

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 Elementary,

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 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
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.

Mrs. Burns was first appointed to the board of the Thomas Ford Memorial Library in 1991 and solidified her status as a permanent fixture on the board in 1993 with an election to a four-year term. She served as president of the board from 1995 to 1997 and oversaw the \$3.1 million library expansion project during her tenure. In 1997, she led efforts to produce and implement the Library's long-range plan, preserving a high-quality learning environment for generations to come.

Since the end of her term as president of the board, Mrs. Burns has served as a trustee at the Thomas Ford Library Foundation. She became chair of the Foundation's board of trustees in 2004, and has worked to build an endowment for the Friends of the Library's continuing educational programs and activities. Liz continues to serve her community as a volunteer reading tutor at the St. Gregory Episcopal School for Boys.

Born and raised in Charleston, IL and the youngest of six children, Mrs. Burns attended the University of Illinois, Urbana where she earned a degree in English. She taught English and Journalism at Riverside-Brookfield High School before starting her family. She later became licensed as a Certified Financial Planner and went to work at the Western Springs Federal Credit Union. Mrs. Burns moved on to Merrill Lynch in 1987 then to Charles Schwab in 1991 where she worked as a securities specialist until her retirement in 2002.

I ask you to join me in honoring Mrs. Liz Burns on her selection as a 2010 Western Springs Citizen of the Year, and may she continue to enjoy educating through her work as a tutor and a trustee of Thomas Ford Memorial Library.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA LEGISLATIVE AU-
TONOMY ACT OF 2011

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Legislative Autonomy Act of 2011, to end the unnecessary and redundant congressional review of District of Columbia legislation. This bill would eliminate the congressional review period for civil (30 legislative days) and criminal (60 legislative days) legislation passed by the District of Columbia. Under the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, if a congressional resolution disapproving a D.C. bill is signed into law during the congressional review period, that bill does not become law. The congressional review period, which is limited only to those days when Congress is in session, delays D.C. bills from becoming law, often for many months. The delays force the D.C. Council to pass most bills several times, using a cumbersome and complicated process in which bills are passed on an emergency, temporary, and permanent basis to ensure that the operations of this large and rapidly changing city continue uninterrupted. The D.C. Legislative Autonomy Act would allow bills passed by the D.C. Council and signed by the mayor to become law immediately.

My bill would do no more than align the Home Rule Act with congressional practice

over many decades. Since the 1973 Home Rule Act, of the more than 4,500 legislative acts transmitted to Congress, only three resolutions to disapprove a D.C. bill have been enacted—in 1979, 1981, and 1991—and two of those involved distinct federal interests. Placing a congressional hold on 4,500 D.C. bills has not only proven unnecessary, but also a waste of money and time for both the District and Congress. Instead of using the formal disapproval process to overturn D.C. legislation, Congress has preferred to use appropriations riders. It is particularly unfair to require the D.C. Council to engage in a phantom process that Congress has itself discarded.

The wastefulness of the layover process is all the more apparent considering that my bill does not prevent review of District laws by Congress. Under clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the U.S. Constitution, the House and the Senate may scrutinize every piece of legislation passed by the D.C. Council, and, using that authority, change or strike legislation at any time if it desired. My bill would only eliminate the automatic hold placed on local legislation and the need for the D.C. Council to use a process initially passed for the convenience of Congress, but one that Congress has since eliminated in all but law. The bill would promote efficiency and cost savings for both Congress and the District. The bill would benefit the city's bond rating, which is affected by the shadow of congressional review and the delay in the finality of District legislation.

The limited legislative autonomy granted in this bill would allow the District to realize the greater measure of meaningful self-government and home rule that it deserves, and has more than earned in the 37 years since the Home Rule Act became effective. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

IN MEMORY OF PAULINE
MURILLO, ELDER OF THE SAN
MANUEL BAND OF SERRANO
MISSION INDIANS

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to join me in praising the life of Pauline Murillo, who was a wonderful lady, a strong leader for the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians, and one of the most important chroniclers and teachers of Indian history in Southern California. Mrs. Murillo passed away Jan. 21, 2011.

Pauline Chacon was born in 1934 on the San Manuel Reservation, which is in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains in Southern California. When Pauline was a young child, the reservation was tucked away from any nearby towns, and was little known to the residents of San Bernardino County.

But from an early age, Pauline became involved with an effort to reach beyond the boundaries of the reservation to help area schoolchildren learn the history and culture of the San Manuel tribe. Pauline and her mother, Tribal Spokeswoman Martha Manuel Chacon, visited schools to share factual accounts of tribal history, culture and language.

Pauline would carry this work forward as a tribal culture bearer, native speaker, author

and presenter dedicated to a principal, "To never forget who you are or where you came from." Today she is regarded as one of the most knowledgeable and influential resources on Southern California Indian history and culture.

She married George Murillo in 1952, and together they have three children, eight grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Murillo wrote two books about her life and San Manuel culture and traditions, "Living in Two Worlds" and "We Are Still Here Alive and in Spirit." Both contained hundreds of rare photographs. She was instrumental in the creation of an interactive CD-ROM for the Serrano-language and made traditional Indian cradle dolls and other crafts.

Pauline and George are well known for their philanthropy, donating time and funds to hospitals, schools and non-profits to benefit the greater community. In 2009 the Murillos donated \$900,000 to Cal State San Bernardino to construct an observatory, which was named for the family. In 2008 the family's contribution to Loma Linda University Medical Center allowed the hospital to expand its lounge for oncology patients and their families and was rededicated to the family.

While Pauline Murillo was leading the San Manuel tribe in reaching out to the greater community, the cities of San Bernardino and Highland have grown to surround the reservation's borders. Although the reservation was once impoverished, tribal members have found success with the opening of casinos—and have become one of the top local employers in the process. As a highly-respected tribal elder, Pauline Murillo has ensured that the tribe remains a strong presence throughout the community. She was a member of the Highland Senior Center, the Highland Women's Club and the "Red Hat Ladies" service group.

Mr. Speaker, Pauline Murillo was beloved throughout our region—her nickname of Dimples tells much about her always-smiling presence. She was a treasured resource for Native American culture, identity and tradition. She spent hours with high school students and faculty telling of the language and history of the Serrano people. We will all miss her greatly. I ask you and my colleagues to join me in extending condolences to her loving family and friends, and to express our appreciation for the lifetime of service to her community.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL M.
JOHNSTONE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Captain Michael M. Johnstone, who is retiring after nearly 30 years of law enforcement service—26 years of service to the City of Fairfield and almost four years with the Oakland Police Department. As his colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of his life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding public servant and defender of peace and safety.

Michael began his law enforcement career as a Police Officer with the Oakland Police