

HONORING THE 13 RECIPIENTS OF  
THE CAMDEN COUNTY, NJ, FREEDOM  
MEDALS

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 13 recipients of the Camden County Freedom Medal. In 2001, this high honor was created to pay tribute to those who reflect the ideals and beliefs held by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The honorees of this esteemed award are exemplary citizens who have made momentous contributions to their community in a variety of ways. These individuals have not only dedicated themselves to bettering their community, but have also worked selflessly to bring together people of different backgrounds, cultures, and creeds.

This award is unique in that it does not honor people only in one area of service, but rather highlights individuals who have made significant contributions to society, each in their own way. Recipients of this year's award have done everything from establishing a college preparatory program for minority students, to founding an environmental program, to creating a 5K race in honor of a fellow Marine killed in action, to providing free health and education classes, among many other accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate all of the recipients of this year's Freedom Medal: Atnre Alleyne, Nasim Badat, Roger W. Barker, Lori Braunstein, Sister Helen Cole, Hardon H. Durrani, James E. Hannold, Linda Holscher, Melinda Kane, Mary Lamielle, Thelma Lenore Long, Robert Morrell, and Larry and Trudy Painter. I join the county in paying tribute to these 13 individuals and I thank them for helping carry out Dr. King's legacy with tireless dedication.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAINE ORGANIC FARMERS AND GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association MOFGA on their 40 year anniversary.

Committed to the Maine tradition of local, family owned agricultural businesses which produce some of the healthiest agricultural goods available, Abby McMillen began organizing membership for what would become MOFGA in 1971. The organization initially served as a forum where organic growers could learn from each other and perfect their trade. By 1972, MOFGA was certifying organic farms using standards laid out by Rodale Organic Garden. Today, the association has grown to include 6,000 members and nearly 350 certified farms.

MOFGA is also one of the most active groups in the state. The association runs nu-

merous educational, apprenticeship, and charitable programs that connect Maine's organic growers with each other and communities around the world. Their quarterly published news paper, The Maine Organic Farmer & Gardener, is one of the nation's leading information sources on organic agriculture and sustainable living practices. What's more, the annual Common Ground County Fair hosted by MOFGA has become one of the state's most anticipated events each year. Thousands of people are drawn to the town of Unity from all over the country to enjoy live entertainment and meet with local farmers, vendors and artisans.

MOFGA has demonstrated itself to be an invaluable resource for Maine growers and consumers who are interested in learning about healthy food and environmentally friendly farming methods. These agricultural practices are beneficial to public health, the environment and Maine's economy. Additionally, the association annually reviews farms and food processors to ensure that food labeled as organic truly lives up to that standard.

I wish MOFGA continued success in working with farmers, gardeners and families all across Maine to promote healthier and more nutritious eating options.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association on the 40th anniversary of its founding.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
RICHMOND TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR  
GORDON FUERSTENAU

**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Michigan's 10th Congressional District. On February 17, 2012, family, friends and neighbors of Mr. Gordon Fuerstenau will gather at the Richmond Township Hall to celebrate his dedicated and honorable record of public service. In total, Gordon has served the Township of Richmond located in northern Macomb County for an impressive 27 years, having first been elected as the Clerk in 1984 and then appointed to the position of Supervisor in 2003 which he held until 2011.

As a former township supervisor myself, I can personally attest to the hard work, long hours and steadfast commitment it takes to efficiently operate and manage the day-to-day business of a township. The job can be difficult at times, but the rewards far outweigh any roadblocks faced along the way. There is nothing quite like the satisfaction of seeing the work you have accomplished to improve the community in which you live. Ultimately, you know you are making a positive difference and enhancing the quality of life for the generations to follow.

Gordon's resume includes a long list of accomplishments demonstrating his leadership skills and impeccable integrity. He has served on the City of Richmond's Wellhead Protection

Team which helped protect drinking water utilized by area residents. He also was a key player in fostering the amicable relationship with the City of Richmond through his work with the Richmond Volunteer Fire Department, and triumphing key environmental issues to help maintain the rural setting that is especially unique to Richmond Township.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for this opportunity to properly acknowledge Gordon Fuerstenau's strong record of outstanding and invaluable public service to Richmond Township. I commend him on this very special occasion and offer my best wishes on many more successes in the future.

RECOGNIZING MR. JACK SCAROLA  
ON HIS DEDICATION TO HELPING  
END HOMELESSNESS

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it heartened me to learn that Jack Scarola was recognized by the Lord's Place for his work in the fight against homelessness in the West Palm Beach area of Florida. Jack is a partner in a prestigious West Palm Beach law firm who has supported homeless persons in the community since he moved to the area over 30 years ago. He was a founding member of the Lord's Place, an organization I am proud to represent in my Congressional district that is dedicated to breaking the cycle of homelessness through engagement, housing, education, and employment programs. He still is active with the Lord's Place, just having finished serving as chairman of their Board of Directors and having served on the Board for more than 20 consecutive years. I appreciate the work that he has done, and I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for his commitment to serving the community.

The Lord's Place recently honored Jack with the Ending Homelessness Award. During the award ceremony, a 1983 radio broadcast featuring the organization's efforts was played. Although the clip was a distant memory, Jack instantly remembered giving the interview. It was early in the movement to help the homeless, and he and some other volunteers were collecting donations on the steps of a local church. Jack was surprised at the community's support for their cause. Since that time, he has worked to turn this support into a community-wide effort to help other people.

For over 30 years, he has helped to make the Lord's Place fight against homelessness in Palm Beach County. In 2010, the Lord's Place supported over 500 homeless men, women, and children. Jack played a critical role in building this organization.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Jack Scarola for receiving the Ending Homelessness Award from the Lord's Place. He is truly a selfless individual that has dedicated his life to helping those in their greatest time of need.