

prosperity. The resiliency and adaptability shown by small businesses in past recessions demonstrate their capability to meet the challenges standing in their way and emerge stronger than ever. America's small businesses will drive the economic recovery from this downturn and our economy will emerge stronger than ever. Times may be tough, but America's entrepreneurial spirit is tougher.

To recognize the monumental achievements of our nation's small firms, the Small Business Administration (SBA) has declared May 17–23 as the 46th Annual National Small Business Week. The House Small Business Committee is celebrating all our country's hard-working entrepreneurs by saluting the Heroes of Small Business, those men and women who have shown the strength, leadership, and resourcefulness that keeps our economy moving forward.

I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing and thanking Ms. Barbara McClain for her tremendous accomplishments on behalf of small businesses. Ms. McClain is owner and president of McClain Contracting Company, Inc., a firm that has provided a range of services to military bases and other federal installations. Ms. McClain began her career as a bookkeeper and payroll clerk in 1968, and worked for several firms before incorporating her own business in 1990 selling ATVs and watercraft. After limited success in this venture, McClain transformed the business and became a licensed construction company, receiving a SBA certification as a HubZone and 8(a) firm in September 2005.

With the program's assistance, McClain Contracting prospered by expanding its work to the federal level. The company has been awarded over \$13 million in contracts by Kessler Air Force Base and performed work for other military and veteran-service facilities in Mississippi. Having gained a reputation for quality work, McClain Contracting is currently seeking to expand its services throughout the Southeast region.

Madam Speaker, Ms. McClain has exemplified the remarkable accomplishments of which America's entrepreneurs are capable. This week, she will testify before the House Small Business Committee to share her story. I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join with me in honoring her for the extraordinary work she has done for the small business economy. Her efforts demonstrate that if given the right resources, America's small businesses can be the catalysts that lift our economy from the current downturn and put us on the road to recovery.

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PRESIDENT MA OF TAIWAN

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2009*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations on the one year anniversary of President Ma of Taiwan. President Ma has accomplished much during his tenure to reduce the tensions in the Taiwan Strait.

I want to shed light on the third Chiang-Chen talks that occurred last month to highlight my point.

The third Chiang-Chen Talks, which took place in Nanjing, brought together top officials from both sides of the Taiwan straits to discuss issues that are of mutual benefit to Taiwan and China. Three important agreements were signed at these talks.

The "Agreement on Joint Cross-Strait Crime-fighting and Mutual Judicial Assistance" will improve cooperation between the two sides with respects to criminal investigations by sharing information and lending other law enforcement assistance as needed.

Secondly, the "Cross Strait Financial Cooperation Agreement" will help improve monetary exchanges and may lead to Taiwan opening financial institutions on the mainland.

Lastly, a "Supplementary Agreement on Cross-Strait Air Transport" was signed to increase the number of daily flights, both passenger and cargo, between Taiwan and China plus increase the number of airports by which these flights will depart.

In addition to these three agreements, China has agreed to encourage investments from the mainland into Taiwan ventures.

All of these important agreements would not have been possible without President Ma's leadership and courage. Again, congratulations to President Ma and both countries on each side of the Taiwan Strait.

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HONORING ANDREA MACKENZIE

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2009*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I, along with my colleague Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, rise today to honor a dedicated and beloved advocate for preserving agriculture and the environment in Sonoma County, California. Andrea Mackenzie is leaving the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, and we celebrate her 12 productive years, especially the last eight years as General Manager.

Andrea was born in upstate New York and grew up in Los Angeles. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a Master's Degree in Urban Planning and Natural Resources from the University of California at Los Angeles.

With her love of both the coast and the rugged mountains of the High Sierra, it is no surprise that Andrea worked for over 25 years in land use and conservation-related positions, including the East Bay and San Francisco where she began to develop a focus on collaborative public/private projects and regional approaches. She also loves walkable communities, old barns, hiking and kayaking, country rock, and nature writers.

Andrea first served the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District as project manager for the strategic conservation plan update, creating documents that have become models for other public land conservation agencies. In 2000, she was appointed General Manager by the Board of Supervisors.

The mission of the District is to "permanently protect the diverse agricultural, natural resource and scenic open space lands of Sonoma County for future generations." Fund-

ed by a quarter-cent sales tax, it is the only such district in the state of California and is overwhelmingly supported by Sonoma County's residents.

