EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RESTARTING AMERICAN OFFSHORE LEASING NOW ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1230) to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct certain offshore oil and gas lease sales, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 1230.

Gas prices continue to rise. The instability in the Middle East is threatening our supply, and we already import much of our oil from countries that are hostile to our interests. We need to safely and responsibly produce our domestic resources offshore in order to reduce this reliance on foreign imports and in turn, increase our economic growth.

We cannot forget that just one production rig equals 500 jobs—100 workers on the rig, plus 400 workers supporting drilling operations onshore. This industry comprises not only oil and gas companies, but also a network of suppliers and contractors that purchase goods as diverse as forgings, valves, computers, chemicals and helicopters from suppliers in all 50 states.

That is why I support H.R. 1230, which would force lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico and offshore Virginia that were delayed or cancelled following the Macondo spill.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO CHANGE THE STRUCTURE OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY BOARD

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I have been one of the strongest supporters of Washington Dulles International Airport and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport as well as the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Extension project. I was one of the original sponsors of the 1986 legislation that transferred from the federal government the operations of Dulles and Reagan. I worked with former Senators John Warner and Paul Trible, former Governor Linwood Holton, and former Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Dole to enact that important law that created the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, MWAA. For nearly 25 years MWAA has operated effectively, governed by board members who were pillars of the community and understood the importance of the success of both Dulles and Reagan.

After the airports authority was created, both Reagan and Dulles prospered. In the past 25 years, Dulles has become the economic engine for not only northern Virginia, but the entire Commonwealth. Without a successful international airport drawing global traffic and myriad businesses, the region would not be nearly as successful as it is today. Metrorail access to the airport and fast-growing Loudoun County will attract more businesses, create new jobs and ease congestion on area roadways. Dulles Rail being completed on time and at or under original cost estimates is key to many more decades of success.

While I have been extremely pleased observing MWAA's achievements over the past two decades, I believe continued success is now threatened by a board of directors that has lost sight of its primary mission of serving airport passengers and residents of the surrounding communities. For many years MWAA was run by competent and dedicated professionals such as Jim Wilding and Jim Bennett. As current CEO Lynn Hampton prepares to retire, the search process for her replacement conducted by the current board of directors has been a study in poor management and political horse trading. When the board voted to advance the nomination of Nathaniel Ford, the deciding vote was cast by proxy by a then board member who was under house arrest in the Ivory Coast.

This problem arose because under the current law, board members serve until their replacement is confirmed. While this may have worked in the past, in my opinion the law is being abused to keep political favorites in office, even if their service is suspect. The leadership void at MWAA also is reflected in the planning for Phase 2 of Dulles Rail. Under the current board, costs have greatly exceeded original estimates, with more likely to come with the board's April 6 decision to build an underground station at Dulles Airport.

Because of these concerns about the direction of MWAA today, I am introducing legislation to make changes to the 1986 law that established the regional operating authority for Dulles and Reagan National airports. This legislation will amend the original statute to give Virginia a majority on the MWAA Board of Directors by increasing the number of Commonwealth appointees from five to nine. With both airports located in Virginia and with northern Virginia residents and local governments providing the lion's share of the revenue for the Dulles Rail project, it is only fair that the majority of the board be Virginians. The bill will also prevent board members from serving past the end of their appointment, and will establish that board members can be replaced at any time by the respective executives who appoint the board: the governors of Virginia and Maryland, the mayor of the District of Columbia or the president of the United States. I believe these changes are critical if we are to ensure that MWAA will once again function as originally intended and in the best interests of northern Virginia. Phase 2 will require nothing less than the most qualified board possible to be a success.

It is imperative that these changes to the original law be enacted quickly, and I hope that the committee of jurisdiction will expedite review of the legislation. If the current leadership is allowed to stay in place, it will very likely continue to make decisions that add to the cost of Phase 2 and further jeopardize not only MWAA's bond rating, but the success of both airports under their control. The respective executives simply must have the ability to appoint new board members as soon as possible to prevent the current board from turning Dulles Rail into a failed project.

My primary interest is to see the project completed on time and at or under budget and I believe the board's decision to opt for an underground station at Dulles Airport could be disastrous. Since the announcement, Fairfax and Loudoun counties have indicated that they will not assume the extra costs of the underground station. If the local governments withdraw Phase 2 funding, the project will be in serious jeopardy.

The underground station also is opposed by nearly every elected official representing northern Virginia residents, including the Fairfax and Loudoun boards of supervisors, the Herndon Town Council, Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton and Governor Bob McDonnell. Independent groups such as the Washington Airports Task Force, Dulles Corridor Rail Association, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and AAA Mid-Atlantic have all spoken out against the underground station. For a board member to recently state, "I think the board is committed to the underground station as best for the community at large" shows astonishing hubris and a willful avoidance of reality.

Recent Phase 2 cost estimates are extremely troubling. While original projections put the cost of Phase 2 at $2.5 billion, the cost spikes to at least $3.5 billion under the plan approved by the MWAA board. With such dramatic cost increases before a contract is even awarded, some have expressed concerns about the creditworthiness of the bonds that will be issued to pay for Phase 2. Airport authorities nationwide have been placed on notice that bond ratings could be lowered in the future. An additional $300 million or more for Dulles Rail could be a troublesome sign for the bond markets. I fear an increase in borrowing costs could effectively kill the project in the design phase.

Considering all this information, I do not believe that the current board of directors is acting in the best interests of the northern Virginia residents who will be forced to underwrite costs for Phase 2 through increased tolls on the DTR and increased revenue from county coffers. The underground station will add at least $300 million to the overall cost of Phase 2. When long-term financing costs are included, the underground station could end up

adding closer to $500 million to the project. It is my understanding that tolls on the Dulles Toll Road could reach $10.25 in 2020, eight-and-a-half years from now. The initial toll projection issued by MWAA had tolls reaching $11.25 by 2047. As the cost of Phase 2 goes up, so will the tolls.

A recent Washington Post editorial indicated that commuters could be forced to pay as much as $4,000 a year to use the toll road by 2020. Add in the tolls on the Dulles Greenway and my constituents' transportation costs could be higher than their monthly car payments. It will be the parents taking their children to school and soccer practice, the business owner that uses the DTR on a daily basis to make deliveries, the realtor who will see home sales decrease due to the higher transportation costs and the commuters to Tysons Corner who will shoulder the heavy burden of the MWAA board's recent decisions.

I want both MWAA and Dulles Rail to be successful. Because of that, Representative TOM LATHAM, chairman of the House Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, and I have asked the U.S. Department of Transportation Inspector General, IG, to conduct an audit of the operations of the MWAA board. I am pleased that the IG's office will begin this audit in the near future. Outside of the actual composition of the board, it is my hope that the audit will examine the governance structure of MWAA and determine if it operates with the transparency necessary for an organization tasked with such important responsibilities.

In the meantime, I urge support for my legislation to update the board's composition and appointment structure to reflect today's realities.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF GEORGE FRANCIS SCARBOROUGH

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, George Francis Scarborough, 77, of Pensacola, FL passed away peacefully Wednesday, May 4, 2011 surrounded by his family.

George Francis Scarborough was born on Good Friday, March 30, 1934 in Lexington, KY. The son of George Buskie and Ada Wheat Buskie, George spent his early years in Miami, FL and San Diego, CA. He moved to Milton, FL in 1946 when his family was transferred to Whiting Field.

George graduated from Milton High School and remained close to many of his classmates, hosting Milton High reunion events over the past 20 years. After graduating from Milton, he returned to Lexington where he attended the University of Kentucky from 1952–1956. There he fell in love with Kentucky basketball and his future wife, Mary Joanna Clark. George and Mary Jo were married on August 14, 1955 at Second Avenue Baptist Church in Rome, Georgia. George graduated from the University of Kentucky the next year with a B.S. degree in Business.

George Scarborough served in the U.S. Army from 1955–1957, and was stationed at Ft. Benning, GA and Ft. Polk, LA. Carolyn Elizabeth Scarborough was born to George and Mary Jo in 1957 while they were stationed at Ft. Benning. They went on to have two more children, George Clark Scarborough was born in Rome, GA in 1960 and Charles Joseph Scarborough was born in Atlanta, GA in 1963.

While in Atlanta, George worked as a manufacturing engineer for Lockheed. He was proud to work on the C–5A, the C–130, and the L–1011 projects. He often said his work at Lockheed was the favorite of all his jobs. George was transferred to Lockheed's Meridian, MS plant in 1969 after the L–1011 assembly line was moved to Meridian. In 1973, he began work at National Homes as a purchasing agent and was soon transferred to Elmira, NY. During his time in Upstate New York, he took a job at American LaFrance as an Industrial Engineer.

In 1978, George and his family had the opportunity to move to Pensacola, FL where he began working with Mary Jo, who at that time was a director for the Miss National Teenage pageant. In 1983, the Scarboroughs and Carolyn Hawkins founded the Miss American Coed Pageant. George was named the national director. George Scarborough took great pride in the fact that the organization consistently promoted patriotism, community service and a strong academic record. Through extraordinary focus and hard work, George and Mary Jo Scarborough's pageant organization became the largest in the United States within a few years. He enjoyed meeting families across America throughout the year and going to the national pageant each summer in Hawaii.

Faith has always played a great role in George's life. In 1978, he and his family joined First Baptist Church in Pensacola where George was a deacon, taught Sunday School and sang in the choir. His greatest joy came from his volunteer work at Samaritan Hands.

George was the proud grandfather of nine grandchildren, Ian, Ginger and Julie Ward, Emily and Benjamin Scarborough, and Joey, Andrew, Kate and Jack Scarborough. His love of baseball and other sports kept him engaged as a coach throughout his adult life and in his final years he enjoyed keeping score at his grandsons' baseball games. He was also an avid fan of the Atlanta Braves and Kentucky Wildcats and for many years attended the Breeder's Cup.

Survivors include wife, Mary Jo Scarborough, Pensacola, FL; daughter, Carol Ward (John) and their children, Julie and Ginger Ward of Jacksonville, FL and Ian Ward of Orlando, FL; son, George Scarborough (Sara) of Gulf Breeze, FL and their children Emily and Benjamin Scarborough of Gulf Breeze, FL; son, Joe Scarborough (Susan) of New York, NY and their children Joey Scarborough of New York, NY and Andrew Scarborough of Pensacola, FL and Kate and Jack Scarborough of New York, NY; he is also survived by his brothers, Chuck Scarborough of California, Scott Scarborough of Nevada and sister, Margaret Scarborough of Oregon.

Visitation will be held from 3:00–5:00 pm Sunday, May 8, 2011 at First Baptist Church with Funeral services beginning at 5:00 pm with Dr. Barry Howard officiating. Private Family Entombment will follow at Bayview Memorial Park.

The family would like to thank the doctors and nurses at Sacred Heart Hospital, Dr. John Bray, Pippa Nicholson-Kuenn, Don Gaetz and TLC Caregivers, Lou Donaldson, Jan Bowersox, Alan Waren, Aunt Caroline, Stephanie Smart, and all the family and friends who showed an outpouring of love and support over the last year and a half. We could not have survived without you. The family also asks that donations be made to Samaritan Hands in lieu of flowers.

Harper-Morris Memorial Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

IN TRIBUTE OF DENNIS POPP

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dennis Popp, who is stepping down after 12 years of distinguished service as Mayor of the city of Groton, Connecticut.

Dennis began his career at the submarine maker Electric Boat, where he worked as a pipe welder for 3 years before being promoted to supervisor for another 20 years. Dennis capped his career at EB by serving as a draftsman for his final 3 years.

Dennis took his breadth of experience at building and supervising the production of some of the world's most advanced machines and translated his skill set to the world of politics and governance. Just as I fell short in my first effort in running for Congress, Dennis also just missed in his first effort to win the Mayor's office in Groton. But with determination honed like the steel of Electric Boat, Dennis went back at it again and won the election for Mayor of the city of Groton in 1999.

Immediately upon taking the reins of city government, Mayor Popp worked to repair city relations with neighboring towns, which had frayed in recent years. Elevating the city's leadership in regional issues, Dennis held positions of Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary of the Southeastern Council of Governments throughout his tenure.

Mayor Popp will be remembered most of all by his constituents for his tireless efforts to improve the quality of life for the city he loves. Dennis kept taxes level for 12 years and decreased the mill rate while improving city services. Mayor Popp led Groton Utilities' expansion into telecommunications, television, and internet service while strengthening the local community with responsive, neighborhood customer service.

Dennis went on to win reelection five times, running unopposed on several occasions as a testament to his support from residents across the city and from both political parties. His record of leadership for his city will be remembered years after he leaves office and includes expanding regional water sales and revenue for the city; resuscitating the summer recreation program at West Side; leading an expansion of the Pequot Health Center; improving public safety through increased firefighter positions; acquiring additional watershed land to protect the water supply; installing barriers on 1–95 over the reservoir to protect water quality; and supporting the installation of three flagpoles at Fort Griswold Battlefield Park.

Dennis has advocated tirelessly for the needs of Groton, and I have valued his counsel as I prioritized the city's requests in my work in Congress. I have been proud to collaborate with Mayor Popp in delivering Federal

support for fire department equipment, Justice Department support for police hiring and crime prevention, and new, critical investments to strengthen the position of the subase for the future.

Even outside of his elected office, Dennis has served as a pillar in the Groton community. Dennis will continue to be active with the local Eagle Scout program, at the Bill Library, in helping U.S. Subvets Groton Base, and in his local church.

Groton will not be the same after Mayor Popp's exit, but the city can look fondly back on the leadership of its favorite ''Popp Daddy.'' I know that his wife Karen will welcome this retirement as an opportunity to spend more time together and open up a new chapter in their lives. I also know that our friendship will endure even after Dennis leaves office. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting a true man of Groton and for Groton—Dennis Popp.

URGING TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE UNFCCC

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the leaders of the United Nation's Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC, to allow for Taiwan's meaningful participation.

As climate change continues to impact our world and as we face the prospect of dwindling oil reserves, Taiwan's renewable-energy section is growing rapidly. Taiwan has invested heavily in turbines generating electricity, use of alternatives to fossil fuels and possibilities of harnessing energy from the ocean. Taiwan is also the fourth largest producer of solar cells in the world.

Moreover, Taiwan's Environmental Protection Administration, EPA, is doing everything possible to promote environmental sustainability. For instance, Taiwan has made significant strides in waste management, with the nation's overall recycling rate reaching almost 42 percent in 2008.

Improving air quality, reducing noise pollution and vehicular emissions and protecting wildlife are also top priorities for the government and people of Taiwan. Taiwan is totally committed to protecting the environment and reducing pollution. But due to political factors, Taiwan is not a UNFCCC contracting party. Instead, they are considered a non-governmental organization observer under the name Industrial Technology Research Institute and are not permitted to participate in either the discussions over the post-Kyoto mechanism or the international carbon market.

I hope that the UNFCCC leaders will see the wisdom of Taiwan's need to participate in the UNFCCC and the post-Kyoto mechanism, especially considering that Taiwan and its environment are vulnerable to climate change and need to avoid the negative impacts on its economy and trade. Taiwan is an important part of the world economy and should be able to provide direct input to the UNFCCC, and I would ask the UNFCCC leaders to allow meaningful participation from Taiwan.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 6TH RANGER TRAINING BATTALION'S RANGER CAMP AT EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the 6th Ranger Training Battalion located on Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

On November 15, 1951, the U.S. Army Amphibious/Jungle Training Committee was established to conduct the final phase of the U.S. Army Ranger School. Now known as the Florida Ranger Camp, the 6th Ranger Training Battalion emphasizes platoon training in a humid coastal and swamp environment. This final phase of the Army Ranger School places students under severe mental and physical stress in an attempt to replicate the rigors of combat.

The first Ranger class arrived at Eglin Air Force Base on January 24, 1952. This first class learned survival techniques for amphibious environments and leadership in combat situations. Today, students in the Army Ranger School experience training very similar to that received by the first Ranger class. The initial six days are focused on technique training, which is then followed by a ten-day field training exercise. Leadership skills are tested vigorously through small unit operations in a simulated combat environment. Students in the Florida Ranger Camp learn to overcome severe weather, difficult littoral and swamp terrain, and sleep and food deprivation while combating mental and physical exhaustion. Through their rigorous training, students at the Florida Ranger Camp learn the techniques necessary to undertake demanding and difficult assignments in protection of our nation. These techniques are then put to the test in a simulated combat environment to create adaptive and effective combat leaders for our Armed Forces.

During its time on Eglin Air Force Base, the Florida Ranger Camp has trained over 100,000 students of the United States Armed Forces and over 60 allied countries worldwide. The 6th Ranger Battalion trains over 2,500 students annually, conducting its 18 day program 11 times per year. The 6th Ranger Training Battalion has 225 officer and enlisted personnel complemented by 30 civilian support personnel who work together to run the Florida Ranger Camp.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is my honor to thank the men and women who make up the 6th Ranger Training Battalion, as well as the Army Rangers they train, for their professionalism and commitment. Their indefatigable service and dedication to our nation protects our inalienable liberties and freedoms, allowing the United States of America to prosper as the world's greatest nation. My wife Vicki and I congratulate the 6th Ranger Battalion, and each of the more than 100,000 graduates of the Florida Ranger Camp, for 60 exceptionally successful years of service to our country.

HONORING THE CAREER OF ERWIN JONAS

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work Erwin D. Jonas has done on Long Island on the occasion of his retirement from Northrop Grumman after 42 years of service.

Erwin has been employed by Northrop Grumman since 1969 in multiple radar engineering capacities, from Development Engineering to Manager of Engineering and Programs. The major focus of Mr. Jonas' work at Northrop Grumman has been the development of shipboard radar programs and automatic detection and tracking systems.

Erwin has been the manager of the Northrop Grumman Ship Self Defense Systems Department since January 1992 and is responsible for all engineering and research operations associated with naval radar and automatic tracking systems.

The contributions Erwin has made to naval research as well as to the research industry on Long Island are significant. I wish him all the best in this next stage of life and, again, thank him for the work he has done.

IN HONOR OF MR. FRANK L. KOWALSKI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Frank L. Kowalski, Jr., a gentleman whose dedication to the Polish-American community of Cleveland has led the Cleveland Society of Poles Foundation to name him the 2011 recipient of the ''Good Joe'' Award.

Mr. Kowalski was born and raised in the Tremont area of Cleveland. After graduating from Lincoln High School, he joined the Navy Reserve. He was soon called into active duty and served on the USS *Navarro* as a machinist's mate during the Korean War. Upon his discharge in 1954, Mr. Kowalski joined the Polish Legion of American Veterans and he remains an active member of the organization to this day.

Mr. Kowalski attended Fenn College (now Cleveland State University) under the GI Bill and graduated in 1965. He worked at the Thompson Products Plant until 1972, when he pursued a second career in property management and maintenance.

Many organizations within the Polish-American community in Cleveland have benefitted from Mr. Kowalski's leadership. He has served as Post Commander, Financial Director, and National Financial Director for the Polish Legion of American Veterans; Director, Treasurer, and Vice President of the Polonia Foundation of Ohio; Financial Secretary of the Cleveland Society; Financial Director of the Polish National Alliance Group #171; and Treasurer of the Tremont Residence Service Corporation. He has been named a Knight of Pulaski by the Polonia Foundation of Ohio and

was awarded the Miecze Hallerowskie Medal by the Polish Army Veterans Kosciuszko Post 152. He is also an active parishioner at St. John Cantius Catholic Church.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Mr. Frank L. Kowalski, Jr., whose tireless devotion to the Polish-American community has been an inspiration to many. I offer Mr. Kowalski my sincerest congratulations.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. HELEN GOTTLIEB

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Helen Gottlieb, Chairwoman of the Middlesex County Democratic Organization in New Jersey. Chairwoman Gottlieb is a strong Democratic leader in Middlesex County who has made immeasurable contributions to her community and the Democratic Party. As a result of her actions, Chairwoman Gottlieb will be presented with the 2011 New Jersey Federation of Democratic Women's Peg Roberts Award. Ms. Gottlieb's service is undoubtedly deserving of this body's recognition.

