

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN REMEMBRANCE OF KENNETH E.
ZAREMBA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Kenneth E. Zaremba and in recognition of his dedication to his family, community and to the field of space exploration through his work at NASA.

Kenneth Zaremba had a distinguished thirty year career at NASA, most recently serving as Chief Protocol Officer. Earlier this year, he was recognized by his peers for his leadership, innovation and implementation of NASA's Future Forums—forums held around the country to educate diverse communities about NASA's vital work in the fields of science, space exploration and education. Through his connections to the local community and the expertise he accumulated during his career at NASA, Kenneth shared NASA's vision with non-traditional communities around the country—including school groups, state governors and teachers. As a leader for this agency-wide team, he and his colleagues inspired audiences throughout the country, highlighting NASA's vital work for our nation and communities. Kenneth is survived by his wife and best friend, Elizabeth and his three children: Zachariah, Alexander and Cassandra.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Kenneth E. Zaremba and in celebration of a life dedicated to his family, community and country. Despite his absence, his work at NASA will continue to inspire the work of his colleagues and all those who were touched by his leadership in NASA's Future Forums project.

TRIBUTE TO AMANDA ZIMMERMAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Amanda Zimmerman on her exemplary basketball career and congratulate her on being named Iowa's 2009 Miss Basketball.

Amanda is a senior at Ballard High School and will be attending Iowa State University to continue her illustrious basketball career. Amanda has been recognized with a variety of accomplishments including being named to the Class 3A All-State team four consecutive times, four straight state tournament appearances with her Ballard teammates, and helped lead her team to become the Iowa High School Class 3A State Champions this year.

Amanda is a shining example of Iowa's talented youth and the rewards that come with hard work and determination. It is an honor to represent Amanda Zimmerman and her teammates in the United States Congress and I

know my colleagues join me in wishing her the best in furthering her education and athletic career.

COMMEMORATING MADISON'S
BICENTENNIAL

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, Saturday, June 6, 2009, marks the official kick-off of Madison, Indiana's Bicentennial Celebration. And, what a storied history this wonderful town in my congressional district has amassed. Reflecting on the town's 200-year history takes time. So, it is only fitting that Madison residents and visitors will celebrate for 200 hours straight.

Madison is one of the most beautiful small towns in my congressional district. It was founded in 1809 and thrived on the commerce that the river provided. In its earliest years, Madison blossomed quickly and many stately mansions were built to accommodate its wealth. As rail became the prominent mode of transportation and commerce began to move away from the river, Madison's progress changed, and it became home to small, quaint businesses. At that time, it was yet to be told that what seemed to be the recession of the City would someday become the very thing that would bring it back to vibrancy.

Today, Madison has been recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of a dozen distinguished destinations in America and is home to the largest National Historic Landmark District in the state. This year, as the residents of Madison celebrate their 200th birthday, I'd like to congratulate them on the success of their community and offer them continued prosperity in the next 200 years. I hope to attend some of the bicentennial festivities. If not, I will certainly be there in spirit.

Congratulations on your bicentennial Madison, Indiana.

HONORING ANDREW HOXSEY OF
NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Andrew Hoxsey, who is being honored this evening by the Napa Valley Grapegrowers as their Grower of the Year. Mr. Hoxsey is being recognized for his outstanding contributions to the wine grape industry and the larger community of the Napa Valley.

Each year, the Napa Valley Grapegrowers bestows their most prestigious award to a Napa grower who has demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainable practices; recog-

nized leadership in the agricultural preservation; dedicated community focus, contributing to the Napa Valley community through their time, resources, and personal commitments; and someone who actively promotes Napa's reputation for the highest quality vineyards. Grapegrowers in the Napa Valley are continuously at the forefront of organic and sustainable agricultural practices, and Mr. Hoxsey is no exception. He is one of the preeminent organic farmers in the entire Napa Valley.

Mr. Hoxsey is a fourth generation Napa Valley farmer who received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics and Business Management at the University of California at Davis. He went on to serve as an officer in the United States Air Force Reserve from 1983 to 1993. He is currently President of Yount Mill Vineyards in Yountville and Managing Partner of the Napa Wine Company.

Mr. Hoxsey's position as Managing Partner of one of Napa's premier wine companies is only the beginning of his extensive industry and community involvement. Andrew has served as Chairman of the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance and President of the Yountville Appellation Association. He has also held memberships on the Napa Valley and California Grapegrowers Boards of Directors, as well as Napa Valley Vintners Association, Oakville Winegrowers Association, American Vineyard Foundation and Napa Valley Farm Bureau.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Mr. Andrew Hoxsey for the incredible work he has done on behalf of the Napa Valley. As a respected grape grower he has advanced the reputation of Napa Valley grapes and wine, and has been a model citizen and superb steward of the land. I join his wife, Nancy and two daughters in wishing him continued success and fulfillment.

DEDICATION OF NEBRASKA LAW
ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, nestled in a quiet corner of Washington D.C. a memorial stands in remembrance of some of our bravest citizens. The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial was dedicated in 1991 to honor America's federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel. Its walls bear the names of more than 18,000 officers killed in the line of duty, dating back to the first known death in 1792.

Every May, the nation honors the men and women who paid the ultimate price. It is a time to recognize the contributions of more than 900,000 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers who serve this nation and the thousands who have lost their lives.

Earlier this week, hundreds of Nebraskans from across our state gathered to pay tribute

• 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.

to the 130 Nebraska law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty since 1866. On Monday, May 11, the Nebraska Law Enforcement Memorial was dedicated to our friends and neighbors who gave their lives to make our world a better place. Located in Grand Island, the names of these heroes are now etched in gold on three granite panels, a solemn reminder of the cost they—and their families—have paid.

It is fitting the pathway to the Washington D.C. Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is guarded by a statue of a lion protecting its cubs. Thousands of Americans from all walks of life owe their lives to the actions of the brave men and women in uniform who protect us. Each day, law enforcement officers ensure our laws are enforced and our communities are safe.

HONORING ORADELL POLICE DEPARTMENT D.A.R.E. PROGRAM GRADUATES

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, the Oradell Police Department will hold its D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony with the students of Oradell Elementary School. The young people participating in this important program have made a commitment to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence. They have done this with the support of Chief of Police Anthony Rhynie Emanuel and D.A.R.E. officers, Sgt. Kevin Smith, Ptl. Marc Fedorchak and Ptl. Richard Liguri.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. This program allows children to defeat the negative cultural influences that they are challenged with daily by opening the lines of communication between law enforcement and youth and empowering them with confidence and courage to say no to drugs.

I am proud of the young boys and girls who participated in this program in Oradell, and I would like to recognize them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship:

Emma Bednarski, Andrew Benda, David Chakansky, Michael Fasano, Alec Garino, Kyle Garino, Lauren Gerlin, Stephanie John, Ethan Konigsberg, Ellison Lee, Justin Longo, Nicholas Miller, Julia Mills, Caitlin Mooney, Kevin Ortega, Zachary Prager, Kayla Rosado, Christina Sim, Christian Skroce, Joseph Verrico, Tyler Yuen, Vincent Albanese, Connor Belthoff, William Bertini, Zakaria Bousada, Jung Jin Cho, Alexa Coppola, Zachary DiPirro, Kristen Friedman, Eunkyoo Ham, Sakura Honda, Ariel Lam, Thomas Melvin, Thomas Montemarano, Brian Pedersen, Anthony Pestic, Danielle Reimer, Olivia Schuster, Wendy Starr, William Thorn, Chelsea Twan, Alec Wasserman, Grace Woo, David Angione, Julianna Bigami, Erin Browing, Amanda Calcetas, Savannah DiGiovanni, Nicholas Esposito, Ryan Gardner, Rachel Jacobs, Ehristopher Kallensee, Asher Konigsberg, Ylana Lopez, Christopher McMahon,

Courtenay Murphy, Sebastian Quiana, Anne Marie Quinn, Patrick Robertson, Stephen Sargenti, Victoria Scalanga, Lexi Schettino, Eric Spiniello, Amber Williams, Christopher Yee, Ethan Alpern, Connor Callahan, Kate Deeg, Jimmy Dickson, Justin Fernandez, Christian Haak, Alexandra Iaccino, Brandon John, Evan Marinelli, Nicole Muscat, Rachel Okransky, David Pettigrew, Nicole Preziosi, Audrey Reynolds, Hunter Santos, Tommy Shindnes, Emma Smith, Richie Tashjian, Gabrielle Toohey, Sophia Traphagen, Billy Wallace, Daniel Comeau, Matthew Boros, Michael Boyle, Charlie Connell, Daniel Erben, Amanda Fatovic, Anna Fletcher, Elizabeth Granger, Molly Hastings, Erin Hughes, Susan Kang, Brad Laube, Julia Lombardi, Alexander McNally, Matthew Moran, Mona Moshet, Erikson Nichols, Matthew Palathingal, Caroline Parks, Kyle Russell, Ethan Schupak, Joseph Starace, and Kirsten Wozniak.

TRIBUTE TO BERYL PRESLEY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Beryl Presley, a kindergarten teacher from Milo, Iowa.

Beryl has received the "My Favorite Teacher Award" given by WOI television station in West Des Moines, Iowa. She was nominated by her former student, Billie Jo Marsh, who is now a co-worker of Beryl's. When Billie Jo was in fifth grade, she was inspired by Beryl to become a teacher, and they have now worked together at Milo Elementary School for over 17 years.

Beryl has been a teacher for 34 years and takes an immense amount interest in all of her students. She tells her students that they will receive an engraved recess whistle if they graduate with a degree in education. Eleven years after Billie Jo had Beryl as her teacher, she received her whistle on graduation day.

I congratulate Beryl Presley on her well-deserved award, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many youth in her community. It is a great honor to represent Beryl in the United States Congress, and I wish her continued success.

IN TRIBUTE TO MOORPARK HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to the Moorpark High School Academic Decathlon Team, who recently returned from Memphis, Tennessee, as the 2009 National Academic Decathlon Champions.

It is the second consecutive national championship for the Moorpark High School team and the fourth national championship for the school in the past 10 years.

Team members Kris Sankaran, Marlena Sampson, Danielle Hagglund, Sarah Thiele, Zyed Ismailjee, Neil Paik, Sol Moon, Scott Bu-

chanan and Michael Fantauzzo are now recognized as the best and the brightest in the country. They are the pride of their school, their community and their country.

Kris Sankaran, a Moorpark High School senior, is the only holdover from last year's team. And, for the second consecutive year, he walked away from the competition with the country's highest individual score.

Every team member medaled in at least one event. Kris took home seven individual medals. Danielle Hagglund took home six.

These youngsters won by literally dedicating their lives to the challenge. The team gave up weekends, vacations, part-time jobs, and time with their families in their pursuit of excellence.

Their coach, Larry Jones, worked as hard, if not harder, than his students and is as deserving of high praise. Coach Jones, who is now the spry age of 60, has coached all four U.S. Championship teams. He is a man of outstanding strength, patience, and perseverance.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in applauding nine outstanding students who made history while achieving a very prestigious goal—Kris Sankaran, Marlena Sampson, Danielle Hagglund, Sarah Thiele, Zyed Ismailjee, Neil Paik, Sol Moon, Scott Buchanan and Michael Fantauzzo—the 2009 U.S. Champion Moorpark High School Academic Decathlon Team.

HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS AT CAMP ASHRAF

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, as we endeavor to end the war in Iraq, and to prevent any further military action in that region, I want to call attention to a resolution adopted by the European parliament on April 24, 2009. This resolution addresses Camp Ashraf which is located in Iraq about 50 miles from the Iranian border. Approximately 3,000 Iranian exiles are now residing at the Camp; these individuals have not been involved in the war and signed agreements with the U.S.-led Multi-National Force regarding their status in accordance with International Humanitarian Law. Unfortunately, Iraqi officials have allowed the Iranian clerical regime to pressure those residing at Camp Ashraf and human rights organizations, such as Amnesty International, have expressed concern for their safety and well being.

The European Parliament resolution urges the Iraqi government to uphold the human rights of those living at Camp Ashraf. I share this sentiment and urge my colleagues to review the full text of the resolution enacted by the European Parliament.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OF CAMP ASHRAF RESIDENTS

European Parliament resolution pursuant to Rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure on the humanitarian situation of Camp Ashraf residents The European Parliament,

having regard to the Geneva Conventions and notably Article 27 of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the legal status of Protected Persons,

having regard to the Geneva Convention of 1951 relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Additional Protocol,

having regard to the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) signed between the US and Iraqi Governments in November 2008,

having regard to its resolutions of 12 July 2007 and of 4 September 2008 including references to Camp Ashraf residents having legal status as Protected Persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention,

having regard to Rule 115 of its Rules of Procedure, A. whereas Camp Ashraf in Northern Iraq was established during the 1980s for members of the Iranian opposition group People's Mujahedin Organisation of Iran (PMOI), 8. whereas in 2003 US forces in Iraq disarmed Camp Ashraf's residents and provided them with protection, having been designated 'protected persons' under the Geneva Conventions, C. whereas the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in a letter dated 15 October 2008 urged the Iraqi Government to protect Ashraf residents from forcible deportation, expulsion or repatriation in violation of the non-refoulement principle, and to refrain from any action that would endanger their life or security, D. whereas after the US/Iraqi Status of Forces Agreement Camp Ashraf has been returned to the control of Iraqi security forces as of 1 January 2009, E. whereas according to recent statements reportedly made by the Iraqi National Security Advisor the authorities intend gradually to make the continued presence of the Camp Ashraf residents 'intolerable' and whereas he reportedly also referred to their expulsion/extradition and/or their forcible displacement inside Iraq, 1. Urges the Iraqi Prime Minister to ensure that no action is taken by the Iraqi authorities which violates the human rights of the Camp Ashraf residents and to clarify the government's intentions towards them; calls on the Iraqi authorities to protect the lives, and the physical and moral integrity of the Camp Ashraf residents and to treat them in accordance with the obligations under the Geneva Conventions, notably not to forcibly displace, deport, expel or repatriate them in violation of the principle of non-refoulement; 2. Respecting the individual wishes of anyone living in Camp Ashraf as regards to their future; considers that those living in Camp Ashraf and other Iranian nationals who currently reside in Iraq having left Iran for political reasons could be at risk of serious human rights violations if they were to be returned involuntarily to Iran, and insists that no person should be returned, either directly or via a third country, to a situation where they would be at risk of torture or other serious human rights abuses; 3. Calls on the Iraqi government to end its blockade of the camp and respect the legal status of the Camp Ashraf residents as 'protected persons' under the Geneva Conventions, and to refrain from any action that would endanger their life or security, namely full access to food, water, medical care and supplies, fuel, family members and international humanitarian organizations; 4. Calls on the Council, the Commission and the Member States together with the Iraqi and US Governments and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee for the Red Cross to work towards finding a satisfactory long-term legal status for Camp Ashraf residents; 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee for the Red Cross, the Government of the United States and the Governments and Parliaments of Iraq.

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT HABHAB

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the storied career and public service of Albert Habhab from Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Albert began his career of public service as a soldier during World War II. Albert rarely speaks of his time at war, but he occasionally shares some of his experiences including rescuing a badly injured soldier while in the Army in Europe.

He later became the mayor of Fort Dodge in 1959, and served for a record setting 14 years. While mayor, the city expanded by over eleven miles. In 1975, after serving as mayor, Albert was appointed to the bench in the 2nd Judicial District. In 1987 he was appointed to the Iowa Court of Appeals where he was elected chief judge.

Now at the age of 83, Albert continues to show his selflessness and gives credit to many other people in his life who he believes helped him during his career.

I commend Albert Habhab for his many years of loyalty and service to our great nation and his community. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in thanking Albert Habhab for his life of public service. It is an immense honor to represent Albert in Congress, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, May 13, 2009, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 427, H. Con. Res. 84 and H.R. 2162.

Had I been present for Rollcall No. 246, on agreeing to the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2187, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for Rollcall No. 247, on suspending the Rules and passing H. Con. Res. 84, Supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for Rollcall No. 248, on suspending the Rules and passing H.R. 2162, the Herbert A. Littleton Postal Station, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING HENRY "HANK" NORDHOFF ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM GEN-PROBE

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the service of Henry "Hank" Nordhoff to both the biotechnology and life sciences communities of San Diego, as well as to Gen-

Probe, from which he is retiring after serving fifteen years as President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Hank is nearly peerless when it comes to the contributions he has made to the life sciences community of San Diego and I wish him well in his retirement.

The state of California is far and away the leader when it comes to the life sciences industry. With over 2,000 companies employing 271,000 people and generating \$20.3 billion in salaries and wages, California is the gold standard for science and biotechnology that the rest of the country tries to emulate. San Diego is the crown jewel in the California crown with 36,600 employees in the life science community in San Diego County at more than 500 companies, including traditional biotech, medical device, diagnostic and technology companies. Atop that mountain stands Gen-Probe, led by Mr. Hank Nordhoff.

Hank joined Gen-Probe Incorporated in July 1994 as president and CEO. Following the spin-off from Chugai Pharmaceuticals in September 2002, he was also appointed chairman of Gen-Probe's board of directors. Hank contributed greatly to the innovation that defines Gen-Probe, and that is embodied in more than 480 patents the company has been issued around the world. Gen-Probe's business is devoted to nucleic acid testing (NAT). NAT is the science of identifying diseases accurately and rapidly by detecting genetic fingerprints that are unique to an infectious microorganism or a cancerous tumor. Gen-Probe's pioneering and innovative role in NAT has been broadly recognized—culminating in the company receiving the 2004 National Medal of Technology, America's highest honor for technological innovation, for developing molecular tests that protect America's supply of donated blood from HIV, hepatitis and West Nile virus.

On a personal note, I have had the privilege of working closely with Hank on a number of life sciences issues since coming back to Congress in June 2006. Hank has been a trusted advisor as part of my science and technology advisory group and I have come to rely on his wise counsel on everything from patent reform to personalized medicine. It is no surprise to me to know that he has been named as one of San Diego's most admired CEOs. Hank is a true visionary and his work will continue to shape the landscape of San Diego's biotechnology community long into the future.

In short, Hank is a successful business executive, employer, statesman and philanthropist, and I wish him well in his future retirement endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT BLACKSTOCK

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Scott Blackstock, one of my constituents from Thomaston, Ga. This has been a fine spring for Scott. First, he won the Small Business Administration's Georgia Small Business Person of the Year award based on the success of his chain of car washes. Second, there was a lot of pollen. Only car wash owners, I'd think, anxiously anticipate the season when a thick yellow film coats our vehicles.

Blackstock had owned a tire and auto shop in Thomaston for 20 years before he decided to add on a traditional self-serve and drive-thru car wash facility. From here his entrepreneurial ideas bubbled up like soapy suds. Before he acted, he did his research on the latest type of car wash technology, the "express wash." In 2003, S.S. Blackstock Inc.'s Tidal Wave Express Wash was on its way, as Scott opened a state-of-the-art conveyor-style car wash in Riverdale, GA, that was faster, more efficient and less expensive than any system used before.

His business shined and waxed at a rapid rate. Tidal Wave Express Wash started with two part-time employees in 2003 and one outlet; today, it employs almost 100 full- and part-time employees at 12 locations spread over three states but centered primarily in metro Atlanta. Sales have increased from \$271,000 in 2004 to more than \$6.5 million in 2007, while profits have gone from \$22,435 to more than \$2.7 million.

Scott's business model allows customers to tidy up their rides guilt-free, with a wash that's friendly to the environment and to the wallet. Tidal Wave invests \$70,000 at each new location for a system that treats and recycles the water for reuse and purifies used water before returning it to the sewage system.

Notice of Scott's splash of success isn't limited to Georgia. He's answered the call to give presentations to his peers in the industry and trade publications have featured him.

But Scott isn't just special to his community for his entrepreneurial spirit and business acumen. His company provides much more than a buff and shine. Scott and wife Hope have a child with cerebral palsy and they hold a place in their hearts for people with special needs. S.S. Blackstock Inc. has donated more than \$150,000 to causes that support children and adults with special needs, including a program where teachers from around the South can come for training to assist the wheelchair-bound in gaining physical independence.

I'm tremendously proud of Scott's contributions to Georgia's business community and to our fellow Georgians in need of a helping hand. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Scott Blackstock, the 2009 Small Business Administration Small Business Person honoree.

TRIBUTE TO ELAINE KLINE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Elaine Kline, former owner and operator of Elaine's Hair Design in Boone, Iowa.

Elaine has been a hair dresser for 50 years and a permanent makeup artist for over 20. She recently decided to hang up her shears and retire from owning Elaine's Hair Design after 36 years of business. Although she is retiring from the beauty shop, she will continue to do makeup as an independent contractor. Now that Elaine has more time on her hands, she plans to spend more time with her grandchildren and on her artwork, which she hopes to donate much of to her church and Iowa Right to Life.

Elaine has left a permanent mark on the city of Boone as several generations have passed

through her salon. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Elaine for her service to her community. I consider it an honor to represent Elaine Kline in Congress, and I wish her a long, happy and healthy future.

HONORING KYLE JOSEPH NIX

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

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

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

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

NO WELFARE FOR TERRORISTS ACT OF 2009

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "No Welfare for Terrorists Act of 2009." This legislation would proactively prohibit detainees currently at Guantanamo Bay from ever receiving government benefits at the federal, state and local levels.

Today at Guantanamo Bay there are around 240 hardened terrorists who have killed and/or plotted to kill Americans. These terrorists are among the most dangerous people in the world, and the Obama administration wants to bring them here to the United States. Earlier today in the House Committee on Appropriations, Congressional Democrats, in a party-line vote, agreed to support the administration's policy to bring terrorists currently detained at Guantanamo Bay to our soil. Homeland Security personnel are working hard to keep terrorists from entering our country and now the president wants to make special arrangements to bring these proven terrorists here.

The Obama administration has already authorized the release of 30 detainees from Guantanamo Bay. Dennis Blair, the Director of National Intelligence, has said that these terrorists should receive welfare benefits: "If we are to release them in the United States, we need some sort of assistance for them to start a new life. You can't just put them on the street."

We must not fool ourselves—those held at Guantanamo Bay are unrepentant terrorists determined to pursue their long held violent goals. Of the detainees already released from Guantanamo Bay, we know that over 60 have returned to a life of terrorism.

Maulvi Abdul Ghaffar was captured in early 2002 and held at Guantanamo Bay for eight months. After his release, Ghaffar became the Taliban's regional commander in Uruzgan and Helmand provinces, carrying out attacks on U.S. and Afghan forces.

