

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