

she has served as president for several years. Together with the other families that make up this small but active congregation, Temple Beth El has come to be known in the community as a place where friends and family gather each week for informal services. There, spiritual leader Alan Bell works with the members to develop weekly educational and religious activities for members and non-members alike. The services are inclusive and accessible, bringing children and grandchildren into active participation during worship.

The Nowitzs have lived the dream of seeing their love survive many decades, as their children grow to be fine adults and their family blossoms to include grandchildren. They have been members of Temple Beth El for more than 50 years and attended Hebrew School there. Reeva was born in nearby Cohoes. Bernie was born in the Bronx and moved upstate to Troy at age three.

Reeva and Bernie have been married for more than 46 happy years and have been part of the Temple Beth El and Troy community for that entire time. They have been blessed with two daughters, Cheryl and Nicole, Cheryl and Nicole. Cheryl is married to Anthony Klein and they live in Palto Alto, California with their children Alex and Daniel. Nicole works in real estate in New York City.

I ask my colleagues to pause to congratulate Reeva and Bernie for being among the honorees at the Israel Heroes Dinner on Thursday, December 2, 2010.

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#### HONORING STEVEN HURD

### HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 2, 2010*

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steven Hurd on the occasion of his retirement after 38 years of dedicated service in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Throughout his career, Steve has fought tenaciously to improve the quality of life of veterans and their caregivers. Steve began his VA career in 1972 and served in a variety of Recreation Therapy positions. From 1983 to 1987, he served as the Assistant Chief of Voluntary Service at the Brockton, Massachusetts VA Medical Center. For the past 23 years, Steve has served as the Chief of Voluntary Service at the Togus, Maine VA Medical Center.

Under his leadership, a number of new programs have been established at Togus, including the 'Caught Ya' program to recognize staff members that go above and beyond their duties in caring for veterans, the Service Recovery Program, and new volunteer assignments to provide mealtime companions and other quality of care initiatives for hospitalized veterans. These programs have greatly enhanced and expanded the use of volunteers and staff in improving veterans' healthcare experiences at Togus.

Steve is also an active leader in other sectors of Veterans Affairs. He serves as the VISN 1 Voluntary Service Liaison Chief, is an active member and past president of the Maine Society of Directors of Healthcare Volunteer Services and is current president of the New England Association of Directors of

Healthcare Volunteer Services. In his capacity as VISN Liaison Chief, Steve has also mentored incoming Voluntary Service Chiefs in other Medical Centers in VISN 1. In 2008, Steve served as the president of the Association of Healthcare Volunteer Resource Professionals, becoming the first VA Voluntary Service staff member to be elected to this position.

Through his dedication and valued work, Steve has garnered well-deserved appreciation and numerous accolades including the Voluntary Service Award for Excellence, the Governors' Volunteer Service Award for Excellence in Volunteer Administration and most recently, the Award for Excellence from the Association of Volunteer Resource Professionals.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Steven Hurd for his compassion and tireless efforts on behalf of the veterans in Maine.

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#### A TRIBUTE TO ANN-MARIE K. FOSTER

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 2, 2010*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ann-Marie K. Foster.

Ann-Marie Karlene Goddard Foster was born to serve and help others. Born in Brooklyn, New York on June 22, 1969, she is the eldest of three children born to the late Marva Williams. After losing her mother to gun violence at the tender age of eight years old, Ann-Marie's desire to help others in her community began to take root. Ms. Foster was raised by her loving grandmother, Josephine Ellis, and her late grandfather, Clayton Ellis; her grandparents instilled in her that a solid education was the key to endless opportunities, and a mantra such as "what is in your head can't nobody take it away from you." She graduated at the age of 16 with a Regents diploma from Brooklyn Technical High School in 1986. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Utica College of Syracuse University in 1990 with intentions of serving in the health care community.

Upon her return to Brooklyn, her first employment opportunity was for the Health Insurance Plan (HIP) of New York working as a Medical Assistant. During her time at HIP serving in the Women's Health Division, she learned early the power of engaging women in caring for their health which ultimately could shape the health outcomes of the entire family. It was also during this time that she saw the necessity to have health care providers who could relate to a vulnerable population—those who often put other priorities ahead of their own health—women. As the HIV epidemic and the spread of STDs began to take its toll on the African American community, being able to communicate without judgment was the key to the center's success.

In 1991, she joined the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation at Metropolitan Hospital Center in New York and began a journey that would span 19 years in increasing administrative capacities. One of her most rewarding times was spent at Woodhull Medical Center in Brooklyn where she met her mentor who would guide her career and allow her to

spread her administrative wings. The seasoning of her experience at Woodhull prepared her for her most challenging opportunity to date. In June 2009, she was recruited to lead the oldest public hospital psychiatric program at Bellevue Hospital Center. Currently, Ms. Foster is the Senior Associate Executive Director of the Psychiatry and Child/Adolescent Psychiatry departments, which includes a 339 bed inpatient unit and multiple mental health ambulatory care services. She is a member of the American College of Health Care Executives and the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Ms. Foster is most proud of being the mother of two beautiful children, Maya, 13 and Myles, 9; both of whom attend independent schools in NYC. Ms. Foster finds time to be a class representative at her daughters' school, serve in the Parents' Association, mentor young women at the Lenox Road Baptist Church, where she is a member, and participate in community service projects. She continues to live in Brooklyn with her husband of fifteen years, Ray Foster, and her children.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Ann-Marie K. Foster.

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#### PROVIDING FOR APPROVAL OF U.S.-AUSTRALIA NUCLEAR ENERGY AGREEMENT

SPEECH OF

### HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 30, 2010*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6411, which would approve the cooperation agreement between the government of the United States and the government of Australia concerning the peaceful use of nuclear energy. This important legislation will renew a long-standing agreement between one of our strongest allies and promote the safe trade of nuclear energy products.

I thank Chairman BERMAN for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I also thank the sponsor of this legislation, ILENA ROSLEHTINEN, for her commitment to the safe, secure trade and peaceful use of nuclear energy products.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has had an ongoing civilian nuclear cooperation agreement with Australia since 1957. Australia sells around 36 percent of its \$1 billion in uranium exports to the United States. This accounts for 13 percent of our uranium supplies. This cooperation agreement also facilitates Australia's sale of uranium to other countries that will use it with technology made in the United States.

The civilian nuclear cooperation agreement with Australia is set to renew automatically upon the 90th day of continuous session since the President's May 5 transmittal of the renewal agreement. However, it is nonetheless appropriate for us to come together to affirm this agreement with Australia, one of our closest and most strategically important allies.

The United States and Australia have a strong relationship rooted in our shared values, historical ties, and strategic outlook. Our militaries conduct joint military exercises and Australian troops are currently in Afghanistan