

mosaic maps of the United States. He compiled maps of China and the Red Sea using satellite data.

Today Mr. Allen spends his time at the United States Antarctic Resource Center where he still amazes his co-workers with his ability to retrieve information from the early days of U.S. studies of Antarctica and then apply it to current studies. His devotion to studying this extraordinary region of our planet merits our praise and gratitude.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Mr. Allen for his 60 years of public service, for his accomplishments, and for all he has done to advance scientific understanding.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 9, 2009*

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, due to illness, I unfortunately was unable to be present and to vote on legislation considered by the House on March 3, 4, 5, and 6, 2009.

On rollcall numbers 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 98, 99, 106, 108, and 109, had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

On rollcall numbers 97, 105, and 107, had I been present, I would have voted "no".

On rollcall number 104, had I been present, I would have voted "no". Though the Helping Families Save Act of 2009 (H.R. 1106) included some good provisions, the bill also included troubling bankruptcy provisions. On the amendments considered, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcalls 101 and 102 and "no" on rollcall 100. Also, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions (rollcall 103).

I regret that I did not have the opportunity to vote on these important measures.

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#### HONORING MATTHEW C. GARCIA

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 9, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew C. Garcia a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew C. Garcia for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DENTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 9, 2009*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Denton Chamber of Commerce, which will celebrate its 100th Anniversary on April 21, 2009.

The Denton Chamber of Commerce is an alliance of businesses, professionals, and organizations working to support and promote the principles for a prosperous economic environment.

Established April 21, 1909, the Chamber has grown to involve over 860 members. In its 100 years of operation, the Chamber has a record of promoting, supporting and expanding the Denton business community. Small businesses have long benefited from the efforts of the Denton Chamber of Commerce and have also found it an avenue to give back to their community. Many members are not only successful in business, but also volunteer and serve on boards of local charity and community groups.

The Chamber has played a significant role in the community's economic health, establishing an Economic Development Partnership with the City of Denton focused on helping create new jobs, supporting existing career opportunities and expanding the property tax base. A prime example of this success was the partnership's work to attract the largest local employer, the Peterbilt Motors plant, and later, Peterbilt's division headquarters.

Helping in the efforts to secure the sites for the Denton State School, and the sites for FEMA's underground center and National Teleregistration facility, the Denton Chamber of Commerce's contributions have gone beyond just helping the business community.

With programs such as Leadership Denton, Chamber members have learned the inner workings of policy. It has worked to supplement communications with state and federal officials with the initiation of county wide events such as Denton County Day in Austin and the Washington Fly-In. A tribute to their role in community service and leadership development is evidenced by the dozens of members that have served on local city councils, school boards and in other elected positions.

It is with great pride that I stand here today to join others in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Denton Chamber of Commerce. I wish the membership, staff and board all the best and I am proud to represent them in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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#### SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY, RECIPIENT OF THE "SCHOLAR-PATRIOT AWARD"

### HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 9, 2009*

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to the Senior Senator from Massachusetts, EDWARD M. KENNEDY, and to the Amer-

ican Academy of Arts and Sciences which has just honored Senator KENNEDY with its "Scholar-Patriot Award."

Nearly 230 years ago in Cambridge, in what would become the Eighth Congressional District of Massachusetts, John Adams, James Bowdoin, John Hancock, and other "scholar-patriots" established the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The Academy was created, during the American Revolution, to provide a forum for leaders from science, scholarship, business, public affairs, and the arts, to work together as citizens in support of a democratic republic. In the words of the Academy's charter, enacted in 1780, the "end and design of the institution is . . . to cultivate every art and science which may tend to advance the interest, honor, dignity, and happiness of a free, independent, and virtuous people."

Today, the Academy, still in Cambridge, flourishes as an independent policy research center. Its members remain true to the original mission, conducting multidisciplinary studies of complex and emerging problems. Current Academy research focuses on science and global security; social policy; the humanities and culture; and education.

On March 9, 2009, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences convened a meeting in Washington, D.C. on the topic of The Humanities in a Civil Society. As part of the program, the Academy announced the presentation of its Scholar-Patriot Award to the dean of our state's congressional delegation, Senator EDWARD M. KENNEDY. Throughout his career, Sen. KENNEDY has been a stalwart champion of the humanities. I am proud to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the citation from the Academy, and I congratulate my friend and colleague for this well-deserved recognition. "The American Academy bestows its Scholar-Patriot Award on EDWARD M. KENNEDY for his extraordinary service to the Academy, the community, and the nation.

"For four decades you have been a fierce defender of the ideals of opportunity, equity, and justice. Master of quiet collaboration and inspired oratory, you have achieved an unparalleled legislative record. Your efforts to insure quality education and health care for all Americans, including your leadership on the Americans with Disabilities Act, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, and The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, have earned you the respect of men and women across the political spectrum. From your first major bill on immigration reform to your recent call for a renewed commitment to community service, you have championed an open and inclusive society. To your family and the nation, you are a profile of courageous leadership, the guardian of a dream that lives on.

"The founding members of the American Academy were pragmatic visionaries, anticipating the needs of a young republic for both wise governance and fresh ideas. You follow in their footsteps as a Scholar-Patriot for our time. Asserting that "our future does not belong to those who are content with today," you have fulfilled the Academy's historic mission, translating knowledge into action and celebrating the life of the mind in service to the community, the nation, and the world."