

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR
OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Adam John Avellan for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Adam has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

CATHERINE FOX TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Catherine Fox, a science teacher at Mancos High School in Mancos, Colorado. Ms. Fox was chosen to participate in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Teachers at Sea Program for 2011.

Ms. Fox was accepted into the program along with 32 other teachers out of a pool of over 250 applicants. The Teachers At Sea Program was established in 1990 and since then has given over 500 teachers from across the country the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with science at sea. Ms. Fox spent 18 days at sea aboard the NOAA Ship *Oscar Dyson* in the Gulf of Alaska where she aided scientists in the conducting of walleye pollock surveys.

Through this program, Ms. Fox was able to bring home experience and knowledge that she could pass along to her science students. Ms. Fox was quoted in an associated press release saying, "Students in Mancos are far from the ocean, but this experience has allowed me to bring the ocean to them."

The Teachers at Sea Program has allowed educators like Ms. Catherine Fox to grow their curricula and provide more hands-on knowledge for their students.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincerest pleasure to recognize Ms. Catherine Fox. Her dedication to her profession has helped improve our educational system and ensure that our students are receiving the best education available to them. I rise today to thank Ms. Fox for her commitment to learning and congratulate her on her acceptance into the 2011 Teachers at Sea Program.

VETERANS' BENEFITS TRAINING
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the passage of H.R. 2349, the Veterans' Benefits Training Improvement Act of 2011. This important legislation makes much-needed improvements to benefits and services for our nation's veterans. It improves the claim-processing system by establishing a pilot program to assess the skills of employees responsible for processing veterans' claims, authorizing the use of electronic communication to contact claimants regarding their benefits, and assisting veterans in obtaining private records, among others.

Included in this legislation is a bill that I sponsored entitled, the Veterans Pensions Protection Act of 2011 (H.R. 923). My bill protects veterans' pensions by exempting the reimbursement of expenses related to accidents, theft, loss or casualty loss from being included into the determination of a veteran's income. Under current law, if a veteran is seriously injured in an accident or is the victim of a theft and receives insurance compensation, he or she may lose their pension if the payment exceeds the income limit set by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This means that the law effectively punishes veterans when they suffer from an accident or theft.

Such a tragedy happened to one of my constituents, a Navy veteran with muscular dystrophy who was hit by a truck when crossing the street in his wheelchair. His pension was abruptly cut off after he received an insurance settlement payment to cover medical expenses for himself and his service dog, and material expenses to replace his wheelchair. As a result, he could not cover his daily expenses and mortgage payments and almost lost his home. To me this is unacceptable.

I am extremely pleased that H.R. 923 was incorporated into H.R. 2349 and I want to thank my Florida colleague, Chairman JEFF MILLER, as well as Subcommittee Chairman JON RUNYAN and Ranking Member JERRY MCNERNEY for their continued support on this important issue.

At a time of economic hardship, it is essential to guarantee the continuity of our veterans' pensions and ensure that no veteran will have their benefits unfairly and abruptly depreciated or cancelled.

Mr. Speaker, our nation's servicemen and women are currently fighting two wars abroad and engaged in action in other parts of the world. As they return home, many bear the mental and physical wounds incurred in the defense of our nation and deserve the highest quality care and services that we can provide them. Therefore, I thank my colleagues for supporting this much-needed legislation.

ENCOURAGING OBSERVANCE OF
NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, during National Fire Prevention Awareness week, I would like to encourage that we as a community make preparations to protect our families and neighbors from the tragedy and destruction caused by fires. This is a great opportunity to thank our community's fire fighters who are the first to respond and put themselves at risk for our safety.

Our Manhattan Congressional District is fortunate to have many brave first responders, including those from the Uniformed Fire Association of Greater New York, FDNY Engine 69, Ladder 28, Battalion 16 'Harlem Hilton,' FDNY Engine 53, Ladder 43 'El Barrio's Bravest' and FDNY Rescue 3 'Big Blue,' and the Vulcan Society, Inc. We must continue to show our cooperation and appreciation towards our firefighters, first responders and those who continuously ensure our neighborhoods are safe.

