EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO HY-CAPACITY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of Hy-Capacity, a remanufacturer of agricultural equipment in Humboldt, Iowa. This company was recently selected by the Small Business Commerce Association (SBCA) to receive the 2010 Best of Business Award.

The SBCA is a private sector organization that seeks to provide guidance and assistance to small businesses as they try to navigate their way through day-to-day business issues. The SBCA gives out the Best of Business Award annually to those local businesses who have demonstrated quality service to their customers and their communities, and in doing so, create or enhance a positive image of small businesses everywhere. Winners of this award are selected by a committee using a combination of statistical research, surveys, consumer rankings, and consumer reports. The award is given to the top five percent of small businesses across the country every year.

Hy-Capacity was established in 1978 and remanufactures a variety of parts for agricultural equipment, including water pumps, radiators, air conditioners, engine overhaul kits, and much more. Although headquartered in Humboldt, Hy-Capacity has 24 regional warehouses and 40 distributors throughout North America. In the words of the company's president Steve Olson, ''This award solidifies that our employees are best-in-class professionals, taking pride in taking care of our customers.''

I commend Hy-Capacity for their dedication to quality service and their accomplishments as a small business. Small businesses are crucial to the success of the American economy and are a lifeline for many Americans living in rural areas.

I know my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating Hy-Capacity for being selected to receive this award. I wish the company and its employees luck and success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF TAIWANESE PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU'S INAUGURATION

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the third anniversary of the inauguration of Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou on May 20, 2011. His efforts to improve the relationship between the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the People's Republic of China are most admirable.

Taiwan has become a stable beacon of democracy and is an important U.S. trade partner. We should seek to encourage and strengthen the U.S.-Taiwanese strategic relationship and recognize the importance of preserving peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait as a vital U.S. interest.

I would like to acknowledge President Ma's efforts and wish him all the best on the third anniversary of his inauguration.

CONGRATULATING TAIWAN'S PRESIDENT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou. May 20, 2011 marks the third anniversary of President Ma's inauguration as The Republic of China's (Taiwan) leader.

Not only should we congratulate President Ma, but we should also thank him for his great efforts at maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits.

Before President Ma took office, there was a great amount of tension between Mainland China and Taiwan. Then candidate Ma ran on a platform of easing tension with China and therefore allowing both nations to live in harmony with one another.

President Ma made good on his campaign promises and has created a better environment between the two countries than has ever been seen before.

The reason we should thank President Ma for reducing military conflict in the Western Pacific is because the United States does not need to engage in any more military fronts right now. We already have military hotspots in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya.

We appreciate all of President Ma's hard work and look forward to working with him for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 2011 RECIPIENTS OF THE McGOWAN COURAGE AWARD

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I always appreciate the opportunity to share positive stories about young people in my congressional district who overcome adversity. Today, I am pleased to share the stories of six such individuals.

Ashley Martin, Clear Fork High School. Ashley refuses to allow achondroplasia and diabetes to get in the way of working toward her goals to her fullest potential. She is very active in school and community activities—including 4–H, through which she has shown animals at the county fair and competed for Fair Queen. A National Honor Society member, she excels academically even while holding a part-time job. Ashley plans to attend Ohio Northern University and pursue her dream of becoming a pharmacist.

Benjamin Studer, Crestview High School. Ben has endured many surgeries and countless physical therapy sessions since his premature birth. He has triumphed over every challenge and setback through the years and lives independently in a group home. Ben is very active athletically, enjoying horseback riding, swimming, and riding his four-wheeler. In addition, he has worked for Richland Newhope Industries in the summer. His strength, determination, and compassion toward others are an inspiration to all who know him.

Keaton Fuller, Lexington High School. Keaton has earned an A/B average throughout his high school career despite needing some extra help in English and math courses. His enthusiasm, work ethic, and passion for learning have earned the respect of his teachers and peers. Even while maintaining this outstanding academic record and participating in the boys' track team, he works part-time at a car wash and runs his own lawn-mowing business. Keaton plans to attend North Central State College and one day become a physical therapy assistant.

Ian Pasheilich, Madison Comprehensive High School. Ian has worked through many autism-related difficulties throughout his life. He maintains a positive attitude as he deals with this disease and with the side effects of the medications he must take daily. He has earned the admiration of his teachers and fellow students for his perseverance and his high grade point average. Outside the classroom, Ian enjoys attending school sporting events, has starred in a number of school plays, and likes to engage in debates on politics, history, and literature.

Lauren Short, Mansfield Senior High. School. Lauren has shown immense strength and courage in dealing with the tragic deaths of her mother, stepfather, brother, and sister in a fire last year. Earlier this year, she lost her grandmother and great-grandfather as well. Despite these heartbreaking events, she has remained focused on her short- and long-term goals. Lauren, who has already taken her state board exams in cosmetology, plans to continue her education and become a certified massage therapist.

Luke Armstrong, Ontario High School. Despite the many challenges presented by cerebral palsy with spastic quadriplegia, Luke's attitude reflects his tremendous inner strength. He refuses to accept failure as an option, dedicating himself to his studies and his love of sports. His family and friends appreciate his outstanding sense of humor, independent spirit, and optimism—even in the face of the extensive physical therapy sessions he has undergone throughout his life. Luke plans to attend Wright State University upon graduation.

Mr. Speaker, the Rotary Club of Mansfield, Ohio, will present these six students with the McGowan Courage Award on May 17. I am proud to join the Rotary in acknowledging their significant achievements and wishing them continued success in everything they do.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT OF EASTERN OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 28 World War II veterans from eastern Oregon who will be visiting their memorial next Friday in Washington, DC through Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon. On behalf of a grateful state and country, we welcome these heroes to the nation's capital.

The World War II veterans on this flight are: John Ansen, U.S. Army Air Corps; Lawrence Bannon, U.S. Army; Clinton Beauchamp, U.S. Navy; Roy Bunting, U.S. Navy; Albert Buscio, U.S. Merchant Marine; Jack Cooper, U.S. Navy; Claude Davis, U.S. Army; Robert Falley, U.S. Navy; Melvin Fuller Sr., U.S. Navy & U.S. Army; Harry Hartung, U.S. Army; Dayton Herron, U.S. Army; Leroy Hills, U.S. Army; Frank Jackson, U.S. Navy; Roy Janiec, U.S. Navy; Jack Kinsey, U.S. Navy; Paul Lesher, U.S. Army; Robert Maxwell, U.S. Army; Walker Nicholson, U.S. Navy; Glenn Plato, U.S. Navy; Henry Potts, U.S. Navy; Pete Stride, U.S. Army; Raymond Swee, U.S. Army; William Switzer, U.S. Navy; Collins Tucker, U.S. Army; Robert Warner, U.S. Army; Jack Wilson, U.S. Army; Garland Wright, U.S. Army; and Lawrence Zufelt, U.S. Navy.

These 28 heroes join more than 63,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have journeyed from their home states to Washington, DC to reflect at the memorials built in honor of our nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these soldiers, sailors, and airmen who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country. I will be hosting a special forum on Capitol Hill next week for these highly distinguished Americans, and I'm very eager to thank them all in person.

CELEBRATING THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE INAUGURATION OF TAIWANESE PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, May 20, 2011 marks the third anniversary of the Inauguration of Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou.

Much has transpired in those 3 years. Wars continue to plague our society. However, in the Taiwan Strait, tensions have abated and much of the credit must be given to President Ma for the courageous efforts he has made to lessen the tensions between China and the Republic of China (Taiwan).

While protecting the interests of the people of Taiwan, President Ma has made marked progress in the dialogue between the People's Republic of China (mainland China) and the Republic of China (Taiwan), thereby advancing peace in the Pacific.

For this he is to be congratulated and commended and we wish him much continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO A-ONE GEOTHERMAL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate A-One Geothermal of Earlham, Iowa in recognition of their decade-long history as the leading geothermal installation company in the State.

A-One Geothermal has crafted a great reputation throughout Iowa and the Midwest over the past 10 years though groundbreaking techniques in the development of horizontal boring and a commitment to their community. A-One oversaw the successful installation of geothermal heating and cooling systems for many Iowa schools and has become the "go-to" company for geothermal problem projects. A-One has a global reach and Midwest roots with projects throughout Iowa and the Midwest in addition to the West Coast, Australia and China.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent such a successful company filled with such outstanding and hardworking Iowans. I know my colleagues in the U.S. Congress will join me in congratulating A-One and I wish them many more decades of success.

SUPPORTING TAIWAN'S MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, as a long-time friend of Taiwan in the United States Congress, and as a member of the 140-member strong bi-partisan Congressional Taiwan Caucus I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in supporting an issue I and my Taiwanese American constituents care deeply about.

I am a supporter of Taiwan's full membership in international organizations such as the United Nations. Why? Because I believe it is an anomaly that the country of Taiwan, with a population of 23 million, is not represented in the United Nations and its affiliated organizations.

I believe that we, the United States, instead of supporting "meaningful participation" for Taiwan in international organizations, should instead actively support and promote full membership for Taiwan in international organizations such as the WHO.

Health knows no boundaries. Diseases do not stop at the borders of countries. Over the years, Taiwan has been affected by the H1N1 flu. In 2003, Taiwan was struck by an outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS. A total of 60 people died.

It is therefore imperative that Taiwan joins the WHO as a full member, so that the 23 million people of Taiwan can and will have access to the highest level of health information and knowledge.

Not only that, but medical professionals in Taiwan will be able to fully contribute their extensive knowledge and expertise to the WHO, to the benefit of the entire global health community.

I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Taiwan's full and equal membership in the United Nations, and in all other international organizations including the World Health Organization.

HONORING JOSEPH A. TORMALA

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, that it is a pleasure and honor to pay tribute to Joseph A. Tormala of Chassell, who was born and raised in the Copper Country by his parents, Ken and Mary Tormala of Atlantic Mine. He attended schools in Stanton Twp., and graduated from Houghton High School in 1983. He joined the Marine Corps in 1983 and married his high school sweetheart Sheila (Alatalo) in 1984, and they have one child, Katrina.

Joe attended Marine boot camp and Infantry Training in California during the Beirut crisis of 1983 and was trained as a Huey & Cobra helicopter crew chief, and in marine security forces. He served in numerous deployments from 1985 through 1988 in Operation Northern Wedding and in missions to the Mediterranean and Caribbean regions. He served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and in Operation Fiery Vigil in the rescue, cleanup and evacuation of the Philippines during the eruption of Pinatubo. He left active duty in 1993 and moved back to the Copper Country.

As a civilian, Joe went on to complete his education with an Associate Applied Science degree from Vincennes University, and certifications in Forensic Science—Criminal Investigations, Certified Security Supervisor, Certified Protection Officer and FEMA Emergency Program Manager. He was Director of Campus Security for Suomi College/Finlandia University, Houghton CO. Special Deputy Sheriff, Hancock Reserve Police Officer, Chassell Township Fireman, and DNR Volunteer Conservation Officer.

He rejoined components of the Army and Marine Corps 1994–2004 and participated in training missions across the United States, deployed with Task Force Timberwolf in Central America and participated in Operation Enduring Freedom in security missions following the 9/11 attacks, until his mobilization and activation for 15 months in the Liberation of Iraq and Operation Iraqi Freedom I.

During his service in the Marine Corps and Army, Joe was decorated for Combat Action and received other awards for personal leadership, achievement and meritorious service; including the Purple Heart for wounds received in action in Iraq. His units were cited in Joint Meritorious Unit Awards, Valorous Unit Award, Navy Unit Commendations, Meritorious Unit Commendations, Navy Battle E, Navy Sea Service, Army Overseas, and other Service and Campaign Medals for his 3½ years spent overseas in five tours with Marine and Army Units.

He is a volunteer by nature and has applied his entire adult life to serving others in the military, public safety, veterans' groups, and non-profits. He has been active in veterans' affairs for 25 years, notably organizing the Keweenaw Detachment #1016, Marine Corps League and Copper Country Chapter #789 Military Order Purple Heart with Vietnam veterans Gary Mattson and Tom Heikkinen. Joe continues to serve as a volunteer Michigan CCP Firearms Instructor and U.S. Army Ambassador for CRSC/TSGLI claims. He is a Christian and man of faith in God. He serves his local church in many capacities, and he and his wife, with their dog, Sunny greatly enjoy wandering the wilderness of the U.P. of Michigan and across America. The Copper Country is greatly honored to have Joe as the Grand Marshal of the Sixth Annual Parade of Thanks in Michigan's Keweenaw.

RECOGNIZING THE 63RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 63rd anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel, declared on May 14, 1948. Israel has provided Jews from all over the world with the opportunity to reestablish and participate in a Jewish state and society in their ancient homeland, the Land of Israel, with the city of Jerusalem as its undivided capital. Not only is Israel home to many religious sites sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, but Israel has provided a refuge to Jews who survived the unprecedented horrors of the Holocaust and Jewish refugees who fled persecution around the world.

The people of Israel have established a pluralistic democracy that includes the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed. Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising in its Parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens.

Additionally, Israel has bravely defended itself from terrorist and military attacks repeatedly since independence. With thousands of rocket attacks from violent extremist groups in Gaza against Israeli civilian targets in recent years that have caused hundreds of casualties and have destroyed homes, schools, buildings, roads, power lines, and other significant infrastructure, Israel has stood strong. Even with the deaths of over 1,000 innocent Israelis over the last several years at the hands of murderous, suicide bombers and other terrorists, the people of Israel stand strong. Israel continues to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors and have signed landmark peace treaties and successfully established peaceful bilateral relations with neighboring Egypt and Jordan.

Moreover, Iran, which continues to reject Israel's right to exist as a nation, remains a continued threat to Israel's safety and security, both through its support of terrorist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah and through its ongoing efforts to acquire nuclear weapons.

A strong and valuable ally, the United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect. The United States share a deep affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally. Not only was the United States the first nation to offer de facto recognition, but did so only 11 minutes after the creation of the state of Israel.

In recognizing the 63rd anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel, I reaffirm enduring, bipartisan support for the alliance and friendship between the Governments and peoples of the United States and Israel, for Israel to exist as a democratic Jewish state, and for its right to defend itself. I look forward to continued cooperation in resolving future mutual challenges and extend warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate independence.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF CALLAHAN, FLORIDA

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Centennial Celebration of the Town of Callahan in Nassau County, Florida, which received its Charter on May 23, 1911. It is my privilege to represent the warm, friendly people in this small municipality. Although it is only 1.3 square miles in size, Callahan stands at the crossroads of major transportation links to Jacksonville and Georgia. For the surrounding rural, isolated farms, Callahan is town.

As with much of Northeast Florida, the railroad brought development and people to what had been wild, wet timber lands and home to the Timucuan Indians. Callahan was no exception. More than 150 years ago, David Yulee, owner of the Florida Railroad Company and Florida's first U.S. Senator, hired a seasoned railroad man named Daniel Callahan to prepare the land for the laying of railroad tracks across the middle of Nassau County. Many of Florida's pioneer family members worked on the rail for 23 cents a day. At that time, the economy mostly centered on the logging business although herds of cattle, horses and hogs roamed the still unfenced countryside as farmers and ranchers worked hard under the Florida sun.

During construction, a railroad station was built where the tracks cross Kings Road, now called U.S. 1. A post office soon followed. The Sharon Baptist Church was already there surrounded by farms. The railroad turned the sleepy settlement into a bustling rail camp, and a town was born. Years after Daniel Callahan had moved on to build other railroads, the people officially named the town in his honor.

Today, the historic train depot is home to the Greater Nassau County Chamber of Commerce and the West Nassau Historical Society. For the past several years it has hosted the Railroad Days Festival, where hundreds of folks come to enjoy small-town activities like parades, clowns, American flags, face painting, and ax throwing contests, and of course, model train displays in the lovingly restored old wood building. Also on site is a restored rail segment and caboose, a favorite of the children.

Although a significant retail district grew nearby the depot and a block of beautiful brick stores replete with balconies remains, Callahan's town center has moved slightly north from the railroad track to the intersection of A1A, Lem Turner Highway, and U.S. 1. Here several red brick government buildings, along with small shops—some national franchises but many local longtime businesses, continue to serve the folks surrounding the Town. Two restaurants have large local followings—The Pig and the Chicken House. If you want good barbeque and a cold glass of sweet tea, you can't find a better place than in Callahan.

Almost everyone in Callahan attends church, and church activities are the backbone of most weekly social events. But Callahan also boasts annual events, like the Blueberry Festival, the Northeast Florida Fair, the Rodeo, and the Christmas Parade that draw hundreds of visitors.

As we celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of this charming rural community in West Nassau County, I congratulate my good friend, Mayor Shirley Graham, the Town Council, and all who have made this occasion special. But I especially laud the townspeople and those who live just outside the town limits on their neighborliness, their can-do spirit, and small-town warmth. When I think of what makes up the heart and soul of America, I need look no farther than Callahan, Florida.

NATIONAL NURSING HOME WEEK

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize National Nursing Home Week, which began nationwide on May 8, and concludes on May 14th. This year's theme, ''Fulfilling the Promise,'' was selected to honor those who are serving others, thus adding value to life. National Nursing Home Week is a time to reach out to older Americans in these facilities who have given so much to our communities and country. They are our loved ones, our veterans, our teachers, nurses, friends, and much more.

It's also a time to better understand the valuable work of nursing home staff. They provide quality care day in and day out, focusing on person-centered care so that elderly and disabled residents can live life in a meaningful

way. All across America, nursing homes provide fulfilling places to work, employing millions of Americans even in these tough economic times. In West Virginia alone, nursing homes and other long term care facilities make up one of the state's largest industries and employers. These jobs make nursing homes a critical component of local and state economies. In West Virginia, they support an estimated $1.7 billion of the state's economic activity and $38.6 million in tax revenue.

As this year marks the first year that baby boomers will reach the age of 65, the critical role that long term care facilities play will only become more important. These facilities will be even more critical in states like West Virginia where we have the second highest percentage of citizens who are over the age of 65.

Let us all celebrate the critical work of nursing homes in caring for our nation's seniors, employing Americans and strengthening the economy. I ask all Americans to join me in celebrating National Nursing Home Week by taking part in local activities and ceremonies around the country.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JOE SANCHEZ, SUCCESSFUL LOS ANGELES BUSINESSMAN AND DEDICATED COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Joe Sanchez, a dedicated community activist, successful Los Angeles businessman and a dear friend of the Roybal family who passed away May 10 at the age of 77.

