this extreme bill, women would have to prove to the IRS that they have been victim of sexual assault to use their own money for their medical care.

This bill triumphs on states' rights by preventing the District of Columbia from using its own funds to pay for abortion services for low-income women. Further, it would permanently deny low-income women, federal employees, and military women access to abortion care, even when their health is at risk.

It is important to remember why comprehensive health care is needed. I recently heard a heartbreaking story from one of my constituents who was desperate to have a baby with her husband. Unfortunately after getting pregnant, they discovered that the fetus had a deadly condition and was not going to survive. They were left with only one choice—to terminate the pregnancy. This couple never thought they would be in that position. This bill would deny private health insurance companies from providing this kind of medical care to women.

The question of whether or not to have an abortion is one of the most difficult decisions any woman can face. Reproductive health care is a personal matter that should be left to individuals, their doctors, and their families without interference from the government. Rather than making abortion more dangerous for young women, I believe that Congress should do more to create the conditions that enable women to make true choices by providing comprehensive sexuality education and ensuring that women have access to a range of effective contraceptives.

I oppose H.R. 3 and urge my colleagues to vote no on this dangerous piece of legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RONALD FEINMAN

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Ronald Feinman, a constituent of mine from Boca Raton who will retire from teaching at the end of June after 39 years.

Dr. Feinman, a Senior Professor of History and Political Science at Broward College in Pembroke Pines, and an Adjunct Professor of History at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, moved to South Florida in 1989 after teaching for 17 years in New York at Queens College, New York Institute of Technology, and Pace University. A graduate of Queens College, Dr. Feinman earned his PhD from the City University of New York Graduate Center in1975.

A student of history from an early age, Dr. Feinman has dedicated his life and professional career to ensuring future generations grow up with an appreciation of American history, politics and government. This dedication is evident in the pure enthusiasm he shows for his students and the topics he professes, and the strong reputation he has established amongst his peers and his students is a direct result. He has developed strong friendships with many of his students throughout his teaching career, and some of them have taken him for as many as eight classes along their way to completing their degree.

The author of Twilight of Progressivism: The Western Republican Senators and the New Deal, 1933–1945, Dr. Feinman regularly contributes articles and book reviews in a wide range of academic journals, lectures on modern American topics throughout South Florida, and maintains a blog discussing daily political topics. While he is looking forward to retirement and having the opportunity to spend more time with his family and travel, after taking a year off, he intends to return to teaching part-time to continue doing what he loves.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Ronald Feinman embodies the true essence of an educator and a role model for our younger generations. I know I speak not only for myself, but for the thousands of students whose lives he has positively impacted throughout the four decades of his career in congratulating him on his retirement and wishing him the best going forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 4th, I missed rollcall votes 286–292 for unavoidable reasons.

Specifically, I was in Tarpon Springs, Florida, in my congressional district, to attend the funeral of a close family member, who passed away earlier in the week.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: rollcall vote No. 286: ''yea'' (Adoption of H. Res. 237, the rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 3—No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act); rollcall vote No. 287: ''yea'' (Jackson-Lee Amendment No. 1); rollcall vote No. 288: ''yea'' (Capps Amendment No. 2); rollcall vote No. 289: ''nay'' (McCarthy Motion to recommit H.R. 1214); rollcall vote No. 290: ''yea'' (Passage of H.R. 1214, To Repeal Mandatory Funding for School-based Health Center Construction); rollcall vote No. 291: ''nay'' (Speier Motion to recommit H.R. 3); rollcall vote No. 292: ''yea'' (Passage of H.R. 3, No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act).

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN MODERNIZATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce three bills to modernize the Smithsonian Institution and to enhance its governance and fundraising ability, in keeping with the recommendations of a number of experts, including the Smithsonian Independent Review Committee, chaired by former U.S. Comptroller General Charles Bowsher. This bill, the Smithsonian Modernization Act, makes changes to the Smithsonian's governance structure by expanding and changing the composition of its Board of Regents, from 17 members, which includes six Members of Congress, the Vice President of the United States, and the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, to 21 members, comprised solely of private citizens. This change will strengthen both the Smithsonian's governance and fundraising capacity, and it is the first significant change in this old and revered institution since it was established in 1846. The second bill, the Smithsonian Free Admission Act of 2010, seeks to preserve the long-standing free admission policy for permanent exhibits at an institution that is largely funded by the federal government, as envisioned by James Smithson, its founder. Finally, the Open and Transparent Smithsonian Act of 2011 will apply the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act to the Smithsonian in the same manner they apply to federal agencies.

The Smithsonian Institution is a unique and irreplaceable cultural, historical, educational and artistic complex without any public or private counterpart in the world. Since its founding, the Smithsonian has developed an extraordinary array of world-class museums, galleries, educational showplaces and unique research centers, including 19 museums and galleries, nine research facilities, the National Zoo, and the forthcoming National Museum of African American History and Culture, which has been approved by Congress and is now seeking funding from the private sector for construction. The Smithsonian has grown with donations from American culture and life, and financial contributions, but most of its funding continues to come from federal appropriations. Despite receiving 70 percent of its funding from the federal government, the Smithsonian has long had serious infrastructure and other needs.

Congress must help the Smithsonian strengthen its ability to build resources beyond what taxpayers are able to provide. The most important step Congress could take today is to rescue the Smithsonian from its 19th century governance structure, which keeps it from accessing needed and available private resources and limits close and critical oversight. The Smithsonian Modernization Act bill provides a governance structure befitting the Smithsonian's unique complexity. In no small part, the difficulty the Smithsonian has faced results from limitations inherent in its antiquated governance structure. The existing structure may have fit the Smithsonian over 170 years ago, but today the structure has proven to be a relic that does a disservice to the Smithsonian. The present governance structure places immense responsibility on dedicated but overextended Members of the House and Senate, the Vice President of the United States and the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. These federal officials comprise almost half of the Smithsonian Board of Regents, and must perform their fiduciary duties as board members while giving first priority to their sworn responsibilities as important federal officials.

In 2007, an independent review committee found that the Board had violated principles of good management during the tenure of the former Secretary of the Smithsonian, Lawrence Small, allowing him to create an ''insular culture.'' The Committee's report indicated that the Board had failed to provide desperately needed oversight and had overcompensated Mr. Small. The report also found that Sheila P. Burke, the Smithsonian's then-deputy secretary and chief operating officer, had frequent absences from her duties because of outside activities, including service on corporate boards, for which she earned more than $1.2 million over six years. Further, the Smithsonian's then-Business Ventures chief, Gary Beer, was dismissed for financial indiscretions. This unprecedented crisis, caused by unprecedented controversies and irresponsible risks, put into sharp focus the need for new revenue streams and for a modern governance structure. The first full-blown scandal in the Smithsonian's history, replete with embarrassing media coverage, damaged its reputation and perhaps the confidence of potential contributors. The poor judgment and overreaching of Smithsonian personnel during that period requires new and concentrated oversight by citizens for whom the Smithsonian would command priority attention.

The Board of Regents, of course, has taken some important action on its own. After irregularities were uncovered by the media, the Board responded to the controversies by creating a governance committee, chaired by Patty Stonesifer, a Regent and former chief executive officer of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, with a mandate to comprehensively review the policies and practices of the Smithsonian and how the Board conducts its oversight of the institution. The Board also established an Independent Review Committee (IRC), chaired by former U.S. Comptroller General Charles A. Bowsher, to review the issues arising from an Inspector General's report and the Board's response, and related Smithsonian practices.

The IRC was forthright in its investigation and recommendations. The IRC stated explicitly that the root cause of the problems at the Smithsonian was an antiquated governance structure, which led to failures in governance and management. According to the IRC, the Board must assume a fiduciary duty that carries a ''major commitment of time and effort, a reputational risk, and potentially, financial liability.'' The IRC further argued that the Smithsonian, with a budget of over $1 billion a year, must have a Board who ''act as true fiduciaries and who have both the time and the experience to assume the responsibilities of setting strategy and providing oversight.'' The IRC cited a lack of clarity of the roles of the U.S. Vice President and Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court on the Board, and said that ''it is not feasible to expect the Chief Justice to devote the hours necessary to serve as a fiduciary agent.'' The same observation could be made of the Members of the House and Senate who serve on the Board. The IRC recommended that the Board increase the level of expertise and the number of members to ensure that the Regents have sufficient time and attention to dedicate to the Smithsonian.

The Smithsonian's own governance committee identified several Board weaknesses, concluding that the Board did not receive or demand the reports necessary for competent decision-making, that the staff whom the Board depended upon for oversight inquiries did not have direct access to information, and that the inability of staff to communicate red flags ''crippled'' internal compliance and oversight.

Only Congress, with the concurrence of the president, can amend the Smithsonian Charter. The last change to the Board's structure occurred over 30 years ago, but only to increase the number of private citizens on the Board from six to nine.

The number of Regents, however, is not the root problem. Although the bill expands the Board from 17 to 21 members, it, most importantly, brings the Board into alignment with modern public and private boards by requiring all Regents to be private citizens. The search for private funds by Smithsonian management was a major cause of the recent controversy. Faced with crippling budget problems, the Regents must be free to give new and unprecedented attention and energy to finding and helping to raise substantially more funds from private sources. The new structure envisioned by the bill will improve oversight and the capacity for fundraising from private sources. Unlike federal officials, private citizens are entirely free to assist in private fundraising. Most importantly, private citizens will have sufficient expertise to serve on the Board, and will be able to devote the personal time and attention necessary to fulfill the fiduciary responsibility that comes with serving such a venerable and complex institution.

The bill preserves and strengthens the traditional role of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate in selecting Board members, while eliminating the self-perpetuating role of the Board in selecting private citizens for the Board. The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate will each send 12 recommendations to the President of the United States, who will select the 21 members of the Board of Regents.

Considering the seriousness of the findings of the Board's own governance committee and of the IRC, the changes prescribed by the bill are nothing short of necessary. The reform of the fiduciary and governance issues that have brought public criticism to this iconic American institution must begin with the indispensable step of making the Smithsonian's governance consistent with that of similar institutions today. Only congressional attention can reassure the public that the controversies that recently besieged the Smithsonian will not recur. In the face of an unprecedented public controversy, Congress would be remiss if it left the Smithsonian to its own oversight and devices alone for improvement.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BLOCK HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1961

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Block High School Class of 1961 as they celebrate their 50 year reunion. The alumni will observe this momentous occasion on Sunday, June 18, 2011.

The 1961 class was a cohesive and talented group who became doctors, nurses, elected officials, teachers, business owners, pharmacists, law enforcement personnel and investigators, and some have proudly served our country in uniform. Moreover, of the 43 classmates who graduated on May 18, 1961, only five are no longer with us.

This group of alumni is undoubtedly dedicated to each other, and they have gathered for several reunions throughout the decades since their graduation from the Jonesville, La. school. This reunion will surely be another success as they come together to commemorate each other and the significant and memorable occasions that have taken place throughout their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Block High School Class of 1961 as they gather for their 50 year reunion. I know it will be a joyous celebration.

IN HONOR OF BISHOP ANTHONY M. PILLA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Bishop Emeritus Anthony M. Pilla, the 2011 recipient of the Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus' Four Eagles Award. Bishop Pilla is being honored for his many years of service and commitment to the Saint Stanislaus community.

Bishop Anthony Pilla was born in Cleveland on November 12, 1932. He attended John Carroll University and went on to be ordained a Catholic Priest within the Cleveland Diocese in 1959. On June 30, 1979, Pope John Paul II named him Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland. In 1980, he was named Apostolic Administrator of the Cleveland Diocese, and became the ninth Bishop of Cleveland on January 6, 1981. He was elected president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1995 and served in that position for three years. He served as Bishop until his retirement in 2006.

Bishop Anthony Pilla is being honored for his outstanding record of dedication to the Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus in Cleveland, Ohio. As Bishop of Cleveland, he advised Fr. William Gulas regarding the Church's renovations. He was responsible for achieving the Church's status as a shrine, thus opening the doors to thousands of visitors. He was instrumental in expanding Cleveland Central Catholic High School, which is located on St. Stanislaus Church's campus, and worked with community members on countless development and revitalization efforts. Even since his retirement, he has remained an active member of the St. Stanislaus community. For these reasons, the St. Stanislaus community is awarding Bishop Emeritus Anthony Pilla the Four Eagle Award, named for the legendary four eagles that protected the body of the martyred St. Stanislaus.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Bishop Emeritus Anthony M. Pilla as he receives the Four Eagles Award for his devotion and dedication to the parish and community of the Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus in Cleveland, Ohio.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our nation's teachers during National Teacher Appreciation Week, which is being held this year May 1st–7th.

This is a time to express our thanks and admiration for the more than 3 million teachers in the United States. I encourage everyone to express their appreciation for those teachers who have touched their lives or the lives of their children.

Teachers are heroes in our communities, shaping the next generation of great minds. No great leader, scientist, or artist would be where they are today without the influence of caring and dedicated teachers.

Thurgood Marshall once said, ''None of us got where we are solely by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps. We got here because somebody—a parent, a teacher, an Ivy League crony or a few nuns—bent down and helped us pick up our boots.''

There is perhaps no other occupation that influences the fabric of our society more than teachers, and we are fortunate to have this week dedicated to recognizing their contributions.

I am particularly proud of our teachers from my home state of Texas—serving as motivators and mentors for our future leaders. I remain dedicated to working in Congress to ensure that Texas teachers and all teachers have the resources necessary to successfully prepare our Nation's youth for a successful future.

CONGRATULATING MATTHEW WICKS

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Matthew Wicks for being a first prize winner of C–SPAN's Student Cam competition. Matthew created a fantastic video entitled ''After the Storm'' which details the tragedy of one of the worst tornadoes in Iowa history. On May 25, 2008, the community of Parkersburg, Iowa was hit by an EF–5 tornado with winds of over 200 mph. This tornado destroyed the Parkersburg community.

Matthew's video highlights the successes and challenges faced by the Aplington Parkersburg community as they worked with the federal government to obtain disaster relief funding. Matthew did an excellent job of detailing the struggles of the Parkersburg community while seeking disaster funding. While the community did receive disaster relief funding, there are many challenges they still face today as they continue to work with FEMA.

Matthew's video illustrates the struggles that so many communities face when dealing with the aftermath of a natural disaster. I'm proud to have Matthew as one of my constituents and I congratulate him on his success. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

COMMENDING THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OSAMA BIN LADEN OPERATION

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, late Sunday night, we learned that the United States had successfully captured the mastermind behind the horrific attacks of September 11th, and today I rise to congratulate President Obama, the Navy SEALs, and all the men and women of our military and intelligence community on a successful mission. Osama bin Laden had been on the run for nearly 10 years, but in the end, he was not able to evade the tireless pursuit of the United States.

President Obama made the courageous decision to send U.S. Navy SEAL Team 6 on a mission to Osama bin Laden's compound in Pakistan, and within forty minutes, our ten year ordeal was ended. In this short period of time, the SEALs were even able to collect intelligence to further aid the United States in its ongoing fight against terrorism.