In September, Saeed Shihri was responsible for an attack on the U.S. embassy in Yemen that killed nearly a dozen people. This was barely a year after he was released from Guantanamo Bay.

Abdallah Salih al-Ajmi, a Kuwaiti, was repatriated from Guantanamo in 2005, and transferred into Kuwaiti custody. After he was acquitted of terrorism charges in Kuwait, he committed a successful suicide attack in Mosul, Iraq on March 25, 2008.

Ibrahim Shafir Sen was transferred from Guantanamo Bay to Turkey in November 2003. In January 2008, Sen was arrested in Van, Turkey, and charged as the leader of an active al-Qaida cell.

These are just a few examples of the activities of the terrorists who have been released, thus far. The ones remaining at Guantanamo Bay are arguably even more dangerous.

The administration must be honest with the American people that they want to bring terrorists to the United States. By bringing these terrorists to America, the Obama administration will provide them with legal status. This would then qualify them for food stamps, cash assistance and health care—paid for by you and me, the very people they desire to kill. The American people have spent billions trying to protect this country from terrorists before they can kill innocent Americans, and now the administration is laying out the welcome mat for terrorists to roam our streets.

The "No Welfare for Terrorists Act" will prohibit any government benefits from being granted to any terrorists brought to the United States from Guantanamo Bay. The American people have already paid—with blood and lives. We're done. The American people, under no circumstance, should be required to pay welfare benefits to terrorists.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in bringing sanity to this debate and prevent our constituents' hard earned money from going to put terrorists on welfare rolls.

RYAN ANDREW ROBERTS MAKES HIS MARK ON THE WORLD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard Allen and Melissa Gregory Roberts on the birth of their child, Ryan Andrew Roberts. Ryan was born on Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 10:30 am, weighed 8 pounds and 10 ounces, and was 20.5 inches long. My wife Faye joins me in wishing Richard and Melissa, and grandparents Joseph C. and Janice L. Gregory, Neil Richard Roberts, and Betty W. Marino great happiness upon this new addition to their family.

As the father of three, I know the joy and pride that Richard and Melissa feel at this special time. Children remind us of the incredible miracle of life, and they keep us young-at-heart. Every day they show us a new way to

view the world. I know the Roberts family looks forward to the changes and challenges that their new son will bring to their lives while taking pleasure in the many rewards they are sure to receive as they watch him grow.

I welcome young Ryan into the world and wish Richard and Melissa all the best as they raise him.

HONORING JOHN ANDREW NIX

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

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

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

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

RECOGNIZING ROBERT J. JOSSEN

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Robert J. Jossen for his accomplished legal career and dedication to the Jewish community of Westchester County, New York. On Tuesday, May 12, 2009, Mr. Jossen received The Jewish Theological Seminary 14th Annual Judge Simon H. Rifkind Award.

A graduate of Cornell University and Columbia University Law School, Mr. Jossen began his career as a law clerk for the Honorable Marvin E. Frankel of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. Currently a partner with the international law firm Dechert LLP, Bob is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and has been named one of this nation's best business litigators by Best Lawyers in America for the past ten years.

Mr. Jossen has demonstrated an admirable commitment to educating the next generation of attorneys, lecturing widely on ethics and other topics for the Practicing Law Institute and the New York State Bar Association. He has also served as an adjunct professor of Legal Ethics at both Columbia University Law School and St. John's University Law School, an adjunct lecturer in Professional Responsibility at Brooklyn Law School, and an instructor for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy.

From 2004 to 2007, Mr. Jossen served as president of Temple Israel Center of White

Plains, New York, and has spent nearly twenty years serving as general counsel to the Rabbinical Assembly of the Conservative Movement. Bob has generously lent his time and talent to enriching New York's Jewish community, conducting annual seminars with graduating rabbinical students on confidentiality, counseling, and contracts.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the many accomplishments of Robert J. Jossen, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his contributions to the legal profession and Jewish community.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER DAVID LOAR AND OFFICER CHRISTOPHER SKINNER AS RECIPIENTS OF THE 2009 TOP COP AWARD

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Officers David Loar and Christopher Skinner of Kansas City, Missouri, as recipients of the 2009 Top COPS Award. This award is presented to outstanding law enforcement officers by the National Association of Police Organizations for acts that go above and beyond the call of duty. Officers Loar and Skinner were nominated for this award by their peers for actions they undertook in helping a 70 year old homeless man.

Officer Loar and Officer Skinner first met Harold, a retired trucker, on New Year's Eve in 2008 in the underground parking garage of a local shopping center in my district. Harold, who had lost his home in a divorce, also had his identification papers stolen while staying at a homeless shelter. Unable to get back on his feet, Harold was living in the underground garage. Upon meeting Harold, Officer Loar and Officer Skinner made the decision to help this elderly man reclaim his life.

Officer Loar and Officer Skinner worked to help Harold obtain a birth certificate, a Social Security card, photo identification, as well as a post office box. They brought him sandwiches and checked on him during the cold winter nights. Upon some investigation, Officers Loar and Skinner found that Harold was eligible for Social Security and Medicare benefits, and this enabled Harold to collect almost \$10,000 in back benefits. Eventually, Officer Loar and Officer Skinner helped Harold find an apartment, and even paid for Harold to stay in a hotel until the apartment unit was ready for him to move into.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Officer Loar and Officer Skinner for their commitment to helping Harold. These two police officers stand as an example to all in the Fifth District of Missouri, as well as the rest of the Nation. Many of us walk by homeless men and women everyday, yet few take the time to stop. Officer Loar and Officer Skinner walked into the parking garage that cold New Year's Eve and made the decision to help; they made the decision to be one of the few to change the course of someone's life. Officer Loar and Officer Skinner showed true compassion when

they decided to help a stranger fight his way back off the streets. It is for these commendable actions that Officer Loar and Officer Skinner were awarded the 2009 Top COPS Award. I urge my colleagues of the 111th Congress to join me in congratulating Officer Loar and Officer Skinner on their well-deserved honor.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF ARKANSAS' PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Arkansas' public safety telecommunicators and emergency service dispatchers.

We're taught to call 9-1-1 in an emergency and these are the men and women who answer our call for help. They recently celebrated National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. This special week honors the thousands of people who respond to emergency calls, dispatch emergency professionals, and offer life-saving assistance in our communities.

These civil servants work tirelessly to assure we have direct and immediate access to emergency responders whenever the need arises. We recognize these men and women for their service as well as their concentrated community outreach, training courses for students, senior citizens and church groups on the uses and abuses of the emergency telephone lines and the services available. These community awareness programs improve the quality of our telecommunicators' work.

Their commitment to excellence makes our communities a much safer place to live, and for that I thank them for their service. My appreciation for these Americans who help us every day is immeasurable. We must recognize and honor their efforts not only one week, but all year long.

HONORING KYLE THOMAS ALBERG

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Thomas Alberg a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 332, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

RECOGNIZING ARMED FORCES DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Ms. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 377, which observes this Saturday's Armed Forces Day and celebrates the courageous service of our men and women in uniform.

Our fighting men and women in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, whether on active duty, reserve, or serving in the National Guard, have been protecting our Nation bravely and honorably since before we were even a Nation. They continue to do so today. I have just recently returned from the combat zone in Afghanistan, where I had the chance to visit with our troops on the frontlines of the struggle against global terrorism. I was impressed and moved by their commitment as they continue to sacrifice so much to keep us safe and free.

This year, we celebrate Armed Forces Day on May 16. I encourage all Americans to take time out of this day to thank those who have risked and too often given their lives to preserve freedom and democracy. But one day is not nearly enough to recognize all that the members of our Armed Forces have done for this country. Every day should be an Armed Forces Day, a Memorial Day and a Veterans' Day. We have done great work in this Congress to better keep our promises to our service members and our Veterans, but we still have much more to do to make sure they receive the treatment and respect they have earned.

In the coming weeks, I will be working to increase access to quality physical and mental health care and to great educational opportunities for our Veterans. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this resolution, but I also urge them to join in my efforts to try to pay the eternal debt of gratitude we owe to our fighting men and women.

HONORING ZACHARY RAYMOND
BUKATY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary Raymond Bukaty a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 332, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

21ST CENTURY GREEN HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2187) to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to State educational agencies for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2187, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act. I joined a cosponsor of this legislation because I believe our children are our greatest hope and their success determines the future success of our nation. To best prepare them for their future, we have a responsibility to provide them with the best education possible.

Today's legislation helps to further that goal by ensuring that our school districts have the funding they need to provide safe and healthy learning environments for our children. We know that America's schools are millions of dollars short of the funding needed to renovate and equip our schools for the 21st Century. H.R. 2187 would authorize \$6.4 billion for school facilities projects for fiscal year 2010, providing a down payment for work to modernize our schools, while at the same time greening our schools. This legislation also requires school improvement projects to meet green building standards, as well as provides funds to help schools to track the energy needs and use of their facilities. Under this bill, Michigan would receive over \$244 million for school facilities projects.

As father and a grandfather, nothing is more important to me than ensuring that the schools in the 15th and Michigan are safe and well-constructed. However, with state budgets in peril, many schools are struggling to maintain their payrolls, let alone make the improvements necessary to their schools. We know that green schools reduce pollution by using about 30 percent less water and energy than conventional schools. By providing funding for green building and renovation, we will help relieve some of the burden on the school budgets by helping our schools to save on energy expenses. This will result in savings that schools can dedicate to modernization, equipment, or reform.

At the same time we are improving the buildings our children and grandchildren learn in, we are also creating much needed new jobs. An estimate by the Economic Policy Institute finds that this legislation would support as many as 136,000 new green jobs. This will put some of the thousands of unemployed in Michigan back to work, while also teaching them new skills in the clean energy sector.

In the 110th Congress the House passed this legislation, but unfortunately it was not considered by the Senate before adjournment. As the school year comes to a close, I urge my colleagues in the Senate to consider this legislation quickly so that this summer school districts across the country can begin greening their schools.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF MOTHER'S DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 388, celebrating the role of mothers in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of Mother's Day.

House Resolution 388 enumerates not only the "immeasurable contributions toward building strong families, thriving communities, and ultimately a strong Nation" made by mothers but also the importance of Mother's Day in recognition of these contributions.

From hallowed chambers to corporate boardrooms to classrooms to assembly lines, none of us would be the individuals we are without our mothers. While every family, every relationship is unique, we know that the bond between a child and a maternal figure—whether a mother, a grandmother, a stepmother, or a foster mother—is so very important. Strong families are the backbone of our nation. It is therefore very appropriate that we take this time today to celebrate and recognize the contributions of our nation's mothers to the strength and prosperity of America.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take a moment of personal privilege, as I have done before on the floor of this House, to talk a little bit about a very special woman—my Mother, Mrs. Helen Cecelia Gannon Gingrey.

Born in New York City in 1918, my mother has lived and continues to live life to its fullest. From the hustle and bustle of Manhattan to the serenity and beauty of South Carolina, my mother—grounded in her deep faith and her love for her husband, her children, her grandchildren, and her great grandchildren—has never stopped, never strayed from her commitment to God and to family.

Mr. Speaker, at 91 years young, my mother has also refused to let time and its effects keep her down, so much so that at the end of last year, she opted for a second knee replacement—with full knowledge of the inherent risks—because of her commitment to living life and making the most of every opportunity that God has given her. She faced this challenge as she does everything—with a big smile and an abiding faith.

I am happy to report that in the months following the surgery, she has recovered very well and hasn't missed a beat. As this House honors our nation's mothers, I would like to say a special thank you to my mother, not just for the blessing that she has been to me and our family, but for being a shining example of a life well-lived.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this Resolution for mothers everywhere, and I yield back.

SPENCER FISH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Spencer Fish of Liberty,

Missouri. Spencer is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Spencer has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Spencer has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. He was also the recipient of the 12 Month Camper Award and the World Conservation Award.

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

21ST CENTURY GREEN HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2187) to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to State educational agencies for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chair, I stand before you today in support of H.R. 2187, the "21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act". It is important that our youth have quality educational facilities. I support this bill because it directs the Secretary of Education to make grants to State educational agencies for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities, which many of our schools around the country are in desperate need of.

The grants that this piece of legislation will not only structurally improve the learning facilities, but make them safe, healthy, high-performing, and equipped with up-to-date technology. Our children can have access to updated science and engineering laboratory facilities, libraries, and career and technical education facilities. Furthermore, when a local educational agency receives a grant they can use the money for structural purposes such as repairing, replacing, or installing roofs. As well as extensive, intensive or semi-intensive green roofs, electrical wiring, plumbing systems, sewage systems, lighting systems, or components of such systems, windows, or doors, including security doors.

The monies allotted to schools will also benefit the health of our students. As Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus I am very concerned about the toxins that our children are exposed to in their own classrooms. The legislation can provide for the abatement, removal, or interim controls of asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls, mold, mildew, or lead-based paint hazards which we must remove from all of our buildings in America. They will be able to breathe better once heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems are replaced resulting in better air quality.

Our students must be safe while at school. If there is an emergency, the schools must be prepared to handle it. Money from grants can also be used to bring public schools into compliance with fire, health, and safety codes, including professional installation of fire/life safety alarms, including modernizations, renovations, and repairs that ensure that schools are prepared for emergencies.

Finally, we need to think ahead to the future. Our nation needs to become aware of our wastefulness and make strides to become greener. Schools will be able to get a head start going green by making the necessary changes to reduce the consumption of coal, electricity, land, natural gas, oil, and/or water. In addition, schools can focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy by making improvements to building infrastructure to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian access, renewable energy generation and heating systems, including solar, photovoltaic, wind, geothermal, or biomass, including wood pellet, systems or components of such systems, make them more energy efficient, reduce class size.

This is an important piece of legislation that I urge all of my colleagues to support. Support it for our nation's children and our nation's health.

TRIBUTE TO FRANKIE MANNING

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a giant of the Queens arts community—Frankie Manning, who passed away on April 27, 2009 at the age of 94.

Frankie Manning, the self-described "Ambassador of the Lindy Hop," was an icon of the jazz dancing era. From the start of his career in the 1930s, Frankie was one of jazz dance's most elite dancers, becoming a fixture at venues like the Savoy Ballroom and the Cotton Club.

As Frankie became the face of the Lindy hop, he took his signature style on tours through Europe and South America, to the New York World's Fair, and to Hollywood, where his impressive performances graced a number of Hollywood films.

Never one to overlook service to his country, Frankie also served in the Army during World War II, serving in the Pacific theater. After years of professional dancing, Frankie also began work for the Postal Service in 1955.

Where most of us see retirement as a chance to relax, Frankie did the opposite, turning his retirement into a whirlwind of choreographing and teaching, as he helped bring the Lindy hop back into the national consciousness.

He received a Tony award for his Broadway choreography in 1989, and returned to Hollywood to train actor Denzel Washington on the Lindy in the film "Malcolm X." In 2000, Frankie was awarded a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Frankie will always be remembered as someone who never lost his love for dancing as he got older. In fact, in just a few weeks

he was to celebrate his 95th birthday with a five-day festival and the premiere of a documentary on his life of dance. This event, now scheduled as a memorial, shows just how much spirit Frankie brought to his life and his dancing.

My condolences go out to Frankie's family, the dancers he worked with throughout his career, and to his many fans around the world. He brought so much life to the world of jazz dance, and the same energy and charisma to all his endeavors. Frankie Manning will certainly be missed, but I am confident that his spirit will live on.

BRYCE McDONALD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Bryce McDonald of Liberty, Missouri. Bryce is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Bryce has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Bryce has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. He was also the recipient of the Eagles Soaring High award.

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

HONORING DR. PATRICIA L. STARCK FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS AS DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON SCHOOL OF NURSING

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Patricia L. Starck for twenty-five years of outstanding achievements as Dean of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Nursing and to recognize her contributions to the health of Texans and countless others through her leadership in nursing education.

Dean Starck has shown exemplary leadership in addressing the national nursing shortage. Under her leadership, student enrollment in the School of Nursing and the number of faculty have nearly doubled; philanthropic giving has increased more than twenty-fold; the number of endowed scholarships has risen from two to twenty-four and the number of endowed chairs from one to thirteen; and seven research endowments have been created. She was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to serve on the Statewide Health Coordinating

Council and also serves as co-chair of the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Study Advisory Committee.

Under her leadership, the School of Nursing has embarked on several new programmatic endeavors. Dean Starck worked tirelessly to ensure the creation of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program, a practice doctorate degree focused on patient quality outcomes. The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston was the first school in Texas to offer a Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree. During her tenure, the School has also established the Women's Health Care Nursing Program; the Center for Nursing Research; the Center on Aging; the Pediatric Nursing Practitioner Program; the Neonatal Nursing Program; the Acute Care Nursing Program; the Adult Health Nursing Program; the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Education and Research; the Biological Sciences Laboratory; and the Nursing Leadership and Administration Program.

Dean Starck has also contributed to scholarship and research in her field, receiving fourteen grant awards for her work; publishing forty-five articles for journals; publishing and serving as editor on eighteen publications; and collaborating on and leading twelve clinical research projects and six education research projects for instructional distribution.

She has brought honor to the School and to herself as the recipient of numerous awards and distinctions, including the 2005 Health Policy Award; the Presidential Award for Distinguished Contributions and Sterling Leadership, the XIV Congress on Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy; the Griffin B. Bell Distinguished Lecturer, Georgia Southwestern State University; Sister Bernadette Armiger Award, American Association of Colleges of Nursing; Nursing Excellence Leadership Award, Houston Organization of Nurses; Distinguished Professional Woman's Award, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Committee on the Status of Women 1993; Collaboration Between Nursing Service and Education Award, Council Deans/Directors and Nurse Executives; Woman of Excellence, Federation of Business and Professional Women; Outstanding Woman in Education, YWCA Honoree; Leadership Texas; and Lifetime Membership, Alumni Association, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Nursing. She is a member of Sigma Xi, Sigma Theta Tau and Phi Kappa Phi societies; and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

Congratulations to Dr. Patricia Starck for twenty-five years of outstanding work for The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Nursing, and best wishes for the years to come.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
MS. BRITTANY BERGQUIST

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in congratulating a young, profoundly dedicated community volunteer—and a constituent of mine—Ms. Brittany Bergquist.

As a distinguished winner of the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Award, Brittany was recently named as one of our nation's top 10 youth volunteers. Her passion for improving the lives of others was sparked five years ago by a TV news story about an Army reservist who struggled with overwhelming cell phone bills while trying to keep in touch with his loved ones overseas. Sympathetic to our brave men and women in uniform, Brittany and her brother Robbie began raising money to send on their behalf. They scraped together piggy-bank savings, hosted car washes, and organized bake sales as their dedication to the cause intensified day-by-day.

Today, the nonprofit organization that the Bergquist kids co-founded—"Cell Phones for Soldiers"—has collected and recycled nearly 700,000 pre-paid phone cards for the men and women serving in our armed forces. She and her brother arranged for a recycling company to purchase donated phones; designed a Web site to spread awareness of their campaign; recruited volunteers from across the continent; and secured a large donation from a mobile phone company. To date, the Bergquist children have sent more than \$2.5 million worth of one-hour phone cards to military hospitals and bases around the world.

What began as the idealistic initiative of a young girl and her brother, "Cell Phones for Soldiers" has blossomed into a national effort well-deserving of the recognition it has received. Brittany is an inspiration not only to the people of her home state of Massachusetts, but to young adults nationwide who aspire to make a difference.

On behalf of the thousands of soldiers who have been able to communicate with their families thanks to Brittany's efforts, I want to take this opportunity to recognize and thank her for her exemplary work and compassion. She is a young woman of exceptional potential, and I wish her the very best of luck in all her future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO CHRYSALIS AND
THE 8TH ANNUAL CHRYSALIS
BUTTERFLY BALL ON THE OCCA-
SION OF THE ORGANIZATION'S
25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chrysalis, a nonprofit organization based in Los Angeles County that is dedicated to helping economically disadvantaged and homeless individuals find jobs and become self-sufficient through employment opportunities.

The organization derives its name from the term used to describe the growth stage during which a caterpillar is transformed into a beautiful butterfly. Chrysalis, the organization, seeks to lead its clients on a similar path—transforming lives by helping people who have fallen on hard times work their way out of poverty and obtain economic stability.

When Chrysalis was founded by 22-year-old John Dillon 25 years ago, the organization was a food and shelter agency located on Skid Row in Downtown Los Angeles. John soon realized that he wanted to change the

agency's focus. He then transformed the organization into what it is today: an agency dedicated to helping people find jobs and become self-sufficient through employment opportunities.

To date, Chrysalis has assisted more than 30,000 people on the path toward self-sufficiency at three centers located throughout areas in Los Angeles County where poverty is most pervasive: Downtown Los Angeles on Skid Row, Santa Monica, and Pacoima in the San Fernando Valley. Through its employment programs and services, Chrysalis helps more than 2,500 people each year. Chrysalis clients not only find employment, but they change their lives through their new jobs, reuniting with their families, decreasing their reliance on government support, renting their own apartments, and regaining self-esteem.

To support their work, Chrysalis will hold its 8th Annual Chrysalis Butterfly Ball on June 6 at the Mandeville Canyon home of Susan Harris and Hayward Kaiser. This incredible evening is supported by friends of Chrysalis, including executives and artists in film, television, and music who will come together to help raise funds to keep Chrysalis' doors open to people in need throughout the year.

In recognition of the important role of Chrysalis' supporters, this year's celebration will honor several individuals critical to the organization's success, including Bruce Cohen and Dan Jinks, Academy Award Winning producers most prominently known for their work on the movies MILK and AMERICAN BEAUTY, as well as Doug Ellin, the creator and executive producer of the HBO television series, "Entourage." In addition, Chrysalis client Terry Moore will also be honored as this year's recipient of the John Dillon Butterfly Award. With the help of Chrysalis' services, Terry Moore overcame multiple barriers to find and keep a job, build a successful career, and regain dignity and self-esteem.

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of Chrysalis' 25th anniversary, I join today with my congressional colleagues in recognizing all of the many dedicated people who make this fine organization the beacon of hope that it is today. I extend my thanks to this year's honorees, incredible donors and supporters, invaluable volunteer force, the Chrysalis staff, and, most of all, the agency's clients. Chrysalis provides the resources that enable those seeking a brighter future to truly "transform" themselves and their lives, and I wish everyone involved with this fine organization many more years of continued success.

