

leaves SNWA to take on new challenges, I want to express my deep appreciation for her contributions to the Colorado River Basin, for her dedication to her community, and for inspiring a new generation of women leaders in water.

My best wishes to Pat, and continued success on behalf of the people in the Colorado River Basin. I ask that all of my colleagues join me to honor Pat for her years of public service.

HONORING NATIONAL VOICES FOR EQUALITY, EDUCATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor National Voices for Equality, Education and Enlightenment (NVEEE), an organization from my district, on receiving a \$25,000 grant from the first-ever Be a STAR (Show Tolerance and Respect) Initiative.

The Be a STAR program, cofounded by the WWE and the Creative Coalition, recognizes projects that help encourage respect and tolerance among our nation's schoolchildren, and NVEEE has certainly earned this distinction.

NVEEE is a non-profit organization located in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, whose mission is to prevent bullying, violence, and suicide. This grant will be used to fund the Peace Ambassadors program and train young leaders in South Florida to serve as advocates to prevent bullying in their schools and communities.

Once again, I am proud to congratulate NVEEE on their efforts to empower our children and create a climate of acceptance, and I look forward to their continued success.

COMMENDING SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I rise to congratulate Saint Leo University in Pasco County on their 125th anniversary. Back in 1889, Saint Leo was first founded as a college by the Benedictine Monks and was the first Catholic college in Florida. The Florida legislature granted their charter on June 4, 1889.

Saint Leo opened their doors in 1890 and started with a first class of 32 students. They focused on establishing a liberal arts education curriculum.

From its humble beginnings, Saint Leo College grew and in 1999 Saint Leo College became Saint Leo University. Today, Saint Leo University serves over 16,000 students with students from all 50 States, the District of Columbia and more than 60 countries.

Saint Leo University has been a longtime supporter of our Nation's active duty soldiers. In 1973, Saint Leo began offering degree programs on military bases. Saint Leo today is one of the largest providers of higher education to active duty military with an extensive

online program. GI Jobs & Military Advanced Education magazine recognized Saint Leo University as one of the Nation's most military-friendly institutions.

I want to congratulate Saint Leo University for its service to our community during the past 125 years and look forward to it being around for another 125 years. I yield back the balance of my time.

IN HONOR OF THE VOLUNTEERS WHO SERVED THANKSGIVING DINNER TO VETERANS ON THE USS NEW JERSEY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the volunteers who served Thanksgiving dinner to homeless veterans on the USS New Jersey this past November.

These patriotic South Jersey citizens expressed their appreciation and gratitude those who have selflessly served in our armed services by taking time on Thanksgiving Day to give back to serve dinner to homeless veterans.

For that reason Mister Speaker, it is my honor to submit the names of the volunteers for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Dominick M. Carella, Bob Catando, Amber Louise Clark, Chenay Baxter Clark, Cadet Sophie-Leigh Clark, Malik Cobb Jr., Robert Day, Victoria Day, Jacqueline Dorosky, John Dorosky, Alexis Dowgin, Kyle Dowgin, Min Elders, Chris Fuller, Christopher Jonathan Gruberg, Gerard Harkins, Joseph Hawes, Matthew Hawes, the Hegarty family, Justin Henderson, James Dallas Hoefle, Deborah Johnson, Kelly Johnson, Ginelle Joseph, Jordan Kelley, Austin Kelley, Julie Keys, Bernadette N. Kirkland, Elijah Kirkland, Jan Maurice Kirkland, Keith Kirkland, Nzinga Kirkland, Justin Casey Lamanna, Chloe Madison, Carole Magowan, Steven Magowan, Chase Miller, Joanne Mooney, Martin Mooney, Kayla Phillips, Madison Phillips, Angelo D. Pizzullo Jr., Pamela Pratt, Alyssa Rivers, Alison Rivers, Luis Daniel Marchena Del Rosario, Joseph Rubino, Amanda Saini, Elizabeth Saini, Kenneth Aaron Smith, Sam Snyder, Susan Stefencavage, Donna Stein, Robert Stein, Beth T. Suckiel, Tatiana Swain, Kaoir Takasu, Ty Takasu, Carson Wallace, Charles Wallace III, Kay Walcott-Henderson, and Johanne Wells.

Mr. Speaker, these volunteers exemplify the patriotic character of the citizens of South Jersey. As elected officials it is our duty to match their patriotism—by enacting laws that provide mental health support and other benefits to veterans, so that those who risk their lives on our behalf never become homeless.

MARCY KAPTUR'S UKRAINIAN ROOTS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an article that recently ap-

peared in the Toledo Blade that describes the family heritage of our colleague and friend, the Honorable MARCY KAPTUR. Ms. KAPTUR represents Ohio's 9th Congressional District, is the dean of the Ohio delegation, and is the senior-most woman in the House.

