Throughout its history, the Peace Corps has continued to adapt to the needs of developing countries. Volunteers work in areas such as education, business development, environmental preservation, youth development, agriculture and HIV/AIDS relief. Returned Peace Corps volunteers return to the U.S. with incomparable experience and have gone on to become directors of the Peace Corps, Members of Congress, presidents of universities and CEOs in the business world.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the more than 200,000 volunteers who have dedicated themselves to promoting world peace and friendship throughout 139 countries over the past 50 years.

ON THE OCCASION OF CELEBRATING RABBI DANNEL SCHWARTZ'S FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY IN THE RABBINATE AND HIS RETIREMENT AS SENIOR RABBI OF TEMPLE SHIR SHALOM

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Dannel Schwartz of Temple Shir Shalom in West Bloomfield, Michigan, on the occasion of his retirement after forty years in the rabbinate and a lifetime of service to the Jewish community in Michigan and beyond.

Like many who heed to a call to serve their community, Rabbi Schwartz's leadership began early in his life when he served as President of the Bronx and Manhattan Federation of Temple Youth. Rabbi Schwartz completed his rabbinical training in 1972 and has served the Jewish community of Southeast Michigan as Senior Rabbi of Temple Beth El of Bloomfield, Michigan, and for the last two decades has served as Founding and Senior Rabbi of Temple Shir Shalom. For the past two years, Rabbi Schwartz has also served as CEO of The Corners, an institution that provides affordable space and resources to nonprofit organizations.

Rabbi Schwartz has not only taught the values of Judaism, but has also set an example for his congregation and the Greater Detroit community through his commitment to service. As a member of the Michigan Board of Rabbis and its former president, Rabbi Schwartz devoted considerable time and energy to providing spiritual leadership beyond his own congregation. Rabbi Schwartz also serves as Chaplain at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan, and through his work there has offered patients and their families important emotional and spiritual support in times of difficulty. And as a believer in lifelong learning, Rabbi Schwartz has continued his education both formally by obtaining a doctoral degree from the Jewish Institute of Religion and informally through his experiences with his congregation, family, and friends.

On many occasions Rabbi Schwartz has demonstrated his ability as a leader in Michigan's Jewish community, but one occasion serves as a seminal example of his leadership: the founding of Temple Shir Shalom. It was Rabbi Schwartz who gathered together with thirty families just over twenty years ago to establish their new congregation. And through his guidance and support of those families, the congregation of Shir Shalom has prospered and grown to over nine hundred families. Along the path of the Temple's history there have been many obstacles, including the need to construct a permanent home for the congregation, which was first housed in a converted office building, but with Rabbi Schwartz's unyielding efforts, the congregation of Shir Shalom overcame those challenges.

Mr. Speaker, the congregation of Temple Shir Shalom and the Jewish community of Michigan are blessed to have benefitted from the wisdom, knowledge, and service of Rabbi Dannel Schwartz over the last forty years and I know his retirement will affect generations of worshippers. I wish Rabbi Schwartz well in his retirement and I know his commitment to service will continue through his volunteer work and the Rabbi Dannel Schwartz Legacy Foundation.

RECOGNIZING THE LINN STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Linn State Technical College, located in Osage County in Missouri, for its exceptional performance in training scholars of higher education.

Linn State Technical College, LSTC, founded in 1961, is Missouri's only two-year public technical college with a statewide mission. Originating as Linn Technical Junior College, the college became a part of the public higher education system in Missouri in 1996 as a result of legislation by the 88th General Assembly.

Linn State Technical College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association. Thirteen programs are accredited by the Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering, ATMAE. In addition, 15 other program-level professional accreditations and certifications have been obtained by programs at the college.

Linn State Technical College monitors the economic, industrial and technological needs of the state as new programs are proposed for development. In response to industry demand over the last decade, Linn State Technical College has started 19 degree and certificate programs.

In closing, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the faculty, staff and students of Linn State Technical congratulations in their pursuit of higher education.

RECOGNIZING SUZANNE KILBY ETGEN FOR HER SERVICE AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Suzanne Kilby Etgen, the 2011 recipient of the Jan Hollmann Environmental Education Award, for her service as an educator and advocate for environmental preservation.

The Jan Hollmann Environmental Education Award was established in 1994 to recognize an individual or organization which demonstrates outstanding effectiveness as an environmental educator. This year, Suzanne Etgen has been recognized for her work as the coordinator of the Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy. At the Academy, Ms. Etgen teaches members of the community how to preserve and protect watersheds by minimizing the damage caused by water runoff in the area. Addressing issues such as rainscaping, pollution reduction strategies, and community outreach and engagement, Ms. Etgen has worked tirelessly to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and its inhabitants.

Getting citizens involved in protecting the rivers and streams that make up the Chesapeake watershed is the key to the future health of the Bay. That is why I introduced the No Child Left Inside Act, which seeks to better incorporate environmental education in the curriculum as a means to teach students about their natural surroundings and spark their interest in science. It is critical that the next generation be armed with the knowledge that Ms. Etgen has dedicated her life to sharing. Throughout her years of work as an environmental advocate, Suzanne Etgen has played a pivotal role in ensuring that our natural environment remains as majestic as ever.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again congratulate Suzanne Kilby Etgen for her dedication to environmental awareness and protection.

HONORING FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN CARRIE MEEK

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a former Member of the Florida state and U.S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Carrie Meek. Congresswoman Meek has also served in the Florida State Senate in what was a small part of a diverse history of public service.

With over 24 years of combined public service on both the state and national level, Congresswoman Meek has a true understanding of what it takes to enrich the lives of others. Her service, as a teacher before winning her seat in the Florida State House is yet another testament to her public contributions.

Congresswoman Meek had all throughout her career a reputation for being a strong legislator. She was the first African American woman elected to the Florida Senate and the first African American to serve there since Reconstruction. In the Florida State Legislature, she staunchly promoted literacy and championed minority business enterprise laws.

Her career in the U.S. House was no less distinguished than it was on the state level. Almost immediately, the Congresswoman established herself as a champion of expanding federal programs to create jobs and providing