

year, John Spaar will lead it in the early stages of this plan. He will also continue to direct the association's important work of monitoring legislation in Jefferson City.

Mr. Speaker, John Spaar currently serves as the 1st Vice President of the Missouri Press Association. I am sure the Members of the House will join me in thanking him for his contributions to the field of journalism and congratulating him on his selection as the next president of the association.

IN RECOGNITION OF PHILIP CHRISTOPHER AND CARYN SCHWAB ON THE EVENING OF THE CHARLES J. VALLONE SCHOLARSHIP DINNER DANCE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Philip Christopher and Caryn Schwab, who will be honored at the 2004 Charles J. Vallone Scholarship Dinner Dance. For the past seven decades, the Charles J. Vallone Scholarship Fund has helped deserving young people from the Astoria community attend the college of their choice. Additionally, each year, the Scholarship Fund acknowledges community members who have made outstanding contributions to the public good.

This year's honorees, Philip Christopher and Caryn Schwab, certainly deserve our appreciation. Ms. Schwab, the Executive Director of the Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens, has been a tireless and effective advocate for the health care priorities of New York residents for more than twenty years. During her distinguished career, Ms. Schwab has served as Health Care Advisor to New York City Mayor Ed Koch and as Vice President of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. Under her direction, the Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens has demonstrated its commitment to community service. Ms. Schwab has presided over the expansion and modernization of Mount Sinai's emergency room and the creation of its new endoscopy and mammography facilities; additionally, during her tenure, the Hospital has greatly expanded its inpatient and outpatient services to those in need.

The Scholarship Fund's second honoree, Philip Christopher, is a philanthropist and champion of democracy and human rights. Mr. Christopher is the CEO of Audiovox Communications Corporation. Under his leadership, Audiovox has become a leader in the telecommunications industry.

Mr. Christopher, a native of Cyprus, immigrated to the United States when he was ten years old. Following the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, his ancestral home and property were confiscated by the Turkish Army. This tragedy inspired Mr. Christopher to become a passionate advocate for human rights. As President of both the Pancyprian Association of America and the International Coordinating Committee for Justice for Cyprus, Mr. Christopher has used most of his free time to fight for the liberation of his homeland. Additionally, Mr. Christopher serves on the Board of Directors of the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association and is a member of the Board of Directors of the New York

Hospital Medical Center of Queens, where he helped found the Kyrenia Cardiovascular Center.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my distinguished colleagues rise and pay tribute to the Charles J. Vallone Scholarship Fund and its honorees, Caryn Schwab and Philip Christopher. Their many accomplishments are a reflection of the vibrant and thriving community they so faithfully serve.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KEN ARNOLD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Ken Arnold and thank him for his commitment to serving the people of Colorado for eight years in the Colorado General Assembly as a State Senator. His dedication and tireless efforts have done much to ensure a promising future for all Coloradoans. As Ken celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind a terrific legacy of commitment to the people of Colorado and the Colorado General Assembly.

Upon his retirement from the Colorado State Patrol as a major, Ken still felt he could serve his community, and he successfully ran for the State senate seat for District 23 in 1996. While serving the people of Adams, Broomfield and Weld counties, Ken has focused on education reform, transportation concerns, and criminal justice issues. For this current term, he sits as chairman for the Education Committee, and is a member of the Finance, Judiciary, and Legislative Council Committees. For his excellent record in the General Assembly, he has been named Guardian of Small Business by the NFIB in 1999 and 2000, and recognized by the CACI as their Legislator of the Year in 2000.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that Ken Arnold is a person who possesses dedication and commitment to his life long pursuit of public service. Ken's selfless dedication to his community and the State of Colorado has helped ensure a promising future for our great country, and it is my privilege to recognize him today before this body of Congress and this Nation. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Bill here today, and wish him and his wife Marilyn all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD BECKER JR.

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Becker, Jr. for being honored by the Boyertown Area Times and the Boyertown Jaycees as the Outstanding Firefighter and Emergency Management Services Person of the Year in Boyertown, Pennsylvania.

Richard Becker has been a volunteer at the Friendship Hook and Ladder Fire Company and the Boyertown Lions Community Ambu-

lance Company since he was 16 years old. Now at 42, Richard Becker is being recognized for 25 years of service to the Boyertown area community.

Richard Becker currently serves as the Assistant Financial Secretary at the Friendship Hook and Ladder Fire Company, in addition to his full-time job as a computer programmer in Conshohocken. Richard is also attending Lehigh Valley Paramedic School and will graduate in December upon completion of 1,500 hours of school and practical work.

