

a perfect example of Denton Regional's mission in the community: she is a caring, compassionate person who exhibits passion, knowledge, and commitment to her patients and colleagues on a daily basis.

Each year this recognition is bestowed on nurses who embody excellence in the science and art of nursing. The chosen honorees belong to an array of professional organizations and work in a wide variety of clinical specialties. This is the 18th consecutive year that the Texas Nurses Association, Districts Three and Four, and the Dallas-Fort Worth Nurse Executives have recognized area nurses for their compassion and dedication. The recipients will be honored at a gala event on Monday, May 12, 2008.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand here today to recognize Toni Haddox. It is an outstanding honor to represent both Ms. Haddox and her fellow nurses in the 26th District of Texas. Her constant vigilance and skill has made North Texas a better place, and her allegiance to her craft is nothing less than remarkable. I sincerely thank her for her service to our community.

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#### TRIBUTE TO TIANNA SULLIVAN

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##### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Osage High School senior Tianna Sullivan for helping to save the life of an elderly woman who had wandered away from a health care center.

In the early morning of January 20, 2008, Tianna was driving home in 14 degrees below zero weather and came upon 88-year-old Marguerite Miller. Marguerite was barefoot and clothed only in a hospital gown. Although Tianna was scared, she knew that Marguerite needed help immediately. Tianna attempted to get Marguerite in her car, but she was so cold and stiff that she could only clutch to Tianna for warmth. Tianna dialed 911 and stayed with Marguerite until Osage police officer Brian Wright arrived. Marguerite's body temperature had dropped to 90 degrees, and they had a difficult time getting her in the police car due to her stiffness from the cold. An ambulance then came and took Marguerite to Mitchell County Regional Hospital. Later, she was taken to the Iowa City hospital burn center to treat her frostbite injuries.

Tianna's heroic actions and quick thinking set an example for us all. Tianna's courage goes above and beyond what is asked of us as citizens of this country, and her willingness to help a stranger in need illustrates the compassion of Iowans; willing to do whatever it takes for the safety of our fellow citizens. For this I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in offering Tianna our congratulations and thanks. I am extremely honored to represent Tianna in Congress, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO JACKIE DELANEY

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##### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Jackie DeLaney by entering her name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I pay tribute to Jackie DeLaney, President and CEO of Sun West Bank, for her small-business achievements throughout the Las Vegas community.

As the only female bank president and CEO in Nevada, Jackie DeLaney is credited with establishing the Sun West Bank in 1998 with one of the largest capital investments of any bank in the state. She established a board of directors and filed and received approval on all necessary regulatory applications. Sun West Bank is the only local bank owned by Nevada business professionals. The full-service bank offers a full array of business products and services including SBA and small business commercial loans as well as expansion financing. Sun West also works with the Nevada Small Business Development Center and other agencies to help entrepreneurs and prospective business owners examine how to assess their business models and understand the market.

Jackie's role at Sun West has shown a great level of devotion to the community and has been recognized by a number of community organizations for their charitable work. Sun West has also achieved national recognition for its dedication to America's Promise, which strives to improve the health and well being of America's youth. The bank has also raised funds for organizations including the Boys & Girls Clubs of Las Vegas, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nevada, the Shade Tree Shelter, and Classroom on Wheels.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Jackie DeLaney and would like to recognize her contributions to small businesses throughout the Las Vegas community. I would also like to congratulate her on receiving the Financial Services Champion of the Year for the 2008 Small Business Awards.

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#### RECOGNIZING HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS

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##### HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Home for Our Troops as it holds its fifth annual event in my district in Troy, Michigan, on May 10, 2008.

Homes for Our Troops is a nonprofit organization that provides specially adapted homes for our severely injured servicemembers. The organization is able to provide assistance at no cost to the veterans that they serve through a growing network of monetary contributions, donations from building contractors,

suppliers, corporate supporters, and local volunteers.

John Gonsalves started Homes for Our Troops in 2004 after watching a news report of a severely injured servicemember who had returned from Iraq. He thought to himself, "What happens to our severely injured veterans once they return?" Mr. Gonsalves searched for an organization where he could donate his building expertise for a few weeks, but when he found out that none existed, he quit his contractor job and started Homes for Our Troops. Since its founding, Homes for Our Troops has provided 25 veterans and their families with homes suited to meet the physical challenges they face after returning with life-altering injuries.

The continued efforts of Homes for Our Troops has gained national recognition. In fact, the American Institute of Philanthropy has named them as one of their Top-Rated Charities of 2007. They have the honor of being one of only five veterans charities included in the top-rated category. This honor not only displays the breadth of their efforts, but also the speed and efficiency of their delivery.

Madam Speaker, I salute Homes for Our Troops for their tireless efforts on behalf of our courageous men and women in the armed services. Theirs is a shining example of the altruism that embodies the American spirit.

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#### HONORING THE LOUISIANA HONORAIR VETERANS

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##### HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a very special group from South Louisiana.

On May 10, 2008, a group of 97 veterans and their guardians will fly to Washington with a very special program. Louisiana HonorAir is providing the opportunity for these veterans from my home State of Louisiana to visit Washington, DC, on a chartered flight free of charge. During their visit, they will visit Arlington National Cemetery and the World War II Memorial. For many, this will be their first and only opportunity to see these sights dedicated to the great service they have provided for our Nation.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thanking them for their unselfish service.

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#### MOURNING THE PASSING OF RONALD D. BROWN

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##### HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on Monday, the city of Atlanta lost one of its most influential residents and a pillar of the community, Ronald Brown.

Ron Brown was the head of Atlanta Life Financial Group, a company that is a historic institution. The 103-year-old company was

founded by a former slave by the name of Alonzo Herndon and is the oldest and largest black-owned, privately held insurance company in the country. Ron was a major factor in Atlanta Life's success.

Ron Brown expanded the company's scope from strictly an insurance business to diversifying into three divisions: Atlanta Life Insurance Co., Atlanta Life Investment Advisors and Jackson Securities. Atlanta Life Financial possesses \$16 billion in policies and manages \$1 billion in assets. While achieving great business success, Ron advocated that companies have not only a responsibility to make a profit but to also get involved within its community. Ron served on corporate and civic boards. He was a big believer of providing opportunities to children, sharing business experiences with them and meeting with student groups at the company headquarters.

Ron Brown accomplished much in his life. Through the many fruits of his labors from a life that was cut too short, Ron's impact will live on. With his passing, Atlanta has lost a figure of good and of progress.

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RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the Guam Community College (GCC) and to congratulate the institution on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. The Guam Community College, established in November 1977 by Guam Public Law 14-77, became our premier institution for vocational, skilled trade and technical education when it assumed the programs and missions of its predecessor, the Trade and Technical High School and the Vocational High School of the Guam Department of Education.

GCC's leadership at both secondary and post-secondary levels is realized through its offering of over 50 courses of study in vocational programs, adult and continuing education, community education, and short-term specialized training. Designed to target student populations within the Asia-Pacific Rim and the Micronesia region, GCC courses prepare students through job development and training based on community needs and trade demands.

The small communities within the region, and the distance from mainland learning institutions, are contributing factors to the GCC's mission. With a diverse offering in curriculum and training programs, the college caters to these communities by offering ease of access to higher education. The main college campus, located in Mangilao, Guam, accommodates a population of 2,000 students. Off-campus and satellite options allow for distance learning, and on-campus courses equip students with expert and on-the-job training through partnerships with Guam businesses, organizations, and government entities. Through internships and apprenticeships,

GCC has been successful in nurturing local talent to contribute to our island's economy.

GCC maintains membership in the prestigious educational organizations of the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges, the Pacific Post-Secondary Educational Council, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and the League of Innovation for Community Colleges. Accreditation has been awarded by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges since 1979. Additionally, under the United States Vocational Education Act of 1946, 1963, and subsequent amendments, GCC has served as the State Board of Control for vocational education for Guam.

GCC has been a consistent leader in the region for education. True to its mission to provide students with training for life-long learning, GCC offers opportunities for specialized learning through programs such as English as a Second Language, Adult Basic Education, General Education Development (GED) preparation and testing, and an Adult High School Diploma.

