

allies. If we truly want to help protect important allies like Israel, let's develop and share with them defensive systems that will work effectively, reliably, and consistently. The history of this program has shown me that simply providing more funds will not accomplish that goal.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER EDWIN
LEAHY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of enthusiasm that I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to offer heartfelt congratulations to Father Edwin Leahy—Father Ed—as he receives an honorary degree from Rutgers-Newark. Father Ed will also serve as the commencement speaker on Thursday, May 17, 2007. He is the headmaster of St. Benedict's Preparatory School in Newark, NJ.

Father Ed graduated from St. Benedict's Prep in 1963 and from Seton Hall University in 1968. He received his training in theology, attaining an M.Div. with distinction in 1975 from the Woodstock College, the Jesuit School of Technology at Union Theological Seminary. He was ordained as a priest in 1972 after first taking vows as a monk in 1966 of the Benedictine Abbey of Newark.

Father Ed's appointment to headmaster of St. Benedict's Prep has been a true blessing to the young men who come through its door and to the community at large. Father Ed became headmaster at the age of 27 and took a school with an enrollment of 89 students and 14 faculty members to its current population of 550 and 46, respectively. In the process, he has touched the hearts of many of his young charges and their families. The students are mostly Black and Hispanic from humble backgrounds. Yet 95 percent of the school's graduates go to college; no small feat in a city where the dropout rate is very high.

Thanks to Father Ed and his perseverance, St. Benedict's Prep now has a waiting list with many suburban youngsters hoping to gain admission. The school received national attention when its comprehensive program was featured in Education Week.

Madam Speaker, Father Ed has served St. Benedict's and the greater community well for almost 25 years. I know my colleagues agree that Father Ed is a very good choice for commencement speaker and is a deserving recipient of an honorary degree from Rutgers-Newark. I wish him well as he continues his good works.

“FIFTY GOOD YEARS”

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, yesterday, May 20, marked the 41st anniversary of the date on which Jose F. & Valentina C. Giesta emigrated from the Azores to Massachusetts, landing, fortunately for me, in New Bedford. I say fortunately for me because while I believe in general that hard-working immigrants like the Giestas have been

a great boon to this country in so many ways, and have particularly added significantly to the economic and cultural richness of South-eastern Massachusetts, I've been a particular beneficiary of this immigration decision because their daughter, Maria, is my very capable Deputy Chief of Staff.

The Giestas are an excellent example of why so many of us continue to support an immigration policy that welcomes people from elsewhere in the world who want to come to America both to share in the life we have and to help it flourish. Next week, on June 1, the Giestas will mark another very important anniversary—that of their wedding. They were married in Faja de Baixo in the Azores on June 1, 1957—several weeks, I will note, with a politicians penchant for getting himself into the act, before I graduated from high school.

As the Giestas celebrate their 50th Anniversary with their family and friends in New Bedford, they will be with their five children, who are in addition to Maria Eugenia, Gualter, Jose Augusto, Aires, and Stephanie. Stephanie, incidentally, has become a very accomplished hairstylist of whose talents I regularly avail myself. Their five children have produced eight grandchildren, Melissa, Mark, Matthew, Jacob, Tyler, Austin, Quentin, and Daulton. As the family gathers in New Bedford next Saturday on this wonderful occasion, I take this opportunity to acknowledge this event here, not simply out of my personal feelings of gratitude and affection to the Giestas, as strong as they are, but because at a time when people have been hearing a lot of the negative arguments about immigration, the story of the Giestas—a representative one for my district and many other districts across the country—shows how in fact immigration has been of overwhelming benefit to this Nation of immigrants. I am delighted to send my best wishes to Jose and Valentina and to tell them that I regularly cite them as an example of why an open and welcoming immigration policy continues to be in our Nation's best interest.

TRIBUTE TO GALEN JAMISON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the memory of Galen Jamison. Galen passed away on Thursday, May 17, in my hometown of Flint, Michigan at the age of 71. Galen was a committed public servant, always striving to improve the quality of life for the people of the greater Flint area. He was a dear friend and a valued advisor. I will miss his knowledge and wisdom.

