

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO ALEX KAPITANSKI,
THE FLAG MAN OF OCEANSIDE

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent whose efforts have touched thousands of Americans over the last seven decades. Mr. Alex Kapitanski, more commonly known as "The Flag Man," recently passed away on February 17, 2010. Mr. Kapitanski holds a great legacy not only in my district of California, but across the United States.

A fixture at civic events, Mr. Kapitanski embodied love of country with his passion in providing American and state flags for display at thousands of events from school graduations, to parades, to countless military services. A resident of Oceanside since 1950, Mr. Kapitanski once estimated that he provided flags to more than 37,000 events and hung more than 3.5 million flags. He once said, "I'll probably die with a flag in my hand."

His unwavering patriotism and commitment to his purpose has been recognized by presidents, generals and even Pope John Paul II. Just recently, Mr. Kapitanski, was honored in a special Presidents Day salute at the Oceanside Public Library and presented a proclamation from Oceanside Mayor Jim Wood with a film tribute and of course, plenty of flags on display.

Born on March 23, 1923, in West Rutland, Vermont, Mr. Kapitanski carried the spirit of the American flag from his early youth. His inspiration to begin collecting flags came from watching the superior conduct and community involvement of the legionnaires. At age 11, he hung his first flags by decorating the American Legion Post in his home town.

Mr. Kapitanski loved his country and served it with distinction at many levels. As a combat photographer during World War II, his primary mission was to go behind enemy lines to photograph enemy positions and gun emplacements. The military newspaper "Stars & Stripes" once featured a photo of him bringing in a German soldier he had captured behind the lines while photographing a position in Normandy. The photo was sent by wire service to nearly every newspaper in the United States and beyond. During this time, Mr. Kapitanski received numerous commendations and awards for his heroism including a Silver Star from General Dwight D. Eisenhower and a Bronze Star from General Courtney H. Hodges.

With a passion to teach the meaning and significance of our nation's flags to area youth, Mr. Kapitanski's work truly came from the heart. Although he is no longer with us, his spirit will live on in the youth he determinedly sought to inspire. In a 2007 interview he said, "My goal is to motivate the younger generation to preserve our freedom." He will certainly be remembered for his devotion to his work,

his strength of character, and his steadfast efforts to pass on his love of country and patriotism to upcoming generations.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to go to the Kapitanski family who will take up their father's cause to honor his memory. He is survived by four sons, Alex of Carlsbad, and Edwin, Albert and Allen of Oceanside; a daughter, Emilyann Ransom of Oceanside, and eight grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues please join me in paying tribute to the Flag Man, Mr. Alex Kapitanski, who will surely live as a symbol of the great work that can be done when we strive to achieve. He will be dearly missed by his family, friends, and the many Americans he inspired over his long and rich life.

IN HONOR OF THE SOUTHERN
CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CON-
FERENCE

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I am privileged to rise today to honor the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) for their meaningful work and the imprint the organization has made on our nation. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference has a rich history and has played an important role throughout America's Civil Rights Movement.

The work of the SCLC is based on the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The SCLC ensures that his dream continues to come true across the nation. In Virginia's First Congressional District, Gloucester County is home to Holly Knoll, a true American treasure. Just recently I visited Holly Knoll, which is not only the birthplace of the United Negro College Fund, but is also the site of a giant 400 year-old Oak tree where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. penned his famous "I Have a Dream Speech." This groundbreaking speech was written to spark American drive and passion in order to overcome the struggle of freedom and equality for all of our nation's citizens.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was president of the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) from 1957 to 1968, a precursor to the SCLC. At its first convention in Montgomery, AL in August 1957, the Southern Leadership Conference became the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The SCLC has perpetuated Dr. King's mission through their advocacy on education, leadership, voter registration, and civil rights issues.

Dr. King's dream is made a reality by the great efforts of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The hope for equality for children of all races, creeds, and backgrounds is a struggle which endures and one that the SCLC addresses by their continued work and faithfulness.

Dr. King challenged the nation on August 28, 1963 when he stated in his speech "We can never be satisfied." He also said, "My friends, even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'"

Today I am honored to recognize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the collective efforts of its leadership and volunteers to make certain Dr. King's dream is a reality across the nation and throughout the world.

RECOGNITION OF ELFORD, INC.
FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Elford, Inc. for a century of dedicated service to the Columbus area. Elford has remained true to its core values of integrity, consistency, and responsibility, while providing first-rate construction services to businesses, hospitals, schools, and other organizations throughout central Ohio.

In 1910, Edward "Pop" Elford founded Elford, Inc. with the goal of providing honest, high-quality service through dedicated construction professionals. One hundred years later, Elford has grown to over 200 employees while staying true to its roots by building lasting relationships through expert advice and guidance on each of their projects. The company's commitment to excellence has been recognized with numerous awards and honors including the City of Columbus EOC Prime Contractor of the Year, the Governor's Award for Excellence, the Association of General Contractors Build Ohio Award, and the American Subcontractors Association Outstanding Contractor Award.

In addition to providing superior project planning, general contracting, and building management services, Elford, Inc. has committed itself to improving the surrounding community. The company donates generously to many charitable and community-building organizations and the Elford employees carry on the values of this century-old construction company by donating their time to various causes including the American Red Cross, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America, local hospitals and health centers, Hospice, the Rotary Club of Columbus, and local teams and clubs that benefit Columbus' youth. Elford also strives to promote diversity within their business and partners with and mentors local minority and women-owned businesses.

For 100 years, the honesty, dedication, and commitment to excellence that characterized "Pop" Elford has carried on through the high-

• 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.

quality and reliable services that Elford provides in central Ohio. I am proud to recognize and honor Elford for a century of service to the Columbus area and for its record as a company that has positively shaped our community.

HONORING MRS. FRANKIE
DRAYTON THOMAS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of the late Mrs. Frankie Drayton Thomas. It is with both profound sadness, but also an enduring sense of gratitude that I recognize her for the tremendous inspiration she provided to the South Florida community—specifically to the Broward Democratic Party.

Mrs. Thomas was born in West Palm Beach, Florida to Iola and Frank Drayton. She attended public schools and graduated in 1946 as an honor student from Industrial High School. In order to further her education, she attended Howard University in Washington, DC and graduated in 1950. She received a Master's degree in Public Administration from Florida International University. Subsequent to that time, she returned to West Palm Beach and became the first black college trained social worker hired by the Department of Public Welfare. She enjoyed a fruitful and productive career as a social worker having worked both in the State of Washington and Florida. In 1995, she retired from the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services as Director of Resource Development and Volunteer Services.

In an effort to complement her professional achievements, Mrs. Thomas was involved in many political, social and family endeavors such as co-founder, national president and executive director of the Charmettes Inc., which has 19 chapters both nationally and internationally; founding president of the Northwest Democratic Club in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Board of Directors of the Urban League; the first African-American female in the nation to be head of the Board of Directors of South East Hospice; and Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts of America.

Additionally, Mrs. Thomas was on the management team of the Democratic Broward County Executive Committee and served as the First Vice-Chair of the Democratic Party. She also served as Parliamentarian for the Broward County Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She organized and executed many political forums and helped with many campaigns including Governor Bob Graham, Congressman ALCEE HASTINGS, many of the Broward County Commissioners and School Board Members, Sheriff Ken Jenne, Attorney General Bob Butterworth, and President William J. Clinton.

Mrs. Thomas was blessed with a loving family who took pleasure in every aspect of her life and her interests. She is survived by her husband, James Thomas Sr. This union produced two children, James Thomas Jr. and Iola Thomas Mosley, and seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all the members of this esteemed legislative body to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Mrs. Frankie Drayton Thomas. I am honored to pay tribute to Mrs. Thomas for her invaluable services and tireless dedication to the South Florida community. She will be missed by all who knew her, and I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to her before the United States House of Representatives. While she will indeed be missed, her legacy will live on and the outstanding contributions she made to the betterment of Broward Democratic Party will never be forgotten.

GRAND OPENING OF THE GUILD
OF AMERICAN PAPER CUTTERS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Grand Opening celebration of the Guild of American Papercutters National Museum which will take place on March 20, 2010 in Somerset, Pennsylvania.

The twenty-two year old guild has partnered with Laurel Arts at the home of the Philip Dressler Center for the Arts, and will bring to the area the ancient art form of papercutting, which dates back to Fifth Century China. The Guild of American Papercutters (GAP) museum will feature a number of exhibits and artwork created by past and present guild members as well as the international community. Such exhibits will feature artwork from Polish, Dutch, German, Swiss, Mexican, and Israeli artists.

The Guild currently retains over four hundred members, in which every state in the United States is represented. Before the new two hundred sixteen square foot gallery was completed, the GAP held traveling exhibits in a number of locations throughout the country, beginning with its 1989 debut at the Hershey Museum of American Life in Hershey, Pennsylvania. In their new gallery, the GAP plans to hold regularly scheduled hands-on workshops and guest presentations to further introduce this artistic technique to the ninth district of Pennsylvania.

I ask my fellow colleagues in the House to join me in celebrating this achievement of the Guild of American Papercutters, and wish them the best of luck and continued success in their new National Museum. May it be a creative outlet for generations of artists to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARBLE CITY
BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATING
THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention

today to pay recognition to the congregation of Marble City Baptist Church, which celebrated their 100th anniversary this year.

