

Creamery Arts Center, and Drury University. He has also helped with public television shows in Branson, Missouri.

The Springfield community and surrounding area is lucky to have a neighbor like Chuck. He continues to provide us with great entertainment after more than 25 years of involvement in the arts.

I want to congratulate Chuck Rogers' 25 years at the Springfield Little Theatre and wish him continued success. Break a leg Chuck!

TYIA JOHNSON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Tyia Johnson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Tyia Johnson is a 12th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Tyia Johnson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Tyia Johnson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING MR. FRANK EDWARD  
RAY

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2012*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor the life and legacy of San Joaquin Valley resident Mr. Frank Edward Ray. Mr. Ray will be remembered as a hero for the brave actions he took to rescue twenty-six young school children who fell victim to a school bus kidnapping plot while in his care.

Frank Edward Ray, or Ed as he was known, was born in Le Grand, California on February 26, 1921. As a boy, his family relocated to Chowchilla, California. After graduating from Chowchilla Union High School in 1940, Mr. Ray married his wife, Odessa, in 1942. The couple purchased a ranch in Dairyland, California on which they farmed alfalfa, corn, and raised dairy cows. In the early 1950's, Mr. Ray went to work for Dairyland Union School District as a bus driver.

While driving a busload of summer school students home in the summer of 1976, Mr. Ray's daily route quickly became anything but normal. As he drove the bus along a tree-lined avenue, he encountered a white van blocking the road. After Mr. Ray brought the bus to a stop to avoid a collision with the van, three armed men hijacked the school bus. The assailants forced Mr. Ray and the 26 school chil-

dren off the bus into cramped vans and drove 100 miles to a rock quarry in Livermore, California.

As part of an elaborate plot to obtain \$5 million dollars in ransom, the kidnappers forced Mr. Ray and the children into a makeshift bunker made from a moving van buried in the ground. Before leaving the scene, the kidnappers covered the roof of the van with steel plates, 100 pound vehicle batteries, and dirt. Despite risk of further danger, Mr. Ray and several of the older children in the group used materials found in the van to dig their way out. After 16 hours of clearing debris, Mr. Ray was able to help all of the children escape from the underground van.

Because of Mr. Ray's bravery, selflessness, and loving sense of responsibility for the children in his care, all 26 students escaped the kidnapping ordeal safely. He assisted in the apprehension of the kidnappers—all three of which are serving life sentences. His heroic actions and leadership in the face of uncertain danger established him as a hero in the Chowchilla community. In addition to local appreciation, his heroic efforts in the nationally renowned kidnapping became an example of excellence across America. Just two months after the crime, Mr. Ray resumed his route on the same bus. He retired from Alview-Dairyland Union School District in 1988, after 40 years of service.

Mr. Ray passed away in May 2012 at the age of 91. In the days preceding his death, he was visited by many of the students he saved 35 years ago. Mr. Ray is survived by his wife, Odessa, with whom he would have celebrated 70 years of marriage in June 2012. He is also survived by his two sons, Glen and Danny; his sister, Esther Danelli; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He will be missed by the close-knit community of Chowchilla.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in posthumously honoring Mr. Frank Edward Ray for his invaluable service to his community. His legacy will not soon be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING THE ROEBUCK  
FAMILY'S MILITARY SERVICE

**HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2012*

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a proud American family with over one hundred total years of military service to this Nation.

In 1980, Violet I. Roebuck, originally from St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, moved with her family, to Lake Placid, Florida.

Harold Roebuck Jr., father to Carlos, Harold III, Venecia and Gisette tragically died shortly after the family's move to Florida during a return trip to St. Croix. their mother, Violet I. Roebuck had the difficult task of raising her five children, including her eldest son Wayne Moorehead, as a working single mother.

Of her five children, four served in the military, each for more than 20 years for a total of over 80 years of service. In addition, Violet's son-in-law Ira Wenzel II served an additional 22 years.

With such a strong commitment to this Nation, it's really no surprise that the patriotism Violet had instilled in her children was passed

on to a second generation of her family who have now begun their proud and faithful service to this Nation.

Today, Harold Roebuck IV and Eddie Moorehead are following in the footsteps of their parents in proud service to this Nation.

It is important to always remember that families like Violet Roebuck's are clear examples of what makes this Nation so great.

Today, I am humbled to have the opportunity to bring the attention of this house to a family of true American heroes.

To the Roebuck family, God bless you and your family's brave service to this Nation.

With that, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring the achievements of this patriotic American family.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTER AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2012*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, which is celebrating 100 years since its establishment on the island of Puerto Rico.

The Inter American University of Puerto Rico was founded in 1912 as the Polytechnic Institute of Puerto Rico, by Reverend John Will Harris. At the time they offered elementary and secondary education in the town of San German. In 1944, the university was accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, making it the first liberal arts college to be so accredited in Puerto Rico.

Over the last century, the Inter American University of Puerto Rico has greatly expanded, educating thousands of students pursuing their studies in the humanities, social sciences, and hard sciences. Under the leadership of University President Dr. Manuel J. Fernos, today the Inter American University of Puerto Rico has more than 50,000 registered students at eleven sites, including schools specializing in optometry and law. As the only optometry school in Latin America, it is the main provider of bilingual optometrists in the world.

The university also stands out for its extensive offering of online courses, making it a leader in distance learning. The Inter American University of Puerto Rico prides itself on their international partnerships with other prestigious universities located in Spain, England, Italy, Mexico, China, and the Dominican Republic. The university also maintains a large number of partnership programs with schools located in the 50 States. These partnerships and programs expand the knowledge and experiences of the university's students, and have made the Inter American University of Puerto Rico a recognized cultural bridge between North America and Latin America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of this historic institution of higher education, which has made a lasting impact on students in Puerto Rico and throughout the rest of both the United States and Latin America.