

International Public Charter School. She also established the Council of Latino Organizations here, and together with others, helped establish the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs.

Sonia built Carlos Rosario from a small non-profit teaching English to Latinos, into today's groundbreaking, comprehensive learning center offering support services, from English as a second language to citizenship and career services, to 2,500 residents. Her efforts are now spreading to a new site to be dedicated as the Sonia Gutierrez Campus. For her visionary leadership Mrs. Gutierrez earned the Ana G. Mendez Excellence in Education award and induction into the Washington Women's Hall of Fame, among many other awards for giving thousands of students an opportunity to change their lives.

I now ask the House to recognize Sonia Gutierrez for 40 years of tireless and selfless passion as an educator, organizer and advocate.

A TRIBUTE TO LAURA TIBBS

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 19, 2012*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Laura Tibbs of Alden, Iowa for being awarded the Girl Scout Gold Award.

The Gold Award is the highest award that a high school-aged Girl Scout can earn. This is a prestigious honor as fewer than 6 percent of eligible Girl Scouts attain the Gold Award in a given year.

To earn a Gold Award, a Girl Scout must complete a minimum of 80 hours towards a community project that is both memorable and lasting. For her project, Laura brought attention to the issue of school supplies that are wastefully discarded despite widespread need. The work ethic Laura has shown to earn her Gold Award speaks volumes about her commitment to serving a cause greater than herself and assisting her community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young woman and her supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Laura and her family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating her on obtaining the Gold Award, and I wish her continued success in her future education and career.

HONORING ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE  
CENTENNIAL

**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 19, 2012*

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor a college in my District that is celebrating 100 years of teaching students and instilling in them incredible ethics about service to others.

St. Joseph's College was founded in 1912 by the Portland Regional Community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, with classes

taking place in the Motherhouse in Portland, Maine.

Much has changed in the last hundred years. Today, over a thousand students attend the college. Many live at a beautiful campus overlooking Sebago Lake in Standish, Maine, while many others take classes online—something that would probably be difficult for the Sisters to imagine in 1912.

While the college has successfully seized opportunities to grow and adapt with changing times, its core values are completely intact. Service to others remains a defining characteristic of its culture. St. Joseph's students take part in an impressive number of service projects, including volunteering at health clinics in Guatemala, an active chapter of Habitat for Humanity, and Catherine's Cupboard, a local food pantry run by the college and the Town of Standish.

Another aspect of the school that is close to my heart is the college's commitment to serving healthy, local food to its students. Bon Appetit, the school's food service provider, has demonstrated that locally sourced products can work even for large institutions. Among their pursuits at St. Joseph's are featuring meals with ingredients only from the surrounding area and helping operate a small farm on the campus.

I extend to St. Joseph's College—along with its staff, students and alumni—the warmest congratulations on its first hundred years, and best wishes for a hundred more.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 19, 2012*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Trust for Public Land on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.

In 1972 a group of conservation-minded business professionals took the message of the first Earth Day to heart and saw a unique opportunity to meet the challenge of increasing encroachment on green space and natural areas. Using business sector strategies, this group of finance experts, real estate professionals and attorneys formed a trust to pool their talents and knowledge to conserve and expand the natural environment for the health and enjoyment of the public. The Trust for Public Lands was born.

Initially the Trust for Public Land focused conservation efforts on urban and suburban areas. As success grew, the focus expanded to include working in rural areas. As a result of this hard work and innovation more than 4,250 park and conservation projects throughout the country have been completed, often by fostering public-private partnerships.

During the past four decades, the Trust for Public Lands has developed expertise beyond the development of land trusts, to advising and assisting communities in the passage of conservation focused ballot measures, using GIS technology to better map and identify conservation opportunities, and combating climate change. The Trust for Public Land has developed a legacy of providing legal and philanthropic resources for community-driven conservation initiatives in Minnesota and across the country.

The Trust for Public Land is an invaluable resource to Minnesota and communities in my congressional district through its unique approach to conservation. The work of the dedicated Trust for Public Land staff and volunteers has played a major role in protecting many of the spectacular parks, natural spaces, and protected watersheds which make our state great. I am proud to commend the Trust for Public Land on 40 years of accomplishments and wish them much success in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Trust for Public Land, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TRIBUTE HONORING CAMPUS FIRE  
SAFETY MONTH

**HON. BILL PASCARELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 19, 2012*

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Trust for Public anniversary of Campus Fire Safety Month.

In September 2005, eleven sitting Governors issued the first proclamation recognizing the month of September as Campus Fire Safety Month. Ever since, public officials across the country have continued to champion the cause of campus fire safety.

Since 2005, over 200 proclamations in honor of Campus Fire Safety Month have been issued by Governors, Legislators, and public officials. I am proud to add my voice in recognition of September as Campus Fire Safety Month.

I first became involved in the issue of campus fire safety following a tragic fire at Seton Hall University in my district, in which three students were killed. Since that time, we have made many strides, including the passage of the Campus Fire Safety Right to Know Act, which will ensure that prospective students and their families are provided with the fire safety records, information and statistics of colleges and universities.

However, there is still much work that must be done. Since 2000, 155 students have tragically died in campus-related fires. While the annual number of fire-related deaths has significantly dropped since 2005, nine students still died in possibly preventable fire-related deaths in 2011.

That is why now, more than ever, we must do all that we can to promote fire safety instruction amongst our nation's college campuses.

It is my sincere hope, that college campuses in New Jersey and across the nation will participate in Campus Fire Safety Month activities throughout September. We must do all that we can to keep our nation's students safe and informed. This is also why I introduced the Campus Fire Safety Education Act, to provide universities with grants they can use to develop or implement campus fire safety education strategies. We must do everything in our power to ensure the safety and security of our children when they leave for college.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating