

role as she assumes the prestigious role as Chief of Staff of the Iowa Air National Guard where she will directly assist Iowa's Adjutant General.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a long-time, outspoken supporter of Iowa's 132nd Fighter Wing in Des Moines because of the remarkable men and women who are the best in the Nation at what they do. Jennifer Walter's career is a testament to the 132nd Fighter Wing and what Iowans are capable of through hard work and unwavering commitment to a cause greater than themselves. I applaud Brigadier General Walter on her most recent promotion in her remarkably storied career. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jennifer, and all of the Iowa Air National Guard, on the continued excellence they provide to Des Moines, the State of Iowa, and our Nation as a whole.

IN RECOGNITION OF REVEREND
DR. LARRY WAYNE ELLIS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Reverend Dr. Larry Wayne Ellis for his 25 years of service and inspiration as senior pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church in San Mateo.

Dr. Ellis understands the power of the written and spoken word. He has authored six books, including *Trust*, *The Congregation Driven Ministry* and *The Uncommon Book of Prayers*. He was also selected to contribute to the *Oxford Sermons Volume II*. His soothing voice fills his parish and the airwaves of KFAZ-AM and KMEL-FM radio on a regular basis. His radio ministry "Teach the Word" is broadcast daily on KFAZ and the "Dr. Larry Show" is broadcast monthly on KMEL.

Dr. Ellis started as the pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church in September 1987 and has grown and revitalized his congregation ever since. Originally from Clarksville, Tennessee, he earned his bachelor's degree from Austin Peay State University in Tennessee. He moved to California and received his Master of Divinity degree from Golden Gate Theological Seminary and his Masters Degree in Counseling from the College of Notre Dame. In 1995, he topped off his education with a Doctorate of Ministry from the Northern Baptists Theological Seminary in Illinois.

Dr. Ellis continues his lifelong commitment to religious education. He currently serves as vice president and professor at Southern Marin Bible Institute and an adjunct professor at Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley. In 1999, he was selected as president of Bay Area Baptist Congress Christian Education and in 2002 served as vice president of the California State Congress of Christian Education. He was president of California State Baptist Congress of Christian Education from 2005 until 2010. He is on the board of directors of The National Baptist Congress of Christian Education.

Members of Dr. Ellis' congregation describe him as a teacher and encourager who lives by example—or as he puts it, "I am my message. I have to model my ministry." A few years ago, a veteran joined the church after some 10 years in the military. She had drifted into a

life of drugs and hopelessness. Dr. Ellis encouraged and mentored her to turn her life around. She cleaned up, moved into transitional housing the church had purchased and went to school to earn her BA and Masters degrees. Today she is a double homeowner and mentors children and members of the Pilgrim Baptist congregation.

In addition to preaching, teaching and encouraging, Dr. Ellis is always looking for ways to stay engaged with our community outside the church. He founded C.H.O.I.C.E.S., a drug information and referral nonprofit agency and became president and CEO of the Pilgrim Organization, Inc., a youth through senior nonprofit organization.

Our community has recognized his invaluable contributions. He received the Hero of Health Award from the African American Community Advisory Board, the Pastoral Excellence Award from Samford University, and he was inducted into the San Mateo Library Wall of Fame.

Dr. Ellis is married to Vanderler Hines-Ellis and is the proud father of Tawana, Justin and Austin.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Reverend Dr. Larry W. Ellis who has touched thousands of lives and lifted the spirits of the residents of San Mateo, California and throughout the world.

HONORING ELIZABETH "LIBBY"
CURRAN, PEOPLE MAGAZINE'S
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2012

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth "Libby" Curran, who was recently named Teacher of the Year by People Magazine, one of only five educators across the country to receive this award for her efforts to change the lives of her students.

Libby is a special education teacher at Richards Elementary School in Newport, New Hampshire. She also serves as a district trainer for Newport School District's Alternative Assessment Program, mentoring her colleagues and serving as a role model for new educators.

Libby's dedication to her students goes beyond the classroom and normal school hours. She created a successful afterschool reading buddies program for students to improve their reading skills by reading to each other, and Libby has encouraged 500 children and their families become regular library users. Libby even writes and illustrates small hand-made books that she distributes to her students. As Libby says in the magazine, "Reading is the key to success, not just in school, but also in life."

Our children's success in the classroom starts with great teachers, and Libby is a terrific example of the caliber of teachers we are proud to have in the Granite State. It is an honor to represent Libby in the United States Congress, and I wish her all the best as she continues to touch the lives of so many students in New Hampshire and beyond.

IN HONOR OF HARRY CROHE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harry Crohe, a member of the Bucks County Rescue Squad. Mr. Crohe joined the Rescue Squad in 1963 as a volunteer and is presently an Emergency Medical Technician. He has held the following positions, Director of First Aid, Chief, and President of the Board of Directors. He was Chairman of the employee relations, fundraising, ambulance and building committees.

