Fire Department on receiving the U.S. Department of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

From their beginnings in 1829 through today, the Jersey City Fire Department's primary focus has been on protecting and supporting the community. This is readily apparent in how they treat their employees, particularly those who have chosen to serve in the U.S. military Reserves. Fire Captain Leonard DiStaso has been working for the department since 1997 in addition to serving in the Marine Corps Reserve. In the past 5 years, Captain DiStaso has been deployed to Iraq twice and both times the Jersey City Fire Department was there to support him and his family:

The Jersey City Fire Department went above and beyond the call of duty to make sure that Captain DiStaso was able to keep in contact with his family, while the department made sure to take care of them at home. His coworkers at the fire department stayed in touch with his family and helped them with snow shoveling and other necessities. In addition, the Jersey City Fire Department also raised thousands of dollars to buy phone cards for him and his fellow Marines in Iraq, as well as for wounded Marines at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. In fact, they even gave Christmas gifts to the families of all the Marines in his unit.

I commend the Jersey City Fire Department for their commitment to the community and their employees. This group of dedicated individuals is exceedingly deserving of the Department of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, which recognizes employers who provide exceptional support to employees serving in the National Guard or Reserve. This is the U.S. Government's highest recognition for efforts made in the civilian lives of America's citizen-servicemembers, which make up roughly half of the Nation's Armed Forces.

I am so proud to represent the men and women of the Jersey City Fire Department and hope every Member of Congress will join me in recognizing them for their outstanding commitment to the community.

HONORING MINEOLA HIGH SCHOOL FOR TAKING PART IN NATIONAL SERVICE LEARNING CHALLENGE WEEK

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the young men and women from Mineola High School taking part in National Service Learning Challenge Week. For over 10 years, all 9th grade students from Mineola High School have taken part in an interdisciplinary project sponsored by the English and Living Environment curriculums.

On October 8th, under the supervision and guidance of their teachers and New York City Parks Department employees, students will visit Queens' Alley Pond Park as part of a tree planting and forest reclamation project. During their park visit, students will not only add to the beauty of the park by planting trees, but they will also learn of the park's vast history and ecosystem. In learning of the park's indigenous plants, students will come to understand the vast and complicated dynamics nonnative plants can have on their environment.

The growing strength, interest, and funding for service programs in the area has enabled a wider range of students to participate. For the first time, Mineola's ''Life Skills'' students, who are developmentally and physically challenged, will be going to Alley Pond. Their experience will no doubt make the event more complete and fulfilling for all those involved.

As a conscientious citizen and ardent environmental advocate, I am proud to recognize the students of Mineola High School and commend events much like National Service Learning Challenge Week for broadening the education of our Nation's youth. Mineola High School, as a recipient of a Learn and Serve America K–12 Grant, is currently enjoying its 25th year participating in the Mineola Student Service Center and Service Learning Program. Mineola has, and continues to be, a nationwide model for exemplary volunteerism and service.

It is the continued strong will and selfless determination of the students of Mineola that make me proud to call the town my home, and I am immensely grateful to the men and women whose hard work make such great events happen. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the gratitude of the U.S. Congress for the extensive contributions to education these individuals have made through this program.

CONGRATULATING MR. ARNOLD ROMALDINI FOR BEING SELECTED AS PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Arnold Romaldini, who was chosen by the Italian American Association of Luzerne County to be their 2008 ''Person of the Year'' to be honored at their annual Columbus Day observance.

Born in the Hilldale section of Plains Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, Mr. Romaldini is a son of the late Sante and Elia Benzi Romaldini and a stepson of Ubaldo Mosca. He has two sisters, Thelma Stella and Adelia James. He also had two brothers, Carlo and Eugene, both of whom are deceased.

Mr. Romaldini had five children from his first marriage to the late Joan Urban, of Duryea, and seven grandchildren. He is currently married to Elena DeSimone of Naples, Italy, and has two stepchildren and several stepgrandchildren.

Mr. Romaldini attended public schools in Plains Township and graduated from Jenkins Township High School. He attended Wilkes College and graduated from the Kingston Vocational School, specializing in automotive technology. He worked at several local car dealerships before accepting a management position at an out of state business.

He subsequently went into business for himself with an associate and operated a multifaceted repair shop which he later built into three automobile franchises as well as other business ventures. At the height of his business career, he employed approximately 50 people with a payroll in excess of $1 million. He traveled extensively throughout North America and Europe attending auto industry seminars.

Still a member of the National Automobile Dealers Association and the American Imported Auto Dealers Association, he was area District Dealer representative for numerous automobile manufacturers. He is a long standing member of the New York Auto Dealers Association and was a founding member and chairman of the Nissan Advertising Association of New York. He has been retired since selling his business in 1996.

He is a proud and active member of the Italian American Association of Luzerne County.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Romaldini. His determination to become a leading businessman has enriched the lives of all he has employed and all with whom he has been associated over many years. Moreover, his contributions to his family and his community has been extraordinary and an inspiration to all who know him.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, consistent with the House Republican leadership's policy on earmarks, to the best of my knowledge the request I have detailed below (1) is not directed to an entity or program that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; and (2) is not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for other entities unless the use of funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark. As required by earmark standards adopted by the House Republican Conference, I submit the following information on a project I requested and was included in H.R. 2638, The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation—Defense-Wide.

Legal Name of Requesting Entities: Oregon Institute of Technology; Portland State University; University of Oregon; Worksystems, Inc. (a non-profit Workforce Development Board established by the 1998 Workforce Investment Act and recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor).

Address of Requesting Entities: Oregon Institute of Technology, 3201 Campus Drive, Klamath Falls, OR 97601; Portland State University, 2121 SW Fourth Avenue, Unitus Building, 6th Floor, Portland, OR 97027; University of Oregon, Charles H. Lundquist College of Business, 1208 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403; and Worksystems, Inc., 111 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 1150, Portland, OR 97204.

Description of Project: The Northwest Manufacturing Initiative confirms that it will use this funding for supporting applied engineering and sustainable supply innovation and research, workforce training programs and outreach and training for youth and young adults in order to increase the Northwest region's supply of