

formed by an Act of Congress in 1960. Over the years, volunteers have provided a variety of guest services and assistance with maintaining the 7,768 acres of the Great Swamp.

Upon arriving at the Great Swamp NWR, guests are welcomed by the lush gardens near the visitor center maintained by volunteers. From spring through fall, the volunteers staff the Wildlife Observation Center, where visitors are introduced to the Great Swamp and all of its trails, paths and “must see” locations. Volunteers also provide tours for schools and community organizations, which educate students and the surrounding residents about the Great Swamp and all of the wildlife and plants that make it so unique. As another part of their very important work in preserving the natural beauty of the Refuge, they join the effort in controlling invasive plants, which threaten to disrupt the Great Swamp’s fragile ecosystem.

Outreach to local communities has always been a hallmark of the volunteers of the Great Swamp. They help build and display exhibits at libraries and off-refuge events. Through these displays they are able to educate the community about the Great Swamp and the value the Great Swamp represents to the environment of Morris County and New Jersey. They also spread the news about the Great Swamp by giving presentations to various community organizations. Volunteers assist in raising funds through planning of special events and ceremonies.

The hard work and dedication of the volunteers has provided \$3.2 million in value to the Great Swamp and to the American people. Their work on behalf of the Great Swamp has allowed the Refuge to grow into the one-of-a-kind educational center that it is today. Even though the volunteers come from all walks of life and represent all ages, their love of the Great Swamp and nature has built a close bond between them. Many of the volunteers have even taken another step in their commitment and have joined the independent non-profit group dedicated to preserving the Great Swamp called the Friends of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The volunteers of the Great Swamp are truly the backbone of this New Jersey institution.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating all of the volunteers of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge for 150,000 hours of service to the great State of New Jersey and the United States.

TO RECOGNIZE THE FIRST
ANNUAL MILITARY TENNIS CAMP

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United States Tennis Association, San Diego District Tennis Association, Naval Medical Center San Diego, and Balboa Tennis Club for working together to create the First Annual Military Tennis Camp for Ill, Injured and Wounded Service Members and Veterans. This remarkable event took place at Balboa Tennis Club in San Diego, May 16, 2012 through May 19, 2012, and brought over forty military heroes together to play tennis

while working to improve their physical well-being and overall quality of life.

Serving our ill and wounded military service members, veterans, and their families through a variety of tennis programs is a major focus for these outstanding organizations. Tennis therapy clinics are providing exciting benefits to participants, including improved endurance, balance, hand-eye coordination and weight transfer abilities. Additionally, by enabling them to learn a new sport, these organizations are truly improving the lives of wounded service members and veterans. Tennis is an activity that service members can continue to play when they return to their hometowns and will help them reduce stress and anxiety while also improving their physical activity.

Lastly, I would like to thank the U.S. Olympic Committee, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and private donors for providing all airfare, meals, local transportation and hotel costs for each participant. Taken together, these groups raised over \$40,000 to fund this great cause, and this event could not have taken place if it were not for the work and generosity of these great organizations.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing and congratulating the United States Tennis Association, the San Diego District Tennis Association, Naval Medical Center San Diego, the U.S. Olympic Committee and Balboa Tennis Club for the outstanding work they have done, and are continuing to do, for our nation’s heroes and their families.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
REFORM ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to echo the comments of my colleagues, Representative BILBRAY and Representative SPEIER, and share my concerns about the Food and Drug Administration’s draft guidance on Research Use Only and Investigational Use Only products.

This guidance provides no flexibility for tests used infrequently, for example, to identify rare disorders. Rare diseases, such as Gaucher Disease and Fragile X, can be hard to diagnose, but genetic tests developed and validated by laboratories have made them much easier to identify. In some instances, these tests can point the way to successful treatment of the underlying condition.

Emerging public health threats are another key area that could be impacted by this guidance. Three years ago, this country dealt with the H1N1 flu virus, an emerging infectious disease. If another such public health threat became a serious concern, this draft guidance could block the development and deployment of new diagnostics urgently needed during a national crisis.

It is critical that the FDA consider these serious and valid concerns before issuing a final guidance on Research Use Only or Investigational Use Only products.

