

has served as vital tool in peacekeeping efforts around the world. Our long, shared history of democracy and peace is an ideal that should be cherished and honored.

Just as my grandparents ventured to the United States from Italy, the first Greek Americans came here to find a better life for themselves and their families. Their descendants have risen to the highest levels of American culture, government and society. Greek Independence Day is a day to honor the contributions, traditions, and successes of our fellow Greek Americans and our Greek friends abroad.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, and I am truly proud to recognize and commemorate Greek Independence Day alongside the vibrant Greek community in Northern New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Greek Americans, and all of our Greek friends around the world, in recognizing the 192nd Greek Independence Day.

HONORING SANJEEV "SONNY"
BHAGOWALIA

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sonny Bhagowalia, Hawaii's State Chief Information Officer. Sonny recently received the prestigious "Federal 100 Award" from Federal Computer Week magazine.

This award honors the top leaders in industry, academia and government who have had a significant impact on the government information systems community. This year, Hawaii is the only state government to be recognized for its proactive efforts to maximize the use of technology.

Since 2011, Sonny has served as Hawaii's first CIO, planning and implementing the state's IT transformation, and overseeing its new Office of Information Management and Technology. He has repeatedly been honored for his contributions to IT advancement in Hawaii, including two previous Federal 100 Awards.

Sonny's efforts to modernize and invest in Hawaii's technology infrastructure have laid the groundwork for more effective government service and business processes.

I extend my congratulations to Sonny, his very talented team, and the State of Hawaii for this much-deserved honor.

EAU CLAIRE MEMORIAL HIGH
SCHOOL WISCONSIN INTER-
SCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIA-
TION STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Eau Claire Memorial High School boy's hockey team, the Old Abes, on winning the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association State Championship. Their 6-1 victory over Verona on March 2, 2013 was a true display of sportsmanship and teamwork.

After starting 0-2-1 and finishing second to Hudson in the Big Rivers Conference, the team faced a seemingly impossible road to the State Championship. But the Old Abes did not let those set-backs deter them from their dream of being the second team in history to bring home the State Championship for Eau Claire Memorial High School.

With the loss of two key players before the season started, Coach Mike Schwengler and senior team captain Brady Bollinger worked hard to build the young team into a strong, cohesive unit. After reassigning some key players to new positions, the puzzle pieces started to fit together, and the Old Abes won 20 of their last 23 games.

Nonetheless, heading into the championship off of an incredible winning streak, the team still found themselves down 1-0 late in the first period. The team banded together and rose to the challenge. Bollinger answered Verona's goal less than a minute later to tie the score, and the rest of the team stepped up to follow his lead. Jacob Bresser scored two goals, Charley Graaskamp added a goal and two assists, and Dylan Ross added a goal and an assist. Finally, Austin Phippen had the sixth and final goal, while Alex Geving, the goalie, finished the game with a phenomenal 26 saves.

This momentous win at the end of a difficult season exemplifies the dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship of each and every member of the Eau Claire Memorial High School boy's hockey team. Furthermore, this victory shines as a proud achievement for the Eau Claire community. Once again, I want to congratulate the Eau Claire Memorial High School boy's hockey team on their incredible season and hard-earned title as Wisconsin State Champions.

RECOGNIZING ELIE WIESEL

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter a statement into the RECORD on behalf of my constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman. Rabbi Zoberman is the Founding Rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He is also the president of the Hampton Roads Board of Rabbis and Cantors. Rabbi Zoberman asked me to enter the following remarks into the RECORD recognizing Elie Wiesel on the occasion of Yom Hashoah, the 65th Anniversary of the State of Israel, and the 20th anniversary of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Rabbi Zoberman's statement follows:

Elie Wiesel, the most distinguished representative of the Holocaust survivors' generation, has risen from Auschwitz's hell which he entered at age fifteen, to become the world's witness to the human condition and humanity's prophetic voice of both sacred remembrance and chastising warning. He even admits to making enemies because of his steadfast stance against trivializing Auschwitz, protectively defining the Holocaust as "the Event."

