

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOLUNTEERISM AND EDUCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today to show my support for H.R. 1388, the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act of 2009 or the GIVE Act.

President Obama called on Congress to create new opportunities for Americans to build a stronger country by helping students perform better in school, prepare Americans for green and innovative 21st century jobs, rebuild cities in times of disaster, and improve communities. I am proud to say that through the various programs contained in the GIVE Act—whether new or old but reinvigorated—this bill meets President Obama's call.

Most importantly, I am pleased that this bill encourages our younger generations to engage in volunteerism while allowing them the opportunity to gain real-world experience working in our communities and addressing issues that are sometimes hard to face. During these trying times and with so many individuals losing their jobs, it is important to equip our youth with this type of experience.

I support the programs in the GIVE Act because its goals seek to better not only our future, but the future of generations to come. I urge my colleagues support this bill.

IN SUPPORT OF A BILL TO INCLUDE VETERANS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE CLEAN-UP OF ENIWETOK ATOLL AS A RADIATION-RISK ACTIVITY FOR THE PURPOSES OF LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have reintroduced a bill, along with my colleagues, Congressman NEIL ABERCROMBIE of Hawaii and Congressman ENI FALEOMAVAEGA of American Samoa, to amend Title 38 of the United States Code to explicitly define participation in clean-up operations that were undertaken by the United States Army at Eniwetok Atoll of the Republic of the Marshall Islands as a "radiation-risk activity" for the purposes of qualifying veterans who participated in such operations for service-connected benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Af-

fairs. This bill would correct in statute a long-standing inequity for veterans who participated in clean-up of radioactive materials and debris on Eniwetok Atoll resulting from forty-three atmospheric nuclear detonations that occurred there and that were conducted by the United States Government during the late 1940s and throughout the 1950s. Servicemembers were detailed to Eniwetok Atoll during or around the years 1977 through 1982 to confine and cap contaminated soil. Part of the clean-up operations involved the construction of a concrete dome to cover a crater.

The legislation we have reintroduced today would simply allow veterans who participated in any clean-up activity on Eniwetok Atoll during their course of their service to be deemed eligible for Department of Veterans Affairs radiation programs. Such programs provide medical benefits to certain veterans who were exposed to radiation while on Active Duty. Veterans who are currently covered under radiation-risk activities include those who participated on-site in executing the atmospheric tests in the Pacific Basin.

We recognize and commend the atomic veterans who performed clean-up operations on Eniwetok Atoll and thank them for their service to our nation. I introduced the same legislation in the 110th Congress to correct this concern. I hope that our legislation will be given fair consideration by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs in the current Congress. I further hope the Department of Defense makes available to the public, to our veterans and their families, and to the Department of Veterans Affairs all recorded relating to the nature of the tests and clean-up activities that were undertaken on Eniwetok Atoll.

COMMEMORATION OF 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION BEING MADE A CABINET LEVEL DEPARTMENT

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Veterans Administration as a Cabinet level Department. For some time members of many communities from across the nation have given their loved ones to defend our freedoms as Americans, yet when they returned there was nothing in place to aid them in their transition to civilian life. All of this changed twenty years ago when the Veterans Administration was officially elevated as a cabinet level agency and renamed as the Department of Veterans Affairs. The intrinsic value of having a department such as this has benefited our nation in innumerable ways and now more than ever we see its particular value.

Changes in battle and warfare tactics have caused evolving consequences. It is essential to have a Department that is especially

equipped to handle the consequences of engagement in combat, especially the impact of grievous physical wounds. I am especially supportive of our Department of Veterans affairs and even more pleased to have a person of character and sense of duty such as Eric Shinseki as the new Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The challenge of military personnel transitioning into civilian life becomes even more daunting especially during this period of economic downturn facing our nation. The Department of Veterans Affairs will have to be prepared now more than ever for the growth in the number of veterans needing our assistance to establish their lives once again.

I believe it is our duty as a nation to ensure the well-being of those who have so valiantly given of themselves to protect our nation and I commend the values that have been upheld by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I introduce into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the remarks made by President Obama at the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Department of Veterans Affairs as a Cabinet Agency on March 16, 2009.

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY,  
Washington, DC, March 16, 2009.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AS A CABINET AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. To Jim Benson for helping to organize this; to Jim Mahdee for your service to our country—a Pledge of Allegiance that you've shown in your own commitment to protecting this country; and obviously, to Secretary Shinseki. It is an honor to join you and the hardworking public servants here at the Department of Veterans Affairs as we mark a milestone in the distinguished history of this department.

You know, 20 years ago, on the day the Veterans Administration was officially elevated to a Cabinet-level agency and renamed the Department of Veterans Affairs, a ceremony was held to swear in the administrator of the old entity as Secretary of the new one. And in his remarks that day, President George H.W. Bush declared that the mission of this agency is "so vital that there's only one place for the veterans of America: in the Cabinet Room, at the table with the President of the United States of America." I could not agree more.

I could not be more pleased that Eric Shinseki has taken a seat at that table. Throughout his long and distinguished career in the Army, Secretary Shinseki won the respect and admiration of our men and women in uniform because they've always been his highest priority—and he has clearly brought that same sense of duty and commitment to the work of serving our veterans.

As he knows, it's no small task. This department has more than a quarter of a million employees across America, and its services range from providing education and training benefits, health care and home loans, to tending those quiet places that remind me of the great debt we owe—and remind me of the heavy responsibility that I bear. It's a commitment that lasts from the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

day our veterans retire that uniform to the day that they are put to rest—and that continues on for their families.

Without this commitment, I might not be here today. After all, my grandfather enlisted after Pearl Harbor and went on to march in Patton's Army. My grandmother worked on a bomber assembly line while he was gone. My mother was born at Fort Leavenworth while he was away. When my grandfather returned, he went to college on the GI Bill; bought his first home with a loan from the FHA; moved his family west, all the way to Hawaii, where he and my grandmother helped to raise me.

And I think about my grandfather whenever I have the privilege of meeting the young men and women who serve in our military today. They are our best and brightest, and they're our bravest—enlisting in a time of war; enduring tour after tour of duty; serving with honor under the most difficult circumstances; and making sacrifices that many of us cannot begin to imagine. The same can be said of their families. As my wife, Michelle, has seen firsthand during visits to military bases across this country, we don't just deploy our troops in a time of war—we deploy their families, too.

So while the mission of this department is always vital, it is even more so during long and difficult conflicts like those that we're engaged in today. Because when the guns finally fall silent and the cameras are turned off and our troops return home, they deserve the same commitment from their government as my grandparents received.

Last month, I announced my strategy for ending the war in Iraq. And I made it very clear that this strategy would not end with military plans and diplomatic agendas, but would endure through my commitment to upholding our sacred trust with every man and woman who has served this country. And the same holds true for our troops serving in Afghanistan.

The homecoming we face over the next year and a half will be the true test of this commitment: whether we will stand with our veterans as they face new challenges—physical, psychological and economic—here at home.

I intend to start that work by making good on my pledge to transform the Department of Veterans Affairs for the 21st century. That's an effort that, under Secretary Shinseki's leadership, all of you have already begun—conducting a thorough review of your operations all across this agency. And I intend to support this effort not just with words of encouragement, but with resources. That's why the budget I sent to Congress increases funding for this department by \$25 billion over the next five years.

With this budget, we don't just fully fund our VA health care program—we expand it to serve an additional 500,000 veterans by 2013; to provide better health care in more places; and to dramatically improve services related to mental health and injuries like Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. We also invest in the technology to cut red tape and ease the transition from active duty. And we provide new help for homeless veterans, because those heroes have a home—it's the country they served, the United States of America. And until we reach a day when not a single veteran sleeps on our nation's streets, our work remains unfinished. (Applause.)

Finally, in this new century, it's time to heed the lesson of history, that our returning veterans can form the backbone of our middle class—by implementing a GI Bill for the 21st century. I know you're working hard under a tough deadline, but I am confident that we will be ready for August 1st. And that's how we'll show our servicemen and

women that when you come home to America, America will be here for you. That's how we will ensure that those who have "borne the battle"—and their families—will have every chance to live out their dreams.

I've had the privilege of meeting so many of these heroes. Some of the most inspiring are those that I've met in places like Walter Reed—young men and women who've lost a limb or even their ability to take care of themselves, but who never lose the pride they feel for their country. And that is, after all, what led them to wear the uniform in the first place—their unwavering belief in the idea of America; that no matter where you come from, what you look like, who your parents are, this is a place where anything is possible, where anyone can make it, where we take care of each other and look out for each other—especially for those who've sacrificed so much for this country.

These are the ideals that generations of Americans have fought for and bled for and died for. These are the ideals at the core of your mission—a mission that dates back before our founding—one taken up by our first President years before he took office, back when he served as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. Then-General Washington fought tirelessly to support the veterans of America's Revolutionary War. Such support, he argued, should "never be considered as a pension or gratuity . . ." Rather, ". . . it was the price of their blood," and of our independence; ". . . it is, therefore," he said, "more than a common debt, it is a debt of honor . . ." A debt of honor.

Washington understood that caring for our veterans was more than just a way of thanking them for their service. He recognized the obligation is deeper than that—that when our fellow citizens commit themselves to shed blood for us, that binds our fates with theirs in a way that nothing else can. And in the end, caring for those who have given their fullest measure of devotion to us—and for their families—is a matter of honor—as a nation and as a people.

That's a responsibility you hold, that's the work that you do—repaying that debt of honor, a debt we can never fully discharge. And I know it's not always easy. I know there's much work ahead to transform this agency for the 21st century. But I have the fullest confidence that with Secretary Shinseki's leadership, and with the hard work of the men and women of this department, we will fulfill our sacred trust and serve our returning heroes as well as they've served us.

Thank you. God bless you, and may God bless the United States of America. Thank you, everybody.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF MILDRED JUANITA NETTLES COOK

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, Wilcox County recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Mildred Juanita Nettles Cook and pay tribute to her memory.

A lifelong resident of Arlington, Mrs. Cook graduated from Wilcox County High School and, in 1940, she graduated with honors from Alabama State College for Women in Montevallo.

Mrs. Cook was also a lifelong member of the Arlington United Methodist Church, where she served as treasurer and Sunday school

superintendent for many years. She was also a member of the United Methodist Women and the Friday Afternoon Club. She was a member of Alabama Charter Chapter #36 United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Lt. Joseph M. Wilcox Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She served as president of both the Alabama Division and the General Division of the UDC and was known and respected throughout the nation for her leadership in both the Daughters of the Confederacy and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Mrs. Cook was a charter director of the Town-Country National Bank in Camden. She also served as treasurer of the Arlington Methodist Community and Cemetery Foundation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. "Miss Mildred" will be dearly missed by her family—her sons, Daniel Bragg Cook Jr. and his wife Angela, Samuel McPherson Cook and his wife Claudia, and Abe Crum Cook III and his wife Helen; her grandchildren, Jennifer Mildred Cook Nice, Richard Daniel Cook, Samuel McPherson Cook Jr., John Roan Cook, Claudina Pereira, Marian Denisse Cook, Abe Crum Cook IV, Braxton Dauphin Cook, and Kathryn Elizabeth Cook; her great-grandchildren, Leina Tsou Cook, Anara Tsou Cook, and Samuel Rikard Cook; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

#### A TRIBUTE TO JOYLENE WAGNER

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Joylene Wagner of Glendale, California. Every March we celebrate Women's History Month in recognition of the contributions and the sacrifices made by our nation's women. Accordingly it is my privilege to highlight Mrs. Wagner as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

Born and raised in Monrovia, California, Joylene graduated in 1976 from University of California, Santa Cruz with a degree in Western Civilization and continued on to the University of San Diego's Legal Assistant program. During her five years working as a litigation paralegal in San Diego and later in Los Angeles, she served on the founding board of the San Diego Association of Legal Assistants and in the La Jolla University/Community Chorus and Orchestra Association.

Joylene and her husband Robert moved to Glendale in 1981, where they both became active in the Adams Hill Homeowners Association. They are very proud of their 3 children, who all attended Glendale schools. Their daughter Meg now teaches children with autism in Fairfax County, Virginia, son Will serves on the staff of Senator ARLEN SPECTER, and son Nick will graduate from Glendale High School this year.

Since 1985, in addition to singing in the First United Methodist Church choir, Joylene has split her time between volunteering in the schools and community and working part-time

teaching children's choral music either at church, in Glendale elementary schools, or at the Los Angeles Children's Chorus. Her community involvement has included serving on the boards of Glendale Healthy Kids, Verdugo Workforce Investment, Los Angeles County School Trustees Association, and the League of Women Voters, as well as on the Glendale Arts and Culture Commission.

Before her election to the Glendale Unified School District Board of Education in 2005, Joylene worked locally as a substitute teacher and completed graduate work in education. She has since served as the Board's President, working to find ways to enrich and increase student learning through arts instruction and career-technical education opportunities. In the face of drastic state funding cuts and in an effort to ensure budgetary support for educational priorities, Joylene has facilitated creative, courageous, and cooperative community conversations about what is most essential for student success.

Joylene's steadfast dedication and selfless service are an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Mrs. Joylene Wagner.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I missed rollcall vote No. 107 through 115. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 107 and 109 through 115. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 108.

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#### INTRODUCTION OF THE UNIVERSAL RIGHT TO VOTE BY MAIL ACT

### HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Universal Right to Vote by Mail Act of 2009—a bill to allow any eligible voter to vote by mail in a federal election if he or she chooses to do so.

In my home state of California, voters already have this right. California is one of the twenty-eight states that already provide this convenient alternative to voters.

While I love the ritual of going to the polls to vote, I know that getting to the polls on Election Day is often difficult. For some, it's impossible.

That is why I have introduced a bill that builds upon the growing trend of states to bring the polls to the voters. I believe we should try to meet our constituents halfway by increasing access to the electoral process.

What I am proposing is not new or even untested. States ranging from my home state of California, to Wisconsin, to North Carolina, to Maine have already adopted this voter-friendly policy.

With mail voting, citizens can vote from the convenience of their own homes. They will have more time to mull over their choices and make informed decisions, and they will be able to do so on their own terms.

Not surprisingly, studies have shown that some of the biggest supporters of voting by mail are parents, who must schedule time to go to the polls around so many other obligations.

Studies have also indicated that adding the option to vote by mail does not create a partisan advantage for one political party over the other.

Republicans and Democrats both benefit from similar increases in voter turnout when voters are given the choice to mail in their ballots.

In fact, overwhelming support for voting by mail is consistent across nearly every demographic—including age, income level, race, education, employment status and ideology. It is a win-win for all Americans.

After adopting a universal right to vote by mail system in 1978, California saw a thirty percent increase in the use of mail-in ballots.

Other states that have implemented this policy have seen the same degree of support from voters, which is why it is hardly surprising that States offering the option of mail-in ballots often experience greater voter participation.

There is also an extremely low incidence of fraud with voting by mail when compared to other methods of voting.

As the former President of the League of Women Voters of San Diego, I care deeply about the integrity of our electoral system.