He was a graduate of Central Michigan University and he had attended Arkansas State College and GMI. Mr. Jamison married Shirley J. Earns in 1955 and moved to Flint Township where he resided for over 50 years. Galen worked for General Motors as a General Supervisor. He was deeply committed to public service. Galen was elected as Flint Township supervisor and served 4 years. He was also elected 2 terms as Trustee on Flint Township Board of Trustees. Galen held several appointed positions over the years. These included State of Michigan Registered Codes Official and Inspector, Commercial Plan Reviewer, and 11 years on the Liquor Advisory Board where he drafted the first ordinance. He

served on the Planning Commission for 9 years, the Board of Appeals for 6 years, the Economic Development Authority, the Central Business District Authority, the Bicentennial Committee, and was the Anti Annexation Drive Coordinator.

Galen served on many Genesee County Boards including service as the Chairman of the Auto and Theft Grant Board. He held positions with the Water and Waste Board, the Retirement Board, the Parks Board, the Library Steering Committee, and as Genesee County Michigan Township Association Trustee. He had previously served on the CAMEO Executive Board and as a Flint Junior Achievement Advisor. He served as the Chairman for the Flushing Road Action Committee for Water for 4 years. At the time of his death Galen was currently serving as the Flint Township Chief Building Director and Chairman of the Genesee County Road Commission. Because of his commitment to public service Galen was awarded the G.M. Truck and Bus Plant Award for excellence in Community Activities.

Galen is survived by his wife of 51 years, Shirley, his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers, sister, numerous nieces and nephews and a Godchild.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying respects to a wonderful man and a true public servant, Galen Jamison. The Flint area mourns his passing and will miss his leadership, insight and zeal to make the Flint community a better place to live and work.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT RHEA, ARTHUR DALE JACKSON AND KEVIN DOAN

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, on May 20, 2006, five men lost their lives in a coal mine explosion in Harlan, Kentucky. The number of casualties would have been greater, were it not for the heroic efforts of three mine inspectors who decided to go in and save whomever they could.

There were only a few seconds to decide what to do in this situation. There were no second chances. Information was conflicting and incomplete in those rushed minutes late at night on May 20. These three men—Robert Rhea, Arthur Dale Jackson and Kevin Doan—heard enough and chose to descend into the smoke-filled blackness of the Darby Coal Mine.

They were driven to help whomever they could, inserting themselves into this hellish furnace not knowing whether there would be additional explosions or structural collapses.

The person they rescued, Paul Ledford, had succumbed to the carbon monoxide gases caused by the explosion and was unable to move any further. He was a half-mile down and never would have made it out on his own.

We are reminded that coal miners face potential hazards deep underground, everyday, so that we can keep the lights on and appliances running. When tragedy strikes one of

our coal mines, we depend on those level-headed, brave individuals who do the best they can at the scene to save lives and manage the disaster.

While we sort out the lesson of the Darby mine tragedy, we must also recognize those who had little time to study, deliberate and analyze what to do. They acted.

And because they did, someone lived. I commend these three individuals for answering the most important call any of us could ever get—and having the courage that now provides some solace where there would otherwise be none.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, May 17, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on the following amendments to H.R. 1427.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 378 on the amendment offered by Rep. BACHUS, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 379 on the amendment offered by Rep. HENSARLING, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 380 on the amendment offered by Rep. MCHENRY, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 381 on the amendment offered by Rep. KANJORSKI, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 382 on the amendment offered by Rep. ROSKAM, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 383 on the amendment offered by Rep. GARRETT, I would have voted "nay."

TRIBUTE TO 34TH ANNUAL NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the 34th Annual National Emergency Medical Services Week, designated this year May 20–26, 2007. It is truly a privilege to honor these brave men and women who provide essential lifesaving services to our communities throughout the Eighth Congressional District.

EMS Week serves as a time to honor and celebrate our medical emergency personnel. These men and women respond to tragedies and situations we pray never come to us or our loved ones. They respond at a moment's notice to people caught in unimaginable circumstances and work tirelessly to provide emergency treatment and offer hope.