In addition to her public service, Chairwoman Gottlieb has amassed an impressive professional resume. Helen served as a dedicated teacher of English as a Second Language with the South Plainfield school district from 1970 through 1994. Beginning in 1980, as a member of the Edison Township Board of Adjustments, Helen faithfully served the local residents. She later served as President of Edison Menlo Oaks Democratic Club and was a member of the Edison Township Planning Board. Her outstanding mentoring and leadership lead to her appointment as Assistant Principal of South Plainfield High School in 1994, where she served for 10 years. Helen also served as co-chair of the Middlesex County Clinton/Gore Presidential Campaign and Edison, New Jersey Democratic Vice-Chair. She currently serves as New Jersey State Committee Member and Middlesex County Democratic Chair, having previously serving as Vice Chair. I commend Helen for her continued service on behalf of the residents of Middlesex County.

As a result of her exceptional work, Helen has received countless awards and honors for her achievements. She was awarded the "Woman of Achievement" Award and Commendation from the New Jersey General Assembly, 18th District, in 1999 and 1997, respectively. Helen was also the recipient of the Middlesex County Woman of Excellence Award in Education in 1993. She was featured in The News Tribune "Applause" Section in 1991 and was the New Jersey ESL Teacher of the Year in 1990. Helen currently resides in Edison, New Jersey with her husband, Judge Joel Gottlieb. They have two children and two grandsons.

Mr. Speaker, once again I would like to extend my congratulations to Chairwoman Helen Gottlieb for her exceptional contributions to the residents of my district and congratulate her for the honor she received from the New Jersey Federation of Democratic Women.

THE HUI PANALAAU

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share the story of 130 young men from Hawaii, who were asked by the U.S. Federal Government to occupy a trio of deserted islands in the remote Pacific Ocean from 1935 to 1942.

These young men were asked to live on the islands of Howland, Baker, and Jarvis for three-month shifts of four-men per island. The men earned $3 a day, a good wage during the Great Depression.

The majority of the colonists were Native Hawaiians because the government planners felt that the colonizing task was so daunting that only young Hawaiians would be able to survive. Kamehameha Schools, a school for Native Hawaiian children, was asked to recruit recent male graduates who could swim, fish, and handle a boat. Collectively, the group came to be known as the Hui Panalaau (group of colonizers).

The islands of Howland, Baker, and Jarvis are about halfway between Hawaii and Australia. The colonists traveled by boat and it typically took five days to reach Jarvis and another three to reach Howland and Baker.

The Hui Panalaau were supplied only with canned goods, water, and a few tents. The colonists were asked to keep logbooks about the weather and to gather natural specimens. Their lives on the islands meant enduring rats, beetles, sharks, and the blazing sun.

Why were the Hui Panalaau recruited by the United States to live on these islands? The U.S. Department of Defense considered these islands to be of strategic importance. After the first year of colonization, the United States claimed territorial jurisdiction of the islands and air supremacy. So while the public mission of the colonists was to take weather readings for potential commercial flight routes, the colonist program also served secret military objectives.

In 1941, as World War II intensified, Japanese planes attacked Howland Island likely because of the landing field the colonists were directed to construct. Two colonists, Richard "Dickey" Kanani Whaley and Joseph Kealoha Keliihananui lost their lives during the attack. Their deaths ended the Hui Panalaau program.

Bishop Museum, the Hawaii State museum for natural and cultural history, developed a documentary on the story of the Hui Panalaau, entitled, Under a Jarvis Moon. The film combines historical interviews of the colonists, still photographs, government documents, and newsreel footage. The film is titled after a song co-written by one of the four surviving colonists, George Kahanu, Sr. The film was directed by Heather Giugni and Noelle Kahanu, the granddaughter of George.

Under a Jarvis Moon premiered at the 2011 Hawaii International Film Festival and was nominated for the Halekulani Golden Orchid Award. On March 12, 2011, the U.S. Department of the Interior will be hosting a screening of the film and I encourage my colleagues to see it and hear the story of the Hui Panalaau from the men who lived it.

Mahalo nui loa (thank you very much).

IN HONOR OF SRI KARUNAMAYI AMMA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Sri Karunamayi Amma, a Hindu spiritual leader who has devoted her life to peace, unity, compassion, and respect for all life forms. Sri Karunamayi will be visiting Cleveland during her 17th World Tour at the end of May.

Sri Karunamayi, known as "Amma," the Telugu word for "mother" by her followers, was born in South India in 1958. From an early age, her compassion for the less fortunate and her insights into ancient Sanskrit spiritual teachings and prayers were noted by her family and learned spiritual scholars alike. At the age of 21, Sri Karunamayi travelled to the sacred Penusila Forest, where she lived a life of strict asceticism, meditation, and study of ancient Vedic texts for ten years. At this time, she decided it was time to share her knowledge with the rest of the world.

Since emerging from the Penusila Forest, Sri Karunamayi Amma has devoted her life to charity works and teaching. She has founded two free elementary schools, a free college, a free hospital, mobile medical clinics, emergency relief programs, food and clothing donation programs, and free housing programs, all to allow the impoverished people of her native India to live better lives. She has also travelled the world, sharing her blessings, teachings, and quest for peace, hope, and emotional healing with thousands of people. Sri Karunamayi Amma teaches that "we should realize the great opportunity we have as human beings to cultivate inner beauty, offer ourselves in service to the entire universe, and ultimately attain spiritual liberation."

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Sri Karunamayi Amma, whose charitable works and spiritual guidance have inspired countless people around the world. I extend my personal thanks to Sri Karunamayi for sharing her message with the people of northeast Ohio.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LT MATTHEW LOWE AND LT NATHAN WILLIAMS OF NAVAL STATION, LEMOORE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to two heroic officers from Naval Air Station (NAS), Lemoore who tragically lost their lives on Apr. 6, 2011. LT Matthew Ira Lowe, 33, and LT Nathan Hollingsworth Williams, 28, were killed last Wednesday during a training mission when the F/A–18F Super Hornet they were flying crashed into an agricultural field near NAS Lemoore.

California's 20th Congressional District is home to many individuals who serve and have served in our Armed Forces. NAS Lemoore is a proud and honored naval community. The

crash that took the lives of Lieutenant Lowe and Lieutenant Williams is a tragic reminder that the men and women of our Armed Forces put their lives at risk every single day in defense of our beloved country.

LT Matthew Ira Lowe was from Plantation, Florida. He received his commission through Officer Candidate School on Feb. 21, 2003, and reported to Strike Fighter Squadron, VFA, 122 on July 9, 2009. He was designated a pilot following naval aviation training from Nov. 2002 until July 2006. Following his training, Lieutenant Lowe was assigned to VFA–94 based at NAS Lemoore. During his career, Lieutenant Lowe earned the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. Lieutenant Lowe was most recently training to become a pilot for the elite Blue Angels exhibition team. LT Matthew Lowe is survived by his parents Ira and Pamela Lowe of Fort Lauderdale, Florida and two siblings.

LT Nathan Hollingsworth Williams, of Oswego, New York, received his commission through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Rochester in New York on May 28, 2004. He reported to VFA–122 on Jan. 25, 2010, and was designated a Naval Flight Officer following training from Aug. 2004 through Feb. 2007. Lieutenant William's first squadron assignment was with VFA–213 based in Norfolk, Virginia. In Afghanistan, Lieutenant Williams served aboard the USS *Theodore Roosevelt*, providing air support for U.S. ground troops. After returning from Afghanistan, Lieutenant Williams was chosen to be a flight instructor at Lemoore Naval Air Station, training other flight officers on the Super Hornet, and was also selected for the West Coast Super Hornet Demonstration Team. During his career, Lieutenant Williams earned the Air Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and Pistol Marksmanship Medal.

LT Nathan Williams is survived by his wife, Meredith; his parents, Alan and Gay Williams, of Oswego; and his brothers, Jeffrey and Seth, of New York City.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my colleagues to join me today for a moment of silence to remember both of these heroic men. May the families and friends of LT Matthew Ira Lowe and LT Nathan Hollingsworth Williams know our thoughts and prayers are with them during this most trying time, and may they know we are extremely proud of their distinguished service to our country.

RECOGNIZING THE VICTIMS OF OMARSKA

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the victims of a notorious concentration camp in Omarska, located in northwestern Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the summer of 1992, Omarska was the site of mass human rights violations in an attempt to drive non-Serbs from this part of the country.

When the world learned of these mass atrocities, U.N. prosecutors brought cases against many of the perpetrators of these crimes.

The ICTY found several guilty of crimes against humanity.

Remembering the victims of Omarska allows the survivors and families of the victims to mark this tragic chapter.

This is critical to reconciliation, and to the future of Bosnia.

I strongly urge all companies, municipalities, and others to allow anniversary events to take place in Omarska.

It is critical that all involved allow a memorial to be built, and for all parties to respect the commemoration of Omarska and the right of remembrance so that the horrors of Omarska are never repeated again.

IN HONOR OF FRANK H. GAUTHAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Frank H. Gauthan of Cleveland, Ohio, who will be celebrating his 90th birthday on May 14. Mr. Gauthan bravely served his country and the citizens of Cleveland with honor and distinction.

Mr. Gauthan began his life of public service as a member of the 5th Division of the Marine Corps during World War II. Stationed in the South Pacific, he fought in the battles of Iwo Jima and Guam.

