

South Flint Tabernacle as they celebrate 30 years of worship, service, and spirituality under his guidance. I pray that he will continue to guide the congregation and serve the community for many, many years to come.

HONORING PAULETTE WALZ,
LEESBURG, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Paulette Walz of Lake County, Florida. This past week, she was awarded the Social Security Administration's highest honorary award; the Commissioner's Citation. I cannot think of a more deserving recipient.

Born in a small town in middle Tennessee, she first began her work with Social Security recipients while working as a Claims Development clerk in the Cookeville, TN Social Security Office. From there she was promoted to the Service Representative position in Leesburg, FL and thus made her move to the 5th district, where she continues to work as the Public Affairs Specialist for Lake and Sumter Counties.

For the past 24 years, Paulette has done an exceptional job of both helping Social Security recipients with their every concern and in keeping SSA issues front and center. Her efforts span much farther than her office however; she utilizes print, radio and TV to educate recipients about the Social Security options available to them. Paulette hosts two weekly radio shows in The Villages, as well as records weekly Public Service Announcements. She also records a 30 minute television program three times a month where she and her guests discuss programs the Agency administers. Additionally, she utilizes her weekly column in The Villages Daily Sun to respond to congressional inquiries regarding Social Security.

When she is not covering the issue in the media, Paulette teaches a monthly class on SSA benefits at The Villages Life Long Learning College. Additionally, she conducts pre-release seminars at area Correctional Institutions, including the Coleman Federal Correctional Complex, the largest federal prison in the United States. She was also instrumental in implementing the North Florida Area's eServices Outreach Pilot Program; this initiative offers individuals who are close to retirement assistance in making an informed decision as to when to retire.

I have only scratched the service on all she has accomplished. From working first hand with Paulette on many Social Security issues, I can tell you that her expertise and dedication are invaluable.

I congratulate her on this prestigious honor and wish her only the very best in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JESUS GONZALES,
RECIPIENT OF THE 2009 ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE AWARDS, SACRED HEART SCHOOLS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jesus Gonzales, a recipient of the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Award from Sacred Heart Schools. Established in the year 2000, the St. Madeleine Sophie Award honors individuals in the Sacred Heart community who have made a sustained and significant contribution to the Schools and embody the Goals and Criteria of a Sacred Heart education. The individuals honored are selected by a committee comprised of the senior administrative team in conjunction with the Chair of the Board of Trustees and are honored at a reception and at the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the first all-school liturgy of the school year. The recipients will be VIP guests at various SHS events throughout the year and featured in their alumni magazine, The Heart of the Matter, for their commitment to the mission of Sacred Heart education.

This year, Jesus Gonzales was chosen, along with two other distinguished recipients, to be recognized with the Award for his tireless work and commitment to the Sacred Heart School as the Physical Plant Manager. His award was presented by Mr. Dan Greenleaf, who gave this speech at the Awards Ceremony in tribute to Jesus:

Jesus Gonzales is a lover. What I mean here is his heart is full of love.

He shares that love everyday with the students, faculty, staff, administration and parents at Sacred Heart Schools.

Which is not always easy. But he gives this love. And he gets love in return.

He shares this love everyday of his life with his brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews and friends.

He has a lot of love to give and he gets lots in return. Which is no surprise to me because I knew his father Gabriel.

Gabriel didn't speak English and I don't speak Spanish but we still knew each other well.

Gabriel raised 8 wonderful kids into happy productive adults while he was working here at Sacred Heart.

The family is: Theresa, Gabriel Jr., Vidal, Valentine, Jesus, Urlinda, Maria and Tony.

This is a very close family who hold on tightly to their heritage while raising their own families here in the melting pot of the Bay Area.

They see each other every day. They share meals, they vacation together, they hang out on the porch doing nothing together, they have strong relationships with each others children. They give love to each other and they get love from each other.

I tell you this because the family is so much of who Jesus is.

Jesus first stepped on the Sacred Heart campus in 1981, when he was 5 years old. One of Jesus' oldest memories on the campus was Sr. Mesa's chickens and rabbits down by the shop.

Sr. Mesa would sell the rabbits for \$1 each, dead or alive. They tasted like chicken. At that time, there was: no McGanney Gym, no Montessori, no Spieker Pavilion, no Apartments, no football field/field house.

