

Rick has never expected anything in return for his community service, but his contributions have been recognized. Rick was inducted into the Santa Ana College Hall of Fame, honored as "Man of the Year" by Cypress College and awarded the Ethics in Business award by the Freedom Foundation. Rick received the California SBA Business Person of the Year in 2003. In 2001, the Orange County Business Journal and California State University Fullerton presented Rick with the prestigious Family Owned Business Award. In the spirit of the "America Way," Rick started a group called USA Owned/USA Made, to support companies whose products are made in the United States. Rick worked with Congress to pass a proclamation called "Try American Day," celebrated in conjunction with Labor Day. Many states and cities ratified this proclamation and recognized Rick's valuable contribution. However, to Rick, what is even more prestigious than awards or recognition is that in his personal life Rick is a husband of over 30 years to his wife Nancy and father to his two daughters, Veronica, 26, and Stephanie, 25. Rick also enjoys hobbies like wake boarding, snow boarding, being a private pilot and running as a master's track competitor.

Rick's tireless passion for American business and community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Orange County, California. I am proud to call Rick a fellow community member, American and close friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his work and salute him on his 60th birthday.

#### HONORING OUR MEDICAL HEROES AND HEROINES ON NATIONAL NURSES' RECOGNITION WEEK

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in awe of all the amazing work our nation's nurses accomplish—from the battlefield in Iraq and Afghanistan, to the late-hours in the local hospitals of our communities. These men and women on the frontlines of our health care system deserve our utmost praise, and in this week, we salute their herculean efforts. But in the coming months, as we ambitiously attempt to bolster and reform America's health care, let's keep their concerns and their voices at the forefront. Let's do right by them, as we should by the 45 million uninsured Americans who need our help.

The elimination of health disparities is a central goal of health reform. Minorities are more likely to be uninsured and often experience worse health outcomes. This is unacceptable and has been the case for far too long. If we do health reform right, we have a great opportunity to address the fundamentally inequitable health disparities that plague our nation. The first major step is to get everyone insured, but that is not enough. We must ensure that we have enough primary care, specialty doctors, and registered nurses to serve everyone. We must take steps to improve the health workforce and infrastructure so that insurance veritably translates into access to high-quality care. In addition, we must ensure that the millions of people who are Limited

English Proficient have access to culturally and linguistically appropriate providers and care.

The nearly 2.9 million registered nurses in the United States comprise our nation's largest health care profession. They are an indispensable component in the safety and quality of care for hospitalized patients, and are prepared to meet the different and emerging health care needs of our community. As a founding member of the Congressional Nursing Caucus, with a mandate to educate Congress on all aspects of the nursing profession and how nursing issues impact the delivery of safe, quality care, I will continue to advocate on behalf of these notable professionals.

I honor registered nurse's accomplishments and efforts to improve our health care system, and we should all show our appreciation for the nation's registered nurses—not just this week but at every opportunity throughout the year.

#### CONGRATULATING THE INDIANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF BASEBALL TEAM, 2009 HOY CLASSIC CHAMPIONS

### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the Indiana School for the Deaf Baseball Team. Last month, they were crowned the national champions at the Hoy Classic in Fremont, California.

Since the inception of this program four years ago, this was the first time that the Indiana School for the Deaf captured the championship title. I applaud the team for its exceptional performance. This was also the first time that they played on a Varsity Schedule. The team exemplified themselves at the tournament by finishing with a record of 4–1, defeating the host California School for the Deaf by 5–3.

This year's team was led by an impressive roster of talented athletes who were recognized for their outstanding sportsmanship. Pitcher Tyler Crace was named the Most Valuable Player at the event, with 16 strikeouts in nine innings. Tony Dall and Jose Mast were selected for the all-tournament team. I would also like to recognize Will Fetzer, Dylan Osbourne and Trevor Rouse as some of the top players throughout the competition.

It is important to mention that this exceptional achievement would not have been possible without the dedication of first-year Head Coach, Rusty Crace and Assistant Coach, Steve Sorse. With their unwavering support, these coaches pushed the team to reach their full potential. Additionally, the dynamic faculty, staff and student body should be recognized for their enthusiasm and pride in their team.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding baseball team, the coaching staff and the school for their marvelous achievement in winning the Hoy Classic championship title and distinguishing themselves as one of the best baseball teams in the nation.

MARISSA BAUM

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Marissa Baum who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Marissa Baum is an 8th grader at Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Marissa Baum is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Marissa Baum for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

#### BELATED THANK YOU TO THE MERCHANT MARINERS OF WORLD WAR II ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

### HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Merchant Mariners who served during World War II. Tasked with delivering troops, tanks, food, airplanes, fuel and other supplies to war theaters, Merchant Mariners suffered the highest casualty rate of any of the branch of the service. Their bravery for our country deserves recognition.

I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 23, the "Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2009." This legislation will provide certain honorably discharged U.S. Merchant Marine veterans with a monthly \$1,000 benefit.

With each passing year, there are fewer surviving Merchant Marine veterans. I urge my colleagues in the House and the Senate to join me in supporting H.R. 23 to give these veterans their recognition.

JOHN BADGETT

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud John Badgett who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. John Badgett is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by John Badgett is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and