

Rauf Denktash was born on January 27, 1924 at the village of Ktima, near Paphos, Cyprus, the son of a judge, he went on to study law at Lincoln's Inn in London. During the London Blitz of World War II, he served as an air-raid warden and helped to save Lincoln's Inn Hall from destruction. After the war, he practiced as a prosecuting barrister in Nicosia. By the time Denktash became Solicitor General in 1956, he was already a prominent leader within the Turkish-Cypriot community and served in numerous leadership capacities in the following decades on behalf of the Turkish-Cypriot community. In 1983, Denktash became the Turkish-Cypriot leader, a position he held until his retirement in 2005.

Spanning his entire political career, Denktash worked tirelessly in support of his Cypriot homeland. He defined his vision of Cyprus as "a place where my grandchildren can grow up free from fear." In addition to Denktash's extensive political career, he was also the author of over 40 books, and was an avid and renowned photographer. During the course of his life, his works were exhibited throughout the world.

I extend my condolences to the Denktash family and I join my Turkish-American friends and constituents in recognizing Rauf Denktash for all of his achievements throughout his lifetime. I know that those who knew and admired him will greatly miss him.

RECOGNIZING MERCY VILLAGE  
APARTMENTS OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mercy Village Apartments, of Joplin, Missouri, which is welcoming its residents home after being damaged in the devastating F-5 tornado of May 22, 2011.

For nearly 30 years, Mercy Housing has been committed to developing affordable, program-enriched housing for low-income families, seniors and people with special needs who lack the economic resources to access quality, safe housing opportunities. To date, Mercy Housing has participated in the development, preservation and financing of more than 40,000 affordable homes and an additional 7,309 homes are in the pre-development, construction or concept phase.

The day of the tornado, residents and staff worked together to get everyone to safety, even carrying wheelchairs down three flights of stairs. Thankfully, no one was hurt. One resident who was especially lucky to survive was 82-year-old Bonnie Betz. When Bonnie was awakened from her nap by the tornado sirens, she immediately started to move downstairs to shelter. The entire wall of the stairwell was torn away from the building by the tornado. She clung to the banister and was lifted off her feet, yet despite her arthritic hands, was able to literally hold on for her life. A structural engineer later said that without the good design and extra structural reinforcement Mercy Housing added when they built Mercy Village in 2005, the story might have a different ending.

I would therefore like to commend Mercy Housing for its hard work and dedication. Be-

cause of them, Joplin seniors can remain in the community they call home.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 103RD  
BIRTHDAY OF MARGARET BONNER

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Margaret Bonner of Quincy, Massachusetts who celebrates her 103rd birthday on February 22nd.

Margaret was born on February 22, 1909 in Great Britain, where she spent her childhood. A concert pianist by training, she graduated from the London College of Music and shortly thereafter immigrated to the United States, arriving just before the crash of the stock market. Margaret first moved to Dorchester, Massachusetts before settling in Quincy in 1975. Always a creative person and an arts enthusiast, she worked as an illustrative artist on greeting cards during the Great Depression.

Throughout her life, Margaret has had a rich and remarkable career. At the end of World War I, she returned to Great Britain to volunteer with the Red Cross as a nurse's aide. Following that, she embarked on a long and accomplished career in the fashion and bridal industry, working as a buyer and manager for Worth of Boston on Boylston Street, among other high-end stores. In this position, Margaret traveled the world, purchasing couture clothes and meeting directly with famous designers from Versace to Halston. It was her love of fashion and the arts that kept her going over the years, and she did not retire until she was 86 years old.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Margaret Bonner on this joyous occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her many more years of health and happiness.

HONORING ALEXIS MONTGOMERY

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Alexis Montgomery. Although young, Ms. Montgomery has shown what can be accomplished through hard work, diligence, and determination.

Alexis Montgomery, the daughter of Donald C. and Burnidene Montgomery was born July 4, 1982, in Monroe, North Carolina. After graduating from South Mecklenburg High School at the age of 17, she enlisted into the United States Navy, and was stationed in LaMaddalena, Italy. After a year, she was re-assigned to Mayport, Florida, for five years where she worked at the base clinic as a Medical Assistant and Lab Technician. She graduated from Sanford Brown Institute in 2003 where she received her certificate in Medical Assisting. After completing her enlistment with the Navy, she gained employment with Quest Diagnostic Laboratory and LabCorp in Jacksonville, Florida.

In 2007, she relocated to Greenville, Mississippi. In 2008, she gained employment at

the Greenville Family Clinic, where she currently works under Dr. Bill Maddox. Along with caring for her patients, she is also the loving mother of three children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Alexis Montgomery for her remarkable dedication and service to the community of Greenville, Mississippi.

HONORING U.S. NAVY VETERAN  
AND PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR  
SYLVESTER PUCCIO

**HON. RICHARD L. HANNA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Sylvester Puccio, a very special veteran and a survivor of Pearl Harbor. Mr. Puccio will soon be awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, at the direction of the Secretary of the Navy.

Mr. Puccio served aboard the *USS West Virginia* during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 as a Shipfitter Third Class. As the Japanese aerial attack engulfed the *West Virginia*, the call to General Quarters was sent, and Mr. Puccio went to his battle station at the same time multiple Japanese torpedoes struck the ship. Mr. Puccio and his fellow sailors, realizing that counter flooding was critical to prevent the *West Virginia* from rolling due to the torpedo damage, rushed to the locker containing the handles to operate the counter flood valves.

The locker was padlocked and the key was on another part of the ship. Mr. Puccio, acting quickly, took a large spool and repeatedly struck at the padlock until it broke free, enabling him and the other sailors to access the handles to begin counter flooding. At this time, the *West Virginia* had listed 28 degrees, and the quick actions of Mr. Puccio and other sailors prevented the ship from further listing and together, they righted her. In the coming days after the day "that would live in infamy," Mr. Puccio returned to the *West Virginia* on fire fighting and salvage detail. He was eventually assigned to the submarine section of Pearl Harbor and from there continued his Navy service in the Pacific Theatre during World War II.

Mr. Puccio returned to Rome, and dedicated his life to his family, his community, and his fellow veterans as an active member of the Central New York Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. Mr. Puccio never sought recognition for himself, only for his fellow veterans and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring Mr. Sylvester "Syl" Puccio, United States Navy, for his service and sacrifice during World War II on behalf of the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF FIRST, FOR  
INSPIRATION AND RECOGNITION  
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**HON. REID J. RIBBLE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an organization called FIRST.