

the latest firefighting equipment and technology such as thermal cameras, chemical detectors, weather stations, portable radios, TSI Portacount Plus Respirator fit testers, Scott Eagle Imagers, video conference systems, Lifepak AEDs, and personal protective gear.

In April 2006, the Jackson Fire Department sponsored an Urban Search and Rescue class, which enhances their ability to serve the City of Jackson and any other city in times of immediate need. In the summer of 2006, the Jackson Fire Department received 7 new fire trucks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Jackson Fire Department for their dedication to serving the citizens of Jackson, Mississippi.

#### HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF FLOYD WEAVER

##### HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2013*

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the public service of Floyd Weaver.

Floyd Weaver's family first moved to Stockton, CA in 1938 from Phoenix, Arizona. After attending local schools in Stockton, he served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. A proud veteran, he then dedicated his life to the social, educational, and economic advancement of community members in Northern California.

Mr. Weaver retired from the Stockton Unified School District after more than three decades of service as both a teacher and an administrator. Mr. Weaver was the first African American male principal in the Stockton Unified School District.

In addition, he served on the Stockton City Council and was also the first African American to be a two-term vice mayor for the city. In recognition of his hard work on the city council, local commissions, and his political activism, Mr. Weaver was honored with a lifetime achievement award by the Stockton Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 2006.

One of Mr. Weaver's proudest accomplishments was overseeing construction of the Martin Luther King Jr. plaza in downtown Stockton while he was vice mayor. He was also instrumental in changing the name of Charter Way in Stockton to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

As our nation celebrates African American History Month, it is important that we recognize local heroes who helped shape our communities and states for the better. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the public service contributions of Floyd Weaver.

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM D. LAUNDY

##### HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2013*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 43-year career and service of a con-

stituent and my friend, William D. Laundry of the State University of New York in Plattsburgh, New York, and to congratulate him on his retirement. Mr. Laundry has served countless numbers of New York's college students in a variety of different roles at SUNY Plattsburgh, ultimately retiring as the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

For more than four decades, Mr. Laundry has devoted his life to ensuring students at SUNY Plattsburgh gain an education that prepares them to lead our society. As Director of Residence Life, Director of Campus Life, Dean of Students, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Mr. Laundry has served as a valuable counselor and confidant to his students, guiding them through the most formative parts of college and helping them understand the lessons life teaches outside the classroom.

Mr. Laundry's influence in the Plattsburgh community spills beyond the border of the SUNY Plattsburgh campus. Whether he was officiating an alumni couple's wedding, helping a recent graduate land her dream job, or connecting an eager student to a new perspective in his service-learning experience, William Laundry has helped make our community a more vibrant and better place.

I have known Mr. Laundry personally for more than 20 years. He deserves recognition for his outstanding character and warm sense of humor, and most of all for his consistent dedication to the students, alumni, and the university, the spirit of which is etched deeply in his soul.

I wish Mr. Laundry well in what I am sure will be an active retirement. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him and wishing him success in his next endeavors.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO LINDA LEVINE

##### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2013*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Linda Levine, on her more than 30 years of outstanding service to our nation. Ms. Levine, who is retiring on February 28, 2013, has served as a Specialist in Labor Economics for the Congressional Research Service (CRS). She is the model of a dedicated public servant.

Linda received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University and a Master's degree in Labor and Industrial Relations from Michigan State University.

Linda began her career in federal service in 1976 as a labor economist at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, followed by her service as a research economist at the Communications Workers of America. Linda joined the Congressional Research Service in 1982, where she has worked for more than 30 years. During that time, Linda assisted Congress with dozens of reports, countless memoranda, and numerous consultations with Congressional staff and Members of Congress. Linda also served as Section Head of the Labor and Industries Section at CRS.

Linda's first report at CRS, entitled "The Impact of Defense Spending on Employment,"

was as relevant then as it is today. Her last report traces changes in the real value of the minimum wage. In between, Linda drafted analyses on older workers, younger workers, women in the labor force, pay equity, unemployment, job growth, and inequality. She also wrote reports on leave benefits, worker safety, green jobs, offshoring, the chained CPI, immigration policy, and many other subjects.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Linda Levine and in extending our nation's gratitude to her for her honorable and productive service. I know that we will all miss her significant contributions to the important labor economic issues of our country and wish her well in the years to come.

