

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues please join me in recognizing the career of House Parliamentarian John Sullivan and wishing him and his family all the best in the future.

HONORING THE SISTERS OF
LORETTO

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary and continued legacy of the Sisters of Loretto upon their 200th Anniversary and Jubilee. With a current global reach in education ministry spanning multiple continents, the Sisters of Loretto and their extended network spend each day on a spiritual mission to promote peace and justice, environmental stewardship, and, above all, high-quality education for children everywhere.

On April 25, 1812, the Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross came to fruition through the humble and steadfast commitment of three American frontier women in central Kentucky named Mary Rhodes, Ann Havern and Christina Stuart. With the long-time counsel and support of local pastor, Father Charles Nerinckx, the women dedicated their lives to communal living and prayer. Little did they know at the time, that their lifetime commitment to teaching local poor children and housing orphans would spur a global movement.

The women's selfless work under extreme frontier conditions inspired scores of other women to join the religious order. In a model of faith and service, the Sisters made their special purpose the education and instruction of girls and young women of every faith and economic means, including those still enslaved under the law. Over the next two decades, membership grew to 130 women overseeing nine frontier schools in Kentucky and Missouri. And over the next century, they founded 99 additional schools in territories that would become 13 different states.

The Sisters of Loretto continued to expand the work of education westward, first by steamboat to Missouri and Louisiana. Then, by wagon train to New Mexico, mail coach to Colorado, and by train to Texas, Arizona and California. Ultimately, the order contributed to burgeoning systems of American education in more than 40 states. In one chapter of Sisters of Loretto history from 1898 to 1922, the visionary leadership of Superior General Mother Praxedes Carly SL brought greater emphasis to women's higher education goals. Mother Praxedes was one of the first leaders of her time to insist that Loretto Sisters would need master's- and doctorate-level educational training for their teaching. In 1916, a time when universities were almost exclusively off-limits to women, Mother Praxedes erected Loretto College for women in St. Louis, Missouri (now known as Webster University).

From being among the first invited women participants at Vatican II to moving toward greater, independent social peace and justice efforts in the 20th century, the organization has had a presence in China (as early as 1923), Europe, South and Central America (Guatemala, Bolivia and Peru), as well as in recent years, Uganda, Pakistan and Ghana, where they co-opened Blessed Trinity Leader-

ship Academy in 2009. The Sisters of Loretto have formed amazing partnerships with local organizations on the ground and have galvanized a network of co-member volunteers. To name a few of its many roles, the Loretto Community NGO has consultative status at the United Nations and comprises a Loretto Hunger Fund, as well as a Committee for Racial Justice. The Sisters have also built memorials for victims of slavery as well as those who have died from AIDS.

Clearly, the trailblazing roots of this frontier organization, have persisted and flourished over the last 200 years. Altogether, the Sisters of Loretto and their colleagues have founded nearly 300 U.S. schools, colleges, centers and service programs, supporting the education and growth of close to one million American citizens. And, as a proud former student of the Sisters of Loretto at St. Joseph School in El Paso, Texas, and 2002 recipient of their Mary Rhodes Award for peace and justice, I know firsthand what their movement for quality women's education has done for our nation, and the world. They planted the seeds for my work for peace and justice. And for that, I am deeply grateful.

Therefore, on behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, I salute the Sisters of Loretto and thank them for their immense service. I congratulate all of you upon this incredible milestone, and join you in looking ahead toward centuries' more work from the Sisters of Loretto in pursuit of education, enlightenment, peace and progress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the House on April 16, 2012 due to important commitments in my district.

On rollcall 152, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 3001, the Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Celebration Act.

On rollcall 153, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 4040, providing for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus in recognition of his service to the Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LATE
HONORABLE DONALD M. PAYNE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the late Honorable Donald M. Payne, so that we may commemorate his extraordinary life of dedication and commitment to service.

Born in 1952 in Newark, New Jersey, he graduated from Seton Hall University and pursued post graduate studies at Springfield College. A former English and social studies teacher, he also coached football at Malcolm X Shabazz High School, which was then called South Side High School. He was Vice-President of Urban Data Systems Inc. as well

as an executive at Prudential Financial. In 1970, he became the first African-American president of the National Council of YMCAs.