Twenty-eight states have already proven this option works, and it is safe. It is time to give voters in the remaining states this convenient, secure and affordable alternative.

While I am proud to be from a state where citizens already have this right, I believe democracy works best when all citizens have an equal opportunity to have their voices heard.

Right now, an uneven playing field exists between states that already offer the option of mail-in ballots and states that do not.

When the same election is more accessible to voters in California than it is to voters in other states, the system is unfair.

States that fail to offer this choice stand to compromise their leverage in federal elections by curbing the greatest level of voter participation.

We should follow the lead of over half of our nation's states and ensure a uniformity of rights for all voters.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this effort to strengthen the democratic process and give American voters the choices they deserve.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Monday, March 16, 2009, and Tuesday, March 17, 2009, I was not present for 6 recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: Roll No. 125, yea; Roll No. 126, yea; Roll No. 127, yea; Roll No. 128, yea; Roll No. 129, yea; Roll No. 130, yea.

HONORING DAVID S. GALLATIN,  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF  
EXCELA HEALTH

### HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to David S. Gallatin, Chief Executive Officer of Excelsa Health. I would like at this time to draw attention to some of his accomplishments and contributions to our health system and the community of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

David S. Gallatin has long been associated with Excelsa Health and its predecessors, Westmoreland Health System and Westmoreland Hospital. He served, in a voluntary capacity, on the Board of Trustees from 1982 through 2004. During his time on the Board, he was a member of the Executive Committee (1985 to 2004); served as a member of the Finance Committee (1990 to 2004); filled the role of Vice Chairman (1994 to 1999), was named Chairman from 1999 to 2004.

In January 2003, the Westmoreland Health System Board of Trustees voted unanimously to name David S. Gallatin as its Chief Executive Officer, after having served as Interim Chief Executive Officer, while continuing his role as Board of Trustees Chairman until his term expired June 30, 2004.

David S. Gallatin, cited for his leadership skills and vision, helped devise and implement a turnaround plan for the health system, one that resulted in meaningful growth, capital strength, physician recruitment, and retention of a professional work force. He championed the acquisition of the latest clinical technologies, thereby advancing the quality of care for the residents of Westmoreland County and beyond. Further, he, among others, spearheaded the successful merger of Westmoreland Health System with Latrobe Area Hospital, and later, Mercy Jeannette Hospital, creating and expanding the county's largest and only health care provider, Excelsa Health. His vision of a distributed delivery model assures local access to advanced health care, which is evident in Excelsa Health's Centers for Excellence, state of the art Emergency Departments and nationally recognized Stroke Prevention programs.

Therefore, I join in commending David S. Gallatin for his history of hard work and service to our health system and the communities it serves.

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RECOGNIZING NAACP MID-MANHATTAN BRANCH'S SALUTE TO NAACP WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch of the Metropolitan Council of NAACP Branches as they pay tribute to the everlasting accomplishments and contributions of the NAACP Women of Excellence in celebration of Women's History Month and the Centennial Anniversary of the

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch honors the Honorable Hazel N. Dukas, President of the New York State Conference of NAACP Branches; the Honorable Mildred Roxborough of the NAACP National Development Department; the Honorable Laura D. Blackburne, Counsel for the New York State Conference of NAACP Branches & NAACP Special Contribution Fund; the Honorable Paula Brown Edmé of the NAACP National Development Department; the Honorable Gloria Benfield, Membership Chair for New York State Conference of NAACP Branches; and the Honorable Shirley Stewart Farmer, Co-Founder of the NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch. As a Life Member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, I am proud to join Mid-Manhattan Branch in saluting these NAACP Women of Excellence.

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premiere advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors. The Mid-Manhattan Branch recently celebrated its 40th Anniversary since its founding in 1966.

In the mid 1960s a group of citizens, concerned that there was no NAACP Branch in the Mid-Manhattan area, met for several months to plan a branch. Over 500 letters co-signed by Roy Wilkins and Ralph Bunche, invited hopefully interested residents to a meeting at Freedom House (120 Wall Street, New York, NY).

For forty years, the Mid-Manhattan Branch has been an advocate for all its citizens in the struggle for civil rights and equality. Today, the Branch plays an active role in confronting the gaps and disparities in healthcare, economics, education funding, Criminal Justice, diversity in the Courts and in the Judiciary.

Their efforts continue in voter education, registration and mobilization, as well as youth development and enrichment programs. Today, the Mid-Manhattan Branch has over 600 members, with eight working Committees (Education, Health, Fundraising, Legal Redress, Membership, Civic Engagement, Veteran Affairs, and Youth Council).

A TRIBUTE TO DR. SONYA  
MKRYAN

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Sonya Mkryan of Altadena, California. Every March we celebrate Women's History Month in recognition of the contributions and the sacrifices made by our nation's women. Accordingly it is my privilege to highlight Dr. Mkryan as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

Sonya was born in Sanjak, the French mandate of Syria, and emigrated at age ten to Soviet Armenia with her parents and three siblings. By the time she travelled from Armenia to the United States with her husband and three children in 1979, she had obtained a PhD in Technical Studies and worked for two

decades as a scientist and researcher at the Armenian Academy of Sciences. Her first job in America was as a mechanical inspector for Robertshaw Industrial Products.

As an educator and geophysicist, Sonya has taught in the Pasadena Unified School District as a professor of physics at Polytechnic Institute. For the past twenty-three years she has contributed her knowledge and experience to the County of Los Angeles' Department of Public Social Services in hopes of serving society for the better.

A woman of multiple talents, Sonya is also an artist and a writer. Over the last twenty years she has held several solo shows and has actively participated in many group exhibitions. Aside from scientific articles published in the Russian, she has published six books of poetry and short stories: five in Armenian and the sixth in English. She is a member of the Armenian Writers Union of California and is an honorable member of the International Society of Poets.

Sonya's life story is a testament to the brilliant potential of this nation's women and her steadfast dedication and selfless service are an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Dr. Sonya Mkryan.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE  
HONORING FAY SINKIN

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

MR. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, on March 4, 2009, the world was bereft of a powerhouse environmentalist when Fay Sinkin passed away at the age of 90. Born in New York City, Fay came to San Antonio 66 years ago after marrying Bill Sinkin after he proposed on their first, blind date. Fay quickly made San Antonio her home, and the residents of the city will be forever grateful.

She joined the San Antonio Chapter of the League of Women Voters, serving as its president for several years, and was a tireless fighter for the equality of women and minorities. She was one of the first women in the city to sit on a jury, and she fought the mayor and the city council to improve the living conditions for San Antonio's Blacks and Hispanics.

The protection of the Edwards Aquifer would become her life's work. When Fay heard of the proposal to build a massive development which threatened the city's water supply, she took action. With her allies in the Edwards Aquifer Preservation Trust, she enlisted the assistance of the city's congressman, Henry B. Gonzalez, and set forth to protect her fellow citizens. The Government Canyon State Natural Area now stands where some saw only a chance at quick profit. The growth of San Antonio and the health of its citizens would not have been possible without the work of Fay Sinkin.

Fay and Bill Sinkin continued to work to improve the lives of San Antonians, Texans, and the entire country until the end of her days. Just this past January, she recalled the myriad

changes she had seen over six decades in the city, the improvements no one could have imagined when she first arrived, looked out over a land so different from any she had known and declared herself home.

San Antonio was Fay Sinkin's home for 66 years. The City feels a little emptier now, but we have all lived richer, better lives because of the life of Fay Sinkin. Her life may have ended, but her contributions will live on and generations shall enjoy the fruits of her labor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, due to an illness in my family, I was unable to be in attendance on the floor of the House on March 12, 2009, and unable to record my vote on H.R. 1262.

Had I been able to cast my vote on this bill I would have voted in strong support of the Water Quality Investment Act of 2009. H.R. 1262 is a comprehensive bill that will result in a total investment in our nation's water infrastructure of \$18.7 billion over five years, this legislation will fund the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and provide \$13.8 billion in Federal grants over five years to the Clean Water SRF to provide low-interest loans to communities for wastewater infrastructure.

Our nation's wastewater infrastructure is deteriorating and in dire need of repair. In many regions of the country, sewer systems and water infrastructure facilities were built in a different era and for much smaller populations. Many water systems have reached the end of their useful life or have been completely overwhelmed from increased use. H.R. 1262 goes a long way towards renewing the federal commitment to addressing our nation's substantial needs for water infrastructure to ensure that communities across the country have safe drinking water and effective wastewater treatment facilities.

I am pleased that this legislation has passed the House and I only regret that I was not able to be present to cast my vote in support. In addition to voting "yes" on Rollcall No. 123, I would have voted "no" on Rollcall No. 122, against the Mack Amendment to the bill, which would have removed prevailing wage provisions from the bill. I also would have voted "yes" on Rollcall No. 124, H. Res. 224, supporting the designation of March 14, 2009 as Pi Day.

PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE CORPS  
ACT OF 2009

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Public Lands Service Corps Act to expand an already successful program that employs and trains thousands of young people and helps repair and restore our public lands. I am delighted that my colleague, House Natural Resources Committee Chairman NICK RAHALL, has agreed to join me as an original cosponsor of this important bill.

In 1993, when the Public Lands Corps was established through the good work of our late colleague Bruce Vento of Minnesota, there were huge backlogs in labor-intensive work needed on national park lands, forests, wildlife refuges, historic sites and Indian lands.

Today, we still face those challenges and more: years of inadequate funding have put these agencies further behind on vital maintenance work while infrastructure continues to crumble. Despite the best efforts of our underfunded agencies, natural and cultural resources have been neglected, and in many places the effects of climate change are magnifying earlier problems such as fire risk, damage by insects and invasive species and fragmented habitat.

We have started to attack this problem with the recently passed stimulus legislation, but that is only a start. Much remains to be done on public lands.

The Public Lands Corps is built on a long and proud tradition of conservation service on Federal lands that extends back to President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Civilian Conservation Corps. That peace-time army, numbering some 3 million young Americans, planted trees, fought fires, maintained trails and built shelters across our nation. The Youth Conservation Corps has given hundreds of thousands of young people valuable skills and experience while undertaking valuable conservation work.

In fiscal year 2008 alone, over 4,000 young people spent countless hours on 289 projects at 111 national park units mending trails, cleaning up campgrounds, controlling erosion, restoring habitat, and other projects to repair and restore park lands, facilities and resources. That was in national parks alone; imagine what we could accomplish if more federal agencies harnessed that pool of talent and enthusiasm for the benefit of our public lands, waters, and coastal and marine systems.

My bill will amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to expand the authority of the Interior and Agriculture Departments (including such agencies as the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) to provide service-learning opportunities on public lands; help restore the nation's natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational and scenic resources; train a new generation of public land managers and enthusiasts; and promote the value of public service.

Additionally, the bill adds authority for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to participate in the program. NOAA, an agency of the Commerce Department, manages the National Marine Sanctuaries System, and with this new authority will be able to offer Corps members a chance to work in restoring coastal and marine systems along our oceans and the Great Lakes.

The bill will reinvigorate the Public Lands Corps programs by modernizing the scope of Corps projects to reflect new challenges, such as climate change; and adding incentives to attract new participants, especially from under-represented populations.

The legislation will ensure that, during their service term, participants receive adequate training for the work they have been assigned, including agency-specific standards, principles

and practices. Language to ensure adequate housing, authorize participants in existing volunteer programs to contribute both as mentors and on Corps projects, expand the program for college and graduate students, and broaden preferential hire provisions is also included.

The bill would rename the corps as the Public Lands Service Corps, and remove the \$12 million authorization ceiling, paving the way for increased funding for this excellent program.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased that President Obama and Interior Secretary Salazar have made national service a priority, and I am delighted to be a strong supporter of the GIVE Act, which we are considering this week. I want to thank the gentleman from California, Chairman MILLER, for his very generous assistance in the drafting of the Public Lands Corps amendments I am introducing today.

I also want to thank the gentleman from West Virginia, Chairman RAHALL, the chairman of the other committee on which I am proud to serve, the Natural Resources Committee, for his support of this legislation. Other members have also indicated their interest in service-learning on public lands, and I look forward to working with them, and with members of the other body who have a long interest in the Public Lands Corps.

Madam Speaker, we know the tasks and challenges that confront our land and water management agencies are great. This bill will help us meet those challenges.

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#### A TRIBUTE TO DR. MELINDA HSIA

### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Melinda Hsia of South Pasadena, California. Every March we celebrate Women's History Month in recognition of the contributions and the sacrifices made by our nation's women. Accordingly it is my privilege to highlight Dr. Hsia as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

Born in San Francisco, Melinda graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a major in Bacteriology and received her Doctor of Pharmacy at the University of Southern California. She began to master the art of multi-tasking while working at the Glendale Adventist Medical Center for 16 years, when in addition to her medical pursuits, she obtained her real estate license and sold houses part-time. By the time her children, Andrew and Chloe, were born and her husband, Tom, retired, Melinda had become a veteran at juggling multiple roles. Outside of her volunteer efforts Melinda is an avid gardener and a pharmacist at Costco Alhambra where she counsels everyone from pediatric to elderly patients.

Melinda's children have inspired her community involvement year after year. She began as a PTA member at their elementary school, helping to coordinate talent shows, musical productions, and promotions. Once her children entered high school, Melinda became the South Pasadena Music Boosters Club President and an active member of several other committees which coordinate fundraisers and competitions to support athletic and school clubs. She is currently South Pasadena High

School's PTSA Vice President of Programs. In this capacity, Melinda coordinates speaker forums such as "Over-the-Counter Drugs and Teens" and the Developing Capable Young People series. In 2007 she received South Pasadena High School's PTSA Volunteer of the Year award.

In addition to her PTSA involvement, Melinda serves her community as repeat President of the South Pasadena Chinese American Club, which raises funds for local public schools and community projects. The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Huntington Library's Chinese Garden, the South Pasadena Educational Foundation, and the Union Station Foundation's Adopt-A-Meal program have all benefitted from Melinda's exemplary philanthropic leadership. She has supplemented her already busy schedule with positions on South Pasadena School District's Real Estate and Budget Advisory Committees and sits on the Board of Directors for the City's Chamber of Commerce.

Melinda's handiwork adorns the entire South Pasadena community, whether as a refurbished classroom or as a floral centerpiece, and her selfless service is an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. Her devotion has even created a new generation of volunteers: daughter Chloe was recently named a Bronze and Silver Congressional Award Medalist. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Dr. Melinda Hsia.

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#### IN HONOR OF EDWIN E. BLISS

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American and community servant, Edwin E. Bliss of Carmel, California for his lifetime of achievements and service above self. Edwin is a highly respected long time resident of the Monterey Peninsula. All of us who have had the good fortune over the years to befriend him, know that Edwin always exhibits his core values of respect, truth, and goodness.

Edwin Earl Bliss was born in Ridgefield, Washington near Portland, Oregon on March 19, 1919. The son of a successful dairy rancher and respected school teacher, Edwin displayed uncommon leadership skills early and often. Editor in high school, fraternity president in college and manager of the Charlton Hotel in Cannes, France while serving as an Army officer during World War II, Edwin led others by example, humility and compassion.

