

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PATRICIA MADSON, JOURNAL  
CLERK

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the service of those who sit on the dais here in the well of the House typically attracts little public notice.

But, as Members, we feel their presence each time we enter this Chamber and observe the work of these dedicated men and women. Day in and day out they serve us tirelessly, without regard to party but with full devotion to public service. Without their assistance, the House of Representatives simply could not conduct its essential legislative business on behalf of the American people. We do not thank them often enough for their professionalism, their patience, their good cheer, and the many personal sacrifices they make in service to the House.

In that spirit then, I rise to thank and pay tribute to the House's Journal Clerk, Patricia Madson, who will retire this week. Trish has spent her entire professional life in service to the federal government, nearly all of it here on Capitol Hill. Her work here in the House alone spans four decades and includes service to seven Members as well as the Office of the Clerk.

For the past 21 years, Trish has worked for the Office of the Clerk on the House Floor. In her current role as Journal Clerk, she directs three Assistant Journal Clerks who maintain the official record of House proceedings. Whenever the House is in session, no matter the time, no matter the day, no matter the circumstances, Trish and her colleagues are at their stations at the rostrum.

In her tenure as a Journal Clerk, Trish has had a front-row seat to history, and her work in documenting that history from the House Floor has preserved for all time the essential record of this hallowed institution.

Trish began her congressional career in 1969 as a staff assistant for Representative Paul Findley of Illinois, and over the next dozen years she advanced to more senior-level administrative positions for other Members. She worked in senior assistant roles at the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Transportation before returning to the Hill in 1985 to consult on legislation for Representative PAT ROBERTS of Kansas. In 1987, she was appointed Assistant Tally Clerk to Minority Leader Robert Michel.

It is my privilege to commemorate Trish's long and distinguished service to the House. Trish, your dedication to your profession and your family are unmatched, and I wish you the very best in your retirement.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS  
MONTH

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as domestic violence awareness month. Domestic violence affects individuals from all parts of the country throughout communities in every state, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality, or educational background.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, as many as one in every four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. Whether in the form of physical or verbal aggression, this harrowing statistic highlights the largely obscured threat of domestic abuse that is tearing entire families apart.

This form of violence commonly occurs within the personal confines of the home, hidden from the watchful eye of the public and is consequently difficult to track. Some victims may often even feel too embarrassed to speak out against their partner, while others may simply be too afraid out of fear of further violence. This is simply unacceptable in any society.

We must work diligently to expose these crimes by speaking up for those who cannot. We must make resources available to help the millions of victims today who may continue to experience abuse tomorrow. Sadly, we must also mourn the losses of those who could not find help in time before the violence turned fatal.

While the people of this nation have taken great strides to address domestic violence, there is still much work to be done. Despite the tremendous successes we've seen in Congress and throughout the private sector to provide legal and financial support in the defense of these victims, our efforts must not cease until domestic violence is eliminated.

Mr. Speaker, it saddens me to hear that there are still so many victims of domestic violence among us. Yet a bigger injustice would be to ignore this harsh reality. That is why domestic violence awareness month is imperative so that we may shed further light on an issue that continues to erode the social fabric of our great society.

Until we can sufficiently reduce or eliminate domestic violence, it is pivotal that we continue to openly denounce these crimes and seek out those who look to harm innocent people and spoil the lives of future generations.

RECOGNITION FOR THE NEW  
HAMPSHIRE COALITION AGAINST  
DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIO-  
LENCE

**HON. FRANK C. GUINTA**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and take pause to thank the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence for all that you do on behalf of victims of domestic and sexual abuse here in New Hampshire. The line of work you all have chosen is by no means an easy one and without your organization, the victims you work with would have nowhere to turn.

Since the Coalition was founded in 1977, it has worked to provide services to those suffering from abuse, to spread awareness about violence, while also working to prevent it. During the month of October, I wanted to take the time to recognize all those who work to end violence, as well as those who suffer from it. I commend you for all your hard work and dedication. Far too many people have suffered needlessly at the hands of another, and the Coalition's work to stop and prevent this type of violence is admirable.

I appreciate all you do on behalf of the women and families that are coping with the hardships of abuse. I wish you all the best for continued success in the future.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

**HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I rise today to commemorate October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This year, we have good reason to celebrate. Thanks to important changes to the law in the last 5 years, it has never been easier to receive the valuable preventative care that is vital to preventing and treating breast cancer.

Thanks to the passage of the Affordable Care Act, a mammogram is now one of the free annual preventive services covered by Medicare. Already 4 million women have taken advantage of that benefit this year.

For Medicare beneficiaries, a free Annual Wellness Visit means that you can discuss your personal risk for breast cancer with your doctor, and receive free preventative screening based upon the decision you and your doctor make together.

In addition, more and more insurance plans are providing free screening services of their own.

Finally, genetic testing for risk of breast cancer is available, with the legal guarantee that

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

such testing will not result in discrimination against a woman. I fought for 13 years to pass the Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act (GINA) so that anyone could choose to find out their genetic disposition for illness, without fear of discrimination. Since GINA became law, no health insurer can raise an individual's rates and no employer can make hiring or firing decisions based on genetic information.

Unfortunately, even though a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer every two minutes in the United States, screening rates for this dangerous disease are declining. A recent study found that out of 1.5 million women over the age of 40 with health insurance, less than half had received the recommended annual screening.

As we celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month, it's important that all women know that affordable screening options are available.

Screening tests can find breast cancer early, when it is most treatable. They are the best way to lower the risk of dying from breast cancer. The 5-year survival rate for breast cancer caught early is 98 percent, compared to 23 percent when it is not.

I encourage women to take care of themselves in every possible way, and to make a renewed commitment to following the recommended screening guidelines for breast cancer. Together, we can take the important steps necessary to win the fight against breast cancer.

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REMEMBERING DAN WHELTON

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**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, October 16, race fans everywhere mourned the tragic loss of Dan Wheldon from injuries suffered at the Las Vegas Indy 300.

Though he was only 33 years old, Wheldon was highly-accomplished within the Indy Racing League.

In 2003, Wheldon received the Indy Racing League's prestigious Rookie of the Year Award, which he followed up by winning the Indianapolis 500 in 2005 and 2011.

Dan Wheldon was an incredible ambassador for the sport and the Indianapolis 500, the largest sporting event in the world, which is located in my District at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. His loss will be felt on and off the track.

My deepest sympathies go to his wife, Susie, his two sons, Sebastian and Oliver, his family, his friends, and to the legion of fans around the world who are mourning his passing. Dan Wheldon's memory will remain in the hearts of race fans everywhere, and his achievements will never be forgotten at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

HONORING SCCOG FOR 50 YEARS  
OF ADVOCATING FOR SOUTH-  
EASTERN CONNECTICUT

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) for providing 50 years of intergovernmental service to the people of Southeastern Connecticut.

SCCOG's origins date back to 1961, with the founding of Southeastern Connecticut Regional Planning Agency (SCRPA) as one of the one of the first regional planning agencies in Connecticut at the time. The agency transitioned to SCCOG in 1993, and today serves 20 member municipalities and counts as non-voting affiliate members two federally recognized Native American Tribes, and has liaisons from the United States Naval Submarine Base and the United States Coast Guard Academy.

Under the leadership of James Butler, the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments ensures the various governments participating in the group have a platform for co-operation and organization on a diverse array of issues. They act as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the region, budgeting for and implementing essential and transformative transportation projects. SCCOG has played a vital role in many of the region's top infrastructure priorities and support for Naval Submarine Base New London.

By providing services to over 240,000 people, the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments has established itself as the second largest regional planning organization in Connecticut. For 50 years, the group has been influential in the planning of countless housing, technical, economic development, and emergency management projects in the SE CT region.

