

Dr. Disher is currently a member of the Meharry Medical College Board of Trustees, and has been a staunch advocate of the school. Two of his sons have graduated from Meharry. He has established the Spencer C. Disher, Jr., M.D. Endowed Scholarship to enable students from South Carolina to pursue their dream of studying for Medical, Dental or a Doctorate Degree in the Biomedical Sciences at Meharry Medical College.

Dr. Disher has been recognized by many organizations including Alpha Phi Alpha and Omega Psi Phi Fraternities. He is a member of the New Mount Zion Baptist Church. In addition to his many professional affiliations, he is a 33rd Degree Mason, a Shriner, and a member of the NAACP. Dr. Disher is married to the former Annette Moorer, and is the father of eight children.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the wonderful professional contributions of Dr. Spencer Disher. He has distinguished himself as doctor who cares not only for the patient but for the community as a whole. He has been a tremendous leader and a consummate professional throughout his career, and I am proud to call him a friend. I wish him Godspeed in retirement and know that he will continue to play an important part in the Orangeburg community for years to come.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC OF
TURKEY'S 87TH REPUBLIC DAY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Turkey and Turkish Americans, I would like to offer my warmest congratulations to the people of Turkey, as they recently observed the 87th anniversary of the founding of the Turkish Republic on October 29.

Under the visionary leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and his successors, Turkey transformed itself into a modern, secular state allied with the democracies of Europe and the Americas. This alliance is enshrined in Turkey's NATO membership, as evidenced in the logistical and reconstruction efforts Turkey has undertaken in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In light of changing geopolitical developments, there have been questions about Turkey's commitment to its friends in recent years. While there may be bumps in the road in any friendship, differences that may exist between Turkey and the United States on certain issues are evidence of mature and healthy democracies having differences of opinion. The bilateral relationship is still undergirded by the same long-term goals of peace, security and prosperity.

I am confident that the relationship between our two peoples will stand the tests of time, given our shared ideals. Moreover, our ties are cemented by the presence and contributions of over 150,000 Turkish Americans, whose ranks are growing every year. Through diverse fields ranging from music to science—and increasingly through politics—Turkish

Americans contribute to the vibrancy, health, and advancement of our society. We are fortunate to have them as our fellow citizens.

In closing, my congratulations again to all Turks everywhere on the commemoration of the 87th Turkish Republic Day.

IN HONOR OF BRIGADIER
GENERAL KENNETH W. NORTH

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brigadier General Kenneth W. North, who passed away on September 21, 2010. Kenneth North fought for his country and survived seven years in a Vietnamese POW camp, and I am honored to stand in tribute to him.

General North was born in 1930 in Rockville, Connecticut, and graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1953. In 1974, he completed studies at the Naval War College at Newport, Rhode Island. In Vietnam, North served as a fighter pilot and flew 33 combat missions before being downed by enemy fire on August 1, 1966.

Kenneth North repeatedly faced down his tormenters during his seven years at the Hanoi Hilton. North was often beaten and tortured; he endured guards jacking his bound arms behind his back until the shoulder joints split. He suffered through these torturous sessions and defied his captors through bouts of solitary confinement.

North, the son of a Vernon mill worker, was released with 100 other POWs in August 1973 and was the first man off the plane on March 7 when he reunited with his family.

General North's military decorations and awards include the Silver Star, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal with "V" device and two oak leaf clusters, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster and several unit citations.

North was buried in Wellfleet, Massachusetts. During the ceremony, Air Force fighter jets streaked over Pleasant Hill Cemetery in a final salute. I now ask my colleagues to rise with me so that we too may honor Brigadier General Kenneth North, a true American hero.

HONORING PAUL KELLEY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON to recognize Paul Kelley who is retiring after 16 years as a member of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. Congressman THOMPSON and I have the distinct privilege of representing Sonoma County and both of our tenures in the House have coin-

cided with Mr. Kelley's tenure on the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Kelley represents the northernmost supervisorial district in Sonoma County, which is home to one of the finest wine grape-growing and wine-producing regions in the world. His support of agriculture and agriculture-related industries is deep seated. He grew up on a small farm outside of Santa Rosa and spent his summers as a youth working on neighboring ranches and farms in the area. As a supervisor, his work included helping to bridge the gap between the water needs of farmers and fisheries, in supporting measures that guaranteed that 22,000 acres in his district would be protected under the county's Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District acquisitions and encouraging businesses and farmers to embrace green technology.

Supervisor Kelley also helped create new parks and recreational facilities throughout his district, including the Boys & Girls Club in Windsor, and renovate existing youth facilities in Cloverdale, Healdsburg and Larkfield-Wikiup.

He was the key proponent of returning commercial air service to the Charles M. Schulz/Sonoma County Airport. The regional airport now has daily flights to four western cities.

Supervisor Kelley's special assignments on the board included membership on the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, the North Coast Rail Authority, the Water Agency Committee, the Local Agency Formation Commission (Chair), the Eel Russian River Commission (Chair), the Redwood Empire Association, the North Coast Air Pollution Control District, the North Coastal Counties Supervisors' Association, the Public Policy Facilitating Committee, the Sonoma County Advertising Program, the Sonoma County Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Program and the Association of California Water Agencies (President).

Madam Speaker, after 16 years of public service to the people of Sonoma, Paul Kelley deserves to enjoy the riches of this new phase of his life as a water and transportation consultant. We wish him well.

RECOGNIZING ST. AMBROSE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL, RECIPIENT
OF THE 2010 BLUE RIBBON OF
EXCELLENCE AWARD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Ambrose Catholic School for being named by the United States Department of Education as a recipient of a 2010 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award.

The Blue Ribbon School award honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that have helped close the achievement gap and whose students attain and maintain high academic goals. The program is part of a larger Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about best school leadership and teaching practices.