Marble City Baptist Church, formerly the Gantt's Quarry Baptist Church, like so many other congregations across East Alabama, has been a staple in the community since it came into existence. In 1968, the church received the new name we know today. Pastor Dr. Michael Trull plays a substantial role in helping the church lead its ministry.

On February 13, Marble City Baptist Church held a reunion from the day into that night. This gathering brought close to 300 people back to the church. The following Sunday, a congregation close to 400 people came together for the 100-year anniversary service.

All of us across Talladega County and East Alabama are deeply proud of this congregation at this important milestone. We congratulate them on their 100th anniversary and wish them all the best in their next 100 years of ministry in the Sylacauga community.

RECOGNITION OF THE COLUMBUS
COMPACT CORPORATION

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Columbus Compact Corporation for its service to the city of Columbus, Ohio. The Columbus Compact Corporation, or the Compact, is a nonprofit community development organization that works to improve the quality of life in the central city neighborhoods of Columbus. On March 10, 2010, Columbus Compact Corporation will celebrate its 15th anniversary of serving central Ohio residents and businesses.

The Compact's mission is to act as both a catalyst for positive change and agent for the growth and development of central city Columbus. Since 1999, the Compact has led the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-designated "Columbus Empowerment Zone." This program implements community redevelopment strategies and directs resources to rebuild the city's most distressed urban neighborhoods, making Columbus a happier, healthier, and more desirable place to live, work, and play.

The Compact also lends money to new and existing businesses to create jobs and bring vital goods and services to Columbus. Over the last 15 years, the Compact has focused on developing real estate in concentrated areas and on a scale that allows for larger redevelopment in the neighborhoods of Columbus while enhancing the variety and quality of the housing stock.

The Columbus Compact Corporation strives to improve the city of Columbus by strengthening neighborhoods and encouraging people to reach their full potential. The Compact is continually working towards creating a healthy, thriving central city that is filled with successful and economically secure individuals, families, and businesses. I am proud to recognize and honor the Columbus Compact Corporation for its 15 years of dedication to improving the quality of life in the city of Columbus.

STUDENT VETERANS OF AMERICA,
MINNEAPOLIS CHAPTER AT THE
MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY AND
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a valuable resource available to Minnesota veterans; the Student Veterans of America Chapter at the Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC).

The Minneapolis group operates as a chapter of the national non-profit organization. The Student Veterans of America have three primary missions: 1) Develop student veterans groups on college campuses and coordinate by region between existing groups; 2) connect student groups with resources; and 3) advocate on behalf of student veterans at the state and national level. Since their establishment, the Minneapolis chapter has consistently achieved these goals. Veterans who served in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the globe are welcomed by the staff at the Minneapolis chapter. Veterans are able to discuss issues, receive assistance, and share common bonds with fellow veterans who are experiencing the stress of integrating into an academic environment. Whether they ultimately transfer to another college or begin their professional careers, veterans who attend the Minneapolis Community and Technical College have a high graduation rate.

As a Nation, we owe a debt of gratitude to our veterans, who have served, and continue to serve, our country and I am proud to announce that veterans are receiving the respect and assistance they need from the Minnesota Chapter of the Student Veterans of America. MCTC is hosting an event to honor student veterans on March 10 as one of the many ways we express our appreciation for student veterans. I encourage my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to find ways to honor student veterans in their communities.

The post-9/11 G.I. Bill passed by Congress has allowed more veterans an opportunity to achieve their academic goals. Organizations such as the Student Veterans of America, and the additional benefits available through the G.I. Bill, help to ensure that our veterans achieve their goals. I want all student veterans to know that I am grateful for their service and proud of their achievements. I wish them nothing but success and prosperity in their future endeavors.

HONORING MR. WALLY HUCKNO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Wally Huckno. Mr. Huckno served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as a member of the Chautauqua County Legislature, serving district 10.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but

only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Huckno served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Huckno is one of those people and that is why Madam Speaker I rise in tribute to him today.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
MILITARY SERVICE OF TIBOR
RUBIN

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tibor "Ted" Rubin, a prominent U.S. Army Veteran and POW during the Korean War whose selfless and heroic actions earned him the Medal of Honor. Madame Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to Mr. Rubin and share his story which serves as an inspiration to all Americans.

Having been born in Hungary in 1929, at age 15 Mr. Rubin was sent to Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria where he survived the next 14 brutal months of captivity. Tragically, his father perished in Buchenwald while his mother and sisters faced the gas chambers at Auschwitz. When Mauthausen was liberated by the U.S. Army in 1945, Mr. Rubin immigrated to the United States with a vow to show his appreciation to the country that gave him his freedom, and saved his life.

Mr. Rubin joined the army in 1950 and served as a rifleman with I Company, Eighth Regiment, First Cavalry Division, fighting in the Republic of Korea. Once there, Mr. Rubin hit the ground running and it wasn't long before he was recognized for his bravery and readiness to accept the most dangerous of missions. In one such mission, Rubin secured a route of retreat for his company by single-handedly defending a hill for 24 hours against waves of North Korean soldiers.

In November of 1950, after sustaining shrapnel wounds from a grenade, Mr. Rubin and others in his company were captured by the Chinese, who were fighting with the Korean Communist government. Despite the extreme conditions of low temperatures, shortages of food and medicine, all in the face of capture, this is where Rubin's selfless heroism truly shined. Mr. Rubin continually risked his life as he snuck out nightly to forage food for his fellow prisoners, especially the sick and dying. His fellow prisoners credit him with saving 35 to 40 lives by this brave and daring endeavor.

Mr. Rubin spent a total of two and a half years in the North Korean prisoner of war camp. Yet in the face of these unthinkable circumstances, Mr. Rubin distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism time and again. His harrowing acts of bravery and extraordinary devotion to his brothers in arms resulted in numerous recommendations from his Commanders for the Medal of Honor, among other prestigious awards. Regrettably, Mr. Rubin's deserved recognition was met with unwarranted obstruction due to his religious beliefs.

After more than 50 years of waiting, Mr. Rubin was finally given the acknowledgment he rightfully deserved. On September 23, 2005, President Bush awarded Mr. Rubin with the Medal of Honor—the highest military decoration awarded by the United States Government—for his many acts of valor throughout the Korean War.

Even to this day, at the age of 81, Mr. Rubin continues to inspire fellow veterans and service members as an active keynote speaker for military and Jewish communities across the United States. Most recently he has spoken to troops at Fort Hood, First Cavalry, the California state military reserve, as well as to the 100 new soldiers enlisting in the five branches of the military service in Century City, California. In May of this year he will be speaking to the Army National Guard in Mississippi.

There is no question that Mr. Rubin has an unshakeable love for his adopted homeland of America. We are truly grateful for his demonstrated courage, compassion, and selfless military service.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to please join me in honoring all those brave men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces, and the valiant service of Mr. Tibor Rubin.

HONORING SPECIALIST ALAN N.
DIKCIS

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise this afternoon to honor a true American hero—U.S. Army Specialist Alan N. Dikcis, a native of Wheatfield, New York.

Sadly, this past Friday, March 5, while serving his second tour of duty, Specialist Dikcis lost his life when he was struck by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

Specialist Dikcis enlisted in the Army shortly after graduating from Niagara-Wheatfield High School in 2006, and had hoped to spend his career in the service.

He enjoyed spending his time outside, whether it was going for a hike or riding his motorcycle or four-wheeler, and he enjoyed spending time with those he loved—his family and friends.

As Specialist Dikcis's stepmother recently said, "Alan loved being in the Army. He was proud of his work. He made us proud, he made his daughter proud."

I ask that the house join me in thanking Specialist Dikcis for his honorable service to our great nation, and extend our condolences to his family and friends, who had Alan taken from them far too soon.

HONORING THE EXEMPLARY
SERVICE OF MR. FONTAINE BANKS

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. CHANDLER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before you today to

honor the military and public service of a true legend in Kentucky, Mr. Fontaine Banks. Throughout his many decades of service, Mr. Banks has made countless contributions to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and to our nation.

Mr. Banks showed his desire to serve the public at an early age, starting out as president of the Student Government Association at Belfry High School, and later, serving as the president of the Student Council at Berea College.

But Mr. Banks' sense of service extended far beyond his education. Two weeks after graduating from college, Mr. Banks volunteered for the Marine Corps and reported to Parris Island. After basic training, he was deployed to Cho-do Island to fight in the Korean War, where he served two tours of duty in the fall of 1952 and the spring of 1953. He fought courageously with his fellow men and sustained injury while on the battlefield.

After his tour ended, Mr. Banks returned home to Kentucky and transitioned to the Marine Corps Reserve where he reached the rank of Colonel. He then began his civilian career with IBM and the Kentucky Department of Education, where he quickly moved up in state government. Mr. Banks eventually served as chief of staff to Governors Bert Combs and Ned Breathitt. To this day, he is the only person ever to serve as chief of staff to two Kentucky governors.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Banks has served his country in so many ways: in combat in Korea, as a Marine Colonel, as a public servant, and as a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He is a fine example of a man dedicating his life to making the lives of those around him better. Mr. Banks has made a career of exemplary service, both to his state and country, and it is with great pride that we thank him for his service today.

TESSA GRAYBILL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tessa Graybill. Tessa is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Tessa's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Tessa has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Tessa can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tessa Graybill for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF GOSPEL
AM 1490 WMBM

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of Gospel AM 1490 WMBM. Since its inception in 1995, WMBM's leadership and staff have continued to serve as an important communications tool for the south Florida community. The listeners are fortunate to have a radio station committed to keeping them informed and entertained.