I commend the heroism of all those who participated in this expertly designed and executed operation, and I applaud President Obama's tough decision to move forward with this operation. Osama bin Laden has been brought to justice.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF ANN COMISKEY FROM THE TROY COMMUNITY COALITION AFTER A DECADE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Ann Comiskey on the occasion of her retirement from the Troy Community Coalition after nearly 10 years of dedicated and passionate service to the community as its Executive Director.

Ms. Comiskey's 38-year career has been one of advocacy and service for causes and programs which have impacted countless individuals in communities across Southeast Michigan. In her role with the Michigan Department of Social Services, Ms. Comiskey provided key support to many residents of Wayne County. After 10 years of dedicated service in that role, Ms. Comiskey then joined

the Highland Park School District, where she worked with at-risk youth and adults to ensure they were able to complete their primary education via alternative programs. In her time with the School District, Ms. Comiskey demonstrated strong leadership skills, developing the Job Club program, which aided high-risk students in their professional development. As part of this work, Ms. Comiskey developed an in-depth knowledge of substance abuse treatment and prevention programs, which has greatly aided in her work with the Troy Community Coalition, when she joined in 2002 as its Executive Director.

As a Troy resident, Ms. Comiskey's service to her community began long before she joined the Coalition. Her volunteer work includes involvement in the Troy Chamber of Commerce and the Troy Women's Association, of which she is a Lifetime Member. In recognition and appreciation of her volunteer advocacy within the community, she was selected as Troy's Distinguished Citizen in 2000. Additionally, she also serves on the advisory board for the Michigan Nonprofit Association and is Co-Chair of the Prevention Coalition of Southeast Michigan.

In her role as Executive Director of the Troy Community Coalition for nearly the last decade, Ms. Comiskey has continued to build on the Coalition's nationally recognized track record of substance abuse prevention in the community. Under her leadership, the Coalition has continued to bring all sectors of the Troy community together to promote positive social norms and implement programs to advocate for changes which create a stronger and healthier substance free community. With her strong stewardship of the Coalition, Ms. Comiskey has become nationally recognized within the substance abuse prevention community and in 2006 she was designated Advocate of the Year by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the invaluable contributions Ms. Comiskey has made to both the residents of Troy and the greater community of southeast Michigan. While I know she will be sorely missed by all who work with her, she will undoubtedly have many years of productive volunteer service to our community to come.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY OF REASON

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thursday, May 5, 2011 as the 2011 National Day of Reason.

The National Day of Reason, observed by millions of people in this country and around the world since 2003, celebrates the application of reason and the positive impacts it has had on humanity. Reason and rational discourse have the power to improve living conditions around the world and cultivate intelligent, moral, and ethical interactions among people.

Reason and rational thinking have made our country great. The Constitution of the United States of America is based upon the philosophies developed during the historical Age of Reason and the idea that citizens engaging in rational discourse and decision-making can govern themselves. The Constitution also contains a strong separation of church and state, making it clear that government should continue to be built on reason.

Our nation faces many problems—ending two wars, creating jobs, educating our children, tackling our budget, and protecting our safety net. Although the gravity of these issues may drive many to prayer, the way we will solve them is through the application of reason.

The National Day of Reason is also about taking time to improve our communities—whether that means holding a blood drive or collecting items for the local food bank. It is also about ensuring that our government represents citizens of all beliefs and backgrounds.

I encourage everyone to join in observing this day and focusing upon the employment of reason, critical thinking, the scientific method, and free inquiry to the resolution of human problems and for the welfare of human kind. It is the duty and responsibility of every American to promote the development and application of reason.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. ROBERT FOULKROD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mr. Robert M. Foulkrod, a writer, life coach, and spiritual awakening researcher who passed away on May 2, 2011.

Mr. Foulkrod was born on May 8, 1924 in State College, Pennsylvania. He eventually moved to Dover, New Hampshire where he attended high school. After high school, Robert served with the U.S. Army, climbing the ranks from private to sergeant. He later earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at University of New Hampshire in 1961. Upon completing his education, Robert again joined the armed forces and served with the U.S. Air Force as a lieutenant performing research on aircraft armament systems.

Robert had very successful careers in electronic engineering and career counseling. As a mechanical engineering section manager with Sanders Associates, Inc., Mr. Foulkrod researched, designed and produced several new technologies and systems. During his tenure as an electronic engineer Robert was a member of the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. After years as an electronic engineer, Robert changed careers and began working for Honeywell Computer Company as their hospital systems marketing manager. As marketing manager, he developed and performed inspirational training to hospital computer systems salespeople.

Later, Mr. Foulkrod would work as a career change counselor with Bernard Haldane Associates. He served as a personal coach to people aspiring to change career paths. In addition to his influence as a counselor, Mr. Foulkrod was a revered researcher in spiritual awakening. He dedicated years of his life to research and published several articles with the United States Psychotronics Association. He also authored a number of books on the subject including Visit Boosting Friends and The Game of Awakening.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Mr. Robert M. Foulkrod, who served the country bravely and inspired many throughout his life. I offer my condolences to his life partner, Barbara Hero, three children, family, and friends.

HONORING MR. TOM BRIAN'S DISTINGUISHED CAREER

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Tom Brian, former Chair of the Washington County Board of Commissioners. Chair Brian retired after 12 years with Washington County, Oregon, and more than 30 years of service to our community.

Tom embarked on an exemplary term as Chair of the Washington County Commission in 1998. Over the next 12 years, Tom spearheaded numerous projects, including the establishment of L.L. "Stub" Stewart State Park and the opening of the Westside Express Service (WES) Commuter line. Tom was a noted listener and consensus builder who focused on the needs of his constituents and worked tirelessly to address their issues. He approached his work with integrity and a true sense of dedication.

Tom's foresight helped make Washington County an attractive place to live and do business. His leadership on projects like the Scoggins Dam raise will be missed. Tom has encouraged and empowered his community to continue the work he started and I know his spirit of service will continue to inspire all citizens of Washington County.

Former Oregon Governor Tom McCall said, "Heroes are not giant statues framed against a red sky. They are people who say, this is my community, and it is my responsibility to make it better." Tom Brian truly is an American hero, for he has devoted much of his life to making his community better.

It is an honor to recognize Chair Brian for his service and for providing a heroic example to us all.

REMEMBERING FIRE CHIEF MATT AKER

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the tragic loss of Fire Chief Matt Aker of Portland, Indiana.

Chief Aker began his career in public service as a volunteer with the Portland Fire Department in July of 1997. He joined the force full time in 2002, was appointed Assistant Fire Chief in 2005, and then served as Fire Chief.

Chief Aker's list of accomplishments and certifications are extensive and include: EMS-First Responders, Fire Inspector I and II, Fire Investigator I, Technical Rescue Awareness, Fire Officer I, Ice Rescue, Rope Rescue, Hazardous Material Incident Command, Hazmat

1st Responder Awareness and Operations, ECI Fools, American Heart Association CPR and AED, Chairman of Membership of IFCA, Adhoc with ceremonies at Emergency Conferences, Portland's Representative for DPC, District 6 Co-Chair for Fire Task Force Element and Jay County's Representative to Region 6 Fire Training Council.

He was also the Captain of the Jay County Sheriff Reserves, a member of Emergency Response Team, the Portland Rotary Club, the Portland Morning Optimists and the American Red Cross.

In the midst of such tragedy, let us pray for God's comfort for the Aker family and cling to the words of the Good Book which says that "in all things God works for the good." I offer this comfort and my deepest condolences to Chief Aker's wife Brooke; parents, Mike and Linda Aker; Grandmothers, Maxine Aker and Rosie Hutchens; two brothers, Brad and Chad Aker; sister, Lori Ferguson; and his nine nieces and two nephews.

LINDSEY BUXMAN TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise and pay tribute to a young lady who has exhibited a desire to improve her community and empower the arts for future generations. Lindsey Buxman, of Pueblo, Colorado was one of 100 young people in the United States to be honored by the Prudential Spirit of Community Program for community service.

Lindsey Buxman, a student at Pueblo Centennial High School and an avid dancer, took it upon herself to create a fundraiser to restore the stage at Memorial Hall Theater. Lindsey brought her plan before Pueblo City Hall, and found that the whole theater was in danger of being torn down if enough money could not be raised for a complete renovation. This is when Lindsey decided that she was going to take action to make sure the total restoration of the Memorial Hall Theater would become a ballot initiative. Lindsey, with the help of fellow students and dancers, gave speeches and obtained signatures to ensure that an initiative to restore the theater made it on the ballot.

Lindsey Buxman has fully given herself to her community and her love of the arts, and in doing so she has shown exceptional leadership qualities.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the efforts of young Lindsey Buxman to enhance her community, and I encourage all of America's youth to follow her lead and get involved in their communities.

HONORING BARBARA ANN KAZEN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of the late Barbara Ann Kazen, former President of the Bethany House in Laredo, Inc., a settlement house for the homeless and indigent in Laredo, Texas. Mrs. Kazen served the community by dedicating herself to charitable, cultural and civic organizations.

Mrs. Kazen was born on January 3, 1941 in Abilene, Texas to Virginia Lee Lively and James Lee Sanders, a humble family of ranchers. She lived much of her life in Albany and Texarkana, Texas. She passed away surrounded by her close family and friends on March 15, 2011 after a courageous fight with cancer. She graduated from Texas High School in 1959 and continued her education at Texas Christian University and the University of Texas at Austin as a Latin and Ancient History major. She continued to pursue her interests in communication by attending Laredo Junior College to study journalism, languages, and Food and Beverage Management. At UT Austin, Mrs. Kazen met her husband, U.S District Judge George B. Kazen. She is survived by her husband, children and grandchildren.

Mrs. Kazen's career is both a multifaceted and praiseworthy one. Her professional career includes working as a hostess and producer of the shows High Noon, Profile, and Consumer Report. She also served as director of catering and sales at both La Posada Motor Hotel and the Laredo Country Club. Most importantly, Mrs. Kazen's devotion to community, church and charitable work is truly commendable. She led Bethany House of Laredo, Inc. as president from 1996 until 2011; and also served as vice-president of the American Cancer Society. Moreover, she contributed to cultural and civic organizations such as the Laredo Civic Ballet Association, the Laredo Little Theatre, and Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center by serving on the Board of Directors at each of these institutions. She was also an active member of the Society of Martha Washington, a debutante presentation in Laredo, serving as publicity chair, historian, and second vice-president. She further illustrated her commitment to charitable work as a founding Charter Member of the Laredo Homeless Coalition and her dedication to the Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Mrs. Kazen was recognized by many organizations for her many contributions to the community. These recognitions include the American Cancer Society's "Award for Outstanding Service" in 1971, the Laredo March of Dimes "Lady of the Year" in 1978, and the Laredo Seven Flags Rotary Club's, "Paul Harris Fellow" in 2000. Her commitment to the city of Laredo was invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the late Barbara Ann Kazen. She proved herself to be indispensable for her dedication to charitable work and the betterment of the state of Texas and Laredo. Her example is an inspiration for us all.

CONGRATULATING HIGH SCHOOL ARTISTS FROM THE 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers. I rise today to congratulate and honor a number of outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented students participated in the 2011 Congressional Arts Competition, "An Artistic Discovery."

Their works of art are exceptional.

Seventy-six young men and women participated. That is a wonderful response, and I would very much like to build on that participation for future competitions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the three winners of our art competition. First place was awarded to Andrea Ibarra from Ridge High School for her work, "Max." Second place was awarded to Grace Cheung from Ridge High School for her work, "Journey Through Equus." Third place was awarded to Rachel Fico from Madison High School for her work, "Within Reach."

Honorable Mentions were awarded to: Alexi Corham from Montville Township High School for her work, "Alter Ego;" Jacob DeBoer from Pequannock High School for his work, "Venison Stew;" Kasia Kalemba from Boonton High School for her work, "Gone But Still Here;" Lillian Thomann from James Caldwell High School for her work "The Metro."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize each artist for their participation by indicating their high school, their name and the title of their contest entries for the official RECORD.

Boonton High School: Kasia Kalemba, "Gone But Still Here;" Zenab Khan, "The Dreams Within A Dream;" Samantha Kutnik, "Packanack Lake, NJ;" Rosalita Smith, "America Works."

Bridgewater-Raritan High School: Nicole Thomas, "Bella."

Chatham High School: Zakary Blake, "Weight;" Antonia Chan, "Carnival of Hearts;" Brittany Leonard, "Nirvana."

Dover High School: Christian Aroca, "My Culture;" Gissell Gonzalez, "My Heritage;" Angela Perkins, "Celebration;" Ying Jing Zheng, "Pride Before Destruction."

Hopatcong High School: Jara Werner, "The Faces of Money."

James Caldwell High School: Angela Filan, "The Rebel Within;" Lillian Thomann,"The Metro."

Livingston High School: Christina Furman, "Never Forget;" Joanne Horng, "And then they invented satellites;" Kiley Mannion, "Freedom;" Danielle Stecki, "Faded Glory."

Madison High School: Amanda Evans, "Zen;" Rachel Fico, "Within Reach;" Amy Lando, "Buddy;" Vendela Larsson, "Chloe."

Millburn High School: Monica Carty, "Up Close Gallery;" Annie Dolan, "Edith & John;" Emily Draper, "Tidal;" Chanthia Ma, "Winter Solstice."

Montville Township High School: Dillon Chen, "42nd Street;" Alexi Corham, "Alter Ego;" Victoria Eng, "Indonesian Still Life;" Minjoo Kim, "Abandoned Sisters."

Morris Catholic High School: Gianna Riccardi, "Alice;" Jana Marie Cariddi, "I'm Alive;" Carissa Kelly, "Joe Ufer Goes to Say Anything;" Alexander Kuchta, "Safe Sex;" Ciara Mesevage, "Stressed."

Mount Olive High School: Sarak Berek, "Untitled;" Felix Izquierdo, "Japanese Dream;" Dia Saito, "Skyliner;" Lauren Wisnewski, "Subconscious."

Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child: Maclain Riccardi, "Oak Leaves;" Tian Mauer, "Room With A View;" Abigail Rollenhagen, "Sunken Ship."

Parsippany Christian School: Jessica Carducci, ''Love Is All Around;'' Troy Costa,''A Mother's Love;'' Austin Dimare, ''Dream in Color;'' Mariah Urban, ''Mademoiselle.''

Parsippany High School: Ashley Del Rio, ''Untitled.''

Pequannock Township High School: Stephanie Baryla, ''Angry Man;'' Rachel Ciavarella, ''Red Peppers;'' Jacob De Boer, ''Venison Stew;'' Emily Grimaldi, ''Love is Just Another Weapon.''

Pope John XXIII High School: Meredith Cahill, ''Will you play with me?'' Michelle Puglio, ''Maura.''

Ridge High School: Benjamin Callahan, ''Survive;'' Grace Cheung, ''Journey Through Equus;'' Andrea Ibarra, ''Max;'' Mike Sommer, ''Not Today.''