As this extraordinary article points out, Congresswoman KAPTUR's interest in the current situation in Ukraine is influenced by her grandparents who were born in Ukraine and immigrated to America in the early 1900's.

Last night, the House passed a resolution supporting "the Ukrainian people's struggle to build an independent, democratic, and strong Ukraine that is free from foreign meddling."

Ohioans are very proud of our family heritage as I am a son of Irish and Italian immigrants. MARCY KAPTUR is proud of her Ukrainian heritage and I am honored to serve with her in the House.

I submit an article from the Toledo Blade by Tom Troy.

KAPTUR'S UKRAINE ROOTS RUN DEEP BEHIND THE SCENES, CONGRESSMAN ENCOURAGES DEMOCRACY

U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D., Toledo) looks over family pictures on her desk. Miss Kaptur's grandparents were both born in Ukraine, and she worries about that nation's future. She plans to bring some Ukrainian farmers here on a trade mission this month.

During her 30 years as the representative of Ohio's 9th Congressional District, U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur has carried on a love affair.

The object of her affections is Ukraine, the former Soviet socialist republic that was the land of her grandmother and grandfather's birth.

"It has been a lifelong interest because, as our mother used to say, our children know the history of our family," Miss Kaptur, 67, said last week of herself and her brother Stephen, 61, who lives with her in West Toledo. As Ukraine—a giant eastern European nation famed for its fertile farmland—roils in political unrest, Miss Kaptur has been working behind the scenes to encourage democracy to flourish.

The Toledo Democrat said she has made at least a dozen trips to Ukraine over the last four decades, and she is cochairman of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus.

In recent months the country has exploded into demonstrations, triggered by outrage at Ukraine President Viktor Yanukovych's decision to end negotiations to join the European Union and turn to Russia to help it pay off a crippling debt. Some see the revolutionary movement as a step toward true independence that started when Ukraine broke off from the Soviet Union in 1990.

Miss Kaptur was the co-sponsor of a resolution that passed Wednesday in a House committee calling the Ukraine leadership to a higher standard, and to support rights of assembly. Whether it will come up for a vote in the full House is not known.

"As the co-chair of the Ukraine caucus I have met with literally hundreds of Ukrainian leaders, existing leaders, emerging leaders, presidents, ambassadors, farmers. The Ukrainian embassy knows about our caucus," Miss Kaptur said.

As the Ukrainian military begins making sounds about intervening in the unrest, Miss Kaptur said she hopes that if it does, it exercises restraint.

"The point is there has been a lot of interaction [with the United States], training at the highest level," she said. "The kind of bloodshed that is historic in that region hasn't happened and I hope it won't."

Miss Kaptur as an infant sits in her Grandmother Teofila Swiecicki Rogowski's lap

while her mother, Anastasia Rogowski, stands. During college, the representative ‘worshipped’ her hard-working grandparents, who emigrated from Ukraine in the early 1900s.

The realignment of Miss Kaptur’s 9th Congressional District in 2012 to snake along Lake Erie all the way from Toledo to Cleveland has been widely decried as gerrymandering designed to achieve Republican goals of squeezing as many Democrats into as few districts as possible.

But one upshot has been the linkage of one of Congress’s most Eastern European-focused lawmakers with communities that have a lot of Eastern European immigrants and their descendants.

The district now contains the Cuyahoga County city of Parma, which has a large Ukrainian-American population. Miss Kaptur is also a founder and co-chairman of the Polish and Hungarian congressional caucuses.

Her mother’s family was Polish living in modern-day Ukraine.

Miss Kaptur’s grandmother Teofila Swiecicki Rogowski and Grandfather John Rogowski emigrated from Ukraine early in the 1900s.

“Then it was czarist Russia. They were not allowed to graze their one cow on the open field and could not feed themselves,” Miss Kaptur said.

Over the years, as their homeland was devastated by political and military rivalries, including a famine brought on by Soviet leader Joseph Stalin and invasion by the Nazis, they lost all contact with family members in Ukraine. Her grandmother took in wash, and worked in the Commodore Perry and Willard hotels to earn money, while her grandfather, a carpenter, struggled to find work.

“When I was in college I worshipped her and her husband,” Miss Kaptur said. She wanted to take her grandmother back to Ukraine and find the town they came from, Burtyn, but her grandmother was afraid, she said. Teofila died in 1970.

In 1973, Miss Kaptur—then a planner for the city of Toledo—and her mother, the former Anastasia Rogowski, drove into Soviet Ukraine, where they found her grandmother’s brother, a former inmate of Stalin’s gulag political prison system for 20 years.

