

Marie Poveromo, has served as a pillar of the Queens community through her leadership and activism. She has contributed to community dialogue on issues of public concern and sustained the spirit of civic participation so important to our Nation's health and well-being.

The recipients of UCCA's "Men of the Year" awards, Assembly Member Michael N. Gianaris and Council Member Peter F. Vallone, Jr., have outstanding records of public service and community activism. Representing the 36th Assembly District in Queens, Assembly Member Gianaris has established himself as an effective and smart legislator, authoring many public safety measures to enhance New York's security after the attacks on New York on September 11, 2001. A lifelong resident of Queens, Assembly Member Gianaris has committed himself to improving the community in which he grew up and has provided the residents of Queens with impeccable leadership.

Council Member Peter F. Vallone, Jr., also has shown exemplary public service to our community. A tireless advocate for public safety issues, Council Member Vallone has led the fight to keep illegal guns off of the streets of New York City. Council Member Vallone has also been a strong advocate for environmental rights, introducing bills to curtail the carbon dioxide emissions from power plants.

Gerald J. Walsh, this year's recipient of the Valerie Fisher Community Service Award, was born and raised in Queens and is a longtime community activist and leader. Currently the Deputy Director of Computer Operations Hardware and Financial Information Services for the City of New York, Mr. Walsh is the President of the Dutch Kills Civic Association and also serves as a member of the 114th Police Precinct.

Dr. Arthur N. Gualtieri, the Deputy Commissioner at The City of New York Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and former Medical Director of the Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens, is being recognized with the Special Award of Recognition. A devoted public servant, Dr. Gualtieri is both a physician and a lawyer and a member of both the Queens County Bar Association and the Queens County Medical Society. As a resident of Astoria, Dr. Gualtieri continues his devotion to the Queens community by serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Astoria Civic Association, SHAREing & CAREing, and UCCA.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the United Community Civic Association and its celebrated honorees: Assembly Member Gianaris, Council Member Vallone, Mr. Walsh, and Dr. Gualtieri.

HONORING SCOTT COULSON AND
THE POTEET HIGH SCHOOL
MARCHING BAND

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Mr. Scott Coulson and the Poteet High School Pirate Marching Band for their recent victory at the University Interscholastic League State AAAA Marching Band

Championship. On November 8, 2005, the Pirates competed against more than 20 other bands from across the State of Texas and won their second State Championship since 1997.

This year mark's Mr. Coulson's 25th year of service to the Mesquite Independent School District and his 18th year on the faculty of Poteet High School. In addition, Mr. Coulson will also soon be inducted into the John Phillip Sousa Foundation Legion of Honor, where he will be recognized as an outstanding high school band director.

A graduate from Mesquite High School, Scott Coulson has been a strong role model and exceptional leader for the Poteet Pirates Marching Band. In 1987, he was named Director of Bands at Poteet High School in Mesquite, and has since then received multiple Interscholastic League Sweepstakes awards, led the band to four Grand Championships at the Plano East Invitational Marching Festival and five state Marching Championships.

As the Congressional representative of the students, parents, and teachers involved with the Poteet High School Marching Band, it is my pleasure to recognize their tremendous victory. This is an accomplishment that Mr. Coulson and these young men and women will remember for years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HAWAII
FILIPINO CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great contributions of the Filipino community to Hawaii's diverse and multicultural society, as we commemorate the arrival of the first Filipinos and the community's subsequent achievements in Hawaii.

Since the arrival of the first Filipinos to Hawaii in 1906, the rich culture and proud heritage of the Filipino people have been and continue to be a positive influence upon life in Hawaii. Next year marks the 100th anniversary of their arrival in Hawaii. The Centennial Celebration will reflect the courage, values, pride and dedication of all Filipinos. The Celebration will also raise awareness about the important accomplishments of Filipinos for the past 100 years in the fields of politics, education, business, labor, industry and medicine. It will raise awareness about the challenges and struggles that Filipinos have faced to earn their rightful place in society.