Sr. Lawrence had warm cookies in the Main Building and Jesus had a great place to grow up.

His 14th summer, 1989, was his first summer working for Sacred Heart. He painted speed bumps and dug irrigation trenches.

Always a big smile on his face and usually a wise crack to go with it to try and deflect me from seeing how sore he was from swinging the pick.

In high school he worked in the Gator Pit where he would flash those green eyes and talk with all of the high school girls because, well, heck, he was in high school too.

In 1997 he was hired full time in the Maintenance Department.

Two years later he was put in charge of St. Joseph's and the Montessori School and his job changed from actually physically hands on working, to management and dealing with the administration, faculty, coaches, parents and neighbors. He was in his element, this was his strength. He was happier than a pig wallowing in slop. He did well.

In 2003 he was promoted to "Physical Plant Manager" in charge of all of the buildings on the campus. There are many decisions made by the Board and the Operations Department and they get handed down to Jesus and his crew.

They might have a list of 25 things to do. They do 10 of them and check the list again and it's up to 30 things to do. It never ends.

Jesus gets to deal with everyone on campus by e-mail, phone and face-to-face. That starts with his crew of about 20 maintenance and housekeeping personnel. They are the front lines. They are the men and women in the trenches. They are the people we all depend on but might not realize it.

Jesus is very fair with his crew. He is consistent in dealing with 20 personalities. He evaluates, makes changes and implements these changes fairly across the board. He can be stern and honest when he needs to be, but he talks to them the same way he would expect someone to talk to him.

Most of his conversations are peppered with humor. He listens, I mean really listens and makes informed decisions. He is not above his crew.

Then he deals with everyone else: administrators, teachers, parents, vendors, police department, fire department, city hall, contractors.

There is nobody that he doesn't approach with a smile and an open mind. He is patient. He is organized, and he will give you all his time to get you what you need.

In the big picture he knows why he's here. I've heard him say it before, "We are here for the kids." It is that easy. You give love, you get love, "We are here for the kids."

He is who his father and family and maybe even a little bit of Sacred Heart raised him to be.

A child of the Sacred Heart.

But still after all of this, there is still one person who remains the center of his life. Someone who goes for camping, fishing, bowling and makes him laugh. Someone who helps him get ready for work in the morning.

That most special someone in his life is his son Vidal who is now 8 years old and who gets to grow up in the loving glow of his father and the whole Gonzales family.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in offering our congratulations to Jesus Gonzales on the very special occasion of being chosen for the St. Madeleine Sophie Award and for all he does daily to strengthen our community and our country.

HONORING EGGLESTON SERVICES
AND THE SARAH BONWELL
HUDGINS CENTER

REPEAL THE DON'T ASK, DON'T
TELL POLICY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I am privileged to rise today to honor Eggleston Services for the meaningful opportunities they provide for individuals with disabilities. Eggleston Services is a company in southeastern Virginia that has close to 600 employees, and upwards of three fourths of those employees have a disability. Many of these workers are able to work through a federal program called Ability One. Ability One encourages federal entities to work directly with agencies like Eggleston to provide valuable work at a fair price, all the while utilizing the skills of persons with disabilities.

Eggleston Services is dedicated to providing a broad array of programs and services for individuals with disabilities. Since 1955 their goal has been to assist people in obtaining meaningful work opportunities, and to help them participate fully in their communities. Eggleston Services helps individuals with disabilities gain freedom from dependence on government support by providing them on-the-job training and stable work opportunities.

Just recently, I had the honor to visit the Sarah Bonwell Hudgins Center in Hampton, Virginia. The center is owned by the Sarah Bonwell Hudgins Foundation and managed by Eggleston Services, Inc. The center provides dynamic programs for individuals with mental and/or physical disabilities. Through its partnership with Eggleston Services, the Foundation helps persons with disabilities by providing a place to work, a place to live in a safe caring environment, and a place to learn to live independently.

The profound work and programs that are available at the center help many and are invaluable. At the Sarah Bonwell Hudgins Center, Eggleston Services operates a Life Enhancement Program, which provides specialized services, activities, and residential care. Eggleston Services also provides programs at the center, including Eggleston Document Destruction, a full-service secure document destruction and shredding business, a business fulfillment center, and a ceramics manufacturing facility.