After the war, Ed moved his small family from rural Washington State to quiet Carmel. Called back into the Army to serve in Korea he moved his wife and three children back to Washington to be near family and friends. Upon his release from the military, Ed returned his young excited family permanently back to the Monterey Peninsula.

Here Edwin lives the American dream, raising a wonderful family, building a beautiful home and selflessly serving his community. Edwin Bliss's sense of honesty and respect has guided and propelled him through a successful career in the insurance industry and

community service. Leadership with the Pacific Grove Kiwanis, the USO, YMCA and the Life Underwriters Association are just some of the many boards he has served on. But his greatest community love is the Monterey History and Art Association. As a long time board member and President from 1964–65 he was instrumental in laying the early groundwork to establish the Monterey Maritime Museum. While a board member for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Edwin helped place the Cooper-Molera Adobe in Monterey on the National Registry of Historic Places. In addition, Edwin served on the first board to insure the preservation of Robinson Jeffers' Tor House.

Perhaps Edwin's greatest social love has been the Ancient and Honorable Society of Buckeye. Founded by close friend and then State Senator, Fred S. Farr, Ed has been its guiding light for over fifty years. This annual gathering of ranchers, fishermen, politicians, musicians, doctors, lawyers, educators and businessmen has given rise to local legends and many community events.

Madam Speaker, Edwin Bliss's accomplishments are distinguished and numerous. Edwin has lived an exemplary life grounded in truth, goodness and respect for others. I know my fellow members join me in congratulating him on his 90th birthday.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the February 2008 New Republican Earmark Standards Guidance, I submit the following in regards to the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act found in H.R. 1105:

ENERGY AND WATER—ARKANSAS RIVER FISH HABITAT, KANSAS

H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act contains a line item for the Arkansas River Fish Habitat in the Army Corps of Engineers' Section 206 account. The entity to receive funding for this project is the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District located at 1645 S. 101 East Ave., Tulsa, OK 74128.

The funding will be used to address the feasibility of improving 122 acres of various types of habitat along the Arkansas River in Kansas. This money could be used to complete Plans and Specifications for this proposed restoration site.

This project complies with matching fund requirements.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JAMES F. SLOAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 34 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE

### HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fellow Army veteran, a man of

great integrity and an unwavering sense of commitment to his Nation, Mr. James F. Sloan, on the occasion of his retirement after 34 distinguished years of public service.

I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Sloan in his role as the Coast Guard's Assistant Commandant for Intelligence. When he assumed his duties in 2003, the Coast Guard had only two years earlier been designated a member of the Intelligence Community. In the years since, Mr. Sloan has been responsible for modernizing the Coast Guard intelligence program to keep pace with an ever-expanding and increasingly complex set of national security threats.

Mr. Sloan has also worked to cultivate extensive relationships and collaborative partnerships with other elements of the Intelligence Community. He has been an enthusiastic advocate for bringing the Coast Guard's wide-ranging expertise to bear in a variety of crucial national missions. Under his leadership, the Coast Guard has become an integral actor in the fight against terrorism, providing port security, conducting maritime interdiction, and supplying essential tactical and operational intelligence to a variety of other U.S. Government agencies.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention Mr. Sloan's 21 years of service with the United States Secret Service. During more than two decades, he served as the agency's Deputy Assistant Director for Protective Operations and later as the Senior Program Manager of the Anti-Terrorism programs, where he represented the Secret Service on the National Security Council.

The Nation is better and safer as a result of Mr. Sloan's service. For that, we thank him.

#### TRIBUTE TO 2009 JOHNSON COUNTY MOVERS AND SHAKERS AWARD WINNERS

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note an important event in the Third Congressional District of Kansas. On April 14, 2009, the Volunteer Center of Johnson County in Overland Park, KS, will honor outstanding youth volunteers. Eighty young people have been nominated by school personnel and nonprofit organizations for their dedication and service to the community. Youth volunteerism continues to grow and be a strong force in Johnson County. These 110 young people exemplify the true meaning of volunteerism and giving back to their community. It is my honor to recognize each student volunteer and their schools by listing them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### MOVERS AND SHAKERS CLASS OF 2009

Rana Aliani—Barstow; Colton Anderson—Prairie Trail Jr. High; Samantha Atwell—Olathe South High School; Amber Atwell—Olathe South High School; Sydney Ayers—Barstow; Katie Bauer—Mill Valley High School; Mica Bengtson—Olathe South High School; Terrance M. Benson II—Shawnee Mission North High School; Ben Berger—Blue Valley Northwest High School; Briana Bowen—Shawnee Mission West High School; Nathaniel Bozarth—Olathe North High School; Jessica Brown—Shawnee Mission

North High School; Tanner Buzick—Prairie Trail Jr. High; Sally Carmichael—Shawnee Mission West High School; Kristy Carter—Olathe North High School; Caitlin Carter—Shawnee Mission West High School; William Cleek—Olathe North High School; Patrick Connell—Shawnee Mission West High School; Elizabeth Cornell—Olathe South High School; Hannah Cosgrove—Shawnee Mission East High School; Arielle Daniel—Olathe Northwest High School; Rudy Date—Blue Valley Northwest High School; Ben Davis—Shawnee Mission Northwest High School; Tyler Day—Prairie Trail Jr. High; Allison Ens—Olathe Northwest High School; Miranda Erickson—Olathe South High School; Amy Esselman—Shawnee Mission East High School; Emily Feder—Blue Valley Middle School; Melissa Gaddis—Olathe South High School; Evan Gage—Blue Valley Northwest High School.

Jennifer Garren—Shawnee Mission West High School; Christy Garren—Westridge Middle School; Kevin Garrett—Shawnee Mission West High School; Michael Garrett—Shawnee Mission West High School; Andy Gottschalk—Westridge Middle School; Lauren Gregory—Heritage Home School; Jonathan Gregory—Shawnee Mission Northwest High School; Robert Hale—Shawnee Mission West High School; Gabrielle Hanna—Chisholm Trail Jr. High; Amneet Hans—Olathe North High School; Myra Hawkins—Shawnee Mission West High School; Rebekah Hayner—Olathe Northwest High School; Cara Heneger—Shawnee Mission East High School; Lauren Hiatt—Olathe North High School; Taylor Hiatt—Olathe North High School; Tyler Howard—Olathe Northwest High School; Liz Huston—Olathe Northwest High School; Shelby Johnson—Olathe South High School; Taylor Johnston—Shawnee Mission West High School; Chantal Jorawsky—Olathe North High School; Katie Kelter—Olathe Northwest High School; Sean Kennedy—Shawnee Mission North High School; Joshua Kennedy—Shawnee Mission Christian School; Jordyn Kittle—Mill Valley High School; Rachel Knapp—Shawnee Mission West High School; Nicole Knapp—Shawnee Mission West High School; Kelli Koch—Mill Valley High School; Jessica Kruger—Olathe North High School; Samuel Linan—Olathe Northwest High School; Danielle Lucido—Lakewood Middle School.

Jessie Lueck—Blue Valley Northwest High School; Olivia Mansheim—Olathe East High School; Connor McGoldrick—Shawnee Mission West High School; Ashley Mercer—Westridge Middle School; Ashlyn Midyett—Olathe Northwest High School; Collin Myers—Lakewood Middle School; Paige Nawalany—Shawnee Mission Northwest High School; Nicholas Nawalany—Shawnee Mission Northwest High School; Jack Nelson—Olathe Northwest High School; Lucy O'Connor—Shawnee Mission East High School; Alexandra Olsen—Olathe Northwest High School; Chris Ouyang—Blue Valley Northwest High School; Aalok Patel—Olathe North High School; Nisha Patel—Olathe Northwest High School; Alex Pentola—Olathe South High School; Wade Pittrich—Shawnee Mission Northwest High School; Matthew Ramirez—Olathe North High School; Andy Rao—Blue Valley Northwest High School; Gabrielle Rehor—Trailridge Middle School; Logan Reilly—Westridge Middle School; Rachel Riedel—Westridge Middle School; Angela Ritz—Olathe North High School; Anna Robb—Shawnee Mission West High School; Dayna Rucker—Shawnee Mission North High School; Bethany Ruder—Olathe South High School; Bradley Schmalz—Shawnee Mission Northwest High School; Courtney Schmitz—Olathe South High School; Taylor Schwartz—Barstow; Caleb Shelton—Olathe South High School;

Monica Sherraden—Olathe South High School.

Carla Simpson—Olathe North High School; Taranjeet Singh—Shawnee Mission West High School; Kyle Sitomer—Shawnee Mission East High School; Katie Spies—Blue Valley North High School; Alexa Stonebarger—Mission Valley Middle School; Allyssa Strange—Blue Valley Northwest High School; Abby Stuke—Westridge Middle School; Kate Tarne—Trailridge Middle School; Tana Thomason—Olathe Northwest High School; Julie Varriano—Notre Dame de Sion; Katie Vaughan—Prairie Trail Jr. High; Amanda Vaupel—Olathe North High School; Dallas Waage—Spring Hill High School; Jessica Wayne—Olathe South High School; Abby Weltner—Shawnee Mission East High School; Audriana Willis—Olathe Northwest High School; Elyse Wilson—Olathe South High School; Ashley Wismer—Olathe South High School; Marissa Wuller—St. Thomas Aquinas; Alexa Zuchowski—Olathe South High School.

#### A TRIBUTE TO CATHERINE WILLS

### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Catherine Wills of Monterey Park, California. Every March we celebrate Women's History Month in recognition of the contributions and the sacrifices made by our nation's women. Accordingly it is my privilege to highlight Ms. Wills as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

Family life in Minneapolis, Minnesota, infused Cathy with the spirit of volunteerism from the very beginning. As a young girl she watched her older sister, Charlotte, transform a personal struggle with spina bifida into success as a community activist. Cathy grew to share her father's concern for social issues such as global poverty, illiteracy, and health care, and she joined Charlotte as a devoted advocate for the physically disabled.

Soon after, Cathy's adventuresome spirit took her all the way to Cairo, Egypt. There she worked in a number of professions, from newspaper reporter to fashion model, advertising representative to tour guide. Cathy even landed a small role in Cecil B. DeMille's epic, "The Ten Commandments." After living abroad, becoming fluent in Arabic, and traveling throughout Europe, she returned to the United States and settled in Monterey Park.

Cathy's thirty-plus years of local community outreach include serving as a Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff, where she became the first woman assigned to the Detective Division's Homicide Bureau and spent her free time mentoring at-risk girls as a Pasadena YWCA "Big Sister." Following retirement, Cathy has dedicated herself to the City and people of Monterey Park. She served on the board of directors of the Heritage Manor Convalescent Home, was a long-time appointee to the City's Personnel Board, and wrote a community column for the local newspaper.

Armed with a lifetime of experience and gumption, Cathy faced her husband's recent bouts with cancer head on and continues to support the City of Hope National Cancer Research Center. Her current roles include serving on city and county Election boards, fundraising as a member of the Soroptimist Club,

and advocating for San Gabriel Valley causes as a founding member of the Concerned Citizens of Monterey Park. Cathy also honors outstanding volunteers as co-chair of the United Democratic Club's annual "People Who Make a Difference" award.

It is my privilege to celebrate Cathy just as she has recognized others for so many years. Her steadfast and selfless service is an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Mrs. Catherine Wills.

#### COMMENDING SARAH LEE FOSTER

### HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life of an eminent citizen, Mrs. Sarah Lee Foster. This remarkable woman merits both our recognition and esteem as her impressive record of leadership, volunteerism, activism and invaluable service has moved our community forward and thereby, improved the lives of our people.

Sarah Lee Foster has lived a life of active involvement in neighborhood, community and city organization and activism that has focused on safety and quality of life issues. She was born in Holly Grove, Arkansas, graduated from Holly Grove Vocational High School and attended Shorter and Arkansas Baptist colleges. She is a recipient of the Arkansas Travelers Ambassador Award and the Arkansas Sesquicentennial Medallion.

Sarah Lee Foster was the first woman and only four-term president of the Five Points Business Association in Denver. She coordinated the annual Denver Juneteenth Celebration from the late 1970's through the late 1990's; established the community outreach program to serve youth, homeless, and seniors in the area; and, actively promoted cooperative relations between the association, local residents and citizens, other community and neighborhood organizations, and city and state government offices. She has been honored many times by the organization throughout the years for her outstanding dedication, leadership, and service to the community.

Sarah Lee Foster's accomplishments have also been recognized by many other appreciative persons and community groups, too numerous to name. Her current and past community service records speak for themselves. Her memberships disclose her belief in the universal community. The list of her awards, tributes, certificates, trophies, and honors runs to more than five single-spaced typed pages.

Sarah Lee Foster is the owner of Sarah Lee's Isle of Beauty and Sarah Lee's Modeling Agency. A charter member of the Denver Cosmetology Guild No. 250, she served as the first African American president of the Colorado Cosmetology Association. She was the first African-American nominated to the National Cosmetology Association Board of Directors, and is currently serving her seventh term as Financial Secretary.

Sarah Lee Foster's countless contributions to the Denver and Colorado communities have

been recognized by many elected officials and government representatives. Most recently, she was honored by Mayor John W. Hickenlooper with an "Unsung Hero" Award on the occasion of the 150th birthday of the City of Denver in 2008. She has made an indelible impact on the Denver and Colorado communities and her service will be remembered and she deserves to be congratulated for her "good and faithful service". As she prepares to move to Texas to reside near her family, I know that she will take with her the spirit of community and community service she shared with all of us.

Please join me in paying tribute to the life of Sarah Lee Foster, a prominent community leader, on the occasion of her eightieth birthday. Her service, accomplishments and leadership command our respect and serve to build a better future for all Americans.

A PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING THE NORTH APPALACHIAN EXPERIMENTAL WATERSHED (NAEW) ON THEIR AWARD FROM THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION FOR ITS EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS

### HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the NAEW conducts research on ways to manage land to protect and improve water quality; and

Whereas, the NAEW works to reduce and prevent flood damages to agricultural areas in Southeastern Ohio; and

Whereas, the NAEW's research has sweeping implications for how water resources can be better managed in agricultural and rural settings all across the country; and

Whereas, the NAEW has received a "Friend of the Extension" Award from the Ohio State University Extension for the strengthened partnership between them, and for their aid in education about forestry, soils, grazing, beef feeding, and many other important rural knowledge bases; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that, along with the Ohio State University Extension, friends and family of the NAEW, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate the North Appalachian Experimental Watershed for receiving this award, and commend their continued work in making water usage in agricultural areas safer, more efficient, and more environmentally friendly.

HONORING THE REVEREND  
CLAUDE WILLIAM BLACK, JR.

### HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, after 92 years of service to others, the Reverend Claude William Black Jr. died on March 13, 2009. A lifelong San Antonian, Reverend Black was a leader in the Civil Rights Movement, working with A. Philip Randolph, the

Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., and many others. But to all of San Antonio, Reverend Black was so much more than the associate of great men; he was a great man and a great friend.