The 1986 Nobel Peace Laureate—he deserves the literature prize too—and Founding Chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, who as earned our nation's

greatest honors along with foreign high ones, enjoys a special relationship with President Obama and is presently collaborating on a joint literary project. In the latest book of this prolific author, *Open Heart*, Wiesel opens his aching and grateful heart to us following the watershed impact of his open heart surgery on June 16, 2011, at age 82. He utilizes this trying medical and life-changing ordeal to teach us about life's demanding trials and transitions, courageously facing his own mortality at his "greatest pain and darkest anguish."

This master teacher who is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University is asking challenging questions: How well has he fulfilled his obligation as a survivor with a consecrated mission to tell a tale of woes without despairing of the Creator nor of a blemished creation, wrestling with a God who deprived him of so much but also blessed him beyond measure? Having contributed immeasurably toward a sane and sacred world, ever standing guard, Wiesel nonetheless doubts if he has done all he could and should have in his struggle against evil. He and fellow survivors believed that the world would change for the better, never allowing for genocides again, and how painful it must be for heart-broken Wiesel to conclude, "The fact is, the world has learned nothing."

May Wiesel fulfill his heart's fondest desire to live to witness the B'nai Mitzvah celebrations of his beloved grandchildren Elijah and Shira, the children of son Elisha who is named for Wiesel's father Shlomo who perished so close to liberation. May he do so along with his wife Marion, faithful soulmate and professional helpmate, herself a survivor from Vienna, Austria. Her brainchild is Beit Tzipora in Israel, the centers to enrich Ethiopian children, named for Wiesel's precious little sister whom he saw with their mother for the last time upon the arrival in Auschwitz. Reading Wiesel's transforming account a few days following the multiple tragedies at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., the following line resonates with painfully felt relevance, "We must choose between the violence of adults and the smiles of children, between the ugliness of hate and the will to oppose it."

The 20th Anniversary of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, with which Wiesel has been so intimately connected, is testimony to his vision to ensure in the face of Holocaust deniers and the ravages of time's forgetfulness that the indispensable facts and essential lessons of the Holocaust will endure for the sake of humanity. The museum has already exposed millions of Americans and other visitors in our nation's capital to its sacred work, shedding light on history's darkest chapter. I'm ever grateful to this U.S. sponsored museum as a son and grandson of Polish Holocaust survivors with heavy family losses in Zamosc, Poland, and Sarny, Ukraine. I was born in Kazakhstan on November 12, 1945 and spent my early childhood in Germany's American zone of the Wetzlar Displaced Persons Camp, before finding refuge and home with my family and most of the survivors in the reborn State of Israel now celebrating its 65th proud anniversary. Wiesel reportedly was invited in the past to be Israel's president.

Israel's accomplishments in all fields of endeavor are astonishing given its humble beginnings and ever trying circumstances. This vibrant democratic oasis and America's trusted ally in a mutually beneficial bond more significant than ever, is surrounded by a wide wilderness and exposed to substantial threats following the "Arab Spring" with its, so far, destabilizing Islamist victory. It is truly an inspiring expression of the Jewish

spirit and the human saga. The vast human tragedy in Syria continues unabated with the international community failing to stop it, while Iran's menacing shadow looms large. May the Middle East and the entire world where the Jewish people first proclaimed an enlightened agenda for all, yet be transformed, with the United States' critical role, in the spirit of eternal Shalom.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BE-
LOVED REPRESENTATIVE, CLAY
FORD, JR.**

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Northwest Florida's beloved Representative Clay Ford, Jr., who passed away on March 18, 2013 after a courageous battle with cancer. Throughout his long and distinguished career in the United States Army and public service, Representative Ford served as a mentor and an inspiration to countless individuals. All those who have been blessed by his presence mourn the loss of a great man and unparalleled public servant.

Representative Ford, an Arkansas native, studied at the University of Arkansas, where he received his Bachelor's in Finance as well as his Juris Doctorate. He continued his education at Shippensburg University, where obtained his Master's in Public Administration. He married Carol Ann DeBusk Ford, of Little Rock Arkansas, and together they raised three sons, David, Doug, and Clay.

Representative Ford served proudly for more than 30 years in the United States Army as an infantry officer rising from the rank of Private to retire as Colonel in 1988. During his faithful years of service to our nation's Armed Forces, he filled important roles in both active, reserve, and the National Guard components of the Army. He served our country with honor and distinction, and he helped to protect the freedoms we all enjoy today. His many accomplishments during service include a NRA national record for the high power rifle competition.

