

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2011*

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 18, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

MARIANNA RAFTOPOULOS  
TRIBUTE**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege as the representative of Colorado's 3rd district to rise and pay tribute to the inspirational life of Mrs. Marianna Raftopoulos. Mrs. Raftopoulos was a woman with a deep sense of civic conviction, a loving wife and mother of three.

Marianna Raftopoulos was raised on a sheep ranch in Western Colorado, and the spirit of the west remained with her for the duration of her exemplary life. After graduating from the University of Colorado, Marianna pursued many passions. Most notably were her efforts to improve Moffat County, and the Colorado Republican Party. She was a champion of many causes including chairwoman of the Republican Central Committee, The Moffat Tunnel Commission, The Moffat County Economic Development Partnership, and served as a Moffat County commissioner and chairwoman of Colorado Wildlife Commission. With the passing of Marianna Raftopoulos, Western Colorado has lost an inspiring leader, and our nation has lost a great patriot.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a true honor to stand in tribute and pay respect to the life of Mrs. Marianna Raftopoulos. She was a great leader, who is still greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING BONNIE ARD AS  
WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA'S  
EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSON  
OF THE YEAR**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2011*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Bonnie Ard as the 2012 Walton County, Florida Educational Support Person of the Year. I am honored to recognize her achievements and her dedication to the students and teachers of northwest Florida.

Bonnie Ard is the secretary for Maude Sanders Elementary School in DeFuniak Springs, Florida. Mrs. Ard considers the faculty and staff at the school to be a team and part of her family. She sets the tone for the rest of the school's faculty and staff, using her space in the front office to establish a professional, caring, and family-friendly environment that epitomizes the work of the faculty and staff at Maude Sanders Elementary. Tracey Dickey, Principal of Maude Sanders Element-

tary, extols Mrs. Ard's excellent rapport with the parents and students of the school and her steadfast desire to seek to serve the parents and students of Maude Sanders Elementary as efficiently as possible.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Bonnie Ard as the Walton County Educational Support Person of the Year. Her passion for the students of Maude Sanders Elementary is laudable and her dedication to her profession is exemplary. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mrs. Ard, and we wish her all the best.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISH-  
MENTS OF SARAH BRACHMAN**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2011*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a fellow Texan; Sarah Brachman, who has been named the National Down Syndrome Society's 2011 Advocate of the Year.

This young lady is one of more than 400,000 Americans living with Down Syndrome, but that has never slowed her down. She is more engaged than many in our political system—having interned here in Washington and in both Federal and State legislative offices in Kentucky where she's in school. And she truly is an advocate for the disabled, happily talking to anyone who will listen about her life and what it means to live with a disability, and personally recruiting over thirty Members of Congress, myself included, for the Congressional Down Syndrome Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you and all of our colleagues will join me in congratulating Sarah for this well deserved honor.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF  
BROOKLYN CENTER'S CENTENNIAL**HON. ERIK PAULSEN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2011*

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a wonderful community in my district, Brooklyn Center. 2011 is no ordinary year for Brooklyn Center, as next week they will celebrate their centennial.

A quaint suburb located west of Minneapolis, throughout its 100-year history, Brooklyn Center has embraced growth, the importance of family values, and the development of industry, all while maintaining its small-town charm.

Brooklyn Center's residents take great pride in its many diverse and successful residents, its great schools, many shops and recreation options—including the famous Dudley/Budweiser Minnesota Classic Softball Tournament.

As an avid biker, I appreciate Brooklyn Center's acres of picturesque parks and miles of trails. The city's many nature areas are a great representation of the community's pride and commitment to civic improvement.

Congratulations Brooklyn Center on 100 years of being "a great place to start and a great place to stay." I'm sorry I won't be there

to celebrate with you, but I hope your Centennial Celebration is truly the "Party of the Century."

RECOGNIZING VANESSA BUMP AS  
WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA'S  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2011*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Vanessa Bump as the 2012 Walton County, Florida Teacher of the Year. For twenty years, Mrs. Bump has been an inspiration to her students, colleagues, and community; I am honored to recognize her achievements.

During her career as an educator, Vanessa Bump has served as the Media Specialist at Bay Elementary School, the Library/Media Specialist at Walton High School, and as a Social Studies Teacher in the Escambia County School District. She currently teaches Social Studies and Journalism at South Walton High School. Her outstanding performance was recognized there when she received the 2004 Walton High School Teacher of the Year award.

In addition to her distinction in the classroom, Mrs. Bump serves in myriad other capacities, including Yearbook Sponsor, School Technology Coordinator, Junior Class Sponsor, Prom Sponsor, History Fair Coordinator, and Project-Based Learning Trainer. She has also been presented with the Herff-Jones Outstanding Journalism Educator of the Year award and holds a National Journalism Certification.

Teachers are amongst our most valuable public servants, as they are responsible for educating the future of our country. To be honored as Teacher of the Year, selected from a pool of exemplary educators, is an immense honor. This honor is a reflection of the impact Vanessa Bump has had on her students and the difference she has made in their lives. She has proven herself to be among the many great teachers in our nation, and I am proud to have her as a constituent of Florida's First District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor Vanessa Bump for her accomplishments and her continuing commitment to excellence at South Walton High School and in the Walton County School District.

HONORING LIZ BURNS, RECIPIENT  
OF THE 2010 WESTERN SPRINGS  
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2011*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Liz Burns, who will receive the 2010 Western Springs, IL Citizen of the Year Award on January 30, 2011. A resident of Western Springs for 47 years, Mrs. Burns has been an invaluable asset to her community in large part due to her contributions to the local library system.