

The increased workload did not dampen his bright attitude, however. Mr. Moses consistently does all he can to solve passport problems and ensure positive outcomes. Over the years, he has proven to be a model government employee, and he will be missed.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Steve Moses for his lengthy and influential career, and thank him for his many outstanding contributions to the city of Chicago. I wish him the best of luck and continued happiness in his retirement and all his future endeavors.

HONORING WILLIAM A. LAMARCH,
U.P. VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a constituent who has distinguished himself both in service to his country and to his community. Mr. William A. LaMarch has been named "Upper Peninsula Veteran of the Year" by the U.P. Veterans Committee. It is an honor befitting the dedication and patriotism Mr. LaMarch embodied both in the Armed Forces and in civilian life.

Mr. LaMarch, a resident of Escanaba, Michigan, is a decorated Marine who served his country with honor. In 1961, Mr. LaMarch received the Good Conduct Medal, awarded to enlisted members of the military who complete three consecutive years of honorable and faithful service. Mr. LaMarch also received two Meritorious Mast Awards, first in 1961 and again in 1963.

After being discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps, Mr. LaMarch continued to build a legacy of service. He is currently serving as commander of American Legion Post #82, and is a life member of AmVets #123 and of Marine Corps League #444. He can be heard calling bingo at the V.A. Hospital in Iron Mountain, a position he has held for eight years. He has also served as the finance officer of Post #82, a member of the Marine Corps League Funeral Honor Guard and the Delta County Veterans Council Funeral Honor Guard.

Mr. LaMarch has also played a vigorous role in the community beyond his extensive activities as a dedicated veteran. He served six years on the City of Escanaba Board of Review and volunteers for the Salvation Army as a bell ringer, food bank, and basket worker. He is also a member of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

William A. LaMarch is one of the driving forces behind the U.P. Whitetails Association and the highly successful Delta County Wildlife Unlimited.

Over the years, Mr. LaMarch's accomplishments and devotion to his community have been recognized with numerous awards and recognitions. He has been named Legionnaire of the Year, twice named Elk of the Year, and received the Elks Grand Exalted Ruler's Commendation for Excellence. He received the Dan Patch Outstanding Volunteer Award and has been recognized by the Red Cross as a 22 gallon donor.

William LaMarch is a man who understands profoundly the value of service and the responsibility we have to help others. He stands

as an example of what it means to be a true American hero, both in battle and within our own communities. His character and his generosity are a shining example of the spirit and strength that have defined the Upper Peninsula throughout its history.

Madam Speaker, William A. LaMarch embodies the words bravery, dignity, and service. He is an individual who has been recognized by his community and his fellow veterans as a leader and a model citizen. With that in mind Madam Speaker, I ask that you, and all of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, join me in saluting William A. LaMarch for his lifetime of service and in congratulating him on being awarded U.P. Veteran of the Year.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF
SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep sadness and regret for the passing of Senator EDWARD KENNEDY. The world has lost a tremendous leader and an exceptional spirit. Senator KENNEDY's voice was a unique source of inspiration on the Senate floor, and he will be greatly missed for his public service and work to improve the lives of the less fortunate.

Senator KENNEDY was arguably one of the most influential Senators in United States history. He was an exceptionally accomplished legislator who authored roughly 2,500 pieces of legislation over the course of his 46-year-long career in the United States Senate. More than 300 of Senator KENNEDY's bills went on to become law, and he had a rare ability to reach across party lines in the interest of passing important pieces of legislation. He was always well versed on policy issues and highly prepared for committee hearings and floor debates.

As the Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Senator KENNEDY courageously led the push to reform our nation's failing health care system. He strongly believed that all Americans deserved to have access to affordable health care options and supported a number of initiatives, including America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009. Senator KENNEDY also helped enact the State Children's Health Insurance Program, the Medicare prescription drug benefit, the Ryan White Care Act and the Family Medical Leave Act.

Although health care was Senator KENNEDY's passion, he was also committed to combating discrimination. Even when it was politically unpopular, Senator KENNEDY believed in an America where ethnic minorities and women were treated equally. He supported Title IX, which outlawed discrimination on the basis of sex in institutions of higher education and the renewal of the Voting Rights Act, which banned racially discriminatory voting requirements.