HONORING BUD DOGGETT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, this week the District of Columbia is renaming 10th Street, NW., "Bud Doggett's Way" after Leonard "Bud" Doggett, an iconic civic, business and political leader here in Washington who passed away last year. It's a well-deserved honor to an individual who devoted his life to making Washington, the Nation's Capital, a better place. During my tenure both as a member and Chairman of the House Committee on the District of Columbia I had the

privilege of knowing Bud and, as was the case for many, he became my friend.

Bud Doggett was born in Washington, returned here after World War II, and never left. He loved this city and worked tirelessly to help it and its residents. While building a significant corporate empire based on parking, real estate and banking, Bud kept an eye and a hand on everything political and important that shaped Washington over the past 50 years. Bud was "old school," literally smoking cigars in the back room. He shunned publicity and attention, liked to refer to himself as a parking attendant, but Bud was the D.C. power broker who always had the best interest of the city at heart.

Bud spearheaded diversity in Washington's business community in the early 1960s when segregation was still pervasive if more quiet. He walked the streets with Mayor Washington to calm the turmoil after Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, and played a decisive role in the election of most District leaders since Home Rule and the economic development that transformed a sleepy southern town to a world-class city.

With the strong, paternal hand came a softer heart. Bud's philanthropic efforts are legendary, anchored by HEROES, a largely anonymous group he founded in 1964 that helps the families of law enforcement and firefighters in the region who die in the line of duty. There are literally hundreds of families who have had their mortgages paid, their children sent to college, and their lives re-established because Bud and HEROES never forgot their loved one's sacrifice and were always there to help.

Bud was the last of his breed for Washington. There's no one with the same reach, respect, and authority to single-handedly keep the city on track. It's up to a new batch of political, business, and civic leaders to see if collectively they can provide the stability, direction and discipline that Bud did. It's a very tough act to follow.

TRIBUTE TO BRANDON AND TONY SILVERIA IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR DEDICATION TO CURBING UNDERAGE DRINKING IN OUR COUNTRY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brandon Silveria and his father, Tony Silveria, two courageous individuals who have turned a personal tragedy into a message of hope and possibility for teenagers and their families across the country.

On March 1, 1987, Brandon Silveria had the world at his fingertips. He was a popular high school athlete in Los Gatos, California. He and his friends had dreams of making the Olympic rowing team and attending Boston College on rowing scholarships.

But on that day, Brandon's dreams were shattered by one bad decision. Brandon and his friends went to a party and drank alcohol. Seventeen-year-old Brandon drove everyone home. After he dropped his best friend off, Brandon continued the short drive to his house. He never made it. Brandon crashed his car into a tree and barely survived.

Brandon's parents, Tony and Shirley Silveria, rushed to the hospital to be by Brandon's side and faced the nightmare of almost losing their son to an underage drinking and driving crash. Brandon spent 3 months in a coma followed by 3 years in rehabilitation. Brandon had to relearn everything. Walking, talking and eating were skills he had to regain. He worked hard to recover and his family stood by his side and nursed him back to health.

Today, Brandon and Tony travel the country for The Century Council, a not-for-profit organization funded by distillers to fight drunk driving and underage drinking. Over the last 20 years they have spoken to over 2 million students in all 50 states across the nation—from Maine to California—and their story has been told on "Rescue911," NBC's "TODAY Show," and the Discovery Channel's "HEALTHWATCH." Their message focuses on encouraging teens to make the right choices, resist peer pressure, and realize the trauma created by this kind of personal tragedy.

I first met the Silverias in the fall of 2007 when The Brandon Tells His Story program was featured at one of the high schools in my district. I was so moved by their presentation that I have worked with The Century Council to bring this compelling message to the teenagers and parents in two other high schools in my district.

Brandon walks and talks with great difficulty but that doesn't prevent him from delivering a forceful message to teens about the dangers and consequences of drinking and driving. He has permanent health problems as a result of a traumatic brain injury and must travel the country with his father. Tony has his own program for parents called Tony's Tips where he discusses the impact Brandon's crash had on his family and about the importance of talking to your kids about underage drinking. Many families unravel emotionally or financially in the face of a tragedy like Brandon's. Despite this often sad reality, the Silverias managed to pull together and make it their mission to deliver a lifesaving message to teenagers and families across the country.

Madam Speaker, because of the Silverias' mission to share their story, more than 2 million students have seen firsthand the tragic consequences of underage drinking and driving. I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking Brandon and Tony for their courage and commitment to saving the lives of our nation's children, and in extending to them our best wishes for continued success in exemplifying for all us what it means to overcome tragedy and work to make a difference.

IN HONOR OF RABBI PETER H. GRUMBACHER

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Rabbi Peter H. Grumbacher for his retirement in June 2009 after more than thirty years of service at Congregation Beth Emeth and throughout the Delaware community.

Rabbi Grumbacher moved from New York City to Wilmington upon his ordination from

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He became an Assistant Rabbi and Director of Education at Congregation Beth Emeth and after several years of service to the Jewish faith and the community, he was named Senior Rabbi in 1982. Constantly pursuing ways to better serve our community, the Rabbi earned his Masters of Social Work from the Wurzweiler School of Social Work of Yeshiva University.

Along with his strong emphasis on education, Rabbi Grumbacher also served on a variety of local boards, including as the chairperson of the State Human Relations Commission, chairperson of the Delaware Interfaith Coalition of Aging, and as the senior co-chair of the National Conference of Christians and Jews (now the National Conference for Community and Justice). Locally, the Rabbi served as a chaplain for Jewish patients for 27 years. On a national level, Rabbi Grumbacher serves on the National Commission for Rabbinc and Congressional Relations while also previously serving as President of the Mid-Atlantic Region Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Once again, I commend Rabbi Peter Grumbacher's achievements and over three decades as leader of Congregation Beth Emeth. His remarkable commitment to his congregation, our state, and our nation speaks volumes about his character, integrity, and selflessness. I am very fortunate to feel his positive impact in the community where my own family and friends reside, and I trust that this will still be so. I wish Rabbi Grumbacher the very best in his well-deserved retirement and am confident he will find happiness and success in all his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAIRFAX CABLE ACCESS CORPORATION (FAIRFAX PUBLIC ACCESS)

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fairfax Cable Access Corporation and to celebrate their 25 years of service to the community.

As a provider of public access television and radio programming, Fairfax Cable Access Corporation stands as an exceptional example of a nonprofit organization working closely with the community for mutual benefit. In 1984, Fairfax Public Access broadcast its very first program. From these humble beginnings, airing just a few hours each week, Fairfax Cable Access Corporation has grown into one of the larger organizations of its type in the country. Fairfax Public Access now operates two cable television channels and one cable radio channel. In 2008, Fairfax Public Access employed 20 full time staff members and aired 5,327 hours of programming.

This remarkable growth has been matched by the successes of Fairfax Cable Access Corporation in reaching out to our diverse community in Fairfax County. The programming is representative of the county's diverse ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds. With programs in 14 different languages, Fairfax Cable Access Corporation is able to inform, educate and entertain peoples from around the world who call Fairfax home.

I particularly commend the educational training programs available from Fairfax Public Access in the fields of radio and television production. Thousands of individuals have successfully been trained in these fields by Fairfax Cable Access Corporation and their training program is now listed in the Adult Education catalogues for the local public schools systems.

In recognition of excellence, the Fairfax Cable Access Corporation has been awarded numerous Telly Awards which honors the very best in local, regional, cable and internet programming. The winners of this prestigious award are chosen from the thousands of entries received each year from all 50 states and 5 continents.

Madam Speaker, the quarter century of excellence from the Fairfax County Cable Access Corporation is a true success story, both for the organization and the many citizens it serves. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the achievements of Fairfax Cable Access Corporation and to applaud their commitment to communication, education and service to the community.

HONORING THE MICHIGAN CENTRAL RAILROAD PASSENGER TRAIN STATION

HON. MARK H. SCHAUER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. SCHAUER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor today the Michigan Central Railroad Passenger Train Station in Jackson, Michigan as they celebrate the Second Annual National Train Day and the 140th Anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad.

On May 10, 1869, in Promontory Summit, Utah, the "golden spike" was driven into the final tie that joined 1,776 miles of the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railways, ceremonially creating the nation's first transcontinental railroad. These railways provided jobs for thousands of Americans. Now, 140 years after the "golden spike" connected east and west, there's never been a better time to take the train.

In an era of many constant challenges and changes that face our daily lives and at a time when we all share the same pressing concerns about environment and energy conservation, trains are a more energy-efficient mode of travel than either autos or airplanes. The historic Michigan Central Railroad Passenger Train Station opened its doors to the public on September 1, 1873 and is the nation's oldest train station in continuous active use.

I am proud to join with the Jackson community in honor of this coast-to-coast celebration of the way trains connect people and places.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE AMBULANCE ACCESS PRESERVATION ACT

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicare Am-

bulance Access Preservation Act. This bill would ensure that my constituents in Massachusetts, and people across the country, continue to have access to ambulance services. Ambulance service providers are a critical part of our country's first responder and health care systems. In fact, as we discuss how to reform our health care system I can think of nothing more fundamental than ensuring that people have access to life-saving emergency ambulance care.

We all know the importance of ambulance services. Many of us see them every day transporting ill or injured individuals to the hospital. Some of us have even been transported and received pre-hospital care in an ambulance. Dedicated, skilled professionals work in these ambulances, ensuring that patients receive the care they need and ensuring that communities are prepared in the case of a disaster. The need to ensure the availability of these services is clear. Yet, Medicare reimbursement policy has harmed rather than helped to reach this goal.

Under the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, Congress authorized the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to develop a Medicare ambulance fee schedule. The rates developed under the fee schedule were significantly below what it cost many providers in Massachusetts to deliver services. In May 2007, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) confirmed this problem by determining that Medicare reimburses ambulance service providers on average 6 percent below their costs and 17 percent below cost in "super rural" areas. Ambulance providers aren't even breaking even in Medicare—Medicare reimburses ambulance providers below their costs for every person they transport.

Congress has recognized this shortfall and included temporary Medicare ambulance relief provisions in both the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) and the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA). However, all of these provisions expire at the end of 2009. To address this problem, I have worked with ambulance service providers in my state to develop a permanent Medicare relief package.

My legislation would increase reimbursement to rural and urban ambulance suppliers by 6 percent, and super rural providers by 17 percent. These numbers are consistent with the GAO report. This package will ensure not only continued availability of ambulance services, but also that ambulance service providers will be able to maintain standards of providing quality health care to patients.

As we address health care reform, we must begin by remembering the basics. Ambulance services are a fundamental part of our health care system. Congress must ensure that all Americans continue to have access to ambulance services and that the dedicated men and women who provide ambulance services have the tools and resources they need to serve patients when timely, expert medical care is needed most. I ask my colleagues to join me in this effort by cosponsoring this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on May 13, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my vote for rollcall No. 249.

Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 249—aye, on agreeing to the amendment.

THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE FILIPINO VETERANS FAMILY REUNIFICATION ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act, a companion to Senator AKAKA's bill of the same name, which will provide for the expedited reunification of the families of our Filipino World War II veterans.

As you know, Filipino veterans are those that honorably answered the call of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and served alongside our armed forces during World War II. They fought shoulder to shoulder with American servicemen; they sacrificed for the same just cause. We made a promise to provide full veterans' benefits to those who served with our troops. And while we have recently made appreciable progress toward fulfilling that long-ignored promise, we have not yet achieved the full equity that the Filipino veterans deserve.

In 1990, the Congress recognized the courage and commitment of the Filipino World War II veterans by providing them with a waiver from certain naturalization requirements. Many veterans thereafter became proud United States citizens and residents of our country. However, allowances were not made for their children and many have been waiting decades for petition approval.

The Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act would allow for the further recognition of the service of the veterans by granting their children a special immigration status that would allow them to immigrate to the United States and be reunified with their aging parents. It is important to note that the Filipino soldiers who fought under the command of General Douglas MacArthur at this critical time in our nation's history represent a unique category. These soldiers were members of the United States Armed Forces of the Far East. They were led to believe that at the end of the conflict they would be treated the same as American soldiers. It took more than sixty years to begin to make good on our commitment. The Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act recognizes the special circumstances of this group of soldiers.

I look forward to working with my colleagues by providing for the reunification of our Filipino World War II veterans with their families.

IN RECOGNITION OF DONNA YEE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Dr. Donna L. Yee for her ongoing efforts to improve and strengthen services to older persons in the Sacramento region. As Donna's colleagues, friends and family gather to honor her work, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual.

For over thirty-five years, Donna has been helping those in need of long term care. Since making Sacramento her home for the last decade, she has diligently worked and provided leadership to assure that social services are available, accessible, and acceptable to all elders.

Donna received her Master of Social Work from the University of Washington and her Ph.D. in Social Policy at the Heller School, Brandeis University. Prior to moving to Sacramento, she had most recently worked for the National Pacific Asian Center on Aging in Seattle and for the Institute for Health Policy at Brandeis University.

Since 2000, Donna has served as Chief Executive Officer of the Asian Community Center in Sacramento, which is one of the largest and most successful nonprofit organizations in my district. By identifying, developing, and providing culturally sensitive health and social services for older adults, the Asian Community Center enhances the general welfare and quality of life for a wide group of Sacramentans.

Donna has brought national recognition to the many programs that the Asian Community Center operates. The Center's Rides Transportation Program, which gives rides to seniors who can not drive themselves, won the Senior Transportation Action Response Special Recognition Award from the Beverly Foundation in October, 2008. In addition, the Asian Community Center's Nursing Home has earned the highest rating of five stars from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Agency.

Throughout her career, Donna has focused on capacity building, Medicare access, client-centered care, adult day care, assisted living, case management, hospital services for the aged, and has consistently provided support for the elderly and Asian Pacific Communities. In doing so, Donna has made her mark as one of Sacramento finest leaders.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Dr. Donna L. Yee for her lifetime of efforts to promote the quality and access of services for our senior citizens. She has done a tremendous job at the Asian Community Center and on behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Fifth Congressional District of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in acknowledging her work.

RECOGNITION OF ARMED FORCES DAY: UNITED IN STRENGTH

HON. MARK H. SCHAUER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. SCHAUER. Madam Speaker, I am proud and it is my distinct privilege today to honor the men and women who have served our country. President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday, Armed Forces Day, for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country. On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department—the Department of Defense—and acknowledges the sacrifices Americans have made for freedom. Armed Forces Week has been celebrated every May since 1950. This period of time gives civilians a chance to appreciate the sacrifices of the men and women currently on active duty, those serving in the Guard and Reserve, and all those who served before them.

Sons and daughters of Michigan have answered their nation's call. We are humbled by those who show us that there is no greater love than this: to lay down your life in service to your neighbor. We honor those who take this risk every day. Today we remember those who have shown this greatest love and remember their families. As we gather today let us honor and commend the men and women who have served and currently serve in the military, for which we are forever grateful. May they know of the high esteem in which they are held by their family, their friends, their community and the great State of Michigan.

HONORING DOWNTOWNTOWN AREA SENIOR CENTER ON ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Downingtown Area Senior Center as it celebrates 35 years of outstanding service to senior citizens in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

The extremely hard-working and exceptionally dedicated staff at the Center provides an array of positive and informative programs that allow seniors to make new friends, enrich their lives and remain engaged in the community.

Madam Speaker, the Downingtown Area Senior Center will celebrate its 35th anniversary on Friday, May 15th, 2009, and I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the Center for reaching this special milestone and recognizing the valuable contributions the Center provides in improving the quality of life for the Downingtown area's senior citizens.

RECOGNIZING DR. H. RAY HOOPS ON HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Dr. H. Ray Hoops on his outstanding service to the University of Southern Indiana (USI). Dr. Hoops is retiring after 15 years of extraordinary service to USI and the community.

During his tenure as USI's second president, Dr. Hoops has increased university enrollment, forged important partnerships with community leaders, and improved the university's academic record. His leadership has left a lasting mark on USI's physical appearance too, with many new state-of-the-art facilities.

Dr. Hoops is also an influential and visionary leader in the Evansville community. He serves on the Deaconess Hospital Board of Directors, the Evansville Education Roundtable, and the Southwest Indiana Economic Development Task Force. He is a former director and chair of the Indiana Conference of Higher Education.

Dr. Hoops has served as a tireless advocate for the students and faculty of USI. As an alumnus, I appreciate his work to bring additional opportunities and support to this outstanding educational institution. He will be missed, but I'm sure he's ready to spend his days hunting for pheasant instead of hunting for endowments. I wish him all the best.

TRIBUTE TO DEWAR'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a leading small business in our community, Dewar's Family Candy and Ice Cream Parlor, which is celebrating 100 years of operation in Bakersfield, California this weekend.

James H. Dewar started this family business in 1909 with a belief in quality ingredients no matter the cost. He felt that his customers should get the same quality every time they tasted a Dewar's chew, and they have been for the past 100 years. Dewar's is original from the bottom up; they still grind their own nuts, and make their own ice cream, ice milk, and peanut butter. The same recipes are being used by the current keepers of the legacy, Michael Dewar and Heather Dewar Cook, grandchildren of James Dewar.

I have been going to Dewar's my whole life, and particularly enjoyed a quick trip to Dewar's after school when I attended Bakersfield High School down the street. My children, Connor and Meghan, join my wife Judy and me in enjoying Dewar's on a regular basis in the same old-fashioned ice cream parlor we enjoyed in our youth. I always order a George's Special—that combination of homemade vanilla ice cream with chocolate sauce and banana in a milkshake that cannot be

beat. Dewar's chews are popular snacks in my office, and a wonderful way to share a little piece of Bakersfield.

Dewar's is a keystone of our small business community that measures success in its loyalty from generations of local customers. I thank Dewar's for its 100 years of tasty service to the people of Bakersfield and wish them the very best in its next 100 years.

A TRIBUTE TO CLAIRE POMEROY,
UC DAVIS VICE CHANCELLOR
FOR HUMAN HEALTH SCIENCES
AND DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Doctor Claire Pomeroy, who is receiving the distinguished United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Sacramento Humanitarian of the Year Award.

Overseeing the UC Davis Health System, Doctor Pomeroy has brought international recognition to cutting-edge discoveries; contributed to the training of doctors and medical investigators; and spearheaded new initiatives to provide comprehensive clinical care for the greater Sacramento community and our nation.

Most notably, Doctor Pomeroy has outstandingly served the public through the founding of the Center for Reducing Health Disparities and the establishment of Rural-PRIME, a program specifically designed to prepare physicians to practice in underserved rural communities.

The United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Sacramento should also be commended for the work that they do for all people with developmental disabilities. They have improved the quality of life, independence, and productivity for many citizens in my district, and have truly lived up to their motto of providing a "life without limits for people with disabilities."

It is an honor to recognize the United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Sacramento for their immense dedication to improving the wellbeing for so many individuals and also Doctor Claire Pomeroy for her commitment to academic excellence, innovation, collaboration, equality and social justice. Both have served my district and our nation proudly.

RECOGNIZING ARMED FORCES DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 377, "Recognizing Armed Forces Day and the exemplary services of the members of the United States Armed Forces." This resolution was introduced by my distinguished colleague Representative CALVERT of California. The Armed Forces are an important part of the American society, and they deserve a day of admiration during National Military Apprecia-

tion Month. I am proud to today and offer my support to our Armed Forces as I publicly acknowledge their commitment and contributions to our country.

I do not believe there is a person in this House, or a person in this building, who does not feel a remarkable pride in the presence of the men and women who serve in our nation's military. The success of the Armed Forces depends on the dedicated service of its members, their families, and the civilian employees of the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard. Their incredible sacrifices and courage in the face of innumerable hazards have been critical to the preservation of the freedom, security, and prosperity enjoyed that we as Americans have come to love, enjoy, and even expect.

Armed Forces Day is an important part of National Military Appreciation Month. It is a day to celebrate and appreciate all the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces in our country are truly an admirable group of individuals who demonstrate the strength, unity, and community that the United States stands for. It is important we recognize the Armed Forces as individuals and as a group for all that they contribute to our great nation.

H. Res. 377 is essential to demonstrating the Congress's support and acknowledgement of such an important day. The Armed Forces are a substantial entity of our nation and greatly contributes to our strength as a nation on a very real and global level. H. Res. 377 will further emphasize this importance, and more importantly, focus on a genuine appreciation for all military involvement across the United States. To remain as a world leader, the United States must maintain a well-trained and well-equipped army. As a Representative of the Federal Government, we must encourage the people of the United States to recognize the values and principles of our nation which the military encompasses and the sacrifices made for our country by individuals and military entities.

The Armed Forces has greatly contributed to our nation, and it is only right they we demonstrate our support, appreciation, and gratitude for their service to our nation. I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution, and I extend a personal thank-you to those in the Armed Services. I hope that you all know your worth and to extend that you contribute to our country.

TEXAS

In the Iraq War, Texas has suffered over 222 resident casualties, second only to California. As a Representative for the 18th District of Texas, H. Res. 377 is very close to the hearts of those I represent. Many Texans hold a passion for protecting the integrity and strength of their nation, and as the recruitment numbers show, they often exercise their passion by joining the military. In past studies, Texas has been the number one state for military recruitment; therefore, recognition of military involvement is an important issue in Texas and in Houston.

Texas is home to more than 194,965 military personnel including a number of Army, Navy and Marine, Air Force, and Coast Guard bases. H. Res. 377 will encourage the citizens of Texas to reach out to those who are involved with the military and extend their gratitude for all that they do for our nation. Because there is a large population of military personnel in Texas, it is critical that we show

them the support of their nation and their state for all the positive contributions they have brought. I firmly believe that H. Con. Res. 84 is a positive step for the recognition, acknowledgement, and gratitude that should be given to our military personnel, and I hope to see the National Military Appreciation Month become a special time for the state of Texas to recognize the national contributions.

21ST CENTURY GREEN HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2187) to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to State educational agencies for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities, and for other purposes:

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chair, noise is an environmental hazard similar to air, water, and ground pollution. Too much exposure to noise in an environment has a direct impact on the human body. Children, whose bodies and brains are still developing, more so than adults, are adversely affected by noise. A student's ability to hear and understand speech in the classroom is vital for learning. Unfortunately, noisy classrooms reduce the ability to learn. Noisy classrooms occur when the background noise and/or the amount of reverberation in the classroom are so high that they interfere with learning and teaching. We know that when classrooms are noisy it affects speech understanding, reading and spelling ability, behavior in the classroom, attention, concentration, and academic achievement. Learning in an excessively noisy environment is similar to trying to read in poorly lit room or obstructed by steps while in a wheel chair.