Following the war, Mr. Gauthan served with the Cleveland Police Department for 31 years. He was promoted to the rank of detective, and served in the narcotics division of the Cleveland Police Department. As an experienced narcotics officer, he was crucial in the establishment of the narcotics department of the Cuyahoga County Sherriff's Department. Mr. Gauthan played a crucial role in the development of a new county-wide office to aid in the fight against narcotics.

Mr. Gauthan is an active member of the Retired Irish Police Society (RIPS), Westside Irish American Club, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Chapter 1079. He also volunteers with Meals on Wheels and has been an active volunteer with the Democratic Party. In addition, Mr. Gauthan is an avid golfer and bowler, and has garnered many awards and trophies throughout the years.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in wishing Mr. Frank H. Gauthan a very happy 90th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF CHARLES SEYMOUR

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to pay tribute to a community leader and activist, Charles Seymour. Charlie passed away on April 1, 2011 and a memorial service was held on April 13, 2011 at the Feldham Library in the Bing Wong Auditorium.

Charlie grew up in a segregated neighborhood in Detroit. Although his opportunities were limited, he made the most of them. He became heavyweight champion Joe Louis' golf caddy. Charlie often said he learned everything he needed to know about life on the golf course. He emphasized the honor and integrity as well the self-reliance, self-control, and self-discipline golf taught him.

Moving to Los Angeles as a young man, Charlie relied on all these characteristics to succeed. He worked odd jobs and supplemented his income with the money he earned at golf matches. Charlie worked for The Tribune Newspaper on Mount Vernon Avenue and later started a bulk mailing business.

Throughout his professional success, Charlie remained an activist at heart. In San Bernardino, he was known for his compassion—especially for children and animals. Charlie has been described as a ''force-multiplier.'' Dr. Amos Issac explains, ''He was a kind of exceptional person at seeing the needs out there, and involving others in helping to respond to those needs.''

Notably, Charlie served as CEO of the Adopt-A-Bike Program. In 1991, there was a local bike rodeo that gave away four bikes but had 165 children participate. After witnessing the event, Charlie called everyone he knew to ask them for a bike; he received 85 bikes. He was able to present 51 fixed bikes at the next raffle. The event evolved into the Adopt-A-Bike Program and later the Adopt-A-Computer program. The San Bernardino community will always remember these two programs and the compassionate advocate who started the operations.

Charlie passed away less than three months after his wife, Madeline. He is survived by his children Charlotte Bruce Hall, Donna LeRoy Baker, Pat Walton, and Larry Lacy. He leaves with cherished memories a loving, large family of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. My thoughts and prayers, along with those of my wife, Barbara, and my children, Mayor Pro Tem Joe Baca Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer are with Charlie's family at this time. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring a beloved community member and tireless advocate, Charlie Seymour.

HONORING DR. GERALD TIROZZI ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the outstanding leadership, vision, and innumerable contributions of Dr. Gerald Tirozzi as he prepares to retire from his position as Executive Director of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Gerry has dedicated a lifetime to ensuring that our children have access to an education of the highest possible quality. Through his efforts we, as a nation and a society, have changed the way we look at public education and how the policies we create impact our young people and their success.

A Connecticut native, I have had the privilege of knowing Gerry for many years. In fact, I did some substitute teaching when he was the Superintendent of New Haven Public

Schools. I have rarely encountered an individual with the passion and enthusiasm that Gerry possesses—particularly as he is advocating for policies he believes will make a difference in educating our young people.

Gerry began his career as an educator—a science teacher—and soon moved into several administrative positions, including Superintendent of New Haven Public Schools. In 1983 he was tapped by then Governor Bill O'Neill to lead Connecticut's Department of Education. In fact, on the same day that Gerry was named Commissioner, the National Commission on Excellence in Education released its famous report, ''A Nation at Risk,'' calling for the reform of the American public school system. With the release of the report Gerry saw a unique opportunity and soon implemented reforms that have changed the face of public education in Connecticut. He reformed curriculum and advocated for raising teacher salaries and attracting more qualified candidates to the profession. Perhaps most significantly, it was under his direction that Connecticut established a statewide, systematic test that would more accurately assess student progress. This testing resulted in identifying the academic problems afflicting racial minorities and low-income students nearly two decades before it was taken up at the federal level. The Connecticut Mastery Test celebrated its 25th Anniversary last year and continues to be the single biggest influence in shaping curriculum and has become a national model for student testing.

After his tenure as Commissioner at the Connecticut Department of Education, Gerry went on to serve as President of Wheelock College, Professor of Educational Leadership at the University of Connecticut, and was later appointed by President Clinton as the Assistant Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education. For the last decade, Gerry has led the National Association of Secondary School Principals, an organization which acts as the national voice for middle and high school principals, assistant principals, and aspiring school leaders. In each of the many positions he has held, his commitment and unique vision have led to invaluable improvements in our system of public education.

Dr. Gerald Tirozzi has enjoyed a remarkable career and has earned a distinguished reputation as a leader in education reform. As he prepares to leave his professional life, I am honored to have this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks for his invaluable contributions to our Nation and our children. His work has improved the quality of public education for millions of young people across our Nation and helped to better prepare them for their future success. Today, as he celebrates his retirement with family, friends, and colleagues, I wish him, his wife Sharman, his son Jeff, and his grandchildren, Jason and Kayla, the very best for many more years of health and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, and 298, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a natural disaster in Southern Missouri. Had I been present the week of May 2nd, I would have voted ''aye'' on rollcall Nos. 278, 279, 280, 285, 286, 290, 292, 293, 294, and 298. I would have voted ''nay'' on rollcall Nos. 281, 282, 283, 284, 287, 288, 289, 291, 295, 296, and 297.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF NORRIS GREGORY, JR.

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to pay tribute to Norris Gregory, Jr., a respected community member and San Bernardino's first black city councilman. Norris passed away at this home on April 21, 2011, at the age of 85.

Born on the Fort Riley military base, Norris was raised and began his education in Kansas. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Washburn University. He later completed his Master of Education at the University of Kansas. He also completed classes at University of California, Riverside and California State University at Los Angeles.

Norris was a prominent member of the San Bernardino community and he will be remembered for all that he gave to the local residents. He served as a member of many important civil organizations including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion. He was also a founding member of the San Bernardino Alumni chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and a member of the Phi Delta Kappa national honorary educational fraternity. Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity honored Norris as Man of the Year.

Norris was perhaps best known for being San Bernardino's first black city councilman. He served two four-year terms in the Sixth Ward from 1967 to 1975, breaking San Bernardino's color barrier. Norris told the Black Voice News that ''Schools were segregated, and most blacks were relegated to menial jobs. Blacks had no power and no voice in government . . . but you can make a difference. You can change the law.''

San Bernardino has lost a trailblazer and a role model. Norris has been credited for paving the way for others like John Hobbs, Valerie Pope-Ludlam, Betty Dean Anderson, and Rikke Van Johnson. His wife, Salena Gregory, reflects, ''He was a very good man. He did a lot for San Bernardino.''

Salena and Gregory were married for 64 years. They had one son, the late Norris P. Gregory III, one granddaughter Jessica L.G. Tucker, and two great-grandsons, Jason and Justin Tucker. My thoughts and prayers, along with those of my wife, Barbara, and my children, Mayor Pro Tem Joe Baca Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer are with Norris' family at this time. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring a local hero, Norris Gregory, Jr.

ALEXIS SCHOONMAKER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

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

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

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANNE MANFREDI MACK

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend Anne Manfredi Mack, who passed away April 22, 2011. I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the many outstanding achievements of Anne during her lifetime.

Anne Mack touched the lives of many with grace and generosity. Anne's driven and compassionate nature laid the foundation for a legacy of inspiration to all who knew her.

With great compassion and a heart for service, Anne was a well known and dedicated public servant and longtime advocate for seniors and senior issues. After retiring from Lockheed, she dedicated her time to serving her community and the State of California. In 1998 she was elected to the California State Legislature. Because of her long standing commitment to the Senior Legislature, she was elected chair and had served in this position since 2006. In addition to her service on the Senior Legislature, Anne was a member of various state boards including the Senior Care Commission, Congress of California Seniors, and was Chair of the Advisory Council on Aging.

As an impressive 25-gallon blood donor and CPR instructor for over 20 years, Anne had a strong passion and dedication to helping those in her community. Anne's greatest source of pride and happiness, though, was her family—her six children, 12 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren that survive her today. Anne always put family first, and will be remembered most for her smile, generosity, and passion for those who were less fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, while it is with great sadness, I am truly honored to recognize a woman who has had a profound impact on my wife Patti

and me, my family, and on the lives of so many. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in recognizing Anne Manfredi Mack's lifetime of achievements.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JESS JACKSON

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with both pride and sadness today with my colleague MIKE THOMPSON to honor one of Sonoma County's pioneering leaders. Jess Stonestreet Jackson passed away April 12, 2011, at his home in Geyserville, California. From the wine industry to local philanthropy, Jess Jackson touched lives across the North Bay, and he was admired and respected for his devotion to our region.

Born on February 18, 1930, and raised in San Francisco, Jess Jackson worked numerous jobs as a child to support his parents. As a young adult, he worked as a long shoreman and police officer to put himself through the University of California, Berkeley. He embodied the American ideal that a dedicated and hardworking person can build a successful life.

With a unique drive and an entrepreneurial spirit, Jess Jackson established himself as a leader in the American wine industry. With a successful law career in San Francisco, he began growing grapes in the 1970s. He produced his first wine in the 1980s at the age of 52, quickly putting Sonoma County on the map as one of the premier wine-growing regions of the world. Jackson's work redefined the use of ''California'' as an appellation of quality for Chardonnay. His family company, Jackson Family Wines, now operates over 30 wineries around the globe.