Acquired by New Birth Broadcasting, Inc. on March 10, 1995, WMBM has remained the only 24-hour gospel station in the Miami-Dade area. For the past 15 years, WMBM has distinguished itself through the breadth and depth of its programming, as well as through its unwavering dedication and service to its many listeners throughout the 17th Congressional district.

With talk programming such as Spirit and Soul: Compassion, Business Showcase: Business in the Black, Business Showcase, Tuesday Talk, Spirit and Soul: Victorious Life Management, Spirit and Soul: Sister to Sister, and Spirit and Soul: Brother to Brother—it is quite clear of WMBM's commitment to provide up-to-the-minute news, empowering its listeners, and playing inspirational and encouraging gospel music.

Moreover, as the first Black-owned and operated radio station in South Florida, WMBM currently has a coverage map of over 1,500,000 homes and businesses. WMBM is also one of the first radio stations to stream its broadcast via the internet.

In 2007, WMBM was the recipient of the Stellar Award Radio Station of the Year, which is a premier gospel event that recognizes and honors African-American artists, companies and organizations in the field of gospel music.

Madam Speaker, please join me in applauding and honoring the 15th Anniversary of Gospel AM 1490 WMBM as it celebrates 15 years of dedicated fellowship through its radio station. WMBM has forged an impressive reputation for quality programming and integrity. It is my hope that WMBM continues to stand as a beacon of resolve, inspiration and worship for many years to come. I wish them many more years of outstanding achievement.

THANKING MR. MICHAEL DOUGLASS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in December 2009, we rise to thank Mr. Michael Douglass for 34 years of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mike began his career at the House in 1975 as a Sales Clerk in the Office Supply Store. Mike's leadership, dedication, and positive attitude were visible to his management and he moved up to become a Sales Clerk filling or-

ders for delivery and then he moved into the Accounting Department. Mike eventually became the Supervisor of the Accounting Department in Office Supply, where he was responsible for the server, software, and business accounting process in the Supply Store. Later he took these skills to play a key role in implementing the House's first fully computerized purchasing system, which continues in use to this day. His people skills were essential to the successful rollout of that system (Procurement Desktop).

Mike eventually became responsible for configuring the purchasing system so that users could purchase goods and services in compliance with best practices and the Office of Inspector General recommendations. With his role in developing recommendations for implementing the system that will replace the current financial system, Mike's valuable contributions to the House community will continue long after he has left. Mike is known by his colleagues for his sound business judgment and problem solving skills. He is also known for his quick wit and fairness.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Michael for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Michael many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

RECOGNIZING MILITARY WORKING
DOG PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize some of the unsung heroes of our ongoing military campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq: the Military Working Dogs (MWDs). For over 60 years, military dogs have been working, serving, and risking their lives alongside our brave servicemen and women around the world. Like their handlers, these Military Working Dogs have served this country with honor and distinction, keeping our country safe both at home and abroad.

During World War I, many dogs, beginning with the first military dog, Sergeant Stubby, served alongside American forces overseas. On March 13, 1942, the Army Quartermaster Corps officially recognized and incorporated the so-called K-9 Corps. Between 1942 and 1945, over 10,000 dogs were trained in the War Dogs program. Military dogs have continued to play an important role in the U.S. Armed Forces through the 20th century and into the 21st. Today, these four-legged soldiers serve alongside our soldiers overseas, searching for explosive components, drugs, and IEDs. As they do every day in our homes and yards, these dogs have proven to be man's best friend on the battlefield as well.

I became aware of the important work of Military Working Dogs through Frank Yevchak, a constituent from Hewitt, NJ and founder of Support Our Four-Legged Soldiers. Frank and his organization have sent thousands of dollars of supplies to MWD handlers stationed in Balad, Iraq. Supplies range from cooling vests and blankets to toys and treats—whatever the

handlers need to keep the dogs comfortable and able to complete their important jobs. Frank also includes letters and cards from local students in the care packages. Most recently, Frank has partnered with Macopin Middle School in West Milford. In the fall and winter, the "Paws of Love Campaign" at the school was able to raise \$1,200 for our soldiers and canine companions.

As a dog owner, I understand the important traits of loyalty, courage, and dependability that these dogs give to our Armed Forces. Today, one day shy of the Military Working Dogs' 68th birthday, I recognize the important work of Military Working Dogs and thank their owners, trainers, handlers, and supporters for all they do for our soldiers and our Nation.

RECOGNIZING DIANNE VILLANO,
FOUNDER OF SUPPORT OUR MARINES

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Dianne Villano, the founder of Support Our Marines, Inc., in St. Pete Beach, Florida, who has dedicated herself to sending packages and correspondence to Marines who are stationed overseas. For the past four years, Ms. Villano, the owner of a local fitness company, has gone out of her way to actively support the troops, donating over 30 hours a week of her time to directing her non-profit organization.

After losing her fiancé during the September 11th terrorist attacks, Ms. Villano began supporting the troops in 2005 by sending mail and packages to those serving overseas. In 2007, she officially founded Support Our Marines in order to send packages to Marines on active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. Her initial contact with the Marines began when she discovered a Web site where Marines posted facts about their living conditions, experiences, and general needs while they were on duty overseas. She chose to focus her efforts on Marines stationed on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan, because often, servicemembers in remote locations rarely receive packages. Since founding her organization, Ms. Villano has sent over 4,500 boxes of food and other items requested by the troops, between 40 and 60 packages a month, to over 115 contacts within the Marines who then distribute the items within their companies.

Additionally, Ms. Villano works diligently to secure funding for her organization to pay the costs to ship packages overseas. Support Our Marines is a registered nonprofit in Florida and Ms. Villano recently filed for 501(c)(3) status in order to be able to more actively solicit donations. Currently, she funds much of the mailing and acquisition costs with her own paychecks.

Ms. Villano also works to raise awareness about deployed Marines by competing in triathlons and running events while wearing military gear weighing about 20 percent of her body weight. She has competed in over 20 events, each of them with photographs of fallen Marines attached to her military gear and each in honor of a specific Marine from units she has adopted.

Recently, Ms. Villano was honored by being named as the first runner-up for the local Jef-

erson Award for Public Service which recognized her outstanding community service and dedication to the troops. She chose to present her award to a wounded Marine who had inspired her during her work for the Marines and presented it to him at the James A. Haley Memorial Hospital where he was recovering from a head injury. Additionally, she has been named as an associate member of the local Marine Corps League and has received the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Department of State.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Villano is an extraordinary, selfless woman who deserves to be recognized for her outstanding service to the troops and for her continuing efforts to support them. I would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication as she continues to devote her time and attention to our heroes on the front lines of the war on terror.

CONNOR HAYES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Connor Hayes. Connor is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Connor's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Connor has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Connor can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Connor Hayes for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

MANUEL RAYMOND "RAY" SOUZA

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ray Souza as he is completing his term as President of the Western United Dairymen.

Mr. Souza is respected throughout California as one of the foremost experts on dairy policy and is a passionate advocate for California dairy producers. He is a well-known and respected leader in his local community, the California dairy industry, and in national organizations. He is the owner and operator of Mel-Delin Dairy in Turlock, California, a family dairy established by his grandfather in 1930. He started as a teenager with a 4-H cow that he purchased at an auction and has been making their living on milking cows ever since.

Mr. Souza takes an active role in his local community. He is a member of numerous community organizations including the Turlock

Chamber of Commerce, Stanislaus County Farm Bureau and many others. Mr. Souza was recognized as the Chamber's Ag Leader of the year in 1994. Mr. Souza was appointed to the Stanislaus County Fair Board in 1996, a position he still holds.

Mr. Souza has been a member of the Western United Dairymen since its inception in 1984. He has served on the board of directors for over 10 years and is currently completing his second term as President. In this capacity he has testified before Congress on issues related to the dairy industry and advises members of Congress on real world impacts of dairy policy decisions. The quality of leadership that Mr. Souza has provided to the Western United Dairymen has been critical to the success and growth of the organization.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring my good friend, Mr. Ray Souza, for his leadership, dedication, and outstanding service to Western United Dairymen.

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL" REILLEY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to a fine American, William "Bill" Reilley, Sr., on an occasion when he and his business have received a prestigious honor: the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009.

His success has been recognized by the industry. In 2001, Bill was named the International Dealer of the Year, an honor awarded to one International dealer who exhibits the highest commitment to best-in-class customer service. He was a multi-finalist for the American Truck Dealers' Dealer of the Year and the Wisconsin Truck Dealer of the Year awards. With this most recent award, Bill has received the Circle of Excellence Award a total of 15 times. The Circle of Excellence awarded by the International dealer organization of Navistar, Inc., honors International truck dealerships that achieve the highest level of dealer performance with respect to operating and financial standards and most importantly, customer satisfaction. It is the highest honor a dealer principal can receive from the company.

He started his career with International Harvester in 1963 and eventually left to become the International dealer in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Bill's business acumen has successfully positioned the company for continued success, growing Lakeside International, LLC, from one location to six while concurrently increasing revenues from \$14 million to more than \$100 million annually. Lakeside International employs 200 people in all. The company remains a family venture with Bill's son, Bill Reilley, Jr., being named successor, assuring consistent leadership and growth for years to come.