Therefore, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) recommends an appropriate acoustical environment for all students in educational settings. ASHA endorses ANSI S12.60-2002 Acoustical Performance Criteria, Design Requirements, and Guidelines for Schools (ANSI S12.60-2002) as the national standards for classroom acoustics. It is well recognized that the acoustical environment in a classroom or other educational environment is a critical variable in the academic, psychoeducational, and psychosocial development of children with normal hearing as well as children with hearing loss and/or other disabilities (e.g., auditory processing disorders, learning disabilities, attention deficit disorders). Inappropriate levels of reverberation and/or noise can deleteriously affect speech perception, reading/spelling ability, classroom behavior, attention, concentration, and educational achievement. In addition to compromising student function, poor classroom acoustics may also negatively affect teacher performance and increase vocal pathologies and absenteeism. Thus, all educational settings have an incentive to develop acoustical conditions that meet national standards. For children with hearing loss and/or other disabilities, the acoustics of the proposed educational setting(s) should be considered and addressed

during the determination of a child's educational needs and placement.

Acoustical factors in a classroom include: (1) the level of the background (ambient) noise in the room; (2) the relative intensity of the information carrying components of the speech signal to the non-information carrying signal or noise (i.e., signal-to-noise ratio [SNR]); and (3) the reverberant characteristics of the environment. To achieve appropriate acoustical conditions in an educational setting, ASHA recommends the following:

(1) Unoccupied classroom noise levels must not exceed 35 dBA.

(2) The signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) should be at least +15 dB at the child's ears.

HONORING THE ALFRED E.
ZAMPELLA JERSEY CITY
HEIGHTS LEGEND

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Alfred E. Zampella, recipient of the Jersey City Heights Legend Award. This award honors my Hudson County Director, good friend and constituent, Al Zampella, for his lifelong commitment and dedication to the Jersey City community.

A lifelong resident of Jersey City, Al Zampella was born on February 8, 1923, the youngest of five boys. Coming from an iconic family in Jersey City, Al and his siblings all have made significant contributions to our community in their respective occupations. Al began his commitment to public service on the battlefields in World War II as a Lieutenant and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his heroism during sea combat in the Asiatic Pacific Theater of Operations. He earned his undergraduate degree from Seton Hall University and an M.A. in Education Administration and Supervision from New York University.

Al served as Principal of Jersey City Public School No. 27 for 27 years, as a guiding, trusted force in the lives of thousands of students, encouraging them to remain in school and use their formal education to succeed in life. Al retired in 1990 and on November 7, 1996 received the great honor of having Public School No. 27 formally dedicated to him, and renamed the Alfred E. Zampella P.S. No. 27. Today the school continues the important work he started and has received many prestigious honors and awards recognizing its success.

Al's commitment to his community continued outside the walls of Public School No. 27. Not only is Al a member of many boards and organizations in Northern New Jersey, he also continues to serve the people of Jersey City as the Ninth Congressional District's Hudson County Director. But above everything else, Al Zampella is a family man. He and his wife Jaclyn have three exceptional sons: Edward, Walter, and Gary. And their grandchildren, Bailey, Evan, Lauren, Matthew, Francesca, and Juliana, are the light of their lives.

I cannot imagine the Heights section of Jersey City without this true legend: Al Zampella. My very best wishes go to Al and his family

and I offer my sincerest and deepest appreciation and congratulations to him on his receiving the Jersey City Heights Legend Award.

HONORING RICHARD JONES

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard Jones upon his retirement from Oakdale Joint Unified School District as the Principal of Oakdale High School. Mr. Jones will be honored on Friday, May 15, 2009.

Richard Jones has been an educator for over thirty-five years. For the past ten years, he has served as an administrator within the Oakdale Joint Unified School District. Since 2001, he has served as the principal of Oakdale High School. Under Principal Jones' leadership, Oakdale High School has continued to develop and reach new heights of academic, athletic and extracurricular success. The school has consistently scored among the top schools in the region on annual state tests. The Academic Decathlon team at Oakdale High School has won the Stanislaus County championship for nine consecutive years. The school's Occupational Olympics, Science Olympiad and Model United Nations teams have also succeeded under Principal Jones. He has pushed the students to accelerate themselves by adding five advanced placement courses, and also included integrated mathematics courses for students struggling in that discipline.

Along with a variety of academic achievements, Principal Jones has also reinvigorated the school's athletic program. Oakdale High School's various athletic teams consistently finish near the top of the Valley Oak League. In the last eight years, the football team, baseball team and softball team have won the section championships. Principal Jones has been instrumental in obtaining facility upgrades at the school; including a state-of-the-art football field, as well as new baseball, soccer and softball fields. Currently, there are plans for a new aquatic center and three additional upgraded academic buildings. Sixty-five classrooms now have the latest technology available to students. Above all, Principal Jones has created an atmosphere on the campus that is safe and positive for staff and students.

Outside of his work at Oakdale High School, Principal Jones is active in the community. He has been a youth soccer, baseball and softball coach, the past secretary for the Oakdale Youth Soccer Association and past vice president of the Oakdale Youth Swim Team. He has served as a team leader for the accreditation of other high schools in Northern California under the Western Association of Schools and Colleges program. As a cancer survivor, Principal Jones has an active role in the annual Oakdale Relay for Life with the American Cancer Society. Finally, he is heavily involved with his church and has served in various roles over the years.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Principal Richard Jones upon his retirement from Oakdale High School. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Principal Jones many years of continued success.

CONSUMER DEBT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to help Americans struggling with consumer debt by excluding discharges of debt from the definition of taxable income. Currently, when someone is relieved of consumer debt, such as credit card debt, they are taxed on the forgiven debt. So, for example, if a credit card company agrees to forgive \$12,000 of a \$15,000 debt, the debtor's taxable income increases by \$12,000—even though the debtor does not actually have an additional \$12,000 in his or her bank account.

The only way for Americans to avoid turning cancelation of debt into a taxable event is by declaring bankruptcy or insolvency. Thus, the tax code's perverse incentives could cause more Americans to declare bankruptcy, which is neither in the best interest of the debtor or their creditors.

Madam Speaker, the tax code should not punish Americans who work out a settlement with their creditors that enables them to avoid bankruptcy. This is unfair to both the debtors and their creditors. I therefore encourage my colleagues to cosponsor my legislation removing discharged debt from the definition of taxable income.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, on May 12 2009, due to an illness, I missed the following recorded votes:

Roll No. 243, on a Motion to Table a Resolution Raising a Question of the Privileges of the House; had I been present, I would have voted "aye";

Roll No. 244, on H. Res. 413—Supporting the goals and ideals of "IEEE Engineering the Future" Day on May 13, 2009; had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; and,

Roll No. 245, on H. Res. 378—Recognizing the 30th anniversary of the election of Margaret Thatcher as the first female Prime Minister of Great Britain; had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE GEORGE MITCHELL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise and am proud to join my colleagues in supporting the George J. Mitchell Scholarship program. As someone who has long been dedicated to Ireland and Northern Ireland, I welcome the important work the United States-Ireland Alliance is doing to build a future for this relationship that reflects current realities.

While Ireland is certainly suffering from the current economic crisis, it is no longer the poor country that it once was. And as peace has taken hold in Northern Ireland, it is important that we find new ways to strengthen this relationship for future generations. While my colleagues and I will continue to keep a close eye on Northern Ireland as it moves forward, I agree with the Alliance's view that the future of the relationship will be focused less on politics and more on education, business and culture. This shift is the sign of success of the many changes that have occurred in Ireland in the past 15 years and I am proud of the role the U.S. has played in bringing those changes about.

While we strongly support and fund the Mitchell Scholarship program, I welcome the Alliance's desire to build an endowment for the program and I welcome Taoiseach Brian Cowen's commitment to match everything the Alliance raises toward this important goal.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT
MA OF TAIWAN

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, on May 20th, Taiwan will celebrate its president's first anniversary in office. Mr. Ma Ying-jeou was inaugurated president of the Republic of China (Taiwan) last May. His inauguration marked the second peaceful transfer of power from one political party to another, a result of Taiwan's progress toward full democratization during the last two decades. Today Taiwan validates itself as a mature, successful democracy. We are proud of its political transformation and wish Taiwan well in its future.

In addition, Taiwan is our 9th largest trading partner and imports from the United States in 2007 totaled over \$27 billion. In recent years, Taiwan has been fully collaborating with us to combat global terrorism, as evidenced in part by its participation in the Container Security Initiative and its generous contribution to the Pentagon Memorial Fund. Under President Ma's leadership, we look forward to a strong and deepening of relations between Taiwan and the United States.

In closing, we congratulate Taiwan for its participation in the World Health Assembly meetings this May and also Taiwan's rapid rapprochement with the Chinese mainland. Both sides have reached a number of significant agreements, thus vastly reducing tensions across the Taiwan Strait.

Congratulations to the people of Taiwan on their president's first anniversary in office.

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL ARTISTS FROM THE 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize

the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers. I rise today to congratulate and honor a number of outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented students participated in the 2009 Congressional Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery," held at the Morris Museum, in Morris Township, New Jersey. Their works of art are exceptional!

We had fifty-four students participating. That was a wonderful response, and I would very much like to build on that participation for future competitions.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the three winners of our art competition. First Place was awarded to Caitlin Reid of Ridge High School for her work, "I Don't Have Much of Anything, Except These Things I Hardly Deserve." Second Place was awarded to Genevieve Asselin from West Morris Mendham High School for her work, "Mindset." Third Place was awarded to Allison O'Keeffe from Madison High School for her untitled work.

I would like to recognize each artist for their participation by indicating their high school, their name, and the title of their contest entry for the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Boonton High School: Saif Haobash's "My Hand"; Claire Liu's "Claire Liu"; Steven McKeown's "Self Portrait"; Andrew Torpey's "Stairway to the Sky".

Chatham High School: Molly Higgins' "In My Shoes"; Michelle Mruk's "The Baron Meets His People"; Kim Stachenfeld's "The World is Burning"; Lindsey VanderVleit's "Anticipation".

Livingston High School: Tamar Ariel's "Concentration #7"; Kelly Keltos' "Trevi Fountain"; Esther Kim's "Street Grunge"; Sal Spaltro's "Girl in the City".

Madison High School: Hyebin Chung's "My Collections"; Anne Groves' "Sitting on the Upper Rideau"; Allison O'Keeffe's untitled work (Third Place); Emily Rutland's "Wild Flower".

Millburn High School: Henry Ehrenfried's "Multi-faceted Self Portrait"; Jawon Kim's "Self-Portrait Still Life in Pen" (Honorable Mention); Chanthia Chanjuan Ma's "Laughing Under the Sun".

Montville High School: Keith Agnello's "Aaron on West Delaran"; Joon An's "Basic Household"; Jennifer Dinsfriend's "Indonesian Still Life" (Honorable Mention); Michael Johnston's "Debris".

Morris Catholic High School: Rebecca Fitzpatrick's untitled work; Kristin King's "Standing Out in the Crowd"; Sery Kwon's untitled work; Christine Pierson's untitled work.

Morris Knolls High School: Lindsay Hescocock's "Suzanne"; Madeleine Provost's "Papaya"; Victoria Reed's "Geraldo"; Anita Sukha's "Color the Mind".

Morristown High School: Katrina Cervante's "The Dining Room"; Michelle Kim's "Sunflower"; Jack Taylor's "Guantanamo"; Chelsea Tomblin's "M.O.S.".

Mount Olive High School: Heather Dalton's "City Streets"; Brian Hays' "Reflection of Ages Past"; Chantal McStay's "Shadow Crane"; Jonathan Weiss' "Childhood Energy".

Ridge High School: Samantha Bard's "As If"; Gabriella DeMarco's "Going Green"; Caitlin Reid's "I Don't Have Much of Anything Except These Things I Hardly Deserve" (First Place); Kristen Spratford's "The Unveiling".

Roxbury High School: Natalie Florio's "Look to the Light" (Honorable Mention); Vicki

Kienzlen's "Man of the Sea"; Lauren Poggi's "Breaking News"; Ephrath Tesfaye's untitled work.

Watchung Hills High School: Kristen Givens' "Red Flower" (Honorable Mention); Lisa Monetti's "Photo 2 Surrealism"; Robert Verdino's "Re-birth".

West Morris Mendham High School: Genevieve Asselin's "Mindset" (Second Place); Blair Christen Hartman's "Flight"; Nathan Krump's "Ceramic Serenade"; Jillian Marinaro's "Twisted".

Each year the winner of the competition has their art work displayed with other winners from across the country in a special corridor here at the U.S. Capitol. Thousands of fellow Americans walk through that corridor and are reminded of the vast talents of our young men and women. Indeed, all of these young artists are winners, and we should be proud of their achievements so early in life.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating these talented young people from New Jersey's 11th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY AND THE LASTING LEGACY OF THE HISTORIC SUPREME COURT CASE, BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION OF TOPEKA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fifty-fifth anniversary and the lasting legacy of the historic Supreme Court Case, Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka. Handed down on May 17, 1954, the Warren Court's unanimous decision stated that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." As a result, de jure racial segregation was ruled a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The case overturned earlier rulings going back to Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896 by declaring that state laws that established separate public schools for black and white students denied black children equal educational opportunities. This victory paved the way for integration and the civil rights movement.

Despite this historic victory, over half a century later, we still find huge disparities in the education and opportunities our children are provided at different schools. There have been some advances. Notably, the U.S. Supreme Court ushered in a new chapter in education with its 1974 unanimous decision in Lau v. Nichols, which enumerated the educational rights of English language learners and established that education is a civil right. The court ruled that simply providing all students with equal facilities, books, teachers, and curriculum was not sufficient to guarantee that all students had equal access to a quality education. Sadly, today we are still not fully providing equity in our schools.

Education is at the very center of our democratic meritocracy, and it is imperative that every American child be afforded a true opportunity to achieve their highest potential. To reach this ideal, we must establish an education system focused on each child's needs,

providing the support they need and wisely funded. We need equity in the education system, wherein resources are allocated based on need, not the current parity-based funding formula that fails to address the needs of each child.

Establishing a system that provides funding according to the needs of each child will get us closer to achieving equity. An equitable, need-based system will provide teachers with insight into the educational needs of each student in their classroom. Equitable funding will direct funds based on the needs of each student. Equitable funding will provide the resources to ensure each student will achieve individual success.

I have re-introduced the Educational Opportunity and Equity Commission Act, H.R. 1758, to begin the process of overhauling the country's education system and to finally address the disparities among America's schools. This legislation creates a national commission charged with gathering public opinions and insights about how government can improve education and eliminate disparities in the education system. Importantly, the Commission's composition would change the nature of the debate because it will be comprised of parents, teachers and experts on equity, civil rights, education policy, school finance, economics, and taxation. All users and beneficiaries of America's education system will work together from the ground up to develop a school reform road map.

As we mark the fifty-fifth anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*, we celebrate the advances we have made and re-affirm our commitment to provide a world-class education to each American child. We must ensure sufficient funding to provide a 21st century education to every child based on the child's individual needs, not categorical averages. I hope you will join me in challenging our leaders to fulfill on their obligation to advance the learning of every child.

HONORING ALAN CARTER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Alan Carter upon his retirement from the City of Modesto Police Department. Mr. Carter will be honored at his retirement party on Friday, May 15, 2009, at the Elks Lodge in Modesto, California.

Alan Carter's first assignment was as a patrol officer for the City of South San Francisco Police Department in 1978. He was there until 1983 when he was transferred to the City of Modesto Police Department. He has been with the Modesto Police Department ever since.

Over the past twenty-five years Sergeant Carter has held many positions. He began in Modesto as a patrol officer, then he was became a K-9 handler, a Heroin Impact Team Member and a Field Training Officer. In 1987, he became a detective. As a detective he worked various investigations including; Vice-Narcotics, background, internal affairs, hate crimes, officer involved shootings, complex economic crime, dignity protection details and drug asset forfeiture cases. During his dignity protection service he assisted the

Secret Service and the California Governor's Office. Sergeant Carter served as the Modesto Police Department's court qualified drug expert from 1987 through 1994, where he testified in a large number of possession and possession for sale and sale of drug cases.

In 1995, Sergeant Carter reached the rank of Sergeant and was assigned as a Patrol Sergeant, Operations Division. For the past fourteen years he has worked on Adult Related Establishment Investigations and assisted in clearing out adult businesses in Modesto. He has testified before the California State Assembly regarding Municipalities controlling these sorts of businesses. For a number of years Sergeant Carter served as a Detective Sergeant; working with Investigative Services Division of Crimes Against Persons and Special Investigations Detail. During this time he supervised fifty-three homicide cases and fifteen officer involved shooting investigations. He served as the S.I.D. Supervisor where he oversaw investigations that involved hate crimes, vice investigations, drug asset forfeiture, arson, bomb threats, dignity protection identity theft and other special fraud investigations. He served as the Assistant Public Information Officer and a Tactical Flight Officer.

From 2005 through 2007, Sergeant Carter was assigned as the Academy Coordinator at the Ray Simon Regional Criminal Justice Training Center. His final position has been Unit Supervisor for the Sacramento Valley Hi-Tech Crimes Task Force; he has investigated computer crimes and forensics, including Hi-Tech, identity theft and Internet Crimes Against Children. In addition to all of the work that he has performed for the police department, Sergeant Carter has been working with the Honor and Color Guard since 1985. He has lead a team of twelve officers for police officer funerals, memorials and city functions.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Sergeant Alan Carter upon his retirement from the City of Modesto Police Department. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Sergeant Carter many years of continued success.

MEDAL OF HONOR COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I rise before you today in order to show my support for H.R. 1209, "Medal of Honor Commemorative Coin Act of 2009." The coins minted as a result of this legislation will be in recognition and celebration of the establishment of the Medal of Honor in 1861, America's highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States, to honor the American military men and women who have been recipients of the Medal of Honor, and to promote awareness of what the Medal of Honor represents and how ordinary Americans, through courage, sacrifice, selfless service and patriotism, can challenge fate and change the course of history.

In these times of war and economic uncertainty I think it is important to honor those who

served America to their greatest capacity. Moreover, recognition of this great honor will foster patriotism and inspire and encourage the youth of America to become worthy citizens.

Only those who performed a deed of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his or her comrades and must have involved risk of life can receive a Medal of Honor. Incontestable proof of the performance of the service will be exacted and each recommendation for the award of this decoration will be considered on the standard of extraordinary merit. This award is so prestigious that fewer than 3,500 Medals of Honor have been awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces.

The Medal of Honor Commemorative Coin Act of 2009 as passed would direct the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue \$5 gold coins and \$1 silver coins emblematic of the design selected by the Secretary, after consultation with the Boards of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, in honor of the distinguished service of the American military men and women who have been Medal of Honor recipients.

The design for the coins minted under this Act will contain motifs that represent the 3 Medal of Honor designs (Army, Navy, and Air Force) and specifically honor the Medal of Honor recipients of both today and yesterday, such designs that are consistent with the traditions and heritage of the United States Armed Services, the mission and goals of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, and the mission and goals of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation.

The coins will only be available for a limited time. The period for coin issuance will be for the calendar year 2011. The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, however coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

The treasury will only be producing no more than 100,000 \$5 gold coins and no more than 500,000 \$1 coins. I think it is wonderful that the surcharges imposed for the purchase of these coins will be distributed to the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation to help finance educational, scholarship, and outreach programs of the Foundation.

SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATING FEDERAL BUILDING AFTER RONALD H. BROWN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation and excitement that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works has passed my bill, H.R. 837, which would designate a new State Department building in New York City as the Ronald H. Brown United States Mission to the United Nations Building in honor of the late Commerce Secretary. The 26-story building, located at 799 United Nations Plaza, across the street from the United Nations (U.N.) General Assembly, will house the United States Delegation to the U.N., which carries out the

Nation's participating activities in the world body. The building is expected to be completed this fall.

This legislation, which I have introduced in the past three Congresses, is long overdue. Thanks to the leadership of Chairman BARBARA BOXER of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, and the support of my New York colleague, Senator KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND, who serves on the Committee, the bill now awaits passage by the full Senate. If successful, it would go to the President to be signed into law. I feel very hopeful that Congress will finally and rightfully recognize this great public servant as one of the greatest international salesmen of the United States in our history.

As Secretary of Commerce under President Bill Clinton's cabinet, Ron Brown became one of the greatest ambassadors that the American government ever had abroad. He did more than just extend trade and get people to buy our goods and services. He extended love, attention and sensitivity, especially in the developing countries where our government had not spent the time that we should have. Secretary Brown not only sold our wares, but he was able to sell our reputation as a country that wanted to help other countries.

I went with him to South Africa and saw how he negotiated with political leaders there. He did more than talk about which South African party was right or wrong or how to bring about solidarity. He asked how we could help the people get clean water, medicine, and food. Secretary Brown let them know that our multinational companies were there not just for their shareholders, but for the shareholders of the world.

Secretary Brown, a native of Washington, D.C., grew up in Harlem where his father once worked as manager of the community's famous Theresa Hotel. I was proud to be a desk clerk at the time that Ron and his family were living there. So I know that Ron never forgot Harlem. Throughout his life, Ron Brown broke many barriers. He was the first African-American to serve as Secretary of Commerce and the first African-American Chairman of a national political party.

In addition, he advanced civil rights as Deputy Executive Director at the National Urban League, served four years in the U.S. military, and, as Democratic Party Chairman, played an instrumental role in the revival of the Democratic Party and the 1992 election of Bill Clinton as President of the United States. Secretary Brown died in a plane crash in 1996 on a trade mission requested by the State Department to boost economic reconstruction of the war torn region of former Yugoslavia.

It would be fitting that when people come to New York, they would see diverse peoples of different colors, languages, and cultures, and the U.S. Mission to the United Nations Building bearing Ron Brown's name. There could not be a sight that would be more reminiscent of the man and the contributions he made to my community, this country, and the world.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE WALTER
HIERSTEINER

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my longtime, good friend, Walter Hiersteiner. He was an outstanding community leader in the Kansas City metropolitan area. A resident of Prairie Village, Kansas, Walt died on May 2nd at the age of 90, having lived a rich, full life that made a positive difference in the lives of his many friends and neighbors.

Walt was born in Des Moines, Iowa, and attended the University of Iowa and Harvard Law School, where he was a member of the law review. After serving in the Navy in World War II, he moved to Kansas City to practice law and later joined Tension Envelope, where he became vice chairman of the board of directors. Walt's first love was his family, especially his wife, Jean, and his grandchildren, to whom he was unconditionally devoted.