The Centennial Celebration reflects the growing significance of the Filipino community, its growing role in the development of public policy, and its increasing contributions to policy leadership at every level of government—local, state and national.

Mahuhay and best wishes to the Filipino Centennial Commission and everyone in the Filipino community who has joined together to celebrate Hawaii's Filipino Centennial. You have the nation's thanks for your contribution, and you can count on my continued support.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ROSE BROWN

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dynamic, feisty, dedicated, committed and courageous community, civic and religious leader who gave of herself consistently until all of her energy was gone and she had no more to share. Just a few weeks ago, I was pleased to speak at a banquet sponsored by Women for Social Change and of course, Mrs. Brown was in charge as she so often was. The banquet was in a church dining hall and was focused on education. Mrs. Brown was one of those individuals that you always looked forward to seeing and hearing because you always knew that she was either saying or doing something to benefit humanity. I always called Mrs. Brown, Aunt Rose because my friends who informally adopted me into their family called her Aunt Rose and that's how I felt about her.

Aunt Rose, I close my tribute with these words: Roses are Red, Violets are Blue, Sugar is sweet and so are you! May you rest in peace.

CONGRATULATING DR. ROY L.
GLAUBER ON RECEIVING THE
2005 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Roy J. Glauber, a distinguished professor of physics at Harvard University, who will be awarded the 2005 Nobel Prize in Physics this weekend in Stockholm, Sweden. Dr. Glauber will share the prestigious prize with John L. Hall of the University of Colorado and Theodor W. Hansch of the Institute for Quantum Optics in Munich, Germany. All three will receive the award for their groundbreaking work in optics and the nature of light.

Dr. Glauber will receive the Nobel Prize for his contribution to the quantum theory of optical coherence. His research on the subject was published in 1963 and provided a theoretical description of the behavior of light particles. Dr. Glauber's groundbreaking work laid the foundation for the development of incredibly high precision instruments such as lasers and Global Positioning Systems.

As a teenager growing up in New York, Dr. Glauber became so fascinated by astronomy that he created his own lens for a telescope. His interest in physics and mathematics blossomed during his high school years at the Bronx High School of Science. During his undergraduate years at Harvard, Dr. Glauber also worked on the Manhattan Project, developing the first atomic bomb. He graduated summa cum laude from Harvard in 1946 and went on to earn a Ph.D. at Harvard in 1949. Upon graduation, Dr. Glauber conducted research at the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton and at the California Institute of Technology. In 1952, he returned to Harvard where he has taught and researched ever since.

Dr. Glauber is a role model for young people all across this country. I hope that his extraordinary achievements and contributions will serve as an inspiration to students at all levels to pursue the study and career of science. As we honor Dr. Glauber and the other prize winners, it is critical that we also recognize our obligation to provide the next generation of Americans with the scientific and technological education that they need to succeed in today's global economy.

RECOGNITION OF THE HEROIC JOB THAT WAS DONE BY THE U.S. COAST GUARD AT THE TIME OF HURRICANE KATRINA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, we all witnessed the heroic job that was done by the U.S. Coast Guard at the time of Hurricane Katrina. It was widely noted in newspapers and on television that while other agencies of the Federal Government fell down on the job, the U.S. Coast Guard upheld the motto that has been its standard of performance since its creation in the 18th Century: *Semper Paratus, Always Ready*.

What is less well known is that the Coast Guard is unique among the armed services because it has, associated with it, a civilian support organization, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Since 1939, these volunteer life-savers have backed up the active duty Coast Guard by relieving the regulars of a number of tasks related to marine safety, search and rescue, and pollution monitoring and control. The 30,000 members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary serve as a force multiplier in these times of threats to our national security and their unpaid service enables the Coast Guard to fulfill its missions in this time of fiscal constraint.