Bill has achieved this level of accomplishment and recognition through many years of hard work and service to his industry and community. He recently transitioned from his leadership role as board chairman of St. Anne's Center for Intergenerational Care in Milwaukee, a nationally recognized facility. He

continues to dedicate his time and talents to St. Anne's as an Honorary Board Member, so that the center can continue to benefit from his leadership and commitment. Above all, he is committed to his family that includes Patricia, his wife of 43 years, his son Bill, Jr., his daughter Amy, his son-and-daughter-in-law and nine grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to Bill Reilley for his contributions to the Fourth Congressional District. Mr. Bill Reilley has acquired a lifetime record of accomplishment and contributed much to his community, State and Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNY REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 75, 76, and 77, I was unavoidably detained from voting due to flight complications from Montana to Washington, DC. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 75, "nay" on rollcall 76, and "yea" on rollcall 77.

HONORING ALCALDE NIELS CHEW

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Representative LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor Alcalde Niels Chew, who was bestowed the title of honorary mayor of the City of Sonoma because of his commitment to his community and its citizens. The naming of an Alcalde, which means "magistrate" or "mayor" in Spanish, is a tradition that began in 1975 as a way to acknowledge the citizen of the year.

Niels is best known for his generosity, humility and his unwavering dedication to the causes he believes in, which is why he was selected from a long list of candidates. According to Niels, his father is responsible for instilling in him the value of service.

"During the Depression, no one in need ever came to our house and left empty handed," he said.

Niels embraces quite a history of community service to the City of Sonoma, dating back to 1984 when he and his wife Susan first moved to Sonoma. Since then, Niels has graciously shared his warehouse with many area nonprofits who have stored their food and clothing donations in his facility.

As owner of Dowling Miner Magnets until 2004, he provided opportunities to Becoming Independent to train and support people with developmental disabilities.

Currently, Niels serves on the board of the Sonoma Valley Hospital Foundation, Operation Youth, and the Sonoma Overnight Shelter. He was formerly the president of Kiwanis of Sonoma Plaza and trustee of the Sonoma Valley Unified School District.

One of his most notable and impactful service endeavors has been his continuous support of the Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance

as a dedicated mentor and founding board member. He is even credited with starting the organization because he added the organization's executive director to his payroll at Dowling Magnets so she could kick-off the mentoring program.

As a result of his initial investment, what began as a 10 hour weekly commitment at Flowery School blossomed into an organization that has been successfully connecting caring adults with at-risk students for more than 12 years.

"He has a heart the size of a continent, especially where kids are concerned," said Ms. Kathy Witkowitz, Executive Director of the Mentoring Alliance. "We could never put a value on all that he has contributed to the Mentoring Alliance over the years, because it's priceless."

Madam Speaker, Niels Chew's commitment to service is a powerful example of the positive difference one person can make. We are thankful for the charitable contributions made by this humble and thoughtful leader and philanthropist and we wish him continued prosperity as he spends time with his children and grandchildren.

COURTNEY DARR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Courtney Darr. Courtney is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Courtney's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Courtney has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Courtney can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Courtney Darr for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS. HERTA ADLER

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Herta Adler, known to Memphians as the "matriarch of the local Jewish community." She was born to Mr. and Mrs. Adolf and Mathilde Arfeld on September 27, 1915 in Diez, Germany.

Mrs. Adler was 24 when she witnessed the burning of her synagogue on Kristallnacht, or Night of Broken Glass. On this night, dozens of Jews were killed and sent to concentration camps, including many of Mrs. Adler's friends

and family. In 1948, Mrs. Adler was able to move to Lisbon, Portugal where her brother was in business, because the government granted residency to family members of established residents.

From Portugal, Mrs. Adler made her way to New York City, where she met her husband, Dr. Justin H. Adler. They married in 1943 and relocated to Memphis not long after. The two were known as avid collectors of art and Judaica. Mrs. Adler, in particular, was known as a philanthropist who supported all kinds of artistic and cultural organizations, reminding others that "charity is the fist that we give for having a good life." In the early 1990s, the Adlers donated a large collection of Jewish ritual art to Temple Israel, which is located in Memphis, TN, helping to create the only Judaica museum in the region. In 1992, the Adlers also contributed their extensive pewter collection, which spans 400 years, to Dixon Gallery and Gardens where it is part of the permanent collection.

In addition to her passion and appreciation for art, Mrs. Adler was known for her interest in the people around her. She befriended and supported several young Memphis artists and centered much of her life on Temple Israel, where she was a member for more than 60 years. Mrs. Adler and her husband were also founders of Beth Shalom Synagogue, a Conservative Synagogue in the Memphis region.

Mrs. Herta Adler passed away on Friday, February 12, 2010 and was laid to rest on Monday, February 15, 2010. She was 94 years old. She is survived by her daughters Hedda A. Schwartz, a residential and commercial real estate executive, Susan Adler Thorp, a respected journalist, and her son Michael Adler, an accomplished attorney—all of Memphis. I will always remember Mrs. Adler for her devotion to shaping the cultural and Jewish life of Memphis, Tennessee.

CENSUS AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an original cosponsor of H. Res. 1096, which encourages all individuals in the United States to participate in the 2010 Census and expresses support for the designation of March 2010 as Census Awareness Month. This important legislation will help achieve an accurate count of the United States population and ensure that communities across the country have the schools, infrastructure, and other vital resources they need to thrive.

I thank Chairman TOWNS for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I would also like to thank the author of this legislation, Congressman REYES, who has taken the time to increase public awareness on this crucial issue.

Mr. Speaker, an accurate count of all individuals living in the United States, as required by the Constitution, is critical to ensure the well-being of cities and communities throughout the country. The Census helps guarantee the accurate and fair composition of voting districts at the Federal, State, and local levels and the proper allocation of Federal resources

to communities. Census data also helps city planners identify changes in population so that they can place schools, fire and police stations, and other city services in locations that will best serve their residents. Finally, accurate census data is essential to the long term prosperity of our country, as it is used by businesses to make effective decisions regarding investments and growth.

It is crucial that we increase public awareness of and achieve full participation in the 2010 Census. It is estimated that approximately 16 million individuals—the equivalent of nearly 27 Congressional districts—did not participate in the 2000 Census. Low-income communities—the communities that rely most on a fair distribution of resources and services—are at risk of being undercounted in this year's Census and, consequently, underserved for the next decade. This important legislation will help ensure that all communities get their fair share of resources and are equipped to achieve prosperity and growth.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H. Res. 1096.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED COUNCIL OF UW STUDENTS

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the United Council of UW Students on its 50th anniversary. Founded in 1960, the United Council of UW Students has served as a champion for student rights and a tireless advocate for protecting access to higher education in Wisconsin.

A non-partisan, non-profit, student-driven organization, United Council employs grassroots techniques to ensure that the voices of students on every University of Wisconsin System campus are heard by our state government. With chapters across the state, United Council gives UW students an important and necessary seat at the table during the policy-making process.

Since its inception, the United Council has worked on a variety of issues including merging the University of Wisconsin and Wisconsin State University systems, increasing student rights and the ability of students to participate in the formation of university policy, and addressing affordability and access to a college education.

Ensuring that all university students have access to an affordable, quality higher education is essential to Wisconsin's economic future and the nation's position in the global economy. I am proud of the legacy of the United Council and its history of fighting for these vital goals.

For 50 years of advocacy on behalf of the students of the University of Wisconsin System, I would like to thank the United Council of UW Students for its service and wish all the members and advocates continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall votes on March 4, 2010 and would like the record to reflect that I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 90: "yes."

SHELBY CLAY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Shelby Clay. Shelby is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Shelby's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Shelby has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Shelby can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Shelby Clay for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

IN MEMORIAM—THE HONORABLE FRANCISCO CASTRO ADA

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man who served our country, and who served the Northern Mariana Islands, with great honor and distinction. The Honorable Francisco Castro Ada passed away on March 2nd; and he is being accorded a state funeral this week on the island of Saipan.

Francisco Ada was born in 1934 during the Japanese administration of the Northern Marianas. He came from humble beginnings, but always strove to improve himself—and in the process contributed much to our community.

Following World War II he went to Guam to attend high school. This was before there was any high school in the Northern Mariana Islands. To obtain more than a basic education required leaving home.

Diploma in hand, Mr. Ada returned to Saipan and taught for two years in a public school. But convinced of the need for a college education Mr. Ada secured a scholarship to the University of Hawaii at Manoa and earned a Bachelor's degree in political science. There, he also demonstrated the po-

litical skills that would serve him throughout his life: he won election as president of the International Students Association.

Upon his return from college in 1961, Mr. Ada again took up teaching at Saipan Intermediate School, but within a year his education and charisma landed him a position as public affairs officer for the Marianas District Government. The Marianas District was one of the geographical components of the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, administered by the United States.

Promotion came quickly. Over an eight year period Francisco C. Ada moved from economic and political programs officer to district political affairs assistant, then to assistant district administrator for public affairs. Trust Territory officials took due regard of Mr. Ada's work ethic, his administrative savvy, and his exemplary leadership skills. And in 1969 he was appointed Administrator for the entire Marianas District, overseeing all the operations of local government.

Arguably his most important and far-sighted achievement during his seven years as District Administrator was building the Saipan International Airport. This modern facility on the capitol island ushered in our next thirty-five years of development, allowing Saipan to grow as a business center and as a destination for tourists from around the Pacific. To manage this critical piece of public infrastructure Ada set up an airport authority, independent of the need for local government support, that continues to be a model in our islands. Fittingly, on the airport's 25th anniversary, it was named Francisco C. Ada International Airport.