Jackson was also known for devoting much of his energy, intellect and financial resources to help others. He donated millions of dollars to charities locally and across the country. In Sonoma County, for example, he supported the Family Justice Center, the Redwood Empire Food Bank, and the Boys and Girls Clubs. He and his wife, Barbara R. Banke, spearheaded a wine auction, Sonoma Paradiso, raising millions of dollars for a host of local causes for the benefit of children.

Jackson and Banke also embarked on a pioneering venture to promote the study and practice of sustainable viticulture. Their multimillion-dollar commitment to the University of California, Davis, which will fund the construction of a wine center geared toward education, testifies to the forward-thinking approach Jackson always took to business and agriculture in the Wine Country. I will create an opportunity for future generations to practice sustainable viticulture.

In addition to his wife, Jackson is survived by his five children and their families who will continue his legacy in the North Bay.

AIMEE LANGE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

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

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

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF JESS STONESTREET JACKSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with both pride and sadness today with my colleague, LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor one of Sonoma County's pioneering leaders. Jess Stonestreet Jackson passed away April 12, 2011, at his home in Geyserville, California. From the wine industry to local philanthropy, Jess Jackson touched lives across the North Bay, and he was admired and respected for his devotion to our region.

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With a unique drive and an entrepreneurial spirit, Jess Jackson established himself as a leader in the American wine industry. With a successful law career in San Francisco, he began growing grapes in the 1970s. He produced his first wine in the 1980s at the age of 52, quickly putting Sonoma County on the map as one of the premier wine-growing regions of the world. Jackson's work redefined the use of ''California'' as an appellation of quality for Chardonnay. His family company, Jackson Family Wines, now operates over 30 wineries around the globe.

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In addition to his wife, Jackson is survived by his five children and their families who will continue his legacy in the North Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring the life of Jess Stonestreet Jackson. His fine wines earned him friends worldwide. His entrepreneurial leadership and compassionate heart earned admirers throughout the North Bay. He has enriched our lives, and he will be dearly missed.

AUBREY WADLEIGH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

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

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

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 296 regarding the Connolly of Virginia Part B Amendment No. 2 for H.R. 1230. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

ANDREA PIERCE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Andrea Pierce

for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Andrea Pierce is a 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

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

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

RECOGNIZING LOCAL SCHOOL'S ROBOTICS TEAMS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize three local schools that have excelled in robotic competitions. These three teams participated in the Robotics for Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST), regional tournament in Richmond on April 8–9, where 64 teams competed.

The local schools represented—Highland High School in Warrenton, RoboHawk-Team 3373; Fresta Valley Christian School in Marshall, Team 1731; and Battlefield High School in Haymarket, Team 1885 ILITE squad—are all local schools and teams that participated in the regional tournament.

The FIRST robotics program offers students a chance to design a robot from scratch. Their mission is to ''inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.'' The students receive a box of parts with no instructions, just a specific goal that their robot must reach. Then, the students have to design the robot to complete certain tasks for the competitions. The students are allotted a six-week period to build their robots and must bag and tag them before the tournament.

The students are responsible for obtaining mentors and sponsors to raise the $5,000 that is needed to receive a starter kit from FIRST. Their mentors are usually parents who work in the field of engineering and are role models and an inspiration to the students.

At the regional tournament in Richmond, there were three different competition rounds. The first round was autonomous, where the pre-programmed six-wheel robot had to act independently of its operators and place rings on pegs in order to gain points. The second round consisted of the operators having the robot place tubes on the scoring racks. The final and most difficult round, according to the Battlefield team, was having a minibot climb up the rack and place tubes at a faster and higher rate than the original robot.

I congratulate all the teams for participating in such a hands-on engineering and scientific educational experience, with special mention to the Fresta Valley Christian School for making it to the quarterfinals of the competition. I also congratulate Battlefield High School for placing second in the regional tournament. I congratulate and commend the two teams for their participation in the National Championship, which was held in St. Louis April 27–30.

AARON CISNEROS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Aaron Cisneros for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Aaron Cisneros is a 10th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

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

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

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is $14,325,784,545,788.31.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was $10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by $3,687,358,799,494.50 since then.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

ALMA FRANCO-TORRES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

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

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

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

63RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF ISRAEL

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today, Israel celebrates 63 years of independence as a Jewish-state. I am proud to say that it was on this same day 63 years ago that the United States became the first country in the world to recognize the State of Israel. For decades, our two nations have shared an unyielding bond based on trust, common values and a great respect for one another. I look forward to celebrating this bond for years to come.

As the Middle East and North Africa continue on their paths to self-governance it is my sincere hope that this progress will continue in the most peaceful way possible. I believe that once the people of these growing nations are able to achieve their ambitions that the bonds between Israel, the United States and the region will prosper. The United States will continue our efforts with Israel and others in the region to achieve widespread peace and work together toward this end.

I offer my best wishes to President Peres, Prime Minister Netanyahu, and the people of Israel as they celebrate their 63rd Independence Day. I remain committed to ensuring that the next 63 years of U.S.-Israel relations are marked by cooperation and mutual respect.

ASHLEIGH SANTISTEVAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

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

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

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

HONORING KALERVO RUUSKANEN OF CANTERBURY, CONNECTICUT FOR 50 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE IN THE CANTERBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kalervo "Kavi" Ruuskanen of Canterbury, Connecticut in recognition of his 50 years of dedicated service with the Canterbury Volunteer Fire Department.

In 1960, a young Kalervo Ruuskanen helped friends and neighbors extinguish a brush fire. He impressed the local emergency officials so much that they asked him to join the department. Now 50 years later, Mr. Ruuskanen is the first non-charter member of the Canterbury Volunteer Fire Department to have reached the 50-year milestone. This accomplishment is a testament both to his skill as a first responder and his commitment to serving his fellow man.

Not only has he been with the Canterbury Volunteer Fire Department for 50 years, he has also worked as an emergency medical technician, and currently serves as a Constable of Canterbury and volunteers as a fire policeman. In small towns across eastern Connecticut where we rely on volunteers to protect our homes, our businesses and our way of life, men and women like Kalervo Ruuskanen provide a vital service by ensuring our safety.

As the duly elected Representative of the Second Congressional District of Connecticut, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in extending hearty congratulations and warm thanks to Mr. Ruuskanen for his dedication and selfless service to the people of Canterbury, Connecticut.

IMPORTANCE OF INFORMATION AND REFERRAL PROGRAMS

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the dedicated professionals working each day in the field of Information and Referral or I&R. These people perform the essential task of bringing people and services together, assistance that has proven to be more important than ever in these difficult economic times.

In particular, I wish to acknowledge the important work of the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems or AIRS which has been serving for more than 30 years as the national organization which developed the professional standards that are a part of thousands of quality Information and Referral programs in this Nation.

In 2010, Information and Referral professionals responded to more than 20 million calls across our Nation from people seeking assistance. This includes people that accessed services through the hundreds of 2–1–1 organizations. AIRS in partnership with United Way Worldwide were the architects of the 2–1–1 system which has served to transform access to human services in America and Canada.

The United States is currently served by Information and Referral professionals through 2–1–1 programs, aging I&R services, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, child care resource and referral services, military family centers, and other specialty Information and Referral services. In addition, the Aging Network consists of 56 State agencies on aging, 629 area agencies on aging, 244 Tribal organizations, and 2 Native Hawaiian organizations. These entities also provide Information and Referral and are important to moving Information and Referral forward.

The importance of the Information and Referral service is that it links consumers with the most appropriate service that they may need whether it be for housing, nutrition, job training, transportation services or long-term care options counseling. Information and Referral and 2–1–1s have proven to be especially invaluable in times of natural disasters in our Nation working in conjunction with first responders to provide help to persons in need.

Information and Referral services have been recognized in Federal legislation for more than 35 years, including in the 1973 reauthorization of the Older Americans Act and including the establishment of the National Eldercare Locator and the development of Aging and Disability Resource Centers.

Comprehensive and specialized Information and Referral programs help people in every community and operate as a critical component of the health and human services delivery system. Information and Referral organizations have databases of programs and services, and disseminate information through a variety of channels to individuals, professionals and communities.

Let me conclude by commending all those professionals who work in the Information and Referral field and with 2–1–1s. We are especially fortunate in my District and State to have one of the most effective of these professionals, my friend Jamie Moore who serves as Vice President of Volunteer & Community Services at the United Way of the Midlands.

I urge my colleagues to become more familiar with the Information and Referral and 2–1–1 programs in their districts help their constituents learn about who to call for information about local resources.

ALEXANDRA BURTON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

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

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

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

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO GROUND ZERO FOLLOWING THE KILLING OF OSAMA BIN LADEN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my fellow New Yorkers in expressing my gratitude to President Obama for visiting our city today and for a job very well done. Under the President's extraordinary leadership and with an heroic effort by our military and our intelligence community, at long last, a mass murderer has been brought to justice.

President Obama's visit to Ground Zero will hopefully bring comfort to the families who lost loved ones, and bring the attention of the world back to the courage that so many showed on 9/11: the firefighters, police officers, and first responders who answered the call of duty and went into burning towers, never to return; the construction workers and volunteers who came to Ground Zero to help our nation recover; the office workers who risked their lives to lead others to safety.

I hope the President's visit will also remind Americans how we came together after the attacks, a unity that impressed itself on the heart of the world and delivered us from some of the most difficult times our nation has ever faced. As the President himself said, when we come together, there's nothing that we can't do.

HONORING MURIEL SCOTT

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Muriel Scott, the President and CEO of the Central Maine Area Agency on Aging, better known as Spectrum Generations. For more than three decades, Muriel has been dedicated to building a strong agency to serve central Maine's elderly population.

Muriel has always believed in the importance of seniors' exercising their own independence. For decades, Muriel has worked to support policies and initiatives that make it easier for seniors to live in their own homes and lead their own lives.