These remarkable programs serve as a way for people with disabilities to find independence and a sense of one's own. None of this would be possible without the Ability One Program and the dedication of Eggleston Services. Businesses can look to Eggleston Services and the Ability One program and use their successful programs as a model for their own business practices. Persons with disabilities can be key contributors in the workplace and I commend Eggleston Services in conjunction with the Ability One program and the Sarah Bonwell Hudgins Foundation for their work in providing opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congressman MURPHY for providing me with the opportunity to speak on this important issue. As a cosponsor of the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, I fully support the repeal of the unjust, unnecessary, and unsound "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. I believe we must reject current practices that have institutionalized discrimination against many valuable members of our armed services for too long. Instead, we must establish a new policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is simply unjust. It flies in the face of the fundamental American value of equality for all. No individual, including those in our armed forces, should be discriminated against based on his or her sexual orientation. Members of our armed services have fought honorably to protect our safety and freedom, so the least we can do in return is to fight to protect their freedom and equality as well. My hometown of Las Vegas includes Nellis Air Force Base, one of the premier Air Force facilities in the U.S., and I believe the courageous men and women who serve there deserve to be treated with equality and respect, regardless of their sexual orientation.

The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy is also completely unnecessary. The vast majority of Americans believe our troops deserve the opportunity to serve with honesty and honor. And most importantly, a majority of servicemembers have said they would have no reservations about serving alongside gay and lesbian troops, proving the problems this policy supposedly prevents are not, in fact, problems at all.

Not only is this practice unjust and unnecessary, it is also unsound. Our military should not fire valuable servicemembers simply for being gay, particularly during a time of war when we need every American who is willing and able to serve. Furthermore, repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" would increase, not undercut, unit cohesion by fostering openness and trust among troops.

Ultimately, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" does nothing to contribute to our national security. In reality, it only undermines the strength and integrity of our military system. I believe this practice should be repealed immediately, not only for the benefit of our armed forces, but for the safety of Nevada and our Nation as a whole.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Many of us have concerns for family and friends impacted by breast cancer. This month we must take those concerns and turn the emotion into action.

According to the American Cancer Society, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed form of cancer in women in California and the United States as a whole. It is the second most common cause of cancer death. The California Cancer Registry estimates that each year, more than 25,000 California women develop breast cancer and over 4,000 die as a result. California represents a large portion of the 192,370 new cases of breast cancer that have been diagnosed in 2009 alone.

This disease is not gender specific; it will develop in approximately almost 2,000 men this year as well. Early detection and treatment for both sexes has resulted in 2.5 million breast cancer survivors in the United States.

We must continue to encourage all women and men to undergo mammography screening, as it is the most effective test to determine the presence of breast cancer. To do so, I have joined with my colleagues to cosponsor the Breast Cancer Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009. This bill will enhance efforts to increase public awareness regarding the threats posed by breast cancer to young women and men, as well as to enhance campaigns that will further educate the community on the risk factors of breast cancer and the importance of early detection.

I am proud to stand today with my colleagues to recognize the importance of continuing efforts to enhance awareness and preventative actions.

TRIBUTE TO JAN TITTLE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jan Tittle, the National President of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Mrs. Tittle will address the Veterans of Foreign Wars Fall Conference on October 10th in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

The 600,000 members of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars have spent the last 96 years honoring those who have sacrificed and served our Nation to preserve our freedoms. They volunteer their time maintaining memorials to the persons making the ultimate sacrifice for our country and to teach our youth about our veterans. They provide financial assistance to preserve the Statue of Liberty, have volunteered over 2 million hours in Veterans Affairs Medical Centers and other hospitals. They provide awards and scholarships to students based upon their expressions of patriotism through art, speech and volunteerism.

Jan Tittle was elected the 2009-2010 National President this past August at the 96th National Convention. She is a Life Member of the TSgt. Walter C. Fulda Auxiliary 3433 in Ladson, South Carolina. She is eligible through her father, Arlen Owens, a World War II Purple Heart recipient. As the National President she plans to focus on the Auxiliary's core programs for veterans and their families.