

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE REVEREND
ALFRED C. KRASS

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of the late Reverend Alfred C. Krass, retired pastor of the United Christian Church in Levittown, Pennsylvania, and former missionary to Ghana.

This weekend, the Interfaith Community of Lower Bucks County will posthumously present their inaugural Peace Prize to Reverend Krass, who passed away last year at the age of seventy-four.

Throughout his life, Reverend Krass was a symbol of unity and peace who called for open communication between those of different faiths and cultures.

Reverend Krass was also the founder and first president of the Interfaith Housing Development Corp. of Bucks County and the Lower Bucks Center for Church and Community.

Dedicating his life to the service of others, Reverend Krass was a selfless leader who left a lasting impression on his community, and serves as an example to us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF MARGARET BURNS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Margaret Burns, a resident of my district in Pocasset, Massachusetts, as she celebrates her 100th birthday.

Margaret was born on September 29, 1912 in Braintree, Massachusetts. After finishing high school she went on to work at Armstrong Cork Flooring, now World Industries, as a secretary.

In 1953, Margaret, met the love of her life, Garrett Burns. Together they have raised two children, Tom and Carol, who gave them six grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. Margaret considers herself lucky for having been "happily married for nearly sixty years." Some of her most memorable moments were with her husband at the Beacon Inn in New Hampshire where they would go for weekends.

In addition to spending time with her husband, Margaret was always involved with her children. She was a devoted attendee of Parent-Teacher Association meetings when her children were young. Today, she loves to cook for her many family gatherings, she enjoys weaving rugs, and she looks forward to the many bridge games she plays with her friends.

Margaret does not attribute her longevity to any one thing except her overall happiness. She makes sure to mention that her successful marriage has helped her to live a long and content life.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Margaret Burns on this joyous occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her many more years of happiness and health.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF STAFF SERGEANT ANTONIO RIVERA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Staff Sergeant Antonio Rivera of the Pennsylvania National Guard and resident of Pottstown, Montgomery County on the occasion of being selected as the 2012 Liberty USO Service Member of the Year (Army).

SSG Rivera enlisted in the Pennsylvania National Guard on October 18, 2000 as a 14M stinger missile operator and joined the ranks of Charlie Company 213 ADA. In 2006, SSG Rivera was ordered to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After six months of training, he was deployed as a 31B military police officer and served as a team leader providing convoy security. SSG Rivera earned a Combat Action Badge when an IED detonated beneath his vehicle in his first month in country.

In 2008, SSG Rivera transitioned into a 21B Combat Engineer Company and in 2009 achieved his current rank before being deployed for a second time in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. While serving on this deployment, SSG Rivera earned Battalion Soldier of the Quarter. On August 10, 2010, SSG Rivera earned the Purple Heart after his vehicle was struck by an IED during a routine clearance operation. Although he suffered shrapnel wounds to his neck, SSG Rivera stayed focused on taking care of his platoon and teammates.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Staff Sergeant Antonio Rivera of the Pennsylvania National Guard on the occasion of being selected as the 2012 Liberty USO Service Member of the Year (Army) and for his great service to the United States of America.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES AND MONSIGNOR JOSEPH SEMANCIK

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Catholic Charities, Diocese of Gary, as the organization celebrates its 75th anniversary. During the celebration, which will take place on Friday, October 5, 2012, at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana, Catholic Charities will also take time to honor my dear friend, Monsignor Joseph Semancik, for his 38 years of dedicated service to the organization.

Catholic Charities, a part of the Diocese of Gary, has been helping to meet the needs of citizens throughout Northwest Indiana for the past 75 years. It is a private, not-for-profit social service agency that serves Lake, Porter, LaPorte, and Strake Counties in Northwest Indiana. Catholic Charities, established in 1937, was originally part of the Diocese of Fort Wayne until 1957, when it became part of the Diocese of Gary. Initially, its function was to

serve the underprivileged and needy through programs that would meet the professional standards of social work. However, throughout the years, Catholic Charities has focused its attention on programs that meet the changing needs of the community. In recent years, counseling, volunteer programs, and programs for the elderly and family life ministry have been added. Catholic Charities has been triumphant due to the unwavering dedication of its staff, board members, volunteers, and donors. Catholic Charities is a remarkable organization that is dedicated to serving those most in need and has been an extraordinary asset to the community. Northwest Indiana is not only grateful, but proud to have had the organization's support and help during the past 75 years.