Born on June 2, 1933 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Joe's family moved to Los Angeles when he was eight years old following the outbreak of World War II.

As a teenager, he worked at Weber and Sons, a local discount grocery store in the Wall Street/Olympic area of Los Angeles. That job would be the start of his career in the wholesale grocery business. The discount retail grocery outlets he owned and operated included: La Quebradita grocery stores in East Los Angeles and Pico Rivera, which he co-owned with his sister and brother-in-law Dolores and Cal Soto; La Marketa in Stanton; and Civic Center Sales, originally located in Chinatown and later moved to Lincoln Heights. In addition, Joe served on numerous civic and industry boards. He founded the Mexican American Grocers Association in 1977 and was an active member of the Southern California Grocers Association.

But while Joe was an astute and successful businessman, his true passion was the pursuit of social justice for Mexican Americans, as well as other disenfranchised groups. For more than five decades, he used his businesses as a catalyst for social change and to help fund the social justice and political causes he cared most about. Joe advocated on behalf of the anti-war movement. He worked to end discrimination in hiring and job promotion, advance educational opportunities for Latinos, and increase the number of Mexican American elected officials and business owners.

During the United Farm Workers prolonged grape and lettuce boycotts, Joe collected truckloads of food for the striking farm workers.

Upon learning of Joe's passing, Arturo S. Rodriguez, president of the United Farm Workers of America, recalled, "During the most challenging and turbulent times of the farm worker movement, beginning in the 1960s and '70s, no one in the Latino community did more and could be counted on with greater consistency than Joe Sanchez. He was often the first person in the Chicano community to whom Cesar would turn when the farm workers needed help." A close friend, Cesar Chavez and his family often stayed in the Sanchez home when he was in Los Angeles.

In 1973, Mayor Tom Bradley appointed him to serve as a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners—the first Latino to hold such a position. He was elected to serve as President Pro Tem of the commission from 1973–76, and as Vice President from 1977–78. During his tenure, Joe pushed the LA Fire Department to stop discriminatory hiring practices against Mexican Americans, African Americans and Asians.

Under his leadership, Joe brought about a dramatic increase in the hiring of Latino firefighters, paramedics and civilian employees in the fire department from 67 to 300. Bilingual positions at the department increased markedly from 12 to 119. The department implemented a bilingual Emergency Training Program to teach firefighters emergency phrases in Spanish. A citywide study was conducted to assure equal services to all areas of Los Angeles and, for the first time, the department published fire prevention brochures in Spanish.

Genethia Hudley-Hayes, president of the Los Angeles Board of Fire Commissioners, said of Joe's contribution to the commission, "His was the first voice on the Fire Commission that spoke boldly, no matter the consequences, for access, equity and fair treatment for all of the men and women in the Los Angeles Fire Service."

In August 2010, Councilman Ed Reyes paid tribute to Joe with a bronze plaque at Fire Station No.1 in Lincoln Heights.

The plaque states that as a commissioner, Joe distinguished himself through his commitment to the goals of the Consent Decree, a 1974 court-ordered mandate that required the department to hire minorities, "thus reinforcing the principles of social and equal justice through the employment of all people regardless of race, color, creed or national origin."

In the decade following his service on the commission, Joe continued his quest for justice in the workplace. During the 1980s, Joe was the first person to publicly and financially support a discrimination lawsuit brought by a group of FBI officers who claimed they had been denied promotions because they were Hispanic. He was able to gather support in a community long wary of the agency for the controversial lawsuit, which the agents eventually won.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to all of Joe's contributions to the Los Angeles community, he was also a devoted husband, father, grandfather and even great grandfather. I ask my colleagues to please join me in extending our condolences to his wife, Laura Balverde Sanchez, and his entire family. Joe was an inspiration to all who knew him, and he will be greatly missed.

SUPPORT OF TAIWAN'S FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress and a friend of Taiwan, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Taiwan's full membership in the World Health Organization, WHO.

Since 2009, China has permitted Taiwan to participate in the annual summit of the WHO in Geneva on a restricted basis. This year's meeting will be held from May 16th to the 24th. While I certainly welcome Taiwan's participation in this important international body, I am also concerned about the restrictions that China has placed upon Taiwan's involvement.

First, Taiwan's role in the WHO has been restricted to that of "observer status." This means that Taiwan does not have the ability to vote, speak, or participate in deliberations—they can only sit and listen. I believe that as a sovereign state, with a population of 23 million people, Taiwan deserves full representation in the United Nations and its affiliated organizations. As such, Taiwan should be recognized as a full voting member of the WHO.

As we all know, infectious disease knows no borders. Taiwan was affected in 2003 by an outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and the 2009 outbreak of the H1N1 virus. These events demonstrate the important role Taiwan plays in global health and the Nation should be recognized as such.

Second, Taiwan is participating again this year as "Chinese-Taipei." I would prefer to see Taiwan recognized under its name "Taiwan" rather than as a subsidiary of China.

Lastly, I have grave concern with China's veto power over Taiwan's role on the international stage. Chinese approval should not be a prerequisite for Taiwanese participation in United Nations organizations, or any other international organization. Taiwan should not have to rely upon the goodwill of China to voice beyond its borders. Allowing this to become the international norm will undermine its current status as an independent, sovereign state.

To close, I believe the United States should amend its current policy of supporting "meaningful participation." I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Taiwan's full and equal membership in the WHO as well as other international organizations.

RECOGNIZING FAITH ANDRULOT—NATIONAL RECIPIENT OF EXCELLENCE IN NURSING AWARD

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Faith Andrulot, a national recipient of the Excellence in Nursing Award

from Secretary Eric Shinseki of the Department of Veterans Affairs on May 10, 2011.

Ms. Andrulot is a resident of Moberly, Missouri, and has been employed by the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital as a licensed practical nurse since 1994. After graduating from Ivy Tech State College in Bloomington, Indiana, Faith worked at Bloomington Hospital. Following her time there, she came to Columbia, Missouri, to the Truman Veterans' Hospital.

Faith has worked as a medical surgical nurse in the Virginia community and in the private sector, at the Community Living Center, in hospice care, specialty clinics, and Primary Care clinics. Ms. Andrulot has played a part in the Root Cause analysis team, helping to advance patient safety. In her free time, she works as a member of the LPN Standards Board and the Patient Aligned Care Team.

The Department of Veterans Affairs honors local recipients for the Excellence in Nursing Award. Ms. Andrulot was one of only 21 nurses chosen at the network level to progress to the national level. We recognize her today for her strong, team-oriented approach to improving the care of our nation's veterans. Her colleagues, husband, and three children are very proud of the work she has done to better her community.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Faith Andrulot on her great accomplishment of receiving this prestigious award.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF CLINTON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL COMMUNITY OUTREACH DIRECTOR DAN KEIFER

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize the dedicated service of Clinton River Watershed Council, CRWC, Community Outreach Director Dan Keifer. On May 18, 2011, Dan will retire after 10 years on the job with the watershed. Prior to the CRWC, Dan founded the Friends of Clinton River Trail, and remains an active member of the Oakland Land Conservancy and Challenge Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Without question, he has been a tireless advocate and supporter of water quality issues throughout Macomb and Oakland County. Despite the challenges, Dan has remained a vital team member of the CRWC, facing any problem head-on. He has done an exceptional job promoting the Clinton River, Lake St. Clair and supporting waterways in the area. He has successfully undertaken a public awareness campaign properly informing the people about the history and unique story of the watershed. His work has highlighted the importance of this wonderful natural resource and the urgency to protect and revive this pristine treasure which is literally in our backyards.

After joining the CRWC in 2002, Dan's devoted efforts have played a key role in getting people to take advantage of the numerous recreational opportunities available to them like kayaking, canoeing, fishing, hiking, biking, swimming and much much more. And he has been on the frontlines to maintain and enhance the bountiful habitats of the various species of fish and wildlife that call the watershed home by setting up countless cleanup events. These initiatives have helped improve the quality of life for residents and the overall environmental health of surrounding communities. Furthermore, a vibrant and clean waterway also has a tremendous economic impact on local businesses which depend on the watershed, like golf courses and apple orchards, just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, Dan has also been a strong leader by forming new relationships among various partners and stakeholders involved with the watershed. Whether it is the public or private sector, there is now a desire to open the line of communication to accomplish a common goal. His work has certainly advanced the mission of the Clinton River Watershed Council, which is to protect, enhance, and celebrate the Clinton River, its watershed, and Lake St. Clair.

As a lifelong boater and someone who has lived on the water my entire life, I have witnessed firsthand the great work performed by the CRWC. It has been my privilege to work with the CRWC and Mr. Keifer on numerous issues.

I commend Mr. Keifer for all his hard work and achievements during his tenure with the CRWC. I know Dan has always had our community's best interests at heart, which is evident by his lifetime of accomplishments. We are fully cognizant of the fact we are not doing our job if we do not provide a better future for our children and the next generation to follow.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my best wishes to Mr. Dan Keifer on this special occasion. He will be severely missed, but his presence will still be felt by those who continue to serve at the CRWC. I hope he enjoys his retirement and I thank him for his service to the citizens of the State of Michigan. His work is officially recognized and greatly appreciated.

HONORING MARY BUSTILLO DONOHUE

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my dear friend and longtime colleague, Mary Bustillo Donohue, on being honored by the Paramus Catholic High School Alumni Foundation for 31 years of dedication as a Spanish teacher and Chair of the Modern Language Department. Mary's list of accomplishments and causes to which she has devoted herself is as impressive as it is extensive. I am very fortunate and proud to have such a compassionate and hardworking individual as a member of my staff.

Mary was born on February 14, 1925 in Havana, Cuba, where she spent the first 8 years of her life until her family moved to New York City to escape the repressive Cuban government. Mary's passion for both education and civic involvement was instilled by her parents at an early age. She graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. and summa cum laude with an M.B.A. from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, New Jersey. Mary later pursued a Ph.D. in Spanish Literature at New York University, but the economic pressures of having five of her eight children in college during that time interrupted her studies and she was only able to complete 69 of the 72 credits required to obtain the degree. She became certified as a teacher and joined the faculty of Paramus Catholic Regional Boys High School, eventually becoming the Chair of the Modern Language Department and the school's first female administrator. She also served as an Adjunct Professor of Spanish Literature at Seton Hall University for 7 years.

Mary and her family moved to River Edge, New Jersey, where she quickly became involved in her church and in local political and civic causes. At St. Peter the Apostle Church, she was elected to serve on her parish's council, taught religious school, served as both a Lector and a Eucharist Minister, and became involved in various ministries. Mary joined the River Edge Democratic Club and went on to serve as Committeewoman for District 4 for 50 years. Mary was the first woman to ever be elected to the River Edge Council, where she served two terms. She was the first Hispanic-American ever elected to the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders. As a Freeholder, Mary's commitment to education was instrumental in creating the Bergen County Academies. She was elected to serve as a member of the Democratic National Committee during both of President Bill Clinton's terms in office, and was subsequently elected Chair of the DNC's Hispanic Caucus during that time. As a member of New Jersey's Hispanic Task Force, she helped empower and register Latino voters across the State. Under Governor Jim Florio, Mary served on New Jersey's Democratic State Platform Committee, drafting the component addressing environmental issues. In 1991, she ran as the Democratic candidate for New Jersey Senate in District 39, and although she did not win, her drive and desire to improve her community was hardly deterred. Mary is one of the founding members of the Latino American Democratic Association of Bergen County, LADA, an organization that was formed in 1993 and continues to grow today. She was appointed by Governor Christine Todd Whitman to the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission, where she led efforts to rename the River Edge Post Office Sub-station as the New Bridge Landing Post Office, to obtain State Park recognition for Historic New Bridge Landing, and to rename the North Hackensack, New Jersey, Transit Station as Historic New Bridge Landing at River Edge. Mary continues to serve devotedly as the Vice Chair of this commission.

As a member of my staff in Hackensack, Mary works tirelessly to assist constituents with immigration and citizenship issues. Even outside of her diligent efforts as a Congressional caseworker, Mary is always striving to serve others in her community—whether she is teaching Spanish to senior citizens in Teaneck, working to beautify River Edge, or volunteering on a local Democratic campaign, I am in awe of Mary's boundless energy and devotion to civic duty. And yet, despite Mary's lifetime of accomplishments—of which there are too many to list here in their entirety—her proudest achievement is the beautiful family she created with her loving husband, Jerry Donohue. Throughout their 57 years of marriage, until his passing in 2003, Jerry and Mary remained steadfastly supportive of each

other and madly in love. Together, they raised eight wonderful children, who have blessed them with 17 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren, with two more great-grandchildren on the way.

Mr. Speaker, today I have the privilege of recognizing Mary Bustillo Donohue for her extraordinary work as an educator and a lifetime of devotion to helping others. Mary is an inspiration to all who meet her, and I cannot thank her enough for all that she has done for so many and that she continues to do.

RECOGNIZING SENIOR AIRMAN MARK ANDREW FORESTER

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize a fallen hero, Senior Airman Mark Andrew Forester, from my hometown of Haleyville, Alabama.

Mark was killed in action on September 29, 2010, while so valiantly trying to rescue a wounded comrade, SGT 1st Class Calvin Harris; Mark ran into direct enemy fire, without regard of his own life, in an attempt to pull his comrade back to safety. Both died on that day, and only earlier on that morning they had taken a beautiful photo together.

Mark was a highly decorated Airman who gave that last full measure of devotion and received many honors, such as Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star with Valor. He was so very loved by all of the men in his unit, and his beautiful family.

This coming Saturday, May 14, marks what would have been his 30th birthday. In recognition of that occasion I ask that a tribute to Mark be inserted in the RECORD, written by Bert Caswell, at the behest of Mark's fellow airman George Earhart who was in battle with him on that day. Airman Earhart was inspired by Mark, that Mark was the greatest person he has ever met, and was greatly impacted by his love of all the children in theater.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mark and his family, as they continue to mourn his loss.

DEVOUT

All In . . .
All in this our Country of Tis of Thee . . .
There are such brave hearts, such magnificent souls such men as these!
Such Strong Bold Men, who all in Strength In Honor do so believe!
Freedom Fighters who so live and die . . . All with their most sacred battle cries!
Who are all so Devout!
All in and out, as all in their most magnificent hues!
As they all so stand so very strong, all for that old Red, White, and Blue!
And all, with families who but live so close!
As on each new morning, their love but means the most!
Who now must so live all in such pain, and in such heartache to remain . . .
As their most swollen tears upon theirface fall like the rains . . .
As were you Mark, so Devout! A man for all seasons, all throughout!
As God, Country, and Family . . . were, but what you were so really all about!
And, ah yes you were but our Father's Son . . .
As why now, from up in Heaven his tears for your selflessness so run . . .
All because of your most sacred gift, your most precious life as was all of this . . .
As why Mark, you were so Devout!
As a hero who so marched off to war . . . All for God and Country, as was your burden bore!
And oh what a magnificent shadow, you'd so cast . . .
So striking there, all in uniform as now etched upon our hearts to last!
With that Bama hat upon your head, as your most brilliant smile to all so said . . .
So said, that was a smile that could have launched a thousand ships . . .
As why when we so see your picture, oh how the pain it gives!
For you were a lover of life, all in your most sacred path so bright!
And all of those children that you've so touched, and made laugh on those nights . . .
All in the midst of dark evil war, as to them your warmth and love meant so much more!
Bringing, such smiles to all of their faces . . . now carried within their hearts in all places!
As, such a magnificent warrior who so lived and died . . . by these words of pride!
Strength in Honor, as why on this morning we now so cry . . .
As we found out all about your actions the day you died!
Devout!
Shining, so brightly . . . Airman Forester, within and out!
So Brilliant . . . So Brilliant . . . as was your life no doubt!
A beacon of hope, for all of mankind as was your true amount!
Showing us all to what new heights a soul can climb!
All in your glory, and such selflessness we now so find!
Honor, Duty, Country, God, and Family . . .
As it was you Mark, who so ran into that face of hell!
But, to save your Brother In Arms Calvin . . . as we will all remember well!
Because all in that moment of truth, as your most noble heart gave us all the proof . . .
That, you were so Devout!
As you had done so many times before!
All for what was real! And what is true! As why on this day, our hearts so break for you . . .
As why all our tears so flow, whenever we so think of you so! And how you were, so Devout . . .
And thinking of all of your love ones, pain so now . . .
And all of your Brothers In Arms, who now with you must now so live without!
For in your lifetime Mark, you so soared!
High above, as an Eagle . . . as an Airman, In The United States Air Force!
As all across Alabama this night . . .
As you lay your head down to rest, and all of those tears you must fight . . .
And to their families, who now so live without . . .
Take comfort, all in those souls that Mark has so blessed!
As comes a gentle rain, as our Lord's tears wash down upon you to ease your pain . . .
And upon you will remain, until up in Heaven you all meet once again . . .
And you won't have to cry anymore . . .
For Mark is but an Angel in flight, to watch over us all this night!
All in the Army of our Lord, to turn the darkness into the light!
Who, are Devout!

A TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 278

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 278 of Osage, Iowa. The Unit has created a program entitled "Merit Awards" in which the unit awards the amount of $300 to each successful applicant graduating with the senior class of Osage Community School District. Unit 278 is devoted to assisting students in their pursuit of higher education and I am honored to submit for the record the following commentary on the program in Osage.

"American Legion Auxiliary Unit 278 and the Merit Award Program:

The Osage American Legion Auxiliary Unit 278 is very much attuned to the importance of education and financial needs of students in attending post high school institutions of learning. Our unit had developed a process called "Merit Awards" whereby we raise monies to be used for the student applicants in furthering their education.

Each year we hold an event (Merit Award luncheon and bake sale) for the community. Proceeds from the event are used entirely for Merit Awards. All food for the event is donated by members and prepared at the site. In addition, members are asked to either donate items for the bake sale or contribute $5.00 in lieu of a baked donation. Our unit boasts 378 members, 35 of whom are Junior members. One of the highlights of this event is a drawing for an American flag and flag pole which is installed by the Legion free of charge to the winner.

