

Vietnam itself. Many of my constituents have family and friends still in Vietnam, and the reports about the human rights situation in that country are concerning.

Beginning in 1994, Congress has designated May 11th as Vietnam Human Rights Day—a day to reflect on the struggles of the thousands of innocent Vietnamese citizens that seek basic human rights and freedom.

Sadly, in the sixteen years since Congress first established this day calling for Hanoi to respect basic human rights, the situation has not improved. In fact, after the United States granted Vietnam Permanent Normal Trade Relations in 2006, conditions worsened as the Vietnamese government, having received the trade agreement it sought, returned to its violent and incursive methods of silencing free speech.

While the Vietnamese government presents a facade of democracy to the world, journalists, bloggers, and whistleblowers are imprisoned for merely raising questions about government policies or calling attention to corrupt behavior. Pro-democracy activists are arrested and jailed under arbitrary, expansive, and vague anti-propaganda laws, often without due process. Despite years of pressure from Congress and humanitarian organizations, the Vietnamese government continues to deny these charges, show a lack of a serious commitment to reform, and openly violate both its own constitution as well as its international human rights obligations.

Moreover, religious freedom remains an issue. Reports of harassment, discrimination, and repression related to religion continue. In its Annual Report for 2010, released this month, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has renewed its call for Vietnam to be designated as a Country of Particular Concern by the State Department. I wholeheartedly agree with this recommendation, and strongly urge the State Department to follow it.

On this May 11th, I ask my colleagues to honor the efforts of those who are fighting for freedom and democracy in Vietnam, and to consider how we might be of assistance in their difficult and courageous struggle for the basic human rights that we, as Americans, enjoy.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF
THE BULGE, (VBOB) OHIO NORTH
COAST CHAPTER XXXVI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, (VBOB) Ohio North Coast Chapter XXXVI. Their individual and collective courage, sacrifice and service on behalf of our nation will be forever remembered.

The Battle of the Bulge was the largest land battle of World War II and one of the deadliest battles in American history. By the end of the battle, nearly 20,000 American soldiers were dead and more than 80,000 were wounded. The German surprise attack on American troops began on December 16, 1944 in the

snow-covered Ardennes Mountains of Belgium and Luxembourg. It ended with an Allied victory. This courageous stand by American troops proved to be a major turning point in the war; it contributed to the defeat of the Nazis and the liberation of Europe.

The VBOB Chapter XXXVI was chartered on July 16, 1994. Forever connected by their shared experience, Veterans from throughout northern Ohio gathered to meet on a regular basis. Though the Chapter is now disbanding, its members were active. They held annual commemoration dinners in honor of their friends who lost their lives and led the effort to construct a memorial in honor of the soldiers who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. That monument, located in The Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio, was dedicated on June 6th, 2002.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor of and gratitude to the soldiers who fought in the Battle of the Bulge, many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our nation. I also stand in honor of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, the Ohio North Coast Chapter XXXVI. The heart and grit that each young soldier exhibited in the midst of that battle will be honored forever.

TRIBUTE TO GENE A. VINCENTI ON
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to pay tribute to the wonderful accomplishments of Gene A. Vincenti as he retires from Rutgers Newark. It is indeed a pleasure for me to add my congratulations to that of his family, friends and colleagues of the Rutgers Newark community as they celebrate in honor of "Mr. Rutgers Newark." For all the contributions he has made over the years, Mr. Vincenti deserves to be feted on this marvelous although melancholy occasion.

Rarely has an individual been such an integral part of a university by having received both undergraduate and graduate degrees and going on to work at the same institution for over 38 years. However, that is exactly what Gene has done. His career at Rutgers Newark can only be described as mutually beneficial. Having worked with three provosts and three presidents, Gene has been instrumental in helping to develop the current landscape of Newark. In addition to his involvement with the Council for Higher Education in Newark, CHEN, alliance, Gene had a hand in determining the locations of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and the Prudential Arena. He also had input on redeveloping the Broad Street train station and the Broad and Halsey Street areas near the campus.

Gene's involvement in CHEN and his numerous years as a champion of Rutgers Newark helped to create some dynamic improvements and image boosting initiatives for the City of Newark. His sphere of influence in the community and the synergy he helped to create through CHEN will always be remembered by the many students, administrators and residents of the Greater Newark area.

Madam Speaker, I know my fellow members of the House of Representatives agree that Gene Vincenti has been a part of the fabric of Newark Rutgers and that his departure will leave a void that will not easily be filled. We wish him well in this new phase of his life.

HONORING MARK MADDEN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mark Madden as he retires as Superintendent of Atherton Community Schools in Burton, Michigan. A Mark Madden hour is planned at Atherton High School tomorrow to honor his work.

Mark Madden started working for Atherton Community Schools in 1969 as an English teacher. Over the years he taught English, French, and Drama at Atherton Middle School, Atherton Senior High School and in the Atherton Adult Education program. Outside the classroom, Mark worked as the Red Cross sponsor for the Freshman and Junior Classes, was the advisor for the Foreign Study League, the producer of the Atherton Senior High School plays, was an announcer, scorekeeper and crowd control technician for sporting events.

He initiated and coached the Varsity Tennis Team and the Junior Varsity Tennis Team. As a member of the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association, his commitment to the sport was recognized in 2002, when he was inducted into the High School Tennis Coaches Hall of Fame.

Mark spent 32 years as a teacher, 4 years as a principal and 5 years as superintendent. In addition to his work with Atherton Community Schools, he also found time to teach English and Education at Baker College. He also participated in the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program. He has been honored as Regional Tennis Coach of the Year, the Teacher of the Year and Northwood Institute Outstanding Influencer.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding the outstanding work and contributions of Mark Madden. He has been a committed educator both in and out of the classroom and I wish him the best as he enters the next phase of his life.

HONORING GERALDINE E. WOOD
JOYNER

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Geraldine Wood Joyner, a devoted wife, mother and community activist and to mourn her upon her passing at the age of 89.

Geraldine Wood, the oldest of the three children of William and Hilda Wood, was born in Stockton, California on May 20, 1920. Although her life was adversely affected and forever changed by the polio epidemic of 1921, Jeri was never deterred from living life to the