

A Rasmussen poll released yesterday showed the President's approval rating at 55 percent and his disapproval rating at 43 percent.

Fewer than half of voters say the President is doing a good job handling the economy.

And only a third of voters think the President is governing on a bi-partisan basis.

These are hardly impressive figures.

The fact is that many Americans are not happy with the direction of the country under President Obama.

The national media should take a break from patting the President on the back and report the facts objectively.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF CARLOS V. MEJIA

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Carlos Mejia for his dedication to the Laredo community and the State of Texas. Mr. Mejia has given so much of his time and effort in order to make his community a better place.

After graduating from Texas A&M in 1963, Mr. Mejia attended the University of Southern California where he earned his Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. In 1978, he became the City Engineer for the city of Laredo, Texas. He served this post until 1981 and has since then been instrumental in many of Laredo's major infrastructure projects. He was the civil engineer for the design of the main runway, parallel taxi ways, airplane parking apron, and all landslide improvements for the Laredo International Airport. He was also the lead civil engineer for the preparation of the Master Plan for Texas A&M International University.

His constant dedication to his work and his community have led Mr. Mejia to be honored with the Community Partner of the Year Award for 2008 presented by Habitat for Humanity. Just this past year he was selected to the Laredo Junior Achievement Hall of Fame for 2009.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring a great resident of Laredo and a great American in Mr. Carlos Mejia. Through his hard work and tireless dedication Laredo has seen significant improvements over the years and for that we recognize you today Mr. Mejia.

ANGELICA PEREA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Angelica Perea who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Angelica Perea is an 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award

because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Angelica Perea is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Angelica Perea for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

HONORING CHARLOTTE WILLIAMS CONABLE

**HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor one of my most prestigious constituents, Charlotte Williams Conable. A longtime resident of Alexander, New York, Charlotte has made it her life's work to advance the status of women around the world.

A longtime advocate of women's rights, Charlotte enlisted in the women's studies masters' program at George Washington University as an adult student. It was during her time there that she wrote *Women at Cornell: The Myth of Equal Education*, a novel that explores the origins of coeducation and discusses the role Cornell University had in bringing women into the collegiate system. In 1981, Charlotte penned another book, *Older Women: The Economics of Aging*. As a graduate of Cornell University, Charlotte was one of only a few women who went on to earn a position on Cornell's prestigious Board of Trustees. Due to her extensive work in the literary field, Charlotte rightfully earned a spot in *Feminists Who Changed America, 1963-1975*.

As the wife of the late Congressman and World Bank president Barber Conable, Charlotte spent her life with a man who was voted by his colleagues the "most respected" member of Congress. Charlotte often accompanied Barber on his trips all over the world. She served as his eyes and ears, often splitting up from the group in order to give Barber a more accurate description of the conditions on the ground.

On May 9, 2009, Charlotte will be recognized by the YWCA of Genesee County as a Fabulous Female for her lifetime achievement. As a lifetime supporter of the local YWCA, Charlotte will become a recipient of the very award she is receiving. She is certainly deserving of this high honor.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of the lifetime achievements of Charlotte Williams Conable, I ask this Honorable Body to join me in honoring Charlotte Williams Conable for her dedication to furthering the equality of women throughout the world.

WHITNEY NELSON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Whitney Nelson who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Whitney Nelson is an 8th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Whitney Nelson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Whitney Nelson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

HONORING MARYLAND AND MASONIC HOME

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the Maryland Masonic Home on the celebration of its 75th Anniversary as a retirement community for Master Masons and their families.

The Maryland Masonic Home has provided exceptional service to its residents since 1934. After purchasing the property called Bonnie Blink, the Masons converted the farm and mansion into the Maryland Masonic Home. It was created as a housing facility for Masons and their families who were either elderly, or of declining health.

The Masonic Home has grown over the years from a simple dormitory, to an active community with a wide range of services. From dining rooms and recreational facilities, to health care practices and scheduled activities, that Masonic Home presents opportunities for its residents to maintain a vibrant lifestyle. For the past week, the Maryland Masonic Home has been celebrating this truly remarkable milestone with various events and activities for its residents.

Over the last 75 years, they have lived up to their mission, "To provide excellent care in a safe, affordable, dignified, quality environment for eligible Masons and their families, in keeping with Masonic Principles, providing for expansion, while maintaining financial viability."

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor the Maryland Masonic Home on the celebration of its 75th Anniversary. As a fellow Mason, it is with great pride that I congratulate the entire organization on this incredible accomplishment.

RACHEL OLSSON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rachel Olsson who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Rachel Olsson is an 8th grader at Faith Christian Academy and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Rachel Olsson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Rachel Olsson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

## A TRIBUTE TO JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, on the occasion of her recognition as a "Person of the Century" by the Rotary Club of Los Angeles in celebration of their Centennial year.

