

With St. Mary's on solid footing, Jim turned his attention towards increasing care and services in the region. From 2000 to 2010, he oversaw the opening of the Women's Health Pavilion, the Center for Joint Replacement, St. Mary's d'Youville Pavilion Rehab Center, a new St. Mary's Campus in Auburn and the modernization of the Emergency Center at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center. This extraordinary feat was mirrored by St. Mary's outreach in downtown Lewiston. St. Mary's Food Pantry, Lots to Gardens and St. Mary's Nutrition Center of Maine not only provide emergency food assistance to the residents of the greater Androscoggin County but also promote healthy nutrition and eating habits. Other programs, such as the Neighborhood Housing Initiative and B Street Health Center, have expanded affordable access to shelters and healthcare for Lewiston's low income residents. Each of these programs owes a piece of their success to Jim's leadership.

For these works and for other charity programs he established, Jim was honored by the American Hospital Association and by the Catholic Health Association. The remarkable positive impact Jim has had on the community is commendable and has inspired countless others. With his retirement on June 17, 2010, St. Mary's Health System will lose one of its finest leaders in its 125 year history. His legacy of community outreach will surely be continued for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Jim Cassidy on his retirement and thanking him for his dedicated service to his community.

FHA REFORM ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, as we work to turn the economy around it is imperative that we continue to support the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) which has played a critical role in stabilizing the nation's housing market.

It was not too long ago that we saw unscrupulous mortgage lending practices that caused hundreds of thousands of Americans to lose their homes. Thankfully, we're beginning to see a decline in foreclosures rates. In May, we saw a 3 percent decrease in rates and in April we saw a 9 percent decrease. We must ensure this declining foreclosure rate trend continues and reforming the FHA is essential in doing so.

The legislation, H.R. 5072, the FHA Reform Act, strengthens the FHA while allowing access to safe, affordable financing by responsible borrowers. The bill provides the FHA with the authority to manage annual mortgage insurance premiums. It also provides significant safeguards against dishonest lending practices that are hidden from homebuyers.

As the economy recovers, our nation's consumers are beginning to regain confidence in the housing market. We must demonstrate to these consumers that they can once again trust lenders. Providing the FHA with more authority over mortgages and lending is necessary for the recovery of not only the real estate market, but for the economy as a whole.

I regret that an obligation in my District kept me from voting for this legislation, but had I been present, I would have been proud to vote in support of the bill.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
ERIN K. EHRBAR AND ANDREW
J. EHRBAR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a brother and a sister who left this world far too soon. Erin and Andrew Ehrbar were both tragically taken away from us at the tender ages of 16 and 13, respectively. I stand with those in our community grieving for them and for their families.

Erin and Andrew both loved sports, music, and spending time with friends and family. They were extraordinary children who lived their lives with great energy, laughter, joy, kind hearts and a spirit of generosity. Today, we remember them, in the House and in the nation.

As we grieve, we also celebrate the joy and happiness that Erin and Andrew brought to their friends and family. Erin, a junior at Highland High School, played on the girl's varsity soccer team; Andrew, a seventh grader at Highland Middle School, played baseball, basketball, and sang in the school choir.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, I ask you to join me in honor and remembrance of Erin K. Ehrbar and Andrew J. Ehrbar, whose young lives were framed by the unwavering love of their family and friends. In addition to honoring the memory of their late father, James, we offer condolences to their mother, Laura; to their big sister, Melissa and their little brother, Sean; to their stepfather, Chris DePiero; their grandparents, Thomas and Barbara Donovan; James and Marilyn Ehrbar; Jerry and Roberta DePiero; and the many others who loved them. The legacies of Erin and Andrew will continue on in the lives of others, through organ and eye donation, and their gentle spirits will forever hold a sacred place in the hearts of those who loved them.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to the Commonwealth of Australia and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) for its quick and effective response to locating and rescuing Abby Sunderland, a 16-year-old sailor from Thousand Oaks, California, whose sailboat was severely damaged in the Indian Ocean.

Abby was attempting to sail solo around the world when rough seas tore the mast from her boat, Wild Eyes, rendering cell phone communication with her sail team impossible. Abby activated two distress beacons, whose signal was picked up by the AMSA's Rescue Coordination Centre.

At the time, Wild Eyes was in the search and rescue region of the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre at La Reunion, which is operated by France. However, AMSA immediately offered assistance. La Reunion asked for air search assistance and an AMSA crew departed from Perth at first light in a QANTAS A-330 Airbus passenger aircraft.

Before the aircraft arrived on the scene, Abby's beacons indicated Wild Eyes had drifted into AMSA's search and rescue region. She was spotted at about 4 p.m. Australian time (11 p.m. PDT) about 2,000 nautical miles from western Australia. The AMSA crew made radio contact and found that Abby was alive and well, although with some scrapes and bruises.

AMSA then coordinated with La Reunion to have a ship retrieve her from Wild Eyes. About 40 hours after Abby activated her beacons, the French fishing vessel, Ile De La Reunion had Abby safely on board. AMSA had dispatched a Global Express aircraft to the scene, which provided top cover during Abby's transfer to the fishing vessel and served as a communications relay between Wild Eyes and Ile De La Reunion.

Media reports this morning stated that the crew of Ile De La Reunion delivered Abby to the remote Kerguelen Island yesterday afternoon, where she will catch a French patrol boat for the next leg of her journey home.

Madam Speaker, while we are grateful to the French fishermen and French authorities for their role in Abby's rescue, it is the Australian government that took lead in ensuring she was found and rescued. I personally called Australian ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Kim Beazley, AC, on Friday to thank him for Australia's role in locating and rescuing one of my constituents at considerable time and cost to them. I would also like to publicly thank the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, the QANTAS crew, and all the support personnel who made Abby's rescue possible. I know my colleagues join me in thanking our ally and friend for her quick response to one of our citizens in distress.

RECOGNIZING THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM GRADUATES OF WANDELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Today, the Saddle River Police Department will hold its Youth Leadership Program graduation ceremony for the students of Wandell Elementary School located in Saddle River, NJ. The participants of this important program have made a commitment to say "no" to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence. They have done this with the support of Chief of Police Timothy McWilliams and Detective Timothy Gerity.

Through opening the lines of communication between local law enforcement and youth, the Saddle River Youth Leadership Program empowers youth with the confidence and courage to say no to drugs and also defeats the negative cultural influences which they are challenged with on a daily basis.

I am immensely proud of my young constituents who participated in this program at