Representative Payne entered public life in 1972 when he was elected to the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Ten years later he was elected to the Newark Municipal Council where he served three terms. In 1988, Donald became the Representative of New Jersey's 10th Congressional District, and the first African-American to represent New Jersey in Congress. As Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, he was a relentless defender and supporter of education related issues. He was an inspiration and a friend.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Hazel Johnson, and is succeeded by son Donald Jr., daughters Wanda and Nicole, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues please join me in sending our condolences to the family and friends of Donald M. Payne who so faithfully cared for and served his community.

HONORING THEODORA J. KALIKOW

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Theodora J. Kalikow on the occasion of her retirement as President of the University of Maine at Farmington.

Since Dr. Kalikow's arrival at the University of Maine at Farmington in 1994, the university has gained national recognition as one of America's top public liberal arts colleges and is a superior model of educational excellence and academic opportunity.

As President, Dr. Kalikow has overseen the addition of many new degree programs and has presided over the construction of new campus facilities, including a community arts center, an education center, and a residence hall. She has also focused on expanding student opportunities for internships and undergraduate research.

Another of Dr. Kalikow's notable accomplishments at UMF has been her tireless pursuit of high environmental sustainability standards. Under her leadership, the University of Maine at Farmington is now recognized as one of America's "Top Green Colleges" by the Princeton Review. Dr. Kalikow's environmental efforts earned her the Green Building Leadership Award from the Maine Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council in 2007.

Dr. Kalikow has received recognition within the state of Maine for her contributions to the community of Farmington and to the state at large. In 2001, she was inducted into the Maine Women's Hall of Fame. She has also been the recipient of the University of Maine's Maryann Hartman Award and the University of New England's Deborah Morton Award.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Theodora J. Kalikow for her many years of dedication and service to the state of Maine.

HONORING THE 11TH ANNUAL
AMERICA'S YOUNG HEROES CON-
TEST

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 11th annual America's Young Heroes contest, which honors students who have created visual art, film, poetry and essays to promote self-empowerment and combat bullying. These students have undoubtedly fostered more tolerant communities in South Florida as well as across the country, and I applaud their efforts.

Last year in the United States, nearly 5.7 million middle school and high school students were bullied. Even more tragic is the fact that almost one in five teens who were victims of bullying contemplated ending their own lives. America's Young Heroes provides a vital platform for teens to address these problems in a way that helps promote positive change.

I congratulate the organizers and participants of the America's Young Heroes contest for operating under the shared belief that in America, no child should be afraid to go to school because he or she is experiencing bullying. It is my hope that because of their efforts, we can work towards a future where all schools are a safe place for students to learn and grow.

RAOUL WALLENBERG CENTENNIAL
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of Raoul Wallenberg's birth. Raoul Wallenberg continues to be one of the most respected and courageous humanitarians to have sacrificed his life to save thousands of Hungarian Jews during the Holocaust.

Born on August 4, 1912 in Stockholm, Sweden, Wallenberg was a Swedish diplomat and a true humanitarian who creatively and courageously came up with measures to protect Hungarian Jews from persecution and death during the German invasion of Hungary during World War II. He hung Swedish flags in front of nearly 30 houses, declaring them Swedish territory—turning these "Swedish houses" into protected territory in which Hungarian Jews could seek shelter. He also distributed thousands of Swedish "protective passes," even as some were in the midst of being deported, prompting their release from German authorities and saving their lives.

Posthumously, Mr. Wallenberg has been honored by countries throughout the world in numerous capacities. There are awards, streets, parks and schools named after him, countless memorials erected in his honor, and in 1981, Congress passed legislation to make him an Honorary Citizen of the United States. His life is celebrated annually on October 5th in more than a dozen states. His bravery continues to be an inspiration.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of the birth of Raoul Wallenberg; may his courage serve as a guide to all of us who are committed to the protection of human rights.

