development resources to job seekers and local businesses. Grifols hires interns from the Center who have completed their certificate program in technology. In addition, the company interviews all graduates of the program to provide them with valuable, real-world experience.

Grifols presence in the U.S. was greatly enhanced this year by the acquisition of Talecris Biotherapeutics. This transaction, valued at almost $5 billion, is the largest acquisition ever completed by a Spanish company in the U.S. Grifols is now the world's largest collector of human plasma, the third largest manufacturer of plasma protein therapies globally, and the leading plasma manufacturer in Europe.

Mr. Speaker, the Spain-U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the leading forum for the promotion of commercial, economic and industrial relations between Spain and the United States. Founded in 1959 and based in New York City, the Chamber is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering economic outreach between the two countries.

The Chamber honored Mr. Grifols at its annual gala dinner in Manhattan on December 6th. The U.S Ambassador to Spain, the Spanish Ambassador to the U.S., and the Spanish Minister of Culture joined over 250 guests in recognizing Mr. Grifols Roura's commitment to fostering expanded economic and social ties between the U.S. and Spain.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Victor Grifols Roura for his outstanding leadership of Grifols and for his well deserved honor as 2011 Business Leader of the Year by the Spain-U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

TRIBUTE TO COACH ANDREW TRENKLE AND THE MAINE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL CONSTITUTION TEAM

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coach Andrew Trenkle and the Maine South High School Constitution Team for their achievement in winning the Illinois State Title of the ''We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution'' competition. This extraordinary accomplishment marks the twentieth time in twenty one years that Maine South's team has won this title.

''We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution,'' a program sponsored by the Center for Civic Education, educates students on important issues including the purpose of government, the function of the Constitution, and the importance of citizen participation. Participants are encouraged to identify and communicate their own opinions, thereby developing strong skills in discussion, debate, and compromise. In the ''We the People'' competition. teams of students participate in simulated Congressional hearings, presenting statements and answering challenging questions about the United States Constitution. This year's victory of the 2011–2012 Maine South Constitution Team demonstrates their deep understanding of Constitutional principles as well as their aptitude for critical thinking and teamwork.

Congratulations to all the members of the 2011–12 team: Coach Andrew Trenkle, Paul Ansani, Jeremy Apolinski, Austin Bryniarski, Ethan Campbell, Colton Cannon, Claire Floriano, Merrill Hester, Luke Kapolnek, Lauren Krone, Renee Kumon, Jimmy Loomos, Thomas Lis, Meredith Machon, Caroline Murphy, Kyle Richardson, Michelle Roberts, Allie Sakowicz, Daniel San Gabino, Matt Sherbahn, Katie Solberg, Sarah Tarabey, Caroline Unger, Maddy Vogg, Patrick Wohl, Alex Zaug and Lindsey Zawila.

The United States of America was founded on the principles of civic involvement and responsibility. The students of Maine South High School have proven that they embody those principles and that they will grow to be passionate and capable future leaders. On behalf of the 9th Congressional District, I congratulate you on this outstanding achievement and wish you the best of luck at the National Competition in April 2012.

HONORING CHICAGO POLICE OFFICER NIAL FUNCHION

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Nial Funchion of the Chicago Police Department for his swim across the Strait of Gibraltar on October 6, 2011, and for his support of the Brotherhood for the Fallen, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting the families of fallen police officers.

Officer Nial Funchion is an 18-year veteran of the Chicago police force and a trusted public servant. He first became involved in the Brotherhood of the Fallen following a funeral for a colleague killed in the line of duty. At that funeral, he noticed a group of uniformed police officers offering condolences to the family of the slain police officer. He was deeply moved by this kind gesture and contacted the Brotherhood for the Fallen to see how he could help.

Already a tremendous swimmer, Officer Funchion has since dedicated his swimming endeavors to the Brotherhood for the Fallen to raise public awareness for the organization. His most recent swim dedicated to the Brotherhood was perhaps his most impressive. He crossed the 12 miles separating Spain and Morocco, known as the Strait of Gibraltar, in three hours and fifty minutes. Not only did Officer Funchion brave rough waters to complete his swim, but he did so while being followed by a family of orca whales.

Officer Funchion plans to add to his swimming accomplishments by completing endurance swimming's Triple Crown. Over the next two years he intends to complete the 28.5 mile loop around Manhattan Island and the 21 mile swim across the Catalina Channel in southern California. He previously crossed the English Channel in 1992 with the fastest time by an American that year. I applaud Officer Funchion for protecting our community, performing amazing feats to help others, and supporting the Brotherhood for the Fallen, and I wish him safety and calm waters in his coming endeavors.

TRIBUTE ON THE PASSING OF OFIELD DUKES

HON. HANSEN CLARKE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I honor the life and legacy of Ofield Dukes, a public relations pioneer, long-time friend of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), and fellow Detroiter. Mr. Dukes was firmly committed to fighting for justice and equality for all people.

Mr. Dukes, an Army veteran, graduated from Detroit's Wayne State University with a degree in journalism. After graduation, he worked at The Michigan Chronicle, a weekly African American-run newspaper based in Detroit, until he moved to Washington D.C. in 1964 to work for the federal government.

Mr. Dukes served as the deputy director of public affairs at Lyndon B. Johnson's Office of Equal Employment Opportunity. From 1966 to 1968, Mr. Dukes was a communications advisor to Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey.

Mr. Dukes founded his public relations firm, Ofield Dukes & Associates, in 1969. The firm focuses on political and minority affairs with a focus on African-American and African issues. Mr. Dukes' first client was Detroit's Motown Records. Today, Ofield Dukes & Associates represents the Democratic National Committee, Howard University, The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, and the Congressional Black Caucus, among other notable clients.

Mr. Dukes' relationship with the Congressional Black Caucus dates back to its founding in 1971 when he helped organize the first Congressional Black Caucus dinner. Mr. Dukes also served as an advisor to several CBC chairpersons. He was a founding member of the CBC Foundation, served on the Foundation Board for 14 years, and worked to improve the socioeconomic circumstance of African-Americans around the nation.

Mr. Dukes also spent his time reaching out to younger generations. He taught at the Howard University John H. Johnson School of Communications for 25 years and American University's School of Communications for 8 years, inspiring hundreds of African-American students to pursue careers in public relations and politics.

Mr. Dukes' work ethic, dedication, and resilience embody the spirit of Detroit. In October 2011, Mr. Dukes returned to his hometown of Detroit, Michigan because of his love for the city, family, and friends. After a struggle with bone cancer, Mr. Dukes passed away on December 7, 2011. I am honored to call Mr. Dukes a friend and colleague. He will be greatly missed.

URGING TURKEY TO SAFEGUARD ITS CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on H. Res. 306, regarding religious