During this 30th anniversary, I join the people of Guam in recognizing the foresight and vision of GCC's past presidents: Dr. Herominiano delos Santos, John T. Cruz, Jose Ramos, Peter Nelson, Dr. Stanley B. Malkin, and Dr. John C. Salas. We also recognize the current and past chairs of the Board of Trustees: Gina Y. Ramos, Juan Tenorio, Charles Spero, Dr. Antonio Yamashita, Dr. John C. Salas, Richard Tennesen, Jose Munoz, Atanacio T. Diaz, Greg Perez, and Adolpho Sgambelluri. The vision of these individuals has culminated today into the leadership of president Mary Ann Y. Okada, vice president of academic affairs John R. Rider, Ed.D., and vice president of administrative services John C. Camacho.

With the commitment, dedication, and leadership of Guam Community College's officers, board of trustees, faculty, and students, GCC has become a symbol of the possibilities that exist within our island and our region. The college blends the talent and expertise of our government agencies, businesses and industries, community groups, and technical training establishments on Guam. These valuable and strategic partnerships have increased trade and technical capabilities in the community leading to greater opportunities and success for its students and our islands.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I would like to recognize the 30 years of education and community service of the Guam Community College. I commend and congratulate them on this milestone anniversary.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE RAY RUIZ SPECIAL EXPOSURE COHORT ACT

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**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I have the honor of representing the Los Alamos National Laboratory, which, throughout its history, has played a critical role in keeping

our Nation safe from the many threats we have faced and continue to face today. Many of the men and women who have worked there, and continue to work there, are patriots, doing some of the Nation's most important work while hidden from the spotlight.

Tragically, many of these workers, unbeknownst to them, were exposed to cancer-causing doses of radiation during their employment. It has been a long, hard struggle for many of these employees to get compensation from the Federal Government, and many of them have passed away from the diseases they contracted in service to their country.

One of these heroes was New Mexico State Representative Ray Ruiz. Representative Ruiz was a LANL employee diagnosed with cancer as a result of his work for the lab. Tomorrow, May 9, marks the 4 year anniversary of his passing. From the time of his diagnosis to the time of his passing, Representative Ruiz worked tirelessly for a Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) designation for LANL to ensure that the workers diagnosed with cancer did not have to face the same impossible burden of proof as he did—to convince the government that their work was responsible for their illness.

Following his passing, Representative Ruiz's wife, Harriet, not only was elected to fill her husband's seat in the State Legislature, but carried on the work to secure SEC designation for the workers at LANL. While there was an initial, narrow SEC approved to cover a very small class of workers at the lab, the Ruiz's work, and the work of many others, came as close to realization as it had to date when on July 22, 2007 a much broader SEC designation for LANL became effective.

The SEC covers hundreds of workers and their survivors diagnosed with radiogenic cancers who worked at the lab from March 15, 1943 through December 31, 1975. While this was an incredibly important development, and one that was long overdue, there are many workers who should be included in this SEC, but are not.

I know one worker, Madam Speaker, who suffers from radiogenic cancer, but just falls a few months short of the recently enacted SEC because he does not meet the requirements for number of days worked through 1975. Extend the SEC further, however, and he would certainly qualify for compensation.

This is particularly troubling considering NIOSH has already conceded that doses cannot be reconstructed for workers through 1975, but there are employees such as the one I just referred to who are denied compensation because of the cutoff date. NIOSH can no more reconstruct doses for employees of the lab in January 1976 than they can for employees of the lab in December of 1975. Yet post-1975 claimants are forced to undergo dose reconstruction during a period for which NIOSH concedes information is not available.

That is why today I am introducing the Ray Ruiz Special Exposure Cohort Act to both honor the late Representative Ruiz, and to also help fully realize his and his wife's work to provide compensation to all employees who contracted illnesses from radiation exposure at LANL. This legislation would expand the current LANL SEC to cover claimants at the lab up to the present so that any worker diagnosed with the illnesses stipulated under the