Muriel's hard work and dedication expanded Spectrum Generations to seven community center locations in central Maine. She first joined Spectrum in 1976 as the Director for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, and Muriel would serve as Nutrition Director before rising to the position of Associate Director in 1979.

Under Muriel's leadership, Spectrum became a leader in ensuring community access

to these services in multiple, convenient locations. Her achievements in Maine led her to national success, serving as a delegate to the 1995 White House Conference on Aging and a Board member of the National Association of Area Agencies.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Muriel Scott on her retirement after 34 years of dedication to Maine's elderly.

ADRIAN ESTRADA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

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

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

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

THE NATIONAL GUARD EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION ACT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before you today to reintroduce the National Guard Employment Protection Act.

I created this legislation in order to extend the same reemployment rights for all of our National Guard personnel, regardless of whether they are assigned to a homeland security mission or deployed overseas to Iraq or Afghanistan. Under current law, the members of the National Guard who are called up for active duty in support of homeland security missions inside the United States are not provided the same reemployment rights to their civilian occupations that other members of the National Guard and Reserve have when they are called to active duty for overseas military assignments.

There is no doubt that the soldiers and the airmen serving in the National Guard must have the same reemployment rights irrespective of where they are ordered to serve. The bill recognizes that those who are called up for homeland security missions can face the same hardships and challenges in trying to return to their civilian employment as someone who has been away from their civilian occupation due to an overseas military assignment.

With the passage of this law, National Guard members will no longer have to worry about being put into a position where they are forced to choose between retaining their civilian employment or serving our Nation in a critical homeland security mission.

I would like to thank Delegate MADELEINE BORDALLO, Representative HARPER and Representative ROE for co-sponsoring again. I urge the passage of this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. KIRAN DESAI

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Kiran Desai, former Chairman of the Old Bridge Township Zoning Board of Adjustment and member of the Township Planning Board. Kiran is being recognized by the New Jersey State Planning Officials Organization as a recipient of the 2011 Achievement in Planning Award for his continued service to the residents of Old Bridge, New Jersey. Kiran continues to demonstrate significant contributions to the planning and development of Old Bridge and is therefore deserving of this body's recognition.

Kiran served as the Chairman of the Township's Zoning Board of Adjustment from 2000 to 2010. A humble, thirty year resident of Old Bridge, Kiran excels in his professional endeavors as a result of his personal relationship with the local residents and neighbors. During his tenure, Kiran has evaluated hundreds of applications and has most notably opposed larger residential developments and retail complexes not suited for the area. Kiran's steadfast determination and clear mission has assisted in balancing the rights of developers with the needs of Old Bridge's large, diverse and growing community. He also proudly continues to place particular emphasis on protecting local environmentally sensitive areas. In January 2011, Kiran transitioned from the Zoning Board of Adjustment to the Old Bridge's Township Planning Board where he spearheads the initiative to review the Township's master plan.

In addition to his professional experience, Kiran has also been active in several other civic organizations. He has served on the Economic Development Corporation and is the former Treasurer of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee. He currently serves as a Commissioner and Secretary of the Old Bridge Municipal Utilities Authority.

Kiran is also very active in the Indian community and various organizations dedicated to preserving cultural roots and further Indian strides within the American community. Kiran is a founding member of the India Cultural Association of Central Jersey and has served as President of Vraj of North America. He is also founding President of the Chh Gaam Patidar Samaj of North America and continues his involvement with countless other cultural organizations. As a result of his outstanding efforts, Kiran was recently awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, an annual award presented to an individual for their contributions by immigrants to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, once again please join me in congratulating Mr. Kiran Desai, the 2011 recipient of the New Jersey State Planning Officials Organization's Achievement in Planning Award. Mr. Desai's professional accomplishments and community and cultural involvement should be an inspiration to us all.

ARISAI GURROLA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

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

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

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

COMMENDING THE MASON SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend The Mason Small Business Development Center for being named the 2011 Small Business Development Center of Excellence and Innovation by the Small Business Administration Washington Metro Area District Office. This award recognizes and honors centers that use innovation to provide quality and effective services to small businesses to help them improve program management and delivery.

For more than ten years, The Mason SBDC has helped small businesses throughout Northern Virginia support and business counseling services. It is a successful partnership between the federal government, Commonwealth of Virginia and George Mason University, and it assisted more than 480 small businesses in 2010. The hard work and dedication of the team members from The Mason SBDC has resulted in the retention of more than 1,200 local jobs. The Washington Metropolitan region has greatly benefited from the vitality of the small business sector, and The Mason SBDC is an important part of that success.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in commending The Mason Small Business Development Center and its team members for their efforts on behalf of our nation's small businesses.

NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.

House Republicans are waging a war against women and they have made their extreme and dangerous agenda clear—to undermine women's access to reproductive health care.

H.R. 3 is a radical attack on women and their reproductive rights. It extends unprecedented limitation on access to abortions, and it singles out and punishes women who want access to this legal service.

Do not be confused. H.R. 3 goes far beyond current law—which is already highly restrictive, and which I oppose. The Hyde Amendment already prohibits women enrolled in Medicaid and Medicare, federal employees, women serving in the military, women in federal prisons, Peace Corps volunteers, and women seeking care under the Indian Health Services Act from getting the care they need. Its very narrow exceptions do not even give women facing severe health conditions like cancer access to medically necessary abortion care so they can receive chemotherapy treatment.

One of the original goals of this legislation was to narrow the already harmful Hyde exceptions even further. The bill's sponsors tried to redefine rape and incest—to take us back to a time when saying "no" wasn't enough. Public outcry at this mean-spirited and hurtful attempt to make it harder for survivors of rape and incest to access coverage for abortion services forced its removal. Unfortunately, based on the House Judiciary Committee Report accompanying H.R. 3, some members of this chamber are still intent on narrowing the rape exception.

This bill is both hurtful and offensive. H.R. 3 expands an unfair, punitive policy that is dangerous to women's health and applies it to millions of women and men in the private insurance market. No one should be limited in terms of their access to safe and legal abortion.

This legislation redefines the concept of "government funding" far beyond the current common understanding. It prohibits even private and nonfederal government funds from being spent on any activity remotely related to the provision of abortion—any time federal money is involved in funding or subsidizing other, nonabortion-related care.

This legislation increases taxes on small businesses with abortion coverage in their private insurance plans. For decades, small businesses have been fighting insurance company premium demands and struggling to maintain health insurance coverage for their employees. Many of those small businesses—1 in 3—are owned by women, but this bill affects both men and women.

The Affordable Care Act provides small businesses with tax credits to help make health insurance both accessible and affordable. Those tax credits are available now. Today, they are worth up to 35 percent of health insurance premium costs. By 2014, they will be worth up to 50 percent.

The Republicans have already passed legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act—taking away tax credits from small business owners and employees who need help. Repeal is bound to fail. But H.R. 3 takes another course—it would repeal this benefit for any small business insurance policy that includes coverage of abortions.

Small business owners will face an unfair and discriminatory choice. If they need the tax credit to make coverage for themselves and their employees affordable, they will need to drop the abortion benefit. If they want to keep the benefit, they will have to go without the tax credit—raising their costs and taking away money that could be used to expand their business and maybe hire another employee. H.R. 3 will raise taxes on millions of small businesses.

Nearly 90 percent of private health insurance policies offer abortion coverage and this is a blatant attempt to force employers to drop abortion coverage from their private health insurance plans.

Now is the time to work on the issues that are most important to Americans—creating jobs and improving the economy—rather than punishing small businesses and workers through legislation that takes health care away from women.

American women will suffer if this bill becomes law.

RECOGNIZING HELEN SPIVEY

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Helen Spivey who today is receiving the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2010 Regional Director's Conservation Award.

I had the distinct pleasure and honor to serve and sit next to Helen in the Florida House of Representatives, and I am proud that her many years of service yielded such tremendous benefits to the people of Florida and our state's unique ecosystem. Her recognition today is warranted and well deserved.

For several decades, Helen Spivey has been an iconic leader in the protection of Florida's special ecosystems and in particular, the endangered Florida manatee. For that work, she holds a very special title to those of us that know her well—"The Manatee Lady."

For decades, Helen has fought to preserve the more pristine and natural Florida she knew in her youth. Since moving to Crystal River in the 1970s, she has built a long resume volunteering in efforts to fight uncontrolled urban growth, pollution from wastewater facilities, and of course to protect Florida manatees.

From serving on the Crystal River City Council to being elected to the Florida Legislature, Helen's life exemplifies the best a citizen has to offer as an active and effective community and public servant.

While she has worked in collaboration with many conservation organizations over her lifetime, her connection to the Save the Manatee Club is special.

Since 2000, she has served as co-chair of the Save the Manatee Club's Board of Directors. In this role, she works tirelessly for the gentle creature of our Florida waterways. The Club could not have a better advocate for their efforts.

Today, the Fish and Wildlife Service is honoring Helen for her work on expanding the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge to include the critically important Three Sisters Springs property.

This project is a microcosm of Helen's long fight to protect Florida's incredible natural wonders and to protect much needed habitat for the Florida Manatee.

Three Sisters is an urban spring that has been under threat of development for many years. But through Helen's leadership, this 57-acre property was acquired by the Service to forever preserve this ecologically important habitat.

Each year, more than 150 manatees winter in and around this spring, and it draws tourists from across the state and beyond to behold this gentle giant of our waterways. If you have ever experienced a Florida manatee up close, you understand how special this creature is, and how important it is that we protect this impressive species for future generations.

The Three Sisters project took many years to realize and required the collaboration of many public and private partners. I was honored to work with Helen and with Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite of Brooksville, Florida, and Florida's senior Senator BILL NELSON to help secure federal funding for a portion of this important project.

But it was Helen that was the driving force that made the Three Sisters Springs Project a reality. She worked tirelessly to coordinate state, local and federal agencies, and the private partners needed to line up all the funding required to protect this precious resource. She has never been someone to take "no" for an answer, and with her bright spirit and intellect, she constantly wins over new allies for her cause.