REGARDING THE BEHAVIOR OF
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINIS-
TRATION EMPLOYEES

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly condemn reckless spending by a group of employees from GSA, the General Services Administration, whose actions are now the subject of multiple hearings in both the House and Senate.

The misuse of taxpayer dollars by these GSA employees is truly deplorable. And it comes at a time when families in Nevada and across our Nation are tightening their belts. The lesson from this outrageous incident is clear: government must spend every penny in ways that serve the American people's interests, not the interests of those entrusted with overseeing the use of these taxpayer resources.

President Obama has acted swiftly in demanding accountability from top GSA officials who failed in their leadership roles and I commend his response to the reckless GSA spending that has been revealed.

Unfortunately, some of the comments that have been made surrounding the GSA scandal are meant to create the impression that Las Vegas itself is part of the problem.

I want to make one thing clear to those looking to use these events as an opportunity to bash Las Vegas or to point fingers in our direction—Las Vegas is not to blame.

Mr. Speaker, it's not where GSA went, it's what GSA spent.

And the issue is not Las Vegas, it's the actions of certain GSA employees who must be held accountable for their stunning lack of good judgment, blatant disregard for cost and for thumbing their noses at the rules.

There is no better destination on Planet Earth for meetings, conferences, or conventions than my hometown. No city does it better than Las Vegas.

And the problem is not the men and women in my community who work in the tourism industry and who provide hospitality to tens of millions of visitors from around the globe each year. These moms and dads bring home paychecks from an industry that is vital to the economy of Las Vegas—the community I represent—and to cities all across Nevada.

So, while I join my colleagues in calling for a thorough investigation into this incident, I hope the focus will remain on the actions of GSA employees and their behavior, and not on the location where these misdeeds took place.

WORLD CIRCUS DAY—APRIL 21,
2012

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 21, 2012 as World Circus Day, a day of celebration when children of all ages celebrate the art, culture, and laughter of the circus. With over 40 countries celebrating, we recognize an art form that not only amazes and entertains, but also builds bridges between cultures and people across the globe.

In 2008, the World Circus Federation was created and established World Circus Day as an opportunity to celebrate circus culture and heritage.

The circus in America is a beloved and enduring art form. For over 200 years, the circus has entertained generations with amazing feats of physical skill, comedy, theater, and music, while exposing us to the cultures and wonders of the world.

Today's circus continues to amaze and inspire children of all ages by bridging generations and cultures in the pursuit of the very best in circus arts and skill. From St. Louis's own Circus Harmony working with urban youth, to the Galilee Circus which uses circus arts to bring Jewish and Arab children together, social circus exemplifies the very best of the circus culture as a means of creating friendships and understanding that transcends borders, economics, politics, and religion.

The great state of Florida is home to many of the best-known and longest-operating circuses in the country, including the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. and Circus Sarasota. Many of these famous circuses and the artists who perform with them call the 13th District of Florida "home."

Known as "Circus City USA," Sarasota boasts the world-renowned John and Mable Ringling Museum, the legacy of famed circus impresario John Ringling, whose vision for establishing Sarasota as a thriving cultural center is still alive today. Now under the stewardship of Florida State University, the Ringling Museum is home to a vast collection of European art and sculpture as well as its famed Tibbals Learning Center, home to the Howard Bros. Circus model—the largest miniature circus in the world.

Internationally recognized, our hometown Circus Sarasota is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and continuation of circus arts in our community. Founded by circus great Dolly Jacobs, daughter of famous Ringling Bros. clown Lou Jacobs, and partner Pedro Reis, Circus Sarasota's "Laughter Unlimited" program exemplifies the notion that "laughter is the best medicine," reaching out to hospitals and senior centers to bring joy and comfort. Its annual circus performances showcase some of the finest circus talent in the world today.

Circus Sarasota is also home to the Sarasota Sailor Circus, in operation since 1949 and the oldest continuously running youth circus in America.

From the iconic Ringling Bridge across Sarasota Bay to the main thoroughfare Ringling Boulevard, the Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey legacy is also ever present. Beginning with John Ringling's decision to relocate