After graduating from the Andover Newton Theological School, Reverend Black spent eight years ministering to congregations in Massachusetts and Corpus Christi before returning to San Antonio to become the minister of the Mount Zion First Baptist Church in 1949. He would lead the congregation as its pastor for the next 49 years and as pastor emeritus until his death. Under Reverend Black's leadership, Mount Zion would become a cornerstone of San Antonio, providing day care, senior citizen services, and, since 1966, a church-owned Credit Union.

Reverend Black was a leading voice in San Antonio's civil rights movement, protesting segregation and bigotry in the face of threats and assaults on himself and his family. When arsonists burned Mount Zion to the ground in 1974, Reverend Black began the process of rebuilding while the ashes were still warm, telling the city council that, while the building might be gone, his church lived on.

As a member of San Antonio's City Council from 1973 to 1978, Reverend Black was the city's first black mayor pro-tem. He left the Council so that he might dedicate more of his time to other projects and to provide opportunities for the next generation of leaders to make their mark in the City's government.

And that was the kind of man Reverend Black was: indefatigable in working for the causes in which he believed, yet always conscious of the roles that others might play and ready to encourage their involvement. Generations of San Antonians have benefited from his work and his tutelage. While Reverend Black himself is now gone, the foundation he laid down will serve our community for generations more.

#### A TRIBUTE TO LIBBY NARDO

### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Libby Nardo of Burbank, California. Every March we celebrate Women's History Month in recognition of the contributions and the sacrifices made by our nation's women. Accordingly it is my privilege to highlight Ms. Nardo as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

When Libby moved to Burbank with her family 55 years ago, her eldest son started school and she started a lifetime of community service. Having begun with Boy & Girl Scouts, Little League, and general church maintenance and bookkeeping, she is now a city-appointed representative of the Senior Citizens' Board of Burbank, co-leader of St. Finbar Catholic Church's venerable service group, the Italian Catholic Federation, and an essential member of the Joslyn Senior Center's leadership team. Libby's ubiquitous presence is astounding: she serves on numerous boards and committees, volunteers with substance abuse

prevention and youth literacy programs, and is a dependable and approachable community leader.

Libby is known for her willingness to take on any task, from chairing the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for over 200 poor and elderly Burbank residents to distributing refreshments at the yearly Senior Prom. Four mornings a week Libby becomes her own travelling food bank. After a quick stop at the nearby market, she sorts and distributes baked goods to local aid and senior centers, churches, and the Salvation Army.

With such an exhaustive catalog of community commitments, it is no wonder Libby is known among her peers as a model of volunteerism. She has previously been honored with both a 20-year service award and a Presidential Lifetime Service Award, and I am pleased to applaud her today.

Libby's steadfast dedication and selfless service are an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ms. Libby Nardo.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE CURES CAN BE FOUND ACT

### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Cures Can Be Found Act. This legislation promotes medical research by providing a tax credit for investments and donations to promote adult and umbilical cord blood stem cell research, and provides a \$2,000 tax credit to new parents for the donation of umbilical cord blood that can be used to extract stem cells.

Mr. Speaker, stem cell research has the potential to revolutionize medicine. Stem cells could hold the keys to curing many diseases afflicting millions of Americans, such as diabetes and Alzheimer's. Umbilical cord blood stem cells have already been used to treat over 70 diseases, including sickle cell disease, leukemia, and osteoporosis. Umbilical cord blood stem cells have also proven useful in treating spinal cord injuries and certain neurological disorders. Adult stem cells have shown promise in treating a wide variety of diseases ranging from brain, breast, testicular, and other types of cancers to multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's, heart damage, and rheumatoid arthritis.

By providing tax incentives for adult and umbilical cord blood stem cell research, the Cures Can Be Found Act will ensure greater resources are devoted to this valuable research. The tax credit for donations of umbilical cord blood will ensure that medical science has a continuous supply of stem cells. Thus, this bill will help scientists discover new cures using stem cells and, hopefully, make routine the use of stem cells to treat formerly incurable diseases.

By encouraging private medical research, the Cures Can Be Found Act enhances a tra-

dition of private medical research that is responsible for many medical breakthroughs. For example, Jonas Salk, discoverer of the polio vaccine, did not receive one dollar from the federal government for his efforts. I urge my colleagues to help the American people support the efforts of future Jonas Salks by cosponsoring the Cures Can Be Found Act.

#### RECOGNIZING ROGER POOLE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS DIRECTING BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE OF DISTRICT NO. 9, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS

### HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Roger E. Poole and congratulating him on his retirement as Directing Business Representative of District No. 9, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (I.A.M.A.W.).

Roger Poole has been a 41-year member of Automotive Lodge 313, joining the Machinists Union in 1967. He was elected Business Representative in 1979 before being elected to the offices of Vice President and President. In representing his Local, Roger served on an impressive list of labor councils. These included: the Belleville Union Labor Council, Southwestern Illinois Central Labor Council, Greater Madison County Federation of Labor, District Lodge 9, Illinois State Council of Machinists, Mid-West States Conference of Machinists, and the Illinois State AFL-CIO. Roger also served as a delegate to every IAM Convention since 1972.

Roger's contributions to the labor movement have brought him well-deserved accolades. He was named Labor Man of the Year by the Southwestern Illinois Central Labor Council and Community Services Labor Man of the Year by the St. Louis Labor Council.

Always active in representing the working men and women of our area, Roger expanded his involvement to civic, political and community organizations. He has been a member of the Machinists Non-Partisan Political League National Planning Committee, President of the Mid-West States Council of Machinists, President of the 12th Congressional District C.O.P.E. AFL-CIO, Vice President of both the Illinois and Missouri State AFL-CIO, Executive Board Member of the St. Louis Labor Council and the United Way of Greater St. Louis. He also found time to serve as Democratic Precinct Committeeman.

Roger and his wife, Rosalie, have two sons, Brian and Jason, and two grandchildren, Darby and Cody.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation and congratulations to Mr. Roger E. Poole, a true champion of organized labor, and to wish him all the best in his retirement.

GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOLUNTEERISM AND EDUCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws:

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 1388, the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act, and I want to thank Representative MILLER and his staff for all their good work on this bill.

Among the bill's many provisions is one I helped to craft that will increase service opportunities for musicians and artists.

Specifically, it would create a Musicians and Artists Corps to train and deploy skilled musicians and artists to low-income communities, schools, healthcare and therapeutic settings, and other areas, where they will promote music and arts engagement programs.

As someone who has had music play an important role in my life, I know firsthand that music and the arts are about far more than just entertainment—they have the power to change lives.

Indeed, research has also backed this up. Music and arts education has been proven to contribute to lower crime rates among disadvantaged youth, and it improves graduation rates and academic performance in schools.

In the world of healthcare, we see even more benefits. Patients who have undergone trauma or are suffering from chronic illness, as well as those with emotional and mental health problems, all benefit from being engaged in art and music programs.

Clearly, there is a wide span of areas where music and the arts can play a key role, and there are hundreds of thousands of musicians and artists that have the talent and the skills to help their communities.

President Obama has called on us all to increase our service to our nation, and these musicians and artists are ready and eager to serve. The Musicians and Artists Corps will connect these volunteers with the settings where they can make a world of difference.

Our citizen service programs, like AmeriCorps, have done a great job of engaging Americans of all ages, from a variety of professions, in national service. It is time now that we bring more musicians and artists into this community.

Passage of the GIVE Act will go a long way toward increasing service in our country, and I am proud to support the measure.

A TRIBUTE TO YIN YIN HUANG

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Yin Yin Huang of Alhambra, California. Every March we celebrate Women's History Month in recognition of the con-

tributions and the sacrifices made by our Nation's women. Accordingly it is my privilege to highlight Mrs. Huang as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

Now an acclaimed master piano instructor, Yin Yin was born in Taiwan and began her musical training at the age of ten. At sixteen years old, Yin Yin made her concert debut with the Chinese Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra and soon after with the Formosa Chamber Orchestra. She attained her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Chinese Culture, Taipei, and a Masters in Music from California State University, Los Angeles.

Today, Yin Yin has approximately thirty years of musical teaching experience, including courses taught in Taiwan before immigrating to the United States, and serves as a faculty member at California State University, Los Angeles. As an international concert pianist, she has worked with artists from all over the world such as the renowned baritone Dr. William Warfield. From East Asia to the Americas, Yin Yin's musical impact resonates around the world.

Yin Yin always wanted to realize her lifelong desire to make a meaningful difference in her community through music. Showing great compassion and a strong sense of civic duty, she organized a series of local charity concerts to raise money for the 1999 Taiwanese earthquake, the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans musicians, and the 2004 South Asian tsunami relief effort.

Yin Yin and her husband have also conducted concerts at local retirement homes, annual midsummer events, and soloist and small ensemble recitals for the past twelve years. In 2005 she established the Acevedo Music & Art Education Foundation, a non-profit organization that enables youths to put their artistic talents to use for benevolent purposes.

In recognition of her charitable work, Yin Yin received the International Federation for World Peace's Ambassador of Peace Award in 2006 and the Pasadena Human Relations Commission's Model of Unity Award in 2008.

Yin Yin has truly surpassed her goal to use music as a tool of positive change in the world; her daily piano lessons inspire others to do so as well. Her steadfast dedication and selfless service are an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Mrs. Yin Yin Huang.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MARY PETTYS

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mary Pettys, a beloved member of the Western New York community who died tragically when Continental Flight 3407 crashed outside of Buffalo on February 12, 2009. This accident was a horrible and shocking tragedy for the Pettys family as well as for so many of us in Western New York.

Mary "Belle" Pettys was the third of ten children, and when her mother passed away in

2006, Mary nurtured and comforted the whole family, supporting her father and her nine siblings. She was a loving and selfless woman, devoted to her 38 nieces and nephews. Family was always Mary's priority. She was sister and aunt, godmother, confidant, matriarch, and companion—a rock for her family.

What makes her loss all the more sorrowful is that Mary was engaged to be married this spring to William Adamski. William called his beloved fiancée a "woman of chance" who had a passion for playing slot machines and even made appearances on the "Price Is Right" and "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno". Although the two will never be able to celebrate their marriage, we are thankful for the years of love and happiness they shared.

Mary Pettys graduated from Canisius College with a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree, which she put to use in her long career in healthcare services. Mary was a devout parishioner of Queen of Heaven Church in West Seneca. Donations were made in her honor to the scholarship fund established in memory of Mary's mother at Mount Mercy Academy in South Buffalo.

We are grateful for the spirit, great strength and contributions that Mary shared with our community throughout the years. As was stated at the Memorial Mass held in Mary's honor, "Mary was the 'Soul' of the Pettys family. There is no more pain for her anymore, only for those of her loved ones left behind. We will soldier on knowing that Mary wouldn't want it any other way. Her indomitable spirit and smile will remain with us forever." It is my honor to pay tribute to Mary Pettys' life and legacy, a remarkable woman who will be missed beyond measure. Our hearts and prayers remain with Mary Pettys and her family, as with all of the victims of Flight 3407.

THE LADIES AUXILIARY OF CLAYTON FIRE COMPANY

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the Clayton Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary upon the celebration of their 50th anniversary in the State of Delaware.

The auxiliary's first meeting was on March 13, 1959, when members of both the Kent County Ladies Auxiliary and the Smyrna Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary were present to answer questions and explain the procedures behind founding an auxiliary. At this meeting, Jeri Hurlock was elected as the auxiliary's first president. It was then decided that Mrs. Hurlock, Mrs. Ethel Donaway, Mrs. Ann Dickerson, and Mrs. Julia Mast would meet and write the first constitution and by-laws. The next meeting, held on April 6, 1959, established a canteen committee to provide food and refreshment for the firemen while they were out fighting fires. With the appointment of this committee, the auxiliary began its now long-standing tradition of dedicating its time and effort in support of the Clayton Fire Company.

Through fundraisers such as fashion shows and concession stands, the women were able to repay the Clayton Fire Company, which had

provided the initial loan to establish the auxiliary. Over the past five decades, the auxiliary has successfully continued to raise funds to benefit both the fire company and the town of Clayton. A junior program for 16 to 18-year-olds was created in 1973, and today, membership in the Clayton Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary has grown to over 70 women, including 35 life members.

On this 50th Anniversary, I would like to recognize the unequalled devotion of the Clayton Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary. Since 1959, the women of the auxiliary have volunteered their time, their energy, and their hearts in support of the Clayton Fire Company and its surrounding community. I commend them for their tireless dedication and immeasurable contributions, and I wish them all the best on this momentous anniversary.

GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOLUNTEERISM AND EDUCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws:

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chair, I rise to oppose H.R. 1388. The idea that it is legitimate for the federal government to take money from one group of citizens and use that money to bribe other citizens into performing "national service" violates the basic moral principles of individual liberty that this country was founded upon.

I would make three points to those of my colleagues who try to justify this bill by saying that participation in the programs are voluntary. First, participation in the program is not voluntary for the taxpayers. Second, nothing in the bill prevents federal taxpayer dollars from being used to support state and local programs that force children to perform "community service" as a condition of graduating from high school. Because an increasing number of schools across the nation are forcing children to provide "service" as a condition of graduating, it is quite likely that the funds authorized by this bill will be used to support mandatory service. Third, and most importantly, by legitimizing the idea that it is an appropriate role for the government to promote "service," legislation such as H.R. 1388 opens the door for mandatory national service. Today, influential voices in both major parties are calling for a national program of mandatory service as well as a resumption of the military draft. With the increased need for more troops for the administration's expanded military adventurism in Afghanistan, as well as the continuing movement to conscript young people not eligible for military service to serve the government at home, can anyone doubt that this bill is only the down payment on a much larger program of mandatory national service?

The moral case against national service was eloquently expressed by former President Ronald Reagan in the publication *Human Events* in 1979: ". . . it [national service and conscription] rests on the assumption that your

kids belong to the state. If we buy that assumption then it is for the state—not for parents, the community, the religious institutions or teachers—to decide who shall have what values and who shall do what work, when, where and how in our society. That assumption isn't a new one. The Nazis thought it was a great idea."

Mr. Chair, millions of Americans including many young people, are already volunteering their time and talents to help their fellow citizens and better their communities without being bribed by the government. In fact, to suggest that the young Americans need a federal check as an incentive to volunteer is an insult to the American people. I hope all my colleagues to join me in standing up for individual liberty, the great American tradition of true volunteerism, and the Constitution by opposing H.R. 1388.

A TRIBUTE TO BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF PASADENA

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bethel Missionary Baptist Church of Pasadena, California. Bethel Missionary Baptist Church is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary with the theme "The Church—Moving Forward in the Power of the Holy Spirit."

