

But this Memorial Day, I ask all to join me in honoring and thanking Mr. Daniel Wenserski.

Mr. Wenserski saw combat in the European theater and returned from World War II as a 21-year-old with three purple hearts.

He is commander of Amvets Post 243.

Dedicated veterans like him are a national treasure.

We must remember them not only with memorials but in how we dedicate ourselves to the unfinished work of our Republic.

We must remember Lincoln's pledge to, "care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan."

That means we can't just use this day to pay homage to those who are lost.

We need to remember those who remain behind.

We need to remember the mother or father who has to raise a family alone, and the children who are left with only a photo.

We have, and must continue to make great strides during this Congress to help that mother and that father.

We must not allow the lessons learned during this day go unheeded during every other.

We must dedicate every day to taking care of our veterans and their families, as they have taken every one of their days to dedicate to us.

I'd like to thank all of our veterans for the freedoms we all take for granted, and wish you and your families all the very best on this Memorial Day.

CLOUD AND LAKEVIEW HOSPITALS BEING NAMED AMONGST THE TOP 100 HOSPITALS BY THOMSON REUTERS

**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I congratulate and honor St. Cloud Hospital and Lakeview Hospital in Stillwater, Minnesota for being named to the Top 100 Hospitals list by Thomson Reuters. The people of St. Cloud and Stillwater know how great their hospitals are and I'm thrilled to see the staff members and administrations receive this recognition.

The Top 100 Hospitals evaluates short-term, acute care and non-federal hospitals on the overall care of a patient, including rate of medical complications and adherence to clinical standards, fiscal responsibility and patient satisfaction. We are fortunate to have high medical standards in this country and St. Cloud and Lakeview Hospitals demonstrate day in and day out that they take the Hippocratic oath to "do no harm" very seriously.

Lakeview Hospital was listed as a Small Community category winner. St. Cloud Hospital was recognized for its work in the Teaching Hospitals category, which only makes this hospital's achievements that much more important as it is a place where future doctors and administrators can learn how to create the best patient experience. St. Cloud Hospital was also one of 23 hospitals to receive the Everest Award, which recognizes the hospitals

with the most improvement over a five-year period.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor these two institutions, St. Cloud and Lakeview Hospitals, as some of the top hospitals in the nation. Their recognition by Thomson Reuters as Top 100 Hospitals validates the pride Minnesota takes in their hospitals and other care facilities. As a small business owner working closely with the medical community, I am pleased to see that the people of St. Cloud and Stillwater have some of the best hospital care available to them in the country. Congratulations to everyone who works with these hospitals and to the communities that support them as their own.

RECOGNIZING MICHAELA RODENO OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the many contributions made by my good friend, Michaela Rodeno, to the California wine industry and to Napa County. After serving 20 years as CEO of St. Supery Vineyards and Winery, Ms. Rodeno is retiring to become the winery's first CEO Emeritus.

Ms. Rodeno began her career in the wine industry in 1972 as the first female tour guide at Beaulieu Vineyard in Rutherford. She quickly capitalized on her college major in French Literature by impressing the first French wine company to invest in California with her linguistic skills. She became the second employee hired at Domaine Chandon, which quickly became one of Napa County's premier wineries.

Ms. Rodeno remained with Domaine Chandon for 15 years, advancing to the position of Vice President of Marketing. While there, she developed one of the first winery "clubs" in the industry, which eventually grew to more than 100,000 members. While at Domaine Chandon, she also earned her MBA at the University of California, Berkeley.

In 1988 she was offered the position of CEO at St. Supery, another French-backed winery. St. Supery Vineyards and Winery is known for its innovations in winemaking and its commitment to consumer education and their Napa Valley Estate Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon and meritage blends, Elu and Virtu, have earned critical acclaim and many awards.

A true pioneering woman in the wine industry, Ms. Rodeno was one of the original co-founders of Women for WineSense, a national organization promoting wine as part of a healthy, balanced lifestyle. She is a founding director of the Wine Marketing Council, has chaired the Meritage Association and the Napa Valley Wine Auction and has also served on the boards of the Wine Institute and the Napa Valley Vintners.

She and her husband, Greg, live on a 25 acre ranch near Oakville planted in Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Grigio grapes and also own another 40 acres planted in Bordeaux varieties

in Pope Valley. Although nearly all of the family's grapes are sold to Napa Valley wineries, they do produce a small amount of Sangiovese under their own Villa Ragazzi label.

