

participation in supervisory training for his peers.

He always managed to find time for many community service endeavors. He chaired the Suffern Community Development committee from 1998 through 2004. He was an original member of the Suffern Community Foundation and participates in the Friends of Sloatsburg organization. He currently serves as an elected member of the Ramapo Central School Board, coached little league for many years and, most recently, has coached the Suffern High School varsity bowling team.

Bill and his wife Ada have two children; Eric a graduate of Syracuse University, and Alexandra, attending Siena College.

I want to congratulate Bill Gonzalez for his great service over so long a period to the people of New York. He has truly earned a happy retirement.

HONORING BISHOP QUINCY
LAVELLE CARSWELL

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation.

Whereas, Bishop Quincy Lavelle Carswell, is celebrating fifty (50) years in preaching the gospel this year and has provided stellar leadership to his church on an international level; and

Whereas, Bishop Quincy Lavelle Carswell, under the guidance and calling of God began preaching the word of God as a child and has transformed over the years as pastor of the historic Tabernacle Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, from 1975–1992, founding Covenant Ministries of Metropolitan Atlanta in 1993; and

Whereas, from Miami, Florida to Atlanta, Georgia, he has transformed, trail blazed and taught the gospel on a national and international level wherein the lives of many have been touched; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has been and continues to be a blessing to us as a spiritual leader, an educator and a community leader who not only talks the talk, but walks the walk; and

Whereas, Bishop Carswell is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his Church, but with our District and the world his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Bishop Quincy Lavelle Carswell, as he celebrates his 50th Pastoral Anniversary;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim October 23, 2011, as Bishop Quincy Lavelle Carswell Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 23rd day of October, 2011.

IN HONOR OF THE TWENTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF ILLYRIA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Illyria, the Albanian-American newspaper. Illyria has been in the forefront of supporting the aspirations of the Albanian people in The Balkans for 20 years.

As the Albanian people of Kosova in the former Yugoslavia emerged from the domination of Serbia, and Albania emerged from the shadow of communism in 1991, Albanian-Americans were in need of information about their homeland, and a common voice to bring their community together. In that time of great transition, Harry Bajraktari, an Albanian immigrant from Kosova who had built a successful real estate business from scratch in the Bronx, founded and published Illyria, and published it twice weekly in both English and Albanian.

From the beginning, Illyria provided a valuable bridge among Albanians in the U.S. and abroad, and our leaders in the United States. Through the dedication and passion of Mr. Bajraktari and his colleagues, Illyria championed the causes of human rights, democracy and freedom for the people of Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro and for a free and independent Republic of Kosova. During the Yugoslav wars and the struggles of Albanians in Kosova against the regime of Slobodon Milosevic, Illyria promoted peaceful solutions for Albanians and their neighbors. Diplomats at the United Nations, members of Congress, officials at the State Department, the White House and think tanks in Washington were among those who used Illyria as a resource.

Now in more peaceful times for Albanians, Illyria, true to its immigrant roots, continues to build ties between the Albanians and the United States, promoting friendship between our countries and highlighting the contributions of Albanian immigrants to the United States. The long list of distinguished Albanian-Americans introduced to readers by Illyria includes a Nobel-Prize winner, an engineer who oversaw the flight of the Apollo 11 mission to the moon, a former NASA astronaut who flew into space on the Space Shuttle *Endeavour*, famous actors, directors and TV personalities, and successful professionals of various fields.

The torch of owning and publishing Illyria was passed from Mr. Bajraktari to Ekrem Bardha, a successful Albanian-American businessmen from Michigan and then to Vehbi Bajrami, a dedicated publisher. Through two decades and three owners, Illyria has been a consistent voice for tolerance and truth. As Ismail Kadare, the internationally-renowned Albanian writer said, Illyria has kept "only one passion as sacred: its dedication to the freedom and the happiness of the Albanian people." Mr. Speaker, these are two of the principles that have made this country the greatest democracy in the world, and which unite Albania and the United States in friendship today.

With thousands of readers from New York to Alaska, Illyria newspaper is truly an American institution—politically independent and true to the best values of American journalism. In short, Illyria embodies the American dream.

I join with Harry Bajraktari and with Albanian-Americans in the United States and around the world, in wishing a happy 20th anniversary to Illyria newspaper.