Established in February 1959, under the leadership of Reverend Freeman S. Stevens with seventeen members, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church was formally recognized in June of that year as a constituted Baptist Church. For a few months, the church held services at the Pasadena Buddhist Church and with Dr. J. W. Coleman at Community Baptist Church in Pasadena. In December of 1959, Reverend Stevens and church members moved into a small frame house at 1972 N. Fair Oaks Avenue in Pasadena, and with the assistance of architect Luther Eskijian, constructed a new church at the site.

Continuing to grow, the church underwent many renovations over the years, including the purchase of the adjacent property in 1984 which allowed for expansion and a major renovation of the church in 2007 under the leadership of the current pastor, Pastor John T. McCall.

Since its inception, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church has provided spiritual guidance and tangible support to the Altadena and Pasadena community. Some of the church's many programs include the Youth Scholarship Fund instituted by the last Pastor Kurling C. Robinson and Wednesday Family Night, established by Pastor John T. McCall. Other services include a food pantry for the community, Project Fatherhood—a mentoring program for fathers, a youth summer program and a youth fellowship group. In addition, the church actively supports D'veal Family and Youth Services agency's programs such as the Alive and Free Violence Intervention and Prevention program.

I consider it a great privilege to recognize Bethel Missionary Baptist Church on its fiftieth anniversary and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the congregation for their fifty years of service to the community.

SUPPORT OF A BILL TO AMEND THE RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION ACT TO INCLUDE THE TERRITORY OF GUAM IN THE LIST OF AFFECTED AREAS WITH RESPECT TO WHICH CLAIMS RELATING TO ATMOSPHERE NUCLEAR TESTING SHALL BE ALLOWED

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have reintroduced a bill that would amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, RECA, to include Guam in the list of affected areas for claims regarding and relating to atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons. My bill addresses a serious concern about the downwind affects of such testing that was conducted by the United States Government in the Marshall Islands from 1946 through 1962. This is an issue that concerns many of my constituents, and the bill I have reintroduced today would provide an avenue for redress and compensation for any illnesses that may have been contracted by individuals who resided on Guam during the testing period.

On April 27, 2005, a special committee of the Board of Radiation Effects Research of the National Research Council of the National Academies submitted a report to Congress entitled the "Assessment of the Scientific Information for the Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program." The report, which was the result of a Congressional directive, stated, "As a result of its analysis, the committee concludes that Guam did receive measurable fallout from atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons in the Pacific. Residents of Guam during that period should be eligible for compensation under RECA in a way similar to that of persons considered to be downwinders." This is a critical finding.

The bill I have reintroduced today directly acts on this finding and would provide a process by which such residents of Guam who may have been affected by radiation fallout from the Pacific tests can file compensable claims under RECA with the Department of Justice. The bill conforms to the current process under RECA that is utilized for residents of certain counties in the Western United States mainland that were similarly affected and downwind of other atmospheric nuclear weapons testing conducted by the United States Government.

In reintroducing this legislation today I recognize the Pacific Association for Radiation Survivors, PARS, for their work and dedication to addressing this issue. Their support and continued efforts in raising public awareness about the legacy of United States testing of nuclear weapons in the Pacific is making a difference in our community and provides an informed basis from which we should take up our work in Congress to amend RECA.

I look forward to working with the Committee on the Judiciary in reviewing this legislation and the findings of the Committee to Assess the Scientific Information for the Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program. I also look forward to this bill becoming law so that justice may be brought to those individuals who were adversely affected by the

atmospheric nuclear tests that were conducted by the United States Government in the Pacific.

HONORING THE ESCANABA DAILY PRESS ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Escanaba Daily Press on its 100th anniversary. The Daily Press has survived the ups and downs the newspaper industry has faced over the past century and watched several local competitors fold, yet remained as a strong and independent voice for the Escanaba, Delta County and Schoolcraft County communities. Madam Speaker, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring the Escanaba Daily Press and the men and women, past and present, who work so hard every day to bring the community its news on this historic milestone.

In 1909 the Escanaba Morning Press was founded by John Norton and Herbet Little. After only a few months of operation, Little left and Norton took over sole management of the paper. The first edition of the Morning Press was published on March 19, 1909 at 1119 Ludington Street. Within two years the paper was moved to its present building at 600 Ludington Street where it has operated ever since.

In 1922 the Escanaba Morning Press changed its name to the Escanaba Daily Press and became an afternoon paper on September 29, 1947. In 1954 the paper was sold to Frank Russell of Marquette, Michigan and George Osborn of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. In 1966 it was purchased by the Panax Corporation, which sold the Daily Press to Thomson Newspapers in 1980. Since 1998 the Escanaba Daily Press has been under the ownership of Ogden Newspapers.

Despite changes in ownership over the years, the Daily Press has remained an independent voice for the people of Escanaba and all of Delta and Schoolcraft Counties. As community newspapers across the country have confronted consolidation, closure and downsizing, the Daily Press keeps going strong because of this independent voice and the trust of their readers.

In the late 1970s it was the reporting of the Daily Press in a series on insurance scams that was the driving force in updating state insurance laws. In 1988 the Daily Press won the Associated Press sweepstakes award for doing the best work of any paper of its size in Michigan for a series on the shotgun slaying of four family members and the subsequent week-long search in local woods by the FBI for the suspect and his kidnapped ex-wife.

The Daily Press has won countless awards over the years for editorial writing. In one contest, Michigan Press Association judges said they were "well written editorials that take a clear position even when those positions might be unpopular." In another instance, the MPA wrote that the "Daily Press takes seriously its role as a government watchdog." In an AP annual news writing contest, judges commented, "Every editorial submitted dealt with local

issues, with two taking aim at city government. These are issues that newspaper editorial pages are supposed to address. Good job."

Madam Speaker, newspapers like the Escanaba Daily Press are a vital part of our communities. Their reporting is a valuable resource in tracking the history of our communities, reflecting and reporting on our daily lives. The Daily Press has served the Escanaba community and all of Delta and Schoolcraft Counties well over the past century. I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives, join me in congratulating the Escanaba Daily Press and its past and present staff on 100 years of operation.

GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOLUNTEERISM AND EDUCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws:

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act which will renew our nation's commitment to service and volunteerism. Public service is something my family knows a little bit about. Countless Americans were called to public service by President Kennedy's famous appeal: "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country." It is my hope that with the passage of the GIVE Act, Congress and President Obama will create a new era of public service that goes beyond any one group or generation. The bill we are considering today expands opportunities for volunteerism to include disadvantaged youth, seniors and people with disabilities. If we are going to regain a sense of community and shared responsibility in this country, we must encourage national service among all people. I'm a strong believer in the abilities of the American people to confront our biggest challenges with perhaps our biggest asset: our manpower.

The creation of new programs like the Clean Energy Corps, to focus on environmental conservation, will work with our economy as we forge a new direction on energy. I am pleased that this bill provides new incentives for middle and high school students to volunteer in their communities, and will allow them to earn a \$500 education award to be used for college costs. In addition, this legislation will increase the number of AmeriCorps volunteers and increase the education reward they receive to match the maximum Pell Grant scholarship award.

The benefits that this legislation would bring to our struggling communities, across this country, and in my home state of Rhode Island, are endless. When President Obama took office just a few short months ago, he called upon Congress to expand federally funded national service opportunities. Today, we fulfill that promise. I am proud to vote in favor of this bill.

A TRIBUTE TO JULI COSTANZO

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Juli Costanzo of San Gabriel, California. Every March we celebrate Women's History Month in recognition of the contributions and the sacrifices made by our nation's women. Accordingly it is my privilege to highlight Mrs. Costanzo as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

Born in nearby Glendale, California, Juli first moved to San Gabriel in 1965. She began as the Owner and Manager of a local small business, Hammy's Hamburgers, went on to become the Executive Director and President of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce, and now has served as a San Gabriel City Council member since March of 2003. Juli is a past mayor of the City and is also the Vice President of her family's current small business, Champion Sports Collectables, Inc.

Juli's rise to the apex of San Gabriel leadership can be attributed to her unrelenting devotion to the economic and social welfare of her community. She has served as a board member and event coordinator for numerous local organizations, from the San Gabriel Mission Elementary School Board to the Mission District Mercado and the joint Family Festival and Farmers Market. In her role as a San Gabriel Parks and Recreation Commissioner, Juli helped maintain and improve the integrity of the City's beloved and historic public spaces.

In addition to Juli's City and small business endeavors, she remains an active community member. Whether assisting the San Gabriel Police Department's Neighborhood Watch Program and the San Gabriel Community Coordinating Council, supporting the West San Gabriel Valley YMCA and the Mission District Partnership, or just attending an AYSO Region 40 game, Juli is an ideal example of a friendly face and a helping hand.

Her steadfast dedication and selfless service are an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Mrs. Juli Costanzo.

INTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND ECONOMIC CONVERSION ACT OF 2009

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I am again introducing the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act (NDECA), as I have done since 1994, after working with the residents who were responsible for a ballot initiative passed by D.C. voters in 1993. NDECA requires the United States to disable and dismantle its nuclear weapons when all other nations possessing nuclear weapons enact laws to do the same. NDECA further provides that when U.S. nuclear weapons are dismantled, the resources for supporting nuclear weapon

programs would be used for our growing human and infrastructure needs, such as housing, health care, Social Security and the environment.

I chose to introduce the NDECA before the March 20th memorial service for William Thomas, who sat in front of the White House in an anti-nuclear vigil for nearly 28 years. His efforts have been called the longest uninterrupted war protest in U.S. history. He truly embodied our inalienable First Amendment rights. Tragically, instead of nuclear disarmament, nations around the world have increased efforts to seek or acquire nuclear capability with Iran's failure to halt uranium enrichment captured attention until recently, China's nuclear weapons and today North Korea continues testing missile long range missiles and there is little doubt that North Korea has acquired a nuclear device. India and Pakistan continue to fight over the Kashmir region and with the recent terrorist strikes in India, the instability in the region persists. Pakistan assures us that its weapons are safe, as nuclear secrets are sold by its top scientists, the streets are riled with protests, a military coup is not out of the question, and the semi-autonomous regions are dominated by Al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

The invasion of Iraq cost the United States much of its leadership on nuclear proliferation and other urgent international issues. This country reached a non-credible status in dissuading other nations who aspire to become or remain nuclear powers as we ourselves took greater initiative in increasing our own nuclear weapons program. We moved in the right direction when the Senate ratified the Moscow Treaty in 2003, which provides that by 2012 both the U.S. and Russia will reduce their long-range warheads by two-thirds from approximately 6,000 warheads each to 2,200. However, the Bush administration failed to build on this effort. According to the study, "Securing The Bomb: An Agenda for Action" (May, 2004; prepared by the Belfer Center, Harvard University Kennedy School of Government): "Total nuclear-threat-reduction spending remains less than one quarter of one percent of the U.S. military budget. Indeed, on average, the Bush administration requests for nuclear-threat-reduction spending over FY 2002–2005 were less, in real terms, than the last Clinton administration request, made long before the 9/11 attacks ever occurred." Instead, the Bush administration moved to increase the country's nuclear capacity.

However, the problem today is even more complicated than nuclear disarmament by nation states. The greatest threat today is from inadequately defended and guarded sites in many countries where there is enough material to make nuclear weapons and many opportunities for terrorists or nations without weapons to secure nuclear materials. Astonishingly, because of the previous administration's absence of leadership, less nuclear material was seized in the two years following the 9/11 attacks than in the two years immediately preceding the attacks ("Securing The Bomb: An Agenda for Action", May 2004).

In my work on the Homeland Security Committee, I know that threats from nuclear proliferation and available nuclear material are more dangerous in the post 9/11 era than in 1994, when I first introduced the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act. It is more urgent than ever to begin closing down nuclear capability here and around the world.

Today, our country has a hobbled economy, 45 million people still without health insurance, a long list of other urgent domestic needs put on the back burner following the invasion of Iraq, large tax cuts for wealthy people and corporations, and millions of Americans losing their homes and jobs. As the only nation that has used nuclear weapons in war, and still possesses the largest arsenal, the U.S. has an obligation to begin the arduous process of leading the world in the transfer of nuclear weapons funds to urgent domestic needs.

CONGRATULATING GUNDERSEN  
LUTHERAN BREAST CENTER

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gundersen Lutheran's Norma J. Vinger Center for Breast Care on becoming the first breast cancer treatment center in the nation to achieve the highest level of distinction from the National Quality Measures for Breast Centers (NQMBC) program. The honor was presented to Gundersen Lutheran because they ranked at or above a designated threshold of performance for 90 percent of the measures specified by the NQMBC. This honor reflects the center's commitment to providing the highest level of quality care to breast cancer patients and their families at the lowest possible costs. I am extremely proud Wisconsin's Third Congressional District is home to a breast care facility that is a national leader in the measurement of treatment and outcomes.

The Norma J. Vinger Center for Breast Care provides state-of-the-art patient and family care emphasizing prevention, education, early detection, and clinical research. Their approach to breast care is holistic and interdisciplinary with a staff that includes experienced physicians, surgeons, nurses, and technologists who are skilled in the latest methods of early diagnosis, treatment, and reconstructive surgery. The Norma J. Vinger Center for Breast Care has discovered numerous breakthroughs in research and breast cancer care that have provided countless patients with hope and access to the most advanced care available in the country.

In addition to the NQMBC honor, Gundersen Lutheran is also one of two organizations in the country that has every available accreditation for the full scope of breast care, diagnosis, and treatment from the American College of Radiology. The Center also boasts two fellowship-trained clinical breast radiologists that specialize in breast cancer care. The Center for Breast Care has demonstrated continued excellence in measuring and comparing quality performance. The staff is also committed to utilizing new advances in technology to ensure that the Center remains a national leader in breast cancer care and research.

Providing care that promotes early detection, is outcome based, and utilizes innovative technology is the most efficient way to administer health care. I am proud to have this La Crosse based breast cancer facility in Wisconsin's Third Congressional District and hope that the great work they are conducting will serve as a model for the rest of the country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ACCESS TO  
JUSTICE ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Access to Justice Act. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish a right for an alien to file a motion to reopen a case in removal proceedings if the alien can demonstrate that counsel or a certified representative provided deficient performance.

In one of his last actions as Attorney General, Michael Mukasey ruled that immigrants have no constitutional right to effective legal representation in deportation hearings. After more than 20 years of precedent in special immigration courts overseen by the Justice Department, those now facing deportation have no remedy for the errors committed by incompetent, inattentive lawyers, or even those who claim to be lawyers.

This 11th hour regulation not only goes counter to what has already been established by a long line of decisions in the federal courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals but also is a matter of equal protection/due process. In fact, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit stated in an opinion, "Vulnerable immigrants are preyed upon by unlicensed notaries and unscrupulous appearance attorneys who extract fees in exchange for false promises and shoddy, ineffective representation."

The Supreme Court has found that non-citizens are ineligible for court appointed counsel in civil cases. Removal proceedings are not considered criminal and therefore, immigrants who are in the process of being deported must find their own counsel. Judge Katzmann on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals said in a recent New York Times article, "Justice should not depend on the income level of immigrants." A study in the Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics found that only 35% of individuals in removal proceedings had counsel; yet asylum seekers who have counsel are three times more likely to succeed in their claim compared to those without representation.