Having worked with SCCOG closely on a number of regional priorities, I know firsthand the tremendous value it provides to decision makers, local communities and the vitality of this unique part of our state. With the challenges before our state and the region, coordination through groups like the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments serves as the backbone of strong communities across the nation. By combining strong planning foresight with a commitment to inclusion, SCCOG has contributed to building Southeastern Connecticut into a unified, burgeoning region.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring SCCOG for 50 years of service to southeastern Connecticut.

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HONORING MR. THOMAS C. GAGEN

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas C. Gagen for his work and contributions towards improving the accessibility and affordability of health care to those living in the Sacramento region. For over a decade, Tom has served as the Chief Execu-

ive Officer of the Sutter Medical Center in Sacramento (SMCS) and during that time he has been an outstanding civic leader. As Tom retires, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his service and leadership in our community.

After graduating from Purdue University, Tom went to Cleveland State University to receive his Masters in Business Administration. Before coming to Sacramento in 2000, Tom was a leader at a number of health care facilities, including the Carondelet Health Network in Tucson and then Scripps Health in San Diego, where he served as Senior Vice President. Throughout Tom's decade long tenure, he helped Sutter General Hospital and Sutter Memorial Hospital grow into one of Sacramento's largest not-for-profit organizations. During Tom's career leading SMCS, it was twice named as one of the top 100 hospitals in the nation and it received the Sutter Health's President's Award for patient satisfaction. Tom played a key role in improving care at SMCS and across the Sutter Health system as a key member of Sutter's Blue Ribbon Team on Quality.

Under Tom's vision SMCS has shown incredible support of the community, donating over \$20 million to dozens of local non-profit organizations. Tom served as the first chairman of Sacramento's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and has always worked to bring social services to the neediest. For his work with the homeless, Tom was the recipient of Cottage Housing's 2011 Beacon of Hope Award. Tom was also named the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce's 2008 Businessman of the Year, in part for his involvement with the Sutter's "Triage, Transport and Treatment" program, which addresses the needs of frequent emergency room visits by the uninsured.

Since being elected to Congress, I have come to know Tom as an incredibly intelligent and forward thinking leader. He cares deeply about improving the quality and access to health care in the Sacramento region and he cares just as much about our community. As he retires, Tom leaves a true legacy of accomplishments that will be felt in Sacramento for generations.

Mr. Speaker, as Tom, his wife Pat and their friends gather to celebrate his retirement, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking and recognizing him for his many years of service. Tom has contributed an immense amount to making Sacramento a better place to live, work and raise a family.

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IN RECOGNITION OF GINA  
BARTLOW ON BEING NAMED  
ANCOR'S 2011 DIRECT SUPPORT  
PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

**HON. FRANK C. GUINTA**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Gina Bartlow on being named ANCOR's 2011 Direct Support Professional of the Year. It is truly a prestigious honor to be considered as the best in your field and this recognition demonstrates Gina's compassion and commitment, as well as all the hard work she does for those with disabilities.

Throughout her twenty five years of working on behalf of those with disabilities, Gina has not only become a trusted and valued employee by her supervisors, but a mentor to her coworkers and a friend to the people she serves. While her path started at home with her son Steven, it quickly extended to others in the community who were lacking the help and support they needed to thrive in their everyday lives. The spirit and generosity she brings to her work is admirable and sets a fine example to others who dedicate their lives to advancing that same spirit of kindness.

I congratulate Gina for receiving this award and for her outstanding commitment and leadership on behalf of those with disabilities. I wish you all the best for continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS  
OF ADELE K. SCHAEFFER

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Adele K. Schaeffer on the occasion of being honored with The Wistar Award for her compassion, integrity, generosity, commitment and vision in service to The Wistar Institute and the community at large.

Because of her selfless dedication of time and energy to a myriad of boards and committees, Adele Schaeffer has been called the consummate civic leader. She has been an active Trustee of The Wistar Institute Board for more than 20 years, currently serving as Chair of the Development Committee and as a member of the Capital Campaign Steering Committee. Adele served as Chair of the first Wistar Gala in 1994 and has continued in this role for each Wistar Gala since. She has helped raise over \$1 million for Wistar's life-saving research.

In addition to her commitment to The Wistar Institute, Adele is also a Trustee of the Moore College of Art and Design, the Foreign Policy Research Institute, and a Trustee Emeritus of the University of Pennsylvania. She is a current member of the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Orchestra Association, serves on the Orchestra's Academy of Music Committee, and is past-President and current board member of the National Liberty Museum.

Mr. Speaker, in light of her years of service to The Wistar Institute and a litany of outstanding accomplishments, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Adele K. Schaeffer on the occasion of her being honored with The Wistar Award.

EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest condolences to the people of Turkey who are suffering in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that struck on Sunday, October 23, 2011.

A deadly 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck the eastern region of Turkey on Sunday, 12

miles from the city of Van and the town of Erzurum. Aftershocks have continued to impact the region, making initial assessments and relief efforts difficult.

Over 1000 buildings have sustained damage throughout the region, including homes, businesses, hospitals, cultural institutions, and schools. With a death toll in the hundreds and growing, and more than one thousand people injured, rescue workers continue to work diligently to find survivors.

In the face of such destruction there has been tremendous bravery, and I applaud the rescue workers who are risking their own safety to ensure that every survivor is found. There are currently 2,400 rescue workers involved in the efforts along with 680 medics, 12 rescue dogs and 108 ambulances, according to reports. Aid workers have congregated in the region to provide much needed food, shelter, and medical attention.

My thoughts and prayers are with those touched by Sunday's devastation, especially those who have lost family members and friends. Our hearts and minds must also be with Turkish Americans who are currently attempting to reach out to people in the region. Homes and churches can be rebuilt, but we can never replace loved ones.

The strength and resilience of the Turkish people is evident, and I know that in the wake of this great tragedy they will recover and rebuild.

Mr. Speaker, the United States must stand with Turkey during this challenging time, as we extend our deepest sympathies to those affected by the earthquake.

CONGRATULATING OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY'S "SCRIPT OHIO" ON  
ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. STEVE STIVERS**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ohio State University's "Script Ohio" on its 75th anniversary. Script Ohio is a band formation tradition that has played a major role in football game days at Ohio State throughout the years.

In October of 1936, the OSU Marching Band marched into its first Script Ohio, a formation where the cursive word "Ohio" is spelled out by the members of the band, with the letter "I" dotted by the sousaphone player. The inspiration for this famous band formation came from the band director at the time, Eugene Weigel, and band member, Ted Boehm. 75 years after its first OSU appearance, the tradition continues to be an important part of every home football game.

As graduate of the Ohio State University, I take great pride in the traditions of my alma mater. Ohio State Football is definitely one of those traditions—and Script Ohio is certainly part of that tradition. Football games would not be the same without Script Ohio, and I offer my congratulations on its 75 years. I look forward to seeing Script Ohio march in the Horseshoe for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING DALLAS AREA BLUE  
RIBBON SCHOOLS

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize four magnet schools in my district of Dallas, Texas which have been identified as Blue Ribbon schools. These four Dallas Independent School District, ISD, schools are the Environmental Science Academy, the School of Science and Engineering Magnet High School, the Rosie M. Collins Sorrells School of Education and the Social Services Magnet High School and Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School.

Being identified as a Blue Ribbon school means you are one of the best in the Country and I am proud four of these gems are located within my Congressional District. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that are either high performing or have improved student achievement to high levels, especially among disadvantaged students. The program is part of a larger Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about best school leadership and teaching practices.

Mr. Speaker, the students in each of these four schools are our best and our brightest, and with encouragement and support from their principals and teachers, these students are achieving remarkable success. Because of the high quality education the students in the Dallas Independent School District and other schools like it are receiving, they can have the opportunity to live the American dream—to do anything they want to do, to go on to a great college or university of their choice, and to pursue any career path that sparks their interest.