Each year applications are made available to the Osage School district for graduating seniors. Our unit has a committee to review applications and determine the successful applicants. This year we had 10 applicants with a Merit Award in the amount for $300. Two of those awards will be made by contributions from two families, one honoring one of our auxiliary members and the other in memory of one of our deceased members.

Presentation of these Merit Awards is made by a member of our unit at the Osage High School Award Assembly in May. Unit 278 takes great pride in our efforts to communicate to students the importance of education and throughout the year we participate in activities involved in education."

Mr. Speaker, as you can see the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 278 is a great example of the commitment of patriotic Americans to their community. I am honored to represent them and all of Osage in the U.S. Congress. I know all my colleagues will join me in congratulating them for a job well done.

GEORGE WASHINGTON BOY'S SWIM TEAM

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the George Washington Patriots

Swim Team for winning the 2011 state championship. The past three years have amounted to a great deal of success for the Patriot swimmers, winning the 2009 state championship and coming in as runner-up last year. For a few seniors, this marks the end of a great high school career and I want to congratulate them as well as the rest of the team for their time and hard work.

It takes a strong group of young men to maintain the drive and dedication they have shown season after season. I want to thank their coach, Melissa Case, for instilling such a focus in her team. It certainly has not gone unnoticed.

These individuals should be very proud of their accomplishment and represent the highest level of George Washington High School student athletes. I wish them the best and know they will display the same level of character in their future pursuits as they did in the pool.

RECOGNIZING 50TH JUBILEE OF THE NAVAL AVIATION MEMORIAL CHAPEL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Naval Aviation Memorial Chapel on its 50th Jubilee.

In 1961, Naval Air Station Pensacola, the "Cradle of Naval Aviation," dedicated the Memorial Chapel during a celebration of the 50th anniversary of Naval Aviation. Today, during this centennial year of Naval Aviation, it is fitting that we recognize the 50th anniversary of the Naval Aviation Memorial Chapel.

As a testimony to the love of God and Country that is shared among many in the Northwest Florida military community, the chapel continues to stand as a place of worship, guidance and support to military families. In the 50 years since its opening, thousands of members of the Armed Forces have been joined in marriage, and in celebration of its golden anniversary, all couples who were married at the chapel have been invited to return and renew their vows. John "J.R." and Sharon Arthur, the first couple married at the chapel, will return this weekend to make the ceremonial walk up the aisle on behalf of all who have been married there over the years.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Naval Aviation Memorial Chapel and all the couples returning to renew their vows this weekend. My wife Vicki and I wish them all the best. May the Spirit of the Lord continue to bless the chapel. I am certain this anniversary is the first of many milestones to come.

REMARKS HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. JAMES MONGAN

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, last week the health world lost one of its most respected, admired, and accomplished champions with the death on May 3 of Dr. James Mongan.

Jim's last professional position was as president of Partners Health Care in Boston, following his service as president of the Massachusetts General Hospital, a position he assumed in 1996. His tenure there was heralded for remarkable achievements and progress.

But for those of us who benefitted from his advice and experience in Washington, this was only the latest in a series of positions in which Jim worked tirelessly to increase access to health care services, to ensure that all Americans have health insurance, and to innovate and improve the quality and effectiveness of our health care delivery system.

In the early days of his career in Washington, Jim was the first doctor to serve as professional staff to the Senate Finance Committee. He went on to work at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare with Secretary Joe Califano, and then in the Carter White House, where he headed efforts to enact a national health insurance plan in his role as Associate Director for Health on the domestic policy staff.

After leaving Washington, Jim became the chief executive officer of the Truman Medical Center, a public safety net institution in Kansas City, Missouri, and Dean of the University of Missouri-Kansas City medical school. His work as a leader in academic medicine, in delivery system reform, and in bringing services to the uninsured and low-income, was widely known and respected.

During all his many years away from Washington, Jim's keen interest in public policy and the goal of expanded heath care coverage never flagged. He was a frequent and insightful witness before many Committees in Congress. His service as a Member on many advisory boards was highly sought, including service on the Prospective Payment Advisory Commission (a predecessor to MedPAC), on the board of the American Hospital Association, on the board of the Kaiser Family Foundation, and as a member of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured from its inception in 1991. He also served as a member of the board of the Commonwealth Foundation and the Chair of the Commonwealth Commission on High Performance Health Systems.

His leadership and participation in all of these areas was a reflection of the value that was placed on his experience, his knowledge, and his sage advice. He could be depended on to cut through to the heart of the problem, and to offer pithy, practical and wise counsel.

Jim was an instrumental partner in achievement of the health care reform system in Massachusetts, an achievement of which he was proud for its impact on his own State, and which helped serve as the impetus for the long-sought achievement of health care reform for all American.

In 2009, he co-authored Chaos and Organization in Health Care, a book that was heralded as "the single most informative and absorbing examination of what is wrong with the U.S. health care system, and what to do about it." It was an accurate reflection of the interests and work that dominated his entire career.

Jim was a wise and kind person. He served as friend, mentor and advisor for more people in Washington and the health care world than we can count. By all of us, he will be missed.

IN HONOR OF VERA M. ANDRYCZYK

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Vera M. Andryczyk on her tireless efforts on behalf of the Ukraine-American community and her recognition by the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Federation of America.

Vera's outstanding record of service and accomplishments makes her most worthy of this honor. She is a founding member of the Ukrainian Human Rights Committee and the Ukrainian Federation of America, and she serves on the Board of Directors and as Vice President of Public Relations for the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center. In addition, she serves on the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian American Relief Committee.

All of these positions have allowed Vera to serve her fellow Ukrainian-Americans, strengthen U.S.-Ukrainian relations and assist Ukraine in its effort to become a strong and vibrant democracy. As part of her ongoing commitment, she also earned participation on President George W. Bush's official delegation to the inauguration of President Viktor Yuschenko. Always looking for additional opportunities, she has also served as a member of Ukrainian Women's League of America and she was one of the first to organize help to the victims of the Chernobyl disaster.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Vera M. Andryczyk on the occasion of the recognition she is being accorded by the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Federation of America and for her indefatigable efforts to support, assist and serve the Ukrainian-American community.

ASSAD MUST GO

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, the outrages perpetrated by Syrian President Bashar Assad against his own people have laid bare his regime's total lack of legitimacy. The shelling of Homs evokes memories of the 1982 massacre at Hama, in which his father ordered the Syrian army into the rebellious city, killing up to 40,000 people.

After the elder Assad died in 2000, the new president, in interviews with western journalists, made several cautious statements that led many Syrians to believe that their new president would be willing to take at least the first steps towards democracy in their ancient land. Indeed, the first months of the new regime saw a period of intense political and social debate in Syria which continued to some degree until the fall of 2001, when the government sharply reversed course and ended what had become known as the Damascus Spring.

Similarly, others saw his succession and the September 11 attacks as an opportunity to coax Syria into playing a more constructive regional role, especially in Lebanon, and as a chance to widen the circle of Arab-Israeli

peace. As with the domestic opening, this too proved fleeting and illusory. Tentative Syrian cooperation in the opening months of the campaign against al Qaeda after 9/11 did not last and, in 2005, Syrian intelligence officers joined with Hezbollah in murdering Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Harriri and provoking a war with Israel in the summer of 2006. In Iraq, Syria worked with Iran to supply arms to radical Shiite militias, even as the country sought to join its ally in the pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Now the Assad regime has turned on its own people, who have been inspired by their fellow Arabs in Tunisia, Egypt and elsewhere to rise up to demand their rights. As Americans and as the custodians of a great democracy that was forged in revolution, we have a special obligation to support and nurture the aspirations of others who seek to secure for themselves and their posterity the blessings of liberty.

We in Congress must use every diplomatic and economic tool at our disposal to end this dictatorship and I urge President Obama to support the Syrian people in their quest for an end to the corruption and brutality in the Assad regime.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THREE VETERAN MONUMENTS

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three Veteran monuments in my hometown of Palm Springs, California—the ''Desert Fliers Command Distinguished Flying Cross Wall of Honor,'' ''On A Wing and A Prayer Missing Man Monument,'' and ''Freedom.''

The ''Desert Fliers Command Distinguished Flying Cross Wall of Honor'' was dedicated on November 11, 2004, and is located at the Palm Springs Air Museum. The Desert Fliers Command is a group of airmen who now live in the Coachella Valley and have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for bravery in air combat. This stunning black marble monument stands nearly seventeen feet and has two wings engraved with the name and rank of the Desert Fliers Command members, branch of service and rank. It sits in the center of a twelve-foot round platform named the ''Walk of Honor'' in which there are bricks etched with names of fallen airmen.

The ''On a Wing and a Prayer Missing Man Monument'' was dedicated on November 11, 2006, and is located at the entrance of Gate 1 at the Palm Springs International Airport. This beautiful monument, which is an actual wing of a Navy Aircraft, stands straight up with one side of the wing listing the names of the members of the Desert Fliers Command. The wing tip light is lit at all times and is named the ''Eternal Light.'' It is intended to serve as a beacon for all missing airmen to find their way home.

The ''Freedom'' monument was dedicated on November 11, 2010, and is located at the Palm Springs Air Museum. It is the actual propeller of a World War II B–24 Aircraft standing atop a twenty-four inch base that recognizes each branch of service, as well as Distinguished Flying Cross recipient Joseph Foster, Lieutenant Colonel United States Air Force Retired.

The artists who inspired and created these important monuments are Lee Stanley—Lieutenant Commander United States Naval Reserve Retired, recipient of two Distinguished Flying Crosses and nine Air Medals—and his loving wife Pita.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope these memorials serve as powerful reminders of how our nation's liberty and justice has been preserved by the dedication of our armed forces. May their patriotic spirit and devotion to our nation continue to inspire Americans for generations to come. While no single tribute can fully honor their sacrifice, these memorials offer a chance for our community to stand together in honoring the men and women who have fought under the Stars and Stripes. It is with great pride that I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing these important Veteran memorials.

TRIBUTE TO THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH FLINT TABERNACLE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, May 15th, the South Flint Tabernacle will celebrate 80 years of bringing the Word of God to the people of Genesee County. The congregation will join together on that day to express their gratitude for the multiple blessings bestowed upon them by Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Reverend John McLaughlin founded South Flint Tabernacle in 1931. Several months later he turned the church over to Reverend Albert A. Abbey. Reverend Abbey remained as the pastor for the next 35 years. During this time the church relocated to its current site in Burton, Michigan. Due to an expanding congregation the church is planning to relocate to a larger facility in the near future. The Reverend Robert E. Henson has been the Pastor since 1979. Our community has grown spiritually because of Pastor Henson. I am a beneficiary of his deep faith and love of God and his creatures.

The dynamic congregation is active in over 50 different types of ministry including Home Friendship Groups. South Flint Tabernacle's Statement of Purpose is to pray, proclaim the Word of God, to win and mature disciples of Jesus Christ. Through their commitment to exalting Jesus Christ through lifestyle, worship and ministry, the congregation grows stronger in their relationship with God.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating South Flint Tabernacle as they celebrate 80 years of spiritual, meaningful, inspirational worship and ministry. The vibrant prayer life of this congregation has made South Flint Tabernacle a landmark in the community. I pray they continue to spread the Word of God through their prayers, actions, example, ministry and worship for many, many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on May 5, 2011, I inadvertently cast a ''yea'' vote for H.R. 1230. I intended to vote ''nay.''

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. BYRON J. GROSS

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Byron J. Gross for his exceptional military service to the United States during World War II. On May 25th, 2011, the Honor Flight program will recognize Dr. Gross along with other World War II veterans at the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC for answering the call of service to our country in a time of dire peril.

In 1942, when his country needed him, Dr. Gross did not hesitate—he left his private dental practice and immediately joined the Army medical corps. In the service, he went above and beyond his assigned duties, demonstrating extraordinary patriotism and a tireless commitment to service. He was recognized for his outstanding achievements and promoted to Captain before his honorable discharge in 1946.

Dr. Gross was initially stationed stateside in Wyoming at Ft. Francis E. Warren. He then transferred to Camp Phillips in Salina, Kansas where, in addition to his regular duties in the dental clinic, he was a bivouac officer. In 1943, Dr. Gross was sent overseas to treat enlisted personnel and officers, as well as supervise the set-up, personnel, and day-to-day operations of dental laboratories based in England, France, and Germany.

Once stationed in England, Dr. Gross witnessed the devastating blitzkrieg of London which literally shook the Cumberland hotel where he was billeted with other military personnel. He vividly recalls witnessing, on D-Day, the swarms of American planes flying over Grimm's Ditch near Stonehenge in route to Germany. He remembers the sky appearing black as a seemingly never-ending wave of warplanes and airplanes towing gliders headed toward their appointed bombing mission.

The momentousness of the events in which Dr. Gross and the other servicemen and women took place cannot be overstated. Quite simply, they saved the world. We owe them a debt that can never be repaid.

Dr. Gross completed his tour of duty in 1946 and returned to the United States, where he resumed his private practice until he retired in 1990 at age 75. He is currently living in St. Louis and will turn 97 on this July 4th—a date which uniquely symbolizes his enduring love for his country.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Dr. Gross for his tremendous patriotism and courage during such an important moment in history. I ask my colleagues to join me now in thanking him for his service to his country.

HONORING MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mt. Zion Baptist Church of the City of Madison, Wisconsin, on the historic occasion of its 100th anniversary.

Since 1911, Mt. Zion Baptist Church has been a vital organization in the Madison community.The Madison area is truly fortunate to have such a wonderful church continually working to better the community. Over the past 100 years, Mt. Zion has not only offered spiritual guidance, but also opened its doors to the community, expanding and evolving its services to meet the needs of those it serves.

In its first 100 years, Mt. Zion Baptist Church has provided a legacy of pastoral leadership. Reverend Joseph Washington, pastor from 1927 to 1965 and Reverend Joe Dawson, pastor from 1955 to 1985, did much to shape both the church and the community. That dedication to both congregation and community was further exemplified by the leadership of Reverend James Wright, who served Mt. Zion as associate minister from 1960 to 1984 and as senior pastor from 1990 to 1995. He also served the entire Madison community as Director of the Madison Equal Opportunities Commission. That rich tradition continues today under the leadership of Reverend Richard L. Jones, Sr.

Beyond offering a tradition of strong and inspirational pastoral guidance, Mt. Zion Baptist Church works tirelessly to give back to the community. Today, Reverend Richard Jones ensures that Mt. Zion does all it can to feed the hungry and clothe the poor, and work to better our community through scholarships, tutors, and many other forms of charity work. Mt. Zion is always extending a helping hand to its neighbors and all those in need.

The motto of Mt. Zion Baptist Church is "Building up Reaching out," and this ideal is personified by the congregation at Mt. Zion. Every day since 1911, Madison area residents have enjoyed the service and guidance provided by the Church.

Today, I am humbled to join the congregation of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, the residents of the City of Madison, the people of the State of Wisconsin, and all citizens of the United States in recognizing, honoring, and sincerely thanking Mt. Zion Baptist Church and its faithful followers for their selfless works and tireless commitment for the past 100 years.

A TRIBUTE TO IOWA PEACE CORPS MEMBERS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 17 Peace Corps Volunteers from Iowa's 4th Congressional District. These Iowans represent more than 50 years of service through their efforts overseas to promote peace while serving their country.

These men and women are promoting peaceful international relations through the Peace Corps, which was established on March 1, 1961, and has since facilitated more than 200,000 volunteers promoting peace in nearly 140 host countries.

I would like to take this moment to formally recognize Jill E. Anderson, Katie J. Angell, Brian G. Baskerville, Brittany N. Bermudez, Anna C. Cowan, Jugeswar A. Dowerah, Anse A. Dykstra, Sean C. Fredericks, Mary Kate L. Hart, Kenneth W. Hood, Jessi M. LeClear Vachta, Tyler J. LeClear Vachta, Kyndra A. Lundquist, Alan T. McDonald, Owen G. McMullen, Sarah L. Smiley, and Marcus T. Walton for their incredible service.

I applaud each and every one of these men and women—the next generation of leaders in Iowa and this nation—for their hard work and accomplishments, and I am proud to represent them and their families in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues will join me in congratulating them and wishing them well as they continue to serve those in need at home and abroad.

NORTHERN IRELAND ELECTIONS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, with the recent celebration of Easter and the results of the May 5th Assembly elections in Northern Ireland, there is no better time for those in Northern Ireland and members of the Irish Diaspora around the world to renew their commitment to peace and power-sharing in Northern Ireland.

With some areas gaining new representation, and some choosing to reelect their leaders, we are reminded of the need for constructive political discourse and peaceful debate about the issues that are of greatest concern to the people of Northern Ireland.

The 1998 Good Friday agreement highlighted a commitment to "exclusively peaceful and democratic means" and this example should be continued to be followed every day.

Irish Americans and all Americans can continue to show their support for a peaceful political process and the importance of such an agreement will be highlighted later this month with the President's visit to Ireland.

The two leading parties, the Democratic Unionists and Sinn Fein, have had both of their leaders show public support for continuing peaceful negotiations and represent political parties that have pledged to work together.

They have realized that even though their parties may have differing views on certain issues, it does not immediately preclude them from working together. This is a lesson from which we can all learn.

Recently, Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams released a statement regarding not only the importance of a commitment to peace by the Irish, but also by Irish Americans.

The future of Northern Ireland depends on renewing a commitment to peace and continuing to value the opinions and thoughts of all those that contribute to political and community discussions.

It is critical that the U.S. remain involved in the issues of Northern Ireland. We can work with the Irish to secure a future where power can continue to be shared amongst parties, where differing points of view are heard and respected, and where differences of opinions are not met with violence and death, but with open minds and hearts.

HONORING ITBD

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Central Connecticut State University's Institute for Technology and Business Development (ITBD), which is being inducted into the Connecticut Business Hall of Fame. Since its inception in 1986, ITBD has provided business and aspiring entrepreneurs with various support services to help them start and grow successful companies throughout Connecticut.

For nearly a quarter century, ITBD has been driven by its mission to help Connecticut businesses and their employees meet the demands of the global economy. To that end, the Institute, located in the heart of my district in downtown New Britain, has offered a full array of employee training courses, manufacturing process improvement, government procurement assistance, and small business development and conferencing services. Its business incubation program has provided dozens of start-up companies with a cost-effective means to grow their fledgling businesses. Several of these one-time incubator clients are now thriving companies that employ scores of people across the state.

