

early part of the 10th Century. During his tenure as king, St. Wenceslaus took a vow of chastity and was devoted to his Christian faith. Killed by his brother, St. Wenceslaus was later canonized as a martyr of the Christian faith.

St. John Nepomucene is one of only two Czech congregations left in the Cleveland Catholic Diocese, along with Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

The Czech Catholics of Greater Cleveland will gather together on September 29th for mass featuring the Most Reverend Bishop Roger W. Gries and will be followed by a celebration dinner and performance by the Hronek Czech Band.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the Czech Catholics of Greater Cleveland on the occasion of their 89th Annual Feast of St. Wenceslaus. I offer my best wishes to the Czech Catholics of Greater Cleveland and all those who attend this joyous celebration.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF MILESTONES AUTISM ORGANIZATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 10th anniversary of Milestones Autism Organization, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families.

Founded in 2003 by parents to promote life-long strategies for success for individuals with autism, Milestones Autism Organization has assisted more than 4,000 individuals throughout the past decade. Milestones trains parents and professionals using research-based techniques in order to improve the level of educational and therapeutic programming available for individuals with autism. Milestones offers parent workshops and training, professional development programs, school team training, consultation services, hosts an annual Autism/Asperger's conference, and has launched a professional network, the Milestones Consortium for Autism Professionals.

As Milestones Autism Organization celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, a special tribute will be given to its founding board members, Chantal Akerib, Bart Bookatz, Carol Lader and Sally H. Wertheim.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing a decade of training and support provided by the Milestones Autism Organization.

A TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND DOCTOR DARAN HERNANDEZ MITCHELL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the Reverend Doctor Daran H. Mitchell, a man dedicated to serving God, his family, and the community. Dr. Mitchell

is the pastor of the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, which I represent.

Dr. Mitchell earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion/Philosophy-Liberal Studies from Bethune-Cookman College, a Master of Divinity degree from Hood Theological Seminary, and the Doctor of Ministry from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, Virginia Union University.

Since his appointment to the First A.M.E. Zion Church pulpit in October 2004, Dr. Mitchell has established a ministry to men, a ministry to women, a liturgical dance ministry, a media ministry, completed over \$850,000 in capital improvements, restored the Historic Clock on its edifice, and is actively creating partnerships with churches and community leaders in the Borough of Brooklyn.

An active member of the community, Dr. Mitchell presently serves as chairman of the Board of Conference Studies for the New York Annual Conference; member of the Board of Trustees of the New York Annual Conference; member, Board of Directors, Harriet Tubman Home; chairman of the Budget Committee, New York Annual Conference; chairman of the Finance Committee for the New York City District, and a member of the Brotherhood Pension Board for the A.M.E. Zion Church.

Dr. Mitchell is married to the Reverend Lorraine Lynn Kennedy-Mitchell and they are the proud parents of a 16 year-old son, Caylen.

A gifted preacher, teacher, motivational speaker, builder, and community activist, Dr. Mitchell has sought to raise the spiritual climate and social consciousness of not only the congregation, but the community in general by becoming active in every aspect of community life. The community of Greensboro, North Carolina is gaining an extraordinary figure that will be greatly missed in Brooklyn.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Reverend Dr. Daran H. Mitchell for his tremendous contributions to his congregants and the community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Reverend Dr. Daran H. Mitchell.

HONORING 53 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE BY THE FEDERATION OF ASIA-PACIFIC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Federation of Asia-Pacific Women's Association (FAWA) for more than 50 years of exemplary service to our community. FAWA has strived to develop mutual cooperation and friendship through the advocacy of cultural ties among Asian and Pacific Islander women in our region since its origins with the General Federation of Women's Clubs and its founding in the Philippines in 1959.

FAWA seeks to improve the lives of members and their communities. Their motto, "Asian Women United for Service" describes their efforts to effect major changes in the status of women in Asia and to work towards a better life for the Asia-Pacific region. FAWA

accomplishes this objective through promoting closer relations and joint efforts among Asians, particularly women, by fostering a mutual appreciation of cultural, moral and socioeconomic values.