Now that the spring's site is under federal management, I look forward to its full restoration and the inclusion of an interpretive platform and station that will enhance visitors' appreciation for this special ecosystem.

Once again, Helen should be very proud, as we are, of her hard fought victory for Florida's ecosystem and for the Florida manatee.

But I know what Helen will actually do . . . which is to smile, give us all a small nod, and then get right back to work on her next endeavor.

In a 2004 article in the St. Petersburg Times, Helen was quoted as saying, "I guess I wouldn't want people to remember me . . . but I would be really pleased if they could see an ecosystem that functions and a world that is not asphalt and concrete."

Well, Helen, we will most certainly remember you and the work you continue to do each day to make your vision a reality.

And with your work regarding saving Three Sisters Spring, you have added one more special ecosystem to the list of protected places in our beloved Florida. I am thrilled that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is honoring you today—because no one is more deserving of this recognition.

So today, as you receive this award while also celebrating your eighty-third birthday, Florida thanks you for all that you do. I am so proud of you and simply can't wait to see what you accomplish in your next eighty-three years.

HONORING MOTT MIDDLE COLLEGE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on May 12th Mott Middle College in Flint Michigan will celebrate its 20th year of preparing at-risk high school students for further education and the workforce. Through collaboration between Genesee Intermediate School District and Mott Community College, students from 21 school districts and 10 public academies in Genesee County are able to integrate high school, community college and the world of work as part of their educational experience.

Mott Middle College opened in 1991 funded by a grant from The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, to specialize in dropout prevention. Working with students that may not succeed in a traditional high school setting, Mott Middle College offers students the opportunity to earn college credits and a high school diploma simultaneously. The student body currently averages 400 students, and over its 20 year history the school has graduated over 650 students.

The teachers are trained to function as focus group leaders to small groups of students. The teachers and support staff work very hard to develop an education system that meets the needs of all learning styles and foster one-on-one relationships with students. The school also utilizes community resources to assist students with their academic, career and personal development. In 2002 the school began to shift from a middle college to an early college to increase the emphasis on student dual enrollment. During the 2009–2010 school year, 375 students earned 1,562 college credits.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the administrators, educators, staff, graduates, and community partners for working diligently to help accomplish the educational goals of students; and for creating a program that has gained a national reputation for excellence. As a role model for other middle and early colleges, Mott Middle College has set the bar very high for success and I wish them the best in the coming years.

HONORING DR. GEORGE DAVISON TENNISON

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Dr. George Davison Tennison born on July 5, 1918.

Dr. George Tennison was known as "Dr. George" to everyone in Silsbee, Texas. Dr. George, a veteran of World War II served his country proudly as a U.S. Navy physician in the war. He served as part of the Navy Medical Corp on board a troop transport. He received an honorable discharge from the Navy in 1946. After leaving the Navy, he returned to Silsbee where he practiced medicine for 52 years. It is widely speculated that Dr. George delivered over 5,000 babies over his distinguished career.

Dr. George was a rare breed of rural physician who traveled country dirt roads in the evenings after office hours to provide care for patients who had no transportation into town.

In 1940, Dr. George married Elise Nelson of Zachary, Louisiana, and they had five children over 70 years of marriage.

Dr. George was long active in the community. He was a former school board President and member of the Kiwanis Club, bank board, and the hospital board.

Dr. George was known around Silsbee for his love of duck hunting. He loved hunting so much that he frequently got up at 3 A.M. to go out on the duck marshes before daylight. After a couple hours of hunting, he returned to his clinic for a full day of treating patients.

He was also known for his award winning roses. For as long as he was able, he grew hundreds of rose bushes in his yard and won many rose competitions.

Dr. George was instrumental in starting the first Episcopal Church in Hardin County, St. John's, where he served on the church vestry.

Dr. George is survived by his loving wife of 70 years, Elise Nelson Tennison.

HONORING MISS ABBY KEENE

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Miss Abby Keene.

She is freshman at Southern Wayne High School in Dudley, NC. Abby is currently an active member of the Southern Wayne High School FFA and is currently working with training a goat for the goat exhibition and show. She is preparing for a land judging contest in which she will be a judge. Prior to her diagnosis she was a cheerleader, softball player and dancer.

In the fall of 2009 after a routine exam by their family doctor, Abby was found to have an enlarged spleen. Further test revealed that she suffers from a rare liver disease named Primary Sclerosing Cholangitit (PSC). PSC is a liver disease of the bile ducts and is very rare in children and even more rare to be diagnosed in a female. The only known treatment is a transplant and she is currently on a waiting list for a transplant at Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA.

Abby's mother Deon has teamed up with COTA (Children's Organ Transplant Association) along with friends, neighbors, local churches, fire department/rescue units, Grantham Grange, Southern Wayne High School FFA, and other local civic groups to raise $50,000 for Abby to receive a transplant. On May 14, 2011, Eureka Christian Church is hosting a BBQ lunch and dinner, followed by an auction of donated items. Abby is hoping to return to her active roles upon completion of her liver transplant.

Mr. Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Miss Abby Keene and wish her the best in her upcoming future.

RECOGNIZING TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Teacher Appreciation week and the extraordinary work done by America's teachers to provide students with the knowledge and skills they will need to compete and thrive in the 21st century.

Every day, hard working men and women go into the classroom to prepare our children for a successful future. For this, they deserve not just our utmost gratitude and respect but fair and adequate compensation. Instead, teachers and other public workers across the nation are under attack. Earlier this year, I went to Wisconsin to lend support for teachers and other state workers who are not only fighting cutbacks in salaries and benefits but the loss of long-standing collective bargaining rights. Fortunately, in Wisconsin and other states, people are turning out in large numbers to show opposition to those attacks and demonstrate support for teachers and public employees.

Rather than demonize teachers, it is imperative that we recognize the essential role they play in our society not only this week but throughout the year. President Obama has spoken at length about America's need to "Win the Future." As our nation looks to achieve that objective, we must not lose sight of the fact that nothing has a more direct impact on student achievement than having a great teacher in the classroom.

As a former elementary school teacher, I know just the teaching profession is both rewarding and challenging. I encourage every American to take a moment this week to thank a teacher for the incredible work they are doing to make our nation a better place.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INOVA FAIRFAX HOSPITAL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Inova Fairfax Hospital, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Fairfax Hospital was first proposed by a group of concerned citizens who embraced the concept of a not-for-profit hospital. With the strong support of the community, Fairfax County and the federal government, The Fairfax Hospital was built and opened its doors on February 6th, 1961. With a visionary and dedicated group of physicians, nurses, allied health care professionals, management, board members and auxillians, The Fairfax Hospital has become a premier health care institution in the Washington, D.C. area.

During the past 50 years, Fairfax Hospital, renamed Inova Fairfax Hospital in 1997, has significantly expanded to 833 acute-care beds and is now the busiest hospital in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It serves as the flagship facility of Inova Health System, which now includes hospitals in Alexandria, Mount Vernon, Fair Oaks, and Loudoun.

As the premier hospital serving the Northern Virginia community, Inova Fairfax Hospital includes the Inova Heart and Vascular Institute and the Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children, both of which are internationally recognized facilities, and the Inova Fairfax Hospital for Women.

Since its opening, Inova Fairfax Hospital has served as a teaching institution for future health professionals. Currently it partners with the medical schools of Georgetown, George Washington, the University of Virginia and Howard University as well as the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. It also serves as the Northern Virginia campus for the medical school of Virginia Commonwealth University. In addition it is affiliated with numerous nursing, pharmacy and other allied health profession programs and with numerous institutions of higher learning, including George Mason University. Inova Fairfax Hospital continues to expand with construction underway for a new 11-story tower to provide better access and flexibility to meet patient needs.

Among its many accolades, Inova Fairfax Hospital has been designated as the Level 1 Trauma Center for Northern Virginia by the Commonwealth of Virginia, awarded Magnet Recognition in Nursing Excellence, and consistently named among the 50 Best Hospitals in the United States by both U.S. News & World Report and HealthGrades. Inova Fairfax and Inova Health System are ranked among the nation's top 100 Military Friendly Employers, Top 100 Companies for Working Mothers, Best Employers for Workers Over 50, and are commonly named among the nation's 100 Most Wired hospitals and health systems.

While serving the health needs of an extensive community, Inova Fairfax also is actively involved in the community, partnering with community based programs and Fairfax County Public Schools. Inova also provides more than $200 million in charity care within a single year. I was proud to represent Inova Fairfax Hospital during my 14 years as the chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and I am pleased to continue that partnership today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Inova Fairfax Hospital, which the community will mark in a May 11 celebration. For 50 years, Inova Fairfax Hospital has carried out its mission as engraved on its dedication plaque that it is ''dedicated to the relief of human suffering and to the protection and preservation of the health of all who enter its doors.'' I extend my congratulations to the entire Inova Fairfax Hospital family and to Inova Health System and thank them for their continued commitment to our community.

THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as I walked onto the battlefield in the hot Texas sun, I journeyed through a sea of buckskin uniforms, Bowie knives and long muskets. I felt like I had died and gone to Heaven.

The men who portrayed Sam's Boys had a certain swagger, a certain something that made them real members of the Texas Army. I even got my picture taken with Captain Juan Seguin, who led the Tejanos, Mexicans loyal for independence. So as not to confuse these Tejanos with Santa Anna's army, General Sam had Seguin put a playing card in the head band of each Tejano so they could easily be recognized.

Seguin and his men were roaming around the battlefield. Cannons, battle cries and the sound of hooves surrounded me. I was like a little boy again.

Thousands of people came from far and wide to celebrate 175 years of Texas independence at the San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Reenactment. Children and senior citizens alike all gathered to travel back in time and see the reenactment of one of the most decisive battles in all history—and certainly the most decisive battle in Texas history.