During his tenure with the Bucks County Rescue Squad, Mr. Crohe also served as a volunteer fireman and on the Bristol Borough Town Council. Presently, he serves on the Bristol Borough Planning Commission. His wife Cathy also volunteers with the Rescue Squad.

Mr. Speaker, Harry Crohe exemplifies all of the best qualities in a Bucks County resident. He has worked tirelessly for 50 years to help members of his community and improve the local quality of life. His efforts should be commended. Mr. Speaker, I yield back.

HAZLETON LIONS CLUB'S MELVIN
JONES FELLOWSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Frank Molinaro IV, Mr. James Warnagiris, Dr. Joseph Bafile, Mr. Richard Hudak, and Mr. Richard Piskel, recipients of the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award. This award is presented by the Hazleton Lions Club and given for a person's outstanding service to the club and the community. It is the highest award given in Lionism.

Since 1917, Lions Clubs have offered people the opportunity to give something back to their communities. On October 23, 1923, the Hazleton Lions Club was formed, and this year, the club will celebrate its 89th anniversary. Since its founding, the Hazleton Lions Club has been extremely active within the community, completing numerous projects and making donations in support of many other organizations.

Mr. Molinaro, Mr. Warnagiris, Dr. Bafile, and Mr. Piskel have all served as president of the Hazleton Lions Club. Mr. Hudak currently serves as first vice president and will begin a term as president in July 2013. All five men are being honored for raising \$5,000 over a five-year period for the Lions Clubs International Sight First II Project. Sight First is a Lions initiative to restore sight and prevent blindness around the world. Each of these men also took part in the construction of the Hazleton Lions Pavilion in the Hazle Township Community Park. They have each served our community loyally.

Mr. Speaker, today Mr. Frank Molinaro IV, Mr. James Warnagiris, Dr. Joseph Bafile, Mr. Richard Hudak, and Mr. Richard Piskel stand as civic leaders in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

I commend them for their years of admirable service to the Hazleton Lions Club, our community and country, and I wish them continued success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF EDWARD
SONNY NAKISO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Police Sergeant Edward Sonny Nakiso for his 29 years of service at the Burlingame Police Department.

Sergeant Nakiso has worked in multiple positions during his long career in law enforcement. He started out as an officer in 1983 and quickly rose through the ranks of the department. He was appointed inspector and responsible for the investigation of juvenile crime. Other duties included patrol, investigations, traffic enforcement and tactical training. From 1989 to 1997 he was an operator with the SWAT team. As the department's first school resource officer, Officer Nakiso taught 3rd-graders about the dangers of gangs and drugs. He was promoted to sergeant in 1997.

Sergeant Nakiso has demonstrated exemplary dedication, loyalty, integrity and work ethic. He is well-liked by citizens from whom he has received hundreds of letters of appreciation for his service. His colleagues describe him as heroic, compassionate, professional, efficient and a problem solver. For example, Sergeant Nakiso was part of a law enforcement contingent that traveled to Tonga to learn about the relationship between the

Tongan police and the local residents. He used that experience back here at home to improve the relationship between police and our Tongan community.

Edward Nakiso was born in San Francisco in 1957 and graduated from Crestmoor High School in San Bruno in 1975.

In his well-deserved retirement, he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife Kim and their two sons, Chris and Kevin. He will also enjoy having extra time to play basketball, bowl and ride his motorcycle.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Sergeant Edward Sonny Nakiso—or “Eddie”—for keeping the residents of Burlingame safe for almost three decades and for making our community a better place.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
BETTY PIA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Betty Pia, who passed away on September 24, 2012 at the age of 95. Betty will always be remembered for her kind heart, intelligent mind, and go-getter attitude.

Betty was born on May 29, 1917 in the beautiful state of Georgia. She moved to Southern California for a period of time, and in 1965, Betty and her husband Joe settled in Madera, California. Together they raised their daughter, Nancy.

To say Betty led an exciting and fulfilling life is an understatement. She served as President Franklin D. Roosevelt's nurse, was close friends with President Jimmy Carter, served on Congressman George Radanovich's Education Committee, and owned and operated Magic Heart Guest Home for almost 40 years. It is evident that serving others was a key focus of Betty's life.

Betty Pia paved the way and opened doors for thousands of women in America, and it was easy for her to do so because her morals and principles always led her in the right direction. She was a lifelong Democrat, but her party affiliation never interfered with her respect for people. Compromise and hard work were values that she taught by example to those that had the privilege of working with her.

Betty's efforts in politics were complemented by her deep commitment to community organizations. A natural leader, she was involved in the Local Women's Improvement Club, Kiwanis Club, and the Madera Chamber of Commerce. As a resident of Madera for over 49 years, she was always a strong advocate for the Central Valley. Up until the day she passed, Betty never slowed down, and the citizens of Madera and the Central Valley will be forever thankful for her work ethic and her contributions to her community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Betty Pia, one of Madera's most distinguished public servants and a true champion for the people of the San Joaquin Valley. Her leadership and community service made her a role model and a source of pride for our community. Betty's caring nature and vibrant spirit will be sorely missed.