

train ride." The family settled on a farm in French Camp, just outside of Stockton, CA.

Letha married Wilfred Cannon in 1928. They raised two children, Ruth and Wilfred, Jr., in the Stockton area.

After Wilfred passed away, Letha persevered, and even began a new career as a nurse. She spent 11 years at St. Joseph's Hospital.

In addition to her roles as a nurturing mother and nurse, Letha has made time for her community. She has been active in the PTA, Grange, Escalon Presbyterian Church, French Camp Vaqueros, and Dixon Community Church.

As if her plate was not full enough, Letha is a prize-winning gardener. Her African Violets took first place at the Dixon May Fair.

Letha also takes pleasure in travel. Even at her age, in the past year, she has flown across the country to New Jersey and Wisconsin.

Letha is blessed with 5 surviving siblings, 2 children, 8 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, and 29 nieces and nephews.

Her family and friends have gathered together to celebrate her remarkable age of 100 and to thank her for being their "foster mom," as many fondly call her.

Letha Adams Cannon has spent her life enjoying travel, gardening, and most of all, her family. I wish Letha and her family the best on this momentous occasion.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF TIMOTHY M. SATOLA AND RECOGNITION OF THE SATOLA FAMILY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Tim Satola. A model citizen throughout his life, Tim's enthusiasm, motivation, and personal drive to help people is echoed in his accomplishments.

A leader all his life, Tim was high school linebacker for the Garfield Bulldogs. His energy and spirit was an inspiration to his teammates and anyone who knew him. On the football team, his passion and energy earned him a reputation as "the light of the team." Tim went on to graduate from nursing school and began his career as a registered nurse shortly before his untimely passing.

Tim's commitment to helping people continues even after his death with the establishment of the Tim Satola Scholarship Fund. His parents, Donna and Dennis Satola, set up the scholarship fund to help students of Garfield Heights High School with the financial burdens of attending college. Already, the fund has awarded two \$500 scholarships.

The Tim Satola Memorial Scholarship Fund honors students who share Tim's zest for life and his commitment to helping others. The fund continues the tremendous compassionate spirit that Tim would have wanted to inspire in the students of his high school alma mater.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Tim Satola and the continuing inspiration he brings through the

Tim Satola Scholarship Fund to the students of Garfield Heights High School.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. GILBERT F. WHITE

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Dr. Gilbert F. White, the "Father of Floodplain Management," who died October 5, 2006 in his home in Boulder Colorado. He will be missed by friends and loved ones, yet the legacy of his social and environmental vision will long continue in communities throughout the world.

Gilbert F. White was born on November 26, 1911 in Hyde Park, Illinois and received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Chicago. As a graduate student in the late 1930s, he studied the Mississippi River Basin for the federal government when many planners followed a flood control policy based on the construction of dams. White questioned the impact of such projects and suggested alternatives that protected people, as well as floodplain ecosystems. He served as president of Haverford College in Pennsylvania from 1946 until 1955 and taught at the University of Chicago from 1956 to 1969. He was a visiting professor at the University of Oxford in 1962-63, and he chaired the American Friends Service Committee from 1963 to 1969.

In 1970, White joined the faculty of the University of Colorado at Boulder as a Professor of Geography and Director of the Institute of Behavioral Science, remaining active in academic work well into his 90s. He founded the University of Colorado's Natural Hazard Research and Applications Information Center in 1974 which has become the nation's leading repository of knowledge on human behavior in disasters. White's work in natural hazard mitigation changed the way people addressed their surroundings and made the world safer for its inhabitants in the process. In his doctoral dissertation of 1942, White wrote, "Floods are acts of God, but flood losses are largely acts of man." So significant was this work that it has since been called the most influential book ever written by an American geographer.

In an era characterized by the construction of bigger and stronger flood control devices, Dr. White pioneered effective models of flood management that promoted public safety while preserving rivers and waterways. He was a true humanitarian, making extraordinary contributions toward educating governments on the most effective actions available in managing floodplains and alleviating flood losses. Dr. White's persistence convinced the nation to take a broader view in reducing flood risks, culminating with the implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program. This program encouraged responsible floodplain management at the local level and created stronger, safer communities for generations of Americans.

Among White's numerous honors are the National Geographic Society's highest honor, the Hubbard Medal; the United Nation's Sasakawa International Environmental Prize; and the Association of American Geographer's Lifetime Achievement Award. He was also presented with an honorary doctorate from CU-Boulder in May of 2006.