Walt was also devoted to his community. He was elected to the City Council of Fairway, Kansas. He served over 40 years on the Menorah Medical Center Board of Directors and was a member of the Executive Committee of the Truman Medical Center and the Truman Medical Center Foundation. He was active in the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce and was a member of the Board of Directors of Move-Up, which was formerly the Kansas City Ad Hoc Group Against Crime. He was a founding member of the Main Street Coalition. His passions, after family and golf, were enhancing public school education for the children of Shawnee Mission and the State of Kansas. He was elected to the Shawnee Mission School District Board of Education. He was appointed by Governor Robert Docking to serve on the Kansas Board of Regents and became chairman of that board. In addition he was co-chairman of the Committee for Excellence of the Shawnee Mission Schools and served on the Board of Governors of Kansas University Law School and the Kansas Higher Education Loan Program. These activities earned him the Kansas City Spirit Award and the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation Patron Award for service and support of Johnson County Schools. He was named Johnson County of the Year. Walt and Jean established the Walter and Jean Hiersteiner Early Childhood Development Center at the Johnson County Community College.

Walt is survived by Jean, his wife of 65 years; four children, Dick and Erica Hiersteiner of Boston, Massachusetts, Mary and David Ruedig of Concord, New Hampshire, Joe and Cathy Hiersteiner of Kansas City, and Dottie and Peter Oatman of Boulder, Colorado; nine grandchildren and his brother, Stanley of Des Moines, Iowa; his sister Shirley Feldman of Sleepy Hollow, New York, and several nieces and nephews.

Madam Speaker, Walt Hiersteiner was a vitally important community leader and activist in the Third Congressional District of Kansas, as well as my personal friend for many years. I include with this tribute two press articles that detail some of his many accomplishments for our community; a 2002 column in the Kan-

sas City Business Journal by former Kansas City Board of Trade President/CEO Michael Braude, and an article that the Kansas City Star carried upon Walt's death. Both detail the impact that Walt Hiersteiner had upon the Kansas City community, and explain why he will be sorely missed by all of us.

[From the Kansas City Business Journal, Sept. 27, 2002]

LOCAL EXECUTIVE LEAVES HIS MARK ON
HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION
(By Michael Braude)

I am not bad at hyperbole—but hyperbole is impossible when it comes to the subject of today's column.

"Role model," "pillar of our community," "business leader with a true social conscience" all fail to do justice to Walter Hiersteiner. His considerable accomplishments in the business world as a top executive at Tension Envelope Corp. are eclipsed only by his pivotal role in making our community a better place. His imprint on health and education in the heartland is indelible.

John W. Bluford, CEO at Truman Medical Centers, said:

"Walter Hiersteiner has been a tremendous asset to Truman Medical Centers for a number of years and in a number of ways. In addition to his financial support, which has provided, among other gifts, scholarships for nurses, he has given moral support and advice to TMC through his formal roles as member of the TMC board of directors and TMC Charitable Foundation. But most of all, Walt has acted as conscience, sage, statesman and mentor. He is our 'go to' man, and when we go to him, he always delivers."

At all levels of education, Walter has left his positive imprint. Marjorie Kaplan, superintendent of the Shawnee Mission School District, told me recently:

"Walt is a truly fine person with many talents. He has a passion for learning and is an articulate spokesperson for providing a quality education for all children. He understands the connection between public schooling and quality of life. Ever interested and ever active, Walt has never lost his enthusiasm for supporting just causes and improving our community."

"A longtime supporter of our school district, Walt has served on the Shawnee Mission Board of Education and as chairperson and member of numerous committees. With his sharp mind, his ability to analyze situations and solve problems, Walt has been an asset to Shawnee Mission for over 30 years."

It was on school issues that I first met Walter, and I now have been privileged to call him friend for more than 30 years. Before unification, when I ran for the old Westwood View School Board, it was his sage counsel that enabled me to win the election. Now, more than three decades later, when I want to know what is really going on at any level of education in our area, I call Walt. Walt also calls me. Since I've been writing for The Business Journal, he never hesitates to call when he either agrees or disagrees with my point of view. Frankly, when the latter is the case, I always pause and ask myself: "Was I wrong?" This is simply because I have so much respect for his judgment and opinions. Walt's position on issues or candidates is never based on ideology or party affiliation but rather on what he believes is best for the people of Kansas City. That is precisely how it should be.

Walter's longtime friend Paul Uhlmann Jr. captured the essence of the man when he said:

"Walter has had a major effect on life in greater Kansas City. His high offices held, in many diverse organizations, are proof of his ability and of his stature. However, his real

work is, in my opinion, his ability to give moral leadership to the not-for-profit marketplace world and intellectual force to problem-solving.

"All the above with a soft voice, a mild and pleasant manner, a bow tie, a firm jaw and an unshakeable faith in our country and its ability to solve its, and maybe the world's, problems."

A lengthy editorial in a recent edition of the Sunday New York Times decried the fact that the national mood of "wanting to make the world a better place" that was so pervasive after Sept. 11, 2001, has largely evaporated.

Walter personified and daily lived that credo long before 9/11, and he will continue to do so for the rest of his life. It did not take a monumental national tragedy to light the spark of true community service in this extraordinary human being.

As John Bluford, Marjorie Kaplan, Paul Uhlmann and I look objectively at Walter Hiersteiner, almost any adjective we use is not hyperbole; it is understatement. We are so fortunate to have him in our community.

[From the Kansas City Star, May 8, 2009]

"MR. SHAWNEE MISSION," WALTER
HIERSTEINER, WAS "VOICE OF REASON"

(By Jim Sullinger)

The late 1960s could arguably be called the most challenging period in the history of the Shawnee Mission School District.

The northeast Johnson County community faced a decision that was hotly debated at the time—school consolidation.

The area's elementary schools were divided among 12 small school districts, and the Kansas Legislature was demanding that they consolidate with the Shawnee Mission district's high schools and junior highs.

In the mid-1960s, voters defeated a consolidation effort by a large margin. That didn't stop the Legislature, however, from passing Senate Bill 58 in 1969 that required consolidation that year.

Emotions were running high on the part of parents who faced the loss of their elementary districts.

Into the fray stepped Walter Hiersteiner, elected to an at-large position on the Shawnee Mission School Board in April 1969. He worked tirelessly that year to convince skeptical parents that this was the right move and smoothed the way for the transition.

Arzell Ball was school superintendent at the time and remembered Hiersteiner's contributions.

"He was a consensus builder," Ball said, "He could motivate and direct others, and his communication skills were just excellent. And he had the respect of the community because he gave back to the community all the time."

He was a calming presence during that difficult period and later when the district began closing schools.

David Westbrook, the district's first communications director, said Hiersteiner was dedicated to public education and his voice will be missed.

Hiersteiner, 90, died last weekend.

"He was critically important to the school district at a time the district was going through some trying times right after unification," Westbrook said.

He said there was friction on the school board between moderates and newly elected conservatives.

"He was a voice of reason and stood for principle and was firm in his convictions, but that firmness was balanced by a humble open-mindedness," he said.

Friends remembered that when a school was scheduled to be closed, Hiersteiner would consult influential contacts to come

up with another use for the property that would make the closing a little more palatable for the surrounding neighborhoods.

He served on the school board until 1973 and as president during his last two years on the board.

During the 1980s, Hiersteiner was a founder and co-chairman of the Committee for Excellence in Shawnee Mission Schools, which is still operating today as the Committee for Excellence. He was a leader in efforts to pass several school bond issues and an advocate for more school dollars.

He was appointed by former Gov. Robert F. Bennett to the Kansas Board of Regents and became chairman of that board. He also served on the Board of Governors of the Kansas University Law School and the Kansas Higher Education Loan Program.

If anyone deserved the title "Mr. Shawnee Mission," it was Hiersteiner, who was an executive at Tension Envelope Corporation for more than 60 years and a Harvard Law School graduate.

"He was without a doubt the finest advocate for public schools that we ever saw previously and maybe we ever will," said Larry Winn III, a current board member. "He inspired a lot of people who came after him."

Annabeth Surbaugh, chairwoman of the Johnson County Board of Commissioners, said she will remember Hiersteiner as "Mr. Education."

"It's true that his primary focus was the Shawnee Mission School District, but his strong commitment to top-quality education wasn't limited by boundaries," she said. "He truly believed it was our responsibility—as a community—to ensure that our children had the very best education possible, and he was a staunch advocate for that cause."

KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the members of the Korean War Veterans Association, Cayuga County Chapter 296, on their commitment and efforts to renovate the Veterans Memorial Park in Auburn, NY.

The Veterans Memorial Park is nearly a two-year project in the making designed to honor our country's veterans of all wars and conflicts since the Revolutionary War. Notably, this memorial also pays tribute to all those servicemembers who joined the U.S. Armed Forces, regardless of whether they did or did not serve overseas during a time of war. I am proud to represent a district that has chosen, so admirably, to recognize every man and woman that serves our nation. These communities rightfully understand that the decision to join the United States Armed Forces, regardless of one's terms of service, means that an individual is prepared to give his or her life for the safety and future of this country. I have the great pleasure of calling my district home to the Veterans Memorial Park, which may be arguably one of the most inclusive veteran memorials in the country.

The Auburn City Council, Auburn City Manager, and Mayor of Auburn have chosen the following representatives from the Cayuga County Chapter 296 Korean War Veterans Association to lead this effort: John Barwinczok, Chairman; Lyell I. Brown; Professor Joseph

M.A. Camardo; Joseph Casper; James Ferris; Donald T. Tavener; and Michael A. Trapani. The dedication of the Veterans Memorial Park is scheduled for June 14, 2009. I wholeheartedly commend these individuals for their efforts on behalf of our veterans and the entire community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me today in recognizing the efforts of the Korean War Veterans Association, Cayuga County Chapter 296, as they move towards completing their goal and paying tribute to those who have sacrificed for their nation. I wish them the best of luck in the future as they continue to better our community.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

As a cosponsor of H. Res. 435, which celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, I would like to first thank Congressman HONDA for leading the Democratic Caucus in recognizing the important contributions the Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) community has made to our nation.

As Representative of the 47th Congressional District of California, I have the honor of representing one of the most diverse communities in the United States. I have witnessed firsthand the rich culture and contributions the APIA community bring to my district in Orange County, CA.

In recent years, we have seen an increasing number of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans become leaders in academia, arts, government, the military, and the private sector. They contribute to all aspects of American life, and in doing so they enrich the lives of all Americans and make this country stronger.

I especially commend President Obama for his leadership in reaching out to the Asian and Pacific Islander American community. This year marks a special occasion, as it is the first time the Presidential Branch has appointed a record number of Asian-Americans to the Cabinet, including the Secretary of Energy, Steven Chu; Secretary of Commerce, Gary Locke; and Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Eric Shinseki. Their hard-work and sacrifice have made a significant impact on America and opened doors for future generations of Asian Pacific Americans.

Although it is imperative to recognize the achievements of the APIA community, it is also important for us to focus on the challenges they face, including affordable housing, racial profiling, and health care issues. Another issue the APIA community faces is the perception that all members of this community are thriving economically. In reality, not all Asian Pacific Islander Americans have access to a quality education and many continue to face tremendous language barriers.

The APIA community has made sacrifices for our country and contributed to the growth and prosperity of this nation. I look forward to celebrating APIA month and continuing to

work with APIA leaders to overcome the ongoing challenges that face all our communities. Together, we can make the American dream a reality for all Americans.

CONGRATULATING LAUREN
ZUMBACH

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate a remarkable young woman from my district, Lauren Zumbach, who was just announced as a 2009 Presidential Scholar. The Presidential Scholar program annually recognizes 141 of the nation's most exemplary high school seniors, students who have demonstrated outstanding academic performance, as well as exemplary leadership, citizenship and community service.

Lauren embodies all of these traits. A poised and confident young woman, Lauren is a leader both in and out of the classroom. As a student-athlete at Hinsdale Central High School, Lauren has been a straight "A" student while contributing to her state championship cross-country team. Her accomplishments do not end here.

Outside the classroom, Lauren has organized workdays to improve local forest preserves. She assisted in raising \$18,000 to help cure parasite-afflicted children in Haiti. She has worked with my office and local law enforcement to instruct area school children about safe online behavior. And just last fall, Lauren was the impetus behind "Trot for the Troops," a 5k race that raised money for the Illinois chapter of Operation Homefront, an organization benefitting our men and women in uniform as well as their families.

In a few weeks, Lauren will graduate from Hinsdale Central High School; this fall she'll attend Princeton, which, I have no doubt, will be better for her being there. I am so proud of Lauren for her achievement and congratulate her on receiving the 2009 Presidential Scholar Award.

THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER
WELCOMES ITS ONE MILLIONTH
VISITOR

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an important milestone. At some point early this afternoon, the Capitol Visitor Center will welcome its one millionth visitor. While the specific individual will not be identified, that person will represent the millions of annual visitors who journey to the United States Capitol Complex to witness firsthand our democracy at work. These schoolchildren, senior citizens, families and international visitors hopefully depart with a greater understanding of the unique and extraordinary nature of our system of government and the history of this great nation.

Officially opened on December 3, 2008, the Capitol Visitor Center serves as the gateway

to the United States Capitol Complex. With the opening of the Visitor Center and renewed interest in government, we are seeing more than twice as many visitors as we did before. The Visitor Center's one million visitors compares to 467,800 visitors during the same five-month period just one year ago. That represents a 114-percent increase in the number of people visiting the Capitol.

During the 12 days of the Cherry Blossom Festival, the Capitol Visitor Center welcomed 187,000 people—an average of 15,500 visitors a day. More than 90 percent of the visitors during this period had reserved their tours through their Members of Congress.

Since its opening, the CVC's peak day was Monday, April 20th when 19,500 people visited the Capitol. I am told that, in past years, that many visitors would have led to a four-hour wait time. The current average wait time is six to ten minutes.

With all of these accomplishments, I am most proud to confirm that, as promised, we continue to offer staff-led tours! And in its first few months of operations, the Visitor Center staff has made many adjustments to ensure that the Visitor Center provides flexibility to Members of Congress in serving their constituents.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to the CEO of the Capitol Visitor Center, Ms. Terrie Rouse, and to her team of professionals who are often the first individuals to greet our constituents during their Capitol visits. I offer special thanks to the tour guides, visitor assistants, Capitol Police, gift shop and restaurant staffs and the many, many others who ensure that visitors have an informative and inspirational visit. I would also like to thank my colleagues and the various staff members who have taken the time to offer their input and work with the CVC staff to improve the visitor experience.

We thank you for your service and look forward to welcoming the next one million visitors.

CONGRATULATING TAIWAN FOR
ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE
WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, the World Health Organization (WHO) recently approved Taiwan's request to participate in the 62nd annual World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva later this month. Taiwan is a longtime ally of the United States, and we applaud the WHO's decision to include Taiwan in the WHA.

While the threat of a pandemic outbreak pales the countless other world health concerns, preparing, planning and responding to an outbreak requires the participation of every country. Asia is an area of great concern because of its large concentration of people, history of viral outbreaks and the inexplicable refusal of some countries not to comply with pleas for cooperation by international health experts. This refusal is a threat to the world's safety and cannot be ignored.

For its part, Taiwan has done an excellent job assisting and preparing for a future health emergency. Its medical system has been de-

scribed as "robust, solidly established and well resourced" and it participates in disease prevention efforts in other countries throughout the world. Now that Taiwan has a role at the WHA, it can partner with world health leaders to generate support from some of the recalcitrant countries that have ignored the WHA in the past.

Taiwan's ascension into the WHA is well deserved and should be recognized by the United States. Having a cohesive and efficient international health monitoring and response system is in everyone's interest. Ultimately, the American people, who are deeply invested in the international health community, will benefit from Taiwan's success.

HONORING THE JORDAN FAMILY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of Hanabul "Bud" Jordan, Lowel Jordan and the generosity of Dee Jordan for their tremendous support of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology at California State University, Fresno and furthermore the support of agriculture in the Central Valley. The Jordan's will be honored at California State University, Fresno on Thursday, May 14, 2009 when the university will rename the agricultural college to the "Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology."

The Jordan family is from the East Bay area, where Bud owned and operated a construction business headquartered in Hayward, California. Lowell lived on the family ranch in the near-by city of Dublin, where he tended the family's cattle. Bud passed away at the age of eighty-two on April 29, 2002; his brother Lowell passed away at the age of eighty-one in July 2005 and Bud's wife Dee continues to live in Hayward. The Jordan family became involved with CSU Fresno's College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (CAST) through the Ag One Foundation in November 1995.

Bob Glim, professor emeritus of agricultural economics and an advisor to the Ag One board, worked at CSU Fresno from 1948 to 1978. He and his wife first met Mr. and Mrs. Jordan at a GMC motor home rally. Mr. Glim organized a rally get-together to speak about CSU Fresno's agricultural program, Ag One and to share CSU Fresno's farm grown products. The Jordan's immediately began supporting the program by providing scholarships for agricultural students; although they had never visited the campus. Their initial gift was \$20,000 to Ag One. This gift along with subsequent gifts, fund the Ag One-Lowell A. Jordan and Jordan Family Endowment. Over the years, the Jordan family has contributed \$130,000 to the endowment, supporting six to seven students each year with \$1,000 scholarships.

Since the 1995 gift, Ag One and CAST have maintained a great relationship with the Jordan's, including representatives traveling to Hayward to visit the family and bring them news from the school regarding the students, campus and products. Since Mr. Jordan passed away, Mrs. Jordan has visited the

campus numerous times to meet with Jordan scholars, tour the campus agriculture facilities and to attend Ag One and athletic events. With the generosity of the family over the past fourteen years the most recent gift has exceeded all expectations. Earlier this year, the Jordan family sold their Dublin farm and gave \$29 million to CAST; the largest single cash gift in the entire California State University system.

This tremendous gift will be used for research and facilities for CAST. In great appreciation of this gift CSU Fresno will build upon the Jordan family legacy by renaming CAST to the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Jordan family for the remarkable impact that they have had on agriculture for CSU Fresno, the Central Valley and the State of California through their multiple gifts. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the Jordan family.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FORT SMITH RIFLE TEAM

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Lion Rifles Team from the University of Arkansas Fort Smith for its well deserved rank as the fifth-best collegiate team in the country in the National Rifle Association's Intercollegiate International Air Rifle standings.

For the past two years the UA Fort Smith Air Rifle Team has proven itself by placing in the top five teams in the nation. A small school like UAFS can be proud to see its team ranked among major universities like Penn State, Clemson, Illinois State and Michigan State. This team provides a great opportunity for many college students to become well-rounded. These students serve as good examples for others, as they accomplish their academic goals while achieving success on the rifle range. These members should be proud of the reward they experience from their hard work.

Members of the team who deserve credit for this high ranking are Elizabeth Garris, Tom Nguyen, J.D. Peronia, Morgan Welch and John Wozniak. These sharp shooters are led by Roy Hill, who works hard to equip each individual to succeed. I congratulate each member of the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith Air Rifle Team on their success and wish them the best of luck in future competitions.

BERG'S TRUE VALUE'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, throughout the month of May, the city of Bridgeport has been celebrating the 75th anniversary of a family business which is more of an institution than a store.

I want to thank Jack and Dee Berg for their commitment and their dedication to their community. They should serve as an inspiration for us all.

This remarkable achievement has spanned two generations of Bergs and thirteen presidents. The family business—first a Gamble's Department Store before becoming Berg's True Value—served Bridgeport through two World Wars, good economic times and bad, and has strengthened western Nebraska for decades.

The store remains in its original location, but has grown from 1,000 to 10,500 square feet. As it grew, it changed with the times—stocking everything from clothing to furniture.

It is still the best place to get Husker gear.

I want to congratulate the Bergs as they continue to their anniversary celebration. May they find continued success in the years to come.

GAO STUDY OF CIVIL AIR PATROL IN HOMELAND SECURITY MISSIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 1178, legislation that would direct the Comptroller General to conduct a study on the use of Civil Air Patrol personnel to support homeland security missions.

Since its inception in 1941, the Civil Air Patrol has been vital in emergency services and disaster relief operations across the United States. As the official civilian auxiliary to the United States Air Force, the Civil Air Patrol contains over 56,000 of America's finest volunteers and owns several thousand aircraft and vehicles to complete its missions.

Furthermore, the Civil Air Patrol has provided the nation's youth and general public with aerospace education and created numerous cadet programs for young people ages 12–18. These cadet programs help supply the necessary skills and resources for our nation's future leaders. Two such leaders, Barry and Christiana Loudermilk, reside in the 11th District of Georgia, which it has been an honor and privilege to represent for the last six years in this great body.

Despite a very busy and demanding career as both a State Legislator and a businessman, Barry Loudermilk is an active officer in the Rome Civil Air Patrol Squadron. He also serves as the Squadron Commander of the Georgia Civil Air Patrol Legislative Squadron and is a Government Affairs Officer for the Georgia Wing Civil Air Patrol. Additionally, Barry has been active in his community as a Volunteer Search and Rescue Ground Team Leader and a Volunteer Search and Rescue Pilot.

His daughter, Christiana, has distinguished herself as a leader throughout her career in the Civil Air Patrol. Christiana holds the rank of Cadet Captain and is a certified ground search and rescue specialist. She served as the Cadet Commander of the Rome Composite Squadron and attended the 2007 Cadet Officers School at Maxwell Air Force Base.

For her tireless efforts, Christiana has received the Georgia Air Wing Commander's "Coin of Excellence," and was awarded the Civil Air Patrol's "Community Service Award" for her volunteer works in a local hospital.

In 2008, Christiana served as the Alpha Flight Commander at the Georgia Wing encampment and her flight was named the encampment's "Honor Flight." In addition to serving as Alpha Flight Commander, she was selected to attend the "Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Course" at Columbus Air Force Base in Columbus, Mississippi. I want to publicly thank Christiana for her service and thank the Civil Air Patrol for providing this type of quality leadership training to our young people.

Madam Speaker, it is my firm belief that the Civil Air Patrol will provide an extraordinary addition to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) if the Comptroller General finds it worthwhile for such an endeavor. The Civil Air Patrol has displayed volunteer leadership for over 60 years in working with the United States Air Force, and it is a leader for developing our nation's youth. I applaud both Barry and Christiana Loudermilk for their accomplishments in this organization, and I support expanding the mission of the Civil Air Patrol so that they can assist DHS in defending the United States. We must use every resource necessary to keep America safe, and I am positive that the Civil Air Patrol will add to and continue the remarkable job our military has provided in defending our nation at home and abroad.