In a year where we witnessed the first African-American assume the Office of the President of the United States, it is especially appropriate to honor a woman who shattered the marble ceiling of the United States Supreme Court some 28 years ago and served as an important role model for so many in this Nation.

Born in El Paso, Texas in 1930, Sandra Day O'Connor spent several of her early years growing up on her family's ranch in Arizona. Later, in 1950, she graduated from Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in economics, followed by a juris doctorate in 1952. In 1952, she married John Jay O'Connor, III, and they have three sons. After working for a time in both California and Germany, Sandra Day O'Connor again took up residence in the state of Arizona.

In Arizona, O'Connor held positions in both law and politics, working as an Assistant Attorney General and serving in the State Senate, appointed by the Governor to fill a vacancy. After twice winning reelection to the State Senate, she ran for the position of Judge in the Maricopa County Superior Court of Arizona in 1974. While a judge she gained a reputation for being firm but just, and she would later be appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals.

In 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor made history after being nominated by President Ronald Reagan for the position of Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. She received unanimous Senate approval, becoming

the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court.

During her tenure on the Court, Justice O'Connor gained a reputation for approaching each case with an open mind and for seeking out practical solutions to complex legal issues. Her pragmatic and centrist approach had an important moderating influence on the Court, and her independent philosophy had an important impact on a number of seminal cases. In 2006, Justice O'Connor retired after serving over 24 years on the Court.

Justice O'Connor and I have a shared belief in the need for an independent judiciary and a shared desire to improve relations between our branches of government. As founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on the Judicial Branch, I had the distinct pleasure of hosting Justice O'Connor in the U.S. Capitol, just before her retirement, for an event designed to jointly promote these common goals.

I consider it an honor to recognize Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and ask my colleagues to join me in commending her on the occasion of her recognition as a Rotary Club of Los Angeles "Person of the Century."

## IN HONOR OF BRIGADIER GENERAL BRUCE THOMPSON

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Bruce Thompson for his recent promotion to the rank of Brigadier General. Through years of relentless hard work and determination, General Thompson ascended to Brigadier General, a rank that only a few will obtain in their lifetime. I am proud that this man serves the state of Delaware, as well as the United States of America.

A native of Westchester, Pennsylvania, General Thompson's military career began when he received his commission through the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science in 1980. He quickly earned his pilot wings a year later, and became an Instructor and Standardization/Evaluation Pilot for the C-130 Aircraft with 32 combat sorties and 197 combat support sorties. He served as the 166th Airlift Wing Commander and is a veteran of Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. General Thompson is a command pilot with over 4,500 hours in the C-130A, C-130H2, T-37 and T-38. During his service thus far, General Thompson has earned numerous awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit and the National Defense Service Medal. I fully expect that he will continue to earn awards and citations under his new rank.

I commend Bruce Thompson upon receiving this great honor and for his years of extraordinary service and countless contributions to the Delaware Air National Guard. General Thompson is an exemplary citizen, and on behalf of all Delawareans I would like to thank him and his family for the many sacrifices they have made during the past twenty-nine years. His promotion to the rank of Brigadier General is an appropriate milestone in a truly remarkable career.

DAMION MILES

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Damion Miles who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Damion Miles is an 8th grader at Arvada Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Damion Miles is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Damion Miles for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

## IN HONOR OF KENDAL GUNLICKS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Kendal Gunlicks, upon the occasion of his retirement as Director of Music at Independence High School. Mr. Gunlicks leaves behind a legacy of kindness, sincere concern for every student and dedication to fostering an atmosphere where creativity and teamwork flourished.

Over the course of a career spanning 35 years, he led his students through band camp, half-time shows, parades, Madrigal Dinners, musical theater productions, outdoor community concerts and memorable trips to Florida. But for Mr. Gunlicks, teaching was far more than a job. It was an avocation. He consistently went above and beyond the call of duty, working to establish successful mentoring relationships with all students. Through the powerful medium of music, he inspired his students, encouraged their participation and strengthened their self-confidence. His students trusted, respected and admired him, and he was always willing to help with a problem or provide fatherly guidance and advice.

Mr. Gunlicks' belief in musical opportunities for all is evidenced throughout his tenure at Independence High School. As Director of the Vocal Program, Mr. Gunlicks made room in his programs for all interested students. Students who wanted to participate but who weren't confident enough in their talents as singers were encouraged to join the chorus, without having to audition. Under his leadership, the marching band grew steadily over the years, from 26 members in 1974 to more than 100 band members today.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor of Mr. Kendal Gunlicks, whose passion for music and unwavering dedication to his students has served as a source of inspiration, joy, and camaraderie