Francisco Ada's years as Administrator coincided with a yearning for self-government and a change of political status in the Marianas. People wanted closer political ties with the United States and twice tried to restore the historical unification with Guam. Then, a 1975 plebiscite overwhelmingly approved commonwealth status under the sovereignty of the U.S.

Ada oversaw the subsequent transition from Trust Territory Government to Commonwealth. But he also saw that he could have a place in the newly forming government. He left his post with the Trust Territory and ran, successfully, on the Democratic Party ticket to be the first Lieutenant Governor of the new Commonwealth.

Those early years set the course for the fledgling government. Mr. Ada was an active participant in the passage of new laws; negotiations and agreements with Federal agencies; the design and construction of public infrastructure; and adjustment by all to self-governance.

For the first time in anyone's memory, the islands' prospects for success or failure squarely rested on the shoulders of the people and new leaders of the Commonwealth. Francisco C. Ada lived up to that historical challenge and fulfilled the people's trust.

But it is easy to say of government officials that they served the general good. Let me tell you of my own experience of Francisco Ada working for the good of individuals, as well. I recall Mr. David Indalecio, who worked on Mr. Ada's staff, keeping the office clean and maintained. Mr. Indalecio did not have a high school diploma. Maybe he didn't need one to do his job. But Francisco C. Ada had a commitment to education—for himself and all those around him. Mr. Ada encouraged Mr.

Indalecio to complete his schooling, and with that support Mr. Indalecio did graduate from high school. The story does not end there, however. Because Mr. Indalecio himself then went on to leadership in our community. He was elected to the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, where he served with distinction.

Francisco C. Ada served the public throughout his career, but he never lost touch with the personal aspect of life—his family. His wife and seven children kept him anchored during the stormiest of times; and he gave them an example and the guidance that make the Ada family one of our most distinguished: a doctor, lawyers, public servants, each leaders in their own right, and in many ways Francisco C. Ada's greatest legacy.

Madam Speaker, thank you for this time to remark on the honorable and much esteemed Francisco Castro Ada. He will always be remembered for his dedication, fairness and tireless capacity to make the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands a better place for all.

God bless him and his family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, on March 4th, 2010, I was absent for one rollcall vote because I was attending a meeting on healthcare at the White House. If I had been here, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 90.

RECOGNIZING GENE SCHULTZ

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Elmwood Park resident Gene Schultz on his sterling driver-safety record and subsequent induction into the United Parcel Service Circle of Honor. Gene's induction commemorates 25 accident-free years as a UPS delivery driver. Gene's accomplishment is especially impressive when we consider that his job requires him to be behind the wheel of a truck for many hours each week.

Gene grew up as the 14th of 15 children in Chicago's Galewood neighborhood near Harlem and Grand Avenues. He has lived with his wife Theresa in Elmwood Park for the last 11 years. Mr. Schultz serves as a model for responsible driving in the city of Chicago and deserves commendation for his consistent safety record. It is with great pride that I recognize Gene Schultz for his contribution to the safety of Chicago's roadways.

HONORING RICHARD W. SNOWDON III FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CHILDREN'S NATIONAL MEDICAL CENTER IN WASHINGTON, DC

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard W. Snowdon III, as he concludes his service as chair of the board of directors of the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC. Mr. Snowdon has a long and distinguished record of service to Children's National Medical Center, having served as chair of the hospital's foundation from 2002–2005 and most recently as chair of the board from 2006–2009.

Children's National Medical Center is an integral part of the fabric of Washington, DC. Founded in 1870 as a home for civil war orphans, Children's National has grown into a 283 bed academic medical center devoted to meeting children's health care needs locally, regionally and nationally. The hospital's growth and success have been dependent on strong, visionary leaders, such as Mr. Snowdon.

Under Mr. Snowdon's chairmanship, Children's National was thrice named to the Leap-Frog Group's list of top hospitals for quality and safety; immunization compliance of school-aged children in the District of Columbia went from one of the lowest in the country to the highest; the hospital opened a state-of-the-art, family-centered inpatient tower; and perhaps closest to his heart, Children's National released a comprehensive assessment of pediatric health in the District of Columbia. The report's findings will help Children's National target resources to address some of the most pressing health concerns facing our children, including asthma and obesity.

Mr. Snowdon is an attorney in the firm of Trainum, Snowdon & Deane. In addition to his service to Children's National, he is or has been a trustee, director or member of numerous civic organizations, including the Anthony Francis Lucas-Spindletop Foundation, The Langley School, the National Children's Museum, the Community Foundation of Greater Washington, the D.C. Advisory Committee of the Local Initiative Support Corporation, the National Cathedral School for Girls, the Washington Cathedral, the Black Student Fund, and the Federal City Council. Mr. Snowdon received a B.S. from the Syracuse University College of Business Administration and a J.D. from The George Washington University National Law Center.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing and commending Richard W. Snowdon III for his outstanding leadership and in thanking him and his wife, Catharine, for their commitment to the children of the District of Columbia and the national capital region.

JERALD L. MORLOCK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jerald L. Morlock. Jerald 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, Great Rivers Council Troop 99, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jerald has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jerald has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Jerald has displayed dedication and perseverance with this significant achievement, values which will stay with him throughout his life.

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

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOUIS GELDER & SONS COMPANY OF BENTON HARBOR, MICHIGAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Louis Gelder & Sons Company of Benton Harbor, Michigan, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary on Thursday, March 11, 2010.

Since 1910, Louis Gelder & Sons has proudly supplied the folks of southwest Michigan with tractors and other agriculture equipment and supplies. Today, operated by Bruce and Joe Gelder, the company is a fourth-generation family-run business.

The story of Louis Gelder & Sons begins in Millburg, Michigan, only a few miles away from their current location. Like many small businesses, their long history speaks to the power of the American entrepreneurial spirit, having endured two of the deepest economic recessions in modern history. Our Nation has faced many challenges and changes over the past century, but Louis Gelder & Sons has stood the test of time.

Behind great companies with this kind of endurance you will always find great people. The folks at Louis Gelder & Sons work as a team, which makes all the difference between a good company and a great one.

The long success of Louis Gelder & Sons is a remarkable achievement, and we are all very proud to see them continuing to provide service to the people of Michigan. Congratulations to the Gelder family and their employees. Here's to the next 100!

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,546,372,001,879.73.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,907,946,255,585.93 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED
STATES

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the League of Women Voters, which celebrated its 90th anniversary on February 14, 2010.

Since 1920, the League of Women Voters has worked to increase understanding of major public policy issues, encourage informed and active participation in government, and influence public policy through education and advocacy. With organizations in every state and hundreds of local chapters across the country, the League is one of the strongest grassroots activist networks in the country.

Throughout its history, the League has played a vital role in transforming our society and preserving responsive government. Whether fighting McCarthyism, helping to end segregation, protecting our environment, organizing our Nation's presidential debates, strengthening the Voting Rights Act, or upholding the decision in *Roe v. Wade*, the League of Women Voters has been at the forefront of nearly every major policy issue in the last 90 years. Through its dedication to good, responsible government, the League has been influential in overseeing the passage of Congress' most important pieces of legislation, including the Social Security Act and child labor laws.

The League's decentralized structure enabled it to keep pace with our Nation's dynamic societal changes in the last century, ensuring that its legislative priorities reflected the needs of society and critical issues of concern. Today, the League remains true to its mission of education and advocacy, focusing on global climate change, health care reform, and voting rights for the District of Columbia.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the achievements of the League of Women Voters and the contributions it has made to our Nation and to American history. Its efforts honor the legacy of the women who assembled at Seneca Falls, New York over 160 years ago. With the same courage and belief in equality, the League of Women Voters continues to make history.

IN RECOGNIZING OF THE 10TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL
PEANUT BOARD

HON. BOBBY BRIGHT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. BRIGHT. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, March 10th, the National Peanut Board

(NPB) celebrates 10 years of work on behalf of America's 10,000 peanut farmers, including the 500 who live in my district. Before this organization was created, there was no national effort by growers to market American-grown peanuts, spur new product development and innovative new uses, or to carry out an issues management program. Through several major strategic initiatives, the NPB's grower-funded check-off program has made measurable progress toward its goal of increasing demand and consumption since the launch of its promotion, marketing and advertising campaign.

Highlights from the National Peanut Board's past ten years will be showcased on March 10th at an event at the historic Eastern Market in Washington, D.C. featuring dishes created by celebrated chefs. They plan to honor one of America's most iconic and beloved foods. From savory to sweet, peanuts will be used in traditional and innovative dishes from a variety of cuisines at this special event celebrating this essential and deeply rooted part of America's food culture.

Since its inception, NPB has played a vital role in promoting peanuts. To stimulate consumer demand for American-grown peanuts over the last decade, NPB has extolled the value, nutritional attributes, versatility, portability, and great taste of American-grown peanuts, peanut butter and peanut products. NPB has undertaken marketing programs domestically and internationally to reach that goal, working to spark new uses for American-grown peanuts and peanut butter and to encourage the creation of innovative peanut products.

These programs are working. Since the start of NPB's programs in 2000, total peanut usage has increased more than 15 percent when compared to levels of usage in the 1990s. Peanut butter consumption alone has increased even more dramatically—over 20 percent during the same period, according to USDA Stocks and Processing reports.