I would like to call special attention to the work of the 14 active members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 014-05-05 of Edison, New Jersey.

In the past year, these auxiliary members have conducted safety checks on 123 vessels, visited marine dealers and boatyards to distribute safety materials, conducted 3 dozen boating safety courses, and attended boat shows to stress to boat owners and prospective owners the importance of marine safety and the need to take safety courses to prevent accidents on the water. The Auxiliary helps

maintain aids to navigation and conducts patrols using their own vessels.

I ask my colleagues to recognize the contribution of Flotilla 014-05-05 of Edison, New Jersey to the mission of the U.S. Coast Guard.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NURSING HOME FIRE SAFETY ACT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to join the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) in introducing the Nursing Home Fire Safety Act of 2005.

As millions of Americans visit their friends and family in nursing homes in this holiday season, they want to know that their loved ones are safe from the threat of fire. However, it would disturb many to learn that the Government Accountability Office estimates that 20 to 30 percent of the 17,000 nursing homes across the country still lack a full fire sprinkler system.

Unfortunately, families in my district have seen tragic results of a nursing home fire first hand. In February 2003 sixteen residents of a nursing home in Hartford were killed in one of the worst fires in the city's history. Another nursing home fire in Nashville, Tennessee later that year took the lives of fifteen people. In both cases these buildings were older facilities that had been allowed to operate without an automatic fire sprinkler system.

A July 2004 GAO report found that "the substantial loss of life in the Hartford and Nashville fires could have been reduced or eliminated by the presence of properly functioning automatic sprinkler systems," and that "federal oversight of nursing home compliance with fire safety standards is inadequate." And, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), there is no record of a multiple death fire in a nursing home equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system.

It has been almost 2 years since the tragic fires of 2003, yet the federal government has taken only small steps to increase fire safety in nursing homes. To date the only concrete action the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has taken to improve fire safety is requiring nursing homes without a sprinkler system to install battery operated smoke detectors. While this is a good first step, the rule has been criticized by fire safety

advocates since the smoke detectors do not need to be hard wired to the building's alarm system or 9-1-1.

Experts agree that it's not a matter of "if there will be another nursing home fire, but when and how bad. It should not take another tragedy to remind us how vulnerable our nursing homes are to fire.

According to the GAO and industry experts, the single biggest obstacle preventing most nursing homes from installing sprinklers is the cost. Already burdened by the increasing cost to care for their residents and shortfalls in the Medicare funding they rely on, they simply cannot afford these systems. In addition, while CMS has it within their authority to increase fire safety standards and mandate the installation of sprinklers, it has repeatedly shied away from doing so because of the cost that would be passed on to nursing homes.

That is why we are introducing this legislation today.

The Nursing Home Fire Safety Act of 2005 would provide low interest loans and need-based grants to nursing homes in the greatest need of assistance in tackling the high cost of installing sprinklers. The loan program would assist nursing homes that cannot afford the up-front cost of retrofitting their facilities, but could afford to pay back a low interest government backed loan. The grant program would target those nursing homes in the greatest need of financial assistance in installing sprinkler systems by requiring the Secretary of Health and Human Services to give priority to facilities that lack the resources to install these systems on their own. In addition, the bill expresses the sense of Congress that every nursing home in America should be equipped with full sprinkler systems within 5 years and that CMS should move quickly to adopt stronger fire safety standards.

Together, these provisions will ensure that nursing homes have access to the financial resources to overcome the cost of providing their residents with the fire safety protection they need.

The Hartford and Nashville fires demonstrated the terrible and unacceptable consequences of allowing cost to stand in the way of fire safety. Congress has ignored this problem for far too long and it is time for us to take action to ensure that our nation's most vulnerable are safe from the threat of fire.

Again, I thank Mr. KING for joining me in this important initiative, and urge our colleagues to join us in helping to make nursing homes in their districts—and around the country—safe from the threat of fire.