The Boyertown community has benefited greatly from Richard Becker's service. He provides learning experiences for the children in the community during Fire Prevention Week when he allows the children to come to the fire house and learn the essentials of fire safety. The students are also given the opportunity to learn about the different kinds of equipment used by firefighters during an emergency. Richard feels that Fire Prevention Week is a way to encourage future emergency services volunteers with younger members of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Richard Becker for his many years of exemplary service to the Boyertown Community.

U.S. COMMISSION ON OCEAN POLICY REPORT: "EVERYTHING OCEANS"

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, today marks a milestone for our oceans and for the way we view them. It has been more than 30 years since we, as a Nation, have evaluated our relationship with the sea. This morning, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy released its Preliminary Report—a comprehensive consideration of "everything oceans," including governance structure, stewardship and education, living resources, science needs, and many other topics.

The Commission was mandated by the Oceans Act of 2000, legislation on which I am an original cosponsor and which is based on bills that I initially introduced in 1997 and 1999. In the Oceans Act we gave the Commissioners an enormous task and today I want to recognize the efforts of the 16 Commissioners, 26 Advisors, and countless staff who helped to create such a comprehensive report. I am sure that the Commission's excitement over the Report's release equals the thrill felt by those of us who love and care deeply about the oceans.

The U.S. Commission Report details, in over 400 pages, the appalling state of our oceans governance and embarrassing record of protecting ocean resources. While we have many crises—at home and abroad—that require our immediate attention, we cannot overlook the fact that our oceans are in a state of crisis, too. It is my sincere hope that both Members of Congress and the Bush Administration will read the U.S. Commission's Report and realize that our oceans need attention—now—and that the country is looking to us—their leaders—to act.

We all depend on our oceans and coasts, from the person who lives off the water to the

person who visits once in a lifetime. The oceans provide food, jobs, vacation spots, scientific knowledge, and opportunities for reflection. Despite our inability to measure the many non-market values associated with our oceans and coasts, we are able to quantify some of the benefits they provide. For example, over a trillion dollars is added to our economy each year by ocean and coastal economies. I trust that we can all agree that this is a huge contribution; a contribution that must be protected so the returns keep coming.

Protection of our oceans will require a change of course. Unfortunately, all too often we take our oceans for granted: We underestimate their value and we ignore the negative consequences human-related activities can have on them. Our oceans represent the largest public trust resource in the U.S. and cover an area nearly one and a half times the size of the continental United States. Americans expect the Government to safeguard this vast resource and I hope that the Report just released will be the impetus for us to actually begin to do so.

Simply put, our current ocean and coastal management system, created over thirty years ago, is archaic and incompatible with new knowledge about how the oceans and coastal waters function as a whole. Our policies are fragmented, both institutionally and geographically. For example, Mr. Speaker, today we find ourselves with over ten federal departments involved in the implementation of more than 130 ocean-related statutes. It is time to reconsider this incoherent and often times incompatible management situation and bring order to our ocean governance structure. The U.S. Commission's Report offers some guidance on how to do just this.

One of the biggest advances in our understanding of oceans to occur since our last national review of ocean policy is that the natural world functions as ecosystems, with each species intricately connected to the other parts that make up the whole. The U.S. Commission's Report, as well as the independent Pew Oceans Commission Report released last June, clearly states that we must adopt a new policy framework that is based on the concept of "the whole," an ecosystem-based approach rather than one based on political boundaries. This approach will not be as easy or straight forward as our previous approaches, but we must dedicate ourselves to making it a reality. With a comprehensive national ocean policy explicitly written to maintain healthy ocean ecosystems, our oceans will be a bountiful resource in which we can all take pride.

The Report released this morning also stresses the importance of instilling a new ecosystem-based stewardship ethic. Involved in instilling this ethic is increasing ocean-related education for all Americans at all levels, from first-graders learning how to read to graduate students investigating challenging scientific processes. The U.S. Commission details suggestions on how we can instill a new stewardship ethic by emphasizing and investing in greater marine science education. I look forward to learning more about their recommendations.

The Report released today is, technically, a Preliminary Report. It is being sent to the Governors for their comments. This comment period lasts until May 21, 2004. I sincerely hope that all states will take this opportunity to acknowledge that the oceans provide value for

every American, whether intrinsic worth or direct economic benefit, and provide the Commission with input before the comment period ends. Despite historic and geographic patterns suggesting otherwise, every state has a role to play in the management of our oceans.