#### SCHOOL SAFETY

##### HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2013*

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the important issue of school safety. The tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut shocked and saddened us all. We must learn from this deplorable incident so our children and educators know their school is the one place they should feel the safest.

As we grapple with Newtown and other school tragedies, we have to discuss how these incidents could have been prevented and what steps should be taken to prevent something like Sandy Hook from happening again. As a former federal law enforcement agent, I recognize that our schools must be safe and secure, and I welcome this important discussion. I strongly believe that we must examine ways we can protect our schools through responsible security protocols, barriers, and training.

However, I must share my objection to the idea of allowing educators to carry weapons in schools. As a supporter of the Second Amendment, my objection has nothing to do with gun rights. I object to this proposal because our schools are—and must remain—a safe haven for teaching and learning. School administrators, teachers, counselors, nurses and the many other support professionals all have unique roles and responsibilities for ensuring a productive learning environment for children in their schools. We should not diminish the importance of allowing teachers to teach, principals to lead, and counselors and nurses to care by also asking that they serve as armed security.

#### HONORING ANNIE LARRY

##### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous woman of the community, Mrs. Annie Larry.

Annie Larry, a lifelong resident of Rolling Fork, MS was born August 4, 1962. She is the sixth of ten children born to the late Mariah and Herman Larry. Annie has been married to Nathaniel Pinkins for twenty-six years, and they have four children.

Mrs. Larry graduated from Rolling Fork High School in 1981. She went on to receive an Associate Degree in 1983 from Mississippi Delta Community College. In 2009 Annie became the first female volunteer firewoman in Rolling Fork, MS.

Annie is the Founder and President of the gospel group, Southern Truth, of which she started 17 years ago. She is a member of House of Peace, under the leadership of Apostle Linda Sweezer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Annie Larry for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the community she grew up in.

IN HONOR OF THE PATRIOT CLUB  
OF CHERRY HILL HIGH SCHOOL  
WEST

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2013*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Patriot Club of Cherry Hill High School West. The Patriot Club focuses on bringing together students and members of the local community to honor current and former servicemembers through their Veteran's Day and Donations for Soldiers programs.

The Veteran's Day program gives veterans the ability to share their service experiences at schools throughout Cherry Hill. Each November, members of the Patriot Club recruit veterans to take part in the program that gives students the opportunity to gain a better understanding and appreciation for the sacrifices made by military personnel.

The two-month-long Donations for Soldiers program gathers monetary and supply donations from students, parents, teachers, administrators and local businesses of Cherry Hill to create care packages that are distributed to soldiers currently serving in Afghanistan and other parts of the world.

In 2012, the Patriot Club recruited five schools to participate in the program, raising more than \$4,000 and enough supplies to send 90 care packages overseas. This year, the club will be expanding the program to include all 18 schools in the Cherry Hill district. The goal is to raise \$10,000 and to send 200 care packages to soldiers abroad.

For the past two years, Ray Horner has served as President of the Patriot Club. Senior Sean Bivins and Junior President-Elect Eytan Gittler have served as Co-Vice Presidents. Officers include Seniors Chris Blandy, Kevin Mullarkey, Sean Mullarkey and Conor McFadden. Freshman Rebecca Horner also volunteers with the club.

NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES  
AWARENESS WEEK 2013

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2013*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Invasive Species Awareness Week, which will be observed this year from March 3 through March 8.

Invasive plant and animal species are dangerous to regional ecosystems and carry with them serious negative effects on our economy. Already, they are a threat to 50% of federally endangered or threatened native species. From reduced crop yields to declines in fish populations, the consequences of invasive species are significant. In the agriculture sector alone, they have led to an annual loss in productivity worth \$7.4 billion. Researchers estimate that invasive species cost the United States more than \$130 billion in damages every year.