As an honorary president of FAWA, I am proud and excited to host this year's convention on Guam. This year's theme, "Empowering Asia-Pacific Women Through Knowledge and Opportunities," is fitting, as this convention brings together women leaders from across the Asia-Pacific region to share experiences and promote the continued growth and preservation of women's roles in the Asia-Pacific region. The conference will address issues affecting women in the modern world, including women and sustainability, women's health issues, and women and education. These sessions offer valuable networking opportunities for participants, and I encourage all attendees to take advantage of this unique group of leaders; to make valuable connections with other empowered women in our community.

I recognize the founders, Minerva G. Laudico and Geronima T. Pecson; this organization has carried on their vision and passion across generations and national boundaries. I am confident that their legacy of service will endure. I commend my fellow Honorary President Cecilia Y. Koo, Honorary Advisor Nancy C. Nee, FAWA President Kristal Koga, FAWA 1st Vice President Charlene Yang, FAWA 2nd Vice President Mei Woo, FAWA 3rd Vice President Jung Sook Kim, Convention Chair Sylvia Crafton, Convention Co-Chairs Nancy Tan and Denise Mendiola-Hertslet, and members of the FAWA Board of Executives and all the organizing members for their efforts in ensuring that this year's conference, like past events, will be a success. I congratulate the Federation of Asia-Pacific Women's Association for their dedication and contributions, and I look forward to the continued growth of this organization for many more years to come.

THE AFFIRMING RELIGIOUS HERITAGE AND FREEDOM IN THE UNITED STATES ACT

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Affirming Religious Heritage and Freedom in the United States Act. This legislation is a simple statement recognizing the importance of religion in the lives of our nation's citizens, the strong role of Judeo-Christian heritage in the development of our nation, and the freedom for all to exercise their religious beliefs in our nation.

Our nation's history is storied with references to religious beliefs and symbols that mark their importance in the development of our nation. Those religious beliefs often inspired our nation's founding fathers, as well as presidents and lawmakers throughout our history, to stand firm in their conviction that this should be a nation of freedom, including freedom of religion.

Recently, we've heard more and more negative news stories about religion in our nation. I ask, what is wrong with faith and exercising

your religious beliefs? When did religion become such a bad thing that people want to delete it from our nation's history? I am discouraged when I see anti-religion groups forming throughout the nation, working hard to remove any mention or symbol of God or religion in our public spaces and resources. These groups claim their work is about the separation of church and state, but the government is not forcing anyone into religion or to pay tithes to any particular religious establishment. Religion, specifically the Judeo-Christian religion, is just simply part of our heritage, and the Constitution says this is a nation with freedom of religion, not freedom from religion.

I introduced this resolution because we are a nation of people with the right to freely exercise our religion and many in our nation are religious. A 2007 PEW survey shows that 92 percent of Americans believe in God. I also introduced this resolution because I believe the religious beliefs of Americans inspire them to do good for others, not harm. For instance, in 2010, \$298.42 billion of charitable contributions were made in the United States and 32 percent, or \$95.88 billion, went to religious organizations according to the National Park Service. From September 2010 to September 2011, 64.3 million people in the United States volunteered and 33.2 percent did so for religious organizations, the highest percentage of all volunteer categories according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The freedom to exercise religious beliefs is vital to our nation's citizens and an important part of our heritage. That's why I am honored to introduce the Affirming Religious Heritage and Freedom in the United States Act.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID A. LINN

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Mr. David A. Linn for the time and energy he has dedicated to the Military Academy Nomination process by serving the constituents of the 19th Congressional District as a member of our Academy Selection Board.

David A. Linn was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on August 8, 1948. In June of 1970, Mr. Linn was commissioned an Ensign in the United States Naval Reserve through Purdue Universities' NROTC Program. Mr. Linn served his country honorably in Vietnam aboard the USS *Virgo* ammunition ship. Later, while still on active duty, Mr. Linn was trained and certified as a terrier missile systems officer by the Department of Defense. He then served aboard the USS *Dahlgren*, a guided missile frigate, and the USS *Dale* of the standing NATO forces in the Atlantic.

After leaving active duty in 1973, Mr. Linn continued to serve as part of the Naval Reserve. During his reserve years, he served on numerous ships, participated in exercises at the Naval War College in Newport Rhode Island, and served on the staff of Commander and Chief of the Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He retired with the rank of Commander.