Madam Speaker, it is fitting at this time that we honor Michaela Rodeno today for her many accomplishments. She has had a distinguished career in the wine industry and will be long remembered for her many contributions and innovations. We wish her all the best, and I am proud to call her my friend.

ON THE OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY

**HON. THOMAS S.P. PERRIELLO**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, as we prepare to observe Memorial Day, I rise to pay tribute to all those who have fallen in defense of our country. From Appomattox Courthouse to the National D-Day Memorial, the veterans of central and southern Virginia stand as a testament to the virtues of sacrifice and selfless service. I am proud to work for those who have given so much to our nation.

I firmly believe the best way to honor the veterans of past generations is to take care of the veterans alive today. Since coming to Congress, I have served as an active member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, working hard to ensure that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs continues to uphold its commitment to this Nation's veterans. I have been a co-sponsor of H.R. 1016, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009, a bill which would authorize Congress to provide VA medical care appropriations one year in advance of the start of each fiscal year. An advance appropriation would provide the VA with a year to plan how to deliver the most efficient and effective care to an increasing number of veterans with increasingly complex medical conditions.

Taking care of our veterans also means helping them take care of their families. In today's economy many of our veterans are returning home after extended deployments only to find that the jobs they left behind no longer exist. I recently introduced H.R. 1098, the Veterans Worker Retraining Act of 2009. H.R. 1098 will help address the growing problem of veteran unemployment by reinstating and making permanent the rate increase for On-the-Job Training (OJT) benefits available to eligible veterans through the Department of Veterans Affairs. OJT offers veterans and members of the Guard and Reserve an alternative to attending a college or university by using their education benefit to obtain employment training.

As a Nation we have prospered because we have always had brave men and women willing to answer the call to arms in times of great uncertainty. May God bless all those who have fallen in the name of freedom and all those who stand vigilant to protect it.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOMAS  
BYRNE

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Thomas Byrne, former Mayor of St. Paul, Minnesota who died on Sunday, April 5. While the city of St. Paul mourns the loss of a great civil servant, it is also a time to reflect on the legacy of this remarkable Minnesotan.

Elected St. Paul's mayor in 1966 and again in 1968, Mr. Byrne's time in office is remembered for his commitment to community and transparency, and for his abiding love for the great city of St. Paul. He was dedicated to the idea that government best serves its people when it is accessible and open to all, an idea that to this day underpins the very spirit of Saint Paul's local government.

During his very first year as mayor, Thomas Byrne brought back one of St. Paul's most festive traditions, its annual St. Patrick's Day parade. While the Irish-themed celebration may be the most tangible result of Byrne's time in office, his legacy runs much deeper. He managed to pass a city-wide housing law, and helped make St. Paul the first city in the United States to pass a human rights ordinance, all while fostering an environment of open dialogue that has become tradition in St. Paul. When protestors once staged a peaceful sit-in at his office, Mayor Byrne brought them coffee and doughnuts, a testament to his approach to politics.

Thomas Byrne was an exceptional man not only for his service to the city of St. Paul, but for his service to our great nation. After growing up in St. Paul, where he attended Cretin High School, Mr. Byrne enrolled at the University of St. Thomas for a bachelor's degree in education. He put his own education on hold, however, to serve as a navigator for the Army Air Corps during World War II. Stationed in Italy, he flew over 50 missions before returning home to receive his bachelor's degree from St. Thomas, and a master's degree in education from the University of Minnesota.

Both before and after his career as mayor, Thomas Byrne worked as a teacher and administrator for the St. Paul public school system. He served on the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Commission, the Minnesota Municipal Commission, and in his local Veterans of Foreign Wars post. He was a member of the Holy Spirit Men's Club and Choir, the St. Paul Federation of Teachers, the St. Paul Volunteer Bureau, his local American Legion chapter, and countless other community groups from Little League to the Knights of Columbus.

Thomas Byrne was the true embodiment of an active, involved citizen. A profound love for his community motivated him to give back in every way he could. Like so many Minnesotans, however, he still found time to fish at the family cabin in Northern Minnesota.

On behalf of myself, the City of St. Paul, and the state of Minnesota, I wish to honor the life and legacy of Thomas Byrne. I offer my thoughts and my prayers to Mary Therese Byrne, Thomas' wife of 63 years, and his

three remaining children, Tim Byrne, Joseph Byrne, and Margaret Allen.

HONORING BRIAN O'NEILL

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Brian O'Neill, one of the great visionaries of the National Park Service, who passed on May 13, 2009.