Roxbury High School: Jimmy Le, ''Details in Lines;'' Jonathan Melicharek, ''One word spoken, one decision made, one life taken;'' Ariel Mizrahi, ''I'm Shattered;'' Ashley Wolff, ''C.C. Self Portrait.''

Sparta High School: Jessica Ciona, ''Blue Shoe;'' Sydney Liebman, ''Missy's Stare;'' Meghan Salmeri, ''Spring in Washington;'' Stephen Vocaturo, ''Montego.''

Veritas Christian Academy: Ionela Corforte, ''Complex Simplicity.''

Watchung Hills Regional High School: Sophie Armenante, ''Orchid;'' Sofia Lizza, ''Organic;'' Lauren Merrill, ''Great Swamp 2011;'' Carolyn Thornton, ''Avonlea.''

West Morris Mendham High School: Carolyn Aluotto, ''Crystal Cantanta;'' Genevieve Asselin, ''Applause;'' Dana Barlock, ''Cradel Us;'' Hannah Lang, ''Ocean Treasures.''

Whippany Park High School: Run Wang, ''Secret Letters.''

Each year the winner of the competition has their art work displayed with other winners from across the country in a special corridor here at the U.S. Capitol. Thousands of our fellow Americans walk through the exhibition and are reminded of the vast talents of our young men and women. Indeed, all of these young artists are winners, and we should be proud of their achievements so early in life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating these talented young people from New Jersey's 11th Congressional District.

NATIONAL TRAIN DAY RESOLUTION

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation supporting the goals and ideals of National Train Day. National Train Day is on May 7th and celebrates the long history and critical importance of rail in the United States.

In May 1869 the ''golden spike'' was driven into the final tie at Promontory Summit, Utah, ceremonially completing the first transcontinental railroad and therefore connecting both coasts of the United States. Suddenly, the country was united in a way it never had been and the sound of a train whistle was the soundtrack of happy reunions and tearful farewells. It heralded the arrival of mail, supplies and change. The train station became a focal point of every community, from New York City's Pennsylvania Station to the tiny stations that dotted rural America.

Today, passenger and freight service are increasing dramatically, making this a perfect time to celebrate the strength of the railroad industry and passenger rail service in the United States. For many rural Americans, Amtrak represents the only major intercity transportation link to the rest of the country.

Indeed, Amtrak ridership and revenue have never been stronger. During 2010 Amtrak welcomed aboard more than 28.7 million passengers, the largest annual total in Amtrak's history. An average of more than 78,000 passengers rides more than 300 Amtrak trains per day.

We are experiencing a renaissance in passenger rail in this country, and if we want to keep up with our international competitors, we need to make a significant investment in passenger and high-speed rail. I've advocated for and support a dedicated source of funding for rail and would encourage the committee to include a minimum of $50 billion dollars for high-speed and intercity passenger rail over the life of the bill. Compared to the funding levels in the overall bill and the money being spent in other countries on rail, $50 billion is a drop in the bucket.

Although we have some very small thinking Governors, support for high-speed rail is still high. The FRA received more than 90 applications from 24 states, the District of Columbia, and Amtrak for the $2.4 billion that Florida just gave up. The requests total nearly $10 billion dollars.

Finally, I want to thank the hard working men and women who work at Amtrak and make it possible for millions of Americans to get to work, travel for business, and visit friends and relatives.

A TRIBUTE TO LILLIAN JOST ON THE OCCASION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor my constituent, Lillian Mohr Jost, who will be 100 years old on May 8th. She is a remarkable woman and a proud American who has lived through, and participated in, many of our nation's most important events over the last century. Ms. Jost grew up in New York City, where her father and grandfather built pipe organs, including the one for the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876. Thomas Edison recruited her uncle to refine the lead composition for his new invention, the phonograph. Ms. Jost remembers the glorious night in her childhood when electricity replaced the gas lamps on the streets of New York City.

When she was nine, she walked her mother (who was blind) to the polls for the first time—women having just that year gained the right to vote. Three years later, visiting Washington, D.C., with her parents, she read a small sign in a shop window that said, ''The President has died of apoplexy.'' In the next few days, she witnessed the arrival at Union Station of the already-sworn-in President Calvin Coolidge and the solemn pomp of Warren Harding's presidential funeral.

Ms. Jost graduated from Vassar College in 1932 and went on to Columbia University to become a librarian—this service would become her life's work. A passionate American, she took up flying lessons when World War II broke out, with the goal of joining the Women's Army Air Corp. Although the War, and the need for women pilots, ended before she achieved her desire, she was inducted into the Ninety Nines, that illustrious group of female pilots founded by Amelia Earhart.

As a member of the Civil Air Patrol, Ms. Jost drove the Military Brass when they arrived in New York from the battle front to be debriefed. She met her beloved husband Elmer at a military ball of the Old Guard of the City of New York, where he, too, appeared in Civil Air Patrol uniform. Their love brought forth four daughters, 16 grandchildren, 26 great grandchildren and a growing number of great-great-grandchildren.

As she turns 100, Ms. Jost remains devoted to her country, her church, to America's parks and wilderness, and to animal causes everywhere. She continues to be optimistic about the future, and is always vigilant for new things to learn and new adventures on which to embark. She recently took up the practice of yoga; she is an avid solver of crossword puzzles; and she keeps vigilant watch over the deer and other wildlife that frequent the yard of her Fair Oaks, California, home. She truly embodies the best of the American spirit. Congratulations, Lillian Jost!

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF DARLENE JENSEN

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and work of Darlene Jensen, who passed away on April 13, 2011. Darlene was a legendary Tulare community leader. In fact, she was named Tulare Woman of the Year in 1993. For many people, Darlene was Tulare Woman of the Year, every year.

Darlene lived in Tulare her entire life. She was born on January 20, 1948, and attended Tulare Western High School and the College of the Sequoias before beginning a career in banking. She started at Security Pacific National Bank and worked for almost 20 years at the downtown Tulare branch of Wells Fargo, becoming a ''Star Manager.''

Many people will remember Darlene as the manager of Wells Fargo. But many more will remember her lasting contribution to the community of Tulare. At the time of her death, Darlene was president of the Tulare Improvement Board and vice-president of the Board of Utilities. For her public service, she was named Legislative Woman of the Year in 2001. She was also active in the St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Our Lady of Fatima Celebration, and past-president of the Lions Club.

This only begins to tell part of the story of Darlene's commitment to the people of Tulare. Her energy was prodigious. There were few groups, clubs, or events in Tulare in which Darlene was not in some way involved. They

all benefited from what has been called the ''Darlene touch.'' For example, one of her favorite events was the downtown Tulare Christmas Tree Lighting, where she and her mother, Agnes, would cook upwards of 5,000 cookies to give away.

For 63 years Darlene Jensen represented the best of Tulare. Everyone she knew was affected by her commitment to public service and passion for Tulare. She leaves behind a legacy that will be hard to equal. The people of Tulare will miss Darlene for years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN FREE ADMISSION ACT OF 2011

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Smithsonian Free Admission Act, to reinforce 170 years of consistent Smithsonian policy of admitting the public to all permanent exhibits without charge. This policy has served the nation well. Families come to Washington to learn about their country through its public monuments and sites. While the private amenities here can be costly for the average family, Americans have looked forward to the free museums and other official offerings for generations. The Smithsonian's free admission policy reflects the intent of its founder, John Smithson, whose gift to the Federal Government carried the condition that the Smithsonian be established to increase the knowledge of the public, free of charge. The bill establishing the Smithsonian, introduced by Senator William C. Preston on February 17, 1841, stated explicitly that the Smithsonian would ''preserve and exhibit with no fee'' all works of art and science. This intent and tradition was interrupted without notice to Congress by the Smithsonian's Board of Regents with its casual comment that the Smithsonian would charge an admission fee for a permanent exhibit for the first time in its history, and on February 14, 2008, the Smithsonian opened the National Museum of Natural History's Butterfly Pavilion, a permanent exhibit, and instituted a fee for admission. Congress, of course, not the Board of Regents, should decide so basic a policy, especially when it departs from long-standing public policy. The admission fee for the Butterfly Pavilion sets a harmful precedent for future permanent exhibits, making it difficult to deny other Smithsonian entities from charging a fee and possibly encouraging other Smithsonian entities to structure their exhibits to fit the Butterfly Pavilion model.

The Butterfly Pavilion opened on February 14, 2008. Although the Smithsonian had previously charged fees for films and shows, the National Air and Space Museum's Planetarium, and the National Zoo's Christmas Lights special, the $6 admission fee for the Butterfly Pavilion marked the first time an admission fee was charged for a permanent exhibit. My bill requires a report to Congress in advance of any proposed admission fees for permanent exhibits and requires the Secretary of the Smithsonian to submit a plan for funding the Butterfly Pavilion without an admission fee.

The Smithsonian Modernization Act, which I am also introducing today, addresses the Smithsonian's fundraising capacity by restructuring and expanding the Smithsonian's Board, from a board almost half of whose members are public officials to a board consisting solely of private citizens, who will have greater experience and fundraising capacity than public officials.

The Smithsonian Modernization Act and similar measures, not admission fees, provide the most realistic vehicles to raise funds for the Smithsonian without cost to the government or to the public. Admission fees can bring in only token amounts. According to CRS, the Smithsonian has long prided itself on ''free access.'' Admission fees are not the answer for taxpayers, who have already paid through the Federal Government's 70 percent contribution to this public institution's annual budget. Federal taxpayers do not expect to pay again through an admission fee to a federally-financed institution.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF C.L. THOMAS, SR.'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY AS PASTOR OF ELIZABETH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to C.L. Thomas, Sr.'s 10th anniversary as pastor of Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church in Mathews, Alabama.

Calvin L. Thomas, Sr. is the youngest of nine children and is the fifth son of James and Anna Thomas. He had the privilege of growing up in a spiritual and loving home where discipline was taught, house rules derived from biblical lessons and mother-wit was put in place that required particular actions and reactions.

His employment began at Winn-Dixie Stores at the age of 16 and at age 21 he was promoted to Assistant Manager. At 22, he pursued a career as an insurance agent at North Carolina Mutual. At 25, he was promoted to District Sales Manager in charge of two large cities, Montgomery and Birmingham, and was one of the youngest to achieve this goal.

Calvin's desire was to have his own business, so in 2000 he started T & T Insurance Group. In 2007, he founded the Kingdom Investors where he serves as President and CEO.

He has served as Deacon and Chairman of the Deacon Board of the Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church. In 1999, God called him to the Ministry to preach at Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church in February 2001 and was installed as Pastor on May 6, 2001.

He attended Samford University from 2000–2003, receiving a certificate in Christian training and doctrine of the books of the Bible. He studied the Principles of Communication, Prayer and Righteousness and Sermon preparation and preaching at Fresh Anointing International School of Ministry.

I congratulate Mr. Thomas on his 10th year as the pastor of Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church and thank him for his service to the Mathews area.

ONGOING VIOLENCE IN SYRIA

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express deep concern about the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Syria. People all over the world have watched with awe as democratic movements in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya have risen up against autocratic and corrupt regimes. We have witnessed humanity at its best, as people have shown the courage and bravery to peacefully protest in the face of violence. We have also unfortunately witnessed humanity at its worst, as desperate governments have lashed out in an effort to preserve their rule.

The Syrian government has historically been one of the most repressive in the Middle East, so it should be no surprise that the Syrian people have protested the many abuses they are subjected to. Hundreds of those protesters have tragically been killed at the hands of Syrian government forces, and thousands more have been detained. The human rights violations of the Syrian government must be condemned and the Syrian people should be allowed to exercise their fundamental freedoms.

These recent violations, as well as the Syrian regime's longstanding record of infringing on human rights, should raise grave concerns that many nations have embraced Syria's candidacy to sit on the U.N. Human Rights Council. The Syrian regime lacks any moral authority to protect human rights and its election to the U.N. Human Rights Council would mock the rebuke it just received from the same institution. If the United States and other nations are serious about protecting human rights, we will block Syria from sitting on the U.N. Human Rights Council as long as the current government is in place.

BRETT STEARNS TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brett Stearns of Craig, Colorado. Mr. Stearns was an engine captain for the Bureau of Land Management and worked tirelessly to protect the natural beauty of Colorado.

It was while working in fire prevention at the Freeman Reservoir that he tragically passed away. He was, by all accounts, an excellent firefighter and his presence will be missed. Captain Stearns was an avid outdoor enthusiast from a young age and working for the BLM was a natural position for him. He worked hard to preserve the forests and open spaces of Colorado.

The Captain could often be seen running his favorite trail, which has since been renamed the Stearns Memorial Trail. It is a fitting tribute to someone so closely involved with his community and its outdoor recreation. The trail serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by those who protect our open land.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Captain Brett Stearns today. His impact on the

community has been immense, and his efforts to protect Colorado's outdoor beauty contribute to its pristine state.

HONORING WILLIAM F. ALLEN, JR.

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William F. Allen, Jr. William is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 388, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years William has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, William was the first in his troop to earn the Conservation Badge. William has also joined the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and joined the Order of the Arrow.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William F. Allen, Jr. for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately this week I was unable to participate in several votes. Had I been here I would have voted the following way:

H.R. 1213—Repeal mandatory funding provided to States in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to establish American Health Benefit Exchanges—AYE

H.R. 1214—Repeal mandatory funding for school-based health center construction—AYE

H.R. 3—No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act—AYE

H.R. 1230—Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now Act—AYE

A TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GABRIEL HAUGLAND

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of Lieutenant Gabriel Haugland of Clear Lake, Iowa who recently received the Combat Infantryman Badge for his service in the Iowa Army National Guard during Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) was established on October 7, 1943 by the U.S. War Department. It is awarded to those soldiers who personally fought in ground combat while assigned to either an infantry or a Special Forces unit.

Lieutenant Haugland, a graduate of the University of Iowa and Drake University Law School, joined the Army National Guard in May of 2004. He recently returned from serving a deployment in Afghanistan with Bravo Company, 168th Infantry Battalion. His unit's mission was to secure the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, which consisted primarily of stopping the flow of foreign fighters, drugs, and guns into Afghanistan.

On January 8, 2011, Lieutenant Haugland's unit came under fire from the Taliban. He engaged in the fight, and thankfully was not wounded. However, he broke his leg three days later in a non-combat related accident and was sent stateside to recover. Lieutenant Haugland plans to resume his military career after his recovery.

Lieutenant Haugland is a true patriot and a true hero. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in thanking him for his service to our great country and in congratulating him for receiving the Combat Infantryman Badge. I wish him, his wife Carolyn, and their children the best of luck in the future.

RECOGNIZING MR. PHILLIP C. HOUSTON IN HONOR OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE GREENE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Ohio's seventh congressional district, I am honored to recognize Mr. Phillip C. Houston for his 32 years of dedicated service to Greene County and congratulate him on his recent retirement.

Phil Houston grew up in the Akron area. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Olivet Nazarene College and a Master of Public Administration from Central Michigan University.