Simple precautions such as installing and maintaining smoke detectors in every apartment unit and on every floor of our homes and buildings, having an escape plan, and following fire codes can save countless lives. I would hope that people in my District and all across our great nation would take proper measures to prevent fires and potential harm in our communities."

LEROUX RANCH TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Leroux Ranch of Radium, Colorado. Leroux Ranch was settled in 1905 by cowboy and miner Owen F. Leroux at the suggestion of John Winslow, Owen's future father-in-law.

Owen married Ida Winslow, settled down, and started a family. The Leroux estate thrived for many years and after Owen's death, his family began purchasing land from homesteaders and the farm operated as Leroux Cattle Company. In 1973, part of the farm was sold off, but the original homestead remained.

In 2008, the final interest in the farm was purchased by descendants of Owen and Ida Leroux and today raises Angus and Hereford cattle. The Division of Wildlife has placed a conservation easement on the property in an attempt to establish a habitat for big game.

The Leroux Farm is another fine example of the rich agricultural heritage of the State of Colorado. The Centennial Farms Program is honoring the Leroux Farm for its longevity and long-time cultural value. It is truly a pleasure to represent a district of a state with such a fantastic display of entrepreneurial spirit.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Leroux Farm today on the floor of the House. The farm is truly a valuable historic and cultural asset of the State of Colorado.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
PATUXENT RESEARCH REFUGE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to commend the Patuxent Research Refuge on the occasion of their 75th Anniversary. Sited on almost 13,000 acres of green space, Patuxent is the largest contiguous block of forest land in the Baltimore-Washington Corridor. Some have referred to it as the "green lungs" of the region.

Established in 1936 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Patuxent is the Nation's only national wildlife refuge created to support wildlife research. Patuxent includes the National Wildlife Visitor's Center which is one of the largest science and environmental education centers operated by the Department of Interior. Many of my constituents appreciate and value the Visitor Center's interactive exhibits which focus on global environmental issues, migratory bird studies, habitats and endangered species. Many visitors also can enjoy the hiking trails, tram tours, seasonal fishing programs, wildlife management demonstration areas and the outdoor education sites for local schools.

In addition to the Visitor's Center, Patuxent is home to the Wildlife Research Center which conducts research on a diverse range of wildlife and conservation issues. The exemplary research by the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center has helped develop important management techniques for conserving and protecting our Nation's wildlife and habitat. Research at the Center has led to efforts to restore the whooping crane population from near extinction to providing the scientific research that ultimately led the ban of the pesticide DDT in 1972. Currently, the Center has over 100 scientific research projects ranging from the impact of rising sea levels to Chesapeake Bay black duck populations to nocturnal bird migrations through the Central Appalachians.

Patuxent continues to be at the forefront of conserving our precious natural resources and maintaining an ecosystem that will continue to be robust and vibrant for generations to come. It provides a place for hikers, fisherman and hunters to enjoy green space in the Baltimore-Washington Corridor. I am proud that the 3rd Congressional District is home to the Patuxent Research Refuge, and hope they can continue to serve as an archetype for future environmental research facilities. I hope my fellow Members will join me in congratulating them on their 75th anniversary.

HONORING TAIWAN ON ITS 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Taiwan, which celebrated its 100th anniversary earlier this month. The events of October 10, 1911, marked the beginning of the Wuchang Uprising, which ultimately resulted in the collapse of the Qing Dynasty in China and the creation of Taiwan.

Under the leadership of Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou, relations between China and Taiwan have greatly improved. Both China and Taiwan have been able to benefit from this new era of cooperation. Chinese tourists have been flooding into Taiwan, bolstering the local economy and creating good will between the neighbors. Last year, both governments signed the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement, ECFA. The agreement streamlines business between China and Taiwan. As a result of Taiwan's leadership, daily flights between the two countries continue to grow considerably.

We are grateful for President Ma's efforts to create peaceful relations with its neighbors and congratulate Taiwan again on its 100th anniversary.

McLAIN RANCH TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the McLain Ranch of Parlin, Colorado. McLain Ranch was settled by John Jay McLain and his wife Olive Colter in 1908. John Jay settled in Cripple Creek in the late 1800's. A teamster at the time, John mined and conserved his money with the ultimate aspiration to become a rancher.