For 25 years Brian served as Superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreational Area, a vast swath of 75,500 acres in San Mateo and San Francisco Counties and across the Golden Gate in Marin County in my congressional district. His influence on the Golden Gate National Recreational Area (GGNRA) and on our entire national park system was immense, and will last far into the future.

Brian O'Neill was born in 1941 in Washington D.C. and grew up there. In high school he teamed up with his mother, Virginia and his twin brother, Alan, to found a nonprofit organization to expose urban children to the wonders of national parks. After graduating from the University of Maryland, he joined what was then the Bureau of Outdoor Education, and worked on park planning. The Bureau's name was changed to Heritage Recreation and Conservation Service and later was merged into the National Park Service. In the early 70's, Brian had the opportunity to pitch the idea of urban national parks to President Nixon, who became an enthusiastic backer, and signed legislation creating the GGNRA in 1972. Nine years later Brian became Assistant Superintendent of the park and in 1986, he became its Superintendent.

When Brian first hiked through the GGNRA's fragrant headlands in his green uniform and flat brimmed hat, the park was a beautiful, but in many cases, crumbling collection of former military installations looking out on the broad Pacific and busy San Francisco Bay. Yet these places were steeped in history and brimming with potential. What it took to bring it all together was a passion for parks, a commitment to solid planning and the personal skills to create partnerships—all attributes of Brian O'Neill.

During Brian's tenure he strengthened and expanded the non-profit partnerships at Fort Mason, Fort Baker, the Presidio and the Mann Headlands. Where else could you visit a national park and see such well regarded and varied institutions as the Magic Theatre and Antenna Theatre, the Discovery Museum, the Marine Mammal Center and the headquarters of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary? Where else could you hike through the magnificent redwood cathedral of Muir Woods and the same day hear an internationally known economist lecture at Cavallo Point?

The GGNRA under the leadership of Brian O'Neill became a place to enjoy nature and to learn about nature; a place to renew your spirit and expand your potential; a place to encounter the Bay Area's history and to prepare

for its future. It was, and is now, a place for hikers, cyclists, equestrians, dog walkers, artists, educators, environmentalists, wind surfers, college kids and city kids, tourists from near and afar, and ordinary folks, taking just a few minutes to leave the city's bustle, enter the park's natural splendor and get away from it all.

It would be simplistic to say that the Golden Gate Recreational Area became everything to all people because, of course, it can't. Despite its urban interface, it is a national park, and the mission to preserve and protect its natural and cultural resources is always in tension with human uses. Brian's not always so fun job was to find ways to resolve these kinds of conflicts. For this job, he had an affability that diffused conflict, an encyclopedic knowledge of Park Service policies and regulations, and a crafty and creative mind. He never seemed to back down, but he found ways to churn out solutions to the most difficult and complex problems.

The Fort Baker Retreat and Conference Center is a case in point. At first it was to be a rather large public-private endeavor, but that disturbed residents and the City of Sausalito, who asked for my help. The Secretary of Interior intervened, more than a year of negotiation ensued, and the City of Sausalito eventually sued unsuccessfully to halt the project. Brian O'Neill listened and piece by piece he put together a new planning process that resulted in the project's downsizing, the selection of a local developer, new public meetings, and a campus that utilizes green building materials, solar energy, and transportation management.

Fort Baker is now the pride of the Park Service and Sausalito, and it couldn't have turned out so well without the persistence and varied skills of Brian O'Neill. What could have become a political quagmire became instead, Brian O'Neill's triumph.

Madam Speaker, there are a lot of people who are going to miss Brian O'Neill, his big smile, his twinkling blue eyes and his obvious enjoyment of his job. My consolations especially go to his wife Marti, his mother, Virginia, his twin brother Alan, and his two adult children, Kim and Brent. They have so much to be proud of. Brian O'Neill has left us a rich legacy in a park that is as wonderfully expansive as the man himself.

Brian O'Neill was an institution, but also a warm, caring human being, a friend . . . and a great dancer.

CONGRATULATING TAIWAN ON ITS  
PARTICIPATION AS AN OBSERVER  
IN THE 62ND WORLD  
HEALTH ASSEMBLY

**HON. DAVID WU**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, as the 62nd World Health Assembly convenes in Geneva this week, I rise to congratulate Taiwan's participation as an observer. This occasion is a significant milestone for Taiwan because it marks the first time since withdrawing from the