Dr. White's legacy derives from the programs he helped implement. His contributions will continue to keep communities safer and protect the environment while making smart investments in mitigation activities at all levels of government. We all owe this great man a debt of gratitude and respect. I ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating and remembering this life of service.

IN HONOR OF GENE ARDEN VANCE, JR.

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero, Army SSG Gene Arden Vance, Jr. Staff Sergeant Vance was tragically killed in action while serving in Afghanistan in 2002. Though I never had the honor of meeting Staff Sergeant Vance, I am saddened by his loss and want to share my own condolences and those of this House with his family, friends, and comrades.

Staff Sergeant Vance, Jr. was born on 30 November, 1963, in Frankfurt, Germany, the son of an Army Special Forces officer. He enlisted in the Army in 1981, after graduating from Oceana High School in Oceana, West Virginia. He served in a variety of posts from Germany to Monterey, finally leaving active duty in 1990. In 1992, he enlisted in the West Virginia National Guard, and graduated from the Defense Language Institute's (DLI) Persian-Farsi Basic Course in 1998. He reentered active duty immediately following September 11th, 2001, and he deployed to eastern Afghanistan with the 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in February 2002.

On 19 May, 2002, Staff Sergeant Vance's patrol was ambushed by Taliban fighters in the province of Paktika, Afghanistan. Although critically wounded in the initial attack, Staff Sergeant Vance continued to translate battlefield intelligence for Afghan forces in the area, directing them out of danger. His calm actions and command of the situation saved the lives of two fellow Americans and as many as 18 Afghani soldiers, and helped to defeat the enemy ambush. For his actions, Staff Sergeant Vance was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with a "V" for valor in combat, the Purple Heart Medal, and the West Virginia Distinguished Service Medal.

His actions in combat represented the highest level of bravery and professionalism of the American soldier. His actions also represent the unique heroism of the military linguist. In the conflicts that our nation now finds itself in, languages and their key role in understanding and influencing the cultures that they speak for, are essential to our national security. That is why I feel it is so fitting that the Army has

dedicated a new barracks building at the DLI in honor of Staff Sergeant Vance, where his service can stand as an example to the current generation of linguists who are the key to prevailing against the terrorism and instability that threaten America.

On a personal note, I am doubly touched because as the Member of Congress who represents California's Central Coast, I worked hard to secure the funding to construct the barracks building that will bear Staff Sergeant Vance's name. At the time, I was simply working with the DLI leadership to help improve the living conditions for their students. I can't overstate now how proud I am that this building will now bear witness to the heroism Staff Sergeant Vance and in his name, all military linguists who will serve in the global war on terrorism.

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#### HONORING BARB MILES

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Barb Miles for her years of service as the Carroll Town Clerk. Ms. Miles served her community well during her tenure in office.

Public Service is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Ms. Miles traveled that path with her head held high and a smile on her face throughout her tenure. I have no doubt that her kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the constituents of Carroll.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong and dedicated public servants with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Ms. Miles is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor her today.

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#### STAFF TRIBUTE

### HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, in the closing days of the 109th Congress, Members will rise to acknowledge the departure of their colleagues. Some are retiring of their own volition while others, such as me, are leaving as a consequence of the November elections.

While my colleagues deserve all of the accolades they will receive, I would like to devote just a few minutes to the loyal and capable men and women who have made my six years here in Congress so productive and rewarding. I would like to thank my wonderful staff.

My staff has shared in every success and victory we have had over the past six years. They have also shared in the personal disruption and professional disappointment of leaving this place before our important work is done.

They are as follows:

Todd Mitchell, Chief of Staff, and my alter ego on all issues and decisions, whose steady

hand and wise counsel allowed us to assemble and manage a dynamic and productive staff over the past five years;

Erik Heilman and Lise Lynam, Legislative Directors, who energetically and faithfully pursued an aggressive legislative agenda in three committees, eight subcommittees and twenty caucuses, as well as for the District Office;

Justin Bernier, Senior Legislative Assistant, whose acute insights and dynamic energy were largely responsible for saving Naval Submarine Base New London, which in turn saved Connecticut over 31,500 jobs and \$3.5 billion in annual revenues;

John Goodwin, Press Secretary and Jonathan Martin, Legislative Assistant, whose hard work and respect for America's working families won me accolades as a "pro-labor Republican" from *The Wall Street Journal*;