Mr. Speaker, these schools help us out-educate, out-innovate, and out-build the rest of the world. We must identify ways to help improve schools like these that provide educational excellence to my community. We must not waver in our commitment to our children, their children, and the future of this country.

WELCOMING AND HONORING THE  
VETERANS OF THE OCTOBER 25,  
2011 NEWTON FREEDOM FLIGHT

**HON. DAVID LOEBSACK**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, today, over 160 Iowa veterans from the World War II, Korean, and Vietnam Wars will travel to our nation's capital to visit the monuments that were built in their honor by a grateful nation. For many of these veterans, today will be the first time they will visit the capital and the first time that they will see their monuments.

On Sunday, they were given a warm send-off by their neighbors and friends from Newton and throughout Jasper County. More than 800 Iowans gathered to give them the recognition they deserve but, for far too many of these heroes, was never received. When they arrive in

Washington today, I can think of no greater honor than to be able to greet them and to personally thank Iowa's—and our nation's—heroes for their service to our country.

The Freedom Flight brings together three generations of veterans who will travel together and support one another throughout their trip. It also brings together veterans who were never given the homecoming they deserved. This trip, made possible by generous donations from Iowans, many of whom the veterans will never meet in person, demonstrates that we as a state and as a country will never forget the debt we owe those who have worn our nation's uniform. The veterans will be able to visit their monuments today because their fellow Iowans refused to let their service go unrecognized. That generosity is truly humbling and should inspire us all to continue to work each and every day on behalf of those who serve our nation.

I am tremendously proud to welcome the Newton Freedom Flight and Iowa's veterans of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War to our nation's capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our country.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 802 I was not present to vote because I was participating in a public meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the historic flooding that we have experienced along the Missouri River this year. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

#### RECOGNIZING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRAPPE FIRE COMPANY

### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Trappe Fire Company on its 100th anniversary of selfless dedication and commitment to its community.

This is a great milestone and a considerable accomplishment and I take great pleasure in being able to help honor the men and women of the Trappe Fire Company for their dedication and outstanding service.

For 100 years, the officers, firefighters, fire police and ambulance corps of Trappe Fire Company have proudly and capably served and protected the thousands of citizens of Montgomery County, including Trappe and Collegeville Boroughs and the Townships of Upper Providence, Perkiomen, Skippack, and Limerick. They have always answered the call to help their neighbors in distress, whether it is putting out a fire, aiding those whose homes have flooded, or rescuing animals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Trappe Fire Company on its 100th anniversary and to honor this exemplary organization for its commitment, dedication, and outstanding history of service to its community.

#### CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF THE WOMEN'S CARE CENTER OF LA GRANGE

### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the opening of the Women's Care Center of La Grange in my home district. The Women's Care Center is a life-affirming crisis pregnancy center, providing non-judgmental guidance and support to women who unexpectedly find themselves with a child.

The Women's Care Center of La Grange is affiliated with International Life Services, a non-profit organization that safeguards the dignity of human life while supporting women in their moment of need. Chicagoland women now have the option to seek refuge at the Women's Care Center and receive accurate information and confidential counseling in a comforting environment. Besides offering emotional support, the Women's Care Center provides free and affordable health care for new and expecting mothers. Pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, and pre-natal care are offered, as well as medical referrals. After the child is born, the center continues to aid the family. Support is available in the form of baby clothes, diapers, baby furniture, and food assistance. Every mother deserves access to quality medical care, and I am pleased that this facility prioritizes the health of the mother and the child.

I am proud to have this charitable organization in my district and I look forward to its positive impact. I am certain that this new facility will be a gift to the community. Please join me in celebrating the Women's Care Center of La Grange as they pursue their life-affirming mission of improving the health and wellbeing of local women and children.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF DON L. RIDING

### HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don Riding in the event of his retirement after 39 dedicated years of service with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Mr. Riding was appointed to the Officer in Charge position at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Fresno in September 2003. Prior to this, he had served as Officer in Charge of the Fresno INS Suboffice since May 1984. In his previous capacity, he supervised the enforcement and benefits function of the INS in Central California. These operations included the processing of applications for benefits such as permanent residents and naturalization, investigation of criminal and administrative violations, as well as the detention and removal of violators of immigration laws.

Mr. Riding began his career with INS in 1972 as an Immigration Inspector in El Paso, Texas. He transferred to Baltimore, Maryland in 1975 as a Criminal Investigator. In 1980, he was promoted to the position of Course Developer and Instructor at the Immigration Officer

Academy in Glyncro, Georgia with a focus on Examinations. In 1982, Mr. Riding was promoted to the position of Port Director of Laredo, Texas. This job supervised the inspection of persons entering the United States at one of the largest land border ports of entry. He held this position until he was transferred to Fresno as Officer in Charge in 1984.

Prior to beginning his career with INS, Mr. Riding spent two years in the United States Army and two years on a church mission trip to Brazil. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Brigham Young University where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in law enforcement in 1972. He is married to Donna Bright of Baltimore and has five children and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Don Riding for his years of dedication to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

#### REMEMBERING GORDON ST. ANGELO

### HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the passing of Gordon St. Angelo, a prominent Hoosier and community activist.

Mr. St. Angelo was born and raised in Huntingburg, Indiana, where he operated a clothing store. He is most known, however, for his involvement in the community. Mr. St. Angelo helped create a foundation with Milton and Rose Friedman to promote and establish educational choice in America. He also served for 25 years as the senior program officer of community development at the Lilly Endowment.

Gordon St. Angelo's other community involvements included serving as chairman of the board for The Indianapolis Star's Jefferson Awards and for the Indianapolis Civic Theatre, was a board member and vice president of the Indianapolis Airport Authority from 1983 to 1999, and served on the boards of numerous community organizations and colleges.

Many Hoosiers also remember Gordon St. Angelo for his political involvement in Indiana and on the national stage. He began his career with the Democratic Party, and was instrumental in the successful election campaigns of Governor Roger Branigan, U.S. Senators Birch Bayh and Vance Harke, as well as many other candidates. In 1964, he was elected chairman of the Indiana Democratic Party, a position he held for ten years. He also became the Democratic Party's deputy national chairman in 1968 and helped manage Hubert Humphrey's presidential bid.

Mr. St. Angelo was known for his ability to relate to many different kinds of people, and perhaps surprisingly, migrated to the Republican Party a little more than a decade after his involvement in Humphrey's democratic presidential bid. He served as chairman of the Indiana Republican Party from 1981 to 1989, and is remembered as an honorable man who could be friends with his opponents and worked to get the best candidate in office.

A committed family man, Gordon St. Angelo was married for 53 years to his beloved wife,

the late Beatrice. They loved to travel, and visited more than 100 countries during their life together. I offer my deepest condolences to his three sons, Paul, Kurt, and John. The Old Book tells us that “the Lord is close to the brokenhearted,” and that is my prayer for you. During this difficult time may you find solace in faith and family.

IN HONOR OF JAMES L. MEYER

**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Mr. James L. Meyer for his unfailing service to Alexandria and Central Louisiana. Due to his prominent and tireless efforts for our great state, his legacy will live on as the Alexandria International Airport Commercial Terminal will now be named the James L. Meyer Commercial Terminal.

Mr. Meyer's ambitious career started at Louisiana Tech University where he earned two degrees: one in Chemical Engineering and the latter in Civil Engineering. After his marriage to Mrs. Joy in August of 1957, he served as an officer in United States Air Force from 1957 until 1960. He eventually returned to Alexandria where Mr. Meyer was employed as a design engineer.