Throughout its existence, ITBD has partnered with various community organizations to work collaboratively in achieving its goals. From the state's five workforce boards, to several chambers of commerce, to various regional planning agencies and community service organizations, ITBD has actively engaged a litany of organizations in the furtherance of its efforts to assist the business community and Connecticut's workforce.

While the State of Connecticut and the entire nation strive to recover from the Great Recession, ITBD continues to focus on helping Connecticut companies and their employees prosper in the global marketplace. Its commitment to excellence and service to the business community is reflective of the leadership of the President of Central Connecticut State University, Dr. Jack Miller, and Richard C. Mullins, Jr., Executive Assistant to the President.

I want to thank ITBD for all that they have done over the past 25 years, and I am pleased to congratulate them on their induction into the Connecticut Business Hall of Fame.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MARY'S STAR OF THE SEA PARISH

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of St.

Mary's Star of the Sea Parish in Bayonne, New Jersey.

In 1860 Father Callano was entrusted with establishing a small Catholic Church in Bayonne to be called St. Mary's Star of the Sea.

Since its humble beginnings on Evergreen Street to its current location on 14th street in Bayonne, it has been a place of worship and home for residents of Bayonne and beyond since 1860.

Monsignor Lawrence Miller was named Pastor of St. Mary in 1989, and has since led with piousness and confidence as the church and the community have changed over the years.

Since the beginning of his term, Monsignor Miller has worked to engage the community in church life, particularly its youth.

Because of his efforts, there has been an increase in youth ministry members, and a Pee Wee Basketball Program was established through the church.

He currently is on the advisory board of All Saints Catholic Academy, works with 8th grade religion classes, is chaplain for the Knights of Columbus, and works at a local soup kitchen, which he helped found.

His leadership has been steadfast and no doubt is a reflection of the vibrant parish of St. Mary's and the community it has supported for 150 years.

TRIBUTE TO FRESNO SHERIFF'S DEPUTY JOEL WAHLENMAIER

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor fallen Fresno Sheriff's Deputy Joel Wahlenmaier.

Deputy Joel Wahlenmaier was born in Bakersfield, California on June 3, 1960. Joel grew up in Fresno, California and attended local schools, including Reedley College. Joel married Beverly Barnett on April 23, 1983. They had two children, Amy Wahlenmaier and Austin Wahlenmaier.

Deputy Wahlenmaier was hired as a Deputy Sheriff by the Fresno Sheriff's Office, in Fresno, California on June 15, 1998. He had various assignments that included patrol, courts, robbery/property detectives and the homicide unit. Deputy Wahlenmaier loved his collateral assignment to the Search and Rescue team. His last assignment, at his end of watch, was the Homicide Unit. He was selected to that unit on February 18, 2008.

Deputy Wahlenmaier had a true passion for his work, particularly Search and Rescue, but was first and foremost a supportive husband and attentive father. His end of watch came on February 25, 2010 while serving a search warrant as a Homicide Detective.

Deputy Wahlenmaier is survived by his beloved wife Bev; daughter Amy; son Austin; parents, Arthur and Patricia Wahlenmaier; sister, Natalie and her husband, Jim Tomajan; brother Tyler and his wife, Genifer; father-in-law and mother-in-law Bruce and Betty Barnett; brother-in-law and sister-in-law Mike and Barbie Turner; two nieces; and four nephews.

ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE IMMUNIZATIONS FOR VETERANS

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, last year I introduced the "Access to Appropriate Immunizations for Veterans Act of 2011." I'm proud to reintroduce this bill in the 112th Congress which I believe would help advance the goal we all share of promoting lifelong health for the men and women who fought for our freedom.

While the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, health care system is doing an admirable job of caring for those who bore the burden of combat, continual reform is needed to ensure the care veterans receive represents the most up-to-date practices and procedures.

According to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control, CDC, each year approximately 70,000 adult Americans die from vaccine-preventable diseases. Influenza alone is responsible for over one million ambulatory care visits, 200,000 hospitalizations and 30,000 deaths.

Many of our veterans who are in the "high-risk" category of contracting vaccine-preventable diseases—including those with HIV, Hepatitis C, and substance use disorder—are enrolled in the VA health care system and could particularly benefit from receiving vaccinations.

Commendably, the VA has protocols in place that recommend vaccines as protection against deadly viruses. However, VA only has established performance measures for two vaccines, making it unclear if protocols are being routinely enforced for all CDC recommended vaccines.

The tremendous value performance measures have regarding the increased utilization and effectiveness of vaccination distribution is evidenced by VA's own application of performance measures for the influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations. When these performance measures were initially applied, VA saw vaccination rates rise respectively from 27 percent and 26 percent to 77 percent and 80 percent. It also resulted in a 50 percent decline in pneumonia hospitalization rates.

The legislation I am introducing today would expand VA performance measures to cover all vaccinations recommended by the VA and CDC and ensure that veterans receive appropriate immunizations at the time suggested by the CDC. It would also require VA to report to Congress on their progress in supporting vaccinations in the veteran population.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join with me in cosponsoring the Access to Appropriate Immunizations for Veterans Act of 2011. This legislation would ensure that our veterans are receiving timely and suitable access to vaccines and prevent those under the care of the VA from being unnecessarily exposed to vaccine preventable diseases.

THE FUTURE OF TAIWAN'S NATIONAL SECURITY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the future of Taiwan. I have been a long-time supporter of Taiwan and hope that my colleagues and I will continue to improve relations not only between the United States and Taiwan but between Taiwan and the international community. All Americans should be proud that Taiwan and the United States have enjoyed a strong and durable relationship. Taiwan is one of our largest trading partners and the cultural exchanges between our two peoples are as vibrant as they have ever been. Taiwan has stood shoulder to shoulder with the United States to combat the scourge of global terrorism; and the people of Taiwan have always given generously in our greatest times of need with monetary contributions to the Twin Towers Fund, Pentagon Memorial Fund and through offer of humanitarian assistance to victims of Hurricane Katrina. Taiwan and the United States are not merely allies; we are friends and partners in the truest sense of the words.

But, I think it would be fair to say that Taiwan's future is uncertain. Just yesterday, Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou took part in a video conference with the Center for Strategic and International Studies to discuss Taiwan's vision for the future of the Republic of China's National Security. I include a copy of President Ma Ying-jeou's speech into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. And I urge my colleagues to read the remarks because whatever the future holds of Taiwan, I believe that the people of Taiwan deserve to have a voice in shaping that future.

BUILDING NATIONAL SECURITY FOR THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

President Hamre, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning!

It gives me great pleasure to be addressing my friends at the Center for Strategic and International Studies once again. We last met two years ago on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, a milestone in the history of the Republic of China on Taiwan. And this year, after a long journey of blood, toil, tears and sweat, the Republic of China is achieving a greater milestone, its centennial anniversary. This year also marks the third year of my presidency. Therefore, it is time I shared with you how I am building three lines of defense for the ROC's national security, so as to ensure its longevity for many more centuries to come. These three lines of defense are institutionalizing the Cross-Strait rapprochement, enhancing Taiwan's contributions to international development and aligning defense with diplomacy.

THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE: INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CROSS-STRAIT RAPPROCHEMENT

The Cross-Strait rapprochement that began three years ago continues to bear fruit and increase regional peace and stability. We witness this in so many aspects of our society. The arrival of nearly three million mainland Chinese visitors has created a tourism boom in Taiwan almost 10 times than before. The increase in Cross-Strait trade also boosted Taiwan's total trade volume to a record high of 526 billion US dollars in 2010. Since the Cross-Strait Judicial Mutual Assistance Agreement was signed in

2009, a joint crackdown on Cross-Strait crimes by the police forces of both Taiwan and mainland China has seen more than 100 fugitives repatriated to Taiwan, up 50% from before, and has cut cases of fraud in Taiwan by more than a quarter. And in education, more than 5,600 mainland exchange students studied in Taiwan's universities in 2010, paving the way for another 2,000 students to arrive in the fall semester this year. We have also seen a surge in Taiwanese companies with a heavy investment presence in mainland China returning to list their companies on the Taiwan Stock Exchange, rather than on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, a dramatic reversal of previous practices.

I owe much of my administration's success to our new approach to Cross-Strait relations. The new way of thinking revolves around moving beyond the outdated mode of unilateralism that previously characterized, and also hindered, relations between the two sides. As the renowned diplomatic historian Paul Schroeder concluded in his study of the events that led up to the Congress of Vienna peace era, ''One must have change of thought, before one can have change of action.''

Before I came to office, we had all witnessed the spread of instability, unpredictability and especially insecurity in Cross-Strait relations. I had long recognized that Cross-Strait relations required a new mindset, one that would emphasize the commonalities, take advantage of our shared interests, capitalize on our mutual opportunities and de-emphasize our political disagreements. Former KMT Chairman Lien Chan undertook some of the first steps towards instilling this new mindset when he embarked on his ''Journey of Peace'' to the mainland in 2005. His speech at Peking University, calling for the two sides to join together to ''beat swords into plowshares,'' captured the essence of this new idea. The decades-old rivalry between Taiwan and mainland China was thus given a rare window of opportunity for change.

After I came to office in 2008, I worked hard to accelerate this change. All around me, the world was changing at breakneck speed while the ill-founded policies of the last decade were threatening to sideline Taiwan in the Asia-Pacific region. I knew I had to break out of the Cross-Strait deadlock for the sake of Taiwan's economic future and national security. Hence, I championed a ''three-no'' policy of ''no unification, no independence, and no use of force'' under the ROC Constitution. This has changed the fundamental structure of, and created a ''virtuous cycle'' for, Cross-Strait relations.

I then adopted the ''92 Consensus'' as the cornerstone for the Cross-Strait negotiations. The 92 Consensus, meaning ''one China, respective interpretations'', has proven crucial to paving the way forward. It was under this Consensus that the six rounds of Chiang-Chen Talks were able to take place, and the two sides were able to achieve so many practical, indeed incredible, breakthroughs. By ''putting Taiwan first for the benefit of the people,'' we and Beijing have thus far signed 15 agreements that tackle the issues of greatest concern to the people in Taiwan. At the same time, my administration managed to institutionalize convenient, predictable and stable channels for Cross-Strait communications. It was only through this groundwork that the next milestone—of signing an Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) last year—could be realized and its benefits fully exercised. One econometric study has even shown that the ECFA will eventually add 4.4% to our GDP, once the dynamic gains of structural adjustments have time to be fully implemented. And that is not even including other potential spillover benefits as a result of an improved services, trade and investment environment.

It is also my belief that increased exchanges across the Strait will lead to increased exchanges with other countries, for both sides. This will enhance mutual understanding between Taiwan, the mainland and other countries, which will in turn help Cross-Strait relations evolve even further. That is, the virtuous cycle in Cross-Strait relations has positive consequences for the international community, which then adds even greater momentum to improvements in Cross-Strait relations. For example, due to the diplomatic truce between the two sides of the Strait, the number of diplomatic allies that Taiwan has remained constant at 23, compared to a loss of six allies by the previous administration. Taiwan has also joined the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) and become an observer in the World Health Assembly (WHA) after a hiatus of 38 years. Taiwan has expanded its visa waiver programs from 53 to 113 countries and regions—with the United States as a notable exception, as well as working-holiday arrangements for young people from 2 to 6 countries.

This just shows what can be achieved by merely changing the way one thinks. This I believe is also the essence of good governance: never to interfere, but to build the necessary structures that encourage the right conditions for growth in society. And it is through this process of institutionalization that we created explicit or implicit principles, norms, rules, and procedures around which the expectations of both sides can converge. This very convergence has created predictability and mutual understanding in our relations, leading to stability across the Taiwan Strait and in the region as a whole. The idea of institutionalizing the Cross-Strait rapprochement, therefore, is not only to reduce the possibility of miscalculation but, more importantly, to increase the cost of reversing this trend.

THE SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE: ENHANCING TAIWAN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Although the incredible breakthroughs achieved in Cross-Strait relations have ensured a brighter future for Taiwan and the region, Taiwan's national security is also heavily dependent on how it contributes to the international community. I envision Taiwan contributing on two primary fronts: the economy, and foreign relations. In terms of the economy, Taiwan already has the infrastructure and conditions in place to attract the best talent and become East Asia's next commercial center. Without a doubt, the expansive business and personal networks Taiwan has built up throughout the region over the last 60 years are an invaluable asset. Its historical ties and cultural and language affinity with the mainland give it a competitive edge in the vast Chinese mainland market. At the same time, Taiwan also has a special partnership with Japan, as we share many cultural traits, common interests, ideas and even the same fashion sense. Therefore, many Japanese and Taiwanese businessmen have decided to work together to enter the mainland Chinese market. And this type of win-win partnership can be successfully repeated with other countries.

Taiwan is located at the geographical center of East Asia, and could not be in a better position for tapping into business opportunities in the region. Any businessman or multinational company based in Taiwan has convenient access to the whole Asia-Pacific region. With direct air and sea links, Taiwan is connected to all major cities in the Chinese mainland, from the coastal metropolises of Shanghai and Beijing, to the fast developing cities in the Chinese hinterlands. At the same time, all other major cities in the region—such as Tokyo, Seoul, Singapore, New Dehli, or Sydney—are well within reach.

Taiwan is also endowed with many ''soft-power'' attributes that make it an ideal place for both domestic and multinational companies. Its democracy and rule of law ensure that the rights of individuals and companies, including intellectual property rights, are guaranteed. The country's modern and comprehensive transportation, healthcare and education infrastructure ensures that those who live here enjoy access to very good quality services. We also have a highly educated, innovative and skilled labor force just waiting for foreign companies to tap into. We have created an enviably safe society where anyone out at night walking their dogs or buying food at the grocery store can feel safe. And improvements are happening all the time, making our society a better place to live and do business in. Against a backdrop of stable Cross-Strait relations, Taiwan's regional connections, geographic advantages and soft-power attributes make it poised to ride the next wave of opportunities in the region, and to help others do the same if they choose to join us.

With respect to foreign relations, there is also a lot of value that Taiwan can add to the global community. And as a maturing democracy, I believe Taiwan must learn to fully shoulder its own responsibilities in the world. In fact, Taiwan's national security is inseparably tied to its role as a responsible stakeholder. Our nation's political and economic survival depends entirely on how well we uphold the peace and stability of the international system. This is the same system that is making Taiwan prosperous, and allowing our government and people to connect with the rest of the world in ways that are enriching our nation even further. So, Taiwan certainly has a vested interest in putting a stop to improper diplomatic practices and in adopting a foreign aid policy that is more in line with international standards and norms. This is exactly what we have been doing over the last three years. Humanitarian work has especially become an important platform for Taiwan's contributions to the international community. Taiwan's democracy and economic prosperity have combined to give rise, to a vibrant society of numerous non-profit organizations. In almost every major disaster that has occurred in the world recently, Taiwan has been an important contributor, whether providing financial aid to help rebuild homes in Sichuan, or giving life-sustaining medical aid to Haitian children. We were also one of the first to arrive with emergency relief supplies and rescue teams when Japan was struck by the triple disaster of an earthquake, tsunami and nuclear incident. Deeply saddened by the devastation, my wife and I were personally on hand to answer calls from donors at a major fundraiser in Taiwan last March. An equivalent of 27 million US dollars was raised that night. My administration had also pledged another 3 million US dollars. In fact, Taiwan ended up donating more than 200 million US dollars in total, which is Japan's biggest donor so far. But, as you may know, our humanitarian contributions in that crisis extended beyond Japan. Our China Airlines was chartered to help fly out scores of US expatriates to Taipei before they headed back home to the United States. This second defense line aims to give Taiwan a higher moral ground in international politics.

THE THIRD LINE OF DEFENSE: ALIGNING TAIWAN'S DEFENSE WITH DIPLOMACY

From securing the Cross-Strait rapprochement to enhancing Taiwan's contributions in

international development, I now come to the last but equally significant part of the ROC's national security: aligning Taiwan's defense with diplomacy. I have two priorities. First, I want to continue to build up Taiwan's credibility and trust with our closest allies, especially the United States. To be a trustworthy partner, Taiwan must be keenly aware of how its actions in the international system affect the interests of the big powers. This means ''never rocking the boat'' and ''full consultation.''

Second, Taiwan has the resolve to defend itself. My administration wants to enhance Taiwan's defense capability on a newly designed volunteer military system. This is a huge undertaking, as we need to overcome difficulties in training, organization, finance and military doctrines. However, we are confident that we will succeed in building a small but strong military force. Complementary to our defense capability is Taiwan's democratic values, rule of law, and an advanced civil society, which could make Taiwan an indispensable reference for socio-economic development in the Chinese mainland. This is, it could be said, a soft-power approach to national defense.

Given the high stakes that America has invested in the region, I am sure the US, of all countries, can appreciate my administration's commitment to being a responsible stakeholder. For example, President Barack Obama expressed earlier this year his support for the progress that has been made to reduce Cross-Strait tensions, and in particular how its continuation will be in the interests of the region and the United States. However, for Cross-Strait relations to continue advancing, the US must help Taiwan level the playing field. Negotiating with a giant like the Chinese mainland is not without its risks. The right leverage must be in place, otherwise Taiwan cannot credibly maintain an equal footing at the negotiation table. This is why I continue to urge the US to provide Taiwan with necessary defensive weaponry, such as the F–16 C/Ds and diesel-powered submarines, to keep its aerial and naval integrity intact, which is key to maintaining a credible defense. As Secretary of Defense Robert Gates wrote in Foreign Affairs last year, the US can best help itself by ''helping others defend themselves.'' At the same time, American presence in the very system it helped create decades ago is crucial to that system's survival. In the end, only a strong US commitment, backed by its credibility in East Asia, can guarantee the peace and stability of this region.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

In conclusion, a country's overall strategy for security requires a sound political foundation in the domestic setting. My approach to Taiwan's national security is based on my administration's unwavering identification with the Republic of China and its Constitution. This is a common denominator for our vibrant democracy, which has a wide spectrum of political views ranging from those who prefer de jure Taiwan independence, to those who enjoy the status quo and to those who favor reunification with mainland China. Any deviation from or equivocation on this common denominator will only cause unnecessary uncertainties and risks in Taiwan's domestic politics, Cross-Strait relations and international politics. Given that the stakes for all the countries in East Asia and for Taiwan's future development are high, I am confident my approach to the ROC's national security is already at an optimum.