National Invasive Species Awareness Week, which is sponsored by the Weed Sciences Society of America, Dow AgroSciences, the National Network of Invasive Plant Centers, the Entomological Society of America, APS, and the Wildlife Habitat Council, helps raise public consciousness about this important issue. It features workshops and panel discussions at the Capitol and around Washington with experts in invasive species containment and prevention methods—as well as educational programs for students and families.

National Invasive Species Awareness Week also highlights the work of local, state, federal, and tribal agencies as well as efforts by private organizations and individuals to combat invasive species and preserve local and regional ecosystems.

In the State of Maryland, we have forged strong partnerships to try to address the problems posed by invasive species in our state. The Maryland Invasive Species Council is comprised of concerned scientists, land managers, business people and citizens. It works closely with our state agencies and the United States Department of Agriculture, particularly the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, the United States Department of the Interior, and the University of Maryland. Committed partnerships such as these are an important part of focusing attention and sharing limited resources in an effort to reduce the spread of invasive plants, animals, and diseases.

I am proud to support the goals of National Invasive Species Awareness Week, and I join with many of my colleagues in Congress in wishing its sponsors and participants a successful program.

RECOGNIZING THE SHEETZ  
FAMILY

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2013*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sheetz Family which owns a convenience store chain, based in Altoona, Pennsylvania. For more than 60 years, the Sheetz name has represented entrepreneurship, vision and innovation. And while consumer needs and lifestyles have changed over the years, one thing that has remained constant is the Sheetz Family's commitment to its customers, employees and the communities in which they operate.

Sheetz, Inc. was founded by Bob Sheetz in 1952 when he purchased one of his father's five dairy stores in Altoona. In 1961, Bob hired his brother Steve to work part-time at the store. It was not until 1963 that the second store was opened under the name "Sheetz

Kwik Shopper." In 1972, the brothers literally doubled the size of the company, expanding from seven to fourteen stores. One year later, Sheetz added gasoline pumps and introduced self-serve gasoline to Central Pennsylvania.

By 1983, Bob and Steve had opened 100 stores. The following year, Bob retired and handed over the leadership of the company to his trusted business partner and brother Steve. In 1995, Stan Sheetz, Bob's son, became president and Steve assumed the position of Chairman of the Board. To this day, Sheetz maintains a unique and successful family business with five family members serving on the Executive Committee.

Since 1952, Sheetz has grown from a small dairy/deli in Altoona, PA, to one of the fastest growing family-owned convenience stores in the world, with more than 437 locations across six states—Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio and North Carolina—and more than 14,500 employees. The company manufactures its own unique Sheetz brand food products; it consistently is listed as one of the "Best Places to Work" in state surveys; and it donates hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to programs like the Special Olympics and Make-A-Wish Foundation through its corporate Sheetz Family Charities organization.

The Sheetz Family will be honored February 23, 2013 with the Respected Citizen Award by the Central Blair Recreation Commission and the Booker T. Washington Revitalization Committee in Altoona. I congratulate the family on this recognition, applaud them for their extraordinary contributions to the community and thank them for the positive impact their company has on the economy.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF  
THE MONSIGNOR FARRELL DIVI-  
SION #2 CHAPTER OF THE AN-  
CIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2013*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, Saturday, February 23, marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Monsignor Farrell Division #2 Chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, located in Carbondale, PA. I rise to congratulate this important Chapter of the Order on this high accomplishment. I also congratulate four founding members of the organization for their foresight in the formation of this Chapter and for their continued support of the work of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. In 1973, Mr. Jerome Brennan, the Honorable James Munley, Attorney Robert Munley and William Pryle founded this Chapter and dedicated it to charitable works, the preservation of Irish culture in America, and the education of the next generation of students about the contributions of Irish immigrants throughout our nation's history.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is America's oldest Irish Catholic Fraternal Organization; it was founded concurrently in the coal-mining regions of Pennsylvania and in New York City in May 1836. The organization provided invaluable support to the vast influx of Irish immigrants fleeing the Great Hunger in