Because of this Supreme Court decision incompetent legal representation is now "discretionary" and thus unreviewable. So the former Attorney General, the final arbiter in immigration cases, decided in his final hours in office without any consultation with Congress that the 6th amendment right to counsel only applies to criminals, not to non-criminals who have privately retained lawyers in civil removal proceedings. Imagine in our great melting pot of an immigrant nation a decision that gives greater access to justice to those who might have committed a felony more than to those who want to be Americans. When a lawyer fails to show up to court or forgets to file the required paperwork, the individual being deported will have no legal right to appeal on the grounds of deficient counsel.

That is why I am introducing The Access to Justice Act, a bill that would create a legislative fix to the Mukasey decision. This bill creates a right to file a motion to reopen a removal case if deficient performance of counsel can be demonstrated. To provide relief to

those who are currently in removal proceedings under this decision, enactment of this bill would allow them to file an appeal.

I urge my colleagues to support the Access to Justice Act. This important and urgent legislation will bring justice to those affected by Mukasey's midnight ruling and ensure fairness in removal proceedings.

#### STOP AIDS IN PRISON ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 17, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support of H.R. 1429, Stop AIDS in Prison Act of 2009, which has been reintroduced by Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS. It is important that proper HIV/AIDS testing, prevention, treatment, and education are provided to all inmates. HIV/AIDS is quickly rising in America. According to the Department of Justice the rate of confirmed AIDS cases in prisons was three times higher than in the general population.

This piece of legislation will help reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS by making inmates get tested for HIV/AIDS upon entering jail and when they leave. Testing inmates when they enter and when they leave will help track the number of people infected and it will also help reduce the spread to others in their communities. Educating inmates about HIV/AIDS and providing them treatment will make them more responsible about their health and the health of others.

This is only one part of helping to solve this epidemic that has spread vastly in large and small cities and towns across America as well as in countries around the world. That is why I am in strong support of this legislation.

#### A TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN PERINI

### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Kathryn Perini of Temple City, California. Every March we celebrate Women's History Month in recognition of the contributions and the sacrifices made by our nation's women. Accordingly it is my privilege to highlight Ms. Perini as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

Few people take the chance to positively impact their community to the extent that Kathy has. A lifelong Temple City resident, Kathy earned her degrees at the nearby University of Southern California and returned to her hometown to apply her education towards helping the people she knew and loved. Kathy began as a teacher and a counselor and she eventually became the principal of Emperor Elementary, a California Distinguished School.

At Emperor, Kathy has created and maintained cooperative and influential relationships with the community, parents, teachers, and students. With a clear action plan, she has crafted a school of academic scholars who benefit from Character Education as the cur-

riculum's core. Kathy also shares her insight by working as a consultant, helping regional and nationwide schools develop not only educated but also responsible citizens. Various esteemed organizations have recognized her with awards, from local PTA groups to the National Character Education Center and the Mattel Foundation Family Learning Program.

Throughout her years as an education trailblazer, Kathy has remained devoted to giving back to the community that helped raise her. In 1986 she founded the Temple City Youth Development program to benefit local students unable to afford extensive field study trips and remains the non-profit's director today. For nearly twenty years Kathy has been a dedicated member of the Tournament of Roses and presently serves on the organization's Executive Committee.

Kathy's dual roles as educator and community leader were tested in early 2006 when her school fell victim to the violent act of arson. Even in the face of adversity, she rose to the challenge by reaching out to the community for supplies to ensure that all her students' needs were met, regardless of the devastating classroom destruction. In response, Kathy was happily inundated with resources, support, and encouragement.

We are fortunate to have Kathy, a pillar of loyal community leadership, help us develop a new generation of bright and giving Americans. Her steadfast dedication and selfless service are an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ms. Kathy Perini.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN BARNETT WATERMAN II

SPEECH OF

### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 2009*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and, indeed, the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor John Barnett Waterman II and pay tribute to his memory.

A lifelong resident of Mobile, John graduated from the University of South Alabama in 1968 and was a member of the school's second graduating class. He was also a member of the university's first pledge class of the Sigma Chi fraternity. John earned a Bachelor of Science degree in finance and went on to pursue a successful career in investments.

A proud patron of the arts, John was a supporter of the Mobile Symphony and also sponsored an annual scholarship for a Mobile graduating high school student to attend the Brevard School of Music.

In 1919, with one ship and \$2,000 capital, John's grandfather founded the Waterman Steamship Corporation, which grew to become the nation's largest family-owned steamship company. The company's headquarters housed the Waterman Globe, a local maritime icon. John was an ardent supporter of the refurbishing of the icon, which is now on display at the University of South Alabama's Mitchell Center.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. John Barnett Waterman II will be dearly missed by his family—his wife, Lynne Stanard Waterman; his daughter, Kemp Waterman Buntin and her husband, Jeffrey; his son, John Douglas Waterman; his sisters, Annise Waterman Uphaus and Melissa Waterman Inge; and his grandsons, Gaither Waterman Buntin and Thomas Rush Buntin—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL CHRISTOPHER E. O'CONNOR

### HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the United States Marine Corps are exceptional. Our country has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to keep this country free and safe. United States Marine Colonel Christopher E. O'Connor is one of these individuals. On April 2, 2009, a retirement ceremony honoring Col. O'Connor will be held in Miramar, California. As a thirty year service veteran, Col. O'Connor deserves our thanks and gratitude as we honor him for his distinguished career.

Following his commission through the NROTC Program at the University of Rochester and his education at the Communications and Electronics School at MCAGCC Twenty-nine Palms, Col. O'Connor has served in many capacities over the years. The Marine Air Support Squadron where he served as an Air Support Control Officer in the Direct Air Support Center (DASC), the Aviation Department's action officer in the Aviation Logistics Branch of the Department of Aviation at Marine Headquarters, and operations officer of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Aviation Support Element Kaneohe are just three of many assignments Col. O'Connor has been entrusted with.

Receiving his wings in 1985, Col. O'Connor became a CH-53 helicopter pilot and transferred to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463. Col. O'Connor would leave HMH 463 to deploy to the Philippines but later return as Commanding Officer of the squadron from October 1997 to May 1999 in Kaneohe, Hawaii. In August 2006, Col. O'Connor assumed the position of Commanding Officer of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Not only does he supervise over 3,000 Marines, Sailors and Civilian Marines with an operating budget of over \$217 million but he is also responsible for Air Station assets of over \$2 billion.

Col. O'Connor's tireless passion for service has contributed to the betterment of this country. His decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, and Navy Achievement Medal. I am proud to call Chris a fellow community member, American and friend. I know

that many citizens and servicemen are grateful for his service and salute him as he ends his term.

#### PERSIAN NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Nowruz which marks the traditional Iranian New Year and dates back more than 3,000 years. Nowruz, literally meaning “new day,” celebrates the arrival of spring and occurs on the vernal equinox, which this year will happen exactly on Friday, March 20th at 7:44 a.m. eastern daylight time. It symbolizes a time of renewal, harkening the departure from the trials and tribulations of the previous year and bringing hope for the New Year. It is celebrated by more than three hundred million Iranians and other peoples all over the world.

Closer to home, more than one million Iranian Americans of all backgrounds, including those of Baha’i, Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Zoroastrian faiths, will be celebrating Nowruz. Recognizing the cultural and historical significance of this day and in its honor, I express my appreciation for the contributions of Iranian-Americans to American society and wish all those who observe this holiday a happy and prosperous new year.

#### INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION ON IMPROVING ACCESS TO LONG-TERM CARE IN THE HOME AND COMMUNITY

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution that addresses one of the most crucial health concerns facing our nation: expanding access to quality long-term care in the home and community.

Long-term care is a broad range of health and social services that are used by people who cannot care for themselves because of a physical, cognitive, or mental disability. Eighty percent of long-term care now occurs in the home. The majority of long-term care is provided by family caregivers that are accompanied by community services such as Adult Day Care Programs, home-delivered meals programs, mental health services, and home health workers. Sadly, too many patients and families are enduring the physical, emotional and financial consequences of having poor access to long-term care services.

Madam Speaker, well over 9.4 million adults receive long-term care in the United States of America. And this number is expected to rise. Longer life spans among the chronically ill and disabled, and higher incidences of acquired disabilities from unmanaged conditions such as HIV/AIDS, diabetes, obesity and heart disease will increase our reliance on long-term care.

In little more than two decades, one-fifth of the U.S. population will be age sixty-five or

older. States with significant elder populations—like Florida—know the importance of ensuring that our health care system is well equipped to provide decent and routine long-term care services. However, the increase in demand for long-term care services has not been followed by an increased incentive to effectively address and solve the disparities in access to high-quality long-term care. Amazingly, there has never been a national plan for long-term care, and nearly twenty years have passed since Congress comprehensively reviewed long-term care policy.

The lack of streamlined standards and dominant payment methods for long-term care has left our long-term care system handicapped: depriving countless people of much needed services and placing a tremendous financial and emotional burden on families and caregivers. A significant portion of long-term care is financed with personal funds, and Medicaid is the largest public payer for long-term care. Medicaid and out-of-pocket-spending exclude countless persons from receiving health care service, which can lead to more costly and invasive medical interventions.

Madam Speaker, this is an important bill that must be supported during a critically important time when we are tasked with solving one of the most serious financial and health challenges of our era. This resolution calls for integrating long-term care into health care reform and for making long-term health more affordable.

The resolution regards preventative health and the management of chronic disease as essential components in decreasing the future dependence on long-term care by preventing conditions from becoming permanently debilitating or disabling. And, it encourages collaboration among local, state and federal health care entities to improve working conditions and training for home health aides to lower turnover rates, staff shortages, patient abuse and raising the standard of care.

This resolution supports funding for existing technologies, programs and initiatives that assist informal care givers, and help maintain and improve long-term health services for the disabled and elderly. Lastly, it commits to aiding relevant parties in composing, executing, and economic disparities that limit access to care.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution and to truly invest in the present and future welfare of our nation’s health care system.

#### GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOLUNTEERISM AND EDUCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws:

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the GIVE Act and the amendment offered by Congressman TEAGUE of New Mexico and Congressman KLEIN of Florida. This is a great example of furthering our commitment to

America’s veterans, and I commend Congressman KLEIN and my fellow New Mexican, Congressman TEAGUE, for leading the effort to ensure our veterans have access to resources and programs that will benefit them.

During times of crisis and economic hardship, Americans have always joined together to overcome obstacles. The GIVE Act will provide Americans with the tools to get our country back on track by working in their communities. Americans of all ages have always responded to the call of service in times of crisis, and this legislation helps Americans to respond to this call by creating new opportunities to serve. This amendment ensures that those who are no strangers to service to our nation—our veterans—are included in this bill.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment to put veterans back to work and train them for civilian careers. This addition would provide support to veterans in their pursuit of education and professional careers, and assist disabled and unemployed veterans with transportation needs. This is an important step in moving forward with constructive legislation that gives due respect to those who have given so much. I thank Congressman TEAGUE and Congressman KLEIN for their efforts on behalf of our nation’s veterans and urge an aye vote.

#### A TRIBUTE TO BRENDA GALLOWAY

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Brenda Galloway of Pasadena, California. Every March we celebrate Women’s History Month in recognition of the contributions and the sacrifices made by our nation’s women. Accordingly it is my privilege to highlight Mrs. Galloway as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

Originally from Kentucky, Brenda has lived in Pasadena with her husband Bill for the last forty years. Together they run the family business, Summit Enterprises, which invests in residential commercial properties in the San Gabriel Valley and trains local youth for careers in real estate. A tireless community leader, Brenda has devoted herself to improving the region’s arts and educational systems with a blend of energy, enthusiasm, and humility. Her volunteer work began as a young girl running school paper drives and has grown to include an astounding collection of Southern California non-profit organizations.

In addition to serving on the Board of Directors for the Pasadena YMCA and the La Salle High School Board of Trustees, she has been involved the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Foundation, the L.A. County Commission of Children and Families, the Pasadena Police Department Olympic Committee, Jack & Jill of America, and the Jackie Robinson Memorial Celebration. She is particularly active with the CASA Glamour Gown program, which provides prom gowns and accessories to girls in foster care throughout Los Angeles County.

Showing great care and dedication to the community, Brenda has been involved with several organizations. While devoting herself to these great organizations, Brenda and her

husband have also hosted charitable events at their home for many nonprofit groups, such as the Pasadena Playhouse, the Pasadena AIDS Service Center, and the National Park Service's African American Experience Fund. Their generosity extended to Pasadena City College as well, with whom they endowed a Sculpture Garden Plaza in 2000.

Mrs. Galloway's charitable efforts have garnered much deserved recognition in the community. She has been awarded with a lifetime membership to the NAACP for her membership recruitment and fundraising efforts, received a Campus and Community Special Recognition award from PCC in 1999, and was deemed a "Contemporary History Maker" in 2003 by the Pasadena Museum of History. Most recently, the Pasadena Playhouse honored Brenda for her work in the promotion of cultural diversity at the third annual Sheldon Epps Theatrical Diversity Project Celebration, of which she is a founding member.

Brenda's impact on the Pasadena community is a testament to her innate compassion for the people around her. Her steadfast dedication and selfless service are an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Mrs. Brenda Galloway.

CONGRATULATING TROOPER  
NICHOLAS L. LEWIS

**HON. JEAN SCHMIDT**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Trooper Nicholas L. Lewis and Dispatcher Sonia M. Banks from the Portsmouth Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol for being recognized as Ohio's Trooper and Dispatcher of the Year. For the first time both of these prestigious award winners are from the same post. Also, for the second year in a row, the State of Ohio's Trooper of the Year patrols in the Second Congressional District.

Trooper Lewis, a graduate of the 144th Academy Class, has been assigned to the Portsmouth Post since February of 2007. Trooper Lewis resides in McDermott with his wife, Elizabeth and their two children. In October, Lewis was honored with the Ace Award for finding five stolen vehicles and has had much success in the Criminal Patrol Program. Nick's Post commander, Lieutenant Mike Crispin best describes him as truly believing in the Ohio State Highway Patrol's mission of saving lives and taking drugs off the street.

Dispatcher Banks has worked at the Portsmouth Post since 2003, after being told of the position by a friend—who recommended that she would be perfect for it. Dispatcher Banks lives in Minford with her husband, Chris and their two sons. Recently, Banks was instrumental in the Post's ability to communicate with each other during a bomb scare on a barge and a school shooting, when she worked to acquire a dedicated cell tower for operations.

Madam Speaker, I am very thankful once again to have Ohio's Trooper of the Year patrolling the Second Congressional District.

And, I am equally thankful for having the Dispatcher of the Year in the Second District as well. Congratulations Nick and Sonia, I wish you both continued success in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I missed rollcall vote no. 128, 129 and 130. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

TRIBUTE TO BOBBY GOODWIN

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bobby Goodwin's remarkable life of selfless service. I was deeply saddened to learn of his passing and honor his memory today on the floor of the people's House.