As children we all learned the value of stop, drop, and roll. Today our children learn those lessons and more that help keep them safe. From paramedics and EMTs to police officers and fire fighters, each serves a crucial role in keeping our communities educated and prepared to prevent future emergencies.

As we observe EMS Week this year let us not forget those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while performing their duty. These great men and women who have dedicated

themselves to protecting and saving the lives of our loved ones should not be forgotten. The safety of our friends and families depends on individuals like them who arrive to work every day prepared to respond, protect, and save lives.

As we celebrate this week I salute every hardworking American for their role in ensuring the safety of our communities. I also encourage you as residents to become aware of health and safety issues and familiarize yourself with emergency procedures. Let's all chip in and do our part to ensure our neighborhoods and streets remain safe for all to enjoy.

HONORING EDITH DUPIN

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Edith Dupin, a constituent and good friend, retiring next month from the Elizabethtown Chamber of Commerce after twenty years of service.

Ms. Dupin has overseen a vast expansion of the Hardin County Chamber of Commerce over the course of the last two decades. Upon her arrival, the Chamber had fewer than 200 members. She leaves the Chamber with more than 700 members. During her tenure she has helped develop several local events that have become staples to the Hardin County community including the Heartland Festival, Leadership Elizabethtown, and the holiday favorite, Christmas in the Park.

Always a straight talker, she has found many friends in the community. Through her tenacity and straightforwardness, she has been able to accomplish many positive objectives for the Chamber and the Elizabethtown community. Her legacy is evident through, among many other things, the local farmers market, numerous job fairs, and laying the groundwork for a possible return of commuter flights to Addington Field.

I would like to congratulate Edith for her service to the Elizabethtown community. I join countless neighbors from the Hardin County community in wishing her well in her future endeavors.

It is my great privilege to recognize my friend, Ms. Edith Dupin today, before the entire House of Representatives, for her service to Hardin County. She is an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HIGH SCHOOL FOR ENTERPRISE, BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY (EBT)

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize The High School for Enterprise, Business and Technology (EBT), of Williamsburg, Brooklyn in celebration of their 10th anniversary.

EBT's history has been one of hope, growth and a commitment to quality education for our community. More than ten years ago, the majority of local Williamsburg high school students attending the then Eastern District High

School had bleak prospects of graduating from high school. Thanks to the leadership of concerned education advocates, Eastern District was replaced by three new high schools, EBT being one of those entities. The school has evolved into one that has fostered educational growth and training to students throughout Brooklyn.

Since its inception in 1996, EBT has worked diligently to develop a solid learning and professional foundation, creating a wealth of opportunities for its students. The specialized curriculum serves as the school's cornerstone, offering our community's children an opportunity to pursue studies in areas, including: hospitality/tourism, computer science/networking, and business/finance. Through a classroom environment that emphasizes academic engagement, EBT has fostered the personal progress of countless residents.

The High School for Enterprise, Business and Technology's dedicated staff has been successful in nurturing the intellectual development of hundreds of Brooklyn's children. Their commitment to promoting academic opportunities has strengthened the institution's programs thereby enabling comprehensive support services and encouraging parent participation. Through the exceptional leadership of Principal Juan Mendez, this remarkable high school has effectively increased both the graduation as well as the college placement rate, resulting in socially-minded young adults devoted to the interests of Williamsburg—and our nation at large.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to honor The High School for Enterprise, Business and Technology. I would like to express my sincerest congratulations in commemoration of its 10th anniversary and express best wishes for a successful future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the chamber during the evening of Thursday, May 17, 2007. Had I been present for six rollcall votes taken that evening on amendments to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act of 2007, I would have voted as follows: "no" on rollcall No. 378; "no" on rollcall No. 379; "no" on rollcall No. 380; "no" on rollcall No. 381; and "no" on rollcall No. 382; and "no" on rollcall No. 383.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL ROBERT W. GATES, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of the life and dedicated service of Robert W. "Bob" Gates.