My prayers go out to the Kennedy family in this time of profound grief. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in remembering the life of a true American hero who dedicated his life to improving the lives of others.

A TRIBUTE TO THE JUNIOR
ACHIEVEMENT OF WESTERN
KENTUCKY

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Junior Achievement of Western Kentucky on their 50th anniversary. This important organization deserves recognition for achieving this milestone.

The Junior Achievement of Western Kentucky was established in July of 1959 and has served over 125,000 students in the last half-century. As a partnership between education and business, Junior Achievement helps students understand the economy and better prepare them for their future.

The Junior Achievement of Western Kentucky should be proud of their contribution to the community. I commend the organization, students, and volunteers on their 50th anniversary.

HONORING MR. JOHN RAILLEY

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. John Railey in recognition of his 50 years of dedicated federal service.

"The fun part of accounting is finding the things that went wrong and figuring out how to fix them." This statement by John Railey summarizes the attitude that has made him an anchor at the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, Maryland, where he has served both on the waterfront and in the Fiscal Department for five decades.

A lifelong resident of Baltimore, Mr. Railey began his federal career at the Coast Guard Yard in the Sheet Metal Shop as an apprentice. Upon completion of his apprenticeship program, Mr. Railey excelled as a sheet metal worker. He was selected as the first tradesman at the Yard to be trained to program and operate the first computer-controlled equipment at the Yard. Seeking to become a foreman, Mr. Railey pursued Yard-required management courses at the University of Baltimore. In 1968, Mr. Railey successfully completed his college degree in Business Management.

In 1969, Mr. Railey took a position as a Planner/Scheduler in the Industrial Engineering Division. Interested in learning the business-end of the Yard, he took a position as an Accounting Technician in the Fiscal Department in 1974. With his attention to detail and relentless problem solving skills, Mr. Railey was promoted from an Accounting Technician to an Accountant, where he has excelled as the Yard's expert on the financial administration of Yard Project Orders. Mr. Railey has mentored numerous members of the Fiscal Staff and has assisted scores of project managers in the Industrial Staff. Throughout his tenure with the Coast Guard Yard, he has continued to demonstrate remarkable conscientiousness. Mr. Railey's eagerness to troubleshoot accounting anomalies in any project is inspiring to each and every colleague.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mr. John Railey for achieving a remarkable milestone in his career. His dedication to the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Yard, and his fellow employees has made him a valuable asset to all throughout his 50 years of devoted service.

HONORING COLONEL MOHAMMED
A. "MO" KHAN, JR.

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Mohammed A. "Mo" Khan, Jr., who accepted command of the 341 Operations Group on May 20 in a change of command ceremony.

Colonel Khan is originally from Ronceverte, West Virginia, born November 5, 1966. After graduation from California Lutheran University in 1988, Colonel Khan received his commission through the University of California at Los Angeles Reserve Officer Training Corps program. Over the past twenty years, Mo has been promoted from Second Lieutenant to the rank of Colonel. Upon accepting command of the 341st OG, Colonel Khan stated his three main priorities, which are to do your absolute very best at all times; to take care of each other and your families; and to give freely of yourself, both on and off base. It is because of these values that Mo has advanced so far and received so many decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Combat Readiness Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and National Defense Service Medal with Star Device.

Early in his Air Force career, Colonel Khan served a variety of positions in a missile combat crew, advancing to squadron, group and wing level positions. In 2002, Colonel Khan assumed command of the 564th Missile Squadron where he led over 200 operations. His extensive operations experience led to several positions at the Pentagon in the space operations division, where until March of 2008 he held the title of director of space operations. Most recently, he was chief of the space superiority division before assuming command of the 341st Operations Group.

It is an honor to recognize Colonel Mohammed A. "Mo" Khan, Jr.—he is a man that represents the best of West Virginia. I would like to congratulate him for his invaluable service to the Air Force. I know his wife, Lisa, and two children, Mo III and Simeon, are extremely proud.