My friends in America, the future of the region holds enormous opportunities, but also many potential pitfalls. Changes in both Taiwan and the mainland's domestic politics could derail much of what has been achieved. Intransigence, overconfidence or unilateral pursuit of national interests could lead to a losing scenario for all relevant parties. So it will be essential to keep track of these moving pieces in the future. For my part, the process of transforming Taiwan into a valuable member of the global community, and thus ultimately enhancing its own security, will continue full-steam ahead under my administration. The same-old ''no frills, no surprise''diplomacy will also continue to be the operational code for my administration's conduct of foreign policy. That said, I hope this year will mark the start of a new 100 years that will be known as the century when the Taiwan-US partnership achieved its greatest accomplishments.

Thank you!

PRESIDENT MA'S CLOSING REMARKS

Dear friends and colleagues, as the famous American poet Robert Frost once wrote, ''I took the road less travelled by, and that has made all the difference.'' The past three years have witnessed unprecedented breakthroughs and positive developments in Taiwan and the region. Yet for the road ahead, we still need to be patient and careful in our political rhetoric, in the signals we send, in the gestures we make, and in the reputation we cultivate. I draw reassurance from the positive developments that continue to unfold across the Strait and in the international community, and I have full confidence in my administration's roadmap. On a deeper level the improvement of Cross-Strait relations in the past three years reflects the result of something fundamentally more significant: the comprehensive overhaul of Taiwan's strategic approach to the world. An approach that has coupled Cross-Strait relations, the economy and foreign relations together in such a way as to fully maximize Taiwan's potential value in the global community. Taiwan has to transform itself into a peacemaker, a contributor of humanitarian aid, a center for innovation and business opportunities, a major promoter of cultural exchange and the standard bearer of Chinese culture. As the Republic of China reaches its centennial anniversary, I believe my administration's grand strategy will make the Republic more secure, more prosperous for many, many years to come. I also firmly believe America's friendship will be an inseparable part of the Republic of China's future, as it has been in the past one hundred years.

Thank you!

A TRIBUTE TO IOWA GIRL SCOUT TEAM

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of Girl Scouts from Ames and Gilbert, Iowa, who came together and formed a team called the Flying Monkeys. In May, they will be participating in a FIRST Lego League competition in Carlsbad, California.

The FIRST Lego League North American Open is a national contest that encourages young girls to become interested in science and engineering. The competition is limited to 76 teams from North America with each region selecting a team to represent them.

In January, the Flying Monkeys, under the direction of their Troop Leaders Claire Bassett and Melissa Murray, and assisted by Zack Pachol won the Iowa FIRST Lego League Innovation Award for the invention of their device called the BOB–1. This device is an improved prosthesis for a girl who was born with missing fingers on her right hand and will help her to write. They have gone on to compete for the Global Innovation Award to win a full utility patent for BOB–1 and win a trip to Washington D.C.

I commend the Flying Monkeys for their commitment to leadership in science and technology. This group of girls—Courtney Pohlen, Gaby Dempsey, Maria Werner Anderson, Zoe Groat, Mackenzie Grewell, and Kate Murray—are future leaders of this country of whom Iowans should be very proud.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating these girls on their accomplishments. It is my honor to serve as their representative, and I wish them the best of luck in the future.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S DR. NAN S. HUTCHINSON BROWARD SENIORS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the eleven Broward residents—Joel Fass, Bea Hedigan, John Gargotta, Maria Thereza Mayo, Kenneth S. Rubin, Mayor Emma Shoaff, Esmie Straw, Lora Thomson, Belle Trebuck, Dr. Steven Weisberg, and Commissioner Lois Wexler—that were recently elected to the Aging and Disability Center of Broward County's Dr. Nan S. Hutchison Broward Seniors Hall of Fame. These eleven volunteer and community leaders have dedicated much of their retirement to improving Broward County, and it is my privilege to congratulate them today for this great achievement.

This group of elected officials, business leaders, lawyers, and community activists has tirelessly worked to improve the quality of life for Broward's seniors. Their continuous service to the South Florida community, especially their humanitarian efforts and their advocacy for the less fortunate, makes me proud to call these 11 individuals my neighbors and friends.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to stand before you today and recognize the achievements of this year's Dr. Nan S. Hutchinson Broward Seniors Hall of Fame inductees. Their dedication and hard work has truly made Broward County a better place.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ''OIL CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2011''

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Oil Consumer Protection Act of 2011," legislation that would subject the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries,

OPEC, nations to the U.S. antitrust laws, prohibit oil and gas companies from unilaterally withholding supply with the intent of raising prices or creating a shortage and would protect consumers from price gouging of gasoline.

You do not have to look very hard to see that the American consumer is hurting. And if you ask people on the street what worries them most, the majority will tell you that it is the price of gasoline. American families and businesses are yet again paying record prices for gasoline. The retail price of gasoline has jumped and is now in the range of $4 per gallon. Driving should not have to be a luxury. Americans today are spending far too much of their paychecks at the pump.

In my home State of Michigan, gas prices earlier this month reached their highest levels ever at $4.22 per gallon. Figures released by the AAA Michigan show that the $4.22 per gallon state average surpassed the previous record of $4.21 per gallon set in July 2008.

My bill, once and for all, will crack down on foreign oil cartels. Currently, based on the sovereign immunity doctrine, foreign nations and businesses they control may avoid accountability under U.S. antitrust law. This bill would eliminate the doctrine and allow antitrust law to apply to anticompetitive cartels.

This legislation, the ''Oil Consumer Protection Act of 2011'' would:

Exempt OPEC and other nations from the provisions of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act to the extent those governments are engaged in price-fixing and other anticompetitive activities with regard to pricing, production and distribution of petroleum products. (OPEC currently claims sovereign immunity by saying its actions are ''governmental activity,'' which is protected, rather than ''commercial activity,'' which is not.)

Make clear that the so-called ''Act of State'' doctrine does not prevent courts from ruling on antitrust charges brought against foreign governments and that foreign governments are ''persons'' subject to suit under the antitrust laws.

Authorize lawsuits in U.S. federal court against oil cartel members by the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission.

Amend the Clayton Act to prohibit oil and gas companies from unilaterally withholding supply with the intent of raising prices or creating a shortage.

Direct several studies, including a Justice Department/Federal Trade Commission study of mergers in the oil and gas industry, and a GAO study of whether government consent decrees in oil mergers have been effective.

Direct the Attorney General and Federal Trade Commission Chairman to establish a joint federal/state task force with state attorneys general to investigate information sharing among oil companies.

Would empower the Federal Trade Commission and state attorneys general to institute civil and criminal penalties for fuel price gouging during periods proclaimed by the President as an international crisis affecting oil markets.

It is time someone did something about our outrageous gas prices. I hope Congress has the sense to act on this legislation immediately.

CELEBRATING THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CROWN OF LIFE LUTHERAN SCHOOL'S EIGHTH GRADE CLASS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, Dr. BURGESS and I rise today to celebrate the outstanding service and accomplishments of Crown of Life Lutheran School's eighth grade class. This group of nine students demonstrates a level of commitment and philanthropy positioning them heads and shoulders above their peers. Their dedication to anticipating and seeing to the needs of their community provides me with great hope for the future of America. Today's students are tomorrow's C.E.O.s, Chief Surgeons, and Presidents. These eighth graders will one day make decisions that will determine what this nation looks like in the years to come. We have every confidence that we are in good hands. They have already learned the most valuable lesson—leadership starts with service.

Throughout the 2011 school year, the eighth grade class proved themselves to be extraordinary leaders through their service to the students at Crown of Life Lutheran School. Every day, they cleaned the lunchroom and assisted in the school's weekly assemblies. Monthly, they helped the school set up for Colleyville Chamber of Commerce Luncheons. This Spring, the girls basketball team helped their school to win a second place at the State tournament. The boys made an impressive showing as well, placing fourth in their tournament.

These remarkable students have participated in numerous community projects as well. They helped to organize a bingo night for Finley Elliot, a three year-old who just completed a successful kidney transplant in April of 2011. The $5,000 earnings from the event provided Finley and his family a much needed reprieve from the extensive medical costs. They also volunteered a day to clean up Lakeview Park in Grapevine in order to encourage the maintenance of public parks for the use of the community. The class also assembled care packages and wrote dozens of notes by hand to send to our soldiers overseas.

We know that Crown of Life Lutheran School is proud to claim these star eighth graders as their own, and we are proud to offer our sincerest congratulations to Hannah Andersson, Zachary Dayley, Jacob Diamond, Sarah Hall, Justin Hawes, Austin Shone, Heide Stufflebeme, John Sandfort and Christian Scherff on their graduation from middle school. We wish you all the best.

HONORING THE RIVERDALE Y'S TEEN THEATER PROGRAM

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Riverdale Y's Teen Theater program was established in 1990 to provide education, entertainment and enrichment to teens across my district in the Bronx. The program gives kids age 13–18 a chance to study musical theater, to learn through music and to perform for their community. This year, they celebrate their 20th season of performances.

The Teen Theater program has long produced entertainment for residents of the Bronx, who come to see high-level productions worthy of praise in any context, but especially so considering that the performers are our community's young people. This talented troupe of performers recently broke their own attendance record during productions of Rent and The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, and they plan more productions in the coming months.

Children who take part in the program learn music, dance, dramatic and literary skills and get the chance to perform for their friends, family and community. They are enriched through the arts, they learn important skills through the arduous rehearsal process, they build self-esteem and they make lifelong friends. The program has received numerous National Youth Theater Awards in recognition of their talented performers, including most recently for Rent, which won awards for Best Ensemble Performance, Best Lead Actor in a Musical and Best Lead Actress in a Musical.

On behalf of the many alumni of the program, the residents of the Bronx and the entire Seventeenth District, I want to recognize and honor the Riverdale Y's Teen Theater and their director, Laurie Walton, to thank them for their contributions to our community and to wish them the best of luck in the future.

APPLAUDING THE UPPER MERION SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Upper Merion School District of Pennsylvania for winning an Environmental Achievement Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Upper Merion was recognized for being a 2010 ENERGY STAR leader and for reducing its energy consumption by more than 30 percent, an achievement reached by only about a dozen of the Nation's 15,000 school districts. All six of Upper Merion's schools have earned the ENERGY STAR rating and several buildings have energy reductions near 50 percent. The district has also embarked on an aggressive recycling program that has resulted in about 50 percent of its solid waste being recycled instead of going to the landfill. I am proud to represent the citizens of Upper Merion in Congress, and their example of stewardship—of a community taking local initiative to reduce their environmental impact—is a model of bottom-up sustainability that municipalities across America should strive to emulate.

HONORING CHARLES RUTLEDGE III

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Charles Rutledge, III, a Mathematics Content Specialist with the Kentucky Department of Education in Northeast Kentucky.

Mr. Rutledge was recently selected by President Barack Obama to receive the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

This award is recognition of Mr. Rutledge's achievement and dedication during more than a decade in the education field. Before joining the Kentucky Department of Education, he was a teacher for 10 years at Prichard Elementary School in Grayson, Kentucky where he taught mathematics, second grade and third grade.

Mr. Rutledge was recognized by the President for his hands-on teaching style that brings math to life for his students and helps them to recognize numbers as representations of values, and not merely symbols.

Today, as we celebrate the accomplishments of this exceptional Kentuckian, it is my hope that others are inspired by his hard work and perseverance.

I urge the House to join me in commending Charles Rutledge for his time and devotion in teaching and helping the youth of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND THE HEP B FREE CAMPAIGN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and a particular effort to benefit the Asian Pacific American (APA) community, the Hep B Free Campaign. This is a month to acknowledge and celebrate the APA community's vital economic, cultural, academic, and political contributions to our diverse and dynamic country. I'm proud to join more than 150,000 of my APA constituents in California's 14th Congressional District, whose work enriches our lives every day.

As we acknowledge the extraordinary impact of the APA community, this is also a time to address a more sobering impact on the APA community, the grave health threat of Hepatitis B. Hepatitis B is the greatest cause of liver cancer in the world, resulting in up to 80 percent of all liver cancer, three hundred and fifty to four hundred million people in the world are chronically infected with Hepatitis B, which takes a life every 30 seconds. Most of them are Asian. One in ten foreign-born Asian Americans are chronically infected with Hepatitis B, 100 times the infection rate of the general population. Without treatment, 1 in 4 will die from liver cancer or liver failure, often in their prime adult years. In California alone, liver cancer is among the leading causes of cancer deaths among Laotians, Cambodians, Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, and Filipinos. Nearly 10 percent of the Asian population in my District is chronically infected, and nearly half have not been vaccinated to protect them from infection.

Given the gravity of this health challenge, I'm proud to recognize the outstanding work of the Hep B Free Campaign which promotes public and provider awareness, including programs for screening, vaccination, and linkage to follow-up treatment.

Hep B Free was originally started by Asian Week Foundation, a community-based nonprofit that celebrates the diversity of Asian Pacific America through identity assemblage, with special expertise in bringing together the multiplicity of groups and personality that make up our community; Stanford University's Asian Liver Center, the only non-profit organization in the country addressing this pressing public health disparity; and the San Francisco Department of Public Health because they recognized the egregious health disparity experienced by APA in terms of Hepatitis B. I'm proud this campaign began in San Francisco, continued in San Mateo County and has now launched its campaign in Santa Clara County with the additional support of Asian Americans for Community Involvement and the Santa Clara County Public Health Department. I look forward to supporting Hep B Free as they expand their efforts to the rest of the country. As Assemblywoman Fiona Ma, Majority Whip of the California Assembly and Honorary Chairperson of the Hep B Free Campaign, said, "We can set a model for the nation and be an inspiration to efforts around the globe in eradicating Hep B."

We celebrate APA Heritage Month just a month after the death of Dr. Baruch Blumberg, a brilliant and compassionate scientist whose discovery of the Hepatitis B virus and creation of the vaccine won him a Nobel Prize and the gratitude of all whose lives are affected by the disease. The Hep B vaccine is known as the first anti-cancer vaccine because it is so effective at preventing Hep B infection and the liver cancer that could develop.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and the Hep B Free Campaign's extraordinary efforts to ensure that the millions of Asian Pacific Americans who strengthen our Nation can live long and healthy lives.

HONORING JOHN MURPHY

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John Murphy, President and CEO of the Maine Credit Union League, on his induction into the Credit Union House Hall of Leaders.

For nearly two decades, John has served as President and CEO of the Maine Credit Union League. He has worked diligently on the behalf of credit unions for even longer. I have had multiple opportunities to work with John on the issues that impact his members and, as a result, the people and the economy of Maine, and I have always found him to be a dedicated and thoughtful advocate.

The Credit Union National Association inducted John into the Credit Union House Hall of Leaders because he has shown a unique level of commitment to ensuring that these vital community institutions are able to continue serving the individuals and small businesses that make up their customer base. His name will be on permanent display to the thousands of individuals that visit the Credit Union House each year. John is the first inductee from the State of Maine, and I cannot think of a more appropriate individual.

It has been an honor to work with John in the past, and I have no doubt that this recognition in the Hall of Leaders will inspire him to continue his advocacy on behalf of credit unions and the people they serve. I know that the sixty-four credit unions in Maine, as well as their 613,000 members, greatly appreciate John as a resource and as their representative fighting for the issues that matter to them.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring John Murphy and congratulating him on his induction into the Credit Union House Hall of Leaders.

IN SUPPORT OF MEDICARE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for Medicare and to once again state my strong opposition to the Republican budget plan introduced by Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. This plan would end Medicare as we know it.

Medicare is a program that Americans pay into their entire working lives and expect to benefit from when they retire. Unfortunately, House Republicans continue to support a proposal that would strip away the guaranteed benefits under Medicare. Their plan calls for Medicare to be replaced from a program of guaranteed benefits to one in which seniors would be given a voucher to purchase insurance from an insurance company.

As if this were not bad enough, the vouchers this plan proposes to give Medicare enrollees would in no way keep up with the rising costs of health care. Therefore, enrollees would be saddled with more and more out-of-pocket expenses over time.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office Congress's official actuary projected that these vouchers could actually double out-of-pocket costs for the average beneficiary in the short-term and triple them in the long-term. This is something that I am adamantly opposed to and will fight against it taking place.

Now, to be clear, these changes would not affect current enrollees but it would affect the next generation of retirees including many of our children and grandchildren. But the Republican plan would immediately strip away all the benefits seniors stand to gain and perhaps already are enjoying from the health care law enacted last year.

The health care law is already closing the Medicare Part D coverage gap—known as the "Donut Hole"—providing for free preventive care to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries and ensuring that America's seniors have access to the care they need.

The health care law also provides free preventive care for Medicare enrollees care that

is often critical to helping you and your doctor diagnose and treat diseases or ailments as soon as possible. But the repeal of the health care law included in the Republican budget plan would change all this under the guise of ''deficit reduction.''

But the reality is that none of the cuts would help pay down the deficit OR balance the budget. These cuts would instead pay for tax cuts to those who need it the least providing subsidies to Big Oil preserving tax loopholes to companies that ship jobs overseas all this while they are making record profits. Tax cuts for Big Oil and the largest corporations should not be paid for on the backs of America's seniors!

And this kind-of thinking does not reflect the needs or priorities of seniors and families in my district. I have heard from scores of Sacramentans about how the changes to Medicare included in the health care law has helped them. One gentleman in particular comes to mind. Gary, who takes 8 different name brand medications, regularly falls into the ''Donut Hole.'' But as a result of the health care law, he will save close to $1,000 per month which means that Gary will be able to continue to take his medication, and make ends meet. And his savings will only grow over time. However, people like Gary would lose out on this benefit, should the Republican proposal be enacted.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Seniors Task Force, I am working with my colleagues to ensure that proposals that would hurt seniors are not enacted. I believe that if someone works hard all their life and plays by the rules then they deserve high-quality health care and a secure retirement. I am committed to making that dream a reality and I am confident that as more and more people learn about what this plan would do the American people will speak out against it loud and clear.

I thank Representative TONKO for his leadership on this issue.

HONORING STEWART'S SHOPS AND THE DAKE FAMILY

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people in New York's 20th District to express our sincere appreciation for the continued hard work, dedication, and contributions made to our communities by Stewart's Shops and the Dake Family.

Beginning in 1921, Percy and Charles V. Dake began making Dake's Delicious ice cream in Greenfield, NY. They continued to expand their operations into and around Greenfield and Saratoga Springs until 1945, when they bought Donald Stewart's dairy and ice cream shop on Route 50 in Ballston Spa, renaming it Stewart's Shop in order to commemorate the former owner. Adding on brothers Charles S. and William, this family-run operation continued to grow through the expansion of services and a strong community presence, including donating five percent of its annual revenue to local not-for-profits.

This generous and voluntary donation has brought over $2.25 million to not-for-profits in our area, in addition to the organization's contribution of over $15 million to an employee profit sharing plan and $2 million in scholarship assistance to family members of employees through the ''Make Your Own Scholarship'' program. Overall, this tremendous organization has had over $1 billion in community sales, provides approximately 4,000 jobs in 328 convenience stores in New York and Vermont, and works closely with local governments and organizations to serve my constituents inside and out of their stores.

For these reasons, I am happy to stand today in recognition of the Dake Family as they receive the C. Jordan Vail Spirit of Philanthropy Award, given at the Celebration of Philanthropy Luncheon in Albany, NY on May 24, 2011. This family, and the business they have built over the last ninety years, are a model of private enterprise and they have certainly earned this award. I am honored to be given the opportunity to commemorate their dedication to our community and the economic contributions they provide.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 754) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes:

Mr. HURT. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 754, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011.

Our intelligence community plays a critical role in keeping us safe from those who seek to do us harm, and I believe we need to ensure that they have the necessary tools to do their job to the fullest.

It was the hard work and dedication of the members of the intelligence community that helped lead us to securing a great victory in the war on terror—the death of Osama bin Laden. We will be forever grateful to them—and all of those in the intelligence field—for their service to this country, including those in Virginia's 5th District.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank the work of the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, and the National Ground Intelligence Center located in Charlottesville, Virginia, and those members of the intelligence community across the 5th District who are working every day to help ensure the safety of all Americans.

A top priority of government is to protect its citizens from threats at home and abroad. While I believe that we need to prioritize all spending in the context of a balanced budget, we need to make sure that those in the intelligence field are equipped to carry out their duties to help protect and defend our nation, especially when we are engaged in a global war on terror and thousands of American troops continue to serve bravely in harm's way around the world.

I urge support of H.R. 754.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 754) to authorize for fiscal year 2011 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 754, the FY 2011 Intelligence Authorization Act. I thank Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member RUPPERSBERGER for bringing this bipartisan bill to the floor today.

This bill sets the funding levels for the 16 agencies that comprise the nation's intelligence community including the Central Intelligence Agency and parts of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Federal Bureau of Investigations. It also supports the dedicated and skilled men and women who work in secret at these and other elements of the nation's clandestine services that helped bring Osama bin Laden to justice.

H.R. 754 authorizes funding for the counterterrorism analysis and worldwide clandestine operations of the CIA; the tactical intelligence support of the National Security Agency; the electronics surveillance and real-time analysis of the National Geospacial Agency; and the coordination of the National Intelligence Director. The coordinated efforts of all these agencies enable the U.S. to anticipate and respond to emerging threats and to maintain its technological advantage over our adversaries around the world.

Bringing Osama bin Laden to justice was the result of the hard work and sacrifice by this nation's intelligence and Special Forces community. These brave men and women are silent warriors who deserve our gratitude and unwavering support. I commend them for their ongoing efforts to disrupt, dismantle and defeat terrorism around the world.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in thanking our intelligence professionals for all that they do to keep our country safe and I urge passage of this bill.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 754) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes:

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Chair, earlier today, the gentleman from New York, Mr. NADLER, expressed his frustration that the Committee on Rules excluded his two amendments from consideration on the House floor. In order to clarify the record, I submit a May 11, 2011, letter from Mr. NADLER stating that he wished to withdraw the two amendments that he referenced on the House floor. While one of Mr. NADLER's amendments was not germane to the bill it was my intention, prior to Mr. NADLER withdrawing his amendments from consideration, to recommend to the Committee on Rules that it make Mr. NADLER's germane amendment, No. 13, in order for consideration on the House floor.

After Mr. NADLER withdrew his amendments, Mr. GRIMM (R–NY) and Mr. REED (R–NY) offered identical text to the amendment No. 13 previously submitted by Mr. NADLER. I would also like to submit for the RECORD a statement by Mr. GRIMM expressing his support for the original NADLER amendment and his request to have this very timely and appropriate debate occur on the House floor.

I would like to thank our newest member of the Rules Committee, Mr. REED of New York, for his work in championing this amendment and expressing the very heartfelt views of so many of all of our constituents across the country. It was for these reasons that the Rules Committee made in order the Grimm-Reed amendment.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 11, 2011.

Hon. DAVID DREIER,
Chairman, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER,
Ranking Member, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DREIER AND RANKING MEMBER SLAUGHTER: Yesterday I submitted two amendments to H.R. 754, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. I am writing to withdraw from consideration both amendments, Nadler-Bishop-Slaughter-Owens Amendment #2, NADLER_025.XML, and Nadler-Bishop-Slaughter-Owens Amendment #1, NADLER_024.XML.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

JERROLD NADLER,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 11, 2011.

I respectfully request that the Committee on Rules make in order my amendment #22 to the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. The amendment is identical to an amendment previously submitted by Mr. Nadler, my colleague from New York, which I attempted to cosponsor. Unfortunately, Mr. Nadler withdrew his amendment #13 before I was able to be added as a cosponsor of the amendment. I remain committed to the amendment and that is why I have submitted the identical language under my name. As well, I am proud to be joined on this amendment by my colleague from New York, Mr. Reed, who is a strong voice on the Rules Committee for the citizens of his district and the entire State of New York. The language was kept intentionally restricted to be germane to the underlying bill. Thank you for your consideration.

MICHAEL G. GRIMM,
Member of Congress.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF LYMAN GRAHAM

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Lyman Graham, a devoted member of the United States military, who recently passed away in Neptune, New Jersey at the age of 92. Lyman was a native of Franklin, Pennsylvania, and graduated from the Graham School, Franklin High School, and Franklin Business School. In 1941, Lyman was drafted into the U.S. Army and received his officers training at Fort Monmouth, after which he was commissioned as a second lieutenant. During this time, Lyman met his wife, Betty Freeman of Bradley Beach, and they were married in Taullahoma, Tennessee on May 8, 1943.

Lyman has a proud record of military service. As a member of the Army Signal Corps, Lyman played a key role during World War II. Soon after 1943, his unit was deployed to Great Britain, where they prepared for the invasion of Normandy and followed the battles fought throughout France, Belgium, and Germany, providing supplies and provisions for the Allied troops. Lyman received a number of medals for his service, including the European War Theatre medal.

Following V-E Day, Lyman remained in Europe for several months and returned to New Jersey and his wife in the fall of 1945. He was promoted to the rank of captain and was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in 1946. Lyman and Betty briefly lived in Oil City, Pennsylvania. They returned to Bradley Beach in 1946, where they resided at their Hammond Avenue home.

Not only did Lyman faithfully serve his county, he maintained an active role in his community throughout his life. He was a member of the Bradley Beach Post 337 of the American Legion for many years, serving as Finance Officer and participating in the group's activities. Lyman was Grand Marshall of the 2004 Bradley Beach Memorial Day Parade. In 1954, he was appointed Postmaster of the Bradley Beach Post Office, and he remained in that position until his retirement in 1979, following 25 years of service.

Following his retirement, Lyman and Betty joined the local chapter of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, where he served as treasurer for 20 years. Lyman was also a longtime active member of the First United Methodist Church of Bradley Beach, where he was a Lay Leader, and a member of the Staff Parish Committee, United Methodist Men, and the Adult Choir. Lyman and Betty chaperoned the youth fellowship groups on a number of trips and activities. A Boy Scout in his youth, Lyman remained active in that organization as Scoutmaster for a number of years.

Throughout his life, Lyman was an exceptionally devoted husband and father and I know that Lyman will be greatly missed by his family and friends. Lyman's story will live on to serve as an inspiration for generations to come, and I thank him for his dedication to this great country.

IN SUPPORT OF STRENGTHENING U.S.-KOREA ECONOMIES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep appreciation to the gracious hospitality President Lee Myung-bak of South Korea and his countrymen have extended to me, Secretary of Commerce Locke and my esteemed colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee—Representatives JIM MCDERMOTT, JOE CROWLEY and DAVE REICHERT—during our recent trip to the Peninsula as part of a trade delegation.

As a Korean War Veteran, I could not have been more proud to witness today's Dynamic Korea. Seoul's skyscrapers, booming businesses and rising apartment buildings are a testament to the resiliency and determination of the Korean people.

There are presently more than two million Americans of Korean descent living in our own country. In my home state of New York, there are more than 200,000 recent immigrants and native-born Korean-Americans who make significant contributions to our communities.

It is no wonder that trade and investment between the United States and Korea has been growing rapidly over the past few years. South Korea is the seventh-largest trading partner of the United States, with more than $80 billion in trade passing between our two countries. Korea is also the world's 11th-largest economy, the sixth largest market for U.S. agricultural goods, and the third largest destination for U.S. foreign direct investment in the Asia-Pacific region.

Korea has always been one of our closest and most important allies. Free trade between U.S. and Korea will strengthen our respective economies. In a speech to the American Chamber of Commerce in Seoul, Secretary Locke noted that "the U.S.-Korea trade pact is the United States' most significant trade agreement in 17 years. And it's estimated to increase American economic output more than our last nine trade deals combined." In both countries, consumers will see lower prices for goods and services, businesses will have better access to supplies and technology, and workers will find more jobs available to them.

In addition, ratification of the agreement will enhance security and stability in Northeast Asia. A stronger South Korean economy is a bulwark against threats from North Korea. I remain astounded by the economic success that Korea achieved since I first landed at the Pusan Perimeter in the summer of 1950. There is such a satisfaction in knowing that the noble service and sacrifice of the nearly 1.8 million American soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines were not made in vain.

On a personal note, I especially thank President Lee Myung-Bak and his Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs Park Sung-Choon for the moving ceremony held at the War Memorial of Korea in honor of my service and the U.S. veterans who fought to defend Korea sixty one years ago. Korea will always have a place in my heart as it does in the hearts of all veterans who have served then and those who serve now.

In closing, I extend my appreciation to Foreign Minister Sung-Hwan Kim, Trade Minister

Jong-Hoon Kim, and leaders in the National Assembly for their warm welcome. Our delegation is indebted to U.S. Ambassador Kathleen Stephens and her exceptional staff at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, as well as Secretary Locke's Department of Commerce staff, for their outstanding support and professionalism that made our trip successful.

I am also grateful to my good friend, ROK Ambassador Duk-Soo Han, for his continuous work on strengthening the relationship between our two nations. He has been working tirelessly to move the U.S.-Korea FTA, and I look forward to the days and weeks ahead as the agreement moves forward and urge my colleagues to offer their own expressions of support.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT THOMAS C. MOHR UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM CAÑADA COLLEGE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and career of Thomas (Tom) C. Mohr who is the President of Cañada College, a distinguished college in the 14th Congressional District of California and my alma mater. President Mohr has served as a teacher, mentor and community leader for the past 47 years, with 42 of those years living in the Bay Area with his beloved wife Sandy.

President Mohr holds a Bachelor of Science from St. Louis University and a Master of Arts from the University of San Francisco. A lifelong educator, he began teaching at Taylor School in St. Louis, Missouri in 1958, and moved to San Francisco in 1959, where he taught at Riordan High School. He began working as a high school administrator in 1971 when he was appointed Vice Principal of Serramonte High School in the Jefferson Union High School District.

During his career he was invited by the Western Association of School Accreditation to serve on more than 30 school accreditations, most of which he chaired, including accreditations of schools in Japan and Egypt.

In 1996, President Mohr was named Superintendent of the San Mateo Union High School District. He pushed for the successful passage of a $137.5 million bond to refurbish and modernize the six high schools in the District. He also led the District in a comprehensive planning process. He retired in 2004, and was soon appointed Interim President at Cañada College.

Cañada College, located in Redwood City, opened in 1968 as part of the three-school San Mateo County Community College District. The beautiful campus overlooks Silicon Valley and its talented students have gone on to apply the excellent education they received at Cañada to achieve their dreams academically and professionally across the Bay Area and beyond.

President Mohr is recognized as the critical leader in the growth of this unique college, including the re-establishment of strong connections with local high schools to make Cañada College a destination for graduating seniors, increasing enrollment by nearly 1,000 students.

A tireless leader and innovator in education, President Mohr helped reorganize the entire planning structure at the College and guided it and the San Mateo County Community College District through an exhaustive strategic planning process where the College had its accreditation renewed and is now viewed as a state leader in the accreditation process.

President Mohr also developed his vision for Cañada with an Honors Transfer Program at the College designed to support highly motivated students as they pursue their educational goals for graduation and transfer, increasing by five times the number of students transferring to UC schools. In the Honors Program, students are able to find the additional resources they need among their peers and excellent faculty to take their academic achievements to the next level.

During his tenure at Cañada College, President Mohr made it a priority to create a center for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics learning, attracting more than $3 million in Federal grants to support this mission, and adding more than 1,000 students majoring in STEM-related fields.

A practical leader, President Mohr understood the importance of linking career opportunities to education and he created pipelines for ESL students to connect their language education to growing career fields. Understanding that education doesn't stop with an Associate's Degree, he made it a priority to develop additional opportunities for students through the Cañada College University Center, including bachelor degree programs in art, psychology, human services, and business administration. The important link between prepared students and student success was a priority for President Mohr, leading him to create the Center for Teacher Efficacy at the Cañada College University Center which provides professional development opportunities for high school teachers on the Peninsula.

Throughout his distinguished career, President Mohr has connected the College to the community, serving as Vice Chairman on the Redwood City San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce, serving on the Board for the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula, serving on the Board of the Redwood City Police Activities League, and serving through numerous civic groups.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in offering our warmest congratulations to President Tom Mohr on his retirement and to celebrate his extraordinary career and legacy he created, helping countless students to achieve their dreams and potential. He has led with conviction, inspired through example and taught with joy, transforming each life he touched. He has renewed our community and strengthened our country, proving that one person can indeed make noble and lasting contributions. How blessed I am to know President Mohr, how deeply grateful I am to him, and how grateful our nation is to him for lifting up generations of students who today are major contributors to the good and the greatness of our country.

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize and record a courageous story of survival of the Armenian Genocide. The Armenian Genocide, perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, resulted in the death of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children. As the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Henry Morgenthau documented at the time, it was a campaign of "race extermination."

The campaign to annihilate the Armenian people failed, as illustrated by the proud Armenian nation and prosperous diaspora. It is difficult if not impossible to find an Armenian family not touched by the genocide, and while there are some survivors still with us, it is imperative that we record their stories. Through the Armenian Genocide CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Project, I hope to document the harrowing stories of the survivors in an effort to preserve their accounts and to help educate the Members of Congress now and in the future of the necessity of recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

This is one of those stories:

SUBMITTED BY MARY BOGHOSSIAN

Dear Congressman Schiff,

I am writing you because I admire your longstanding support of Armenians and Americans. My parents, Toros and Santoukht, my husband, Hagop, his mother, Ani, and his two older sisters, Vartouhi and Dikranouhi, were survivors of the Armenian genocide.

As you know, it is important to remember how the Armenian Christian population was treated by the Turkish government from 1895 through 1923. Over one and a half million Armenian men, women, and children underwent unspeakable suffering. They were deported from their homes, slaughtered, butchered, enslaved, and more, without consideration of guilt or innocence. Among those who suffered immeasurably were my parents and my husband's family.

My father was born in 1895 in Turkey. During the Armenian massacre in 1915, the Turkish government was going to take him away on a death march in the desert. Fortunately, he was hidden behind the door in a house and the Turkish soldiers did not see him, so they left. God saved him and he escaped. At the age of 20, he lost his innocent beloved family along with their belongings. The trauma was so great that he refused to discuss it with his family members for a long time.

My mother was born in 1905 in Turkey. In 1915, my mother's brother was included with all the people that were marching during the deportation by the Turkish government. My mother started running after him while he was being marched away. She never caught up to him, and never saw him again. At the age of 10, she became an orphan and did not know if any of her family members were dead or alive.

My parents met and were married in Greece, had 7 children, 24 grandchildren. They were married over 63 years and lived over 90 years.

My husband was born in 1910 in Turkey. His parents had three sons and three daughters. My husband always reminded us what happened to his family in the days following April 24, 1915, the conventional starting date of the Armenian Genocide.

He said to us: ''During the massacre, the Turkish government took away my innocent father and my older brother and they never returned home. They were murdered by the Turkish government. My younger brother died of cold and hunger and there was no one around to bury him. My second oldest sister was married to a Turkish man by force and she died of hunger and cold as well. All of our belongings: home, money, jewelry, clothing and our historic homeland, were taken away by the Turks.''

My husband was an eyewitness to the massacre. He was exposed to a terrible tragedy. It changed his entire life. He saw bodies buried below the ground with their heads exposed to the sun. He saw men, women, and children lying on the ground dead.

The surviving members of my husband's family, his mother and two older sisters, ended up in a refugee camp. His mother worked hard for several years just so they could stay alive. She was a beautiful woman, and had offers to marry several Turkish and Armenian men, but refused to remarry. In the 1920s they were fortunate to emigrate to Israel, and then to the United States in the 1960s.

My husband experienced a great deal of sadness, tragedy, depression, and loneliness. He always loved his family and this country with all his heart. He acknowledged all the Presidents of the U.S. by hanging their pictures on the wall of our home. To him, these men stood for freedom. The freedom this Country gave him allowed him to live like a human being, and express his thoughts. It gave him the courage to speak freely and never be silent again about his beloved families.

As you know, the ''Aloha state'' proclamation makes Hawaii the 42nd state to recognize the Armenian Genocide. Countries around the world such as Switzerland, France, Canada, Italy, Sweden, Russia and others, have passed a resolution recognizing the Armenian genocide and proclaim a Day of Remembrance every year on April 24.

The U.S. government should have the willingness to join with countries around the world, and formally acknowledge and commemorate the Armenian genocide each and every year on April 24. If it is not taught in our school and if we ignore the history then we are destined to repeat the mistakes of the past.

