

Tom was born and raised Ashtabula, Ohio. He graduated from Westlake High School and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in broadcast journalism from Northwestern University. During his last year at Northwestern, Tom worked as a radio correspondent covering Watergate for WMAQ in Chicago.

Before returning to his hometown of Cleveland, Tom worked as an anchor/reporter for WDTN and WLWD TV in Dayton, Ohio for four years. He has been working for WKYC in Cleveland since July 1979 and is the longest tenured reporter with one station in the City of Cleveland. He worked for many years as a general assignment reporter before being promoted to senior political reporter in May of 1998. Throughout his career Tom has garnered several awards including the Best Broadcast Writing award from the Ohio Associated Press in 1984 and three local Emmys. His 1989 Emmy for Investigative Reporting was for his coverage of ticket abuse by Cleveland police officers.

In addition to his storied career with WKYC, for the past eight years Tom has hosted the political discussion show, *Between the Lines*. He has moderated countless local and state wide political debates. Tom is on the Board of Directors for the local chapter of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists and Camp Ho Mita Koda, a camp for diabetic children. He has also served on the boards of the Diabetes Association of Greater Cleveland.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating WKYC's Mr. Tom Beres as the Press Club of Cleveland inducts him into the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame, Class of 2011.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 27, 2011*

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 808 I had district work that required my presence. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING THE BRIDGE, INC.

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 27, 2011*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Bridge, Inc. located in Caldwell, Essex County, New Jersey on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.

The Bridge, Inc. is a private, nonprofit, community agency that has been helping children and families in the Essex County area since 1971 regardless of their ability to pay. All services are designed to strengthen and support the family and promote the personal growth of children, adolescents, adults and seniors.

The Bridge offers a variety of high quality, cost effective, professional mental health and addiction assessment and treatment services. Every day it works with individuals and families facing marital problems, parent/child conflicts, grief and loss, depression, anxiety, substance abuse and more.

The Bridge's compassionate staff is always ready and willing to assist those in need of help. Among the programs they offer are counseling services, adult and adolescent substance abuse services, school based substance abuse services, family crisis intervention counseling and the Family Preservation Program. Through its school based substance abuse services, The Bridge offers primary prevention/early intervention services to contacting local schools as a first defense to substance abuse.

Also offered, is a unique women's service called Stepping Stones, Women's Addiction Services. This program is an intensive outpatient service aimed at empowering women to take control of their lives and plan for their futures. Through the use of continuing care groups, women are counseled on parenting skills, healthy relationships and how to deal with their addictions, giving them the first steps to a healthier lifestyle.

For the past 40 years, The Bridge, Inc. has dedicated itself to the prevention and care of those struggling with a wide range of mental health and addiction issues. I commend the caring staff for their unwavering support to those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating The Bridge, Inc. on its 40th anniversary.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF MICHELE DASCHBACH FAST

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 27, 2011*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Michele Daschbach Fast who entered into eternal life on October 12, 2011, at the young and vital age of 47. A brutal, senseless act took the life of this beautiful, loving, talented and selfless wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt and friend.

Michele was blessed with extraordinary qualities, and she blessed everyone in her life in return. She was generous and loving, welcoming and joyful, a sports fan, a swimmer, a tennis player, a Giants fan and the most ardent supporter of the sports teams of her family and her wide circle of friends. She was quick, clever, and had a great sense of humor and she will never be forgotten.

Michele leaves her devoted husband of 24 years, Patrick, and her three beloved children, Patrick, 20, Laura, 18, and Lisa, 16. She also leaves her parents Leonore and Howard Daschbach of Atherton, and her brothers and sisters, Mark Daschbach, Rooney Daschbach, Laura Pitchford, LeeLee Cusenza, and Lisa Fuerst, as well as her faithful companion, Otis, a Black Labrador. Michele also played a wonderful, enthusiastic role in the lives of her many nieces and nephews, in-laws, scores of friends and the entire community of Seal Beach, California.

