

Patricia is a professor at the Muhlenberg Snyder School of Nursing. She is also involved in various professional nursing organizations, social and civic groups, and church activities in Springfield. Patricia is certified as a teacher of practical nursing and a school nurse in the state of New Jersey.

During her extensive career, Patricia Murphy has been an adjunct professor at Kean University and Felician College, staff nurse at Overlook Hospital, Obstetrics and Community Health Instructor, Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist, full time Medical/Surgical Nursing III Instructor and as such has been honored with a distinguished Nursing Alumni Award, American Cancer Society Certificate of Appreciation, outstanding alumna award of Seton Hall University School of Nursing, and New Jersey State Nurses Association Medical-Surgical Nurse of the Year.

In addition to her nursing career, Patricia Murphy has written several articles for professional journals and presented a number of lectures and programs throughout Central New Jersey, focusing on the well-being of cancer patients, their families and the nursing care they receive. She has also developed, planned, and implemented the first on-line nursing course offered through Muhlenburg in conjunction with Union County College. Patricia is also the Parish Nurse Ministry coordinator at St. James Church in Springfield. She has also served as the past president of the Summit Area AARP.

Patricia Murphy of Springfield, New Jersey has made significant contributions to her community and led a long distinguished career. I am pleased to congratulate her and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

THE 60 TO 55 RESERVE
COMPONENT RETIREMENT ACT

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mr. LOBIONDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the 60 to 55 Reserve Component Retirement Act.

Given the increasing demands placed on the brave men and women who serve as citizen soldiers in the Reserve Component, it is time to recognize and reward them in a more timely fashion. The current age requirement for Reserve Component to begin receiving retirement pay is 60 years old, whereas the Active Duty may begin receiving retirement pay as soon as they serve their 20 years, which in some cases, may be as early as age 38. The age limitation placed on the Reserve Component was set in 1948, when the Reserve Component was a much different force. Since 9/11, the National Guard and Reserves have expanded beyond their traditional bounds into a fully functional, combat-ready, and deployable partner to the Active Duty Armed Forces. This shift in use to a full partner has placed tremendous strains on the men and women of the Guard and Reserves.

The legislation I am introducing with Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS of Arizona will lower the age at which Reserve Component servicemembers can begin receiving their retirement pay from age 60 to age 55. This

vital legislation will help close the gap between the Active Duty and Reserve Component retirement age, which will improve recruitment efforts and be more fair to the men and women serving in the National Guard and Reserve.

HONORING FORMER DELEGATE
MICHAEL WEIR, SR.

HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Michael Weir, Sr., a longtime Maryland legislator and public servant who is celebrating his 85th birthday.

Mike Weir, Sr. was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on March 24, 1924. He attended Baltimore County Public Schools and continued his education at Essex Community College and the University of Maryland. After he finished school he worked as a Masonry contractor through his company Mike Weir and Sons.

Mike served with the U.S. Army in the South Pacific during World War II, entering World War II in March of 1943 as a member of the U.S. Army with the 124th Infantry 31st Division. He was attached to the Reconnaissance Platoon as a medic and served in the South Pacific in New Guinea, Netherlands East Indies and the Philippines. Mike Weir, Sr. was honorably discharged in December of 1945.

Mike Weir Sr. served for 28 years in the Maryland House of Delegates representing communities from Essex in Baltimore County to Fallston in Harford County. He served in the House of Delegates from January 8, 1975 to January 8, 2003, representing first District 7 and then District 6 (Baltimore County & Harford County). He served as the House Chair of the Joint Committee on Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas from 1984–2003, and as a member of the Tort and Insurance Reform Oversight Committee in 1993. He served on the House Environmental Matters Committee from 1975–2003 and as Vice-Chair of the committee from 1995–2003. During his tenure he served on the agriculture, environment & natural resources, and health subcommittees. Mike also served as a member of the Rules and Executive Nominations Committee from 1995–2003.

Mike served as a member of the Chesapeake Bay Commission from 1984–2003, a member of the Migratory Waterfowl Advisory Committee since 1991, and the Maryland Recycling Advisory Group from 1995–1997. Mike is respected throughout the State of Maryland for his deep commitment to sportsman and environmental issues, especially those that relate to the Chesapeake Bay.

In honor of his years of service in the Maryland General Assembly, the Mike Weir, Sr. Scholarship Fund was established at the Community Colleges of Baltimore County to assist local college students.

Mike's enjoyment of the political world is evidenced by his memberships in the Fifth District, Fifteenth District, Riverside, Bird River, Norris, Deep Creek and East End Democratic Clubs. Mike is also a member of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Hawks and the Federation of Independent Business Men. Mike and his wife Clara have six children, many grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Mike Weir, Sr. has dedicated his life to the citizens and environment of the State of Maryland. Therefore, Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Mike as he celebrates his 85th birthday.

IN HONOR OF NATALIE WOLFE

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Natalie Wolfe for her brilliant career as a child advocate. She has distinguished herself through her dedication to ensuring that all children are afforded the right to quality childcare services.

After losing her daughter due to the negligence of an unlicensed child-care provider, Natalie has committed herself as a driving force in the State of Indiana to increasing awareness about the need for child-care reform. As a result, she has helped establish the Indiana Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Better Baby Program. As a voice for thousands of parents who have suffered from similar circumstances, Natalie participated heavily in the passage of Reagan's Law.

Earlier this month, Natalie represented Hoosier families in Washington, D.C. at the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies' (NACCRRA) National Policy Symposium. This conference allowed Natalie to meet with other child-care advocates and policy makers on the importance of passing sound legislation that protects and safeguards young children.

I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Natalie Wolfe for her dedicated public service. Her efforts should inspire us all to recommit ourselves to ensuring that the growing child-care needs of our nation's children are effectively met.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding funding the House Appropriations Committee appropriated for the following national projects my colleagues and I requested as part of FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act, H.R. 1105:

Requesting Member: Congressman MICHAEL N. CASTLE

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Fund for the Improvement of Education, Innovation and Improvement

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Reach Out and Read

Address of Requesting Entity: 56 Roland Street, Suite 100D, Boston, MA 02129-1243

Description of Request: \$4,965,000 for the Reach Out and Read Program, authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to make literacy programs a standard part of pediatric primary care, trains doctors and nurses to train parents, and helps