In 1968, he decided to start his own engineering firm. While growing James L. Meyer & Associates—his consulting, engineering, and surveying firm—to a successful business with five locations across Louisiana, he also held numerous board positions and received many distinguishable awards for serving his region.

Mr. Meyer's presidency for the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce and becoming the first Chairman of the England Authority are the reasons he is being honored today. His services from both positions evolved a military base closure into a commercial international airport; therefore, air passengers were doubled and millions of dollars were brought into region through capital construction.

Mr. Meyer's efforts reflect how one dedicated person can affect an entire region and his life should be an inspiration to others. His career has brought honor and pride to his family, friends, community, and the state of Louisiana. I congratulate Mr. Meyer upon his legacy that will be known as James L. Meyer Commercial Terminal.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. LARRY  
DiCHIARA FOR BEING NAMED SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a special school superintendent today, Dr. Larry DiChiara.

Dr. DiChiara was named Superintendent of the Year by the School Superintendents of Alabama in October 2011.

Dr. DiChiara has always been committed to teaching and helping students. He was a former principal, teacher and coach from

Loachapoka Elementary and High Schools in Lee County, Alabama, before taking over at Phenix City Schools in Russell County.

I'm proud to congratulate Dr. DiChiara on this great achievement and hope he will continue his service for many years to come to our children, parents, teachers and our community. Congratulations!

HONORING ELOUISE COBELL

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Indian country in mourning the death of Elouise Cobell, who passed away on Sunday, October 16. Her role as lead plaintiff in the historic Cobell v. Salazar litigation has forever changed the way the federal government views the trust responsibility with Native Americans. Elouise Cobell was a true Indian leader.

She was born Elouise Catherine Pepion, November 5, 1945, on the Blackfeet Nation reservation located on the eastern edge of Glacier National Park in Montana. After graduating from Great Falls Business College, she became an accountant and rancher. Later, Elouise served as Treasurer for the Blackfeet Nation for 13 years and helped found the first all Indian owned national bank.

It was during her time as tribal treasurer that she realized the royalty checks received by tribal members seemed substantially lower than the value of the resources owned. She learned as much as she could about the way the federal government handled the Indian trust fund accounts and found that over decades, others in Indian country had claimed the funds were badly mismanaged.

In the mid 1980s Elouise, already frustrated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, BIA, came to Congress looking for assistance and justice for all Individual Indian Money account holders. All she wanted was what all of us expect from our banker—to know how much is in each account and a showing that the balance was correct.

In 1992, the House Government Operations Committee issued a report titled, “Misplaced Trust: The BIA's Mismanagement of the Indian Trust Fund.” The report called the BIA's management of Indian trust funds “grossly inadequate in numerous important respects.” It further found that the BIA had “failed to fulfill its fiduciary duties to beneficiaries of the Indian Trust Fund.”

Congress passed the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 to give account holders more control over, and access to, their funds, and to provide a model to reform the system. Unfortunately, little was changed at the BIA. Fed up and frustrated with stonewalling and continued mismanagement, in 1996 Elouise filed a class-action lawsuit on behalf of more than 500,000 Indians at a time when no one else would.

In 1999, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia confirmed what Indian country had always known—the Department of the Interior had breached its trust obligation to Indians in handling Indian funds. Fourteen years after the case was first filed, 220 days of trial, 80 court decisions, and two contempt citations against Cabinet secretaries later,

President Obama signed into law the landmark \$3.4 billion settlement for the Indian account holders.

Because of Elouise and the litigation that she initiated, the Department of Interior has made numerous changes to the way it does business with respect to Indian funds and trust resources. Seattle University Law School Indian Law Professor Eric Eberhard said there is “no doubt that Elouise Cobell changed the legal landscape when it comes to Indian law and the federal government's trust responsibilities.”

Against all odds, Elouise persevered with her commitment to the issue. Since the early 1990s, the Committee on Natural Resources held numerous hearings on the issue associated with the handling of Indian trust funds. It was during my tenure as Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee that I had the privilege and honor of getting to know and work with Elouise. Her dedication to this issue was far none.

Elouise won so many battles; the only one she lost was to the cancer that took her from us too soon. She will be remembered for her strength, courage, and positive outlook. We can honor her life by continuing the work she started.

I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the life of Elouise Cobell and her many achievements, and in expressing our sincere condolences to her husband Alvin, her son Turk, and all her family and friends.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
NITA THOMAS

**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Mrs. Nita Thomas, whose life and countless contributions to this world should be celebrated by all.

The definitive Southern woman, Nita possessed outstanding character, unwavering faith and matchless elegance. She carried herself with such charisma and poise guaranteed to light up every room she entered.

Her deep devotion to her family and friends is one of her most memorable qualities. With each encounter, Nita's love and joy she felt for her loved ones was evident. I extend my deepest condolences to those this wonderful mother and grandmother leaves behind.

In Acts 20:35, the Lord Jesus himself said “it is more blessed to give than to receive.” She was a champion for those with special needs and passionately worked to ensure each person was met with an accepting heart. With all that Nita gifted to everyone she came across, it is indeed apparent she lived her life by these words.

Nita grew in Jackson Parish, where she was taught to love thy neighbor as thyself. She never lost touch with her roots. Nita had the stature and charm to walk with those in the upper echelons of power, but she had the grace and dignity to remember those whom society had forgotten.

Today, our words may seem futile in comparison to the indelible mark Nita left in our hearts. Some say—and I honestly believe—that the heart has its own memory, one that is

more genuine and more sincere than the memory of our minds. Without a shadow of a doubt, I know Nita has a permanent place in the hearts of those who had the good blessing to know her.

To say that Nita left her fingerprint on the world is an understatement. She was a friend and confidant to many, and deemed a source of strength by all; I know she will continue to touch and guide the loved ones she leaves behind.

CONGRATULATING DR. MARK J. LEMA ON THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD FROM THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise today to congratulate Mark J. Lema, M.D., Ph.D on receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the American Society of Anesthesiologists. The award is the highest honor bestowed to an individual for lifetime of exemplary service and achievement in the specialty of anesthesiology.

As the 65th recipient of the Distinguished Service Award in the organizations' one-hundred plus year history, Dr. Lema joins an illustrious group of awardees that includes the founders of anesthesiology, and pioneers in the field.

Dr. Lema is currently Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology, Critical Care and Pain Medicine at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, N.Y. He also serves as Professor and Chair of Anesthesiology at the University of Buffalo, State University of New York, as well as a board member on the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research (FAER). He has also served as president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (2007), the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine (2004) and the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists (2001). He is currently President of the Medical Society of the County of Erie.

Dr. Lema received his PhD in physiology from University at Buffalo and his medical degree from SUNY Downstate Medical Center. Throughout his prominent career Dr. Lema has been recognized as one of the country's authorities in the field of anesthesiology. He has served Western New York community with nearly thirty years of service and achievement in scientific research and organized medicine.

Mr. Speaker it is with great pride I recognize Dr. Mark Lema for receiving the Distinguished Service Award and extend my thanks for his countless contributions to the Western New York community in which he calls home.

HONORING UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIALIST RICARDO CERROS, JR.

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and deep sadness that I wish to

commend United States Army Specialist Ricardo Cerros, Jr. for his bravery and willingness to fight for his country. Specialist Cerros was assigned to B Company, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. While serving in Afghanistan on his first deployment, Specialist Cerros was killed by enemy forces during a firefight while conducting combat operation on October 8, 2011. His sacrifice will forever be remembered by those he fought to protect.