It is up to each of us to not let this unprecedented opportunity pass us by. With the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and The Pew Oceans Commission Reports in the last year, the Bush Administration has a prime opportunity to take the steps necessary to instill a new ocean ethic in our government. Action by this Administration could very well save our largest public trust. The time for leadership is now. I am dedicated to providing it in Congress, with the help of my fellow Oceans Caucus co-chairs, and I hope the President will provide it in the White House.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close with a quote from the Report that encapsulates my thoughts on this historic day:

"The responsibility of our generation is to reclaim and renew the oceans for ourselves, for our children, and—if we do the job right—for those whose footprints will mark the sands of beaches from Maine to Hawaii long after ours have washed away."

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to dedicate themselves to shaping a better future for our oceans.

CONGRATULATING CAROL L.
RUPPRECHT ON WINNING THE
2004 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY
BROADCAST SCRIPTWRITING
CONTEST

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to stand before you today to recognize the achievements of a fine Westfield High School student, Carol Rupprecht, of Carmel, Indiana. Ms. Rupprecht—sponsored by VFW Post 10207 in Westfield, IN—has been named a winner in the 2004 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the Department of Connecticut and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct a Voice of Democracy audio and essay competition designed to give high school students the opportunity to voice their opinion on their responsibility to our country. This year, more than 80,000 secondary school students participated in this contest competing for 59 national scholarships. The contest theme for this year was "My Commitment to America's Future."

I am respectfully requesting that Ms. Rupprecht's winning essay, entitled "My Commitment to America's Future," be submitted to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for my colleagues' review.

We're always talking about the future. Our guidance counselors try to prepare us for it; stockbrokers try to predict it; scientists discuss their hopes and ideas for it.

But it inevitably ends up that we cannot know and pencil in every detail of what will happen in days to come. But we can influence the future through what we do in the present

and what we commit to do in the future. A commitment is not just a promise in a valiant speech or a fleeting charitable intention. A commitment is a set of actions that follow up on one's intentions.

When September 11th recharged our devotion to America, we began to exhibit this renewed commitment by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance more frequently at school. We have recited it from memory since we were in elementary school, but this renewal of tradition got me thinking. What exactly am I promising? Am I only pledging to be loyal to this country, or does it entail more than that? To me, it does.

In order to outline all that my pledge of allegiance involves, I have created the acronym PLEDGE: Protect, Lead, Education, Dedicate, Give, and Elect. This will ensure that I never forget what I owe America.

The first letter of PLEDGE is "P." I will protect the ideals of America—the values that make our country stand out from the rest. The determination to protect these ideals was epitomized in the hearts of the veterans such as those who will forever be remembered at the Korean Memorial in Washington D.C. As I passed the silent statues of these men forever frozen in their quest for freedom, I knew that they had made the ultimate commitment to the preservation of America and its values. They were assigned a duty and didn't back down. The valor and selflessness that these soldiers demonstrated are qualities I should strive to imitate.

The second letter of PLEDGE is "L." I will lead my fellow Americans, especially the youth of America, and I will encourage them to follow the examples of our forefathers, our war veterans, and of past and present patriots. I, too, will endeavor to set an example worth following.

The next letter in PLEDGE is "E." I will educate myself on our nation's history and the sacrifices of veterans who enabled us to have a history. I will then be able to share what I learn with others.

The fourth letter, "D," stands for "dedicate." I will dedicate my time, energy, and talents to making the most of the opportunities America has given to me. I will study hard; I will work hard. I won't let my dreams become wilted flowers that could have thrived. Instead, I'll sow discipline, determination, and faith and cultivate my field of dreams.

The letter "G" in PLEDGE stands for "give." I will give my services to the community and my prayers for the people of America, especially its leaders. As author Carolyn Simpson said in her book *The Value of Patriotism*, "Patriotism boils down essentially to one thing: giving something back to your community." I, too, believe that one of the best ways to show a love for one's country is to show love for its people.

The final letter in PLEDGE, "E," stands for "elect." When I reach the voting age, I will ensure that my voice is heard by electing government officials. My vote will have an effect on America's future, in the same way that my actions today will affect America's future.

We, the youth of America, are its future. The veterans who went before us fought and sacrificed to secure our freedom, and we are now reaping the benefits of what they sowed. Let's do the same not only for our own generation but also for those that follow. Let's make a PLEDGE to Protect, Lead, Educate, Dedicate, Give, and Elect.