

and has only grown in importance since its end. Time and time again, the Republic of Turkey has stood firmly with the United States as we have pursued our shared goals in a region where we have few steady allies. Turkey, a fellow NATO country, is a vital partner and an example of a vibrant democracy in a region burdened with inequality. The country's importance has further increased over the past few months as the region is undergoing revolutionary changes.

The Turkish Caucus has become an effective platform to foster increased contacts and activities between different groups of Americans and Turkish citizens. These include meetings with our counterparts in the Turkish Grand National Assembly, which established a corresponding Turkish-U.S. Friendship Group as well as substantially increased meetings of both public and private representatives of Turkey with their American counterparts as well as with Turkish Americans. Members of the Turkish Caucus have played a leadership role in adding the voice of Congress to crucial matters related to U.S.-Turkey relations and our vital interests in the region.

Turkish Americans deserve a special thank-you for their role in expanding the membership as well as the vibrancy of the Turkish Caucus over the years. The recognition of the Caucus as a symbol of Congress' appreciation of our alliance and partnership with the Turkish nation by Turkish Americans has contributed to the rapid growth of the Caucus. On the occasion of Turkish Caucus Day, I salute Turkish Americans across the nation and thank them for their outstanding contributions to America and to strengthening the U.S.-Turkey partnership.

Our world is facing formerly unseen, monumental challenges. There is no doubt that now, more than ever, we need a strong U.S.-Turkey relationship that embodies democratic values, pluralism, secularism and respect for human rights. This kind of transnational relationship carries peace and prosperity dividends not only for the American and Turkish people, but also for the entire world.

With these thoughts, I invite my fellow members to join the Turkish Caucus on the occasion of "Turkish Caucus Day" and join us in this celebration.

JUAN DeLaTORRE

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 31, 2011*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Juan DeLaTorre for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Juan DeLaTorre is a 9th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Juan DeLaTorre is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Juan DeLaTorre for winning the Arvada Wheat

Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 31, 2011*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the American Red Cross, its employees, and volunteers on the occasion of Red Cross Month. Everyday the Red Cross provides care and comfort to individuals impacted by disasters. The Red Cross and its volunteers also provide training and education programs in communities around the United States.

In my area, the Tampa Bay Chapter works tirelessly to serve our community. Last year, the chapter and its thousands of dedicated volunteers responded to more than 400 local disasters, assisting over 500 families. It provided training in first aid, CPR, disaster preparedness, and water safety to more than 40,000 adults and children.

So far this year, the American Red Cross has responded to severe winter storms, wildfires, and flooding, among other disasters. They are currently working with their colleagues in the Japanese Red Cross to provide assistance to those affected by the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear crisis.

I thank the Red Cross for its continued service here at home and abroad and for the difference they make in the lives of disaster victims everyday.

JOEY QUINTANA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 31, 2011*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Joey Quintana for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Joey Quintana is a 8th grader at Bell Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Joey Quintana is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Joey Quintana for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO LEONARD SNOW

**HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 31, 2011*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Leonard Snow, who will turn 100 years old on September 14, 2011.

Mr. Snow was born in Au Sable Forks, New York, and has spent a lifetime giving back to his community and the nation as a whole. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the Pacific Theatre of World War II, helping to defend America and its allies in armed conflict.

Upon his return, Leonard took his gift for public service back to his hometown, serving as the Director of Head Start for Essex and Clinton counties, and also working on the Au Sable School Board for almost four decades. However, Mr. Snow's greatest source of pride is his three children, Stephen, Christine and Patricia.

Mr. Snow sets a fine example for everyone in the North Country. Through a focus on education, community service and strong family bonds, we can overcome many of the challenges that face the region.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Leonard Snow for his 100th birthday later this year, and I would like to again thank him for his service to the nation and his community.

KATHLEEN JACKSON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 31, 2011*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kathleen Jackson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kathleen Jackson is a 7th grader at Wheat Ridge Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kathleen Jackson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kathleen Jackson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

MELISSA HOWLAND NAMED A MILITARY CHILD OF THE YEAR

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 31, 2011*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased earlier this month to receive a notice from Operation Homefront that Melissa Howland of Millis, Massachusetts, was named one of five recipients of the 2011 Military Child of the Year Award. Ms. Howland