THANKING KAREN WESS FOR HER
SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement on August 7, 2009 we rise to thank Mrs. Karen Wess for her seventeen years of distinguished service to the United States House of Rep-

resentatives. Karen has served this great institution as a valued employee of House Information Resources (HIR), in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Karen began her tenure with the United States House of Representatives in 1992 as a Systems Programmer working with the mainframe Customer Information Control System (CICS) transaction services. Her technical expertise in the delivery of mainframe CICS transaction services led to Karen being selected to work on a team tasked with the initiative to combine several disparate e-mail systems into an efficient and sustainable enterprise e-mail system for the House. Karen has been involved with the House e-mail systems since their early inception and has helped to make them the mission-critical service the House relies on today. Karen applied her leadership abilities to help deploy an anti-spam component for the House e-mail service and currently serves as a Senior Systems Engineer in the CAO's HIR Enterprise Technology Systems Branch.

Karen has been one of the primary engineers providing the House's Internet e-mail functionality. She has acted as a technical liaison between the House, other legislative organizations, and government agencies in the field of e-mail connectivity. She has provided consulting services to House customers, internal and external, making the delivery of House e-mail systems the success they are today.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Karen for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING ROSS THORNTON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Ross Thornton upon being named by the Madera District Chamber of Commerce as a 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree. Mr. Thornton will be recognized on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at the Fifth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Installation Dinner.

Ross Thornton was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In May 1964, Mr. Thornton moved to Madera, California to become the voice behind the mic at KHOT radio, a local radio station. In 1967, he went to work for CalFarm Insurance, and two years later made a career change into the medical supply business. In 1986, Mr. Thornton moved back into the insurance profession with Foster and Parker Insurance; where he still works today.

Mr. Thornton has had a very successful career in the insurance industry. He was named "Trustee of the Year" in 2001 and "Agent of the Year" in 2003 by the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors. He is as successful in his commitment to the community as he is in his profession. Mr. Thornton is a long time member of the Madera Chamber of Commerce, where he has served on several committees, including the Ambassador Corps and the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast Committee. He has been a member of the Madera Sunrise Rotary for twenty-nine years and has

maintained perfect attendance. He is the past-president of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, where he also served on the board from 1986 through 1996. Mr. Thornton served on the Board of Directors of Madera Community Hospital from 1988 through 1994. He served for nine years with Valley Public Television Board, a seventeen year board member of the Darin Camarena Health Clinics, served as a Trustee of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors at the state level and is past-president of the Fresno area Chapter. He is a current member of the Madera Elks, President of the Board of Directors for Sherman Thomas Charter School and Vice-President of Valley West Christian Center Board of Directors. For twenty-five years, he has served as a Speech Judge for the Madera Scholastic Decathlon. Mr. Thornton was appointed to the Planning Commission for the City of Madera and continues to serve in this civic capacity. For his dedicated service to the community, Mr. Thornton has been honored by being named the 1998–99 Citizen of the Year by the Madera Elks and the Madera Hispanic Chamber's Businessman of the Year in 1998.

Mr. Thornton has three sons and three grandchildren. His mother, Alberta, is ninety-six years old and lives with him and his wife Barbara, who has a son, a daughter and four grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Ross Thornton upon being honored as the Madera Chamber of Commerce 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Thornton many years of continued success.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MANISTIQUE ELKS TEMPLE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Manistique Elks Lodge #632 on the 100th Anniversary of the group's landmark building. The Manistique Elks Temple was built in 1909 and continues to be a source of pride for the community and a unique venue for activities including civic events, receptions and patriotic ceremonies. The building has seen both high times and low times, but throughout its 100 years of existence it has touched nearly every person in the Manistique community in some way or another.

Visitors to the Temple step onto a sweeping front porch and through grand pillars to enter the building. Once inside they look up to the ornate ceiling of stamped tin, richly painted with gold filigree and accented in burgundy and hunter green. They walk across hardwood floors that are a testament to the timber industry that has helped sustain the city of Manistique throughout the years. The sun shines through newly restored windows to create a bright atmosphere. It is a place that echoes the natural beauty found throughout Manistique and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

While so many buildings from the beginning of the 20th century have been destroyed or replaced, the Elks Temple continues to stand