As a civilian, Mr. Linn married Betty Linn, Publisher of the Sierra Star Newspaper. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Purdue University, a Master's Degree in Business Administration from California State University, Dominguez Hills, and a Juris Doctorate from Pepperdine University.

Mr. Linn has practiced law for the past thirty-seven years and is currently the senior partner at the law firm of Linn Law Offices in Oakhurst, California. He is licensed to practice in California and has also been admitted to the Bar by the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the United States Claims Court, and the United States Supreme Court.

A sense of volunteerism has driven much of Mr. Linn's life. He has served as President of the Oakhurst Community Fund and Oakhurst Community Park Association since 1984. He is a former President of the Oakhurst Sierra Rotary Club, the Eastern Madera County Bar Association, and the Eastern Madera County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Linn has remained politically active throughout his career and in his private life. He has served on many councils, including Congressional Advisory Councils, the Congressional Business Council, and Congressional Service Academy Selection Boards for the past eighteen years. He was the Republican nominee for the 18th Congressional District in 1988; and in 1989, he was the Eastern Madera County Man of the Year. He has been a member of the California Republican State Central Committee for fourteen years and currently is a Madera County Civil Service Commissioner.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring David A. Linn for his outstanding service to his country and community. His expertise as a Naval Officer, strong academic background, and life experiences have made his contributions on the Academy Selection Board for former Representative George Radanovich and myself invaluable. He is a true public servant, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING COLBY COLLEGE ON ITS BICENTENNIAL

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Colby College as it prepares to celebrate its bicentennial in 2013.

Nearly 200 years ago, residents of Kennebec County raised over \$4,000 to secure land for a locally-based theological institution. The petition establishing what was then the Maine Literary and Theological Institution was formally adopted by the Massachusetts Legislature on February 27, 1813, making it the 33rd chartered college in the country. Today, Colby College enrolls over 1,800 students from 46 states and 76 countries. As one of the finest liberal arts colleges in the country, its graduates have gone on to become international business leaders, critically acclaimed writers, noted statesmen, and even members of my Congressional staff.

Throughout its history, Colby College has fostered a culture of social justice at its very core. In 1833, students launched the first college-based anti-slavery society. In 1871, Colby College became the first all-male college in New England to admit women, the first of whom was Mary Caffrey Low, valedictorian of the Class of 1875 and one of the five founding members of the Sigma Kappa sorority. In 1985, students successfully protested for College divestment in South Africa in protest of apartheid. More recently, Colby has made ever increasing strides to attract students with diverse cultural and economic backgrounds, to reduce the college's carbon footprint, and to develop new partnerships with the community.

The College will kick off its bicentennial celebration this October. Special lectures, panel discussions, and festivities will be held throughout the year both on campus, as well as in downtown Waterville. I am pleased to have the opportunity to join the community's celebration of Colby, and I look forward to watching the College continue its growth during the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of Colby College as they celebrate their bicentennial.

CELEBRATING THE 101ST ANNIVERSARY OF DOUBLE TEN DAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Taiwan on the upcoming celebration of the 101st anniversary of "Double Ten Day." Double Ten Day traces its roots to the Wuchang Uprising that occurred on October 10, 1911. The Wuchang Uprising signaled the end of the Qing Dynasty and the start of a democratic movement that we continue to celebrate and recognize. Double Ten Day is a celebration of the birth of democracy and the Republic of China.

I want to especially recognize the people of Taiwan on this important occasion. The strength of the relationship between the people of Taiwan and the people of the United States is strong and this is evidenced by the expansion of the U.S. visa waiver program to include Taiwan. Inclusion of Taiwan in the U.S. visa waiver program is a significant development in the relationship between both countries. This announcement will help to expand business opportunities as well as deepen our mutual appreciation for each other's unique cultures. Exchange of our cultures is clearly evidenced on Guam, which is home to many people of Chinese ancestry. Guam continues to benefit from their cultural contributions to our community and the promotion of trade and economic opportunities. I congratulate the people of Taiwan on the 101st anniversary of Double Ten Day. We celebrate this historic occasion with them and we honor their friendship with the American people.