Thank you for supporting the remembrance of the Armenian Genocide.

Sincerely,

Mary.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CLEAN UP ACT

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Correction of Longstanding Errors in Agencies Unsustainable Procurements (CLEAN UP) Act. This legislation will reform the badly flawed competitive sourcing process—saving taxpayer dollars and reinvigorating our civil service.

Especially in our current era of budget deficits, efficient government is paramount. Over the last decade, we have been much too quick to outsource many of government's most basic functions to the private sector. The desire to do so reflected a political ideology of shrinking the government workforce—even if it meant diminishing the quality or increasing the cost of government services that are overwhelmingly supported by American taxpayers. This course of action negatively impacted everything from national defense and border security to the collection of taxes and the stewardship of our public lands. In many cases, work was outsourced with little or no competition—subverting the public interest and wasting billions in taxpayer dollars.

This bill is not about punishing the contractor community or criticizing the work that they do. The vast majority of these firms want to do the right thing and have performed many important functions on behalf of the government. However, there is some government work that is not appropriately awarded to the lowest bidder. Often this work is about providing a service as a matter of policy without regard to profit. The process by which we make decisions to hire government workers or to contract with the private sector for certain functions must reflect a mature understanding of the real differences between the mission of government and that of business.

More recently, Congress has begun to rein in administrative procurement policy by requiring more robust competition in contracting and ensuring that the core functions of government are performed by government employees. The CLEAN UP Act seeks to reverse the damage that has already been done by requiring agencies to develop plans to bring inherently governmental work back in-house and ensuring that future procurement decisions are made based on the best interest of the government and the taxpayer.

The CLEAN UP Act will make the contracting process fair to Federal employees and accountable to taxpayers.

Congress has heard from Federal workers and advocates in and out of government and their conclusions are the same—the current system is broken. We must develop a clear, government-wide standard for what work should or must be performed by government workers and put in place a fair process for competing all other work.

That is why I have introduced the CLEAN UP Act.

The CLEAN UP Act will:

Impose a uniform, government-wide standard for government work, distinguishing between the functions which must be done by our civil servants and those functions that may be done competently by the private sector;

Incrementally bring work that should be performed by Federal employees back in-house;

Encourage agencies to consider assigning new work to Federal employees if they would be more efficient rather than pursuing a policy of contracting-out, frequently through sole-source or limited competition contracts;

Require agencies to determine where there are or will be shortages of Federal employees and develop plans to address these shortages;

Maintain the existing suspension of the use of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A–76 process until OMB determines that the reforms required by this legislation have been implemented;

Direct Agencies to implement an alternative to the A–76 process in order to continually improve and streamline services—developing a more efficient process without the costs and controversies of the A–76 process.

We have some of the best and brightest in our civil service; public servants with a deep and abiding love for this country. They have important missions—to make the next scientific breakthrough; to protect our nation from foreign threats; to keep our communities safe from crime or disaster; to maintain our critical infrastructure. By enacting the CLEAN UP Act, we have an opportunity to support our Federal workforce, save taxpayer dollars, restore good government, and reduce waste, fraud, and abuse.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF GERARD TULLY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to seek Congressional recognition of the exceptional achievements and outstanding career of Gerard Tully. On May 25th, 2011, Mr. Tully will be recognized by the President, Chairman of the Board, and Board of Directors of the Flushing Savings Bank for his 44 years of tireless and dedicated service to the Bank and the Flushing Community.

After graduating from Hofstra College in 1950, Mr. Tully set to work in the construction industry, working for numerous businesses and creating countless jobs in the Queens and Long Island communities. In 1967, he joined the Flushing Savings Bank as a trustee. From 1981 through 1989, he served as the chief executive officer, and from 1980 until 2011, he was chairman of the board. His retirement as chairman on February 15th marks the end of an era for the Flushing bank. His decades of experience and wealth of knowledge have made him an invaluable asset for the bank and the customers it serves. Moving forward, he will continue his distinguished service as a member of the board.

Mr. Tully's success was not just confined to the realm of the business. For decades, he has been an active participant in a diverse group of community organizations. His support of Catholic Charities and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation deserves special recognition. Mr. Tully's active participation and skilled leadership in a variety of charitable endeavors has changed countless lives for the better. Mr. Tully's legacy of selfless devotion to community service is something in which his wife, Frances, and their 17 grandchildren and five great grandchildren can take great pride.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to count Mr. Tully among my constituents in the 5th Congressional District of New York. He has stepped down as the Chairman of the Board of the Flushing Savings Bank after having contributed immeasurably his community. I am proud to recognize Mr. Tully and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for a lifetime of selfless dedication to the community.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 754) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes:

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Chair, today I want to highlight a critical issue facing the Intelligence Community: increasing reliance on contractors.

A 2010 Washington Post story reported that 30 percent of the workforce in our intelligence agencies is contractors. Furthermore, the Post estimated that out of 854,000 people with top-secret clearances, 265,000 are contractors. I encourage my colleagues to read this eye opening article.

These startling facts cause me great concern—we've learned the hard way time and time again what happens when we fail to monitor the work of federal contractors. The federal government has the responsibility to maintain its commitment to monitoring their use—with special attention made to the evolving nature of their work and the associated national security risks inherent to outsourcing these tasks. I look forward to working with the Select Committee on Intelligence to achieve this goal.

[From the Washington Post, July 20, 2010]

NATIONAL SECURITY, INC.

(By Dana Priest and William M. Arkin)

In June, a stone carver from Manassas chiseled another perfect star into a marble wall at CIA headquarters, one of 22 for agency workers killed in the global war initiated by the 2001 terrorist attacks.

The intent of the memorial is to publicly honor the courage of those who died in the line of duty, but it also conceals a deeper story about government in the post-9/11 era: Eight of the 22 were not CIA officers at all. They were private contractors.

To ensure that the country's most sensitive duties are carried out only by people loyal above all to the nation's interest, federal rules say contractors may not perform what are called ''inherently government functions.'' But they do, all the time and in every intelligence and counterterrorism agency, according to a two-year investigation by The Washington Post.

What started as a temporary fix in response to the terrorist attacks has turned into a dependency that calls into question whether the federal workforce includes too many people obligated to shareholders rather than the public interest—and whether the government is still in control of its most sensitive activities. In interviews last week, both Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and CIA Director Leon Panetta said they agreed with such concerns.

The Post investigation uncovered what amounts to an alternative geography of the United States, a Top Secret America created since 9/11 that is hidden from public view, lacking in thorough oversight and so unwieldy that its effectiveness is impossible to determine.

It is also a system in which contractors are playing an ever more important role. The Post estimates that out of 854,000 people with top-secret clearances, 265,000 are contractors. There is no better example of the government's dependency on them than at the CIA, the one place in government that exists to do things overseas that no other U.S. agency is allowed to do.

Private contractors working for the CIA have recruited spies in Iraq, paid bribes for information in Afghanistan and protected CIA directors visiting world capitals. Contractors have helped snatch a suspected extremist off the streets of Italy, interrogated detainees once held at secret prisons abroad and watched over defectors holed up in the Washington suburbs. At Langley headquarters, they analyze terrorist networks. At the agency's training facility in Virginia, they are helping mold a new generation of American spies.

Through the federal budget process, the George W. Bush administration and Congress made it much easier for the CIA and other agencies involved in counterterrorism to hire more contractors than civil servants. They did this to limit the size of the permanent workforce, to hire employees more quickly than the sluggish federal process allows and because they thought—wrongly, it turned out—that contractors would be less expensive.

Nine years later, well into the Obama administration, the idea that contractors cost less has been repudiated, and the administration has made some progress toward its goal of reducing the number of hired hands by 7 percent over two years. Still, close to 30 percent of the workforce in the intelligence agencies is contractors.

''For too long, we've depended on contractors to do the operational work that ought to be done'' by CIA employees, Panetta said. But replacing them ''doesn't happen overnight. When you've been dependent on contractors for so long, you have to build that expertise over time.'' A second concern of Panetta's: contracting with corporations, whose responsibility ''is to their shareholders, and that does present an inherent conflict.''

Or as Gates, who has been in and out of government his entire life, puts it: ''You want somebody who's really in it for a career because they're passionate about it and because they care about the country and not just because of the money.''

Contractors can offer more money—often twice as much—to experienced federal employees than the government is allowed to pay them. And because competition among firms for people with security clearances is so great, corporations offer such perks as BMWs and $15,000 signing bonuses, as Raytheon did in June for software developers with top-level clearances.

The idea that the government would save money on a contract workforce ''is a false economy,'' said Mark M. Lowenthal, a former senior CIA official and now president of his own intelligence training academy.

As companies raid federal agencies of talent, the government has been left with the youngest intelligence staffs ever while more experienced employees move into the private sector. This is true at the CIA, where employees from 114 firms account for roughly a third of the workforce, or about 10,000 positions. Many of them are temporary hires, often former military or intelligence agency employees who left government service to work less and earn more while drawing a federal pension.

Across the government, such workers are used in every conceivable way. Contractors kill enemy fighters. They spy on foreign governments and eavesdrop on terrorist networks. They help craft war plans. They gather information on local factions in war zones. They are the historians, the architects, the recruiters in the nation's most secretive agencies. They staff watch centers across the Washington area. They are among the most trusted advisers to the four-star generals leading the nation's wars.

So great is the government's appetite for private contractors with top-secret clearances that there are now more than 300 companies, often nicknamed ''body shops,'' that specialize in finding candidates, often for a fee that approaches $50,000 a person, according to those in the business.

Making it more difficult to replace contractors with federal employees: The government doesn't know how many are on the federal payroll. Gates said he wants to reduce the number of defense contractors by about 13 percent, to pre-9/11 levels, but he's having a hard time even getting a basic head count.

''This is a terrible confession,'' he said. ''I can't get a number on how many contractors work for the Office of the Secretary of Defense,'' referring to the department's civilian leadership.

The Post's estimate of 265,000 contractors doing top-secret work was vetted by several high-ranking intelligence officials who approved of The Post's methodology. The newspaper's Top Secret America database includes 1.931 companies that perform work at the top-secret level. More than a quarter of them—533—came into being after 2001, and others that already existed have expanded greatly. Most are thriving even as the rest of the United States struggles with bankruptcies, unemployment and foreclosures.

The privatization of national security work has been made possible by a nine-year ''gusher'' of money, as Gates recently described national security spending since the 9/11 attacks.

With so much money to spend, managers do not always worry about whether they are spending it effectively.

''Someone says, 'Let's do another study,' and because no one shares information, everyone does their own study,'' said Elena Mastors, who headed a team studying the al-Qaeda leadership for the Defense Department. ''It's about how many studies you can orchestrate, how many people you can fly all over the place. Everybody's just on a spending spree. We don't need all these people doing all this stuff.''

Most of these contractors do work that is fundamental to an agency's core mission. As a result, the government has become dependent on them in a way few could have foreseen: wartime temps who have become a permanent cadre.

Just last week, typing ''top secret'' into the search engine of a major jobs Web site showed 1,951 unfilled positions in the Washington area, and 19,759 nationwide: ''Target analyst,'' Reston. ''Critical infrastructure specialist,'' Washington, D.C. ''Joint expeditionary team member,'' Arlington.

''We could not perform our mission without them. They serve as our 'reserves,' providing flexibility and expertise we can't acquire,'' said Ronald Sanders, who was chief of human capital for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence before retiring in February. ''Once they are on board, we treat them as if they're a part of the total force.''

The Post's investigation is based on government documents and contracts, job descriptions, property records, corporate and social networking Web sites, additional records, and hundreds of interviews with intelligence, military and corporate officials and former officials. Most requested anonymity either because they are prohibited from speaking publicly or because, they said,

they feared retaliation at work for describing their concerns.

The investigation focused on top-secret work because the amount classified at the secret level is too large to accurately track. A searchable database of government organizations and private companies was built entirely on public records. [For an explanation of the newspaper's decision making behind this project, please see the Editor's Note.]

The national security industry sells the military and intelligence agencies more than just airplanes, ships and tanks. It sells contractors' brain power. They advise, brief and work everywhere, including 25 feet under the Pentagon in a bunker where they can be found alongside military personnel in battle fatigues monitoring potential crises worldwide.

Late at night, when the wide corridors of the Pentagon are all but empty, the National Military Command Center hums with purpose. There's real-time access to the location of U.S. forces anywhere in the world, to granular satellite images or to the White House Situation Room.

The purpose of all this is to be able to answer any question the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff might have. To be ready 24 hours a day, every day, takes five brigadier generals, a staff of colonels and senior noncommissioned officers—and a man wearing a pink contractor badge and a bright purple shirt and tie.

Erik Saar's job title is ''knowledge engineer.'' In one of the most sensitive places in America, he is the only person in the room who knows how to bring data from far afield, fast. Saar and four teammates from a private company, SRA International, teach these top-ranked staff officers to think in Web 2.0. They are trying to push a tradition-bound culture to act differently, digitally.

That sometimes means asking for help in a public online chat room or exchanging ideas on shared Web pages outside the military computer networks dubbed .mil—things much resisted within the Pentagon's self-sufficient culture. ''Our job is to change the perception of leaders who might drive change,'' Saar said.

Since 9/11, contractors have made extraordinary contributions—and extraordinary blunders—that have changed history and clouded the public's view of the distinction between the actions of officers sworn on behalf of the United States and corporate employees with little more than a security badge and a gun.

Contractor misdeeds in Iraq and Afghanistan have hurt U.S. credibility in those countries as well as in the Middle East. Abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib, some of it done by contractors, helped ignite a call for vengeance against the United States that continues today. Security guards working for Blackwater added fuel to the five-year violent chaos in Iraq and became the symbol of an America run amok.

Contractors in war zones, especially those who can fire weapons, blur ''the line between the legitimate and illegitimate use of force, which is just what our enemies want,'' Allison Stanger, a professor of international politics and economics at Middlebury College and the author of ''One Nation Under Contract,'' told the independent Commission on Wartime Contracting at a hearing in June.

Misconduct happens, too. A defense contractor formerly called MZM paid bribes for CIA contracts, sending Randy ''Duke'' Cunningham, who was a California congressman on the intelligence committee, to prison. Guards employed in Afghanistan by ArmorGroup North America, a private security company, were caught on camera in a lewd-partying scandal.

But contractors have also advanced the way the military fights. During the bloodiest months in Iraq, the founder of Berico Technologies, a former Army officer named Guy Filippelli, working with the National Security Agency. invented a technology that made finding the makers of roadside bombs easier and helped stanch the number of casualties from improvised explosives, according to NSA officials.

Contractors have produced blueprints and equipment for the unmanned aerial war fought by drones, which have killed the largest number of senior al-Qaeda leaders and produced a flood of surveillance videos. A dozen firms created the transnational digital highway that carries the drones' real-time data on terrorist hide-outs from overseas to command posts throughout the United States.

Private firms have become so thoroughly entwined with the government's most sensitive activities that without them important military and intelligence missions would have to cease or would be jeopardized. Some examples:

*At the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the number of contractors equals the number of federal employees. The department depends on 318 companies for essential services and personnel, including 19 staffing firms that help DHS find and hire even more contractors. At the office that handles intelligence, six out of 10 employees are from private industry.

*The National Security Agency, which conducts worldwide electronic surveillance, hires private firms to come up with most of its technological innovations. The NSA used to work with a small stable of firms; now it works with at least 484 and is actively recruiting more.

*The National Reconnaissance Office cannot produce, launch or maintain its large satellite surveillance systems, which photograph countries such as China, North Korea and Iran, without the four major contractors it works with.

*Every intelligence and military organization depends on contract linguists to communicate overseas, translate documents and make sense of electronic voice intercepts. The demand for native speakers is so great, and the amount of money the government is willing to pay for them is so huge, that 56 firms compete for this business.

*Each of the 16 intelligence agencies depends on corporations to set up its computer networks, communicate with other agencies' networks, and fuse and mine disparate bits of information that might indicate a terrorist plot. More than 400 companies work exclusively in this area, building classified hardware and software systems.

Hiring contractors was supposed to save the government money. But that has not turned out to be the case. A 2008 study published by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence found that contractors made up 29 percent of the workforce in the intelligence agencies but cost the equivalent of 49 percent of their personnel budgets. Gates said that federal workers cost the government 25 percent less than contractors.

The process of reducing the number of contractors has been slow, if the giant Office of Naval Intelligence in Suitland is any example. There, 2,770 people work on the round-the-clock maritime watch floor tracking commercial vessels, or in science and engineering laboratories, or in one of four separate intelligence centers. But it is the employees of 70 information technology companies who keep the place operating.

They store, process and analyze communications and intelligence transmitted to and from the entire U.S. naval fleet and commercial vessels worldwide. ''Could we keep this building running without contractors?'' said the captain in charge of information technology. ''No, I don't think we could keep up with it.''

Vice Adm. David J. ''Jack'' Dorsett, director of naval intelligence, said he could save millions each year by converting 20 percent of the contractor jobs at the Suitland complex to civil servant positions. He has gotten the go-ahead, but it's been a slow start. This year, his staff has converted one contractor job and eliminated another—out of 589. ''It's costing me an arm and a leg,'' Dorsett said.

Washington's corridors of power stretch in a nearly straight geographical line from the Supreme Court to the Capitol to the White House. Keep going west, across the Potomac River, and the unofficial seats of power—the private, corporate ones—become visible, especially at night. There in the Virginia suburbs are the brightly illuminated company logos of Top Secret America: Northrop Grumman, SAIC, General Dynamics.

Of the 1,931 companies identified by The Post that work on top-secret contracts, about 110 of them do roughly 90 percent of the work on the corporate side of the defense-intelligence-corporate world.

To understand how these firms have come to dominate the post-9/11 era, there's no better place to start than the Herndon office of General Dynamics. One recent afternoon there, Ken Pohill was watching a series of unclassified images, the first of which showed a white truck moving across his computer monitor.

The truck was in Afghanistan, and a video camera bolted to the belly of a U.S. surveillance plane was following it. Pohill could access a dozen images that might help an intelligence analyst figure out whether the truck driver was just a truck driver or part of a network making roadside bombs to kill American soldiers.

