

superintendent, Richard was tested with several crises, including the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and a bacterial meningitis outbreak at the high school, which resulted in a first-ever schoolwide inoculation of the students. He also oversaw the rebuilding of the district's five elementary schools, assisting school staff in directing students to buses, which would take students to their temporary classrooms. Witkowski remains active in the community as a member of the Garden City Rotary and the Garden City Chamber of Commerce. Richard has served as president of both organizations and currently serves as treasurer of the Rotary. Superintendent Witkowski will also continue his commitment to education and connection with students through the class he teaches at Madonna University in Livonia.

Madam Speaker, for 41 years Superintendent Richard Witkowski has faithfully served Michigan citizens of all ages. As he enters the next phase of his life, he leaves behind a legacy of dedication, integrity, and excellence. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Superintendent Richard Witkowski upon his retirement and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community's and country's future.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM T.
LICHTER

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor William Lichter for his 29 years of devoted service to the Village of Lombard, Illinois.

In early life, Bill served as Assistant City Manager for Mentor, Ohio and Administrative Assistant in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Vermont. He then earned a Master's degree in Political Administration from American University and is also currently a Ph.D. candidate at Northern Illinois University.

Bill Lichter began his service to the Village of Lombard on January 7, 1985, when he became its ninth Village Manager. Since that day, he has served with vision and fortitude for over 22 years.

Through the years, Bill has been an insightful observer, keen in his understanding of the long-term challenges facing the Village. Throughout his career, he has tackled these challenges with deft skill, deep understanding, and strong personal integrity.

While Lombard has gone through change after change over the years, one thing has remained the same. Bill Lichter has kept a steady hand to the wheel, advising the Village Board and working tirelessly for the benefit of his community.

Bill has had many accomplishments over the years, though they are too numerous to list exhaustively. Chief among them, however, are his success in improving the Village's long-term financial forecasting and management and his rewarding efforts to promote local economic development.

Bill Lichter has been an advocate for the people of Lombard since his very first days in office more than two decades ago. In his time

with the Village, he has affected countless lives and left an indelible impression on Lombard and its residents.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, Bill Lichter is a remarkable man who has dedicated his life to serving the people of Lombard. Please join me in honoring this unsung hero for his extraordinary career and wishing him every happiness in the well deserved respite of his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam Speaker, I missed one vote on Tuesday, January 29, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following way: Final passage of New England National Scenic Trail Designation Act, H.R. 1528 (Rollcall No. 28): I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to National Children's Dental Health Month. Each February, the American Dental Association sponsors National Children's Dental Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of oral health. As a part of their awareness efforts, dentists and dental hygienists from across the country and in my home State of Idaho join together and volunteer their time to provide free care to children.

As a dentist, I understand the need for children to receive proper dental care. This includes going to the dentist regularly for check-ups and treatment when problems arise. Oral health is critical to a person's overall health and means more than healthy teeth. Research continues to show that many diseases and conditions show themselves in the mouth. For people who don't have access to dental care, oral disease is almost 100 percent inevitable—and almost 100 percent preventable.

This is particularly heartbreaking when it affects our children. Children with poor oral health can have problems eating, sleeping properly, paying attention in school and even smiling, because they suffer constant pain. Unfortunately, many of us don't realize the extent and severity of untreated dental disease in children.

In my State of Idaho, over 35 percent of children lack dental insurance. More than 25 percent of elementary school-aged children in Idaho suffer from untreated tooth decay. If the problems go untreated, a child will often end up in a hospital emergency or operating room, which costs far more than a trip to the dentist.

Hundreds of dentists and oral healthcare providers in Idaho and across the country donate their time and energy to help this cause, and I graciously thank them. While National Children's Dental Health Month will not solve

the issues of access to oral healthcare by itself, it is a great opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of oral health and provide care to our most important and vulnerable resource—our children.

NICHOLAS ROYCE, FIFTY YEARS
AND STILL FIGHTING THE GOOD
FIGHT

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. BERMAN, Madam Speaker, the name Nicholas Royce deserves to be added to the list of dedicated Americans who exemplify the spirit of achievement. He has earned this recognition for his long and outstanding career as a performer, and his devotion to many entertainment industry humanitarian causes, typifying the altruism that is so much a part of the American character.

Of special significance is the fact that through his life, he has been in the forefront with the independent efforts and advocacy for civil, constitutional, human and spiritual rights.

He was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania to Theodore and Anastasia Vlangas, both natives of Sparta, Greece. At the age of 6 years old his family moved to Baltimore, Maryland where he became aware that this faith and origin were different from most Americans. Challenged by ethnic and religious obstacles, he became motivated to learn every truth he could about his faith and his origin.

With the encouragement of his sister Stella, he made his show business debut at the Lord Baltimore Hotel and followed that with a successful tour of the east coast during school vacation, and all at the age of 14, and with his parents' blessing.

After high school he entered the Armed Forces and entertained WWII vets in the Army base hospitals in the United States and Japan. Because of his ethnic look he became known as the Greek Fred Astaire in G.I. clothing.

The Armed Forces had limited religious choices; Protestant, Catholic and Jewish. Where's a poor Greek Orthodox kid to go for religious salvation? Thanks to Nicholas and his late friend Senator Leverett Saltonstall, representing 500,000 Orthodox Catholics who fought and died for the constitution, a bill reached Congress in 1955 to create such a place in the military. Today servicemen wear tags designating Eastern Orthodoxy and have Orthodox chaplains. Thirty-three States quickly recognized Eastern Orthodoxy as a major faith.

After he left the service, the American Legion's Pennsylvania district honored Royce for his continued efforts as an entertainer to bring joy to veterans in hospitals.

After his visit to Turkey in 1965, Royce waged a tireless campaign to return St. Sophia Cathedral in Istanbul to an open house of worship instead of a museum. It was converted to a mosque in 1453 and Royce changed history with that campaign. Thanks to Royce, "the Orthodox Christian cry for help" has been taken to the United Nations human rights office in Geneva, European parliament, European Union, and to every religious and world leader and to every President since the Carter administration.