21ST CENTURY GREEN HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2187) to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to State educational agencies for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities, and for other purposes:

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman Miller for adopting my amendment in his Manager's amendment to the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act. My proposal will double the funding available to improve tribal and outlying school infrastructure.

With this bill, we recognize that our children need a modern, well-maintained learning environment to get the education it takes to compete in the global economy. We have allowed far too many of the schools that serve our Native American communities to fall short of that standard, and this is a great opportunity to get them on the right track.

My mother was a schoolteacher on tribal lands in eastern Arizona and my district is home to 11 tribes, so I have seen firsthand the challenges Indian Country's schools face. Less than half of Native American students graduate high school, and less than 14 percent get the college degree that is becoming more and more important to getting jobs in the

21st century. One in four Native Americans live in poverty, and our failure to provide educational resources they need is a major reason why.

We have been doing less and less for tribal education in recent years, letting funding for repairs and modernization decrease dramatically. As a result, there is a huge backlog of tribal schools and facilities that require major repairs or complete replacement. As long as we continue to allow funding levels for tribal school construction to fall, that number will keep growing.

It's time for us to do more, and this amendment is a great step in the right direction. By doubling the funding available for improving tribal school facilities, we will be putting our resources where they are needed most and can do the most good. This funding will go a long way towards addressing basic needs in my district and at schools across the Nation, helping ensure that kids living on tribal lands have the same opportunities as every other child in the country. I urge my colleagues to support it.

CELEBRATION OF JONESBORO
GEORGIA'S 150TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the historic city of Jonesboro, Georgia on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

Officially founded as a town in 1859, Jonesboro existed as a small rural community until the rise of industrialization during the mid-19th century. Named after Colonel Samuel Goode Jones, an engineer who organized the construction of the first paved roads in town, Jonesboro continued to prosper until the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861.

The legendary Battle of Jonesboro will always be remembered by our nation as one of the more significant milestones of the American Civil War. Because of the defeat of Confederate troops at the Battle of Jonesboro, General Sherman's army was successful in occupying the city of Atlanta, an event which directly contributed to the surrendering of the Confederate army in 1865. Following the end of the Civil War, Jonesboro began an arduous and trying period of reconstruction, along with the rest of the American South.

The town of Jonesboro persevered through these numerous challenges and is known today for its extraordinary commitment to re-growth. Furthermore, the publication of Margaret Mitchell's internationally renowned novel, *Gone with the Wind*, has forever sealed this beautiful town and its remarkable past into our nation's cultural cannon.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent such a remarkable city, a city which has played such an integral role in the history of the United States. I congratulate Jonesboro on this date, the 150th anniversary of its town's formation, and grant my sincerest wishes for its prosperity and success in the years to come.

COMMEMORATING THE 57TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST, FEBRUARY 5TH, 2009

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I had the privilege of co-chairing the 57th Annual National Prayer Breakfast with my colleague, Congressman VERN EHLERS of Michigan, on February 5, 2009. This annual gathering is held here in our Nation's Capital and is hosted by Members of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives weekly prayer breakfast groups. Every president since Dwight Eisenhower has spoken at the National Prayer Breakfast. This year, we were honored to have the participation of our President and the First Lady. President Obama continued the longstanding tradition of addressing the Breakfast. We were encouraged and inspired by his words as well as the remarks shared by the Right Honorable Tony Blair.

This year we hosted a gathering of over 4,000 individuals from all 50 States and from 182 countries around the world. So that all may benefit from the prayerful message relayed at the National Prayer Breakfast, I would like to request that a copy of the transcript of the 2009 proceedings be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this time.

57TH NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST—THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2009, HILTON WASHINGTON HOTEL, WASHINGTON, DC

CO-CHAIRS: U.S. REPRESENTATIVE VERN EHLERS AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVE HEATH SHULER

Congressman VERNON EHLERS: Good morning. Welcome to the National Prayer Breakfast.

Congressman HEATH SHULER: I am honored to introduce a great leader from North Carolina. Michell Hicks is the Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokees. He was elected to the position in 2003 and re-elected in 2007. He and his wife Marsha have five children. Chief Hicks is joined by Amanda Wolfe, who has won the honor of being Miss Cherokee. They will now offer our pre-breakfast prayer, the Lord's Prayer in English and Cherokee. Chief Hicks.

Chief MICHELL HICKS: It is an honor to be here this morning. I want to thank the Congressmen for the invitation and, most importantly, to thank the Lord for blessing each one of us today.

Miss CHEROKEE: "Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen."

Chief HICKS: (translates the Lord's Prayer in Cherokee)

Congressman SHULER: I would like to introduce our special guests that we have here this morning. Most of the folks at the head table will be introduced in their place in the program, but we would like to introduce the others as well—Mrs. Anita Skelton, daughter-in-law of the Congressman; Joanna Ehlers, the spouse of my co-chair; my wife, Nicole; and the First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama.

Congressman EHLERS: I have the pleasure of introducing several heads of state and heads of government who have traveled to Washington to participate in this important

event. I would ask you to join me in welcoming:

President Rene Garcia Preval of Haiti
President Gloria Arroyo of the Philippines
Prime Minister Sali Berisha of Albania
Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski of Macedonia
Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam of Mauritius

We cannot recognize all of the foreign dignitaries without recognizing our own Vice President Biden.

It is a pleasure to have all of you here. In addition to those I have introduced, we also have former heads of government, vice presidents, and first ladies from the nations of Bulgaria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Dominican Republic, the Fiji Islands, Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique, Pakistan, Senegal, and Tanzania. You all are most welcome. We are honored by your presence. Thank you all for being here.

Let me just say a bit about our weekly prayer breakfast—just so you know where we are coming from. Every Thursday morning from eight to nine o'clock, a group of us get together for prayer and singing. As we are singing hymns, echoing through the corridors of the Capitol, and then engaging in prayer, it always strikes me: "This is wonderful, right here in the capital of the United States, we are having this wonderful ceremony together, this event where we are recognizing God's place in our lives." Every week when we kick it off, the first words are "welcome to the best hour of the week." That is the way we feel about it. We are glad to welcome you to the best hour of the year, right here in this room.

Congressman SHULER: On Thursday mornings, it is very special that we have members of Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, who check their political parties at the door when they attend our breakfast. We are there to be united, to fellowship, to worship, to sing and to praise together. Many times we laugh together, we hear funny stories, and we cry together about the times that we miss our families and when we struggle. It is our members of Congress reaching out to one another and in prayer. We cherish those moments together. Each week we actually sing a hymn. The singing is not very good, I might add. It is very special that we have every state as well as 182 nations represented here today. We get to hear some wonderful singing and wonderful worship on this great day. I would like to introduce to you professional musicians to take the members of Congress's place. I think God really appreciates that. Our musical guests this morning are Casting Crowns, led by Mark Hall.

CASTING CROWNS: [sing] "Oh, what I would do to have the kind of faith it takes to climb out of this boat; I'm in onto the crashing waves. Just step out of my comfort zone to the realm of being known where Jesus is and is holding out his hand, but the waves are calling out my name and they laugh at me, reminding me of all the times I've tried before and failed. The waves, they keep on telling me time and time again boy you'll never win, you'll never win but the voice of truth, it tells me a different story. The voice of truth says do not be afraid, and the voice of truth said this is for my glory out of all the voices calling out to me I would choose to listen and believe the voice of truth."

And oh what I would do to have the kind of strength it takes to stand before a giant with just a sling and a stone. Surrounded by the sound of a thousand warriors shaking in their armor, wishing they'd had the strength to stand, but the giant's calling out my name and he laughs at me, reminding me of all the times I've tried before and failed, the giant keeps on telling me time and time

again boy, you'll never win (never win), you'll never win but the voice of truth tells me a different story, the voice of truth says "do not be afraid" and the voice of truth says "this is for my glory." Out of all the voices calling out to me I would choose to listen and believe the voice of truth. The stone was just the right size to put the giant on the ground and the waves, they don't seem so high on top of them looking down and I soar with the wings of eagles if I'd stop and listen to the sound of Jesus singing over me and the voice of truth tells me a different story, the voice of truth says "do not be afraid," and the voice of truth said "this is for my glory," out of all the voices calling out to me I would choose to listen and believe, I would choose to listen and believe, voice of truth, and I, I will listen and believe because Jesus you are the voice of truth."

Congressman EHLERS: Any Thursday morning that you are free, you are welcome to come to our weekly prayer breakfast. It is now my pleasure to introduce Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson of Missouri to present a reading from the Holy Scriptures.

Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON: Many of you all know that in Genesis 33 we find the reunion of Jacob and Esau. As a young man, Jacob had swindled the inheritance away from his twin brother Esau by tricking their blind father Isaac. After that treachery, Jacob flees for fear of Esau's reprisal. Jacob toils away in a faraway land and builds up for himself great wealth. However, God leads Jacob back to the land of his birth to fulfill the covenant God had with Abraham. Jacob is so afraid of Esau that he divides his people so that some may survive the coming battle. I will read to you now from Genesis chapter 33, verses 1-12:

And Jacob lifted up his eyes and looked and behold Esau was coming and four hundred men with him, so he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two female servants, and he put the servants with their children in front, then Leah with her children and Rachel and Joseph last of all. He himself went on before them bowing himself to the ground seven times until he came nearer to his brother. But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him and they wept. And when Esau lifted up his eyes and saw the women and children, he said "who are these with you?" Jacob said "the children whom God has graciously given your servant." Then the servants drew near, they and their children, and bowed down. Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down, and last, Joseph and Rachel drew near and they bowed down. Esau said "what do you mean by all this company that I met?" Jacob answered, "to find favor in the sight of my Lord." But Esau said, "I have enough my brother, keep what you have for yourself." Jacob said, "No, please, if I have found favor in your sight, then accept my present from my hand, for I have seen your face which is like seeing the face of God and you have accepted me. Please accept my blessing that is brought to you because God has dealt graciously with me and because I have enough." Thus he urged him and he took it, then Esau said "let us journey on our way and I will go ahead of you."

Congressman EHLERS: To present a prayer for national leaders I call to the platform one of the pillars of our House breakfast for many years, Congressman Ike Skelton.

Congressman IKE SKELTON: Whenever we pray, we should keep in mind the words of the British Poet Alfred Lord Tennyson who wrote: "more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." May we pray?

God Almighty and the Father of us all—is stated in the Constitution of this great country: "we have common purpose as the

people of the United States, that we are to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity." Throughout our history, Lord, you have granted us leaders in national government, in industry, commerce, science, education and religion to serve this common purpose—for this we thank you. In our own day, we pray for our President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle, Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill. We also pray for the members of the Congress, our leaders, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the other leaders in the Congress, the Supreme Court, our cabinet members, our military leaders, and all government leaders in the states and the local communities. Help them to fulfill their sacred pledge and perform their duties with wisdom and compassion. May they seek your guidance by listening to genuine needs, and witness to your strong arm behind everything. May leaders in business and economics be blessed with personal integrity and professional collaboration. Lord, bless our nation's leaders in religion and education so that they provide a powerful vision for your people. Instill in them common hopes and greater understanding of themselves and others—together, creating imaginations will establish a common ground to plant seeds for the future. In our families, Lord, raise up new leadership for our nation, may parents prove to be good role models by their faithfulness, self discipline, and basic moral standards. Help them to encourage young people to have great expectations and to accomplish great deeds. Especially, we pray today for those families who are involved in military service. Protect them, sustain them until they return safely and together with them we live in peace. In you, oh Lord, we find the power to live our constitutional convictions and in you we place our trust, calling upon your Holy Name, now and forever. Amen.

Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON: Good morning. I am Johnny Isakson from Georgia, and I am honored to Co-Chair the Senate prayer breakfast.

Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR: I am Amy Klobuchar from Minnesota, the other Co-Chair. On behalf of the United States Senate, we would like to welcome you today.

When Johnny and I took over the Senate prayer breakfast this year, we inherited some changes. There was a new Senate food service manager and she tripled the price of the breakfast. More importantly, they took the grits off the menu which did not sit well with Johnny or any of the other Southerners. Picture this, here I am, the first woman to do this, a Northern Senator, and the grits disappear from the menu and the price triples. This is a true crisis in leadership. So we asked for some divine intervention. After some tough negotiations, the price came down and, as if by a miracle, the grits returned to the menu.

Senator ISAKSON: Mr. President, if a Minnesota Yankee can save grits for a Southern Republican, there is hope for bipartisanship.

We gather together every Wednesday, not as Republicans or as Democratic members of the Senate, but as Americans with a deep and abiding faith in God and the hope for the future of our country, and the hope for the future of our world. As we do so, we gather not seeking what we do not have in common, but relishing that which we do have in common—a deep and abiding faith in Our Lord, and a great appreciation for our great country, the United States of America.

Senator KLOBUCHAR: Our Senate prayer breakfast is truly a special occasion. It is a chance for us to share and to build friend-

ships which might not otherwise be possible. This is especially important for all of us. The daily pressures of our work can way too often limit our horizons and narrow our circle of friends. These same pressures also make it all too easy for us to lose our way. Through prayer we can find our moral compass that will guide us back and lead us forward. And through prayer we are also humbled—that is important since modesty too often appears to be one of the first casualties of a life in Washington. As a new Senator, I found the prayer breakfast to be a respite from the day to day quarrels and strategic maneuvering of Washington. I have actually gotten to like grits and meet some new friends like Johnny.

Senator ISAKSON: Our Founding Fathers created this nation as one nation under God and we know that we are also one world under God. As we gather and pray together, we pray for the strength of our country, knowing that just as the breakfast we have enjoyed sustains our bodies, the faith we share in common with our God sustains our soul.

Congressman SHULER: As was mentioned earlier, the House and the Senate alternates chairing the National Prayer Breakfast, with his year's Prayer Breakfast being run by the House. We call on all of our colleagues and ask them to participate for various roles in the program. When we first put the program together, our next presenter was a member of the U.S. House. Since then, she has gotten herself into a new job in the Senate—but we still claim her as one of us. To present a reading from the Holy Scripture, I am happy to introduce my friend and the new Senator from New York, Kirsten Gillibrand.

Senator KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND: It is an honor to be among so many faithful. I would like to offer a reading from Matthew, chapter 5, verses 14-16.

"You are the light of the world, a city on a hill cannot be hidden, neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven." Heath asked me to reflect on what this scripture meant to me. I thought about this passage and the parable of the talents. I believe that as God has blessed me with certain skills and talents, as New York's newest Senator, I offer them up for public service, with much gratitude and humility in my heart. May each deed from my hands and each word from my lips reflect God's light and his love for the world.

Congressman SHULER: It is now my pleasure to introduce Congressman Todd Akin of Missouri, who will present a prayer for world leaders.

COMMEMORATING THE 57TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST, FEBRUARY 5TH, 2009

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I had the privilege of co-chairing the 57th Annual National Prayer Breakfast with colleague, Congressman HEATH SHULER of North Carolina, on February 5, 2009. This annual gathering is held here in our Nation's Capital and is hosted by Members of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives weekly prayer breakfast groups. I would like to request that

the continuation of the transcript of the 2009 proceedings be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this time.

57TH NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST—THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2009, HILTON WASHINGTON HOTEL, WASHINGTON, DC

CO-CHAIRS: U.S. REPRESENTATIVE VERN EHLERS AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVE HEATH SHULER

Congressman TODD AKIN: More than a hundred years ago there was a great statesman in England by the name of William Wilberforce. Some of you may have seen the movie "Amazing Grace"—the story of his life. He had two great aims as he worked in British government. The first was the abolition of slavery—which he was able to see just about on his death bed. The second was one that is not as well known—and that was to spread civility. I guess that means we are being civil with each other. One of the reasons that I have been involved in the Members' prayer breakfast is because it is a force for helping people to be civil and decent to each other—whereas many other things in politics seem to go the other direction.

Please join me in a prayer for our guests here. Dear Lord, we approach you today with thankful hearts for your great kindness and love and mercy, which immeasurably exceeds any merit of our own. We thank you for our guests, here assembled, guests who join us from the leadership of nations around the world. We ask your blessing once again on each of us, on our deliberations, and on the people that we serve. Dear Father, forgive us our increasing pride, for vainly considering that we can govern without your superintending providence. Our first President George Washington said, "it is impossible to govern rightly without God and the Bible." Help us once again to acknowledge our dependence upon you and to seek your aid through all of our days. Lord, you inspired our founders to acknowledge the fact that you have bestowed certain inalienable rights to all men—that among these are: life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Forgive us dear Father for ways in which each of us have fallen short in our most fundamental duty in preserving the precious gifts that you grant to all your children. Please, dear Father, batter down the pride of our stubborn hearts with a battering ram of your tender love. Lord Jesus, in a quiet place, come along side each of us, confront us, forgive us, wrap your arms around us and plant your truth deep within us that our lives will bless our families, our constituents and above all be pleasant in your sight. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Congressman EHLERS: One of the most difficult tasks that we have in arranging these Prayer Breakfasts is finding a speaker who is suitable to address such a large audience and to do it in meaningful terms that will relate to each and every one of you. We talked long and hard about different speakers and who we could get. Finally, we settled on someone we were hopeful we could get and now we are delighted that he is here with us today.

I first met our speaker at a NATO conference some years ago when I was a delegate from the United States Congress to meet with a NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Scotland. One of the speakers at the conference was a young man by the name of Tony Blair. He was erudite, eloquent, thoughtful, gave a great speech, and I thought, "this is a young man who could go places some day." Thank you for fulfilling that prophecy. I was deeply touched by his spirit and his passion as I am sure we all will be today. Speaking as an American, I deeply appreciate his friendship and support for our country and our efforts to extend freedom around the world.

Tony Blair was Prime Minister of the United Kingdom for 10 years. He described

his approach once as governing from the radical center, which is something I believe our nation could well imitate. Since stepping down in 2007, he has been involved in three challenges. He currently serves as the Quartet Representative to the Middle East, representing the United Nations, the European Union, the United States and the Russian Federation. He has been involved in youth sports in an effort to combat youth obesity—and we need you in our country for that too, Tony. And he created the Tony Blair Faith Foundation with the aim to show how faith is a powerful force for good in the modern world. He is one of the great moral leaders on the planet. Ladies and gentlemen, join me in welcoming the Right Honorable Tony Blair.

Tony Blair: It is an honor to be here and a particular honor to be with you, Mr. President. The world participated in the celebration of your election. Now the hard work begins. And now, also, we should be as steadfast for you in the hard work as in the celebration. You don't need cheerleaders but partners; not spectators, but supporters. The truest friends are those still around when the going is toughest. We offer you our friendship today. We will work with you to make your presidency one that shapes our destiny to the credit of America and of the world. Mr. President, we salute you and we wish you well.

After 10 years as British Prime Minister, I decided to choose something easy. I became involved in the Middle East Peace process. There are many frustrations—that is evident. There is also one blessing. I spend much of my time in the Holy Land and in the Holy City. The other evening I climbed to the top of Notre Dame in Jerusalem. You look left and see the Garden of Gethsemane. You look right and see where the Last Supper was held. Straight ahead lies Golgotha. In the distance is where King David was crowned and still further where Abraham was laid to rest. And in the center of Jerusalem is the Al-Aqsa Mosque, where according to the Qu'ran, the prophet was transported to commune with the prophets of the past. Rich in conflict, it is sublime also in history. The other month in Jericho, I visited the Mount of Temptation—I think they bring all the political leaders there. My guide—a Palestinian—was bemoaning the travails of his nation. Suddenly he stopped, he looked heavenwards and said "Moses, Jesus, Mohammed, why did they all have to come here?" It is a good place to reflect on religion: a source of so much inspiration; an excuse for so much evil. Today, religion is under attack from without and from within. From within, it is corroded by extremists who use their faith as a means of excluding the other: "I am what I am in opposition to you; if you do not believe as I believe, you are a lesser human being." From without, religious faith is assailed by an increasingly aggressive secularism, which derides faith as contrary to reason and defines faith by conflict. Thus do the extreme believers and the aggressive non-believers come together in unholy alliance. And yet, faith will not be so easily cast. For billions of people, faith motivates, galvanizes, compels and inspires, not to exclude but to embrace; not to provoke conflict but to try to do good. This is faith in action. You can see it in countless local communities where those from churches, mosques, synagogues and temples tend the sick, care for the afflicted, work long hours in bad conditions to bring hope to the despairing and salvation to the lost. You can see it in the arousing of the world's conscience to the plight of Africa. There are a million good deeds done every day by people of faith. These are those for whom, in the parable of the sower, the seed fell on good

soil and yielded sixty or a hundred-fold. What inspires such people? Ritual or doctrine or the finer points of theology? No. I remember my first spiritual awakening. I was 10 years old. That day my father—at the young age of 40—had suffered a serious stroke. His life hung in the balance. My mother, to keep some sense of normality in the crisis, sent me to school. My teacher knelt and prayed with me. Now my father was, and is, a militant atheist. Before we prayed, I thought I should confess this. "I am afraid my father doesn't believe in God," I said. "That doesn't matter," my teacher replied, "God believes in him; He loves him without demanding or needing love in return."

Tony Blair, Continued: That is what inspires. The unconditional nature of God's love. A promise perpetually kept. A covenant never broken. And in surrendering to God, we become instruments of that love. Rabbi Hillel was once challenged by a pagan, who said: "if you can recite the whole of the Torah standing on one leg, I will convert to being a Jew." Rabi Hillel stood on one leg and said, "That which is hateful to you, do it not unto your neighbor. That is the Torah, everything else is commentary, go and study it." As the Qu'ran states: "if anyone saves a person, it will be as if he has saved the whole of humanity." Faith is not discovered in acting according to ritual, but acting according to God's will and God's will is love. We might also talk of the Hindu: "living beyond the reach of I and mine," or the words of the Buddha: "after practicing enlightenment, you must go back to practice compassion," or the Sikh scripture: "God's bounties are common to all; it is we who have created divisions."

Each faith has its' beliefs. Each is different. Yet at a certain point each is in communion with the other. Examine the impact of globalization. Forget for a moment its' rights and wrongs. Just look at its' effects. Its' characteristic is that it pushes the world together. It is not only an economic force. The consequence is social, even cultural. The global community—it takes a village, as someone once coined it—is upon us. Into it steps religious faith. If faith becomes the property of extremists, it will originate discord. But if by contrast, different faiths can reach out to, and have knowledge of, one another, then instead of being reactionary, religious faith can be a force for progress.