In the early 1900s, John and his wife moved to Ohio City where he was Superintendent of the Raymond mine. In his free time and as part of his money-saving practices, John panned gold out of the nearby creek.

Finally, in 1908, John had saved enough money to purchase his ranch in Gunnison County. He and his wife saw many years of healthy crops, raising oats, potatoes, horses, chickens, hogs, sheep, and cattle. The couple also raised five children, one of which, Jack, would take over the farm with his wife Louise in 1952. In 1988, Jack and Louise's son David purchased the farm and ever since, he and his wife Ladonna have continued to raise cattle as well as grass pasture and hay.

The McLain Ranch is one of several farms in Colorado that have contributed greatly to our agricultural success over the past century. The Centennial Farms Program is honoring the McLain Ranch, along with seventeen other farms, for its great role in making the State of Colorado the agricultural powerhouse it is today.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the McLain Ranch today on the floor of the House. The ranch is a symbol of the entrepreneurial spirit our Nation has so long enjoyed and exemplified.

ROFEH INTERNATIONAL—NEW
ENGLAND CHASSIDIC CENTER
HONORS THOSE WHO HAVE CON-
TRIBUTED GREATLY

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, for some years now I have had the privilege

of sharing with our colleagues information about a very important event that is held annually in Massachusetts by an organization that does great work in making health benefits available to people who need them, in the best possible setting.

ROFEH International was founded by the Boston Rebbe, Grand Rabbi Levi Horowitz, and is now led by his son, Grand Rabbi Naftali Horowitz. Rabbi Levi Horowitz was widely respected for his expertise in the field of medical ethics, and Project ROFEH, founded by him at the New England Chassidic Center, does extraordinary work in making the great healthcare available in the Greater Boston area accessible to people in other places. On November 20th, at their annual dinner, Project ROFEH—New England Chassidic Center will, as it has in the past, honor people who have performed extraordinary service for others.

The ROFEH International Award will go to Dr. Joseph Upton. The Grand Rabbi Levi Horowitz Legacy Award goes to Professor Neil Hecht. And in a special award, the 50th Jubilee of Congregation Bais Pinchas, the Jubilee Award is being given to the Blechner family, the descendants of Sidney and Toby Blechner, who did so much to make this organization the great success it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the biographies of Dr. Joseph Upton and Professor Neil Hecht and Sidney and Toby Blechner be printed here, along with the explanation from Grand Rabbi Horowitz of the Jubilee Award to the Blechner family.

DR. JOSEPH UPTON

With a broad background in surgical training Dr. Upton was originally recruited by Joseph Murray to be the first designated hand and microsurgeon in the Longwood teaching hospitals. During the past 34 years his practice has been focused on clinical surgery, education and clinical research. His large practice draws patients from well beyond all regions of the United States and he is known nationally and internationally as a reconstructive surgeon with expertise in upper limb surgery and microsurgery and excels in the evaluation, planning and technical expertise of difficult problems.

Dr. Upton was one of the original plastic surgeons who ushered in the advent of free tissue transfers and limb reattachment surgery in the 1980's. He is known for taking a difficult problem and finding a better, easier solution. Many of the first transfers in this region of the country, in fact, the world were performed by Dr. Upton in the 1980's.

During his few decades on staff he was an active participant in the gross anatomy course at the Harvard Medical School. Dr. Upton continues to perform many flesh dissections and teaches yearly flap dissection courses. He has always been eager to take new and some old technologies directly to patient care. In the operating room he is known for his innovative approaches, which incorporate old and new ideas with new technologies.

As an educator he has functioned at many levels in his daily routines and usually has a medical student, resident and clinical fellow in attendance. All participate as he can teach at all levels. His microvascular/hand fellowship program is based at BIDMC within the Department of Orthopedics and the Division of Plastic Surgery. He has given lectures, keynote addresses, instructional courses and completed many visiting professorships nationally and internationally. Original papers in peer-reviewed journals are evidence of his scholarship. More detailed descriptions of many of these procedures are