A native of Gary, Indiana, Ricardo spent his early childhood years in Gary, Indiana, before moving to Salinas, California, to live with his father. He graduated from Everett Alvarez High School in Salinas and continued his studies at the University of California in Irvine. He enlisted in the United States Army in July 2010. Family members recall that Ricardo had a strong feeling to join the military, and that he wanted nothing more than to serve his country. Colleagues remember Specialist Cerros as a well-respected leader. Family and friends remember Ricardo for his cheerfulness, positive attitude, and happy-go-lucky manner. For his courage and sacrifice, Ricardo has been honored by the military with awards including: the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Parachutist Badge. Ricardo will be greatly missed by so many people in the communities he was part of and forever cherished by those who loved him.

Specialist Cerros leaves behind a loving family. He is survived by his father, Ricardo Cerros, Sr., and stepmother, Deborah A. Cerros, both of Salinas, and his mother, Marguerite D. Cuevas, of Gary, Indiana. Ricardo also leaves to cherish his memory his siblings; Nicholas, Theresa, and Marco Cerros. He also leaves behind many other dear friends and family members, as well as saddened communities and a grateful nation.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Specialist Ricardo Cerros, Jr. Specialist Cerros sacrificed his life in service to his country, and his passing comes as a great loss to our nation, which has once again been shaken by the realities of war. Specialist Cerros will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his communities, and his country. Thus, let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,940,671,706,465.75.

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

This means the national debt has increased by \$4,302,245,960,171.95 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

RECOGNIZING DIXIE SMITH AS A HASTINGS' STAR STUDENT

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Dixie Smith, a Suncoast High School senior in Riviera Beach, as a Hastings' Star Student. During her junior year of high school, Dixie earned recognition as the Palm Beach County All-Conference selection for diving. This year however, her accomplishments go even further. Recently, world renowned tennis player Serena Williams chose 17-year old Dixie as the recipient for the M Foundation's Silver M Award. With this award, she joins the ranks of previous recipients who are viewed as "exemplary role models" in their communities. The award will present Dixie with a \$1,000 college scholarship and a \$1,000 donation to a charity of her choice. It was Dixie's commitment to giving back to her community which earned her this award.

Without a doubt, Dixie Smith exemplifies the term volunteerism. She started the Autism Speaks club at her high school, teaches gymnastics at Gymnastics Revolution, and also lends her time to instructing developmentally disabled children at the Renaissance Learning Center. Additionally, she has taught surfing to autistic children for the past three years, and has participated in the Surfers for Autism event regularly. In a recent letter, Dixie shared with me how these events served to be a humbling experience as time after time she witnessed children, who were initially afraid of the ocean, overcome their fears and catch waves on their own. She believes that surfing changes them, and the joy felt by their parents as they thank her is better than any award or scholarship she could ever receive. Dixie's work with developmentally disabled children is to be commended. Her selfless service represents a true dedication to the betterment of her community. I am sure Dixie's outstanding achievements are an inspiration to her peers and to the greater Riviera Beach area. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LONG-TIME MEMBERS OF SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 20

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and respect that I offer congratulations to several of Northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, October 21, 2011, the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 20 honored long-time members with their 25, 40, 50, 60, and 70-year service pins at the Sheet Metal Banquet, which was held at Ambassador Banquets in Hobart, Indiana.

At this year's banquet, the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 20 presented pins for 25 years of membership to: Scott H. Allmon, Jeffery Bacon, George R. Bassett, Jr., Scott Blount, John Breezley, Richard J. Cervantes,

Daniel L. Claussen, John Eggebrecht, Alexander W. Einikis, Paul James Einikis, Jimmie D. Fauser, Jr., Travis Frank, Jerome Franz, Gregory A. Gill, Michael J. Gorski, Kathleen Gray-Wesley, Anthony J. Gresham, Jeffrey Arnold Hamilton, Emmett R. Higgins, George Carl Hofer, Kenneth R. House, James E. Irvin, Steven A. Johnson, Timothy K. Kelly, Kyle Whitney Kingsbury, Benny Knox, James D. Knox, Robert J. Krantz, Anthony R. Ladwig, David W. Leonard, Russell Eugene Long, Richard J. Majewski, Jr., Fred J. McColly, James L. Miller, Ronald Dean Miller, Mark D. Moore, Timothy Shawn Myres, Gary Noveroske, Edward K. O'Daniel, Jeffrey E. Pierson, Michael R. Price, John Rachford, Victor Neville Rachford, Arnie P. Ranegar, Jr., Jeff R. Relinski, Scott R. Ribar, Mike C. Rivich, Anthony W. Romanowski, Vance Thomas Rozdilsky, Richard J. Singel, William Michael Sweeney, Kevin Allen Szczudlak, Eva M. Washington, Ted Daniel Wells, Philip Everett Werno III, David L. Whisler, David Gordon White, Rodney Whiteside, Richard Gene Wozniak, and Eugene R. Yagelski, Jr. Pins for 40 years of membership were presented to: James Alm, Howard L. Alward, Jr., Gene E. Arnold, Gerald S. Banach, Frank Beiglebeck, Keith E. Benson, Roby W. Billings, Joseph E. Bloomfield, Larry E. Boger, Jerry W. Bryan, Roland L. Butler, Joseph L. Byers, John Cubit, Benjamin Dear, Jr., David W. Erb, Jerrone Garlach, Milton D. Gerner, Robert Golden, Randall B. Hamilton, Dale A. Hansen, Terrence Henney, Donald Hill, George C. Hofer, Kevin B. Hoffman, Clifford E. Hudson, Jr., Clifford L. Hynd, Carlton Kobe, Thomas L. Koedyker, Jerry H. Krachinski, Arthur Kurth, Thomas L. Leonard, Daniel Longacre, Tom G. Lopez, Gus Marktakis, Fred T. Minard, Ronald M. Muha, Marty Mushinsky, Floyd M. Nelson, Thomas Nuni, Walter J. Olenik, Larry D. Perigo, Katherine Plahtaric, Hugh Ponder, Jr., James J. Potesta, Richard Preissig, Rocky W. Richardson, Joseph Edward Ring, Steven D. Sasko, William T. Schaeffer, Michael Schammert, Richard Shinabarger, Eugene Skalba, Normand J. Soucy, Robert L. Swisher, Michael J. Turner, Ronald E. Vaughn, Michael J. Vernich, John W. Wacnik, Robert J. Walton, Larry Whisler, and Dennis G. Wojciechowski. The 50 years of membership pins were presented to: Edgar B. Baker, Walter Biser, Walter Bogielski, J.B. Bugg, Gilbert W. Franz, Roger Gault, Dellis Ivers, Robert J. Kish, Arthur John Kobeske, Jr., Gordon F. LaBounty, Frank Macewicz, Donald L. O'Dell, Hugh Ponder, Jr., Homer H. Rachford, Louis R. Trznadel, and Gerard Wardell. The honorees for 60 years of membership are: Miles R. Becvar, Sr., Earl Chance, Melvin E. Crook, Eugene H. Koontz, Robert L. Molnar, James Moscato, Leland E. Thompson, and Louis R. Trznadel. Finally, for his outstanding dedication, Raymond J. Klodzen received a special recognition as he was honored for his 70 years of service to the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 20.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated and hardworking individuals who have committed themselves to making a significant contribution to the growth and development of the economy of the First Congressional District. I am very proud to represent them in Washington, D.C.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT  
OF OFFICER REYNAUD "REY"  
WALLACE

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Reynaud "Rey" Wallace of Fresno, California, as he celebrates his retirement from the Fresno Police Department. For 30 years, Mr. Wallace has served the Fresno community proudly. Not only did he work to keep our neighborhoods safe, but he also served as a mentor, coach, father figure and friend to many people in our community.

Mr. Wallace was born on October 18, 1952, to Carl and Ernestine Wallace in Montgomery, Alabama. The eldest of six children, Mr. Wallace grew up immersed in sports and was an avid baseball, basketball and football player. Mr. Wallace graduated from John Muir High School in Pasadena, California, and eventually made his way to Fresno.