Andrea helped direct the 2006 campaign to renew the sales tax, which passed overwhelmingly. Voters value the organization's mission and its programs including: matching grants to partner with local cities and agencies for land acquisition, preservation and enhancement; stewardship in managing these lands and various easements to protect them, as well as to allow for public access; land leases to local growers; and public and educational outings, including a focus on underserved populations. Andrea has played a key role in developing these programs as well as increasing the amount of open space from 25,000 acres to 75,000 acres (including 33,000 acres of farmland).

In 2007, in testament to Andrea's management, the District was selected for the National Leadership in Conservation Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Trust for Public Land in Washington, D.C. She was also one of 36 Fellows selected to participate in the National Conservation Leadership Institute program, is a member of the Executive Committee and future President of the Bay Area Open Space Council and served on both the Urban Rural Roundtable (formed by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom to create a Bay Area Regional Food System) and on the Statewide Watershed Advisory Committee.

Madam Speaker, Andrea Mackenzie's combination of visionary and practical leadership has made the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District a vital player in our community. Sonoma County could have gone the way of other growing counties in California with sprawl from end to end. Instead, it remains blessed with green open space, productive agriculture, and many unique and intact ecosystems. We thank her for her great contributions to our children's natural inheritance and wish her luck in her new position where she will be continuing her good work closer to her family.

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HONORING MARK A. BANCROFT

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2009*

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Mark A. Bancroft, President of Bancroft Contracting Corporation in South Paris, Maine.

Mr. Bancroft knows the meaning of dedication. He started working for his father's company, Bancroft Contracting Corporation, at the age of fourteen. He spent weekends, holidays, and school vacations learning the skills necessary to succeed in his trade. After successfully completing the Construction Management Technology program at the University of Maine, Mr. Bancroft returned to work for his father full time.

In the years following the completion of his degree, Mr. Bancroft worked as a project manager, human resources manager, operations manager, Vice President of Operations, and President for Bancroft Contracting Company. In 2004, he became owner and CEO. Today,

Mr. Bancroft's company employs one hundred-thirty workers during the winter and more than two hundred during the summer. The Small Business Administration has recognized Mr. Bancroft's business expertise and commitment by naming him the Maine Small Business Person of the Year for 2009.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Bancroft on a lifetime of hard work and devotion.

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HONORING RABBI HOWARD  
HERSCH

**HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2009*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Howard Hersch, the spiritual leader of Congregation Brothers of Israel in Newtown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Rabbi Hersch will be retiring in July after 48 years of dedicated service to his community.

While serving at the Congregation Brothers of Israel, Rabbi Hersch has worked tirelessly to provide his congregants with leadership, kindness, and an open ear. His combination of wisdom, humor, and compassion has created an atmosphere of warmth in his synagogue that his congregants will truly miss.

Rabbi Hersch is not only a scholar, teacher, and respected associate of several Rabbinical Boards, but also a member of many humanitarian and civic organizations. He has dedicated his life to advancing the causes of the State of Israel, the Jewish people, and of all people in need.

Rabbi Hersch has contributed enormously to his community in Bucks County. His commitment to service through spiritual leadership and education is a characteristic to be emulated. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Rabbi Hersch for his outstanding efforts, and am extremely honored to serve as his Congressman.

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REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF "MR.  
BRONX," DR. ELIAS KARMON

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise with great sadness as I remember the life of my dear friend Dr. Elias Karmon who recently passed away. As I speak with profound sorrow, I ascend to celebrate a life well lived and to remember with fondness the accomplishments of a remarkable man who, over his many years in our community, etched his name in history as a visionary who erected institutions and forever transformed the quality of life of his fellow Bronxites.

Mr. Bronx, as he was affectionately called, was born on March 4, 1910 and until his death on October 21, 2008, he was doing what he loved the most—attending to the needs of The Bronx community. His death at the age of 98 years old does not signal an end to a dedicated career of serving his community, but the beginning for those whose lives were touched by Dr. Karmon to continue his work.

The Bronx is full of busy men, but most of us found the activities of Dr. Karmon astonishing. He took time to work with dozens of groups and organizations in keeping The Bronx a good place to work and live, and all of that on a "volunteer basis." This had been a "working together" story with people of all groups. Dr. Karmon was one of the most deeply involved residents of our borough. For all his work, Dr. Karmon was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters by Lehman College, the Presidential Medallion by Bronx Community College, and the first Hostos Community College Presidential Medal.