IN HONOR OF MR. RANDELL
MCSHEPARD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Randell McShepard, the vice president of public affairs for RPM International, Inc., for being named the 2011 Black Professional of the Year by the Black Professionals Association Charitable Foundation (BPACF).

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. McShepard graduated from John F. Kennedy High School. He later earned Bachelor of Arts degrees in psychology and communications from Baldwin-Wallace College before attending Cleveland State University's Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs to obtain a Master of Science degree in urban studies. He has since been inducted into the John F. Kennedy High School Hall of Fame and named a Distinguished Alumnus of Cleveland State University.

Prior to taking on his role as vice president of public affairs for RPM International, Inc., Mr. McShepard has held a number of roles in the non-profit sector. After graduating from Baldwin-Wallace College, he began working as the manager of the training services division for Vocational Guidance Services. Randell was responsible for the creation of a number of job training and placement programs for the vocational rehabilitation facility. He later began working for the Cleveland Bicentennial Commission as the assistant director of administration and program development. In May, 1997 Mr. McShepard became the executive director for City Year Cleveland where he led more than 220 corps members. He was hired by RPM International Inc. at the beginning of 2001 as their director of community affairs. In October 2007 he was promoted to his current role as vice president of public affairs.

In addition to his career, Mr. McShepard is an active member of the Greater Cleveland community and volunteers his time with several organizations. He serves as the Chairman-Emeritus for the Sisters of Charity Foundation, vice-chairman of the Fund for Our Economic Future, and is involved with Business Volunteers Unlimited, the Cleveland School of Science and Medicine and Baldwin-Wallace College.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. Randell McShepard on being named the 2011 Black Professional of the Year.

HONORING DENNIS ZIEMIENSKI OF
GLENN ELLEN, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative

LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor Dennis Ziemienksi, the 2011 Sonoma Treasure Artist. An internationally known artist from Glenn Ellen, California, Mr. Ziemienksi is also a prominent supporter of art events in the Sonoma Valley.

Born and raised in San Francisco, Dennis graduated from the California College of Arts and Crafts before moving to New York for a successful career in illustration and painting. He worked with Time-Life, Levi-Straus, Rolling Stone, and the New York Times and has created compelling images for many high profile clients such as Super Bowl XXIX, the Napa Mustard Festival, the Kentucky Derby, the California Railway Museum, and the San Francisco Zoo.

An internationally acclaimed painter, Dennis has had several solo exhibitions, won numerous awards, taught at prominent art schools, and illustrated well-known book covers. He has also volunteered his teaching skills at local schools and has donated auction paintings or created posters for local Sonoma Valley nonprofits.

Dennis' work is marked by fine draftsmanship and strong, richly colored images inspired by early 20th century painting and posters. He travels frequently to develop different ideas and sensibilities. "I love to paint my native California and the West," he says, "but the land of my ancestors, Italy and the Mediterranean, has also been a frequent subject . . . it is also important for me to use a romantic sense of history and place, when required, to create a vision that lures the viewer into the picture, creating the desire to 'be there.'"

Dennis is married to artist Anne Ziemienksi, and the couple's daughter, Sofia, attends the University of the Redlands.

Mr. Speaker, we are pleased to congratulate Dennis Ziemienksi for his designation as the Sonoma Treasure Artist of the Year for 2011. Please join us and the Sonoma Valley Community in celebrating his accomplishments and contributions.

IN RECOGNITION OF CLEVELAND
TENANTS ORGANIZATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Cleveland Tenants Organization.

The Cleveland Tenants Organization was established in 1975 after the passage of the Ohio Landlord-Tenant Law to assist landlords and tenants in understanding the new law and their rights and responsibilities outlined in the law. The mission of the organization is to preserve and expand the supply of safe, decent, fair, affordable and accessible rental housing in Greater Cleveland by informing citizens of their rights and duties in rental housing; representing tenants and the interest of tenants in the preservation and promotion of rental housing rights; empowering tenants individually and collectively to represent themselves and their interests; advocating for the needs of low and moderate income tenants; resolving disputes between landlords and tenants; preventing homelessness; and combating discrimination in housing based on race, religion, color, gender, handicap, familial status, military status, social/economic class, and sexual orientation.