In 1981, Mr. Wallace joined the Fresno Police Department. During his time with the department, Mr. Wallace served as an innovator and educator. His inventive spirit led to the creation of the Fresno Police Activities League, better known as PAL, in 1992. Fresno PAL seeks to prevent juvenile crime and violence by establishing relationships between law enforcement personnel and Fresno youth. Mr. Wallace spent seven years in PAL where he coached teams and served as a consultant for the national PAL program. He oversaw programs in Oregon, Santa Barbara, Ojai, as well as others in the San Joaquin Valley. Many current police officers were in the PAL program while it was under Rey's purview.

Following his time in PAL, he became a member of Southwest Problem Oriented Policing, where he continued to use his leadership and collaboration skills to protect and improve the lives of those he served.

Mr. Wallace's unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our community has earned him recognition from his colleagues and community members. In 1985, he was named the Northwest District Officer of the Year, and in 2007, he was recognized as the Officer of the Year for the Southwest District. In addition, Mr. Wallace was awarded the Life Saving Medal of Valor, the Medal of Merit and the National Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Reynaud "Rey" Wallace for his years of service to the Fresno Police Department and to the people of Fresno, California. I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Wallace's commitment, dedication, and success and wish him well as he embarks on new endeavors.

RECOGNIZING WASHINGTON'S SECOND ANNUAL 'PELTON OF AWESOME'

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Global Road

Safety Caucus I rise today to congratulate the men and women who took part in the recent World Bicycle Relief charity bike ride. The ride is the brainchild of DC resident Miriam Schwedt, who was inspired to take her love of bicycling and share it with the world. Miriam, upon learning to ride a bike—about a year and a half ago—felt like she had discovered a whole new world. She started biking everywhere—to work, to play, to run errands—not only was it fun, but she got to work faster and cheaper, and was able to explore places she'd never been before. Miriam realized that if biking had changed her life in these ways, what might bikes mean for people who face far bigger transportation challenges? That's when Miriam discovered a charity called World Bicycle Relief. World Bicycle Relief not only funds bicycles in communities around the world, but also fosters local expertise and supply chains for local assembly and repair of bikes, creating important related jobs and skills.

In conjunction with World Bicycle Relief, Miriam decided to join forces with her friend Katie Heller to start what would become an annual charity bike ride and fundraiser in Washington called 'The Peloton of Awesome'. For those of you that don't know, a 'peloton' is a group of bikers. Miriam and Katie enticed their friends to join the peloton because they wanted to bring the opportunities and fun of biking to communities where faster, easier transportation can create access to markets, schools, health care, and other opportunities. These women also took the initiative to partner with local businesses to help the cause. Bike and Roll donated bikes for the ride to enable people to participate who don't own a bike, and a local restaurant hosted a post-ride celebration with a percentage of the profits donated to World Bicycle Relief. In addition, they added a raffle for items donated by local cycling stores, including a brand-new bike. Through generous support, last year the team raised almost \$10,000, with all of the funds going to World Bicycle relief to purchase nearly an entire school's worth of bicycles in Zambia. More than 150 bicycle activists came together for the inaugural event. Given the success last year, the Peloton came together once again earlier this month. The second annual 'Peloton of Awesome' took place on Saturday, October 1st, and by all accounts it proved to be just as big a success, despite some inclement weather.

I helped form the Congressional Global Road Safety Caucus because I believe that safe and effective transportation is a key component of global economic development. World Bicycle Relief is just one of many organizations nationally and internationally who are helping to make the dream of safe roads and effective transportation for everyone possible. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the work of Miriam Schwedt, Katie Heller, all the staff and volunteers of World Bicycle Relief for their hard work and I look forward to hearing about the future successes of the Peloton, as I am sure this ride won't be the last.

## HONORING BONI FINE

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to commend Boni Fine for her service to the community. Boni will be recognized for her outstanding commitment to the residents of the First Congressional District by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Northwest Indiana, at its annual Circle of Friends Event, held on October 19, 2011.

Throughout her accomplished career, Boni has held several prestigious positions, allowing her to demonstrate the skills and business acumen developed as she earned her Master of Business Administration degree from Pepperdine University. Her professional experience includes Director of Personnel for the Daily Telegraph in London; President and Publisher of the Post-Tribune in Merrillville, Indiana; and Vice President of Strategic Development/Advertising for the Sun-Times News Group in Chicago, Illinois. Moreover, her bachelor degree in social work from Syracuse University and her work as a child welfare case-worker established the foundation upon which Boni built her tireless enthusiasm for improving the quality of life for our area's youth.

Boni's resume highlights many of the organizations in which she participates and children in Northwest Indiana are most fortunate to have benefitted from her championing their cause. Not only has she previously chaired the Juvenile Diabetes Association's Walk to Cure, she was a founding member of the Children's Literacy Academy at Indiana University Northwest. Further, she has served on the Executive Board of the Boys and Girls Club of Northwest Indiana. Most recently, Boni served as the Interim Executive Director for the YWCA of Northwest Indiana, and it is for her work with this organization that she is being honored.

The YWCA of Northwest Indiana traces its roots to a branch office that had been located at 30 East 6th Avenue in Gary. Founded in 1921 with a strong commitment to serve, the organization has become a well-established institution serving the community for ninety years. Currently, the YWCA of Northwest Indiana is governed by an all-female Board of Directors committed to offering programs to young women that foster their talents and serving as professional role models whom these young women may emulate. Under Boni's leadership, this local YWCA has provided programs such as the Yes We Can, a youth program to promote academic achievement among at-risk children. Additionally, the YWCA of Northwest Indiana offers a mentoring program for teen girls in Gary in which students are paired with professional women in order to empower them and set them upon a path of success. Although this is only a brief overview of the extraordinary efforts undertaken by all individuals involved in the day-to-day operations of the YWCA of Northwest Indiana, it is important to note that they illustrate Boni's genuine devotion to its vision: to transform lives by mobilizing our diverse community to provide vibrant opportunities and experiences that strive to diminish racial and gender disparities in health, education, and wealth at

tainment, while preparing future generations to sustain these endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Boni Fine for her exceptional community service. I know that Boni will continue to touch the lives of numerous people, and for her selfless, lifelong service, she is to be commended.

## HONORING JEFF DAVIS H.S. ON ITS 85TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jeff Davis High School in Houston, Texas, for their 85 years of excellence and dedication to improving the education of young adults.

As a Jeff Davis High School graduate I am proud to say that since 1925, Jeff Davis has established a legacy of success in academics as well as in extracurricular programs by providing students with opportunities to ensure that they are equipped with the tools that are necessary to excel. Due to the hard work of the school's faculty and staff, Jefferson Davis has been able to significantly decrease its dropout rate and increase its programs to prepare students for college. In 2009 Jefferson Davis increased its number of students enrolled in dual credit courses in Houston area colleges by 450 percent. Since 1993 the school has sent approximately 100 juniors to participate in the Cornell Summer Program, where students are able to spend a summer at Cornell University to earn college credit while still in high school.

In just the last school year, Jeff Davis was recognized for the dedication to decreasing dropout rates and increasing the number of college-bound students. Jeff Davis has been nominated as a candidate to be featured on the U.S. Department of Education "Doing What Works" website based on its success with dropout prevention. One hundred fifty-two students were able to successfully earn college credit through dual enrollment at the University of Houston Downtown and Houston Community College and over 50 individuals were awarded in numerous UIL competitions in areas such as math, writing, and accounting. In 2009–2010, the graduation rate increased to 80 percent and there was an amazing 250 percent increase in student advanced placement passing scores. In 2008–2009, the school became TEA recognized for the first time in Davis history and received the Gold Performance Acknowledgement for comparable improvement in mathematics. In recognition of this outstanding work, Jeff Davis was recognized as one of the top ten most improved high schools in Harris County and its surrounding counties by Children At Risk.