“He was not allowed to travel out of his area because he was viewed as an enemy of the state,” Miss Kaptur said. He was released from the gulag in 1952, but lost his brother to the camps. Her great-uncle’s crime: He had offered aid to a wounded Kulak, a member of the property-owning farming class that was being driven into extinction by Stalin. They had the only car in the dusty town, and were the only guests in the hotel, which had no curtains but a listening device. They had sent word to relatives that they would be at the hotel if anyone wanted to meet them. They were on their third day with no visitors when they heard activity in the lobby.

Miss Kaptur’s great-uncle Casmierz Swiecicki was a former inmate in Joseph Stalin’s prison system for 20 years. “We learned the desk clerk had been denying to the woman visitor that any foreigners were staying in the hotel, despite her repeated attempts to contact us,” Miss Kaptur said.

She said the moment that she finally met her grandmother’s brother, Casmierz Swiecicki, was an emotional one. “There stood this tall man and I looked at him and gasped because he held his hands the same way that our grandmother did. He looked at my mother and said, ‘are you my sister?’ We just wept,” Miss Kaptur said. They gave him an orange. “That began the moment when we began to unlock the history of what hap-

pened,” she said. They met more family members in a return trip two years later.

Andy Fedynsky, resident scholar at the Ukrainian Museum and Archives in Cleveland, said Miss Kaptur has actively supported Ukraine since her first term in 1983. He said that year she played a leadership role in passing a bill to create a commission on the Ukraine famine, which was widely decried.

“This commission was set up and did a thorough job establishing there was a famine, it was planned, 7 million people were deliberately starved to death,” Mr. Fedynsky said. He said Miss Kaptur testified that the victims included her own family.

“She said, ‘Don’t tell me this never happened. I know it happened because my ancestors endured it,’” Mr. Fedynsky said. The commission ‘made a huge difference in Ukraine historiography.’”

Miss Kaptur and others worked to get President Obama to include a Ukraine reference in his State of the Union speech last week, which he did. The President said, “In Ukraine, we stand for the principle that all people have the right to express themselves freely and peacefully and to have a say in their country’s future.”

“I have been meeting with Ukrainians on a regular basis. We are planning a trade mission for farmers to bring them to Ohio in February,” Miss Kaptur said.

She has a picture of herself meeting a year and a half ago with one of the opposition leaders when he was in Washington.

She said she was in Ukraine in 2013 while on her way to Poland to be awarded an honorary citizenship—her father’s family was from Poland—when she feared that Ukraine was slipping backward. “I left very, very worried. I saw how much more difficult their life had become. I was deeply worried about what I saw—greater poverty among older women, farmers that I’ve known.”

Ironically to the girl whose grandmother had only wanted to raise money in order to buy a piece of land on which to graze their cow, Ukrainian farmland is being bought up by oligarchs.

“There was a real sense that democracy was slipping away. Then all of this has happened. The people of Ukraine have stood up, and we should stand with them,” Miss Kaptur said.

HONORING JACOB E. LEE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob E. Lee. Jacob is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 444, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jacob replaced a gate at Harvester’s Community Garden in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob E. Lee for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for

his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF MASTER SERGEANT SHAWN EDWARDS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House’s attention today to recognize Master Sergeant Shawn Edwards, a constituent of mine from Opelika, Alabama. MSgt Edwards is retiring June 1st from the United States Air Force after over 20 years of service.

MSgt Edwards began his career as a Security Forces member. He was responsible for guarding our nation’s highest priority weapons. He spent ten years in this position with assignments in Grand Forks Air Force Base, Izmir Air Station in Turkey; and Kirtland Air Force Base. In 2003, he re-trained into the contracting career field. He has been responsible for the purchase and acquisition of supplies, services and construction to support the needs of the installation at which he is serving. As a contractor, he has served at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ramstein Air Base and Hurlburt Field. MSgt Edwards has also served his country in deployments to Camp Victory, Iraq, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan and Thumrait, Oman.

MSgt Edwards has served his country with honors for over 20 years. Some of these awards include: the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal with four devices, the Air Force Achievement Medal with two devices, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Medal with one device, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one device, the Iraq Campaign Medal with one device, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal with one device and the NATO Medal.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Master Sergeant Shawn Edwards for his tireless dedication to serving America. His service to our state and country is an inspiration. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING POLK STATE COLLEGE

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Polk State College on the occasion of its 50 year anniversary.

Polk State College, the first higher education institution in Polk County, was established in 1964. The college enjoyed early success, enrolling 1,200 students in its first semester. Its continued growth necessitated construction of a larger, permanent campus. Ground was broken in 1966 on the shores of