THE NEED FOR URGENT ACTION
TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, last month we celebrated Earth Day with the slogan: One Billion People—192 Countries. During the celebration, people of different religious faiths in the United States and abroad participated, issuing proclamations on the moral imperative to be good stewards of the Earth and for action on climate change.

Since Senator Gaylord Nelson first introduced the idea of Earth Day in 1969 here in Congress and founded the first Earth Day in 1970, we have come a long way. An estimated 20 million Americans participated in the first Earth Day. Each year since, Earth Day has been observed around the world.

It is fitting that we remember that Senator Nelson’s underlying premise behind creating “a nationwide demonstration of concern for the environment” was to heed the call to action. Just like 1970, Earth Day 2012 comes at a time of great challenge for our nation and everyone on this planet.

The climate is changing and will endanger the very future of our children and grandchildren. The buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere as a result of human activities will lead to extraordinary heat waves, storms and floods will kill many people and harm many others. This increasing toll of death and destruction will not be limited to developing countries. Tropical diseases will increase their range of infection and exact their toll in human lives. Prolonged droughts will threaten the productivity of even our nation’s agricultural lands. Ocean acidification will destroy coral reefs and the chain of sea life they support, endangering a leading food source for up to one-third of humanity.

If coastal ice shelves in the Antarctic continue to disintegrate, sea levels will rise several meters this century. At such a rate, many of the world’s great cities will face chronic floods and many coastal settlements will disappear. Large-scale human migrations in response to rising sea levels, food and water insecurity and other climate-induced stresses will impoverish many people and threaten our national security. An increasingly harsh climate will greatly endanger future generations’ life expectancy and diminish everyone’s quality of life. Mass extinction of species is a distinct possibility, leaving a far more desolate planet for our descendants than the world that we inherited.

This is not just an environmental or ecological issue. It is a national security, food, water, and quality of life issue. Knowing these potentially disastrous outcomes and knowing we can avert many of them makes this a moral and ethical issue. And it is why I am pleased that religious leaders from many faiths are willing to back the resolution I am introducing today that calls on Congress to take immediate action on climate change. This resolution calls for action on the part of the House to ensure that the energy, environmental, agricultural, national security, and foreign policies of the United States reflect appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to climate change, as documented by

credible scientific findings and as evidenced by the extreme weather events of recent years.

Many faith traditions proclaim our moral obligation to be good stewards of the Earth and the imperative to act upon the climate crisis. It is a call to our shared existence and our interdependence upon God's creation that transcends political considerations. By failing to act on climate change, we unjustifiably cause human suffering and death, which many vulnerable peoples are experiencing now, and which may visit our children and future generations.

It is a call to honor our moral obligation for equity and justice, which can be addressed by shifting to a sustainable, energy efficient and renewable energy economy that will create millions of good jobs and support healthy families and communities. Lastly, it is a call to protect the Earth, which is the source of all life. For, to disrupt the climate that is the cornerstone of all life and to squander the extraordinary abundance of life, diversity, and beauty of the planet is a moral failure of the first order.

I applaud these organizations and communities of faiths who have joined together to advance this critically important issue. I also applaud their commitment to be true to their faith by recognizing that we have a moral obligation to be good stewards of the earth and all of its creatures and processes.

I encourage my colleagues, to safeguard the welfare of the people of the United States by enacting policies that—

reduce energy consumption and increase energy efficiency;

shift the power supply strategy away from oil, coal, and natural gas to wind, solar, geothermal, and other renewable energy sources to reduce dependence on fossil fuels;

capture and store carbon by planting and greening urban landscapes and improving land and forest management practices;

help people of the United States and abroad prepare for and withstand the significant impacts of climate change that are already occurring and that are likely to accelerate in years ahead; and

support the prompt introduction and passage of legislation to achieve these goals.

Again, I encourage my colleagues to support this measure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on Roll-call No. 229, I voted incorrectly. I am recorded as a "no." My intent and purpose was to vote "aye," but I voted mistakenly.

HONORING EDDIE "THE POLKA KING" BLAZONCZYK, SR.

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr., who

passed away on May 21, 2012 at the age of 70. Mr. Blazonczyk was a Polish-American icon who spread the beauty and joy of polka music around the world.