In 1993, Project GRAD & Gear Up programs were founded by former Tenneco CEO James Ketelsen at Jeff Davis. This program provides scholarships to students as an incentive to complete high school and continue their education after graduation. Last year the program awarded 2.8 million dollars in scholarships to over 700 graduating seniors in HISD.

Jefferson Davis offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities, ensuring that students be-

come well rounded and are given a wide range of opportunities to prepare them for our ever-changing society. In 2010, Davis received international recognition in Robotics, as well as significant regional awards in dance, ROTC and Culinary Arts.

I congratulate the past and present administration, faculty, staff, and students of Jefferson Davis High School for all of their hard work and dedication to excellence.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVE KING**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 801, I was not present to vote because I was participating in a public meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the historic flooding that we have experienced along the Missouri River this year.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

## RECOGNIZING DR. RUTH SIMMONS

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ruth Simmons for her 11 years of extraordinary service as president of Brown University.

I am proud to say Dr. Simmons is a native of Texas. In 1995 she became president of Smith College, the largest women's college in the United States, where she launched a number of strategic initiatives to strengthen the college's academic programs and inaugurated the first engineering program at a U.S. women's college. Ruth J. Simmons was sworn in as the 18th president of Brown University on July 3, 2001. She has received numerous accolades throughout her career. In 2001, Time magazine named her America's best college president. In 2007, she was named one of U.S. News & World Report's top U.S. leaders and—for the second time.

As one of the Nation's premier scholars, Ruth Simmons has inspired and enlightened so many as an advocate for educational excellence. Throughout Ruth Simmons' tenure as the president of Brown University, she has shown an unwavering commitment to inspiring, educating, and ensuring that the future of young Americans is a bright one. It is educators such as Ruth Simmons that make an immense impact on our children; both teaching them the information to prosper and inspiring them to achieve. Brown University and our country have benefitted immensely from your service, and I hope you will continue to aspire to educate children who are in great need of strong leaders.

I wish to commend Dr. Ruth Simmons and thank her for her service to this great nation. As an academic leader, she has created positive pathways for the future of our students.

HONORING THE APPRENTICE GRADUATES OF THE SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 20

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and respect that I offer congratulations to several of Northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, October 21, 2011, the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 20 honored the apprentice graduates from the years 2005 to 2011 at the Sheet Metal Banquet, which was held at Ambassador Banquets in Hobart, Indiana.

At this year's banquet, the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 20 recognized and honored Apprentice graduates from 2005 to 2011. The individuals who completed their apprentice training in 2005 are: Kevin L. Anderson, Michael G. Bowman, Jerry W. Bryan, Jr., Richard W. Call, Paul J. Chulpacek, Percy L. Davis, Jr., Jonathan T. Drake, Eric D. Heckman, Raymond E. Hoover, Matthew D. Hoppe, Michael J. Janickovic, Robert C. Joy, James M. Ligda, and Jeff M. Sako. The 2006 apprentice graduates are: Kenneth J. Bastasich, Jr., Lavert Combs, Greg W. Cwetna, Kevin P. Harder, Adam J. Jackson, Tim L. Krebs, Kevin S. Putschaven, and Kevin L. Watts. Apprentice graduates from 2007 are: Tom H. Feneck, Fred J. Hernandez, Timothy M. Holding, David M. Horbovetz, John R. Kane, Matthew J. Koehler, Joshua J. Neeley, James C. Rossi, Nicholas S. Scott, and William A. Smith. Individuals from the apprentice graduating class of 2008 are: Todd A. Goldie, Kreg R. Homoky, Kevin L. LaPorte, Brad N. Martin, Patrick M. Phegley, and Thomas M. Styborski, Jr. The 2009 apprenticeship graduates are: David H. Ballinger, Chuck B. Flick, Mitchell E. Gutyan, Jon P. Holding, Noah D. Hoppe, Vince J. Macielewicz, Jr., Kyle T. Melnyk, Jeffrey A. Pavey, Cary Allan Schnick, and Leonard J. Stringer. The apprentice graduates from 2010 are: John P. Cantu, Don E. Clinton III, Ronald D. Coleman, Douglas J. Edwards III, Eric F. Gann, Matt S. Koontz, Jeffrey A. Koss, Nathan A. Lovas, Christopher W. Marshall, Johnnie L. Parker, and Douglas J. Sils, and lastly, the individuals who completed their apprentice training in 2011 are: Matthew D. Bishop, Shane W. Crowley, Christopher W. Geruska, Brandon W. Gilbert, Jacob A. Goldie, Andy J. Kadziolka, Angel E. Mercado, Clifton E. Perry, Michael E. Polak, Michael J. Torres, Robert C. Wernersbach, Jr., and Adam J. Wotherspoon.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty among its tradesmen. These graduates are outstanding examples of each. They have mastered their trade and have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and selfless dedication. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated and hardworking individuals. Along with the other men and women of Northwest Indiana's unions, these individuals have committed themselves to making a significant contribution to the growth and development of the economy of the First Congressional District, and I am very proud to represent them in Washington, D.C.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FREEMASON ELMHURST LODGE 941, A.F. & A.M.

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Freemason Elmhurst Lodge 941, which has served the residents of Elmhurst, Illinois, since 1911.

The Freemasons are a fraternal organization that was established in the late 16th century, with its primary values being hope, faith, and charity. Noteworthy Masons include George Washington, Paul Revere, Benjamin Franklin, Harry Truman, Gerald Ford, and many other influential figures in politics, business, and entertainment.

In the years since its founding, many organizations have benefitted from the charity of the Elmhurst Lodge, including the Illinois Masonic Children's Home in La Grange, American Cancer Society, Salvation Army, Alzheimer's Foundation, ALS Foundation, Elmhurst Children's Assistance Foundation, and more.

Over the past century, Freemason Elmhurst Lodge 941 has established an important legacy of service in the Elmhurst community.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing the Freemason Elmhurst Lodge 941, the Masons of this lodge, and the citizens of Elmhurst in wishing them happiness on this special occasion.

IN HONOR OF U.S. ARMY SPECIALIST RICARDO CERROS JR.

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of U.S. Army Specialist Ricardo Cerros Jr., 24, of Salinas, California, who died in a firefight on October 8, 2011 in Logar Province, Afghanistan. His last act of courage was to pull a fellow soldier to safety and shield him from enemy fire. He is a hero to the people of the United States and we express our gratitude for his service to our country. His selfless act is one that will never be forgotten.

Ricardo "Rick" Cerros Jr. was born November 2, 1986 in Fort Ord, California to Ricardo Cerros and Marguerite Quiroz. He spent some time in Indiana before returning to California's Central Coast when he was 8 years old. Rick attended Everett Alvarez High School in Salinas, California. There he followed his interest in service by joining the school's Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. His leadership and dedication led him to become the commanding officer of the program. Moreover, I was honored to nominate Rick to the United States Service Academies in 2004.

After high school, Rick attended the University of California, Irvine and was active with the school's Taekwondo club, becoming the first member to achieve a black belt rating. After graduating in 2010, Rick enlisted in the United States Army. He would go on and join our nation's finest as an Army Ranger assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

October 8, 2011 was Rick's first combat mission. During that night raid, an enemy combatant rushed his platoon, wounding Sergeant Moore. Instinctively, Rick ran to the wounded platoon sergeant and pulled him to safety. Then he performed a heroic act by placing himself between the sergeant and the enemy. Sergeant Moore lives today because of Rick's sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire House, I would like to extend the nation's deepest sympathies to Rick's mother Marguerite Quiroz, his father and stepmother Ricardo and Deborah Cerros, and his siblings Nicholas, Theresa and Marko Cerros. Specialist Ricardo Cerros Jr. served his nation honorably, and sacrificed his life to save a fellow comrade. He is an American hero.