A graduate of New York University, Dr. Karmon worked as an accountant, a manufacturer of clothing and as a clothing retailer on Prospect Avenue. The business, Hollywood Clothes, was a Bronx Institution for over 30 years. He was also a builder of parking lots, developer of buildings for use by public and private agencies and was very active in many phases of real estate. Dr. Karmon served The Bronx for 68 years in many business, civic, health, service and humanitarian organizations. He served on the organizational committee that brought about the Einstein College of Medicine and he continued to work on behalf of the College until his death.

Dr. Karmon served as an officer or chairman in The Bronx Rotary Club, The Bronx Council of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, American Jewish Congress, Bronx Division, Bronx Boy's and Girls Clubs', Visions and Community Services for the Blind and the Bronx YMCA. Dr. Karmon served as President of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce for four consecutive terms after serving on its Board since 1953. He played an instrumental role in organizing the South Bronx Board of Trade, which greatly aided minority businesses and was one of the founders of the Ponce de Leon Federal Bank in 1959.

For twenty-two years, Mr. Karmon served as a member of the Lay Advisory Board for Lincoln Hospital, nine of those years as its chairman, and he played a pivotal role in the establishment of the new Lincoln Hospital. Dr. Karmon was also credited with helping to create the first building of Hostos Community College.

Elias will be long remembered for his extraordinary commitment, energy, wisdom, discipline, principle, and clear purpose which won the admiration of all who were privileged to come to know and work with him during his distinguished career in and around music. I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to observe and experience his example as a personal inspiration.

Madam Speaker, rather than mourn his passing, I hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of Dr. Elias Karmon by remembering that he exemplified greatness in every way.

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RECOGNIZING MR. SUTTON BACON

**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2009*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor America's entrepreneurs, those distinguished individuals who support our communities, drive innovation, and keep our nation

strong. Small businesses bring fresh ideas to the table, develop the resources to meet the demands of an ever-changing world, and make a meaningful impact on our neighborhoods. Entrepreneurs are responsible for providing 60 to 80 percent of all new jobs, giving them the potential to propel rapid economic growth and expand ever-developing fields. Some of the country's largest companies began as start-ups in small offices, homes and garages exploring these new fields. Limited only by their imagination, these firms performed cutting-edge work in emerging industries that have become the very foundation of our society.

As our nation and the world face the most difficult economic conditions in decades, entrepreneurs have the potential to lead us back to prosperity. The resiliency and adaptability shown by small businesses in past recessions demonstrate their capability to meet the challenges standing in their way and emerge stronger than ever. America's small businesses will drive the economic recovery from this downturn and our economy will emerge stronger than ever. Times may be tough, but America's entrepreneurial spirit is tougher.

To recognize the monumental achievements of our nation's small firms, the Small Business Administration (SBA) has declared May 17–23 as the 46th Annual National Small Business Week. The House Small Business Committee is celebrating all our country's hard-working entrepreneurs by saluting the Heroes of Small Business, those men and women who have shown the strength, leadership, and resourcefulness that keep our economy moving forward.

I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing and thanking Mr. Sutton Bacon for his tremendous accomplishments on behalf of small businesses. Mr. Bacon is President and CEO of Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC), the largest outdoor recreation company in the United States. He is responsible for overall business strategy and operational performance of the employee-owned company, which draws over half a million visitors every year. Located near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, NOC has been honored by several publications for its exemplary facilities and service excellence.

Mr. Bacon is an active conservationist, serving on the boards of multiple outdoor recreation and natural preservation organizations. He is an advocate of increased youth involvement with nature, and established the NOC Foundation to provide better access to outdoor experiences, equipment, and education for youth and underserved communities. A classically trained musician, Mr. Bacon has performed with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus and has performed on GRAMMY Award-winning commercial records.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Bacon has exemplified the remarkable accomplishments of which America's entrepreneurs are capable. This week, he will testify before the House Small Business Committee to share his story. I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join with me in honoring him for the extraordinary work he has done for the small business economy. His efforts demonstrate that if given access to the right resources, America's small businesses can be the catalysts that lift our economy from the current downturn and put us on the road to recovery.