The foundation which bears my name, and which I began less than a year ago, is dedicated to achieving understanding, action and reconciliation between the different faiths for the common good. It is not about the faith that looks inward, but the faith that resolutely turns us towards each other. Bringing the faith communities together fulfills an objective important to all of us, believers and non believers. But for me, as someone of faith, this is not enough. I believe restoring religious faith to its rightful place, as the guide to our world and its' future, is itself of the essence. The 21st century will be poorer in spirit, meaner in ambition, less disciplined in conscience, if it is not under the guardianship of faith in God.

I do not mean by this to blur the correct distinction between the realms of religious and political authority. In Britain we are especially mindful of this. I recall giving an address to the country at a time of crisis. I wanted to end my words with "God bless the British people." This caused complete consternation. Emergency meetings were convened. The system was aghast. Finally, as I sat trying to defend my words, a senior civil servant said, with utter disdain: "Really, Prime Minister, this is not America you know."

Neither do I decry the work of humanists, who give gladly of themselves for others and

who can often shame the avowedly religious. Those who do God's work are God's people. I only say that there are limits to humanism, and beyond those limits, God and only God can work. The phrase "fear of God" conjures up the vengeful God of parts of the Old Testament. But fear of God means really obedience to God: humility before God; acceptance through God that there is something bigger, better, and more important than you. It is that humbling of man's vanity, that stirring of conscience through God's prompting, that recognition of our limitations, that faith alone can bestow. We can perform acts of mercy, but only God can lend them true dignity. We can forgive but only God forgives completely in the full knowledge of our sin. And only through God comes grace; and it is God's grace that is unique. John Newton, who had been that most obnoxious of things, a slave trader, he it was who wrote the hymn, "Amazing Grace" — "Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved." It is through faith, by the grace of God, that we have the courage to live as we should and die as we must.

When I was Prime Minister I had cause often to reflect on leadership. Courage in leadership is not simply about having the nerve to take difficult decisions or even in doing the right thing — since oftentimes God alone knows what the right thing is. It is to be in our natural state—which is one of nagging doubt in perfect knowledge, an uncertain prediction—and to be prepared nonetheless to put on the mantle of responsibility and to stand up in full view of the world, to step out when others step back, to assume the loneliness of the final decision-maker, not sure of success but unsure of it. It is in that "not knowing" that the courage lies. When in that state our courage fails, our faith can support it, lift it up, and keep it from stumbling.

As you begin your leadership with this great country, Mr. President, you are fortunate, as is your nation, that you have already shown in your life courage in abundance. But should it ever be tested, I hope your faith can sustain you, and your family. The public eye is not always the most congenial. I was reminded of this, as I waited in London in the snow to fly to America and made the mistake of reading a British newspaper. It was the very conservative Daily Telegraph. A few days ago I gave an interview in which I remarked how much cleverer my wife was than me. The Telegraph has a famous letters page. In it was a letter from a correspondent that read something like, "Dear sir, with reference to your headline, 'Blair admits wife more intelligent than him,' I fail to see why this is news. Most of us have known this for a long time," and as a P.S. perhaps: "the bar has not been set high."

I finish where I began: in the Holy Land at Mount Nebo in Jordan, where Moses gazed on the Promise Land. There was a chapel there, built by pilgrims in the fourth century. The sermon that day was preached by an American, who spent his life as an airline pilot and then, after his wife's death, took holy orders. His words are the words of a Christian, but they speak to all those of faith, who want God's grace to guide their life. He said this:

"While here on earth, we need to make a vital decision . . . whether to be mere spectators or movers and shakers for the Kingdom of God . . . whether to stay among the curious, or take up a cross. And this means no standing on the sidelines—we are either in the game or we are not. I sometimes ask myself the question: 'If I were to die today, what would my life have stood for?' . . . The answer can't be an impulsive one, and we all need to count the cost before we give an an-

swer. Because to be able to say yes to one thing means to say no to many others. But we must also remember that the greatest danger is not impulsiveness but inaction."

It is fitting at this extraordinary moment in your country's history that we hear that call to action; and we pray that in acting we do God's work and follow God's will.

And by the way, God bless you all.

Congressman Shuler: Our next speaker, the 44th President of the United States has consistently made unity an important part of his ongoing message. His message of national and international unity is one that has given people around the world faith, hope, and the spirit to follow their dreams. I have met with numerous leaders who tell me that the citizens of their nations have a higher hope for the future because of the inspiration provided by this President.

My own children moved by the experience of the recent inauguration said to me, "Daddy, let's pray for the President." Children, politicians, and everyday citizens around the world are showing their hope and faith, through their prayers for this President. Today we continue in an unbroken tradition of 57 years as we are joined by the First Family at the National Prayer Breakfast. Ladies and gentlemen, it is my great honor to introduce to you the President of the United States of America.

COMMEMORATING THE 57TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST, FEBRUARY 5TH, 2009

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I had the privilege of participating in the 57th Annual National Prayer Breakfast with my colleagues, Congressman HEATH SHULER of North Carolina and Congressman VERN EHLERS of Michigan, on February 5, 2009. This annual gathering is held here in our Nation's Capital and is hosted by Members of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives weekly prayer breakfast groups. I would like to request that the summation of the transcript of the 2009 proceedings be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this time.

57TH NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST—THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2009, HILTON WASHINGTON HOTEL, WASHINGTON, DC

CO-CHAIRS: U.S. REPRESENTATIVE VERN EHLERS AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVE HEATH SHULER

President Barack Obama: Good morning. I want to thank the co-chairs of this breakfast, Representatives Heath Shuler and Vernon Ehlers. I also want to thank my good friend Tony Blair for coming today, as well as our Vice President, Joe Biden, members of the cabinet, members of Congress, clergy, friends, and dignitaries from across the world.

Michelle and I are honored to join you in prayer this morning. I know this breakfast has a long history in Washington, and faith has always been a guiding force in our family's life, so we feel very much at home and look forward to keeping this tradition alive during our time here. It is a tradition that I am told actually began many years ago in the city of Seattle. It was at the height of the Great Depression, and most people found themselves out of work. Many fell into poverty and some lost everything. The leaders of the community did all that they could for those who were suffering in their midst. And

then they decided to do something more—they prayed. It didn't matter what party or religious affiliation to which they belonged. They simply gathered one morning as brothers and sisters to share a meal and talk with God. These breakfasts soon sprouted up throughout Seattle and quickly spread to cities and towns across America, eventually making their way to Washington, DC. A short time after President Eisenhower asked a group of Senators if he could join their prayer breakfast, it became a national event. And today, as I see presidents, prime ministers and dignitaries here from every corner of the globe, it strikes me that this is one of the rare occasions that still brings much of the world together at a moment of peace and good will.

I raise this history because far too often we have seen faith wielded as a tool to divide us from one another—as an excuse for prejudice and intolerance. Wars have been waged, innocents had been slaughtered. For centuries entire religions have been persecuted, all in the name of perceived righteousness. There is no doubt that the very nature of faith means that some of our beliefs will never be the same. We read from different texts. We follow different edicts. We subscribe to different accounts of how we came to be here and where we are going next. And some subscribe to no faith at all. But no matter what we choose to believe, let us remember that there is no religion whose central tenet is hate. There is no God who condones taking the life of an innocent human being. This much we know. We know too that whatever our differences, there is one law that binds all great religions together. Jesus told us to "love thy neighbor as thyself." The Torah commands, "That which is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow." In Islam there is the hadith that reads, "None of you truly believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself." And the same is true for Buddhists and Hindus, for followers of Confucius, and for humanists. It is, of course, the Golden Rule—the call to love one another, to understand one another, to treat with dignity and respect those with whom we share a brief moment on this Earth. It is an ancient rule, a simple rule, but also perhaps the most challenging. For it asks each of us to take some measure of responsibility for the well-being of people we may not know or worship with or agree with on every issue or on any issue. Sometimes it asks us to reconcile with bitter enemies or resolve ancient hatreds—and that requires a living, breathing act of faith. It requires us not only to believe but to do—to give something of ourselves for the benefit of others and the betterment of our world. In this way, the particular faith that motivates each of us can promote a greater good for all of us. Instead of driving us apart, our varied beliefs can bring us together to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, comfort the afflicted, to make peace where there is strife and rebuild what is broken, to lift up those who have fallen on hard times. This is not only our call as people of faith, but our duty as citizens of America, and our duty as citizens of the world, and it will be the purpose of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships that I am announcing later today.

The goal of this office will not be to favor one religious group over another—or even religious groups over secular groups, it will simply be to work on behalf of those organizations that want to work on behalf of our communities, and to do so without blurring the line that our founders wisely drew between church and state. This work is important, because whether it is a secular group advising families facing foreclosure or faith-based groups providing job training to

those who need work, few are closer to what is happening on our streets and in our neighborhoods than these organizations. People trust them, communities rely on them, and we will help them.

We will also reach out to leaders and scholars around the world to foster a more productive and peaceful dialogue on faith. I am not naive. I don't expect divisions to disappear overnight, nor do I believe that the long-held views and conflicts will suddenly vanish. But I do believe that if we can talk to one another openly and honestly, and if perhaps we allow God's grace to enter into that space that lies between us, then the old rifts between us will start to mend, and new partnerships will begin to emerge. In a world that grows smaller by the day, perhaps we can begin to crowd out the destructive forces of excessive zealotry and make room for the healing power of understanding. This is my hope. This is my prayer. I believe this good is possible because my faith teaches me that all is possible, but I also believe because of what I have seen and what I have lived.

I was not raised in a particularly religious household. I had a father who was born a Muslim but became an atheist, grandparents who were non-practicing Methodists and Baptists, and a mother who was skeptical of organized religion—even though she was the kindest, most spiritual person I have ever known. She was the one who taught me as a child to love, and to understand, and to do unto others as I would want done. I didn't become a Christian until many years later when I moved to the South Side of Chicago after college. It happened not because of indoctrination or a sudden revelation but because I spent month after month working with church folks who simply wanted to help neighbors who were down on their luck, no matter what they looked like or where they came from or who they prayed to. It was on those streets, in those neighborhoods that I first heard God's spirit beckon me. It was there that I felt called to a higher purpose—His purpose. In different ways and in different forms, it is that spirit and sense of purpose that drew friends and neighbors to that first prayer breakfast in Seattle all those years ago, during another trying time for our nation. It is what led friends and neighbors from so many faiths and nations here today. We come to break bread and to give thanks, but most of all to seek guidance. And to rededicate ourselves to the mission of love and service that lies at the heart of all humanity. St. Augustine once said: "Pray as though everything depends on God and work as though everything depends on you."

So let us pray together on this February morning, but let us also work together in all the days and months ahead. For it is only through common struggle and common effort, as brothers and sisters, that we fulfill our highest purpose as beloved children of God. I ask that you join me in that effort and I also ask that you pray for myself, for Michelle, for my family and for the continued perfection of our nation. Thank you so much, God bless you. God bless the United States of America.

Congressman EHLERS. Thank you very much, Mr. President and Michelle, for being with us. This is an auspicious occasion. As I had said earlier, this prayer breakfast started with President Eisenhower and every year since then it has been graced by the presence of the President of the United States. It has been a real blessing to have the President and the First Lady here today.

Congressman SHULER: Welcome back Casting Crowns.

CASTING CROWNS: [sing] Who am I that the Lord of all the earth would care to know my name, would care to feel my hurt. Who am I

that the bright and morning star would choose to light the way from my ever wandering heart but not because of who I am but because of what you've done and not because of what I've done but because of who you are and I am a flower quickly fading here today and gone tomorrow a wave tossed in the ocean, the vapor in the wind, still you hear me when I'm calling but you catch me when I'm falling and you told me who I am, I am yours.

Who am I that the eye that's seen the sin would look on me with love and watch me rise again. Who am I that the voice that calmed the sea would call out through the rain and calm the storm in me, not because of who I am but because of what you've done, not because of what I've done but because of who you are.

And I am a flower quickly fading, here today and gone tomorrow, a wave tossed in the ocean, a vapor in the wind, still you hear me when I'm calling, Lord you catch me when I'm falling and you told me who I am, I am yours.

Whom shall I fear, whom shall I fear, because I am yours.

Congressman EHLERS: Thank you again Casting Crowns for your words of faith and encouragement, we appreciate your participation today.

I hope that all of you have been uplifted and inspired by what you have seen up here—people of different parties, nations, races, generations and backgrounds coming together. As the Prime Minister and the President both said, faith can be a tremendous force for good in this modern world and we all need it—all the help we can get. It all begins with obeying the simple commands that Jesus talked about. Loving God with everything we have and loving our neighbors as ourselves. This is the first and great commandment. We in the Congress are trying to do that and I hope that you will commit to do that more and more in your daily lives. We ask that you will also join in prayer every single day and pray for us in the Congress and in other agencies of leadership around the world as we all try to serve God above all and to serve people and to keep them safe and secure in their lives.

Congressman SHULER: Now to close the event, I am honored to turn to a great American hero—from the age of 23 he was a national leader in the struggle for civil rights and for more than four decades he has been a shining star of justice. To present our closing prayer, the Honorable Congressman JOHN LEWIS of Georgia.

Congressman JOHN LEWIS: My beloved brothers and sisters, let us pray. Lord our God, this morning we stand before you as citizens of the world, as leaders of many great nations, and as humbled public servants, tasked with a powerful responsibility. Lord my God, your people are suffering in teeming cities and in the distant corners of the earth—too many of your children are hungry and naked, homeless and poor, too many are sick, too many forgotten, too many are locked in the struggles of war and suffering alone in silent despair. Lord, we stand before you today as a human family in need of your help. Please Lord, give us the faith to be still and know that you are God. Give us the faith to trust that you are with us at all times. Lord God, give us the power to see that your light shines brightest in times of the greatest need. Lord, give us a will to seek your divine understanding in every decision that we make. Thank you Lord for sending us a man, a leader and a President Barack Obama, we ask for a special blessing on his behalf. Guide his steps and please direct his path. Hold him and his family in the palm of your magnificent and all powerful hand. Let your angels watch

over them, protect them and be their preferred and invisible God. Thank you Lord, thank you this morning for sending men and women who prepare to do thy will. Pour out your blessing upon us all. Give us the power to do what is right, what is fair and what is just. Please Lord show us how we can bring peace to a violent world. Let the day come when we can lay down the tools and instruments of war and study war no more. Lord, give us the will and the way to build and not destroy. Give us the capacity to be reconciled and not divide. Give us the strength to love and not to hate, that these gifts be made manifest in all that we do and in every way that we serve your people. We ask all these things in Thy divine name. This is our plea. This is our cry. This is our prayer. Amen.

Congressman EHLERS: Go in peace, love God. Serve God and your neighbor.

TRIBUTE FOR MR. CHARLES R. COUSINS

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life and exceptional accomplishments of Charles R. Cousins. Charles Cousins has been an important part of the Denver African-American business community. A remarkable citizen, he merits our recognition and esteem as his leadership, service and lifelong devotion to the city of Denver has done much to enrich our community. His license plate: "IOU-00" reflected this self-made success story.

Charles Cousins was born in Denver on New Year's Day, 1918, delivered by Justina Ford, the first African-American doctor in Colorado. The first son in a family of four daughters, he came to be called "Brother" by family and friends, a name that stuck throughout his entire life. His parents, Charles L. and Alta raised a family of six children in the Five Points neighborhood of Denver. As a youngster, Charles started a lifetime of hard work making deliveries on his bicycle for drug stores and dry cleaners and catching worms in the summertime to sell to anglers at City Park.

Charles Cousins began his business career while a student attending Manual High School in 1936. At Manual High, Charles found a way to provide music for the school dances of African American students that were segregated from those of white students. He did the same while a student at Colorado State University, beginning his long career in the jukebox industry.

When white-owned jukebox businesses tried to take over the restaurants and bars where his machines were located, Cousins purchased the buildings, beginning his successful career in real estate. He was a major investor in Denver rental properties and ultimately became a community philanthropist. He owned properties throughout the metro area, including more than 30 buildings in the Five Points area.

A lifetime jazz fan, Cousins is credited with being a key financial backer of the Five Points neighborhood's internationally-recognized jazz scene. Known as the "Godfather of Jazz" in Five Points, he made the famous Rossonian Hotel a must-stop venue for African American

musicians who were barred from other hotels because of racial discrimination.

Raised in the Five Points neighborhood of Denver, Cousins never had a desire to leave his beloved community. His many associations include the Five Points Media Center and the Five Points Business Association. Cousins willed the Simpson Hotel at 28th and Welton Street to the Five Points Business Association upon his death. The organization has plans to establish a work-development center and art gallery on the site.

Appointed in 1979 by Denver Mayor Bill McNichols, Cousins served on the Denver city zoning board for 23 years and served for 20 years as a member of the U.S. Olympic Organizing Committee.

Charles Cousins was also a great advocate of education. He was instrumental in the development of Cole Junior High School's extension program that provided alternative education to students who were not able to learn and achieve in a traditional school environment. He also funded many scholarships for college students. He was a fixture at Manual High School and was honored as the school's "Student of the Century" during their 100th anniversary celebration in 1994.

Charles was most proud of his civic work in the community and received numerous awards from various non-profit groups. He was a charter member of the Beta Theta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

In 2003, Charles Cousins was honored with a plaza that bears his name at the new Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library in Five Points. He joined his longtime friends, former Tuskegee Airman and Denver Public Schools board member Omar Blair, and former Denver City Councilman Elvin Caldwell in the naming honors of the then newest branch of the Denver Public Library.

Charles Cousins is survived by five siblings and his wife of 53 years, Dorothy. His daughter, Dr. Renee Cousins, is a Denver pediatrician.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND
WORK OF VIVIAN SMITH

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, it is one of my honors as a Member of Congress to pay tribute to the fine people that come along and care for our neighbors and assist our communities with their time, love, patience, sweat, financial tidings, and most importantly, compassion.

Vivian Smith, a daughter, sister, mother, grandmother and wife, served her neighbors in Scott County with that famous Tennessee volunteer spirit.

Vivian's resume of carrying for others is as long as it is distinguished. An eight year cancer survivor, Vivian served as Co-Chair of the Relay for Life and was a member of the Leadership Council and Support Group for the American Cancer Society of Scott County.

Serving the Sixth District Scott County School Board member, Vivian was also the first in the history of Scott County to obtain Level 5 Master status, awarded the National School Board Association's Recognition Award

and served on the All Tennessee School Board. She also served on the Scott County Finance Committee, Scott County Fairest of the Fair, Tennessee Scholars advisory committee, Scott County Museum advisory council, Tennessee Technology Cosmetology advisory board, Appalachian Habitat for Humanity, Clinch-Powell Educational Cooperative, Housing Opportunities of People (HOPE), Salvation Army Scott County Unit, Scott County 4-H, Leadership Scott and Youth Leadership Scott and Leadership Upper Cumberland.

Having retired from the Scott County government as Solid Waste Director, Vivian was most proud of organizing and participating in the "Scott County Looks Good to Me" and "I Spy" programs, which were notably successful anti-littering programs.

For her unwavering dedication to volunteer service she was presented the Humanitarian Award from the Scott County Chamber of Commerce. Shortly afterwards, she was presented with the Governor's Volunteer Star Award from the State of Tennessee by Governor Bredesen and was inducted into the Scott County Boys and Girls Club Hall of Fame.

Vivian Smith will be sorely missed and fondly remembered for her grace, compassion and dedication to volunteerism. It has been said that she loved to serve because of the love she had for the people of Scott County. Well, Vivian, the feeling was and will forever be mutual.

TRIBUTE TO METROPOLITAN
AIRPORTS

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Metropolitan Airports Commission's board members and staff for Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport's recent recognition as the Best Airport in North America and Third Best in the World in its size category.

The Airports Council International granted this award to the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport based on feedback from air travelers during the 2008 Airport Quality Survey. The 2008 airport rankings reflect the responses of more than 200,000 passengers who filled out questionnaires at 108 airports.

Minnesota is well known for the strong work ethic of its residents, and their commitment to ensuring Minnesota continues to be one of the best places to live, work and visit. Those characteristics form the foundation for the Metropolitan Airports Commission's latest outstanding accomplishment.

Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport serves as Minnesota's front door for those who come to the state for business or pleasure. I invite you and all the members of this esteemed Congress to come experience the hospitality Minnesota is famous for from the moment their plane touches down on the runways of Minneapolis-St. Paul.

In closing Madam Speaker, I would like to once again extend my deepest congratulations to the Minneapolis Airports Commission hard work and great accomplishment.

VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Vietnam Human Rights Day and to recognize the daily struggle for freedom in Vietnam.

Fifteen years ago, Congress designated May 11th as Vietnam Human Rights Day, recognizing the plight of the people of Vietnam under the repression of their communist government. I am sad to say that these conditions persist to this day.

Just last week, Vietnam's human rights record was examined by the United Nations Human Rights Council, under the Universal Periodic Review. As part of this proceeding, numerous non-governmental organizations reported a wide range of serious abuses.

Journalists, dissidents, and whistleblowers are imprisoned merely for questioning government policies in public or calling attention to corruption or other wrongdoing. Citizens are arrested, detained, and imprisoned without due process of law. Independent political parties and labor unions are banned. In all of this, the Vietnamese government scorns the rule of law, violating its international human rights obligations and, often, its own constitution.

Abuses of religious freedom are also a serious problem. In its Annual Report for 2009, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has again called for Vietnam to be designated as a Country of Particular Concern by the State Department. I commend the Commission for making this recommendation, and urge the State Department to follow its advice.

The United States granted Vietnam Permanent Normal Trade Relations in 2006. Since then, its already abysmal human rights record has gotten even worse. Once the Vietnamese government got the trade agreement that it wanted, it felt free to escalate its repression.

It is time for the United States to consider how it can use its considerable leverage to assist those who are striving for human rights and democracy in Vietnam. I rise to honor their efforts and sacrifices.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRE-APPRENTICE AND APPRENTICESHIP
TRAINING ACT OF 2009

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, the Pre-Apprentice and Apprenticeship Training Act of 2009 makes mandatory the one half of one percent of funds now available under 23 U.S.C. 140(b) to ensure federal highway funds are used to provide on-the-job training and other services to combat a serious training deficit that builds in the effects of past discrimination and that is necessary because the current cohort of journeymen and other skilled workers is retiring. Currently, only 17 states use fund previously made available for training and even that participation is spotty. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee,

under the strong leadership of Chairman JIM OBERSTAR has already taken the first important steps to include training as an essential part of building our infrastructure when he included, at my request, \$3 million specifically for training in the General Services Administration stimulus authorization this year. He also included \$20 million for federal highways training programs.