Over the past thirty-six years, the organization has continued to grow and expand to include programs and services for Greater Clevelanders concerned with rental information, foreclosure/eviction diversion, community education, equal housing opportunities, healthy homes and homeless prevention. In 2010, CTO reached out to and assisted over 35,000 households.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the Cleveland Tenants Organization and their remarkable contributions to our community.

REGARDING THE PACKAGE OF
TRADE BILLS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, my policy regarding trade agreements has always been to consider each agreement on its merits. I have supported some FTAs and I have opposed others based on a careful consideration of the details of the legislation and the pros and cons associated with them. In each case, I apply the following test: Will the agreement help the American economy and American workers?

It is by that standard that I measured the trade package we are considering today containing the House passed renewal of the Generalized System of Preferences for poor countries; trade adjustment assistance to support those American workers who may be harmed in specific cases; and the long pending free trade agreements with Panama, Korea and Colombia. After considering each of these agreements, I have decided to support them.

For too long, the U.S. automobile industry has had only limited access to Korea's auto market. In 2010, over 500,000 Korean autos were sold in the U.S. while only 14,000 American cars were sold in Korea. The Obama Administration negotiated with the Korean government and corrected that imbalance while increasing American access to other areas of the Korean economy such as its lucrative financial services and IT sectors. The agreement is supported by the United Auto Workers and the American auto industry.

The Panama FTA increases the access of American goods and services to Panama's economy while also addressing long-standing concerns about the quality of Panama's workers protections and about its status as a tax-haven for those Americans trying to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. Through close negotiation with the Panamanian government, the Obama Administration and Members of Congress have addressed those concerns.

The Colombia FTA is also a win for the American economy. The benefits Colombia has enjoyed as a result of its membership among the GSP recipient countries has meant that it has had significant and one-sided access to the American market. This FTA balances that relationship so that now American companies enjoy the same access to Colombia's growing economy that Colombia has enjoyed in the U.S. for decades.

Colombia has struggled with a violent past, including the targeted execution of labor organizers. With the accession of the Santos Ad-

ministration and its commitment to addressing this serious problem, encouraging headway has been made. As an indication of its good faith, the Santos Administration has passed into law 75 percent of the requirements of the "Action Plan" it negotiated with the Obama Administration, including the adoption of standards required for approving trade agreements and establishing an ILO office in Bogota to monitor labor violations. Colombia has made significant progress toward penalizing those companies trying to circumvent collective bargaining agreements through the use of 'collectives' and it has created a separate Ministry of Labor to give Cabinet-level attention to critical labor issues. Passage of the Colombia FTA will encourage the Colombian government to continue these reforms.

Each of these bills increases opportunities for American companies and consumers while helping to spread those economic benefits widely for American workers here and abroad. The American economy cannot afford to sit on the sidelines as other countries form trade partnerships. As we aggressively pursue trade and export opportunities around the globe, steps we take to protect our workers at home, such as TAA, are critical.

Together, these trade measures represent the strong commitment of Congress and the Obama Administration to promoting job growth in the U.S. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting these important pieces of legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE
JUDGE RAYMOND PIANKA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Honorable Judge Raymond Pianka, who is being recognized at the Cleveland Tenants Organization's Masquerade Benefit on October 21, 2011.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Judge Pianka has dedicated his career to the betterment of the City of Cleveland. He attended Cleveland State University (CSU) and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. In 1977, he earned a Juris Doctor Degree from the CSU's Cleveland Marshall Law School and was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1978. While attending school, Judge Pianka was instrumental in establishing one of the first neighborhood-based development organizations in Cleveland, the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization and became the executive director.

Judge Pianka ran and was elected to the Cleveland City Council in 1985. During his ten years in office, he served as chairman of the Community and Economic Development Committee and Legislative Committee. He was a major contributor for legislation regarding the Housing Trust fund, City Works Program, Landlord Drug House Responsibility Ordinance, Anti-Graffiti Ordinance, Regulation of Nuisance Pay Phones, Small Business Micro Loans, Preservation of Brick Streets, Tenant Emergency Water Turn On Act and the Land Bank Utilization Ordinance among others.

Judge Pianka was elected as the presiding and administrative judge of the Cleveland Municipal Court's Housing Division in 1996 and