Born in 1929, Joseph Semancik was ordained a Catholic priest in 1953 and in 1984 was named a Domestic Prelate with the title Monsignor. First and foremost, Monsignor Semancik is a man of God, who has tirelessly discharged his sacred duties with vigor, compassion, and an uncommon practicality. Generous to a fault with this time and commitment to help those most in need, Monsignor Joseph Semancik was deeply involved for most of his entire adult life with Catholic Charities, both locally and at the national level. A holder of a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, Father Semancik is an author and teacher as well. In his "spare time," Monsignor was the local Diocesan Director of Catholic Relief Services, representing North America on a planning committee for Caritas Internationalis, a union of 145 Catholic Charities organizations worldwide. He also was a founder of Hospice of the Calumet Area and one of the originators of the Indiana Catholic Conference. Monsignor Semancik currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Calumet College of Saint Joseph, the Board of Directors for Saint Catherine Hospital, the Board of the Community Foundation of Northwest Indiana, and is a member of the Lake County Advancement Committee.

The recipient of numerous awards, I believe Joe Semancik is probably most gratified by the respect and affection shown by those innumerable individuals whose spirit, body, and mind were guided, made whole, and yes made to laugh, because this good man touched their lives. It is an honor to consider Monsignor Joseph Semancik a friend, and it has been a privilege for each of us in Northwest Indiana to have had our lives enriched by this good and holy man.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Catholic Charities and Monsignor Semancik. For their remarkable commitment to serving those most in need, Catholic Charities and Monsignor Semancik are to be highly commended, and they serve as an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 250th anniversary of the founding of my

hometown, Allentown, Pennsylvania, and to pay tribute to the many contributions its residents have made to the cultural fabric of Pennsylvania and our nation.

The area that is now Allentown was originally settled as Northampton in 1762 by William Allen. Allen was a wealthy shipping merchant and prominent Pennsylvanian. He was Chief Justice of Colonial Pennsylvania's Supreme Court and had previously served as mayor of Philadelphia. Given its location along the Lehigh River and proximity to Philadelphia, Allen believed land he acquired north of the City of Brotherly Love would make an ideal center of commerce. Soon, a small village of roughly a dozen wooden cabins was established and immediately began growing into a busy town.

The town's first taste of national acclaim came during the American Revolution, when numerous large bells from nearby Philadelphia, including the Liberty Bell, were hidden in Zion's United Church of Christ to prevent them from being melted into cannons by British soldiers. Without the brave efforts of Allentown's patriotic residents, one of our nation's most famous and inspiring icons may have been lost forever.

While the town was formally incorporated as the borough of Northampton in 1811, most residents referred to the bustling village as "Allen's town", a term initially used by founding father John Adams in a diary entry. The following year, Lehigh County was founded and Northampton was chosen as the county seat. After years of popular usage, the nickname "Allen's town", was adapted into the town's official name, "Allentown," in 1838.

For the first several decades of its existence, Allentown remained a small Pennsylvania German (Dutch) village, populated mostly by farmers and tradesmen. However, the industrial revolution of the early 19th Century dramatically transformed the economy of the entire eastern Pennsylvania region. Allentown's powerful iron industry fed the rapid growth of the nation's railroads in the mid-1800s. As more metal was required to lay tracks across the expanding nation, Allentown prospered. The growth of the Lehigh Valley Railroad and the Lehigh Canal allowed vast quantities of raw materials and finished goods to move through Allentown to markets far and wide. Through industrialization, the city finally achieved William Allen's dream of becoming a major commercial center.

After the financial crises of the late 1800s, the turn of the century gave rise to Allentown as a preeminent producer of silks and other beautiful textiles. The arrival of iconic Mack Trucks in 1905 also reinvigorated the city as a manufacturing center. In 1928, the completion of the PPL tower, the area's first skyscraper, displayed Allentown's industrial might to anyone traveling in the Lehigh Valley. The tower's signature gold and red lit peak still illuminates the Allentown sky at night, illustrating the city's rich industrial history and bright economic future.