I am privileged to have known the Daschbach family for many decades. They are deeply faith filled and one of the most respected families in our community. May their faith, and the love and support of so many be sources of comfort to them during the difficult days ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Michele Daschbach Fast's life, and extend our deepest condolences to her entire family.

VETERANS CO-OP HOUSING

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 27, 2011*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as we honor and thank all who bravely served in the United States Armed Forces on Veterans Day, we also must ensure that our returning veterans can fully use programs that aid veterans' homeownership. Across the U.S., there are more than 1.2 million families of all income levels in homes owned and operated through cooperative associations. In New York City, co-ops make up about one-third of the housing stock and are often a less expensive option than condo units.

In 2006, Congress passed legislation I authored allowing veterans to use the Veterans Affairs' (VA) Home Loan Guaranty Program to purchase cooperative housing using their low interest loan benefits. These loan benefits allow veterans to buy homes with no down payment and limited closing costs. However, the program to allow loans for co-op housing will sunset at the end of 2011. In order to allow our nation's veterans to use the VA loan for all forms of home ownership, I am reintroducing legislation that would permanently extend the co-op program. To ensure that veterans are aware they can utilize the loans for co-op housing units, we have added a provision so that the Secretary of the VA can advertise the program to eligible veterans, participating lenders, and interested realtors.

By permanently extending these VA loan benefits to include co-ops, we can honor and thank all who bravely served in our Armed Forces by giving them the tools and resources they need to pursue their dreams of homeownership wherever they live.

Thank you to original cosponsors Reps. EDOLPHUS TOWNS, LAURA RICHARDSON, CHARLES RANGEL, JERROLD NADLER, and JESSE JACKSON, JR.

HONORING THE ST. ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL LADY HORNETS

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 27, 2011*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the St. Elizabeth High School Lady Hornets Softball team for winning the Class 1 Missouri State Championship on October 22, 2011.

The young women and their coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and for bringing home the state softball championship to their school and community. In their final championship game against the Jefferson Eagles, every team member made important contributions that led to their 5-2 win.

The Lady Hornets have carried on the school's proud tradition of excellence by bringing home the St. Elizabeth High School's fourth state softball championship.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the St. Elizabeth Lady Hornets for a job well done.

IN HONOR OF MR. BOB PAYNTER

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 27, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Bob Paynter, who is being honored by the Press Club of Cleveland and inducted into the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame, Class of 2011.

Bob was born and raised in Kirkwood, Missouri. He attended the University of Missouri—Columbia School of Journalism and graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1975. He first worked for the Akron Beacon Journal from 1981 to 1985 on crime, parole policies and political corruption. During his first period with the Journal he wrote a number of stories that helped free a man wrongly convicted of a child-murder case and led indirectly to conviction of the real killer.

Bob left the Greater Cleveland area and worked as a general assignment and projects reporter for The Dallas Morning News during 1986. He covered local courts and government and investigating the effects of lead pollution on inner-city children. Bob returned to Ohio working for the Akron Beacon Journal in January 1987. He worked as an investigative reporter and editor with the newspaper for the next 13 years. He covered topics such as campaign-finance abuses, failed drug-enforcement policies, illegal awarding of county sewer contracts, wrongful conviction of college student for date rape and evolution of race relations in the Akron area. In December of 1999 Bob began working for The Cleveland Plain Dealer as a projects editor and investigative reporter. During his 9 years with the Plain Dealer, Bob wrote on misconduct by the Parma police and the priests of the Cleveland Diocese and the "Cold-Blooded Liar" series. He is now the principal of Investigative Communications, LLC.

Throughout his career, Bob has been the recipient of some of journalism's most prestigious awards. As a result of his work on race relations in Akron Bob was awarded a Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal for Public Service. He received Worth Bingham and Sigma Delta Chi awards because of his work on the Ohio legislature's "Pay to Play" system and American Society of Newspaper Editors Local Watchdog Award while he was with the Plain Dealer.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. Bob Paynter as the Press Club of Cleveland inducts him into the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame, Class of 2011.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 27, 2011*

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 809, I had district work that required my presence.

