

reaching his 90th birthday on March 9, 2011, and to honor his heartfelt commitment and brave service to his community and his country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BEVIN
KALATHIL VARUGHESE MEMO-
RIAL FOUNDATION

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 11, 2011

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to seek Congressional recognition of the vital mission and achievements of the Bevin Kalathil Varughese Memorial Foundation (BKV). The BKV Memorial Foundation has been instrumental in raising awareness and resources for individuals battling leukemia. The Foundation's creation was inspired by the remarkable life of one of my constituents, Bevin Kalathil Varughese—a life which was tragically cut short following an unsuccessful bout with this terrible disease.

Born in Manhasset, New York, Bevin Kalathil Varughese was an affectionate individual and a cherished son, brother, nephew, cousin, and uncle. An extraordinarily motivated young man, Bevin graduated from Herricks High School in New York and went on to earn his Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Real Estate from Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His cheerfulness, generosity, and love of life were evident to all who knew him; his personality touched all who were close to him.

Bevin's drive and good-nature were unwavering—even when he was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in January 2004 at the age of 24. Although Bevin fluctuated between relapse and remission for four years, he refused to let the disease dampen his spirits or weaken his will. Instead, Bevin focused his energy on researching the disease and the resources available to those it afflicts. By working with his family and friends, he created the South Asian Cancer Foundation (SACF) which advocates for leukemia awareness, particularly within the South Asian-American community. Bevin was also involved in a variety of other organizations dealing with the disease and those affected by it—he hosted fundraisers to benefit both the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) and the SACF, took part in the LLS Light the Night Walk, and organized numerous blood and bone marrow drives.

Although Bevin eventually lost his battle with leukemia on February 7th, 2008 at the all-too-young age of 28, his passion and legacy live on through the Bevin Kalathil Varughese Memorial Foundation. The BKV Memorial Foundation was created in 2008 to both preserve Bevin's memory and to continue his work with the South Asian Cancer Foundation. The Foundation's mission is to raise awareness about acute lymphoblastic leukemia and other blood-related diseases. This non-profit organization provides resources to those suffering from leukemia and to their families. The assistance comes in the form of support for leukemia patients, financial aid for those who cannot afford treatment, and donations for research to find a cure for the disease. The BKV Foundation works tirelessly to raise funding

through countless charity events and organizations. It has also reached out to the greater community by encouraging individuals to register with the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP).

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the achievements and dedication of the Bevin Kalathil Varughese Memorial Foundation. Through its attempts to preserve and honor Bevin's memory, this Foundation is making a positive and lasting impact on countless lives. I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognition of the achievements of the Bevin Kalathil Varughese Memorial Foundation.

HONORING JORDAN GARDNER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 11, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jordan Gardner. Jordan 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.

Jordan's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Jordan 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 Jordan can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jordan Gardner 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.

FHA REFINANCE PROGRAM
TERMINATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 830) to rescind the unobligated funding for the FHA Refinance Program and to terminate the program, with Mr. Bass of New Hampshire in the chair.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Chair, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote no on H.R. 830, the FHA Refinance Program Termination Act. This bill would terminate the authority for the FHA to guarantee new single family refinance loans under the FHA refinance program at 97.75 percent of the home's value. I am concerned that the Republican plan would kill a program that offers a cost effective approach to assisting underwater borrowers achieve sustainable long-term homeownership.

This Congress should be committed to helping struggling homeowners stay in their homes. Instead it seems we are taking up measures that would only complicate this effort. According to the FHA nearly one quarter

of American homeowners are underwater on their mortgages. Terminating a program that would allow hard-working Americans who are current in their mortgages the ability to stay in their homes will only add to our nation's foreclosure crisis.

Mr. Chair, homeownership is the American dream for many families in this country. The FHA Refinance Program will give the American people a chance to keep their dream alive by allowing lenders the ability to write off mortgage principal, at no cost to the tax payer.

This Congress must stand with the distressed homeowners in this country who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. Before moving forward we should ask ourselves who do we value, and more importantly who do we stand with? Congress must stand on the side of the homeowners in this country. I urge my colleagues to vote no H.R. 830.

RECOGNITION OF MS. NANCY
MAZZA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 11, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nancy Mazza for her immeasurable contributions as a leader and corporate executive in the field of retail banking. Nancy has been valuable to my district and an asset to local communities. On March 11, 2011, Ms. Mazza will be recognized by the Greater Long Branch Chamber of Commerce during their 77th Annual Business Awards Dinner with the Lois G. Libutti Community Service Award. Today, I applaud Ms. Mazza, as her achievements should serve as an inspiration to us all.

Nancy Mazza began her career at Shadow Lawn Savings Bank as a teller. As a result of her hard work and dedication, Ms. Mazza was promoted to Branch Manager in 1984. Her responsibilities included overseeing eight branches throughout Monmouth County. In 1994 Ms. Mazza acquired the responsibilities of Senior Vice President and Senior District Executive for Sovereign Bank. She was accountable for overall sales, operations, performance management, facilities and district performance in Monmouth County. She currently serves as the Executive Vice President of Retail Banking at Colonial American Bank.

Nancy Mazza is a valued member of the community. Ms. Mazza honorably serves as past-chair of the Ronald McDonald House in Long Branch and New Brunswick. She continues to remain an active member of the board. Ms. Mazza is also a committee member for United Way, Monmouth Park Charities, the March of Dimes, Michael's Feat, Jason's Dream for Kids, Tinton Falls C.U.R.E. and Toys for Tots. Nancy is an alumna of Rutgers University and earned a degree in Journalism and Communications. She is a forty-year resident of Monmouth County and currently lives in Little Silver with her husband Dominick and their three children, DJ, Joseph and Kristyn.

Mr. Speaker, once again I would like to thank Nancy Mazza for her outstanding contributions to the constituents of my district and congratulate her for the honors she has received from the Greater Long Branch Chamber of Commerce.