Through partnerships with other commodity groups, manufacturers, and foodservice, NPB brings American-grown peanuts where they have never been before. NPB's targeted foodservice initiative actively promotes the culinary value of peanuts and peanut products by positioning them as versatile ingredients that can add nutrition, flavor, texture and appeal to any meal. In fact, listings of peanuts on the menus of the 200 restaurant chains have increased by 146 percent over the past seven years, according to Food Beat, Inc.

Production research funding is also at the forefront for the National Peanut Board. Over the past 10 years, NPB has invested more than \$14.4 million in peanut production research to help create crop efficiencies, improve crop quality and reduce production costs. Additionally, the NPB is the only commodity board investing in food allergy research, outreach and education and has allocated more than \$7 million to this cause.

Furthermore, the NPB played a pivotal role during the 2009 salmonella crisis, most notably by hosting a two-day consumer and media outreach event in Vanderbilt Hall in Grand Central Terminal in New York. Through direct interactions, NPB and its partners educated consumers, conveyed the concerns of peanut farmers, and facilitated a steady market recovery for peanut butter.

Nearly half the peanuts grown in the United States are harvested within a 100-mile radius

of Dothan, Alabama. As the Representative of the district which ranks fourth in the country in overall peanut acreage, I understand the importance of organizations like the NPB. Ten years of hard work and positive results for America's peanut farmers is a remarkable achievement. In honor of their 10th Anniversary, I commend the National Peanut Board for all of their hard work and past achievements, and wish them continued success in the future.

JACOB A. FRANKLIN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob A. Franklin. Jacob 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, Great Rivers Council Troop 99, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Jacob has displayed dedication and perseverance with this significant achievement, values which will stay with him throughout his life.

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

HONORING GAIL KROHN OF THE
SECOND DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, today the Second District of Texas recognizes Ms. Gail Krohn for her service to the Nederland Independent School District as she retired earlier this month. For 43 years, she has helped forge the minds of countless students, preparing them for an ever-changing and demanding world.

Gail was born in Kentucky and moved around through five different states before she and her family settled in Hull-Daisetta, TX. They stayed until she graduated from Lamar State College of Technology. Soon thereafter, she embarked on a long and fruitful career working with children in the Nederland Independent School District.

She began her career as a reading teacher at C.O. Wilson Middle School but was destined for a leadership role. Gail would eventually become principal of Central Middle School before taking over the role of Superintendent in 1997. Though she no longer worked with children on a daily basis, Gail made sure that the classrooms in Nederland always empowered students to achieve their dreams.

Numerous times throughout her career, Gail received recognition for her excellence in the

classroom and for her work with students. The Region V Education Service Center named her Outstanding Principal while the Council on Exceptional Children presented her with the Will L. Smith Award. Similarly, Lamar University inducted her into their Administrator's Hall of Fame.

The Second Congressional District of Texas honors Ms. Gail Krohn for her many years of service to the Nederland Independent School District. The lessons and ideals that she taught will resonate with students and generations for years to come.

And that's the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
VIRGINIA PIERCE AND THE
WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS
OF WORLD WAR II

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and achievements of Virginia Pierce from Alturas, California. During World War Two, Mrs. Pierce flew as a member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). These aviators were the first female flyers to be trained on U.S. Military aircraft. During the time when the need of the country was greatest, these brave women flew fighter, bomber, transport and training aircraft in the defense of American freedom and liberty.

I was a proud cosponsor of the legislation that recognized these women's service, and I rise today to recognize Virginia Pierce and congratulate her on receiving the Congressional Gold Medal.

IN CELEBRATION OF EBBY
HALLIDAY'S 99TH BIRTHDAY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ebby Halliday Acres as she celebrates her ninety-ninth birthday today. Ebby has truly made a lifelong impact on the Dallas community and real estate industry through her many entrepreneurial and philanthropic endeavors.

Ebby Halliday Realtors was founded in 1945 by Ebby and her beloved husband, Maurice Acers. Their company began with only fifty-two homes in North Dallas, and has since grown to become one of the largest privately owned residential real estate firms in the country. Success for Ebby Halliday is not simply a result of her hard work and entrepreneurial spirit. She is notorious for the personal care and attention she gives to her employees, agents, and buyers. She has received numerous awards recognizing her professional success over the years. To name a few, Ebby received the Horatio Alger Award in 2005, the Visionary Award from Foundation Fighting Blindness, and the Linz Award in 2008.

Ebby is also celebrated in the Dallas community for generously donating her time and efforts, as well as significant financial support, to numerous philanthropic endeavors. St. Paul Medical Center, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, and the Communities Foundation of Texas are only three of the many nonprofit organizations and causes that have been personally touched by Ebby's love for her community and dedication to making the City of Dallas a better place.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our heartiest congratulations to Ebby as she celebrates her ninety-ninth birthday. May we all strive to match Ebby's passion for improving our communities and her unwavering commitment to success.

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the National Peace Corps Week that is celebrated from March 1 through March 7, 2010.

The Peace Corps traces its roots and mission to the early 1960s, when then Senator John F. Kennedy inspired Americans to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries. The Peace Corps celebrated its 49th anniversary on March 1st.

As of September 30, 2009, 7,671 Peace Corps Volunteers are making significant and lasting contributions to improve the lives of individuals and communities in 76 countries. Since 1961, nearly 200,000 Volunteers have served in 139 countries around the world and in their local communities in the United States when they return home.

The Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of our nation's commitment to encourage progress, create opportunity, and expand development at the grass-roots level in the developing world.

That is why I strongly support federal funding to ensure a strong and vibrant Peace Corps program.

Throughout its history, the Peace Corps has adapted and responded to the issues of the times. In an ever-changing world, Peace Corps Volunteers have met new challenges with innovation, creativity, determination, and compassion.

Peace Corps Volunteers work in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe, the Pacific Islands, and the Middle East. Volunteers have made contributions around the world in agriculture, business development, information technology, education, health and HIV/AIDS, youth, and the environment.

Peace Corps Volunteers will arrive in Indonesia in spring 2010 and will work as English teachers in high schools and at teacher training institutions. In mid-2010, Peace Corps Volunteers will return to Sierra Leone after a 16-year absence. Volunteers will focus on secondary education and work with their host communities on grassroots initiatives and community development projects.

Peace Corps Volunteers have strengthened the ties of friendship and understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries. Their work around the globe represents a legacy of service that has become a significant part of America's history and positive image abroad. Their desire to make a difference has improved the lives of millions of people around the world as well as here in the United States.

Peace Corps Volunteers provide hope and meaningful assistance to people affected by HIV/AIDS. The tireless efforts and dedication of Volunteers have made the Peace Corps a key partner in the global response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Peace Corps Volunteers are uniquely suited to work in HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention because they are trained in the local language, live and work in the communities where they serve, and know how to share information in a culturally appropriate way.

Peace Corps Response provides returned Peace Corps Volunteers the opportunity to serve again in rewarding, high-impact, short-term assignments. Since its inception in 1996, this program has sent more than 1,000 returned Volunteers into the field in over 40 countries. Peace Corps Response Volunteers are deployed to crisis situations such as disaster relief following natural catastrophes, as well as to nonemergency interventions such as HIV/AIDS awareness.

Through Peace Corps service, Volunteers worldwide learn more than 250 languages and dialects, and they receive extensive cross-cultural training that enables them to function effectively at a professional level in different cultural settings. Returned Peace Corps Volunteers are leaders in all sectors of our society.

My home state of Colorado is a very service-oriented state and its first lady, Ms. Jeanie Ritter, wife of Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, was a Peace Corps volunteer who served in Tunisia in a center for the disabled.

My district, the Second Congressional District of Colorado, has a strong tradition of volunteerism and I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize in particular the great work of 38 constituents who are currently serving as Peace Corps Volunteers in countries like Togo, Costa Rica, Peru, Zambia, Honduras, Malawi and the Dominican Republic, among others. Thank you very much for your contributions to the people and communities of these nations and for serving as ambassadors of peace, hope and opportunity.

In addition, I am very proud that the University of Colorado at Boulder—our state's flagship higher education institution—ranks second in the nation among colleges and universities for the most alumni joining Peace Corps in 2009 with 95 active volunteers and continues its great tradition of national and international service. Historically, the University of Colorado at Boulder ranks 5th for most alumni Volunteers in America, with 2,206 alumni having served as Peace Corps Volunteers since 1961.

It is indeed fitting to recognize the achievements of the Peace Corps and honor its Volunteers, past and present, and reaffirm our country's commitment to helping people help themselves throughout the world. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the National Peace Corps Week and the 49th anniversary of this wonderful program.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor Thursday afternoon.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall numbers 87, 88, 89, and 90, and "aye" on rollcall number 91.

HONORING BROTHER JOE ADAMS

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brother Joe Adams for his outstanding service as chaplain to the Kentucky State government. On March 16, 2010, the Kentucky House of Representatives will celebrate Brother Adams' retirement after twenty-eight years of service.

Brother Adams was born and raised in Kentucky, and began preaching at the age of fourteen. In 1966, he enlisted in the United States Air Force. Serving for four years, Brother Adams spent his last year in Vietnam.

Following his service to his country, Brother Adams enrolled in Western Kentucky University to study Accounting and began preaching in Simpson County. He later pursued a master's degree in Child Development and Family Living, but soon realized he was being called to devote his life to full-time ministry.