Throughout his 23 years as Director of the Department of Development for the Greene County Board of Commissioners, Phil has seen the department form into a full-service economic development organization that provides services in: small business loan assistance, structured retention and expansion, tourism, and housing down-payment assistance and education.

Originally, Greene County hired Phil to direct its annual $3 million comprehensive Employment and Training Act Program, funds that were in jeopardy of being revoked by the U.S. Department of Labor. Within two years, Phil had remedied all the problems and his department was acknowledged for having taken appropriate steps to course-correct.

Thanks to Phil's stewardship, the county generated a fundamental Economic Development Plan, and worked with the four cities, six villages and 12 townships throughout Greene County to consolidate their efforts to improve the county. In just the past few years, more than 40 projects ranging from infrastructure improvements to community building renovations and code enforcement have been accomplished through Greene County's Community Development Block Grant Program with Phil's oversight and direction.

Though he has made a career for himself in public service, Phil still managed to give back to his community as a volunteer. He has been involved with the American Economic Development Council, the Small Business. Administration, and the Dayton Area Technology Network. He has served as a member of the County Budget Review Committee, County Adult Day Care Board, County Jail Advisory Committee, Greene County Board of Education Business Advisory Committee, and the Adult Education Committee for Greene County's Career Center.

Phil's efforts have not gone unnoticed, and he has received numerous awards throughout the years. Some of these include the Governor's Excellence Award for Innovative Economic Development and the Ohio County Superintendent's Association's Outstanding Leadership award in 1992. He was also named Greene County Adult Education Volunteer of the Year in 1990 and NAIOP Public Official of the Year for Dayton in 1991. Additionally, Phil has received five National Association of Counties, NACO, achievement awards for: increasing sales opportunities; intergovernmental cooperative efforts; cutback management; accessibility for the disabled; and assistance to the homeless.

Phil and his wife, Teresa, have two children, Erika and Brooke, two grandchildren and a third on the way.

Phil's decades of service have proven him to truly be the epitome of selflessness and commitment. He has demonstrated sincere dedication to providing prosperity and knowledge to Greene County. It is his exemplary efforts that assist the progress of our nation in fairly and efficiently protecting our citizens.

Thus, with great pride, I commend Mr. Phillip C. Houston for his commendable service to the community and extend him the best throughout his hard-earned retirement.

NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, since coming to Congress in 2001, I have strongly supported the longstanding policy that prohibits federal funding of abortion. However, I cannot in good conscience support H.R. 3, the No Taxpayer Funding of Abortion Act, which goes far beyond current policy by using the tax code to punish families and small businesses for the private insurance that they already have.

The thirty-year precedent to restrict the federal funding of abortion, commonly known as the Hyde Amendment, has rightfully served as a guarantee to citizens that the federal government shall not use taxpayer dollars to pay for abortions beyond the unique exceptions of rape, incest, or life endangerment of the mother. The Hyde Amendment is a common sense measure to prevent the federal funding of something that many oppose on moral or religious grounds. I am certainly one of those people. However, this bill does much more than make this policy permanent federal law.

For the first time ever, H.R. 3 would expand the definition of federal funding to include tax deductions and credits of private income or expenses. In other words, current restrictions on government spending would also be applied to the private dollars families and small businesses decide to spend on health coverage. This is an unparalleled reinterpretation of federal funding that could have far-reaching consequences for families, businesses, and even religious institutions.

This bill explicitly prohibits individuals and small businesses that elect a private insurance plan with abortion coverage from claiming certain tax deductions, credits and exclusions for health care expenses, even if that abortion coverage is never used but happens to be part of a plan that otherwise works best for a particular family. Such a substantial change in federal policy would raise taxes on families and small businesses for private coverage that they are already struggling to afford.

This prohibition is also not equally applied to large employers, who can continue offering abortion coverage, creating an uneven and unjust application of abortion policy within the tax code. Further, since the IRS is charged with enforcing taxpayer compliance, this bill raises serious concerns over how the government might audit ''questionable'' benefit claims by women who receive an abortion as a result of sexual assault or legitimate life-threatening medical conditions.

It is also important to note that taking the unprecedented step of redefining ''federal funding'' to include the benefit of a tax exemption could raise political and legal questions for churches and other religious organizations which operate under similar restrictions as current law. Many religious institutions either receive segregated federal funds or tax exemptions to run activities such as adoption services, homeless shelters and food banks. This precedent challenges the very pro-life activities that these churches promote.

Although this bill contains many provisions that I do support, it simply goes too far by redefining the very meaning of federal funding.

Finally, we must not lose focus on the truly urgent priorities of Americans right now, namely economic security and deficit reduction. We are five months into this session and Republicans have yet to offer a single bill to help create jobs. I urge my colleagues to oppose the current version of this bill, stop allowing divisive social issues to dominate our time, and turn our attention to the true economic and fiscal challenges in front of us.

HONORING THE FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, our communities must place the highest value on preserving the role of prayer in our society and government, so that all Americans can continue to enjoy the benefits that our faith has bestowed upon us; and

Whereas, an appreciation for our history encourages dedication to the values and ideals which have enriched our nation; and

Whereas, in the highest traditions of our country, the Fifth Congressional District of Florida has provided an exceptional example of the power of faith in our society; and

Whereas, on this day, the citizens and leaders of the community are gathered to partake in a non-denominational day of prayer.

Therefore, I, Richard B. Nugent, Member of Congress representing the Fifth Congressional District of Florida, do hereby recognize the district's observance of the 60th National Day of Prayer.

A TRIBUTE TO JACOB POMEROY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jacob J. Pomeroy for the rank of an Eagle Scout. Jacob is a 10th grade student from South Hardin High School in Eldora, Iowa.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about 5% of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Jacob's project was to construct a barn-themed sun shelter for the Joyful Noise Preschool and the Waukee United Methodist Church. Jacob also went above and beyond the requirements by completing more than the minimum required number of merit badges.

Jacob has been involved in scouting since he became a Tiger Cub more than 11 years ago. Jacob's father, John Pomeroy, is also an Eagle Scout and current assistant Scout Master to Troop 178 from Waukee, Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Jacob Pomeroy and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on earning an Eagle Scout ranking and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

CELEBRATING MAURA McNIEL'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mrs. Maura McNiel, a leading women's rights activist whose legacy impacts women in Dallas and all over the United States.

Maura McNiel was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on April 4, 1929 and grew up inspired by integration in Minneapolis-area schools. She moved to Dallas in 1953 and, dedicated to improve the lives of people and the world around her, became involved in the civil rights movement and environmental issues. Soon after, Ms. McNiel immersed herself in the feminist cause, for which she is applauded today.

The list of Ms. McNiel's activities to improve the lives of others are endless: She spoke to reporters, politicians, organization leaders, and others and had a strong impact wherever she went. She founded Women for Change in 1971, the first women's center in Dallas, and then helped organize the Rape Crisis Center, the National Organization of Women and People for the American Way, Women's Coalition, Family Place (for battered women), the Southwest Credit Union, The Dallas Commission on the Status of Women and the Women's Issues Network.

But it was the personal touch she brought to her efforts that made each one a success.

She famously informed the all-male Rotary Club that just as birds flew better with two wings, marriages worked better as a partnership where both husband and wife shared responsibilities and demands. As her dialogue indicates, her approach was not antagonistic; rather, it was based upon building relationships. And that she did, with the Dallas City Hall, news organizations, and many, many others.

It was this both passionate and rational approach to women's rights that enabled her to successfully fight for Title IX in 1972, which expanded women's education opportunities. She understood that the success of a movement lies not just on its present, but also its future.

More importantly, she knew the importance of following words with action and personal sacrifice. As founding president of Women for Change, which created the first sanctuaries for family abuse victims, Maura took the lead by hosting the first woman in her own home.

A wonderful mother, Sunday school teacher, community leader, effective activist, Maura McNiel's work has led to achievements in women's studies, modern social work, advocacy on behalf of abused women, promotion of the Equal Rights Amendment, and passage of Title IX.

As her representative in Congress, it is my distinct pleasure to honor her today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. I ask my colleagues to join Maura McNiel's family and friends in wishing her a blessed 90th birthday and continued health and happiness in the years to come.

SUPPORT PASSAGE OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 244, EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT A PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT WHICH INCLUDES HAMAS MUST BE PROHIBITED FROM RECEIVING UNITED STATES AID UNTIL THAT GOVERNMENT PUBLICLY COMMITS TO THE QUARTET PRINCIPLES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my strong support for House Resolution 244, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a Palestinian government which includes Hamas must

be prohibited from receiving United States aid until that government publicly commits to the Quartet principles. The Quartet—the United States, the European Union, the United Nations, and the Russian Federation, require Hamas to recognize Israel's right to exist, to renounce violence, and to accept previous Israeli-Palestinian agreements.

Last week on April 27, 2011, Fatah and Hamas initialed a document of understandings as a foundation for a ''Palestinian National Accord'' agreement, which was signed by all of the Palestinian factions on May 4th in Cairo, under the aegis of the Egyptian transitional government and with the presence of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Hamas Political Bureau head Khaled Mash'al.

That same night on Al-Jazeera TV, Foreign Minister of the Hamas Gaza Government, and a member of the Hamas delegation to the Cairo discussions, Mahmoud Al-Zahhar said: ''We believe that negotiations with the Israeli enemy are in vain . . . . It will be impossible for an interim government to take part in the peace process with Israel.''

Mr. Speaker, we should also be troubled by the announcement by a lead Fatah negotiator that Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, who has been a leader in developing the Palestinian economy in the West Bank as well as a primary peace negotiator with Israel, will not be a part of the interim unity government.

Hamas embraces violence against innocent women, children, and men and calls for the destruction of Israel in its charter. It has been a designated terrorist organization by the United States since 1995 and by the European Union since 2003. Hamas terrorists have murdered hundreds of innocent Israelis, kidnapped and refused Red Cross access to Israeli soldiers, smuggled Iranian arms into the Gaza Strip, and launched thousands of rockets and mortars into Israel, including more than 300 since the beginning of 2011.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and reaffirm the notions that a Palestinian government which includes Hamas, a U.S.-designated terrorist group, must be prohibited from receiving U.S. aid. The legislation further acknowledges that the United States House of Representatives has a deep interest in achieving a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the creation of a viable and independent Palestinian state living in peace alongside the State of Israel.

HONORING THE 275TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF POMPTON PLAINS

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the First Reformed Church of Pompton Plains located in Morris County, New Jersey which is celebrating its 275th Anniversary.

Forty years before the birth of our Nation, a small band of Dutch farmers gathered together in a new land. It was there that the First Reformed Church of Pompton Plains was dedicated on April 7, 1736, under the pastorate of the Reverend Johannes Van Driessen. The church prospered in its early years, with a membership of 72 by the spring of 1738. A new building was erected in 1771 on land donated by Theunis Dey. This new church building, the first in the community, was located on what is now the Newark-Pompton Turnpike, the site of the present church.

Throughout the years, the church grew physically and spiritually. One hundred years after it was built, the church was enlarged and improved under the leadership of Reverend John Van Neste Schenck. The church was rededicated on November 22, 1871, seven months after its 100th anniversary. It was also on that day that the church family mourned the passing of their energetic minister.

Addressing the needs of members near and far, several small chapels were built. The first, known as Grace Chapel, was built next to the church for the purpose of education. Other chapels were located in various nearby communities, including Wayne, Lincoln Park, and Towaco. Throughout the years many chapels came to form independent churches, most of which remain a part of the Reformed Church of America.

The 1900s brought tremendous growth to the church. With more people joining the congregation, the financial status of the church enabled the construction of a ''church house'' in 1926, and a fellowship hall, known as ''Friendship Hall'' in 1965. But the period also brought tragedy. On October 24, 1937, the sanctuary was almost completely destroyed by fire. While the actual cause of the inferno was never determined, faulty wiring seemed probable. The tragic loss, however, brought out the invigorating spirit of the congregation and its dynamic minister, the Rev. Eugene H. Keator. A year and a half later, on April 7, 1939, a new building, larger than the old, with a new steeple and bell, was dedicated. This remarkable historic Christopher Wren-style edifice was completed debt-free.

In 1953, the church acquired the 1788 stone Mandeville home, a one-time Pompton Plains post office, adjacent to the church proper. Today it is the church manse. Along with the sanctuary and Grace Chapel, it is presently undergoing consideration for inclusion in the State and National Historic Registries.

The remains of soldiers from the Revolutionary War to the present find their final resting place in the church cemetery. A walk about the grounds provides a glimpse into the church's vital part in our Nation's rich history. This year, in remembrance of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, the church will dedicate veteran's markers identifying more than 600 of our American heroes.

The First Reformed Church of Pompton Plains is a community of faith with ''Open Doors, Open Hearts and Open Hands.'' During this special year, under the spiritual leadership of Reverend Kathleen Edwards Chase, may their spirit continue to rise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating The First Reformed Church of Pompton Plains as they celebrate its 275th Anniversary.

2011 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ART COMPETITION

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the artistic ability of a young woman from my Congressional District, Noël Peterson from the Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts. Ms. Peterson is the winner of the 2011 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania's High School Art Competition, ''An Artistic Discovery.'' Ms. Peterson's artwork, a charcoal drawing entitled ''Organization,'' was selected from a number of outstanding entries to this year's competition.

In fact, over 70 works from fifteen different schools in Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District were submitted to our panel of respected local artists. It's a real tribute to her skill and vision that her work was chosen as the winner of this year's competition. I am certain that Ms. Peterson's family is proud of her artistic talents and this impressive accomplishment.

Ms. Peterson's artwork will represent the 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania in the national exhibit of high school students' artwork that will be displayed in the United States Capitol over the coming year. I encourage my colleagues as well as any visitor to Capitol Hill to view Ms. Peterson's artwork, along with the winning entries from the high school art contests held in other Congressional Districts, which will be on display in the Capitol tunnel. It is amazing to walk through this corridor and see the interpretation of life through the eyes of these young artists from all across our country.

Stephanie Taylor from South Allegheny High School was awarded second place for her Acrylic on Canvas ''Rocky.'' Beth Gonzales from West Mifflin High School received third place for her self-portrait in charcoal. Alaina Schuster from Carlynton High School was awarded fourth place for her painting ''Berries.'' Jessica Clair from Penn Hills was given fifth place for her acrylic painting ''Portrait of a Misfit.''

In addition, Honorable Mention Awards were presented to works by Nicole Murphy from Carlynton High School, Cody Atkins from East Allegheny High School, Julianna Rinaldo from the Ellis School, Olivia Pasquarelli from Montour High School, Alexandra Fawcett from Penn Hills High School, Alesia Miller from Penn Hills High School, Christopher Winston from Pittsburgh Allderdice High School, Andrew Fusia from Riverview High School, Ethan Lyons from Serra Catholic High School, Brandi Krivansky from South Allegheny High School, Sara Savage from Woodland Hills High School, and Natalie Kerrigan from West Mifflin High School, who entered two mixed media works in the competition and received Honorable Mention awards for both of them.