Today, the official unemployment rate already is at 15 percent for blacks and 8 percent for whites, a typical gap throughout economic cycles. Most analysts predict that there is more unemployment to come. This surface transportation reauthorization is also necessary to finally afford the opportunity for minorities and women to gain their first foothold in the high-wage construction industry.

More than 25 years ago, the federal government abruptly ended the government-sponsored labor-management remediation program designed to address training and exclusionary practices in the construction industry. Although deliberate exclusion has largely receded, elimination of this program has left a significant training deficit for workers in skilled construction trades, which is largely responsible for the white male profile of the construction industry today. This training deficit guarantees that infrastructure jobs will continue to go to trained, mostly white male construction workers, who now have faced a long period of unemployment and job scarcity. Particularly considering a steep rise in unemployment for minorities and whites alike, this bill will also help avoid racial tension.

Because of the scarcity of trained workers during boom times, a few union programs had even begun training ex-offenders as pre-apprentices and apprentices to do construction work. This bill will mount a major national infrastructure program focused on job creation with a well-designed component of pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs that can lead to high-paying journeyman jobs for the new workers who will be needed in the future. And it will assure compliance with the 14th Amendment and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bar discrimination in the use of government dollars.

More than 25 years ago the federal government prematurely ended the successful government-sponsored labor-management remediation program that addressed exclusionary practices and lack of training in the construction industry. Without a significant and systematic government effort, a serious training deficit has remained and continued to build. This training deficit is largely responsible for the white male profile of the construction industry today. Unless training is a strong component of the highway and transit reauthorization, underrepresentation of minorities and women will deepen.

Training is a major barrier, particularly for African Americans and women in construction. Congress recognized the training deficit and encouraged the use of one half of one percent for training in the use of highway funds. Because use of federal funds was not mandated for training, only 17 states have chosen, intermittently, to fund training programs, since the program was authorized in 1998. Without appropriate training, federal funds will exacerbate the training deficit among previously excluded groups and others who have not had access to training in the construction trades.

A recent study of African Americans, in particular, in the construction industry in eighteen

metropolitan areas found that they are underrepresented in construction jobs. If African Americans were employed in construction at the same rate that they are employed in the overall workforce, the study estimated that 42,700 more African Americans would be employed in construction in the eighteen metropolitan areas.

The official unemployment rate as of April 2009 already is 15 percent for African Americans and 8.8 percent for whites. This disparity has been typical throughout economic cycles.

A major, well-designed component in the surface transportation reauthorization bill for pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs can lead to high-paying journeyman jobs, where, in good times and scarce, labor supply has developed.

Congress must assure compliance with the 14th Amendment and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bar discrimination in the use of government dollars.

CELEBRATING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to support the House Resolution celebrating May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

As we continue to struggle through one of the deepest economic crises in recent history, we must not forget to recognize and appreciate the contributions of the Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) communities of our great country.

If one looks at the long history of the Asian American experience, they will undoubtedly see a collective story of perseverance and triumph. They will also see that this story is ongoing, and is defined by the tremendous contributions that Asian and Pacific Islander Americans continue to make.

They will see the earliest Asian immigrants, who in spite of being completely excluded from American citizenship and its basic protections, shouldered the labor to build a railroad system and support a growing agricultural sector that changed the face of America.

They will see the countless Japanese Americans, who despite being interned, stripped of their hard-earned wealth and forced to rebuild their lives, served their country faithfully and without question.

They will see the numerous Asian Pacific Islander Americans, who despite all that has been endured, now serve as exemplary public servants leading our county. From city councilors, to the President of the United States, who grew up in Indonesia and Hawaii, the APIA community deserves recognition and has much to be proud about.

Finally, they will see that despite all that has been accomplished, despite everything that there is to be proud of, we cannot lose sight of the fact that much remains to be done. We must continue to help the many Asian Pacific Islander Americans who endure racism, struggle against poverty and are fighting for equal access to the fundamental institutions of our country.

America has always been a reflection of its people. As we recognize May as Asian Amer-

ican Heritage Month, let us recognize that America would not be the grand nation it is today without our friends in the Asian Pacific Islander American communities.

HONORING PETER L. LITRENTA

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Peter L. Litrenta, a husband, father, 25-year Navy veteran and civic leader with a passion for San Diego, its waterfront and its people. Pete, as he was affectionately known, peacefully passed away in his Coronado home on April 22, surrounded by his loving family. He lived a full and meaningful life, making countless contributions to San Diego and serving as an inspiration and role model to all.

Pete was born in Racine, Wisconsin on April 25, 1942. He attended the University of Notre Dame, earning a BA in Communications in 1964. He began his Navy career after graduation, later earning an MA in Public Relations from Boston University in 1972.

Not long after his 23rd birthday, Pete met the love of his life, Linda. Theirs was a fairytale romance. Pete and Linda married just four months after they first met and celebrated their 43rd anniversary just five months ago. While Pete's life took him all over the world, San Diego was Pete's home. It is where he and Linda raised their three wonderful daughters, Danielle, LyAnne and Katie. Family was Pete's first and only true love.

But Pete did have other passions: Notre Dame football, the United States Navy, and San Diego, just to name a few.

Pete's Navy Career marched alongside history, from the Gulf of Tonkin incident to the terrorist bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut. Mr. Litrenta organized Beirut the news bureau, serving as spokesperson for the Marines when they landed in 1982. In 1986, he developed and implemented the San Diego Rally Against Drugs, mobilizing over 35,000 people to parade down Broadway to bring awareness to the dangers of drug use.

After retiring from the Navy, Pete worked for the Chamber of Commerce and then for the San Diego Port Tenants Association. He became intimately involved in nearly all aspects of San Diego's social, civic and philanthropic endeavors. Pete's influence on San Diego is everywhere. If you watched the Holiday Bowl, Pete helped select the teams on the field. If you gazed upon the waterfront, you will see the USS Midway Museum, which Pete helped bring to our port. If you saw Dennis Conner defend the America's Cup, Pete served on the Organizing Committee in charge of media and community relations.

Whether volunteering or working, Pete was intimately connected to the community. He served as President of the San Diego Fleet Week Foundation and the Coronado Schools Foundation. Pete was a member of the Mayor's BRAC Task Force, served on the Board of the Chamber of Commerce, the San Diego USO, the San Diego Convention and Visitors' Bureau, the USS Midway Museum, the San Diego Taxpayers' Association, and the Holiday & Poinsettia Bowls. At times, it seemed as if

Pete was everywhere. He touched the lives of many, leaving an imprint on all he graced.

So today I honor Mr. Pete Litrenta. As one of his thousands of friends, I join his colleagues, his wife Linda, and their three daughters Danielle, LyAnne and Katie, in not only mourning his loss, but in celebrating his life. His memorial will be held on board the USS Midway Museum, a venue as identifiable with San Diego as Pete.

He was a pillar of the San Diego community and will be missed by all. I am reminded of what Mark Twain said about life:

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

It's hard to imagine something Pete did not do. He explored the world, but found safe harbor in San Diego. He dreamed of brighter futures for his family, friends and for the entire San Diego community. He discovered his true love and pursued his true passions.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House observe a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Peter L. Litrenta.

HONORING THE HISTORICAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SISTERS IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, as we continue to celebrate Mother's Day and the women who have enriched our lives, I would like to recognize a group of women who may not receive cards or flowers this week, but who act as mothers to the world.

Regardless of religious affiliation or conviction, Catholic sisters have not only nurtured countless hearts, minds, and souls throughout our nation's history, but they have played a vital role in shaping American life. The humble sacrifices, the heartfelt dedication and the tremendous contributions of these women are in earnest need of recognition.

For this reason I have introduced a resolution today honoring the historical contributions of Catholic sisters in the United States.

Since 1727, Catholic sisters have fearlessly and often sacrificially committed their personal lives to teaching, healing, and social action. Joined in unique forms of intentional communal life dedicated to prayer and service, these women have participated in the opening of the West, nursed soldiers during the Civil War, and cared for afflicted populations during the epidemics of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Catholic sisters established the nation's largest private school system and founded more than 110 U.S. colleges and universities, through which they have educated millions of young Americans.

Moreover, managing organizations long before such positions were even open to women, the bold passion of Catholic sisters established hospitals, orphanages, and charitable institutions. They were among the first to stand with the underprivileged, to educate or to work among the poor and underserved, and

to facilitate leadership through opportunity and example.

Since 1980 alone, at least nine American sisters have been martyred. Maura Clark, MM, Ita Ford, MM and Dorothy Kazel, OSU were martyred in El Salvador in 1980. Joel Kolmer, ASC, Shirley Kolmer, ASC, Kathleen McGuire, ASC, Agnes Mueller, ASC and Barbara Ann Muttra, ASC were martyred in Liberia in 1992. And, Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN was martyred in Brazil in 2005. Despite such a horrifying reality, Catholic sisters remain dedicated and courageously spirited.

Across the globe, Catholic sisters continue to provide shelter, food, and basic human needs to the economically or socially disadvantaged and advocate relentlessly for the fair and equal treatment of all persons. They work for the eradication of poverty and racism and for the promotion of nonviolence, equality and democracy both in principle and in action. The humanitarian work of Catholic sisters with communities in crisis and refuge throughout the world positions them as activists and diplomats of peace and justice for those most at risk populations.

These women have offered so much to the world yet their stories have rarely been narrated or honored in our history. Though long overdue, the lives, works and legacies of Catholic sisters will finally be recounted.

I am happy to announce that on May 16th, 2009, a traveling exhibit called "Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America" will open in Cincinnati, Ohio. Sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in association with the Cincinnati Museum Center, it will tour multiple cities over the next few years.

In continued celebration of the women who have shaped our lives and cultivated our potential, I stand to recognize the Catholic sisters not only for the personal impact they have had within our own lives, but for the extraordinary contributions they have made to the history of the United States.

FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, as we ate breakfast today, more than 12 million Americans were carefully watching what they ate and how their food was prepared. You may be thinking that they are trying to lose weight, but that's not the reason—it's because they suffer from life-threatening food allergies.

The statistics are frightening—particularly among children. Between 1997 and 2002, the number of children under age five who suffer from food allergies actually doubled.

Scientists have been unable to develop cures for food allergies. We must do more to support NIH medical research and raise awareness about these health problems.

I applaud the creation of the new Food Allergy Initiative Advocacy Steering Committee and I'm excited to hear that my constituent, Ms. Sally Porter, will serve on the committee.

This group seeks to help build a strong nationwide presence for the food allergy community. I urge my colleagues to learn how they

can get involved and to work with me to support federal resources for food allergy research.

HONORING THE 34TH ANNUAL CAPITAL PRIDE FESTIVAL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 34th Annual Capital Pride Festival, a celebration of the National Capital Area's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender, GLBT, communities, their families, and friends.

The Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block party in 1975 to the current ten-day-long celebration. This year Capital Pride Festival culminates with what Washington's City Paper has declared D.C.'s Best Parade for two years running, the Pride Parade on June 13th and "The Main Event," a street fair on Pennsylvania Avenue in the shadow of the Capitol, June 14th.

This year, the Festival's new organizers, the Capital Pride Alliance, Inc. anticipates an attendance of 250,000, making Capital Pride one of the largest GLBT festivals in the United States.

2009 marks the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, which, in the early hours of June 28, 1969, New York City's GLBT community spontaneously and publicly asserted its rights in defiance of government oppression. The Capital Pride commemorates this event with the theme "Generations of Pride: Celebrate and Remember."

I have marched in the Pride parades since coming to Congress to emphasize the universality of human rights and the importance of enacting federal legislation to secure those rights for the GLBT community and the District of Columbia. Congress has much work to do. We must pass The Family Leave Insurance Act of 2009, Employment Non-Discrimination Act, The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act / Matthew Shepard Act, Safe Schools Improvement Act, The Military Readiness Enhancement Act, "The Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act, Tax Equity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act, The Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act, Uniting American Families Act, Responsible Education About Life Act, and the Early Treatment for HIV Act.

This year, as Iowa, Maine, and New Hampshire have extended full rights to their GLBT residents. Our city of 600,000 residents, 10 percent more residents than the entire State of Wyoming, who pay more taxes per capita than 49 of the 50 states, remains the only jurisdiction in the United States where all its citizens are denied their basic rights by being subjected to Taxation Without Representation.

The residents of our Nation's Capital are entitled all their rights as citizens. I support and, I will defend, DC Council's action to extend full faith and credit to all marriages contracted in the United States as necessary to stabilize and protect all DC Families.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming the celebrants attending the 34th Annual Capital Pride Festival in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that

U.S. citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

RECOGNIZING ARMED FORCES DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strongest support for H. Res. 377, a bill that recognizes Armed Forces Day and commends the exemplary service of the members of the United States Armed Services. I would like to say a special thanks to Chairman SKELTON and Ranking Member MCHUGH, as well as to the Members and staff of the House Armed Services Committee for their tireless efforts in support of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who are bravely defending us at home and abroad.

Today, it is appropriate that we take a moment to recognize and say thank you to the members of our Armed Forces for their dedication, sacrifice, and honor. Each and every day, they keep this great nation safe and protect the freedoms that we enjoy every single day. We are proud of all of our servicemen and women and are eternally grateful for their efforts in the Global War on Terror. Furthermore, let us not forget those who have given their lives in service to our freedom, and let us say a gracious thank you to them for their willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice for liberty.

Madam Speaker, the families of those who serve our country on the front lines also deserve the admiration and appreciation of each and every citizen. These family members often watch their loved ones travel to far away lands in support of a cause and an ideal so much greater than any one individual. Indeed, our democratic form of government is testament to the courage and valor of our Armed Forces. The support given to our servicemen and women by their loved ones is irreplaceable, as it is the foundation for the bravery inherent in those who labor steadfastly in the defense of liberty.

I believe that the brave men and women who sacrifice for our present freedoms deserve our fullest support. Our nation's servicemen and women represent the best our country has to offer, and they must be treated with the respect and honor they deserve. As we ask these courageous soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines—and their families—to do more and more, it's only right we continue doing all we can for them. Recognizing Armed Forces Day in 2009 is just one small reminder of the superior job our troops perform for America at home and abroad, and it is my hope that we will continue to do all we can and more for the members of our Armed Forces.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

21ST CENTURY GREEN HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2187) to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to State educational agencies for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities, and for other purposes:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2187, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act. As the only former state schools chief serving in Congress, I know that one of the biggest challenges we face in North Carolina, and across the country, is the lack of adequate facilities for learning to take place. This bill will put the federal government in partnership with local school districts to improve our schools and make them safer, healthier, and more green places for our children. However, this bill is about more than building schools. In this time of economic crisis, our efforts should be focused on helping people in our communities. And this bill does that by focusing on three things: jobs, jobs, and jobs.

First, the bill will create jobs in our communities in the short term. School construction and modernization projects enabled by this legislation will put people to work in construction, renovation, and planning. Across the country, hundreds of projects are ready to go immediately if given the green light with funding, and that means employment in 30 or 60 or 90 days from the time this bill gets funded.

Second, the bill lays the foundation for the clean energy jobs we need in the future. The green building projects enabled by this legislation will provide a model for innovation in the future. We will put people to work improving energy efficiency and applying new sources of energy to our needs, creating high tech jobs and new industries that will apply American ingenuity and know-how. This will also reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy.

Third, the bill invests in the next generation so that they are prepared for the jobs of the 21st Century. There really is no substitute for bricks and mortar when it comes to quality schools and to meeting the educational goals of our communities. Funding in this bill will move our kids out of trailers, from facilities that put our children's health and safety at risk, into quality classrooms where they can focus on learning. And it will free up local funds to be used to improve classroom education.

This bill is about jobs today, jobs tomorrow, and jobs for the future. It addresses our most important priorities in unemployment, energy, and education. It is a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

HONORING DIANE POLICELLI

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Diane Policelli,

upon her receipt of the Tribute to Women Award, presented by the Michigan Federation of Republican Women.

Diane Policelli has selflessly dedicated herself to serving her community and actively promoting the values and ideals of the Republican Party. Since retiring from her career with Ford Motor Company, she has become dynamically engaged in her neighborhood. A certified member of the Community Emergency Response Team, Diane frequently supports the city and Police and Fire departments during emergency situations. She is a Board member and chief fundraiser for the Livonia Public Schools Foundation, as well as the Vice President of the Civic Library Commission. In these roles, she dedicatedly volunteers her time to mentoring high school students.

As the Community Service Chair and Hostess Chair for the Suburban Republican Women's Club, she dedicates her time to organizing activities which allow the members to creatively engage with the community. Under her direction, the Suburban Republican Women have been participating in a program to collect coupons to assist the military families of the United States. Diane also worked with a local senior citizen center on a project to have the club serve food at a dinner for the seniors.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending sincere congratulations to this year's Tribute to Women Award honoree, Diane Policelli, for her devoted service to her community and country.

28TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, today we stand on the West Lawn commemorating and celebrating the Nation's law enforcement officers from across the Nation. As Members of Congress, we welcome you to this Congress every year, and we do so humbly and with great appreciation.

Let me acknowledge the work that many of us have done with our local law enforcement in the State of Texas. We have a multitude of law disciplines and law enforcement persons to whom we in Texas owe a debt of gratitude. From the constables office to other peace officers throughout the City of Houston, we owe these peace officers a debt of gratitude.

As a Member of the Eighteenth Congressional District, I have the privilege of representing the first African American constable, Mae Walker, and representing Constable Victor Trevino, a Hispanic constable. We have deputy sheriffs. We have the sheriff's department. We have the Houston Police Department, the Department of Public Safety. In many instances we find great leaders who believe not only in crime fighting, but crime prevention.

Today I would like to focus upon the importance of law enforcement and their need to work in the community. I salute the former mayor of the City of Houston, Lee Brown, former chief of police of the cities of Houston, New York, and Atlanta. I consider him the father of community-oriented policing that really speaks to the hearts and minds of the people.

It lets the police officers and law enforcement officers become knowledgeable about the community. The COPS program helps police officers know the "good guys" and the "bad guys." Neighbors become comfortable with law enforcement officers when they are engaged as people who are concerned about the neighborhood and the community.

At the same time as we raise up and respect our law enforcement officers, let me applaud those who I speak to all the time as I travel to Washington. We have a very effective aviation police force. I get an opportunity as I go through the airport to listen to them and to thank them.

Let us be concerned about the benefits for law enforcement officers. In particular, I know that my city, a very large city, has seen the decline of senior officers. For some reason or another, because our belts are being tightened, we don't have enough resources to provide them with the upward mobility, the professional development and the protection of their pensions and to recognize the sacrifice that they and their families are making. We as communities across the Nation should be concerned about making sure they have the right kind of benefits.

On the Federal level, I am very glad that the House Judiciary Committee has just passed out a COPS bill reauthorization. I think that is a very, very important aspect of the work of this Congress. The COPS program worked. It provided police officers for rural communities and urban communities. I spoke to my police personnel there and they said, yes, it would help us greatly if the COPS program were reauthorized. So as we salute our peace officers across America, let us make sure that we are actually doing as we are saying, and that is providing them with the resources that they need.

At the same time, let me also add the importance of training. There is the sensitivity that our police officers are able to get through experience, but training also helps them detect those with mental illness and have the best resources to address those suffering from mental illness so that those persons can be taken away from society before they do harm to themselves or someone else.

We thank those who are serving today. We offer our deepest sympathy to the families of those who have lost their lives on the front lines of law enforcement in America over the last year, and we certainly acknowledge the continued sacrifice that law enforcement officers will make.

We should promote and congratulate good law enforcement officers. We should not allow

the bad incidents that occur, the mishaps that occur, and many of them have occurred, and I have stood up vigorously against them and I will stand up yesterday, today and tomorrow, when there is abuse.

But we should not allow those kinds of situations to take away from the grandeur, the respect, the honesty, the integrity and the down-right commitment that the law enforcement agencies of America, particularly those in our local communities, show every single day with the idea that as they leave in the morning and kiss their families good-bye, that they might sacrifice their lives so that we might be safe.

We owe them a great debt of gratitude, and it is my pleasure to thank our peace officers. Peace officers, the sworn, public-sector officers entrusted with law enforcement authority and the power of arrest, risk their lives daily to protect our Nation. These individuals, who are responsible for safeguarding the rights and freedoms we enjoy as Americans, are true heroes.

Peace Officers Memorial Day honors those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and security of their communities and our Nation. Created by Public Law 87-726, signed by President Kennedy in 1962, this day gives us the opportunity to acknowledge and pay our respect to those who, through their courageous deeds, have fallen in the line of duty.

In the Houston Police Department's 168-year history, 109 officers have been killed while on duty. Nationally, the number of police officers that have fallen in the line of duty has decreased. Although the number of officers killed in the line of duty has declined in recent years, the fact that one officer is killed every 2½ days in our country is a sober reminder that protecting our communities and safeguarding our democracy come at a heavy price. There are 17,917 names engraved on the Memorial, representing officers from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and Federal law enforcement and military police agencies.

21ST CENTURY GREEN HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2187) to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to State educational agencies for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today as a member of the Green Schools Caucus to strongly support the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act.

Many of our nation's schools are in disrepair. The average American school is 50 years old and almost two-thirds need extensive modernization. According to the GAO, 14 million students attend schools considered below standard or dangerous. In my own district, thousands of students go to class in portable classrooms—trailers located outside the school buildings—because the schools can no longer accommodate the growing student population. But in a time of state budget deficits, fewer dollars are going to school construction projects.

Today's bill will assist local school districts with the initial costs of construction and modernization and, by investing in energy efficient technology, will result in significant long term savings. Building green costs about 2 percent more than conventional construction, but can save 20 times that amount over the life of the school.

Moreover, green school construction yields substantial environmental benefits. Green schools use on average 33 percent less energy and produce less carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, and coarse particulate matter emissions.

With its investment in infrastructure, this bill provides an important economic stimulus. School districts have many projects ready to go. When this bill is passed, we will see additional jobs in the construction industry, including suppliers, architects, contractors, and engineers.

Mr. Chair, this legislation is a good, long-term investment. I urge my colleagues to pass this bill today and work to ensure that it is fully funded to improve education, reduce our energy consumption, and create jobs in local communities.