

Music Composition: Intermediate Division—Kyle Gatesman, (4th Grade, Canterbury Woods Elementary School PTA) for his musical composition titled "Reflections in Color: Variations on a Theme."

Visual Art: Primary Division—Hannah Cadenazzi, (1st Grade, Great Falls Elementary School PTA) for her interpretative painting titled "Family."

Visual Art: Intermediate Division—Brittney Fogg, (5th Grade, Willow Springs Elementary School PTA) for her authentic drawing titled "Beauty is worth looking for."

Visual Art: Middle/Junior Division—Jiwhae Choi, (8th Grade, Rachel Carson Middle School) for the multifaceted vision of "Beauty is never giving up."

2009 National PTA Award of Excellence: William Park, (12th Grade, Langley High School) who was recognized at an awards reception at the Department of Energy on January 16.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today to recognize the outstanding achievements of these students. I also ask that we recognize the Northern Virginia District PTA, in partnership with the Virginia PTA, as they work diligently to develop the diversity of talents and skills of students attending schools throughout Northern Virginia. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the achievements of these students and the Parent Teacher Associations that support them.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT  
HIESTAND

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 2010*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, March 30, an Atlanta icon passed away. Robert Hiestand sold roses and carnations on the corner of Northside Parkway and West Paces Ferry for 20 years and, in the process, became a ubiquitous fixture in the daily routine of Atlantans from all walks of life. He was 55 when he passed.

Over the years, Governors, state legislators and Members of Congress including myself have stopped for a few kind words and a few beautiful flowers from Robert. Yet it is the students who often saw him on their way back and forth from school that have most loudly opined his loss.

I have heard a few different versions of how Robert ended up in Atlanta but the version he told was that his motorcycle ran out of gas as he was passing through and he decided to stay. For two decades after that, come rain, come summer heat, come winter cold, come what may, Robert's only condition to go to work was whether the flowers could survive.

The vibrant remembrances of the Atlanta community reflect the tremendous impact of his character, of his hard work and of his staunch individualism that allowed him to carve out his own niche and leave a lasting impression on the lives of so many. He will be missed and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his contribution to Atlanta.

HONORING LONG ISLAND ADVOCACY CENTER FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 2010*

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a nonprofit organization that serves my district, Long Island Advocacy Center.

Long Island Advocacy Center has demonstrated an overwhelming amount of commitment to serving the Long Island community. My constituents rely on our nonprofits for the vital services they offer. Long Island Advocacy Center's continuous acts of selfless efforts are admirable.

I am proud to honor Long Island Advocacy Center for their extraordinary work in the community.

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OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 2010*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,886,315,749,582.96.

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 \$2,247,890,003,289.16 so far this Congress.

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

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE FIFTH  
ANNUAL MICHIGAN EARTH DAY  
FESTIVAL ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
EARTH DAY

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 2010*

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the organizers and participants of the fifth annual Michigan Earth Day Festival on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. As a Member of Congress it is my privilege to support this forum as we work to develop Michigan's green and blue economies.

Much like the day it celebrates, the Michigan Earth Day Festival brings together Michiganians from all regions and sectors of community who recognize that the economic vitality of Michigan lies in the innovation and development of our of State's complementary green and blue economies. This festival provides an opportunity for local entrepreneurs, environmentalists, conservationists, civic officials and everyday citizens to build the network of human capital infrastructure so critical

to Michigan becoming a leader in these new industries. Last year the Festival attracted an estimated 50,000 Michiganians to its grounds in downtown Rochester, all of whom were focused on the "triple bottom line" of economic, environmental, and individual prosperity.

On its fifth anniversary, the Michigan Earth Day Festival is set to provide its largest platform yet in its effort to draw attention to the connection between our environment and our future economic prosperity. This year's Festival event will host over 200 participants including environmental and conservation groups, local governments, green business owners and others who will be promoting resource conservation, green technology development, and good stewardship of our environment which will brighten Michigan's economic future while securing our State's rich natural wonders.

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the work of the Michigan Earth Day Festival's organizers and participants towards creating a greener and stronger Michigan economy. I wish the Festival's organizers and participants many future years of success as we work together to develop a renewed, greener and more robust Michigan economy.

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HONORING THE WORK OF THE  
REVEREND DR. WALTER THOMAS  
RICHARDSON ON THE OCCASION  
OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM  
SWEET HOME MISSIONARY BAPTIST  
CHURCH

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 2010*

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and thank The Reverend Dr. Walter Thomas Richardson of South Florida for his 26 years of service to Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church.

Pastor Richardson's historic tenure at Sweet Home began in October of 1983, and for nearly three decades, he has dedicated his life to serving others. Under his leadership, the parish has achieved great things. Sweet Home transitioned from two-Sunday a month worship to weekly Sunday worships, as well as going from one-morning service to two-morning services. Sweet Home also grew from a small facility to a modern and up-to-date facility with classrooms, offices and seating capacity for 500 in 1991. In 2009, the facility grew yet again to house more than 1000 people and sits on 24 acres of land. The staff at Sweet Home also grew and now has full-time employees. During his tenure, Sweet Home has also been involved in advocating for social justice and multicultural integration, protesting against hate crimes, drugs and corruption, and taken part in building the first Habitat for Humanity housing project in Miami-Dade County.

Pastor Richardson has preached and ministered across our great nation and around the world, including places like Korea, South Africa, Haiti and the Caribbean. More than 51 associate ministers have served with him at Sweet Home, and at least 16 are now serving as senior pastors and chaplains throughout the country. He has counseled more than 200