RECOGNIZING FRISCO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Frisco Economic Development Corporation. Since their establishment in 1991 the Frisco EDC has recruited over 200 companies to the Frisco area which has resulted in over 24,000 jobs and over \$2.8 billion in capital investments. This is creating an environment ripe for opportunity in the Frisco community and the surrounding areas.

The work done by the Frisco EDC has caused the city of Frisco to be one of the fastest growing areas in the nation. The population has grown over 210 percent since 2000. The Frisco EDC is not only helping to bring in quality new jobs of all levels to the community, but they are also raising the standard of living for the residents of Frisco. The Frisco EDC is doing this by cultivating entrepreneurship and creating an innovative atmosphere that makes Frisco an attractive place to live, work, play, and grow. I know that they will continue to bring diverse new businesses and responsible economic development to Frisco in the years to come.

This anniversary is a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate the Frisco EDC and its members for all that they have done for the Frisco community and its surrounding areas. I am proud to recognize the Frisco EDC on their 20th anniversary, and I know the Frisco community appreciates their many years of service.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS PREVENTION

**HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this occasion to speak about one of the most significant issues facing us today: domestic violence. Mr. Speaker, domestic violence is both unacceptable and intolerable.

As a legal domestic violence counselor, I have had the opportunity to offer pro bono

legal services through Vera House in Syracuse, New York to help victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault. Vera House provides services for women, children and men, as well as domestic violence prevention programs for the Central New York region. Through my work at Vera House, I have seen how domestic abuse affects people of all ages, races, religions, socio-economic conditions.

Domestic violence is known by many titles: domestic abuse, spousal abuse, family violence, and intimate partner violence. It also takes many forms from physical violence involving such things as hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, or restraining. It can be emotional or verbal abuse which manifests in many types of behavior—controlling, domineering, threatening, or humiliating.

Mr. Speaker, domestic violence is a problem facing every community in America. According to the Centers for Disease Control, domestic violence is a public health problem affecting over 32 million Americans, or 10 percent of the population. The effects of domestic abuse are staggering. Physical abuse can be bruises, broken bones, head injuries, lacerations. But those are just the external physical wounds. Internal bleeding and chronic health conditions such as arthritis, irritable bowel syndrome, ulcers, migraines, and miscarriages can also be linked to physical abuse in abuse victims.

Not only is domestic abuse physically dangerous, it also takes a psychological toll. The damage from this kind of abuse is not limited solely to survivors. It extends to their children, family, and community.

All Americans have a moral obligation to stand up against those who commit violence against women, men, and children. We must be able to both recognize and prevent domestic abuse. We must come together to support survivors of abuse, while providing alternatives to this destructive cycle. As a country, we are equal to the task of fighting domestic abuse and sexual assault if we put our minds and spirits to it.

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RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It is unacceptable that today, in this country, three women and one man will die at the hands of an intimate partner. One in four women will experience some sort of domestic violence in her lifetime. Fifteen and a half million children will witness domestic violence this year. In the face of such overwhelming statistics, it is in our moral fabric as a nation that we act to protect victims of domestic violence in our country.

I am very proud of the progress we have made as a country since the Violence Against Women Act was first signed into law in 1994. VAWA was an historic step forward in our nation's response to sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and other forms of violence against women. Thanks to programs estab-

lished by VAWA to respond to the needs of women who had been or could be victimized by violence, women are safer, perpetrators are held accountable, and society is less tolerant of violence against women. Over 60,000 victims of domestic violence receive services every day.

VAWA-funded programs have unquestionably improved the national response to domestic violence. Since VAWA was first passed in 1994:

More victims are coming forward and receiving lifesaving services to help them move from crisis to stability. There has been as much as a 51% increase in reporting by women and a 37% increase in reporting by men.

The number of individuals killed by an intimate partner has decreased by 34% for women and 57% for men and the rate of non-fatal intimate partner violence against women has decreased 53%.

States have passed more than 660 laws to combat domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

Staying at a shelter or working with a domestic violence advocate significantly reduces the likelihood that a victim will be abused again and improves the victim's quality of life.

VAWA not only saves lives, it also saves money. In its first six years alone, VAWA saved taxpayers at least \$14.8 billion in net averted social costs.

A recent study found that civil protection orders saved one state (Kentucky) on average \$85 million in a single year.

We have come so far. But we must keep going. Reauthorizations of VAWA have addressed the unique needs of battered immigrants, sexual assault survivors, victims of dating violence, youth, elders, Indian women, individuals with disabilities, and child witnesses of violence. Now, VAWA needs to be reauthorized and updated again to better respond to the needs of women seeking health care treatment from domestic violence.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), intimate partner violence costs the health care system over \$8.3 billion annually. Approximately 37% of women seeking injury-related treatment in hospital emergency rooms were there because of injuries inflicted by a current or former spouse or partner.

VAWA has begun to address this issue—in the past two years, over 3,000 providers from 100 clinical sites serving over 175,000 women have received training through VAWA to integrate assessment for abuse into health care settings. However, more can be done.

These routine assessments need to be expanded so that providers no longer discharge a woman with only the presenting injuries being treated, leaving the underlying cause of those injuries unaddressed.

It is also vital that we focus on researching the most effective interventions to prevent domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault, and improve the safety and health of individuals who are victimized. We must understand what makes health care interventions effective, what the factors are that increase resiliency for children exposed to violence and individuals who have lifetime exposure to violence and abuse; and which interventions work best within community health centers and adolescent health settings.

When it comes to domestic violence, it is literally an issue of life or death. Thanks to

strong action by past sessions of Congress, we have helped reduce the prevalence of domestic violence across the United States. Some may say the progress we have made over the years is "good enough." However, "good enough" is neither "good" nor "enough."

Currently, girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 are experiencing the highest rate of intimate partner violence, and one in three teens endure some kind of abuse in their romantic relationships. We cannot let our children and young adults face a life of domestic violence. By strengthening federal laws like VAWA, we can continue to help victims of domestic violence and do all that we can to reduce the prevalence of domestic violence in the United States.

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RECOGNITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH/  
WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES INITIATIVE

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic violence happens all too frequently and affects thousands of Texas families in profound ways. As leaders we must take a more active role in providing targeted assistance to victims of domestic abuse to empower them to overcome abusive relationships.

According to a survey by the Texas Council On Family Violence, TCFV, 74 percent of Texans, including 77 percent of Hispanics, reported that either they, a family member and/or a friend have experienced some form of domestic violence. Additionally, TCFV's survey indicates that nearly two out of every five Hispanic females, 39 percent, in Texas reported personal experience with severe abuse. These revealing statistics clearly show that domestic violence is not a rare occurrence, but a widespread, social ill that must be addressed.

Since the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month in 1987, great strides have been made, resulting in a steady decrease in domestic violence in the last few decades, but much work remains to be done. I have personally remained engaged on this topic and have supported the YWCA El Paso del Norte Region which is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

In fact, I am proud to note that I am a strong supporter of YWCA's "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" initiative, which asks men in our community to literally walk a mile in red high heels to promote awareness of sexual violence issues and raise funds for local domestic violence shelters. This is an innovative way to express solidarity with domestic violence victims and those who come to their aid. During this month, let us consider the plight of the thousands of victims of domestic violence in our country, and show our support through actions of awareness and advocacy.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the organizations across the country that have continued to raise awareness on behalf of domestic violence victims, and I ask for a moment of silence to pay our respects to those victims who are not with us today, as well as pay tribute to the survivors.