Folks lined the battlefield with lawn chairs, umbrellas and water bottles to watch the reenactment of events that led to the Texas victory over the larger Mexican Army on April 21, 1836. I was reminded of how good it feels to be an American—particularly a Texan-American. As the wind blew, history unfolded right in front of our eyes. I felt like I stepped back in time to 1836.

It was 175 years ago that Texas became an independent nation. Like many folks, sometimes I wish that we still were. General Sam and his boys took on Santa Anna and an army of about 1,600 along the marshy banks of the San Jacinto River in the battle that resulted in one of the largest land transfers in world history and gave way to a new independent nation—the Republic of Texas.

After Mexican dictator Santa Anna stormed the walls of the Alamo, and ordered the massacre at Goliad, he felt the Texans had all but been defeated, and he set his sights on finishing the war with the Texans heading southeast in the ''Runaway Scrape.''

During this time, panic spread across Texas and doubt loomed that General Sam Houston could stop the Mexican Army. But, General Sam was not the quitting type and he would not give up his fight for freedom so easily.

The battle for Texas took place on the marshes of the San Jacinto River. On the afternoon of April 21, General Sam's battle plan called for a charge the next day at dawn, but after discussions with his troops he decided not to wait any longer.

Scout Deaf Smith was ordered to burn the only bridge and trapped both armies between the river and the marshes. In broad daylight, General Sam and the boys, 700 Texas freedom fighters, marched double-time in a single line to independence—taking on a professional army more than twice their size.

The Texans charged yelling, ''Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!'' They carried a flag of partially nude Miss Liberty, and the fife played a bawdy house song called ''Come to the Bower.'' Santa Anna's army, caught napping, was routed.

Tradition says Santa Anna was having a rendezvous in his tent with a lady that turned out to be a spy for Texas, Emily Morgan, who is sometimes referred to as the ''Yellow Rose of Texas.'' Most of the enemy was killed or wounded; the rest were captured or disappeared. The victory was stunning. The rest, as they say, is Texas history.

General Santa Anna's life was spared to the dismay of many that had lost loved ones at the Alamo and Goliad. But General Sam, noting that Texas was now a free and independent nation, held Santa Anna as a prisoner of war until negotiations between the two countries could be made.

While Texas had declared her independence from Mexico a month earlier on March 2, it was at this moment that she actually became a Republic all unto herself and remained so for nine glorious years.

Texas claimed land as far north as the Canadian border and as far west as Colorado. These historic battlegrounds remain an important part of Texas history, and in 1936, the state of Texas honored the Texas War of Independence and General Sam's victory by erecting a monument modeled after the Washington Monument, but naturally bigger.

I am proud to be a Texan-American. And that weekend, as I saw thousands of people celebrating the 175th anniversary of Texas Independence, I was reminded of how proudly we Texans hail. Because of men like Sam Houston, Texas is the great state that it is today. We must always remember that Texas was once a nation. Texas forever!

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE CHINA OCEAN SHIPPING COMPANY ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the China Ocean Shipping Company (COSCO) on its 50th anniversary.

Throughout the past fifty years, China Ocean Shipping Company has evolved from a small coastal carrier to a global maritime leader and a diversified multinational ''Fortune Global 500'' company that is the 2nd largest shipping company worldwide. My congratulations go to all the employees of COSCO. This company, with its American headquarters located in Secaucus, New Jersey, continues to be a leader in maritime commerce between the U.S. and China; providing jobs and economic growth here at home, and supporting safety, environmental and security efforts.

International maritime trade is vital to New Jersey and has helped support U.S. consumers, companies and products. COSCO Americas Inc. was recognized for promoting office social responsibility and received the 2010 New Jersey Department of Transportation New Jersey Smart Workplaces (NJSW) gold award. This award recognizes the efforts of COSCO to help reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality by providing commuter benefits to their employees in New Jersey. These important contributions to our state deserve the highest recognition.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate COSCO on its 50th anniversary and honor its employees for their role in COSCO's continued global business success and conscientious work in the State of New Jersey.

INTRODUCING THE LENA HORNE RECOGNITION ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Lena Horne Recognition Act, a bill to posthumously honor Lena Horne with a Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of her many achievements and contributions to American culture and the Civil Rights Movement. A symbol of elegance and grace, the legendary Lena Horne entertained America and broke racial barriers as a singer, dancer, and actress for over 60 years. Ms. Horne passed away a year ago yesterday, in New York City on May 9, 2010 at the age of 92.

Lena Mary Calhoun Horne was born on June 30, 1917, in Brooklyn, New York. Her path to international stardom would take her from Harlem's famous Cotton Club, where she was hired as a chorus dancer at the age of 16, to Charlie Barnet's jazz band, where she became one of the first African American women to tour with an all-white band, to Hollywood and Broadway.

In the 1940s, Ms. Horne was discovered by a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) talent scout and moved to Hollywood to be an actress, becoming the first black artist to sign a long-term contract with a major studio. Despite her extraordinary beauty and talent, however, she was often limited to minor acting roles because of her race. Among many lost opportunities, studio executives cast fellow actress Ava Gardner as Julie in the film adaptation of Show Boat instead of Ms. Horne because they did not want it to star a black actress. However, she dazzled audiences and critics in a number of films, including Cabin in the Sky and Stormy Weather.

The struggle for equal and fair treatment was an inseparable and increasingly political part of Ms. Home's life. During World War II, Ms. Horne toured extensively with the United Service Organizations, USO on the West Coast and in the South in support of the troops. She was out-spoken in her criticism of the way black soldiers were treated, refusing to sing for segregated audiences or to groups in which German prisoners of war were seated in front of African American servicemen.

During the period of McCarthyism in the 1950s, Ms. Horne was blacklisted as a communist for seven years because of her civil rights activism and friendship with Paul Robeson and W.E.B. Du Bois. Although she continued to face discrimination, Ms. Horne's career flourished in television and on nightclub stages across the country. It was during this time that she also established herself as a major recording artist. In 1957, she recorded Lena Horne at the Waldorf-Astoria, which reached the Top 10 and became the best-selling album by a female singer in RCA Victor's history.

Ms. Horne used her talent and fame to become a powerful voice for civil rights and equality. In 1963, she participated in the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, at which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his immortal "I Have a Dream" speech. She also performed at rallies throughout the country for the National Council for Negro Women and worked with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), of which she was the cover girl for their monthly bulletin at the age of 2, in addition to being a member of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

In 1981, Ms. Horne finally received the big break she had waited for her whole life—a one-woman Broadway show. Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music, was the culmination of her triumphs and struggles. It enjoyed a 14-month run before going on tour and earned her a special Tony award for distinguished achievement in theater and two Grammys. Ms. Horne was also the recipient of the Kennedy Center honor for lifetime contribution to the arts in 1984 and in 1989 received a lifetime achievement Grammy Award. She received two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame—for her work in both motion pictures and recording—in addition to a footprint on the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site.

Mr. Speaker, Lena Horne was an extraordinary woman who refused to give up her dreams and used her beauty, talent, and intelligence to fight racial discrimination. I urge my colleagues to support the Lena Horne Recognition Act to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Lena Horne with a Congressional Gold Medal.

RECOGNIZING JIM MANDICH

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of Miami Dolphins legend Jim Mandich.

Jim "Mad Dog" Mandich died on April 26th at the age of 62, after a valiant battle with bile duct cancer for more than a year.

He was a beloved and respected member of the South Florida community known for his warmth and generosity to those in need.

To longtime Dolphins fans, Mandich is remembered as the hard-nosed tight end on the two Super Bowl championship teams in the early 1970s.

Over eight seasons in the National Football League, all but one with the Miami Dolphins, he caught 121 passes, for 1,406 yards and 23 touchdowns.

But on the field he will best be remembered for always giving it his all on every play.

Earning the nickname "Mad Dog" for his all-out efforts on special teams, his teammates point out that he was the heart and soul of the undefeated team in 1972—the only undefeated season by an NFL team in the Super Bowl era. He then helped them repeat as Super Bowl champions the following season.

To younger Dolphins fans, he was the "voice" of the Dolphins. In 1992, the "Mad Dog" became the Dolphins radio color commentator, but to thousands of "Dol-fans" he simply became their voice. For nearly 20 years, Mandich grew a massive following for his all-out support of the team and his signature call, "Awwww-right Miami!"

Friends described how tough Jim was in his battle with cancer. Despite receiving chemotherapy and radiation, Mandich called every Dolphins game last season.

Fittingly, the Dolphins opened up Sun Life Stadium last Wednesday so that thousands of fans could pay their respects. He is survived by his wife Bonnie and their three sons.

May we rejoice in the profound joy Jim brought to those privileged to know him. He will be missed by the thousands of fans who cheered him on the football field and later, listened to him on the radio. He will be sorely missed and never replaced.

CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S 63RD ANNIVERSARY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, and to mark the 6314 anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel.

Despite enduring decades of war and terror, Israel has emerged as a strong and vibrant democracy, a close U.S. friend and ally, and a global leader in technology, energy, and scientific innovation.

For me, as a Jew, ties to Israel are very personal. Growing up, I saved my money to buy tree certificates to help make the Israeli desert bloom. As a member of Congress, I continue to be a strong supporter of the State of Israel, of a vibrant U.S.-Israel relationship, and of a peaceful and secure future for Israel and the entire region.

The U.S.-Israel relationship, begun a mere minutes after Israel's founding, remains critically important to both our nations. Based on shared values and interests, this deep and abiding friendship is as important now as ever, in the face of international threats and a growing tide of delegitimization.

In February, I traveled to Israel with the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago. In addition to discussions about regional developments and critical security issues, I also had the opportunity to learn more about Israel's excellent social programs as well as cutting edge research into green technology. As with previous trips to Israel, I left with both great pride and a renewed hope for a lasting peace solution.

Today, we mark the 63rd anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel, our steadfast friend, ally, and partner, and we reaffirm the unbreakable bonds between our two countries.