I would like to recognize all of the participants in this year's 14th Congressional District High School Art Competition, ''An Artistic Discovery:'' from the Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts, Robert Almond, Sarah Axtell, David Becinski, Zoe Capcara, Noël Peterson, and Nicolette Santercangelo; from Carlynton, Nicole Murphy and Alaina Schuster; from East Allegheny

High School, Cody Atkins and Tyler Guger; from The Ellis School, Rachel Cooper, Shae LaPlace, Tessa McArdle, Hannah Mellor, Julianna Rinaldo, and Emilia Whitmer; from Montour High School, Chloe Carlini, Claire Crowley, Jenna Luche, Harley Murphy, Olivia Pasquarelli, and Rourke Stubna; from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Stefano Ceccarelli, Joseph David Goltz, Andrea Laffey, and Emma Mallick; from Penn Hills High School, Jessica Clair, Nicolette Deighan, Alexandra Fawcett, Selena Ford, Alesia Miller, and Chris Schwanke; from Pittsburgh Allderdice High School, Jeremy Saulsbury, Bowen Schmitt, Ester Turpini, Christopher Winston, and William A. Worth; from Riverview High School, Amanda Alcorn, Paige Condon, Victoria DiDominico, Andrew Fusia, Ashley Reid, and Heather Tabacchi; from Serra Catholic, Garrett Hudson, Ethan Lyons, Andrew Pricener, Paige Spang, and Olivia Saccameno; from South Allegheny High School, Alexis Carr, Brandi Krivansky, Megan Matejcic, Brianna Marie Smith, and Stephanie Taylor; from Sto-Rox High School, Amanda Anderson, Maxine Blackwell, Natalie Gamble, DeArra Linea Moore, Elizabeth Thornton, and Dane Worms; from Trinity Christian School, Rebekah Garard; from West Mifflin High School, Victoria Cooper, Chelsey Earnest, Beth Gonzales, Natalie Kerrigan, and Maggie Morgans; and from Woodland Hills High School, Jasmine Baldridge, Donovan Jones, Rachel Pampino, Sara Savage, and Kenny Thomas.

I would like to thank these impressive young artists for allowing us to share and celebrate their talents, imagination, and creativity. The efforts of these students in expressing themselves in a powerful and positive manner are no less than spectacular.

I hope that all of these individuals continue to utilize their artistic talents, and I wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO MARGARET McGUIRE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Margaret McGuire of Perry, Iowa on celebrating her 100th birthday.

Margaret was born on April 14, 1911 in Audubon, Iowa. The middle child of six, she quickly developed a passion for music and began learning how to play the violin in fourth grade. Together with her cello-playing sister Betty and a piano-playing friend, Margaret performed in a trio. Before graduating from Audubon High School in 1929, she utilized her violin skills in the high school's string orchestra and quartet.

It didn't take Margaret long to decide that music wasn't just her passion—she wanted to make it her profession. She graduated in 1934 from Simpson College with a bachelor's degree in music education. She eventually went on to earn a master's degree in Violin Technology at Drake University. With her education in hand, Margaret spent the next several decades teaching both general music and violin in public schools and in private lessons. She also played the violin in the Des Moines Symphony, the Central Iowa Symphony, and the Iowa State University Symphony.

Although music played a large role in Margaret's life, her family was even more important to her. She was happily married to Francis McGuire for many years, and together they had one daughter and three sons. Even though Francis has passed on, Margaret treasures the time she has with their children. Today, Margaret also has eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

What is Margaret's secret to a long and happy life? The spirit of optimism demonstrated in her oft-repeated saying, ''Count your blessings.''

I am extremely honored to represent Margaret McGuire in the United States Congress, and I wish her much happiness and health in her future years.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF U.S. ARMY CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER TERRY L. VARNADORE II

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Chief Warrant Officer, Terry Varnadore II. A native of Mills River, North Carolina, Chief Warrant Officer Varnadore passed away at the age of twenty nine, on April 23, 2011, while serving our country in the Kapisa Province of Afghanistan.

Chief Warrant Officer Varnadore grew up in Western North Carolina surrounded by family. He had a passion for fishing and hunting, and spent a great deal of his life in the Great Smoky Mountains with his father and younger brother. Chief Warrant Officer Varnadore married the love of his life, Casey Varnadore, after graduating from Appalachian State University. They have a 4 year old daughter together, Ava Elizabeth. Mrs. Varnadore is expecting their second daughter in July.

Chief Warrant Officer Varnadore's lifelong dream was to become a helicopter pilot. Assigned to the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, he flew an OH–58 Delta Kiowa Warrior Helicopter. His awards and decorations include the Air Medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal, the Army Aviator Badge, and the Combat Action Badge.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Warrant Officer Varnadore embodied the best qualities of an American soldier. He was selfless, dedicated, and brave. He was respected by his fellow soldiers and appreciated by the officers he served under. Through his commendable service, Chief Warrant Officer Varnadore has made Western North Carolina proud. It is my honor to commemorate him and I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring Chief Warrant Officer Terry Varnadore II for the sacrifice he has made for the United States.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the special occasion of the centennial celebration of the Jewish Family Service in my hometown of Saint Paul. For 100 years, Jewish Family Service has served individuals, families and new Americans from all walks of life, regardless of ethnicity or religion. Founded in 1911, the organization was originally called Jewish Charities of St. Paul. By 1913, the Jewish Charities of St. Paul was renamed Jewish Welfare Association for the next 31 years. In 1946, the organization's name was changed to Jewish Family Service, the name that remains today.

Jewish Family Service epitomizes the best in a community coming together. It has been a lifeline for many new immigrants and refugee groups, providing human services, employment counseling, mental health services, and translation services for the elderly. While programming may have changed along with demographics during the past century, the noble mission of Jewish Family Service has not changed.

Today Jewish Family Service continues to serve all members of our community, including our newest Americans, including Somali, Latinos, Hmong and Russians, who are making their homes in the East Metro Twin Cities area. Our community's diversity is a strength. By assisting individuals and families as well as our new immigrants become productive and successful citizens in our community, Jewish Family Service is worthy of commendation and celebration. I offer my sincere congratulations to the staff and supporters of Jewish Family Service.

In honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Jewish Family Service, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RECIPROCAL MARKET ACCESS ACT OF 2011

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Reciprocal Market Access Act. In the wake of the biggest economic crisis since the Great Depression, our country faces a difficult road towards recovery. As part of this effort, it is critical that we ensure that our trade policy is working as it should: to generate new opportunities for our businesses, strengthen American manufacturing capabilities, and reduce the unemployment rate that has risen to the highest level in decades.

American manufacturers of products ranging from optical fiber to autos and agriculture face continual problems with access to overseas markets. Our own trade negotiators do little to prevent this from happening, as it is often standard for trade agreements to open our

markets fully to foreign competitors, yet we gain little market access in return. The pending free trade agreement with South Korea is another example of a free trade agreement that opens our markets to foreign competition while failing to address serious market access concerns in Korea.

We must provide our negotiators with unequivocal guidelines so that they do not relinquish our domestic trade protections without gaining meaningful market access for American manufacturers in exchange. Unless other governments play by the rules and remove barriers to our exports, the U.S. should not acquiesce to their demands by further opening our market—which is already the most open market in the global economy. Unilateral disarmament in the face of foreign protectionist practices is unacceptable, and we must ensure that our trade negotiators do not undermine our industries and our workers.

The Reciprocal Market Access Act would instruct our trade negotiators to eliminate foreign market barriers before reducing U.S. tariffs. This bill would also provide enforcement authority to reinstate the tariff if the foreign government does not honor its commitment to remove its barriers.

This legislation also addresses a serious problem in the current trade negotiating process. Tariff and non-tariff sectoral barriers are compartmentalized, meaning that a tariff item can be reduced or eliminated by our negotiators without securing elimination of the non-tariff barriers that deny U.S. industry access to a foreign market. This legislation would give our government the right to revoke concessions to cut tariffs if our trading partners fail to implement negotiated commitments to eliminate barriers that had initially been identified by U.S. domestic producers for our negotiators.

The principle of reciprocity—the principle on which this legislation is built—is not new. In fact it is a principle that should be essential to any effective trade relationship. Cordell Hull, Democrat from Tennessee and Roosevelt's Secretary of State in 1933, was responsible for bringing this concept into the U.S. and global trade systems with the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act of 1934. It was this act which formed the basis for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Mr. Hull developed the Act to move away from the negative consequences of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, which raised U.S. tariffs on thousands of imports to record levels. Smoot-Hawley established the United States as protectionist, and provoked a rash of retaliatory measures from our trading partners.

It is no longer the United States that is shutting its markets to foreign competitors. We have the most open market in the world, and continue to find ways to lower tariffs and eliminate market barriers. Yet this policy is often not reciprocated, as American manufacturers find significant barriers to foreign markets while they watch their own domestic market share dwindle. The result is quality American companies are forced to downsize or close their doors for good, and American workers are left jobless.

That is not free trade. Free trade involves a system where American companies are able to compete in markets uninhibited by barriers. It involves a level playing field for American companies and our trading partners. And I have no doubt that if given a level playing field, American companies and American workers can compete in any market.

The Reciprocal Market Access Act will mandate that at the very least any trade agreement does not put American companies and workers at a competitive disadvantage. It establishes what should be the standard for all trade agreements: a mutually beneficial trade relationship in which goods can be freely exchanged and that promotes economic growth.

HONORING J. WARREN GEURIN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and pay tribute to J. Warren Geurin, a former congressional staffer and member of the Loudoun County School Board. Warren passed away April 30, at the age of 65 after having battled cancer for several months. Warren began his career on the Hill as the Minority Investigator on the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, serving our former colleagues Congressman Gene Taylor and Congressman Trent Lott. From 1980 to 1991 Warren served as a Minority counsel to the U.S. House Committee on Rules, working for former Congressmen Taylor, Lott, and Del Latta. Warren concluded his time on the Hill as legislative counsel to Congressman CHRIS SMITH. In 1992, Warren was appointed by President George H.W. Bush as Director of Congressional Affairs to then U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Andrew Card.

Following Warren's congressional service, he worked in the private sector and later went on to serve as a three-term member of the Loudoun County School Board. Despite his diagnosis and worsening condition, Warren proved to be an inspiration, serving as chairman of the Committee on Academies and as a member of the Personnel Committee and the Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee. Throughout his time on the School Board, Warren tirelessly advocated for children and Loudoun Schools and it was through his efforts which led to the successful completion of renovation projects at all of the schools in his district.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is my pleasure to honor the life of Mr. J. Warren Geurin, a great public servant, model citizen and a personal friend of mine. Warren will be honored and remembered by many, especially his widow, Susie; his two children Jennifer and Jeff; his many friends, colleagues and all who knew him.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF MARSHALLTOWN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of the City of Marshalltown in Iowa. The City of Marshalltown was recently selected to receive the 2010 Tree City USA Growth Award.

The Tree City USA Growth Award is given annually by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the Iowa Department of Natural Resource—Forestry Bureau to those cities who have dedicated themselves to preserving their public trees and stressing their importance to the community. These cities have gone above and beyond by enhancing their forest resources and demonstrating the value of trees in providing benefits for future generations. In order to receive this award, a city must meet the requirements in four categories: education and public relations, partnerships, planning and management, and tree planting and maintenance.

There are currently over 3,400 cities nationwide that are designated as a Tree City and over 135 million people live in these cities. Marshalltown was one of 24 cities in Iowa to qualify for this status.

I commend the City of Marshalltown for its commitment to preserving nature, in particular, its trees. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating the City of Marshalltown in being selected to receive this award. It is an honor to represent the citizens of Marshalltown, and I wish their town continued success.

HONORING MICHAEL CAP

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I come to the floor to report the passing of a member of America's Greatest Generation. Michael Cap of Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania passed away on Wednesday afternoon at the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home. He was 101 years old.

I met Michael Cap only a few weeks ago, on April 20th, to present him with replacements for medals he was awarded for his service in the Army during World War II.

Mr. Cap served in Company F, 306th Infantry, 77th Infantry Division of the United States Army during the campaign in the Philippines. During his tour in the Pacific Theater, Mr. Cap was wounded in action twice including a wound he suffered after receiving shrapnel in his heart during the invasion of Leyte Island. For his bravery and honorable service during the war, Mr. Cap received 10 medals, which had been lost or misplaced over time after the war.

It was my honor to have had the opportunity to replace these medals and on April 20, I joined Mr. Cap and members of his family at the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home to present him with the following medal and awards:

The Purple Heart with 1 bronze oak leaf cluster; the Bronze Star; the World War II Victory Medal; the American Campaign Medal; the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 3 bronze service stars with arrowhead; the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 1 bronze service star; the Good Conduct Medal; the Combat Infantryman Badge—1st Award; the Expert Infantryman Badge; and the Honorable Service WWII Lapel Button.

Mr. Speaker, with Michael Cap's passing, one more veteran of World War II has left us. It seems with each passing day, we are losing a generation that defined American courage.

Michael Cap's generation fought to end the threat of totalitarianism and came home to build the American Dream in peace. Their example set the tone for future generations of soldiers, including the men and women now serving in uniform in the United States armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Let us not forget Michael Cap and those like him who stood up in the face of evil and totalitarianism and defeated it. America owes him and all our veterans a great debt.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING THE LIFE OF DEACON MAURICE JOSEPH WALSH

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing and honor the life of Deacon Maurice Joseph Walsh of Niantic, Connecticut. Deacon Walsh passed away on April 21, 2011 surrounded by his family at his home.

Maurice, or Moe as he was known to friends, lived a life replete with service to his country, church, and community. Ordained in the first Permanent Diaconate class in New England by Archbishop John F. Whealon, he served several parishes including the St. Agnes Parish in Niantic. He was a member of the 745th AAA Gun Battalion of West Hartford's U.S. Army Reserves, where he achieved the rank of Sergeant.

A student of banking at The University of Chicago and Williams College, Maurice worked at the Connecticut Bank and Trust Company for 35 years and eventually went on to start a family businesses with his sons—Maurice J. Walsh and Sons Real Estate Appraisals. Successful and industrious in his profession, he always found time to give back to a variety of causes. He was an active member of the Tinker Turner American Legion Post 128, Catholic Inter-Racial Council, and was a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus.

When he finally retired from the family business, Maurice saw it as an opportunity to give more. He took on a larger role as a Permanent Deacon and continued his tradition of broad, community-oriented service. He was well known for regular trips to Niantic's Bridebrook Rehabilitation Center where he and a group of volunteers he assembled would spend time with and provide spiritual guidance to its residents.

People like Deacon Walsh lived in the service of others. From a relatively young age, he went to great lengths to provide comfort and guidance to people in need of personal, civic, and spiritual help and continued this service through the age of 80. His impact in eastern Connecticut is unquantifiable. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Walsh family. He leaves behind his three sons Damien, Jeffrey, and Daniel as well as his loving wife Claire. Maurice will be dearly missed by his family, friends, and the countless people he served throughout his life.