Today, Allentown supports a diverse array of industries in manufacturing and services. It is home to superb institutions of higher learning, including Cedar Crest College, Muhlenberg College, and a satellite campus of Lehigh Carbon Community College, that prepare thousands of students each year for careers in the modern economy.

In addition to industry and education, Allentown provides the region with outstanding rec-

reational opportunities. Throughout the year, local residents enjoy the city's beautiful and expansive park system. From cross-country skiing through Lehigh Parkway in the winter months to riding a bicycle on the challenging loop at Trexler Park under the summer sun, Allentown's renowned parks offer a little something for everyone. And for those more interested in watching than participating, Allentown is a great location for sports fans. The city is home to the wildly popular Lehigh Valley IronPigs, the AAA affiliate of the nearby Philadelphia Phillies. Furthermore, upon the completion of a new arena downtown, the Philadelphia Flyers' minor league hockey team, the Phantoms, will also call Allentown home.

While Allentown is certainly the quintessential American city, it is also distinctively unique. Residents of the city's western neighborhoods understand better than anyone in the country how truly powerful a tiny Canary can be, and anyone living in the East Side knows where to find the best clams in Pennsylvania. And like the greatest cities in our nation, Allentown is comprised of residents from many unique cultures across the globe. In addition to descendants of the region's original German settlers, the city today features a diverse population of European, Hispanic, Caribbean, African, Asian and Middle Eastern origins. Embracing and celebrating their differences helps bring the people of Allentown together, but it is their shared love for this extraordinary city that truly unifies neighbors.

This year, Allentown is marking its quarter-millennial anniversary with a calendar full of activities celebrating arts, culture, history, and community. Celebration Weekend, which will be held from September 27th to the 29th, will include a community festival highlighting the diversity of the city, an ecumenical prayer service, a "red carpet restaurant night," and a parade organized around the theme "City Without Limits: Points of Pride." The year's activities will draw to a close with a spectacular New Year's Eve Finale.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm and pride that I honor the city in which I was privileged to be born and raised, and where I have been blessed to raise a family of my own. I would ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the City of Allentown on the 250th anniversary of its founding.

NATIONAL SURGICAL
TECHNOLOGISTS WEEK

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, in operating rooms and in hospitals across the great state of Tennessee, there is a team of professional and dedicated workers who serve us in some of our most frail and vulnerable moments. As we celebrate National Surgical Technologists Week, I rise to honor those surgical technologists who have dedicated their life's work to the care, service, and work of our healing.

From processing surgical instruments to focusing on patient care and everything in between, Surgical Technologists are a crucial part of patient care. I ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking them and the Ten-

nessee Association of Surgical Technologists for their works of mercy, especially during National Surgical Technologists Week.

RECOGNIZING THE 101ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, October 10th of this year marks 101 years of the Republic of China (ROC). In those 101 years, the United States has had the support of few better friends or allies in any part of the world—let alone in the ever-increasingly strategically important Asia Pacific region—than the ROC. Inspired by the American ideals of individual liberty and freedom, the ROC and United States have stood beside each other in some of our two lands' darkest hours and most challenging times.

Our two governments have stood side by side during the most trying times of the 20th century. Armed international conflicts have tested our relations, but we have emerged as two thriving nations. Our democracies are a shining example for which emerging nations aspire to become just as the ROC was one hundred and one years ago.

On this monumental occasion, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing this milestone achievement in the history of the ROC. As one our closest allies in the Asia-Pacific region, we must continuously strive to strengthen the relationship between our countries. Let us continue to promote the fine democratic examples which the ROC has set for the world to see. We look forward to maintaining our strong relationship with the ROC for years to come, and we wish their country continued prosperity throughout its second century.

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as Suicide Prevention Month. With nearly 30,000 Americans losing their lives to suicide each year, far too many of our friends and family members are not receiving the support and assistance so desperately needed. Suicide touches all groups, young and old, and knows no religious or ethnic boundaries. Today, however, I wish to focus on two groups who are disproportionately impacted by suicide.

The first is our veterans—a growing number of suicides comes from within the ranks of those who have served or are serving in our armed forces. For many of our troops, repeated deployments and prolonged combat has exposed them to high amounts of stress creating invisible wounds that contribute to suicide. These heroes put their lives on the line every day and upon returning, they deserve our support. We need to be there for our armed forces—veteran and active duty