Mr. Blazonczyk was born the son of Polish immigrants in Chicago on July 12, 1941. His parents owned Polish music clubs in the city, influencing their son to play the accordion, drums, guitar, and bass guitar, and to sing in classic Polka tradition.

Eddie was so versatile and talented that he was signed to play pop music by Mercury Records, even making an appearance on American Bandstand. However, Eddie returned to his polka roots and founded The Versatones, one of the most popular polka bands in the world. Eddie and his band spread his unique Chicago Style polka around the world, introducing the fun music to people of all backgrounds. Eddie would become known as the "Polka King" as he opened one of the most prestigious polka music recording studios in America, Bel-Aire Recordings, in 1963. He then founded the International Polka Association in 1968 to promote the genre of music throughout the world, and is now enshrined in the Association's Hall of Fame.

Eddie played the music he loved with The Versatones until 2001. During his tenure with The Versatones, the band gained many honors including a Grammy Award for Best Polka Album in 1987 with their hit record, Another Polka Celebration. Mr. Blazonczyk was also awarded a National Heritage Fellowship in 1998 for his work in celebrating the art of polka music.

I ask my colleagues to join me in offering condolences to Mr. Blazonczyk's family, and to thank Eddie Blazonczyk for spreading his art, his joy, and his passion to generations of polka fans.

TO APPLAUD THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM RECIPIENTS TO THE STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and to thank them for their contributions to the struggle for civil rights. The Medal of Freedom is the highest civilian honor in the United States, and its very name serves as an important reminder that we owe our freedom to the hard work and sacrifice of these American heroes. Each recipient is a shining example of quiet courage and unwavering dedication to equality. They have used their own personal talents to advance the rights of the disenfranchised, and for that, our nation stands stronger today.

Delores Huerta has spent her entire career in the fight for farm workers' rights and has fiercely defended marginalized populations. From promoting Spanish-language ballots for voters to securing drinking water free from pesticides, Ms. Huerta has demonstrated the incredible power of community organizing and is a leader in a class of her own. Ms. Huerta has made such a tremendous impact on the state of California and across the nation that I have dedicated a separate statement to her.

John Doar served as Assistant Attorney General during the most pivotal years of the Civil Rights Movement. He used his position to bridge the local struggles he witnessed in the south with the national efforts of the federal government. Mr. Doar is remembered for escorting the first African-American student at the University of Mississippi to classes as well as for diffusing an angry mob following the assassination of Medgar Evers. He also helped draft the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He again and again put himself in the line of fire, armed only with a call for nonviolence and justice.

Bob Dylan was the poet laureate of the sixties generation, and his lyrics will forever be ingrained in American history. Through groundbreaking songs like "Blowin' in the Wind" and "Times They Are A-Changing," Mr. Dylan coupled his talents as a songwriter with his visions as an activist. He never caved to outside voices or criticisms, instead remaining steadfast in his quest for truth and justice.

Gordon Hirabayashi was honored posthumously for his actions on behalf of Japanese-Americans during World War II. Mr. Hirabayashi was one of three Americans to defy internment, calling it racial discrimination. He took his case all the way to the Supreme Court, which ruled against him. Mr. Hirabayashi waited over forty years for the court to overturn that conviction, but he was not embittered by his struggle. Rather, he saw it as part of a greater mission to uphold the integrity of the U.S. Constitution and ensure that its protections are extended to every American.

Mr. Speaker, this year's award recipients are a personal inspiration to me as well as to millions of other Americans. They have all persevered against fierce opposition, not for their own personal gain but in defense of the core values on which this nation was founded. I would like to personally thank them and am pleased to see them honored with great distinction.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE LOUIS AND BEATRICE LAUFER CENTER

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Doctors Henry and Marsha Laufer and their family for the many outstanding contributions to scientific research and learning on the occasion of the opening of the new Louis and Beatrice Laufer Center for Physical and Quantitative Biology at Stony Brook University in my district.

For more than forty years, the Laufer family has demonstrated an unyielding commitment and tremendous generosity with their time, talents and resources in supporting Stony Brook University. Their influence and many contributions have made an indelible impact on the campus and surrounding community.

Dr. Henry Laufer is a former member of Stony Brook's faculty who won the prestigious Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship and helped distinguish the Mathematics Department through his breakthrough work on complex variables and algebraic topology. Dr. Marsha Laufer is a