HONORING NORMA ADELAIDE CARTER MURPHY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Norma Carter Murphy, a constituent and family friend. On Saturday, May 7, 2011, family, friends, neighbors, students, classmates and co-workers will join together to honor Norma at the Cherry Point Marine Base in Havelock, North Carolina.

The middle child of Luke Eight Carter and Eunice Godette Carter, Norma Adelaide Carter was born on January 16, 1931. She attended Ole Godette Elementary School and the Palmer Memorial Institute in Sedalia, North Carolina, and graduated from Charles H. Darden High School in Wilson, North Carolina. Norma went on to earn a degree in Education from historic Howard University, and later earned her Masters Degree in Education from North Carolina Central University.

Norma began her long and distinguished teaching career at Queen Street High School in Beaufort, North Carolina and went on to teach in a variety of positions in North Carolina and Michigan for a period of 45 years.

Mrs. Murphy was always greatly loved by students and fellow teachers because of her passion, grace, energy, compassion and tireless focus on helping students succeed by achieving greatness.

Beyond the classroom, Norma has been extremely dedicated to her community. Along with eight other women, she chartered the New Bern Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. in order to promote academic excellence, provide scholarships and support to the underserved, and to highlight and resolve social and political problems in the local community.

While residing in Michigan, Norma was appointed to the state Board of Marriage and Family Counseling and served in that position for many years. She has also been active with the League of Women Voters and many parent-teacher associations.

Nine years ago, Norma moved back to North Harlowe, North Carolina to the dwelling where she was born. She is now close to many members of her immediate family and enjoying life to the fullest.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Norma Carter Murphy. She is truly a remarkable person deserving of our deepest well wishes for the enormous contributions she has made to her community and to the many young people she has taught and mentored over the years.

ROBERT LUCAS BEERS TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Lucas Beers of Mancos, Colorado. Mr. Beers led a particularly vibrant life in southern Colorado as a prominent businessman, volunteer and veteran. His years of service in both private and public offices contributed to that prominence.

Mr. Beers was born in raised in Mancos, Colorado. After graduating from high school, he worked briefly in the Civilian Conservation Corps before attending Fort Lewis College. He later joined the executive board of the college and was one of the members responsible for its move to Durango.

In 1944, during the height of World War II, Mr. Beers joined the Army as a cryptologist. His work decoding intercepted messages was a major contribution to our victory in China, Burma and India. Before enlisting, he was already an accomplished pilot, serving in the Civil Air Patrol, and was a civil defense volunteer for many years.

After the war, Mr. Beers returned to Durango to begin his various business ventures and public service. He worked for a number of years in the oil and gas industry and was one of the founders of Basin Petroleum, a company that owned and operated several service stations in Colorado. He also served on the Durango City Council and was elected mayor of the city for a term, where he supported a number of initiatives including paving the city's streets.

Mr. Beers also volunteered on several boards during his career. Most notably he sat for two terms on the State Agriculture Board, Mercy Hospital and the Chamber of Commerce. His love of skiing was also a driving force behind the formation of the original San Juan Development Corp., which helped create Purgatory at Durango Mountain Resort.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Robert Beers today. The community he spent a lifetime working for owes him a great deal. There is no doubt his legacy will continue to impact Colorado.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MECHDYNE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Marshalltown's high-tech, home-grown business Mechdyne for winning the Entrepreneur of the Month Award from the Iowa Farm Bureau.

Mechdyne Corporation is based in Marshalltown, but has offices all over the world including, Houston, Washington, D.C., Canada, the United Kingdom, and even the Middle East. Despite being able to customize solutions for clients all over the globe, Mechdyne hasn't neglected Iowa and recently provided East Marshall High School with top of the line technology to facilitate a more immersive learning experience, and stimulate student interest in high tech careers.

Mechdyne began its existence by specializing in virtual reality systems but now consults for and develops advanced 3D visualization solutions for a global array of customers. Their success is a testament to the "can-do" spirit of Iowans and an example of the unlimited potential we believe each person has.

Mr. Speaker, I could not be more honored to represent Mechdyne and its employees in the United States House of Representatives and I know that all of my colleagues in the

United States Congress will join me in congratulating them.

CONGRATULATING NAPSEC

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Association of Private Special Education Centers (NAPSEC) for their 40 years of excellent service and academic dedication to our country's individuals with disabilities. NAPSEC's educational therapeutic services, combined with four decades of experience are invaluable to the education community across the United States and to the dozens of partners in my home state of New Jersey.

Established in 1971, NAPSEC represents private specialized education programs including early intervention services, school programs, residential therapeutic centers, and college experience and adult living programs for individuals with disabilities and their families. NAPSEC's hundreds of affiliates offer much needed services to publically and privately placed individuals who are otherwise unable to receive an appropriate public education. Member programs also serve the needs of individuals who have graduated from high school including adults over 21 years of age.

I am inspired by the quality of care and expertise NAPSEC's partners provide to America's students with disabilities, including those with autism. Again, I offer NAPSEC my sincerest congratulations on 40 years of service to the disabilities community and look forward to NAPSEC's continued progress in the future.

HONORING LESLIE (LES) HAROLD HAYES

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life and legacy of Leslie (Les) Harold Hayes—publisher emeritus of The Madera Tribune.

Les was born in 1928 in Emporia, Kansas. After working his way through school, Les enrolled in Emporia College where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Business with a minor in English and Journalism. In 1955 he received an offer from the Merced Sun Star, moved to California, and spent the next few decades climbing from typesetter to publisher while working at a series of papers around the Valley. In 1995 Les retired only to be asked to return in 1998.

When not busy reporting the news, Les actively engaged himself in the community: he was a member of the Lions Club, the Rotary Club, and the Madera County Historical Society. In 2006, Les received the Madera Chamber of Commerce ''Lifetime Achievement Award'' for his contributions to life in the county.

On April 6, 2011, at the age of 82, Les passed away. He leaves behind his wife, Chris, and five children.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Les Hayes and his many contributions. May we keep him and those he left behind in our hearts and prayers.

HONORING WILLIAM A. COOK

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute an exceptional Hoosier, William A. Cook. Sadly, we lost Bill on April 15. I wish to express my condolences to his family who knew him as husband, father, and grandfather.

To Indiana, Bill's leadership was a shining example of the type of leadership everyone should strive to achieve. Marked by common sense, his leadership embodied the qualities emblazoned in the Hoosier spirit. Bill's focus on service above self; both in building great businesses and in improving our community has left us all a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

As a man of faith, I believe we were put on this earth to love one another and to make the best of the gifts our Lord has provided. We are all blessed to live in a country that allows us to experience freedom and the opportunity to succeed. When I look at the life story of a man who built a business empire that began in a spare bedroom in an apartment, employed thousands around the globe, and provided life saving, and life-altering technology to millions more, all I can say is Amen. Well done.

Bill Cook exemplified the American dream in every way. The amazing narrative of his life will live on, not only through the Cook Group and the many companies that Bill created, but through his family and through the incalculable number of Hoosiers he helped through the years. I would like to thank his family for sharing Bill with us. We are a community that will not soon forget him.

KEEP TEACHERS TEACHING ACT

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution provides Congress with the authority to ''make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper'' to provide for the ''general Welfare'' of Americans. In the Department of Education Organization Act (P.L. 96–88), Congress declared that ''the establishment of a Department of Education is in the public interest, will promote the general welfare of the United States, will help ensure that education issues receive proper treatment at the Federal level, and will enable the Federal Government to coordinate its education activities more effectively.'' The Department of Education's mission is to ''promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.''

A TRIBUTE TO CHRISTENSEN CONSTRUCTION

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of Christensen Construction in Estherville, Iowa. This company was presented the Midwest Region Builder of the Year for 2010 by Butler Manufacturing at a convention held in Atlanta, Georgia.

Butler Manufacturing is a BlueScope Steel company that is based in Kansas City. The world's oldest steel building manufacturer, Butler Manufacturing has six regional manufacturing locations and over 1,200 Butler Builders nationwide. The Midwest Region consists of 13 states and 320 builders. The Builder of the Year Award is given annually to one builder in each region who has demonstrated excellence in selling Butler building and roof systems and has superior marketing skills.

Christensen Construction first became a Butler Builder in 1985. Since then, Christensen Construction has sold over $25 million in Butler products. The company was nominated for the award by Keith Huls of West Des Moines, this area's Butler manager. Huls said Christensen Construction received this award ''because of its history for outstanding sales along with its reputation for delivering the best value in products and services to their customers.''

I know my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating Christensen Construction and its employees for receipt of this award. It is an honor to represent this company, its owner, and its employees in Congress, and I wish it the best of luck and success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS OF CHICAGO ALDERMAN HELEN SHILLER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Chicago Alderman Helen Shiller, who has been the Alderman of the 46th Ward since 1987. Alderman Shiller is retiring after 24 years of dedicated service to the residents of the 46th Ward and the City of Chicago. She is a tireless, passionate advocate for her constituents and for the community. She has been an especially powerful champion for those whose voices too often go unheard—the poor, immigrants, those who need affordable housing or shelter, the hungry.

Alderman Shiller is the Chair of the Chicago City Council's Committee on Human Relations, where she has a long and outstanding record of achievement. She played a key role in the passage of the human rights ordinance, recycling programs and city responsibility for public health and safety in the Chicago Public Schools. She initiated and passed a tough anti-apartheid ordinance in 1990. Her budget amendment tripled the city's AIDS budget in

1992. She co-sponsored the domestic partners ordinance extending benefits for unmarried couples. Throughout her aldermanic career, Alderman Shiller has fought for affordable housing and for city budget investments to make Chicago a more affordable place to live.

A strong voice for sustainability and green technologies, Alderman Shiller took the lead on a voluntary pilot program for multi-unit residential building recycling and created a task force to improve the city's recycling program. She is an advocate for LEED certification in all planned developments as well as in other development projects throughout the city.

In 1989, Alderman Shiller sponsored a resolution that created a sub-committee to focus on ways to end domestic violence. As a result of her leadership, the city now funds domestic violence counseling centers and programs for supervised visitations.

Alderman Shiller has continuously worked to keep the 46th Ward both economically and culturally diverse, while at the same time working to develop virtually every area of the ward. It is important to Alderman Shiller that the 46th Ward continue to be defined by its unique mix of people with very different economic and cultural backgrounds. She has worked on many models to retain this diversity and, with the City's Department of Housing, developed the Planned Purchase Price Assistance Program (now called CPAN), which provides opportunities for home ownership for working families.

Alderman Shiller led a comprehensive and inclusive community planning process resulting in the development of affordable housing and thriving retail development at Wilson Yard in the heart of Uptown.

Helen Shiller received her high school diploma from Woodstock Country School in Vermont in 1965. She attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison as a history major and received her BA in 1969. In 2005, she graduated from DePaul University's School for New Learning's Master's Program where her focus was public policy.

I am confident that Helen will continue to contribute to her community and city. I wish her the very best, and I am proud to call her my friend.

INTRODUCING THE INCREASING ACCESS TO VOLUNTARY SCREENING FOR HIV/AIDS AND STIS ACT OF 2011

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Increasing Access to Voluntary Screening for HIV/AIDS and STIs Act of 2011, which will help reduce the spread and morbidities associated with HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Each year in the United States, almost 19 million new STIs occur and an estimated 56,300 Americans are newly infected with HIV. HIV/AIDS and STIs are syndemics. HIV infection can increase a person's risk for acquiring certain STIs, as well as affect their frequency, severity, and healing time, while STIs increase the risk of HIV transmission, impaired fertility, reproductive tract cancer, and adverse pregnancy outcomes.

Due to various factors, including stigma, a lack of health care coverage, and an inaccurate perception of risk among communities and providers, HIV and other long-term, initially asymptomatic STIs often remain undiagnosed or are diagnosed at later stages. This leads to higher rates of mortality, morbidity, disability, and transmission. Furthermore, the burden of HIV/AIDS and STIs falls disproportionately on different populations, with 15–24 year olds, men who have sex with men (MSM), and racial and ethnic minorities facing the greatest risk for STIs.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the United States Preventive Services Task Force recommend that voluntary screening for HIV/AIDS and other STIs be integrated into routine clinical care. All individuals engaging in sexual contact must have access to voluntary screening that is confidential, rapid, accurate, and medically appropriate. In addition, supporting scientifically based, culturally competent, and age-appropriate interventions is key to reducing the incidence of HIV/AIDS and other STIs.

The Increasing Access to Voluntary Screening for HIV/AIDS and STIs Act of 2011 takes an aggressive and multifaceted approach to combating HIV/AIDS and other STIs, including Chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and human papillomavirus (HPV), by increasing access to voluntary screening and other preventive methods while preserving patient rights and confidentiality.

Among other things, this bill requires Medicaid to cover voluntary screening for HIV/AIDS and other STIs as a mandatory service for all individuals 13 and older, including when such services are provided at a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). This legislation also requires the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide Medicare reimbursement for voluntary HIV/AIDS and STI screening for all beneficiaries 13 and older.

In addition, this Act requires group health plans, insurance issuers providing group or individual health insurance coverage, and federal employee health benefits programs to cover routine screening for HIV/AIDS and other STIs; provides states with the support they need to cover low-income individuals infected with HIV until Medicaid is expanded in 2014 under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and supports access to early medical and mental treatment by linking patients to appropriate medical and mental health services.

Lastly, this bill will help improve the accessibility and effectiveness of screening and other preventive services for groups that have been historically underrepresented in public health interventions for HIV/AIDS and other STIs, such as people living with disabilities, the transgender community, women living with severe physical disabilities, and women who have sex with women (WSW).

Mr. Speaker, HIV/AIDS and STIs remain a significant challenge to individual and public health. Through early detection and treatment, as well as comprehensive education for health care providers and communities, we can begin to reverse the tide of infections. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill, which combines the effectiveness of voluntary, routine screening with smart policy to improve the health of our communities and nation as a whole.

HONORING DELIA P. SANCHEZ

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of her recent honor, the 2011 Sydney & Thalia Potter Civic Leadership Award from the League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County, I rise to herald the achievements of Delia P. Sanchez, a champion for children in Florida. Ms. Sanchez is a wonderful example of the power of women to shape future generations and make a difference in their communities. Ms. Sanchez is a lifelong learner. She obtained her bachelor's degree from Florida State University in Social Work with minors in Education and Spanish in 1945 and went on to get her Master's in Social Work at Columbia University in 1947. Until 1991, nearly fifty years later, she took graduate level courses in areas such as Pupil Personnel Services, Education, and Rehabilitation.

All the while, Ms. Sanchez was affecting enormous change in lives of hundreds of children in the Tampa Bay area. One of the greatest services that Delia Sanchez provided to the Tampa community was to work with Congressman Sam Gibbons to bring the first Head Start initiative to Hillsborough County. She began her career as a Child Welfare Worker for the Florida State Welfare Board. From there Ms. Sanchez went on to work for the School Board of Hillsborough County as a School Social Worker and a Case Work Consultant, working her way up the ranks to eventually serve as the Administrative Supervisor for Head Start for nine years. Then, in the last three years of her career, she went into private practice to counsel troubled children.