Bobby W. Goodwin was born in Flemingsburg, Kentucky on March 22, 1939 to the late Lawrence and Edith Goodwin. He was a graduate of New Castle High School, Class of 1958. A loving husband, father, and grandfather, Bobby leaves behind a wonderful family that will undoubtedly miss him.

A veteran of the United States Army, Bobby retired from the Ford Motor Company in Indianapolis after 35 years of service. He owned Goodwin Bail Bonding and admirably served the New Castle Police Department, being named Outstanding Police Officer of the Year in 1974.

Ever active in the community, Bobby served on the New Castle City Council and was a member of several organizations, including the local Republican Party, VFW and American Legion. At the time of his passing, Bobby served as Head Doorkeeper in the Indiana House of Representatives.

Though Bobby sadly has passed away, he leaves a strong legacy that will continue to serve as a powerful example to all who knew him. I offer my sincere condolences to his loving wife Ann Jo, daughter Kathie, and sons Michael, Gary, and Tony.

TRIBUTE TO AFRICAN PASSAGES

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Park Service on the dedication of its newly installed museum exhibit African Passages, which will be housed at the Fort Moultrie Visitors' Center in Sullivan, South Carolina. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge this scholarly contribution to our historical memory.

Historians estimate that slave ships brought 200,000 to 360,000 men, women, and children

into Charleston's harbor. Between 1707 and 1799—when arriving ships carried infectious diseases—their free or enslaved passengers were quarantined either aboard ship or in island "pest houses." This painful history makes Sullivan's Island a gateway through which many African Americans can trace their entry into America. This exhibit thoughtfully examines the role of Sullivan's Island as a quarantine station during the international slave trade when Charleston was the main port of entry for captive Africans in North America.

The exhibit includes the haunting Middle Passage charcoal of Thomas Feelings and the exuberant Gullah art of Jonathan Green. West African objects, leg shackles and an 1803 slave identification badge are among the artifacts on display, which are on loan from the collection of the Avery Research Center for African American Culture at the College of Charleston.

The historical display also includes the story of Priscilla and her 7th generation granddaughter's return to Sierra Leone, which spans three centuries and provides a modern day link from Charleston across the Atlantic. The narrative of Priscilla places a stronger human element on the hundreds of thousands of persons oppressed by slavery. We owe a great debt to historians Edward Ball and Joseph Opala whose scholarship uncovered this timeless tale.

I would also like to acknowledge journalist Herb Frazier, who wrote the text; Studio Displays of Charlotte, NC, who created and installed the exhibit; and the Committee of Descendants, which provided an early investment for the project in 2004. In addition, I would like to thank Michael Allen of the National Park Service. The Remembrance Committee of Charleston has also been instrumental with the completion of the project. Their contributions and service to this initiative are greatly appreciated.

Legendary conductor of the Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman said, "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." The election of President Barack Obama has brought long due historic change to our country. It is important, however, to also pay homage to the singular events that defined a country and its people. This exhibit seeks to engage not only the Charleston community, but also the American community about its painful past, which I believe is a prelude for a brighter future for our country.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the dedication of African Passages in Sullivan, South Carolina. I commend the community and all the stakeholders for their hard work and vision to bring this exhibit to fruition.

A TRIBUTE TO LORNA KHAN

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lorna Khan.

Lorna Khan was born in Guyana in South America. She had her elementary and secondary school training in Guyana and migrated to the United States to pursue college

education in January of 1973. She attended Andrews University in Berrien Springs Michigan where she graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Biology and minor in Chemistry in June of 1977. After graduation she attended New York University in September of 1977 to study Public Health with a focus on nutrition and alcoholism as well as international health. During her two years at New York University, she traveled to the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, West Indies to study their health care system. During her time as a student she worked at Long Island College Hospital Alcoholism center and graduated with her Masters degree in June 1979.

In December 1980, she joined the staff at the Brooklyn Jewish Hospital as data manager for the Oncology department. She supported the Oncologists and Hematologists in their investigative trials of experimental drugs in the hopes of finding a cure for cancer. In 1982 she applied for and was hired as a data coordinator for cancer research at the Montefiore Medical Center. The team of doctors, pharmacists, drug company representatives joined with researchers to look closely at experimental drugs and trying to find a cure for many cancers such as lung, ovarian, breast, cervical, lymphomas and leukemia to name a few.

In October 1984 she joined the Department of Health as a Health Coordinator in Middle School 35 in Brooklyn. Her focus was on adolescent health issues in particular, pregnancy prevention, nutrition education, health referrals and management and suicide prevention. She received training in AIDS education and worked closely with teachers to promote healthy living by junior high school students. After feeling the need to make a greater impact on the education of the young, she began a career with the Department of Education in 1987 as an elementary school teacher at PS 250 in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. After 2 years she accepted a call to return to middle school this time as a mathematics teacher at IS 33, Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. For the next 13 years she worked as a mathematics teacher, academic intervention teacher and staff developer.

In 2002 she became the Assistant Principal for mathematics at MS 88 in Park Slope, Brooklyn. The school had just been identified as a SURR school (School Under Registration Review) for below performance literacy and mathematics. She worked with three other Assistant Principals to change the culture of the school and support high expectations for teaching and learning. In the fall of 2004 the school had improved students' performance in both literacy and mathematics and was removed from the SURR list. This was celebrated in a press release done by the Mayor and Chancellor at the school. In February of 2005 she was recruited to be the Principal for the Samuel C. Barnes Elementary School, PS 54. After being in middle school for most of her career, she was hesitant to take on the responsibility as Principal for an elementary school. However, with much prayer and thoughtfulness she accepted the challenge and has been working to bring change to her community. Her goal is to promote an environment where everyone is valued and respected.

It has been a fulfilling time for her as a teacher and administrator and she will continue to do her best to support high levels of teaching and learning for students at this level.

#### FOOD SAFETY IN RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to ensure that food served in nursing homes is safe and nutritious. Recently a constituent from my district visited me to discuss food safety and nutrition in nursing homes. He is a Director of Dining Services at a nursing home in Prince William County. Based on his experience, he suggested that requiring Medicare and Medicaid food service facilities, like nursing homes, to have Certified Dietary Managers or qualified dietitians as food service managers would ensure that food served in these facilities is safe and nutritious.

The legislation I have introduced today would require that Medicare and Medicaid food service facilities have either a qualified dietician or Certified Dietary Manager as director of food services. A qualified dietician has four years of training in college, and a Certified Dietary Manager must complete a rigorous food preparation program. This is a commonsense requirement to ensure that senior citizens have safe food, and is particularly important as our population ages.

I would like to emphasize that this proposal came from a local business, and has the support of other companies that operate nursing homes in my district. I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with our partners in the business community to introduce this legislation, which could help protect the health of seniors across the country.

#### CONGRATULATING THE CALI- FORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE BASKETBALL TEAM

SPEECH OF

### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 2009*

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the California State University, Northridge (CSUN) men's basketball team for winning the Big West Conference title and earning a spot in the prestigious NCAA Tournament for the second time in its NCAA Division I history.

The Matadors reached this year's tournament by winning a hard-fought Big West Conference title game against University of the Pacific. The Matadors amassed an impressive 17–13 overall record and 11–5 conference record. CSUN led all team categories in the Big West Conference in scoring, rebounding, field goal percentage defense, 3-point field goal percentage defense, rebound margin, and steals.

The Matadors men's basketball team is led by head coach Bobby Braswell, Big West Coach of the Year for a second straight season. He is assisted by a talented and skilled coaching staff including Danny Sprinkle, James Blake, Ryan Dodd, Steve Grech, Bob Vazquez and Louis Wilson.

CSUN is a vibrant, diverse university community of nearly 34,000 students and more than 4,000 faculty and staff, sited on a 356-acre campus in the heart of Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley—a region of over 1.8 million people.

CSUN was founded in 1958 as San Fernando Valley State College and adopted its current name in 1972. Today, it is one of the largest universities in California.

Madam Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Matadors for winning the Big West Conference title and earning a berth in the NCAA Tournament. I am proud of their sportsmanship, athletic excellence, and winning spirit during the regular season, and I wish them all the luck in the NCAA Tournament.

#### A TRIBUTE TO GENISUS THOMPSON

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Genisus Thompson. Genisus, a native of Greenville, North Carolina, has lived in the East New York community for the past 20 years. Married to the late Dwight Thompson, the love of her life is her son, Anthony. Genisus graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School, attended Kingsborough Community college and then proceeded to study Labor Law at Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Institute.

As an East New York resident, she has devoted a great deal of her time to helping the community to be a better place to live. For example, Genisus has been a member of the 75th Precinct Community Council since 1980 where her efforts and devotion has been instrumental in uplifting her community. Genisus received an award from the 75th Precinct Community Council for outstanding service and dedication. She attended and graduated from the Citizens Police Academy in June of 2007.

Genisus was employed at the Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center for 32 years as Chief Switchboard Operator, she was also a shop delegate for Local 1199, 114 division, and retired in June, 2006. In addition to these daily responsibilities, she is an active member of Liberty Baptist Church. Genisus's civic activism includes membership in the Milford Street Block Association and member of the North Brooklyn Democratic Party.

#### OPERATION OF HYBRID VEHICLES IN HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE LANES

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would allow the Commonwealth of Virginia to continue permitting hybrid automobiles with a single occupant to use High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes in the state. Virginia's General Assembly passed legislation allowing hybrids to use HOV lanes in order to encourage

the purchase of these low emission vehicles. This policy has been very successful, as Northern Virginia has achieved rates of hybrid ownership that are among the highest in the country.

Hybrid ownership is important because most families take ten vehicle trips per day; when a family purchases a hybrid they not only reduce emissions during daily commutes but also during errands and other trips. Moreover, the purchase of hybrids helps create greater demand for these vehicles, expediting the rate at which car companies can reach economies of scale in hybrid production.

Data on lane usage of HOV lanes in Northern Virginia show that 60% of the vehicles in HOV lanes have 2 passengers, 20% are violators, and 20% are single occupant hybrids. Before prohibiting hybrids from using HOV lanes, we must enhance law enforcement to discourage cheaters from using these lanes.

Without passage of this legislation, federal law will pre-empt the General Assembly from having the authority to allow hybrids to use HOV lanes. It would be unfortunate if lack of federal action precluded the state from continuing a policy that has been so successful.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ROSE CARTER

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rose Carter, a strong upbeat presence in the Brooklyn community.

Rose Carter is a cheerleader. She has strong family values and from an early age demonstrated a deep commitment to her community.

Rose jump-started her community service at The Midwood Development Corporation, Brooklyn, New York, working as a youth coordinator. She took her job seriously and developed and implemented many multicultural programs. She also spearheaded workshops that highlighted self awareness, good citizenship, tolerance and volunteerism.

While at Midwood, she expanded her learning by taking advantage of an opportunity to work as a merchant liaison. In this role, she utilized the relationships which she had cultivated to provide resources for an intergenerational art show; she created the show in an attempt to bridge the gap between the young and the elderly.

Currently Rose Carter works at PS 260 Breuckelen School. There she is known for her hallway presence and commitment to motivating the school community. Rose Carter's everyday efforts are focused on rallying everyone she comes in contact with to have a good day. As the parent coordinator she is dedicated to improving the quality of life for the school population and their families. Rose Carter is very passionate about her work and gives beyond the required responsibilities of the job.

During the Hurricane Katrina disaster, Rose Carter was instrumental in helping victims who relocated to New York and had children enrolled in the school. She facilitated a connection of a Moroccan couple that spoke very little English with a Pakistani group that spoke their native language. This is just one example of her dynamism and devotion.

Rose seeks out civic minded people like herself and she inspires people of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds to seek and celebrate excellence.

She is a mother, motivator and a consummate optimist.

#### EXTENSION OF METRORAIL'S ORANGE, YELLOW, BLUE, AND PURPLE LINES

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to authorize extension of Metrorail's Orange, Yellow, Blue, and Purple lines. I appreciate Mr. JIM MORAN's co-sponsorship of this legislation. I represent a district with the fourth worst congestion in the country. These traffic conditions diminish the economic productivity of our region while contributing to climate change.

While the local Board of Supervisors has worked to transform land use patterns in order to focus development around Metro stations, we only have five Metro stations in Fairfax County and thus have limited capacity to encourage Transit Oriented Development. In Prince William County, there are no Metrorail stations, and my constituents in Prince William must confront congestion nearly every day on their way to work. Fortunately, both Prince William and Fairfax County are served by the Virginia Railway Express. This commuter rail service is filled to capacity on a daily basis, as is the Metrorail system in Northern Virginia, suggesting a pressing need to expand transit service.

The Metrorail extensions that I have proposed would enhance transit service in the I495, I95, and I66 corridors. Residents of Centreville, Lorton, Woodbridge, and other communities that currently lack Metrorail access would have the option to commute on Metro, which would enhance the quality of life of my constituents while stabilizing housing values and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. During the present economic crisis, homes in Northern Virginia that are located near transit have maintained their value relative to homes only served by highways. For the sake of communities that are threatened by extremely high rates of foreclosure, extension of transit service can be a force for economic revitalization.

This proposed extension of transit service is consistent with local government policies. For example, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors supports extension of Metrorail in the I66 corridor and in the I95 corridor. This legislation is crafted to give local governments flexibility in locating the stations and determining what type of rail infrastructure to construct. This flexibility is essential to ensure that these transit extensions reflect the needs of Northern Virginia residents and to ensure that we maximize the economic development potential inherent in these Metrorail extensions.

I am proud to offer this legislation that may create the opportunity for our local, state, and federal levels of government to collaborate on extension of transit service. This legislation is essential for the long term vitality of Northern Virginia's economy, neighborhoods, and environment.

#### A TRIBUTE TO PAMELA TATE-MCMULLEN

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Pamela Tate-McMullen a Parent Coordinator in the Department of Education.

Mrs. Pamela Tate-McMullen was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York where she presently resides with her husband, John and son Justin.

Mrs. Tate-McMullen is a Parent Coordinator in the Department of Education, serving at Bedford Academy High School in Brooklyn, New York. Since the inception of the position of Parent Coordinator (2003), Pamela has served in various capacities working both with the founding leader of Bedford Academy, Mr. George Leonard, and too with the present leadership of Mr. Adofo Muhammad. Her duties include, but are not limited to: (1) increasing parent involvement in the school by working closely with school-wide, parent and community organizations, (2) convening regular parent meetings and events around topics of key concerns to parents and other stakeholders, and (3) maintaining ongoing contact with community organizations that are involved with providing services to the schools' educational program such as the Bedford Stuyvesant YMCA, media contacts and key members of the public who are also interested in the ongoing success of Bedford Academy High School.

Mrs. Tate-McMullen and her family are proud members of Christian Cultural Center in Brooklyn, New York, where Pamela serves on the Hospitality Team. One of Pamela's favorite pastimes is singing with the renowned 50's group, the Bobbettes, where she has traveled both locally and internationally.