Brother Adams has been a pastor at several Baptist churches across Kentucky. Since 1983, he has dedicated himself to working with community and State officials through the God and Country Ministry. In addition to his duties as chaplain to the Kentucky State government, Brother Adams has contributed to the Commonwealth as a member of numerous boards and committees, including the Bardstown/Nelson County Chamber of Commerce, the Bardstown Public Housing Tenant Relations Committee, the Non-Public School Commission, and chairman of Christian Home Educators of Kentucky.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Brother Joe Adams for his service to our country and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He has touched thousands, literally being the hands and feet of his Lord Jesus Christ reaching into many dark places with the light of truth, hope, and love. May God richly bless him as he and Sandra enter the next chapter in their lives of service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, March 4, 2010, I was unable to be present for the recorded vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 1079, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 91.

JOSEPH FINNERTY: A JOB WELL DONE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, mixed emotions describe the way I and the people of New Bedford feel about the retirement of Joseph S. Finnerty, as Executive Director of the New Bedford Housing Authority. Running a housing authority and a city is no easy job, as people well know. But Joe Finnerty has never been one to complain about this task for which he volunteered and which he has performed in an extraordinary fashion for thirty-five years. No one can begrudge him his retirement after all that service in such a demanding position, but Joe can't begrudge us our feelings of regret that he's leaving. As Executive Director of the Housing Authority, Joe Finnerty has served not just the residents of public housing, but all of the people of New Bedford, by the great contributions he has made to the quality of life for those residents and for the city as a whole.

Madam Speaker, tomorrow, March 10th, some of Joe's close friends, who know well what an extraordinary asset he has been to the city and people of New Bedford, are gathering with him to provide a well-earned salute. As you know, our business will keep me here in D.C. at that time, so I am taking advantage of this forum to send him my best wishes, not simply personally, but because the example of a man who has dedicated so much of his life to the important job of running a public housing authority, and done it so well, ought to be held up for those who sometimes become unduly pessimistic about the good that can be done in government. And I ask that the article by Jack Spillane, from the New Bedford Standard Times, be printed here for that purpose.

[Jan. 26, 2010]

RETIRING HOUSING CHIEF LOOKS BACK ON REIGN WITH PRIDE

(By Jack Spillane)

Few people in New Bedford have positively affected more people's lives over the last 35 years than Joseph S. Finnerty.

Entrusted with the housing care of thousands of low-income city residents since 1975, Joe Finnerty has presided over an era in which the city authority rebuilt much of its aging public housing stock, de-leaded more than 2,000 units, and put into motion rebuilding projects that will eventually make scores of housing units accessible to the disabled.

Under the leadership of the 73-year-old Finnerty—who will retire at the end of this month—the New Bedford Authority has, for decades, provided stable and reliable housing for thousands of low-income city residents.

But it's something else that Finnerty—a member of a political family long active in city and local Democratic politics—seems most proud of. During Finnerty's long tenure as executive director, the New Bedford Housing Authority did not lose any of its public units to market-rate housing. (Any apartments lost to demolition have been replaced by other units elsewhere in the city.)

That's a monumental achievement in an era when housing rental rates far exceed the ability of people who work in minimum-wage jobs to afford any type of housing.

Finnerty is a staunch defender of the need for government-sponsored public housing.

"I don't see why you don't want to provide housing that's affordable to people so that they can raise their families," he said.

Public housing's biggest beneficiaries are the elderly, children and the disabled, he noted. "It provides affordable rents so that a family is not struggling to maintain a decent environment."

Finnerty's philosophy notwithstanding, it's not unusual to hear local complaints that New Bedford possesses too much government housing, that people are moving down from Boston because the housing is more affordable in New Bedford and Fall River.

Finnerty says he doesn't understand the attitude.

It would not be progress, he said, to return to the massive slum and tenement districts that blighted American cities in the 1930s and 1940s.

"We can do a lot better than that now, and we are doing better," he said.

"Public housing is no different than public health. It's no different than public transportation. It's a vital part of an urban community," he said.

"There are judges, university presidents and community leaders who grew up in public housing, or who for a significant time in their lives lived in public housing," he noted.

And the cities, Finnerty said, take responsibility for most of the public-housing stock necessary to their surrounding towns and suburbs. (By and large, suburban communities have limited their public housing to elderly units, leaving their own low-income families and disabled to relocate in the cities.)

Finnerty seems like a model for what a good, low-end, urban private landlord should have been.

He touts the importance of mixing working tenants with non-working ones in public housing. And he was always a no-nonsense manager who made it clear to bad public-housing tenants that he would evict them. (He's even been consulted by private owners of low-income housing about how to keep developments safe and secure.)

"Public housing is not a right, it's a privilege," he said.

Many public housing tenants are ambitious, working two jobs, and some eventually get themselves out of public housing, Finnerty said.

"People who live in public housing are not different. They are intelligent people. Their character is the same as the people who live in non-public housing."

The job of a housing authority in a city the size of New Bedford (just short of 100,000 people at the last census) is not a small one.

There are some 4,355 government-supported housing units in New Bedford that were either directly or indirectly under Finnerty's management—more than 2,500 federal and state units, and an additional 1,600-plus Section 8 vouchers for private housing.

Finnerty, who worked for 13 years as a teacher and coach in the Fairhaven school system, originally thought he would preside over the housing authority for a comparatively short period. A political appointee of popular former Mayor John Markey, he thought he would return to public education, perhaps as a principal or superintendent.

(Finnerty, by the way, was one of the founding members of the board that built Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational-Technical High School and is a former trustee at both UMass Dartmouth and South-eastern Massachusetts University.)

But at the housing authority, Finnerty said there were always important projects proceeding and he wanted to oversee them to completion.

"I saw it (the public housing stock) as really an investment for the city," he said. "And it was definitely needed."

STATEMENT FOR PETER HAKIM
OF INTERAMERICAN DIALOGUE**HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Peter Hakim for his tremendous work in leading the Inter-American Dialogue for over 16 years. It is impossible to fully express in words what he has accomplished as President. As a leader, Peter has facilitated discussion, cooperation and understanding of some of the toughest issues confronting our hemisphere and generated conversations among leaders that inevitably bettered our ability to work together. Whether on drug policy, immigration, the plight of Afro-Latinos or countless other issues, I have seen the fruits of his labor and I believe the legacy of success will be a model for future leaders to follow. Although Peter will now move on as President Emeritus, I am heartened to know that Michael Shifter will continue the momentum. Michael's role at the Dialogue has already shown us his exemplary work on the policies affecting the Americas. His work as president of the organization will no doubt be exemplary as well.

The list of Peter's accomplishments is long and my time is short, but I will end with this: I wish all the best to Peter and look forward to Michael Shifter now running with the baton.

HONORING PETER HAKIM

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Peter Hakim for his service at the Inter-American Dialogue. Peter has testified in front of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee several times and has always been a passionate advocate for issues in Latin America. His personal insight into the inner workings of Latin American politics has been both constructive and resourceful to our Subcommittee and to Members of Congress.

Madam Speaker, the Inter-American Dialogue is an organization that brings an incredible amount of information to the discourse on freedom in Latin America. Through discussions and lectures, the Dialogue has brought greater awareness to the current issues facing Latin America.

I would also like to honor Mr. Michael Shifter, the new President of the Inter-American Dialogue, upon his appointment to this important role. I'm sure the Dialogue will benefit greatly from Michael's leadership and experience, and I look forward to working with both Michael and the Dialogue as we work toward greater freedom, security and prosperity in Latin America and the hemisphere.

THANKING PETER HAKIM

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Peter Hakim for his 16 years of outstanding service as President of the Inter-American Dialogue. Under Peter's leadership, the Inter-American Dialogue has become a top center for policy analysis on U.S.-Latin American relations.

As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, I have benefited enormously from the first-rate work of the Inter-American Dialogue. My colleagues and I—and our staffs—consistently count on the Inter-American Dialogue's superb analysis of U.S.-Latin American relations.

Peter Hakim testified at my first hearing as Subcommittee Chairman in 2007, and I am pleased that he is closing out his tenure as Dialogue President as a witness at my hearing on U.S. Policy toward the Americas in 2010 and Beyond. His insights are extremely useful to me as I carry out oversight of our policies toward Latin America and the Caribbean. My colleagues and I have also greatly benefited from the dinner discussions organized by Peter and the Inter-American Dialogue where we debate key hemispheric issues. I am pleased that Peter will continue to serve the Inter-American Dialogue as President Emeritus, and I look forward to working with him in the coming years.

I also would like to commend Michael Shifter on his selection as the next president of the Inter-American Dialogue. Michael, who has served as the Dialogue's Vice President for Policy for several years, is clearly the best person for the job. Michael is no stranger to the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee himself. He has testified before my Subcommittee at hearings on the Colombia-Ecuador border crisis and Honduras. His essays and opinion pieces are published in a wide array of top U.S. and Latin American publications, and are a great resource for all of us in Congress.

I congratulate Peter Hakim and Michael Shifter and wish both of them and the Inter-American Dialogue many more years of success.

HONORING USC PRESIDENT
STEVEN SAMPLE**HON. DIANE E. WATSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I, DIANE WATSON, along with Mr. BECERRA, Ms. BONO MACK, Mr. CAMPBELL, Ms. CHU, Mr. DREIER, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. NAPOLITANO, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. VISCLOSKY, rise today to honor University of Southern California's 10th President, Steven B. Sample. After 15 years of dedicated leadership, President Sample will be retiring this August.