Throughout her career and in her retirement, Ms. Sanchez has served as a board member or local representative to a number of community organizations. The list is too large to mention them all, but they range from the University of South Florida's Latin Community Advisory Committee, the Citizen's Advisory Council, the Child Abuse Council, the Ybor City Museum Society, to the National Association of Social Workers.

For all of her hard work in education and the lives of children, countless organizations have recognized her. To name a few, Ms. Sanchez is the recipient of the US State Department Fellowship Award, the American Red Cross Service Award twice, the Retired Social Worker Outstanding Achievement Award, the Hillsborough County Martin Luther King, Jr. Award, the National Head Start Association Lifetime Achievement Award and now the Sydney & Thalia Potter Civic Leadership Award. She is also a member of Sigma Delta Pi Spanish Honor Society, was named Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers by the Tampa Bay Unit and then again by the Florida Chapter, received an honorary Doctorate from the University of South Florida School of Social Work, and in 1993 she was Hispanic Woman of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, Delia P. Sanchez is a woman of the highest regard who has dedicated her

life to helping others. I am proud to call her my neighbor, and I join many others to applaud her lifetime contribution to the Tampa Bay community.

A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN ERIC NELSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of Captain Eric Nelson of Madrid, Iowa. Captain Nelson is a soldier in the Iowa Army National Guard. In May 2011, Captain Nelson will be presented the MacArthur Leadership Award in Washington, D.C.

The MacArthur Leadership Award is given by the United States Army to those company-grade officers that demonstrate the ideals for which General MacArthur stood: duty, honor, and country. It is presented annually to 25 officers that serve either in the Active Army, the Army National Guard, or the Army Reserves. Captain Nelson was the only Iowan selected this year to receive the award.

Captain Nelson recently returned in April 2011 from a year-long deployment in Kosovo. He served with the Iowa Army National Guard Company C, 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation unit as part of the KFOR13 Peacekeeping Operations. His unit flew and maintained UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters while there, flying over 2,400 hours conducting border patrol, reconnaissance, and air movement flights.

I thank Captain Nelson for his honorable service to our country. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating Captain Nelson in being selected to receive the MacArthur Leadership Award. It is an honor to serve as his representative, and I wish him the best of luck in the future.

NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE POMPEO

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Mr. POMPEO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.

Over the past 35 years, Republican and Democrat Presidents, as well as Republican and Democrat-controlled Congresses, have all agreed that American taxpayers should not be forced to fund abortions. Unfortunately, 14 months ago, with the passage of Obamacare, President Obama and Democrats in Congress rejected decades of consensus and abandoned the American people. Crafted behind closed doors and manipulated through the legislative process—despite major opposition by the American people—Obamacare not only attempts to destroy the American health care system, but it fails to protect the most innocent among us, the unborn.

H.R. 3 will fix this problem created by Obamacare, while also establishing a government-wide prohibition of funding for abortions. This bill prohibits funding for elective abortions and insurance coverage that would include abortion. It prevents health savings accounts (HSAs) from being used to pay for abortions and protects the rights of conscience by making the Hyde-Weldon provision a permanent fixture rather than having to be renewed annually. This legislation is not only essential policy, but it is also morally imperative.

Madam Speaker, the Obama Administration is openly hostile to pro-life policies. We cannot allow the administration discretion over abortion policy, as with Obamacare. The permanent establishment of the prohibitions in H.R. 3 will reverse the erosion of protections for the unborn advanced by the Obama Administration. We must act now to preserve the rights of the unborn for future generations.

I firmly believe that every unborn life is precious and should be protected. Therefore, absolutely no taxpayer money should be spent on abortions, directly or through subsidized health plans. The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act ensures that these protections are permanently established. I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting this important bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SIMON WIESENTHAL HOLOCAUST EDUCATION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Week, I am pleased to reintroduce the bipartisan Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Act, along with Representatives ACKERMAN, PIERLUISI, BERKLEY, HASTINGS, RANGEL, WAXMAN, DEUTCH, and GRIMM. In keeping with the 2011 Holocaust Remembrance Week theme of ''Justice and Accountability in the Face of Genocide: What Have We Learned?'', it is important to provide educational opportunities for the youth of our Nation to understand the responsibility we all share for the human rights of others.

Named for the honored Holocaust survivor who spent his life working for justice for those murdered by the Nazis and to hunt down those who perpetrated such atrocities, this legislation would provide federal grants to educational organizations to teach students about the Holocaust. Through grants from the Department of Education, Holocaust organization programs would be able to apply for funds to improve the awareness and understanding of the Holocaust through classes, seminars, conferences, educational materials, and teacher training.

As the generations who survived the Holocaust pass away, we must ensure that we learn from their legacy and that it is remembered and honored. Over 11 million people, including 6 million European Jews as well as gypsies, the disabled and mentally ill, homosexuals, and others, were systematically and brutally murdered in the Holocaust as the Nazis swept across Europe, destroying entire villages and communities.

More than half a century later, persecution and murder on the basis of religion, ethnicity, and sexuality continue across the globe. We need programs in our schools that allow students to learn about the consequences of intolerance and hate, so that we can truly say, ''never again.''

The Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Assistance Act is a positive step toward that end. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

SUPPORT OF THE FORCE PROTECTION AND READINESS ACT OF 2011

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Force Protection and Readiness Act of 2011.

This legislation will provide greater protections for our service women and men stationed in the U.S. and abroad. Sexual assault is a pervasive and serious problem throughout all branches of the military.

Over 65,000 servicemen and women have experienced some form of sexual assault or rape since 2002. In the Department of Defense (DoD) Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, there was a total of 3,230 reports of sexual assault involving military service members as either victims or subjects. This represents an 11 percent increase over FY 2008.

In 2008, in nearly half of all sexual assault cases the commander took no action, and only 13 percent of reported cases were prosecuted and referred to courts martial. These figures are far below civilian prosecution rates, where 40 percent of those arrested for rape are prosecuted. We must ensure that there is zero tolerance for sexual assault in the military services.

The Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services report released in December 2009 estimates that as many as 90 percent of sexual assaults go unreported. We hear too often that the reporting process may be as traumatic for the victim as the attack itself. In order to fully support and protect our troops, we must ensure the rights of sexual assault victims are upheld every step of the way.

If a victim cannot access essential care for fear of stigma, public embarrassment, threats to her career, or because they just do not know what resources are available, the military will continue to lose valuable female and male soldiers. These service members put themselves in harm's way to protect us and our Nation from threats at home and abroad. This bill ensures they are protected when dealing with the horrible tragedy of sexual assault.

The Force Protection and Readiness Act will expand the rights and protections of victims. First, it will create confidentiality protocols to protect victim rights and raise the propensity for a soldier to report their case by ensuring they receive adequate legal assistance and appropriate privileged communications with victim advocates. Second, it will ensure ease of base or organization transfer for victims or the offender, thereby decreasing fear of retaliation and bolstering victim reports. Third, it

will require that each service branch employ highly qualified experts to train and advise JAGs to handle and try sexual assault cases effectively. Fourth, it will ensure more complete sexual assault data reporting to better track DoD-wide reports and case disposition. Fifth, it will establish in statute a universal hotline to facilitate victim reporting and provide victims an immediate connection with sexual assault response coordinators.

We must put an end to what our former colleague and previous Army Secretary Pete Geren called "fratricide." We must keep the pressure on DoD to eliminate sexual assault in the ranks.

A TRIBUTE TO KEN BECKER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Ken Becker of Cresco, Iowa. For the last 34 years, Ken has worked as a journalist for the Cresco Times-Plain Dealer.

Throughout his career, Ken dedicated himself to documenting the stories and photographs of Cresco and its citizens, preserving the events and stories that have helped to make the town what it is today. Whether it was traveling with the high school basketball team to the state tournament, riding a snowmobile, or climbing the town's water tower, Ken was willing to do whatever it took to capture Cresco's history as it unfolded. His articles and pictures helped to keep the town's residents informed and interested in local happenings.

Ken believes the most important aspect of being a good journalist is to remember that "you aren't the story. The story is never about you as the writer. This is about what you're writing about."

I thank Ken for his strong and diligent work ethic. It is an admirable characteristic found in many citizens of Iowa, and one that I hope to see all Americans embody.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in commending Ken Becker for his decades of service at the Cresco Times-Plain Dealer. It is an honor to serve as his representative, and I wish Ken a happy and healthy retirement.

HONORING NURSES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND METROPOLITAN REGION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing nurses in the District of Columbia and the metropolitan region during the celebration of National Nurses Week, May 6–12, 2011.

Nurses make up the largest percentage of the healthcare workforce. Washington, DC has the largest concentration of registered nurses. In addition to registered nurses, there are clinical nurse specialists, nurse anesthetists, nurse-midwives, nurse practitioners, and other nurses, who serve patients in our hospitals, community health clinics, doctor's offices, nursing homes, private homes, public and private schools, local and federal government agencies, and private businesses.

Nurses are often patients' primary point of contact, giving nurses the opportunity to get to know patients and their families. Nurses gain patients' trust and are essential to providing high-quality healthcare. Each year, we rightfully celebrate nurses during National Nurses Week for their contributions to patients in particular and to the healthcare system in general.

As a cosponsor of H. Res. 83, a resolution recognizing National Nurses Week on May 6 through May 12, 2011, I applaud the nursing professionals who serve the residents of the District of Columbia and the metropolitan region for their continued commitment to patient care. I ask the House to join me in applauding nurses in the District of Columbia, the metropolitan region, and the Nation.

RECOGNIZING PUBLIC SERVICE WEEK

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work that federal employees do, day in and day out, to make our country a better place.

Federal employees are on the front lines working to ensure that our government is running as efficiently and effectively as possible to provide the services taxpayers expect. They make our nation a safer and better place. They work in every congressional district of the country and thus it is incredibly appropriate that we honor their service this week.

Whether it's the FBI agent working to find a kidnapped child, the DEA agent keeping drugs out of schools, or the DOJ attorney prosecuting a child molester—all are federal employees graciously serving our nation.

We must also remember that there are intelligence agents risking their lives every day on the front lines side by side with our armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other fronts in the Global War on Terror who serve as federal employees. The first American killed in Afghanistan, Mike Spann, was a CIA agent and a constituent from my congressional district. Imagine the dangers a CIA employee or an FBI agent working side by side in Afghanistan with the U.S. military must encounter. A year ago January, I attended funerals for some of the seven CIA agents who were killed by a Taliban suicide bomber at Forward Operative Base Chapman near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

Federal employees also put their lives on the line here at home. The Border Patrol agent shot and killed in Arizona this past December who was working to stop the flow of illegal immigrants across our southern border was a federal employee.

The Immigration and Custom Enforcement agent who was killed and the two who were shot this past February outside of Mexico City were federal employees.

Doctors who tend to our veterans and wounded warriors in veterans hospitals and who are developing new prosthetic devices to help them recover, medical researchers at NIH working to develop cures for cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's, and autism—all are dedicated federal employees. These are individuals who could find more lucrative jobs in the private sector, but who are committed to public service. Dr. Francis Collins, the physician who mapped the human genome and serves as director of the National Institutes of Health, is a federal employee. The National Weather Service meteorologist who tracks hurricanes, the SBA staffer who helps a new business start up, the FDA inspector working to stop a salmonella outbreak—all are federal employees.

Though they often receive little praise for the work they do, federal employees provide many of the services that make this nation great. Today I thank them for their hard work and service to our country.

HONORING THE JOINT BALTIC AMERICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Joint Baltic American National Committee, an organization founded 50 years ago to advocate for democracy in the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and to foster a strong relationship between those countries and the United States.

Founded at the height of the Cold War on April 27, 1961, the Joint Baltic American National Committee has been a powerful advocate for democracy and independence for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. After years of oppression and occupation by the Communist regime in the Soviet Union, the Baltic countries finally restored their sovereignty and regained independence in the early 1990s. Since that time, the Committee has worked to strengthen the relationship between those nations and the United States and to scrutinize Russian policy towards its neighbors in Eastern Europe.

Importantly, the Joint Baltic American National Committee was and continues to be a strong proponent of membership for Eastern European nations into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU). When the Baltic countries became members of both organizations in 2004, the Committee focused more of its attention on promoting democracy in Belarus, where Alexander Lukashenko continues to cling to power and oppress his people. Moreover, because of Russia's use of its energy resources as a weapon against its neighbors and the violation of Georgian sovereignty by the Russian military, the Committee has reinforced its work in support of a resilient security partnership between the countries of Eastern Europe and the United States. Today, the Committee continues to advocate for a strong U.S. role in the region, to promote democracy and human rights worldwide, and to bear witness to the legacy of communism.

Mr. Speaker, the Joint Baltic American National Committee has served the Baltic countries and their citizens with distinction. As we

congratulate the Committee on reaching its 50th year in existence, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring its work on behalf of the free people of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, the American citizens of Baltic heritage, and democracy for all of those still yearning to be free.

RECOGNIZING TOM BRIAN

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contribution to Oregon by my good friend Tom Brian, and congratulate him on his retirement following 32 years of public service to our great state.

Tom's commitment to improving his community, state, and nation were readily apparent from his early days as a deputy sheriff, city councilor, and mayor of the city of Tigard, to his service as a state representative and 12 years on the Washington County Commission.

Tom has deep and enduring roots in Oregon that have grounded his personal and professional life in special ways. He treasures Oregon, where he and his wife, Joene, have raised their three children: Becky, Sarah, and Kevin.

Tom believes in making a difference—and he's backed up that belief with action. Over the last decade, Tom's vision as a commissioner deserves much credit for Washington County's robust job growth. His tireless collaborations with Intel, Solar World, and the many small businesses throughout Washington County have created a business-friendly climate that has made it a magnet for economic development.

Tom grew up in Monmouth, Oregon, where he attended Central High School and graduated from the Oregon College of Education in 1970, now Western Oregon University. After serving as a Polk County deputy sheriff from 1969 to 1973, an opportunity arose for Tom to join the Oregon Council on Crime and Delinquency, where he became its executive director until 1979.

In 1979, Tom started a career in real estate and also began his life in elected public office, earning election to the Tigard City Council. He later became the city's mayor.

Tom was recruited to run for the Oregon Legislature in 1988. Tom rose quickly through the legislative ranks and became the chairman of the Revenue Committee and served on the Ways and Means and Judiciary committees. Tom was an innovator and collaborative leader in the legislature. His hard work, steadfast dedication to Oregon, great wit, and solid character earned him respect from both sides of the aisle.

In 1999, Oregon's term limit law ushered Tom from the legislature after 10 years. Still committed to making a difference, Tom ran for and earned a position on the Washington County Commission. Tom served there for 12 years before retiring in January of this year as its chairman.

Mr. Speaker, Tom's leadership has been recognized with numerous awards and accolades, including the First Citizen of the City of Tigard, the Guardian of Small Business, Outstanding Service to Farm Families, and Transit Legislator of the Year, just to name a few.