A vibrant, creative member of the Bedford Academy/Bedford Stuyvesant YMCA team, Pamela has consistently contributed to a congenial relationship between Bedford Academy High School and the governing members and staff of the Bedford Stuyvesant YMCA.

#### HONORING THE MILITARY POLICE COMPANY, QUANTICO MARINE CORPS BASE

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today to recognize a group of outstanding public servants in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Prince William County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

It is with great pride that I submit into the Record the names of the recipients of the 2009 Valor Award serving in the Military Police Company at Quantico Marine Corps Base.

Recipients of the Lifesaving Award: Sergeant Adam J. Pieper, Sergeant David A. Eynon

Recipient of the Merit Award: Corporal Kyle Raczkowski

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the men and women who serve in the Military Police Company at Quantico Marine Corps Base. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Prince William County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding these remarkable individuals.

#### A TRIBUTE TO NICOLE BAYLEY

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Nicole Bayley, a socially conscious bank manager that enjoys giving back to her community.

Nicole Bayley is an Assistant Vice President/Branch Manager for Carver Federal Savings Bank, one of the largest African and Caribbean American run banks in the nation.

Ms. Bayley is a highly intelligent banker and is responsible for multimillion dollar deposit generation and currently ranks second in the entire branch network for deposits (outside of the corporate headquarters).

Before she took the position at Carver Federal Savings Bank, Nicole spent seven years each at HSBC Bank and Citibank NA respectively. Two of the largest and most recognized global financial leaders, Ms. Bayley used her time in these institutions to learn and eventually gained a wealth of knowledge about the retail banking sector.

Ms. Bayley is an active member of the Fulton-Nostrand United Merchants Association (FNUMA) and holds a number of accolades and distinctions including recognition as a Business Visionary for her business and community leadership.

She uses her role in the FNUMA to recognize individuals, business and organizations that help keep a clean, safe and vibrant Bedford-Stuyvesant Gateway Business District.

#### HONORING THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today to recognize an outstanding group of public servants in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Prince William County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

It is with great pride that I submit into the RECORD the names of the recipients of the 2009 Valor Awards serving in the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue.

Recipients of the Lifesaving Award: Technician Robert McParland, Technician Nicholas Feliciano, Technician Ryan Kirk, Technician Michael Hendrickson, Technician Walter Hunt,

Technician Scott Coloe, Technician Brennan Gilligan, Technician Victor Vega.

Recipient of the Silver Valor Award: Technician Michael Anthony.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the men and women who serve in the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Prince William County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding these remarkable individuals.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MAXINE HAMILTON-ALEXANDER

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Maxine Hamilton-Alexander.

Maxine Hamilton-Alexander "Maxx" is a creative mind that knows "don't worry about a thing, because every little thing is going to be alright". This philosophy is helping to fulfill her dream. She operates an Events Planning & Management Company, Blue Mango LLC, along with spearheading Hamptonians New York (HNY) a nonprofit organization. With the drive, passion to excel and energy that buoys all who interact with her, Maxx is applying her skills and heart, determined to wear her glass slippers.

Besides a proverbial "heart" Maxx brings enthusiasm and the attention to detail it takes to execute exciting and seamless events. She possesses highly developed networking and negotiating skills that are helping her solidify relationships. She stresses that her strength and aspirations are encouraged and accentuated by her children. "They keep me informed, thinking, responsible, engaged, mindful and youthfully fashionable". Maxx also says her most beguiling moments are watching the young ones grow, testing, exploring, maturing.

For over fifteen years Mrs. Hamilton-Alexander has dedicated time and expended personal funds working to enrich the lives of young people. In 2002, urged by her colleagues she incorporated HNY and in 2003 "Gifts from My Heart" was established to bring cheer into the lives of children who need to know someone cares. 2005 Brooklyn came alive with more sounds and rhythms of the Caribbean when her and her team launched the Brooklyn Caribbean Youth Fest.

Mrs. Hamilton-Alexander has spent many hours during the last five years enlisting civic-minded people, seeking advice and building a cohesive committee, while growing Brooklyn Caribbean Youth Fest into an impressive example of artistic excellence. Performances at the festival highlight in celebration, the diverse Culture of Caribbean-Americans. The many cultures of the Caribbean region are saluted with folk songs, dances and poetry. This is a no-nonsense event that boasts performers trekking from as far away as Trenton, New Jersey to strut their stuff.

To date, HNY has served over 5,000 NYC youth through programs and events. Additionally, Mrs. Alexander-Hamilton is a volunteer at PS 260, Prospect Park Youth Council and

serves on Brooklyn College World AIDS committee. She also makes direct donations that supplement tuition for students at the Hampton School, Jamaica, West Indies, through an annual Merit Award. Maxx diligently beats the bushes and finds resources necessary to implement her programs which help to nurture young minds. Maxx's dedication to youth and her natural bent for perfection continuously reinforces her reputation as a woman who is unarguably committed to serving the youth.

She received her education from Brooklyn College here in the USA as well as the Jamaica School of Arts, Jamaica. She is happily married to her husband Andrew Alexander with whom she has three lovely daughters Ebony, Amber and Ayana.

#### HONORING THE PRINCE WILLIAM-MANASSAS REGIONAL ADULT DETENTION CENTER

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today to recognize two outstanding public servants in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Prince William County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

It is with great pride that I submit into the RECORD the names of the recipients of the 2009 Valor Awards serving in the Prince William-Manassas Regional Adult Detention Center.

Recipient of the Merit Award: Master Jail Officer Brian Daily

Recipient of the Silver Valor Award: Jail Officer Chester Outland

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the men and women who serve in the Prince William-Manassas Regional Adult Detention Center. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Prince William County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding these remarkable individuals.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MRS. OPHELIA YOUNG PERRY

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Ophelia Young Perry pillar of the Brooklyn Community.

Mrs. Ophelia Young Perry is a native of Buckingham County, Virginia. She presently resides with her husband, Mr. William Frank Perry, Jr. in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, New York. The Perry's have one son, Rev. William Franc Perry, III, Esq.

She has been an active member of the Berean Missionary Baptist Church in Brooklyn for over 56 years. Mrs. Perry is genuinely involved in community and civic affairs. She is the President of Church Women United in

Brooklyn. Church Women United (CWU) is the world's largest ecumenical movement of Christian women. Under Mrs. Perry's leadership, the movement's membership has increased to include over 700 Christian women. It is the largest unit of CWU in the country.

In response to shrewd spiritual insight, Mrs. Perry conceived the idea for an observance centered around the "Seven Last Words of Christ." For the past 25 years ecumenical worship begins at 7:00 A.M. on Good Friday and the attendance continues to grow. These services have been held in various community churches and have continued to draw over 4000 worshippers. Participants travel throughout the metropolitan area and from many other parts of the United States to attend this annual worship celebration. Additionally, she organized the initial Annual Award's Luncheon for the organization and continues to provide her expertise in this worthy cause today.

Under Mrs. Perry's leadership, the Brooklyn Unit of CWU sponsors many other activities to raise funds to make contributions to others in need, including: Holiday sharing, contributions to World Church Services, Rose F. Kennedy Residence for Girls, Project Teen Aid, Herbert G. Birch Services, Antigua/Barbuda Cultural Society, Inc, Fund for Burned Churches, Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulatory Service, Hurricane Floyd Victims in North Carolina and they provide aid to orphaned foreign sisters living in the U.S. She is also affiliated with Berean Missionary Baptist Church, The Women's Civic League of Abyssinian Baptist Church, the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, the Eastern Baptist Association, Spouses of the Black Congressional Caucus and is a member of the National Council of Negro Women of Brooklyn.

She has won numerous awards for her work including: Women of the Year Award—The National Conference of Christians and Jews, Salute to Brooklyn Women Leadership Humanitarian Award—The Brooklyn League, The Woman's History Month Honoree—Brooklyn District Attorney, The Caribbean American Award—Chamber of Commerce, Outstanding Service Award—The Council of Churches, City of N.Y., Woman of Influence Award—Brooklyn YWCA, Thomas R. Fortune Community Service Award—Unity Democratic Club, Valiant Woman Award—Church Women United, Sandy F. Ray Award—Religious and Humanitarian Award—Cornerstone Baptist Church, Religious Award—People's Institutional AME Church, Religious Award—New Life Tabernacle Life Changing Ministries, Congressional Record United States House of Representatives, Woman of the Year for Community Service—Bridge Street AME Church, "Brooklyn Women of Essence" Con Edison and, finally, National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women, Global Ministries Humanitarian Award and International Affairs Division.

After working for 18 years for Borough President Howard Golden as Liaison to the Christian Community, Borough President, Marty Markowitz appointed her as Good Will Ambassador for Brooklyn Churches.

HONORING THE OCCOQUAN-  
WOODBRIDGE-LORTON VOLUN-  
TEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today to recognize an outstanding public servant in Northern Virginia. This individual has demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and has been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Prince William County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

It is with great pride that I submit into the RECORD the name of the recipient of the 2009 Valor Award serving in the Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department.

Recipient of the Silver Valor Award: Firefighter Kurt Bolland.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the men and women who serve in the Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Prince William County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding these remarkable individuals.

A TRIBUTE TO ANGELI R.  
RASBURY

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Angeli R. Rasbury.

Angeli Rasbury is a writer, educator, artist, attorney and founder of Griot Reading Programs, which is dedicated to promoting literacy among youth of African descent and Black literature. She teaches poetry and creative writing to children as young as five-years-old and teens at the Brooklyn-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation and New York Writers Coalition. She has facilitated book clubs for middle school and high school students and elders. The reading scores of every middle school student with whom she worked improved. Her writing students have received awards from teachers and city council members. She has been an instructor of creative nonfiction and memoir at the Frederick Douglass Creative Arts Center in New York City and has taught creative writing, college composition and African American literature at Molloy College in Long Island. Ms. Rasbury has worked with girls in a rites of passage program and works with girls involved in the juvenile-justice system. She has organized readings and book programs for children, including programs for the annual Rhymes, Rhythms and Rituals Festival sponsored by African Voices, and literary programs for the adults. She has worked with elders, collecting oral history for Elders Share the

Arts. She has been a panelist in the grant review process for artists for the Brooklyn Arts Council. Ms. Rasbury is a member of the New Renaissance Writers Guild and has been a member of the Richard Wright Project and PEN American Center Open Book Committee.

As the youth services community and partnerships associate at the central branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, Ms. Rasbury has provided family-oriented Kwanza and Martin Luther King Program, Jr. Day programs where the focus is the young people in our community. She has provided a monthly art program for two years and provided an opportunity for our youth to work with award-winning and emerging artists, providing arts enrichment for youth and supporting the artists. She has partnered with various community organizations to promote literacy and youth and community development. A former editor for Black Issues Book Review and QBR: The Black Book Review, other magazines, and community newspapers. Her essays, book reviews, profiles, features and interviews have been published in *Essence*, *American Legacy*, *Black Enterprise*, *The Source*, *Vibe*, and other magazines and online at *womensenews.com*, for which she is the girls' beat reporter and focuses on detention and incarceration topics. She received a PASS Award (the only national recognition of print and broadcast journalists, TV news and feature reporters, producers, and writers, and those in film and literature who try to focus America's attention on our criminal justice system, juvenile justice system, and child welfare systems in a thoughtful and considerate manner) from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency for her article "Out of Jail, Mothers Struggle to Reclaim Children". Ms. Rasbury's short stories have appeared in *Anansi: Fiction of the African Diaspora*. She has been quoted in the *New York Times*, *Mosaic* and *Brooklyn Rail* and co-edited *Sacred Fire: The QBR 100 Essential Black Books*. She was awarded the DorisJean Austin Fellowship for African American Fiction Writers by the Frederick Douglass Creative Arts Center and has been a panelist at writing and publishing conferences. She performed in *Talkin' Brooklyn: A Story Circle Showcase of Elders Share the Arts and Diary of a Mad Black Feminist*.

Angeli Rasbury has been keynote speaker for the Yellow Rose Awards Program for New York University's College of Arts and Science and the Brooklyn Public Library's Friends and Volunteers luncheon. She holds a B.S. from Syracuse University and a J.D. from Temple University. She practiced criminal defense law as a senior attorney with the Legal Aid Society, Criminal Defense Division. She has taught high school students various areas of the law and civil rights issues through the Law Education and Assistance Program and the New York Civil Rights Coalition and was executive director of the Nkutu Center for Education and Culture. Her photography has been published and exhibited. In her spare time she designs jewelry and loves to travel. She lives in Brooklyn, New York. She spends a lot of time with her nieces and nephews, family and friends.

HONORING THE PRINCE WILLIAM  
COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today to recognize an outstanding group of public servants in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Prince William County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

It is with great pride that I submit into the RECORD the names of the recipients of the 2009 Valor Awards serving in the Prince William County Police Department.

Recipient of the Lifesaving Award: Officer Stephen Mercer

Recipients of the Merit Award: Officer Cottrell Derrick, Officer Jessica Tacha

Recipients of the Hillary Robinette Award: Detective Liam Burke, Detective Todd Troutner

Recipients of the Bronze Valor Award: Henry DeGeneste, Officer Jeanne West

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the men and women who serve in the Prince William County Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of

the citizens of Prince William County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding these remarkable individuals.

A TRIBUTE TO BETTY J. GIBBS

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 19, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Betty J. Gibbs, a nurturing presence who has been working with the children of Brooklyn for 40 years.

Ms. Betty J. Gibbs, lovingly known to her students as Ms. G and "Granny" to her "grandbabies," has been an influential figure in the lives of so many people. Ms. Gibbs began her work with students in January of 1968 as a paraprofessional with the NYC Board of Education. She held this position until 1998. She provided general supervision and instruction to small groups of children from grades one through six in math and reading.

In June of 1979, Ms. Gibbs became Site Supervisor for St. Christopher's Group Home. There, Ms. Gibbs was responsible for overseeing the home and the care of the girls that comprised the home, ensuring all the neces-

sities and personal needs are met. She remained a positive inspiration in their lives until August of 1988.

Ms. Betty Gibbs obtained a position as the After School Program Director for Junior High School 275. There, she managed all aspects of the program. She held that position from March 1987, until June of 1988.

Throughout this time, Ms. Gibbs managed to go to school for herself obtaining an A.A.S. from New York Community College in 1973 and a B.A. of Education from Medgar Evers College in 1988.

In 1981, Ms. Gibbs became the Site Supervisor for the Jackie Robinson Center for Physical Culture. For the following 12 years she directed the ten components that comprised the program, as well as developed a multitude of events to help unify the community surrounding the center.

In June of 2003, Ms. Gibbs began working with the Soul Tigers Marching Band, Inc., as Assistant Band Director. There, she is like a second mother to the children. All the students love her and appreciate her nurturing presence in their lives.

She has won a number of awards in her life including: Unsung Hero (1996), Diamond Award (1993), and awards from The Joint Board of Ushers (1983), the United Community Baptist Church (1982) and Junior Glee Choir St. Marks Church (1976).