Leigh Hightower, Senior Legislative Assistant of Mansfield, Connecticut, and Amy Pellegrino, Legislative Assistant from Westerly, Rhode Island, whose diligence and sympathy helped us to "keep the promise" to our veterans and improve health care for all Americans;

Meghan Curran, Legislative Assistant from Bolton, Connecticut, whose commitment to the education of our Nation's children resulted in important legislative initiatives, and whose respect for Teachers resulted in her eventually leaving our staff to teach;

Shauna Hewes, Legislative Assistant of Ledyard, Connecticut, whose persistent efforts and negotiating skills were instrumental in passing the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act;

Dan Hartnett, Legislative Assistant, who received, processed and helped answer over 100,000 pieces of mail and countless e-mails so that our constituents were never out of touch with their Congressman;

Emily Cantin, Scheduler of Marlborough, Connecticut, who ran a tight but happy front office, and kept me on time and on message through many busy weeks in Washington, DC;

Will Cox, Staff Assistant of Mystic, Connecticut, whose cheerful demeanor and helpful habits made every visitor to the Washington Office feel welcome and important;

Mr. E.J. Chubbs, my personal Transportation Advisor, who loyally and faithfully ensured that I arrived, departed and moved about the Nation's Capitol in a safe and congenial fashion for six wonderful years;

John Bradley, former Staff Director, Veterans Affairs Health Subcommittee, whose dynamic leadership and concern for the health of our Nation's veterans resulted in a 40 percent increase in funding and numerous legislative improvements in veterans' health care;

Deron McElroy, Staff Director, Homeland Security Intelligence Subcommittee, whose insights and legislative skill were responsible for establishing a productive agenda for this important new subcommittee;

Jane Dauphinais, District Director of Groton, Connecticut, whose management skills and knowledge of municipal government made the Norwich and Enfield offices vital resources to "help the people" of the Second Congressional District's sixty five towns;

Jeff Nelson, Deputy District Director of Groton, Connecticut, who managed and implemented a hectic and sometimes hysterical

schedule with calm aplomb, and shared many hours and 120,000 miles on the road in the district;

Joe Bell, Communications Director of Mystic, Connecticut, our office intellectual, who read much and wrote more than was considered humanly possible, all in an effort to educate me and to enlighten the people of the region and the Nation;

Betty Wagner, Constituent Services Director of Colchester, Connecticut, whose organizational skills and caring attitude brought aid and comfort to the many constituents of the district, and provided tenacious advocacy for our farmers and union members;

Linda Camelio, Event Coordinator and Constituent Services Representative for Immigration of Pawcatuck, Connecticut, who helped those in need around the district and around the world, and provided an extra measure of organization and excitement to all our public events;

K. Robert Lewis, Military and Veterans Constituent Services Representative of New London, Connecticut, whose diligent and dedicated work brought medals, benefits, aid and comfort to those who had or were serving our Nation in uniform, as well as to their families, widows and orphans;

Paula Ferrara, Constituent Services Representative and "Grant Goddess" of Westbrook, Connecticut, who coordinated a highly successful effort to bring millions of our tax dollars back from Washington, DC, for the benefit of Fire, Police, Emergency Workers, Schools and all 65 towns in the district as well as helping thousands of Medicare eligible constituents with their Prescription Drug coverage and Social Security issues; and

Al Powell, Executive Office Assistant of Waterford, Connecticut, who was the smiling face and cheerful voice of the Norwich Office, who welcomed visitors and protesters alike, answered tens of thousands of calls, and processed all mail, in and out, without fail for six wonderful years.

I also thank those loyal and devoted professionals who labored long and hard in the Mystic Office: Eric Janney, Esq., of Stonington; Susan Bessette of Pawcatuck; Chris Healy of Wethersfield; Diane Generous of Sprague; Aaron McGarry of Thompson and Heath Fahle of Pawcatuck, Connecticut.

Mr. Speaker, I owe a debt of gratitude to these loyal workers for helping me to help others. They gave life to my vision of a congressional office that truly "helps people" with case work, grants and positive legislation to benefit the Second District, Connecticut and the Nation.

I thank them for a record of accomplishment, and I say thanks for the memories. Working together in a bipartisan fashion with a "gung ho" attitude, we did our best and we did well.

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#### HONORING DR. JUDITH RODIN

### HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judith Rodin, a native Philadelphian