Steven Sample led an institutional rise at USC that is unparalleled in American higher education, helping the university become a highly selective undergraduate institution. He

drove faculty excellence to new levels. Not only did he create a network of global scholars and programs, but he also focused on building successful partnerships in local neighborhoods to spur economic and educational development. During his tenure, USC earned 20 national championships in men's and women's intercollegiate sports. In addition, he completed the largest fund-raising campaign in the history of higher education.

Under Sample's leadership, the University of Southern California attracted increasingly accomplished students, with SAT scores rising 300 points. Applications have nearly tripled since 1991. USC is now among the top five universities in the number of National Merit Scholars and first in the country in the number of international students.

By training, Steven B. Sample is an electrical engineer and a member of the National Academy of Engineering and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His patents in the field of digital appliance controls have been licensed to practically every major manufacturer of appliance controls and microwave ovens in the world. More than 300 million home appliances have been built using his inventions.

President Sample's *The Contrarian's Guide to Leadership*, a Los Angeles Times best seller, was named one of six "must-reads" for leaders by Harvard Management Update of the Harvard Business School.

Sample donates all royalties to a scholarship fund for USC undergraduates. This book is translated into a leadership course that Sample teaches to Trojans every year.

His outreach has created numerous jobs locally. The University of Southern California became the largest private employer in the City of Los Angeles. It was ranked in the top five of a survey titled "Great Colleges to Work For" by the Chronicle of Higher Education in 2006, under Sample's leadership.

As a past chairman of the Association of American Universities, Sample understands the importance of intellectual collaboration. That is why he founded the Association of Pacific Rim Universities. Sample has also dedicated himself to promoting Los Angeles as the de facto capital of the Pacific Rim with its strong entrepreneurial-based businesses and commerce, the busiest seaports in the United States, creativity and intellectual capital, and unparalleled diversity.

Steven Sample's presidency of the University of Southern California has significantly benefitted the City of Los Angeles, the State of California, and, most important, thousands of Trojan students.

Kathryn Sample is her husband's most trusted ally and advisor and has dedicated herself unreservedly to helping strengthen USC's position as a world-class research university. They have two daughters, Michelle Sample Smith and Elizabeth Sample, and two grandchildren, Kathryn and Andrew Smith.

CONGRATULATING THE 2008 NATIONAL MEDAL OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION LAUREATES

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, today I rise as the proud sponsor of

House Resolution 935, congratulating Drs. John E. Warnock and Charles M. Geschke of Adobe Systems, Dr. Esther Sans Takeuchi, Dr. Forrest M. Bird, and IBM Corporation as the recipients of the 2008 National Medal of Technology and Innovation. The National Medal of Technology and Innovation is the highest honor for technological achievement bestowed by the President on leading innovators in the United States.

The National Medal of Technology and Innovation has been awarded annually since 1985 and recognizes outstanding contributions to America's economic, environmental, and social well-being through the development of technological products, processes, and innovation.

The purpose of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation is to recognize those who have made lasting contributions to America's competitiveness, standard of living, and quality of life through technological innovation. By highlighting the national importance of technological innovation, we hope to inspire future generations of Americans to prepare for and pursue technical careers to keep America at the forefront of global technology and economic leadership.

The 2008 National Medal of Technology and Innovation Laureates include innovation and achievement in the display and dissemination of information, lifesaving medical technology, and computer design and development.

I'm particularly proud that two of the 2008 Medal recipients, Drs. John E. Warnock and Charles M. Geschke, hail from my district in San Jose, California. Drs. Warnock and Geschke, through their work at Adobe Systems, pioneered innovations that were crucial to the revolution in desktop publishing that began in the 1980s and continues today. The advances in desktop publishing had, and continue to have, a profound effect on the way we create and communicate information across mediums such as print, video, and Internet. It is fitting that today we recognize two individuals who have been influential in informing how we create, communicate, and interact with information; the work of Drs. Warnock and Geschke played a prominent role in ushering in what we know as "The Information Age."

As a Member representing Silicon Valley, I know firsthand how technological and scientific innovations provide invaluable contributions to our society. Research and innovation have long been key drivers of our economy, particularly in the Bay Area. Advances in science, medicine, and technology will continue to shape our economy and our world. Therefore, it is vital that we encourage and recognize those who lead the way in these critical areas—those like our 2008 National Medal of Technology and Innovation Laureates. It is my hope that in spotlighting the very best in technology and innovation, we provide encouragement to the next generation of students, researchers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and businesses to continue to invest their time, energy, expertise, and resources into creating the next era of technological achievement. It is through innovation and advancement in science and technology that we will continue to be a leader in the global economy, protect our environment, and improve the lives of all Americans.

Again, I am proud to join my colleagues in honoring the 2008 recipients of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, and I urge the passage of the resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING WEST VIRGINIA
NATIONAL GUARD AND LOCAL
RESPONDERS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced a resolution recognizing the heroic efforts of the West Virginia National Guard and local responders.

On Thursday, February 18, 2010, the heroic actions of West Virginians brought about the highly successful rescue of 17 military personnel who were on board a U.S. Navy helicopter—participating in the Operation Southbound Trooper X annual military exercise, which went down in deep, snow-covered, and very rugged terrain in Pocahontas County, West Virginia.

The remarkable rescue was an outstanding and highly coordinated effort on the part of many highly trained professionals as well as private citizens, who worked under very difficult conditions to reach the crew and personnel on board the aircraft, many of whom had been injured in the crash.

West Virginians are the best neighbors for whom you could ever wish. It is a truth that has been proven time and again. This heroic rescue effort was, thankfully, a rare event, but it was not at all out of character for our State. In fact, it was merely illustrative of the best of West Virginia.

The swift response; astounding skills and abilities; enormous courage; and, profound determination of all those involved in the rescue operation—from those who serve in and lead our West Virginia National Guard; to our local fire, rescue, law enforcement and first responder units; and the countless volunteers, families and neighbors nearby—most certainly made the difference between life and death.

While no expression of gratitude would ever be sought for such selfless acts, the hope that one good turn deserves another never dims with West Virginians.

On behalf of my fellow West Virginians, I'm pleased to introduce the following resolution to honor their good deeds, and to illuminate them as a beacon for others.

HONORING ALCALDE NIELS CHEW

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, to honor Alcalde Niels Chew, who was bestowed the title of honorary mayor of the City of Sonoma because of his commitment to his community and its citizens. The naming of an Alcalde, which means "magistrate" or "mayor" in Spanish, is a tradition that began in 1975 as a way to acknowledge the citizen of the year.

Niels is best known for his generosity, humility, and his unwavering dedication to the causes he believes in, which is why he was selected from a long list of candidates. According to Niels, his father is responsible for instilling in him the value of service.

"During the Depression, no one in need ever came to our house and left empty-handed," he said.

Niels embraces quite a history of community service to the City of Sonoma, dating back to 1984 when he and his wife Susan first moved to Sonoma. Since then, Niels has graciously shared his warehouse with many area nonprofits who have stored their food and clothing donations in his facility.

As owner of Dowling Miner Magnets until 2004, he provided opportunities to Becoming Independent to train and support people with developmental disabilities.

Currently, Niels serves on the board of the Sonoma Valley Hospital Foundation, Operation Youth, and the Sonoma Overnight Shelter. He was formerly the president of Kiwanis of Sonoma Plaza and trustee of the Sonoma Valley Unified School District.

One of his most notable and impactful service endeavors has been his continuous support of the Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance as a dedicated mentor and founding board member. He is even credited with starting the organization because he added the organization's executive director to his payroll at Dowling Magnets so she could kick-off the mentoring program.

As a result of his initial investment, what began as a 10-hour weekly commitment at Flowery School blossomed into an organization that has been successfully connecting caring adults with at-risk students for more than 12 years.

"He has a heart the size of a continent, especially where kids are concerned," said Ms. Kathy Witkowiak, Executive Director of the Mentoring Alliance. "We could never put a value on all that he has contributed to the Mentoring Alliance over the years, because it's priceless."

Madam Speaker, Niels Chew's commitment to service is a powerful example of the positive difference one person can make. We are thankful for the charitable contributions made by this humble and thoughtful leader and philanthropist and we wish him continued prosperity as he spends time with his children and grandchildren.

IN CELEBRATION OF SAN MATEO
COUNTY'S PARTICIPATION IN
"STREETS ALIVE"

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, every American can do something to address some of the most pressing issues facing our nation today—health care, energy independence, the obesity epidemic—simply by riding a bicycle or taking a walk.

That is why I commend the County of San Mateo and other cities in the 12th Congressional District of California for joining in the "Streets Alive" celebration as part of World Health Day festivities on April 11, 2010. This worthwhile endeavor is part of "1000 Cities, 1000 Lives," an international project to enlist 1000 local governments around the globe to open streets and public spaces to pedestrians and bicyclists as a worldwide message of cooperation and commitment to healthy and active living.

I have the extreme privilege of representing one of the most beautiful areas in our nation, yet too many of us only see it while stuck in traffic. This is an excellent opportunity to slow down, get some exercise, visit with neighbors

and soak in the local treasures that attract so many to the Peninsula in the first place.

Madam Speaker, I commend the forward-thinking leaders of San Mateo County for participating in such a worthwhile event and urge

my constituents and all Americans to celebrate World Health Day on April 11 by biking or walking through their community. They and the world will be healthier for it.