Had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 27, 2011*

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, designated as such in 1987. Since then, victims and their advocates have come together each October to shed light on this insidious and still far too pervasive social ill.

As co-founder of the National Network to End Domestic Violence and its first Executive Director, I worked with domestic violence advocates and policymakers to bring about critical programming and changes in national public policy through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 1994 for victims of domestic abuse.

Since passage, great strides have been made to call attention and provide resources to address domestic violence. But the fight is far from over. Millions of women continue to suffer from assaults and rapes that cause long-term physical and mental health problems. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, each year, victims experience about 7.7 million intimate partner related physical assaults and rapes at a cost of \$5.8 billion, including \$4.1 billion in direct health care expenses.

As our economy recovers, it is important to appreciate the impact that the economic downturn has had on services providers due to increased demand, but limited resources. According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, domestic violence is more than three times as likely to occur when couples are experiencing high levels of financial strain. The sad truth is service providers struggle to serve victims with constrained budgets. According to the National Center for Victims of Crime, 92% of victim service providers have seen an increased demand, but 84% reported that cutbacks in funding were directly affecting their work.

This past Tuesday, October 25th, I was joined by the Prince George's County State's Attorney Office, Congressional staffers, victims' rights advocates, law enforcement, and providers on a tour of the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center (DV/SAC) at the Prince George's Hospital in Cheverly, Maryland. The tour not only commemorated Domestic Violence Awareness Month, but provided all participants with a better understanding of the vital work being done by victim advocates in my State of Maryland and across our country, as well as the growing demand for special services for victims in this economic climate.

Established in 1973 and expanded in 2010, DV/SAC is located in the 4th Congressional District of Maryland, which I have the honor of representing in this Chamber. It offers a full range of hospital-based domestic violence services. The Center operates 24 hours a day and includes crisis intervention, crisis and follow-up counseling, safety planning, danger assessment, referral services, and victim advocacy. In 2010, DV/SAC provided sexual assault forensic exams and counseling to over 300 new victims, 1,700 individual and group counseling sessions, and over 1,000 crisis line inquiries answered, in addition to training medical staff and collaborating with community partners.

It is vitally important that we quickly reauthorize the life-saving and essential programs that protect so many women and families across our country. These programs save lives, contribute to our Nation's economic well-being, and break the devastating cycle of violence for future generations. We also need to maintain and even increase critical Family Violence Prevention and Service Act (FVPSA) and VAWA funding in these challenging economic times for not only our Nation, but also all the families across the United States.

The prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault throughout the country takes the work of a community and a commitment to providing women and men with resources and information to protect themselves. I look forward to continue working with victims, advocates, providers, and other Members of Congress in obtaining the necessary funding for these vital programs, while also working to strengthen VAWA through its reauthorization.

H.R. 3271, THE SECURITY AND FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT ACT

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 27, 2011*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Security and Financial Empowerment Act, better known as the SAFE Act.

Domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking are widespread problems that affect Americans from every background, ethnicity, and race. The prevalence of this violence is highlighted by the fact that nearly one in four women are beaten or sexually assaulted by a partner during adulthood and advocates are reporting an increase in the severity of these violent incidents.

These crimes have serious societal costs and gave physical and psychological impacts on their victims. Credible research has found that many women are trapped in abusive relationships due to their economic circumstances. As a result, victims often face the terrifying choice of living with abuse or leaving without the ability to support themselves and their children.

Under the SAFE Act, victims can take limited leave from work for safety planning and necessary court appearances without fear of losing their job. The SAFE Act also provides job protection when reasonable workplace safety modifications are requested.

The recent tragedy in Seal Beach, California—where a salon employee's ex-husband