In addition to his dedicated service to the Armed Forces, Representative Ford will be remembered for his leadership and contributions as a dedicated public servant. Before settling in Northwest Florida, he served his native state of Arkansas as a Representative of the Arkansas State Legislature from 1975–1976. In 1990 he was elected to the Gulf Breeze City Council in Florida, where he served until his election to the Florida House of Representatives in 2007. Representative Ford was widely respected by those who knew him. He was a man of conviction and compassion.

Aside from his leadership in the Florida House of Representatives, he was involved in a myriad of civic and veterans service organizations, including the Gulf Breeze Methodist Church, Gulf Breeze Rotary Club, Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, Gulf Breeze City Council, Florida League of Cities—where he served as president from 2004–2005, National Rifle Association, American Legion, and Military Officers Association of America.

Throughout his life, Representative Ford served his nation and community with the utmost integrity and humility. To some, he will be remembered as a dedicated public official with an unwavering commitment to serving his community. To others, he will be remembered as a patriot who served our nation with honor and distinction. To his family and friends, he will most fondly be remembered as a man of faith and a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. His contributions to Northwest Florida, Arkansas, and our nation were truly exceptional and his legacy will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life of Clay Ford, Jr. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our sincerest condolences and our prayers go out to his wife, Carol; sons, David, Doug, and Clay; eight grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and the entire Ford family. He will truly be missed by all.

**HONORING OFFICER PIERCE'S
RETIREMENT**

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to honor Detective Bob Pierce for his long and distinguished career in law enforcement.

On March 28th, Detective Pierce will celebrate his retirement from Cobb County Police Department after over 40-years of dutiful service to Georgians.

While he currently works for the Cobb County Police Department's Internal Affairs Division selecting new officers, he's served Georgia communities in many capacities. Since March of 1972, Pierce has worked in uniformed patrol, narcotics, intelligence, burglary, homicide, and corrections.

In 2012, the Cobb Chamber of Commerce awarded him the Distinguished Achievement Award in recognition of service and performance that have exceeded the call of duty. Detective Pierce has played an invaluable leadership role in the community and among his peers for decades. His service will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Cobb County, my deepest thanks to Detective Pierce for devoting his life to upholding the law and to the protection of Georgia citizens. I wish him a happy—and well-deserved—retirement from public service.

**S. WILLIAM CLARK, III, MD—OUT-
STANDING ADVOCATE AWARD
RECIPIENT**

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and pride that I ask all members of the House to recognize a fellow physician and Georgian, S. William Clark, III,

M.D., who has received the American Academy of Ophthalmology's 2012 Outstanding Advocate Award. This honor is bestowed upon Academy members who participate in advocacy-related efforts at the state or federal level. Recipients perform advocacy functions in their capacity as ophthalmologists and demonstrate a pattern of supporting and improving the profession of medicine over a period of years.

Dr. Bill Clark, whom I have had the privilege of knowing for nearly 30 years, is a fitting recipient of this honor. As a general ophthalmologist in Waycross, Georgia, Dr. Clark has long been a committed advocate for ophthalmology, and medicine in general, since before completing his fellowship in 1984. A second-generation ophthalmologist, he learned the importance of being an effective proponent for quality health care from his revered father. With great concern for patients and respect for the principles of the healing arts, he has shared his passion with generations of new physicians.

Dr. Clark is a Past President and Board member of the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) and has served as Vice President and Academy Councilor representing the Georgia Society of Ophthalmology (GSO). Since 1988, he has served in the American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates, representing the AMA Young Physicians Section, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, and Medical Association of Georgia. He currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Georgia AMA Delegation.

For his commitment and devotion to physicians and patients on the state and federal level, I am so very pleased to take this opportunity to recognize my friend, Dr. Bill Clark, and congratulate him on the occasion of his receiving the American Academy of Ophthalmology's 2012 Outstanding Advocate Award.

JAIR SALAZAR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jair Salazar for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jair Salazar is an 11th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jair Salazar is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jair Salazar for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.