Tom has served and continues to serve ably on a long list of boards, commissions, and philanthropic endeavors. As chairman of the Tigard Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration, a board member of the Clean Water Institute, and a board member of Willamette Valley Vineyards, Tom Brian stays busy working to make life better in his community.

Tom is a husband, father, leader, and friend. He set a tremendous example for the many Oregon leaders he mentored over the years, instilling in them the core values of commitment to others, self-sacrifice, and decisive leadership.

Max Williams, one of Tom's close friends and a former state representative, said of him, ''You taught me not to be afraid of—or avoid—the difficult issues. Being out there 'on the limb' was necessary because that is 'where all the fruit is' when it comes to making meaningful and positive change.''

Tom took risks and he pushed for progress; because of that, he made a real and positive difference.

Today I rise to recognize my friend Tom Brian for all that he has accomplished and for his invaluable contributions to his community. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Tom for his service and wishing him and his family many great and healthy years ahead.

A TRIBUTE TO THE JACOB POMEROY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jacob J. Pomeroy for the rank of an Eagle Scout. Travis is a 10th grade student from South Hardin High School in Eldora, Iowa.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about 5% of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Jacob's project was to construct a barn-themed sun shelter for the Joyful Noise Preschool and the Waukee United Methodist Church. Jacob also went above and beyond the requirements by completing more than the minimum required number of merit badges.

Jacob has been involved in scouting since he became a Tiger Cub more than 11 years ago. Jacob's father, John Pomeroy, is also an Eagle Scout and current assistant Scout Master to Troop 178 from Waukee, Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent John Pomeroy and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on earning an Eagle Scout ranking and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

HONORING CAPT. CHARLES E. RIDGLEY, JR.

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to mourn the loss and honor the life of Army Captain Charles E. Ridgley, Jr., who died April 16, 2011, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

A Maryland resident, Captain Ridgley was serving in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan, and died of injuries sustained from a grenade attack by a suicide bomber on Forward Operating Base Gamberi. Four other brave American soldiers were killed in the attack.

At the time of his death, Captain Ridgley was assigned to the 17th Combat Support Battalion, based in Fort Richardson, Alaska. He had just two weeks left of his first overseas assignment before he was due to come home.

After overcoming a challenging childhood, Captain Ridgley joined the Army after earning his diploma from Walbrook Senior High School. He was inspired by his uncle's military service in the U.S. Air Force and participated in ROTC at Walbrook. He was commissioned a quartermaster officer in January 2007 and was assigned to Fort Richardson. While there, he earned his Bachelor's Degree in business administration with a concentration in global logistics from the University of Alaska. He was working toward his Master's Degree when he was deployed to Afghanistan.

Known as responsible and family-oriented, Captain Ridgley took great pride in his daughter and great care of his mother. Captain Ridgley also worked as a martial arts instructor who enjoyed mentoring the children of fellow soldiers. He deeply valued education and ethics.

Mr. Speaker, many Maryland soldiers have died in support of the global war on terror. Once again, we hang our heads with sorrow at the loss of another life. I ask that you join with me today to honor the life and memory of Captain Ridgley, a true Maryland hero.

Captain Ridgley will be forever remembered as a dedicated soldier who greatly loved his country and faithfully served his fellow Americans by fighting for this great nation. He risked his life to serve our country and deserves our unending admiration and appreciation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONSTRUCTION QUALITY ASSURANCE ACT OF 2011

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my colleague Rep. MAZIE HIRONO, I am introducing the Construction Quality Assurance Act of 2011. This bill is designed to stop bid shopping on federal construction contracts. It would require prime bidders on low-bid projects valued at $1 million or more to list each subcontractor on work categories of $100,000 or more with their bid submissions. Substitutions of listed subcontractors after contracts are awarded would be allowed only

in exceptional circumstances and only with the consent of the contracting officer.

The bill would impose financial penalties for improper substitution of listed subcontractors. The bill would also apply to subcontractors. Both prime contractors and subcontractors would be subject to debarment or ineligibility determinations in cases where there are two infractions of the prohibitions over any three-year period.

Restoring equitable safeguards in the low bid system will assure that agency practice will conform to the highest standards adhered to by industry professionals and contractor associations, and will reflect best practices followed by a great many other public procurement systems nationally and internationally.

CONGRATULATING KRAFT FOODS' OSCAR MAYER PLANT IN COLUMBIA, MO, WHICH IS CELEBRATING ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kraft Foods' Oscar Mayer plant in Columbia, MO, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary on May 7th.

The plant opened in 1985 and is now a 183,000-square-foot structure located on 30 acres. It has been a formidable force in boosting Columbia's economy, employing over 600 people in the area. Twenty of the plant's employees have dedicated their service since the plant opened over two decades ago, contributing considerably to the plant's ranking as one of the top ten employers in the city.

The Oscar Mayer plant has also played a significant role in contributing to the community of Columbia and its citizens. Over the past 26 years, the plant has produced over 28 billion hot dogs in the last 25 years, enough for over 100 trips around the world laid end-to-end. On average, the Columbia plant donates 70,000 pounds of hot dogs to the Central Missouri Food Bank annually, which is the only source of protein for the food bank. Through Kraft Foods' contributions programs, the facility donates to non-profit organizations for the alleviation of hunger and to promote healthy lifestyles, to support the social service and cultural activities of its employees in the communities where they live and work, and to provide humanitarian aid.

Contributions made by the Kraft Foods facility in Columbia have done much to greatly enhance both the business climate and the quality of life for the entire population of the city, in addition to building upon the great sense of pride in those individuals associated with it.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the employees of the Columbia Oscar Mayer plant and the citizens of Columbia, MO, congratulations on reaching this significant milestone.

HONORING DOTTIE BERGER MACKINNON

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to herald the achievements of Dottie Berger MacKinnon and to acknowledge her valuable contributions to the Tampa Bay community. Dottie is a community activist, child advocate, and former Hillsborough County Commissioner.

Dottie Berger MacKinnon is one of the founders of Joshua House, a safe haven for abused, abandoned, and neglected children, in Tampa and she has passionately supported the children served there since 1992. After founding the institution she helped the group establish a $1.2 million endowment through the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay in order to ensure that they can continue the work that she started there long into the future. This is one of the truly incredible philanthropic establishments in Tampa Bay. Joshua House continues to change the lives of the children who pass through its doors today.

In addition to her service as a founder of Joshua House, she also served the community as a Hillsborough County Commissioner from 1994–1998. Her impressive service as a County Commissioner inspired those around her and on May 4, 2011 Dottie will be honored with the Ellsworth G. Simmons Good Government Award by the Hillsborough County Commissioners in recognition of the significant role that she played in improving government through leadership and vision.

Not finished with her incredible work for children yet, from 2005–2009 she worked tirelessly to develop, create and co-found A Kid's Place, a residential care facility for foster siblings. Before A Kid's Place opened in 2009, kids who were taken away from abusive homes were often separated from their siblings. Rescued children now stay at comfortable houses at A Kid's Place for up to a month while officials work to find stable homes for groups of brothers and sisters. Her work with A Kid's Place continues to this day, as they just opened up a fifth residence hall due to her tireless work and fundraising.

The achievements of Dottie Berger MacKinnon are truly remarkable, heroic even. She has been recognized as a true difference maker in the lives of the children of Tampa Bay. Although she now battles cancer, she still works unrelentingly in her quest to improve the lives of children in the Tampa Bay area. I stand with the rest of the community in awe of the work she has done and continues to do for the children of Tampa Bay. I am honored to have been invited to the Hillsborough League of Women Voters 2011 Annual Award Luncheon where Mrs. Dottie Berger MacKinnon will be receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award. I can think of no better candidate to receive this honor than Dottie, she is truly an inspiration to everyone in the Tampa Bay community.

A TRIBUTE TO TRESSA BARTHOLOMEW

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today congratulate Tressa Bartholomew of Carlisle, Iowa on recently celebrating her 106th birthday on March 30, 2011. Today she has four children, thirteen grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and 43 great-great-grandchildren.

There have been many changes that have occurred during the past one hundred and six years. Since Tressa's birth we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and the birth of new democracies. Tressa has lived through nineteen United States Presidents and twenty-five Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I congratulate Tressa Bartholomew for reaching this milestone of a birthday. I am extremely honored to represent her in Congress and I wish her happiness and health in her future years.

HONORING JOE WAZ

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joe Waz for his 17 years of service to Comcast Corporation, where he worked as Senior Vice President of External Affairs, and to the Comcast Foundation, where he served as Public Policy Counsel and President.

Mr. Waz has announced his retirement from Comcast Corporation, and although he will be greatly missed, his hard work and contributions have made a positive impact on the industry and ensure he will not be forgotten. In May 2002, Mr. Waz received the Vanguard Award, the highest honor presented by the cable industry, for his service in government and community relations.

Not only is Mr. Waz recognized nationally for his expertise in telecommunications public policy, he is also a leader in community investment and service. Under Mr. Waz's leadership, Comcast Corporation has made 219 investments to 120 different groups in Connecticut since 2006. More than $2.9 million has been given in grants to groups ranging from the University of Hartford, the Connecticut Police Chiefs' Association, and the American School for the Deaf. In further commitment to the public interest, Joe also serves as a chairman of the Settlement Music School, the oldest community school of the arts in the U.S., and has previously served on the boards of the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, and the Federal Communications Bar Association Foundation.

On a personal note, I have known Joe since we attended the University of Connecticut School of Law together. I got to know him as a hard working, serious student of the law,

who upheld the highest traditions of diligent, ethical practice.

It comes as no surprise to me that after leaving Comcast Corporation, Mr. Waz will work as a Senior Fellow at the Silicon Flatirons Center for Law, Technology, and Entrepreneurship at the University of Colorado, and serve as the first chairman of the Broadband Internet Technology Advisory Group.

I congratulate Mr. Waz on his successful 17 year career with Comcast Corporation, salute him for his commitment to community service, and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING HILTON KELLEY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hilton Kelley, a leader in the battle for environmental justice on the Texas Gulf Coast. Hilton Kelley is an advocate for communities living in the shadow of polluting industries. A life-long resident of Port Arthur, Texas, Hilton joined the Navy which eventually brought him to the San Francisco Bay Area where he began working as a stunt man and actor on several major movies and television shows including CBS's Nash Bridges.

During a visit home, 21 years after he left Port Arthur, Hilton found his community sickened by industrial pollution and on the brink of economic collapse. Hilton realized then that in order to save his community, he needed to first tackle the environmental problems first. He launched Community In-power and Development Association, CIDA, and began training local residents to monitor air quality. As a result of Hilton's advocacy, the local refinery installed state-of-the-art equipment to reduce harmful emissions and also negotiated with them a $3.5 million fund to help entrepreneurs launch new businesses in the community.

Hilton recognizes the disproportionate burden from pollution on communities of color, low-income people and indigenous communities needs to be reduced. These Americans are experiencing the highest rates of morbidity and/or death from asthma, cancer, learning disabilities, lead poisoning, lupus, and several other diseases. Hilton continues to work tirelessly to bring attention to the disproportionate burden of pollution on the most vulnerable members of our society advocating for regulations on the Gulf Coast and serving on the EPA's National Environment Justice Advisory Council.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Hilton Kelley for his determination and hard work to these causes. Our country is a better one because of Hilton Kelley.

OPEN AND TRANSPARENT SMITHSONIAN ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Open and Transparent Smithsonian Act to further ensure that the Smithsonian Institution is accountable to the public for the taxpayer funds it receives. This bill provides that, for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Privacy Act, the Smithsonian shall be considered a Federal agency.

The bill complements my Smithsonian Modernization Act and my Smithsonian Free Admission Act. I introduce these bills today, to make the Smithsonian accountable for the 70 percent of its funding that comes from annual Federal appropriations. Although the Smithsonian was created by Congress as a Federal trust, it receives the great majority of its funding from the Federal Government, much like Federal agencies, and had always been treated as a Federal agency. However, in the 1990s, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit found that the Smithsonian is not a Federal agency for purposes of FOIA and the Privacy Act. Indeed, the Smithsonian's website clearly states that it is "not an Executive Branch agency, and FOIA does not apply to the Smithsonian."

This lack of transparency is of great concern, particularly in light of the Smithsonian's recent history of secrecy and corruption. In 2007, an independent review committee found that the Smithsonian Board of Regents had violated many principles of good management during the tenure of Lawrence Small as Secretary of the Smithsonian. The report indicated that the Board had failed to provide desperately needed oversight, had overcompensated the Secretary, and had allowed the creation of an "insular culture." The report further found that the Smithsonian's deputy secretary and chief operating officer, Sheila Burke, had frequent absences from her duties because of outside activities, including service on corporate boards, for which she earned more than $1.2 million over 6 years. Importantly, the report indicated that Smithsonian leaders took great measures to keep secret these missteps and mismanagement.

While the Smithsonian now has new leaders who are moving away from the mistakes of the past, its transparency should not depend on who is in charge. An entity supported primarily by the Federal Government must be accountable to the American people. The American people have a right to know that their interests are being served.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

HONORING LCPL RONALD DOUGLAS FREEMAN

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, sacrifice, and heroism of Marine Lance Corporal Ronald Douglas Freeman of Plant City, Florida.

LCpl Freeman, a minesweeper, was killed while conducting combat operations for Operation Enduring Freedom on April 28th, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

U.S. Marine Corps minesweepers are greatly admired for their fearlessness and diligence in leading patrols into enemy territory while providing safety and security for their peers by searching for buried explosives. LCpl Freeman personified this bravery and dedication while searching his patrol's area for explosives on the day of this death.

Outside of the Marines, Dougie—as he is known to his family and friends—was an outstanding father, worker, son, and brother. He was admired by many in the community, especially by his younger brother and older sister. He was extremely dedicated to his family and wanted nothing more than to be the best father he could be to his two young children.

Mr. Speaker, though proud to have such a fine example from the Tampa Bay community, it is with great remorse that I rise to commemorate the life of LCpl Freeman. I am in awe of the young men and women like Ronald Freeman who choose to serve their countrymen in the armed forces. As professionals in all that they do, they exhibit honor, courage, and commitment in every pursuit. Their sacrifices, like that of LCpl Freeman, will not be forgotten.

CONGRATULATING SARA GABRIELLE, JAREK BAKKEN AND DANIEL YEHIELI

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sara Gabrielle, Jarek Bakken, and Daniel Yehieli, second prize winners of C–SPAN's Student Cam competition. Sara, Jarek and Daniel created a fantastic video entitled "The Price Tag of the American Dream" which details the challenges of paying for college.

Sara, Jarek and Daniel do an excellent job of highlighting the struggles that so many college students face today. Rising costs have limited access to an affordable higher education for many potential college students. I was pleased to see that this video explains many of the new benefits available to students as a result of the recent student loan law. Pell grants, college tax credits and the income-based repayment plan will be valuable tools that will make college more affordable for millions of Americans.

Sara, Jarek and Daniel's video illustrates both the challenges that many college students face today as well as the tools that are available to make college more affordable. I'm proud to represent Sara, Jarek and Daniel in Congress and wish them the best in their future endeavors.