To do this, he clicked his computer mouse. Up popped a picture of the truck driver's house, with notes about visitors. Another click. Up popped infrared video of the vehicle. Click: Analysis of an object thrown from the driver's side. Click: U–2 imagery. Click: A history of the truck's movement. Click: A Google Earth map of friendly forces. Click: A chat box with everyone else following the truck, too.

Ten years ago, if Pohill had worked for General Dynamics, he probably would have had a job bending steel. Then, the company's center of gravity was the industrial port city of Groton, Conn., where men and women in wet galoshes churned out submarines, the thoroughbreds of naval warfare. Today, the firm's commercial core is made up of data tools such as the digital imagery library in Herndon and the secure BlackBerry-like device used by President Obama, both developed at a carpeted suburban office by employees in loafers and heels.

The evolution of General Dynamics was based on one simple strategy: Follow the money.

The company embraced the emerging intelligence-driven style of warfare. It developed small-target identification systems and equipment that could intercept an insurgent's cellphone and laptop communications. It found ways to sort the billions of data points collected by intelligence agencies into piles of information that a single person could analyze.

It also began gobbling up smaller companies that could help it dominate the new intelligence landscape, just as its competitors were doing. Between 2001 and 2010, the company acquired 11 firms specializing in satellites, signals and geospatial intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, technology integration and imagery.

On Sept. 11, 2001, General Dynamics was working with nine intelligence organizations. Now it has contracts with all 16. Its

employees fill the halls of the NSA and DHS. The corporation was paid hundreds of millions of dollars to set up and manage DHS's new offices in 2003, including its National Operations Center, Office of Intelligence and Analysis and Office of Security. Its employees do everything from deciding which threats to investigate to answering phones.

General Dynamics' bottom line reflects its successful transformation. It also reflects how much the U.S. government—the firm's largest customer by far—has paid the company beyond what it costs to do the work, which is, after all, the goal of every profit-making corporation.

The company reported $31.9 billion in revenue in 2009, up from $10.4 billion in 2000. Its workforce has more than doubled in that time, from 43,300 to 91,700 employees, according to the company.

Revenue from General Dynamics' intelligence- and information-related divisions, where the majority of its top-secret work is done, climbed to $10 billion in the second quarter of 2009, up from $2.4 billion in 2000, accounting for 34 percent of its overall revenue last year.

The company's profitability is on display in its Falls Church headquarters. There's a soaring, art-filled lobby, bistro meals served on china enameled with the General Dynamics logo and an auditorium with seven rows of white leather-upholstered seats, each with its own microphone and laptop docking station.

General Dynamics now has operations in every corner of the intelligence world. It helps counterintelligence operators and trains new analysts. It has a $600 million Air Force contract to intercept communications. It makes $1 billion a year keeping hackers out of U.S. computer networks and encrypting military communications. It even conducts information operations, the murky military art of trying to persuade foreigners to align their views with U.S. interests.

''The American intelligence community is an important market for our company,'' said General Dynamics spokesman Kendell Pease. ''Over time, we have tailored our organization to deliver affordable, best-of-breed products and services to meet those agencies' unique requirements.''

In September 2009, General Dynamics won a $10 million contract from the U.S. Special Operations Command's psychological operations unit to create Web sites to influence foreigners' views of U.S. policy. To do that, the company hired writers, editors and designers to produce a set of daily news sites tailored to five regions of the world. They appear as regular news Web sites, with names such as ''SETimes.com: The News and Views of Southeast Europe.'' The first indication that they are run on behalf of the military comes at the bottom of the home page with the word ''Disclaimer.'' Only by clicking on that do you learn that ''the Southeast European Times (SET) is a Web site sponsored by the United States European Command.''

What all of these contracts add up to: This year, General Dynamics' overall revenue was $7.8 billion in the first quarter, Jay L. Johnson, the company's chief executive and president, said at an earnings conference call in April. ''We've hit the deck running in the first quarter,'' he said, ''and we're on our way to another successful year.''

In the shadow of giants such as General Dynamics are 1,814 small to midsize companies that do top-secret work. About a third of them were established after Sept. 11, 2001, to take advantage of the huge flow of taxpayer money into the private sector. Many are led by former intelligence agency officials who know exactly whom to approach for work.

Abraxas of Herndon, headed by a former CIA spy, quickly became a major CIA contractor after 9/11. Its staff even recruited midlevel managers during work hours from the CIA's cafeteria, former agency officers recall.

Other small and medium-size firms sell niche technical expertise such as engineering for low-orbit satellites or long-dwell sensors. But the vast majority have not invented anything at all. Instead, they replicate what the government's workforce already does.

A company called SGIS, founded soon after the 2001 attacks, was one of these.

In June 2002, from the spare bedroom of his San Diego home, 30-year-old Hany Girgis put together an information technology team that won its first Defense Department contract four months later. By the end of the year, SGIS had opened a Tampa office close to the U.S. Central Command and Special Operations Command, had turned a profit and had 30 employees.

SGIS sold the government the services of people with specialized skills; expanding the types of teams it could put together was one key to its growth. Eventually it offered engineers, analysts and cyber-security specialists for military, space and intelligence agencies. By 2003, the company's revenue was $3.7 million. By then, SGIS had become a subcontractor for General Dynamics, working at the secret level. Satisfied with the partnership, General Dynamics helped SGIS receive a top-secret facility clearance, which opened the doors to more work.

By 2006, its revenue had multiplied tenfold, to $30.6 million, and the company had hired employees who specialized in government contracting just to help it win more contracts.

''We knew that's where we wanted to play,'' Girgis said in a phone interview. ''There's always going to be a need to protect the homeland.''

Eight years after it began, SGIS was up to revenue of $101 million, 14 offices and 675 employees. Those with top-secret clearances worked for 11 government agencies, according to The Post's database.

The company's marketing efforts had grown, too, both in size and sophistication. Its Web site, for example, showed an image of Navy sailors lined up on a battleship over the words ''Proud to serve'' and another image of a Navy helicopter flying near the Statue of Liberty over the words ''Preserving freedom.'' And if it seemed hard to distinguish SGIS's work from the government's, it's because they were doing so many of the same things. SGIS employees replaced military personnel at the Pentagon's 24/7 telecommunications center. SGIS employees conducted terrorist threat analysis. SGIS employees provided help-desk support for federal computer systems.

Still, as alike as they seemed, there were crucial differences.

For one, unlike in government, if an SGIS employee did a good job, he might walk into the parking lot one day and be surprised by co-workers clapping at his latest bonus: a leased, dark-blue Mercedes convertible. And he might say, as a video camera recorded him sliding into the soft leather driver's seat, ''Ahhhh . . . this is spectacular.''

And then there was what happened to SGIS last month, when it did the one thing the federal government can never do.

It sold itself.

The new owner is a Fairfax-based company called Salient Federal Solutions, created just last year. It is a management company and a private-equity firm with lots of Washington connections that, with the purchase of SGIS, it intends to parlay into contracts.

''We have an objective,'' says chief executive and President Brad Antle, ''to make $500 million in five years.''

Of all the different companies in Top Secret America, the most numerous by far are the information technology, or IT, firms. About 800 firms do nothing but IT.

Some IT companies integrate the mishmash of computer systems within one agency; others build digital links between agencies; still others have created software and hardware that can mine and analyze vast quantities of data.

The government is nearly totally dependent on these firms. Their close relationship was on display recently at the Defense Intelligence Agency's annual information technology conference in Phoenix. The agency expected the same IT firms angling for its business to pay for the entire five-day get-together, a DIA spokesman confirmed.

And they did.

General Dynamics spent $30,000 on the event. On a perfect spring night, it hosted a party at Chase Field, a 48,569-seat baseball stadium, reserved exclusively for the conference attendees. Government buyers and corporate sellers drank beer and ate hot dogs while the DIA director's morning keynote speech replayed on the gigantic scoreboard, digital baseballs bouncing along the bottom of the screen.

Carahsoft Technology, a DIA contractor, invited guests to a casino night where intelligence officials and vendors ate, drank and bet phony money at craps tables run by professional dealers.

The McAfee network security company, a Defense Department contractor, welcomed guests to a Margaritaville-themed social on the garden terrace of the hotel across the street from the convention site, where 250 firms paid thousands of dollars each to advertise their services and make their pitches to intelligence officials walking the exhibition hall.

Government officials and company executives say these networking events are critical to building a strong relationship between the public and private sectors.

''If I make one contact each day, it's worth it,'' said Tom Conway, director of federal business development for McAfee.

As for what a government agency gets out of it: ''Our goal is to be open and learn stuff,'' said Grant M. Schneider, the DIA's chief information officer and one of the conference's main draws. By going outside Washington, where many of the firms are headquartered, ''we get more synergy. . . . It's an interchange with industry.''

These types of gatherings happen every week. Many of them are closed to anyone without a top-secret clearance.

At a U.S. Special Operations Command conference in Fayetteville, N.C., in April, vendors paid for access to some of the people who decide what services and gadgets to buy for troops. In mid-May, the national security industry held a black-tie evening funded by the same corporations seeking business from the defense, intelligence and congressional leaders seated at their tables.

Such coziness worries other officials who believe the post–9/11 defense-intelligence-corporate relationship has become, as one senior military intelligence officer described it, a ''self-licking ice cream cone.''

Another official, a longtime conservative staffer on the Senate Armed Services Committee, described it as ''a living, breathing organism'' impossible to control or curtail. ''How much money has been involved is just mind-boggling,'' he said. ''We've built such a vast instrument. What are you going to do with this thing? . . . It's turned into a jobs program.''

Even some of those gathered in Phoenix criticized the size and disjointedness of the intelligence community and its contracting base. ''Redundancy is the unacceptable

norm,'' Lt. Gen. Richard P. Zahner, Army deputy chief of staff for intelligence, told the 2,000 attendees. ''Are we spending our resources effectively? . . . If we have not gotten our houses in order, someone will do it for us.''

On a day that also featured free back rubs, shoeshines, ice cream and fruit smoothies, another speaker, Kevin P. Meiners, a deputy undersecretary for intelligence, gave the audience what he called ''the secret sauce,'' the key to thriving even when the Defense Department budget eventually stabilizes and stops rising so rapidly.

''Overhead,'' Meiners told them—that's what's going to get cut first. Overhead used to mean paper clips and toner. Now it's information technology, IT, the very products and services sold by the businesspeople in the audience.

''You should describe what you do as a weapons system, not overhead,'' Meiners instructed. ''Overhead to them—I'm giving you the secret sauce here—is IT and people. . . . You have to foot-stomp hard that this is a war-fighting system that's helping save people's lives every day.''

After he finished, many of the government officials listening headed to the exhibit hall, where company salespeople waited in display booths. Peter Coddington, chief executive of InTTENSITY, a small firm whose software teaches computers to ''read'' documents, was ready for them.

''You have to differentiate yourself,'' he said as they fanned out into the aisles. Coddington had glass beer mugs and pens twirling atop paperweight pyramids to help persuade officials of the nation's largest military intelligence agency that he had something they needed.

But first he needed them to stop walking so fast, to slow down long enough for him to start his pitch. His twirling pens seemed to do the job. ''It's like moths to fire,'' Coddington whispered.

A DIA official with a tote bag approached. She spotted the pens, and her pace slowed. ''Want a pen?'' Coddington called.

She hesitated. ''Ah . . . I have three children,'' she said.

''Want three pens?''

She stopped. In Top Secret America, every moment is an opportunity.

''We're a text extraction company . . . ,'' Coddington began, handing her the pens.

Staff researcher Julie Tate contributed to this report.

A TRIBUTE TO DALTON B. DOOM

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dalton B. Doom of Urbandale, IA for achieving the rank of an Eagle Scout. Dalton is currently a freshman in high school and serves as the Senior Patrol Leader of his troop.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about 5 percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement whose high standards have been maintained over the years. To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Dalton's project consisted of raising funds to purchase and install Automated External Defibrillator devices at a local church.

After obtaining the highest scouting rank possible, Dalton plans to remain active in scouting to earn additional Eagle Palms and merit badges. Dalton has been involved in scouting since he became a Tiger Cub more than 10 years ago. His future plans are to attend the United States Air Force Academy and become an F–22 pilot.

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

COMMENDING THE STUDENTS OF SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of the students of Springfield High School, in Springfield, Pennsylvania, who raised a record sum of nearly $153,000 through their annual Dance-a-Thon to benefit pediatric cancer research. With over half of Springfield High's student body taking part in this extraordinary charitable drive, the Dance-a-Thon represents community service at its finest—citizens voluntarily giving of themselves to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors. Most of us have known the pain of losing a loved one to cancer, but the students at Springfield took action, joining together to help children who are fighting this disease. I am proud of these young men and women, and grateful for the example they have set for their peers and the students who will follow after them.

CONGRATULATING TAIWAN'S PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express congratulations to Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou who is celebrating his third year as their leader on May 20th, 2011.

During President Ma's tenure, Taiwan has not only been a close friend of the United States, but it has reached out to countries all over the world. This was evident during Japan's recent tragedy in March resulting from the earthquakes and tsunami.

Due to the radiation emitting from the damaged nuclear plants, staff from the United States embassy in Japan needed to evacuate immediately. Taiwan was gracious enough to take them in. U.S. Embassy officials plus private United States citizens were flown in chartered planes from Japan to Taiwan.

Taiwan also donated supplies and money to Japan to help with their desperate situation. About 10 tons of supplies, including food and clothing, plus approximately $15 million dollars were generously donated by the Taiwanese people.

Once again, I congratulate President Ma for the start of his third year in office and thank the Taiwanese people for their charity towards the people of Japan.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF REVEREND PAUL R. VASSAR ON THE OCCASION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION OF THE PRIESTHOOD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Reverend Paul R. Vassar's ordination to the priesthood. For four decades, Father Vassar has served the people of his parishes with good words and good works, and on June 11, 2011, St. Leander Parish is celebrating this wonderful milestone in their Pastor's life.

A native of Oakland, Father Vassar graduated from Bishop O'Dowd High School, studied philosophy at St. John's College in Camarillo, and graduated from St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Floyd Begin in 1971.

Since that time, Father Vassar has served as an Associate Pastor at the Oakland parish of St. Leo, and as Pastor of St. Benedict's in 1977. After studying at Howard University, he was appointed Pastor of St. Columba Parish in Oakland, where he ministered for 13 years. After a decade as Diocesan Vicar General, Father Vassar became Pastor of St. Leander Parish in 2004.

At St. Leander, Father Vassar's energy and enthusiasm constantly shine through. He visits students in their classrooms regularly at the Parish school, delighting in their growth and activity. Dedicated to learning and listening, Father Vassar learned Spanish to better communicate with his diverse parish. Under his guidance and exceptional leadership, one of the oldest parishes of the Diocese of Oakland has flourished.

Father Vassar has served on the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities of the East Bay, and he and several of his priest friends formed a support group to share the challenges and joys of their callings.

It is a special personal privilege for me to honor Father Paul on the 40th Anniversary of his ordination. We have been friends since his days at St. Patrick's Seminary and he has been part of my family since then, from the births of my children, to officiating at the wedding of my daughter, to celebrating the Funeral Masses for my parents when each entered into eternity. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Father Vassar's four decades of faithful service to the Bay Area Catholic community. When he joined St. Leander, he commented on how excited he was to return to parish work. ''I get to walk with people where God is working with them,'' he said. For 40 phenomenal years, Father Vassar has done just that. I'm proud to know him, to be his friend, and to pay tribute to this good, holy and happy man who has strengthened our community, deepened our faith, and made our country a better place.

THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, as co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Korea, I rise today to commend the Republic of Korea's pledge of an additional $500 million over 5 years in aid to Afghanistan. It is unfortunate that this tremendous contribution was not heralded by the international media because Seoul's commitment to aiding in the development and reconstruction in the war-torn nation is remarkable in several ways and deserves our recognition and gratitude.

This latest $500 million is in addition to the $180 million Seoul has already contributed to Afghanistan. And, currently, there are about 90 South Korean aid workers and police serving in Afghanistan secured by more than 200 Korean troops. This increased level of assistance will go a long way in supporting existing programs run by Korea's Provincial Reconstruction Team in the northern province of Parwan. Korea's Provincial Reconstruction Team will be able to enhance their work in the areas of education, health and medical service, rural development, improved governance and police training.

Korea has been and continues to be one of the most reliable partners we have in Afghanistan. For example, from 2002 to 2007, Korea deployed military medics and engineers in Afghanistan; provided medical service to 260,000 people; and helped build the U.S. Bagram Air Field.

What impresses me the most about Korea's fortitude and role in the international community is its tremendous progress over the last half century. Not so long ago South Korea was a recipient, rather than a donor, of Official Development Assistance, ODA. According to the Congressional Research Service, U.S. economic assistance to South Korea totaled $3.8 billion from 1945 to 1971. However, by the mid-1970s U.S. assistance began to shrink to zero. In 2009, South Korea became the first major recipient of Official Development Assistance to become a major donor of ODA. In just two years, 2008 and 2009, South Korea contributed economic aid of $1.7 billion to other countries, including Afghanistan.

Through sound economic policies, a strong commitment to free enterprise, and a turn from autocratic to democratic governance, South Korea has become one of the world's fastest-growing, most resilient economies with an equally resilient and stable civil society.

In 1980, the Republic of Korea's gross domestic product, GDP, per capita was $2,300, about one-third of nearby economies such as Singapore, Hong Kong, and Japan. Since then, South Korea has advanced into a developed economy that had a GDP per capita of $30,000 in 2010, almost thirteen times the figure thirty years earlier. The country's overall GDP increased from $88 billion to $1,460 billion in the same period.

Today, South Korea's economy ranks fifteenth in the world by nominal GDP and twelfth by purchasing power parity. It is one of the G–20 major economies and it is a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. As of 2010, South Korea was the sixth largest exporter and tenth largest importer in the world. Korea is the United States' seventh-largest trading partner, with a pending free trade agreement that will bring multiple benefits to both of our countries in terms of increased trade and investment. We must pass the pending U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement KORUS FTA as soon as possible.

The conflict in Afghanistan is as controversial in Korea as it is in the United States, which makes the Republic of Korea's pledge of an additional $500 million (over 5 years) in aid to Afghanistan all the more significant. It sends a signal to the world that Korea is a dedicated partner in peace and an ally that the U.S. can count on.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me today in saluting the Republic of Korea and people of Korea for their continued partnership in helping to rebuild the economy and society of Afghanistan.