

through the generations and we will be healthier for her efforts.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize and congratulate Mary Selecky on her retirement and for her longtime service to Washington State.

NATIONAL HIGH PERFORMANCE  
PASSENGER RAIL TRANSPORTATION-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2013

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 12, 2013*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Representative LIPINSKI, I am introducing legislation to stimulate the financing of passenger rail development from revenues generated from transportation oriented development.

The National High Performance Passenger Rail Transportation Oriented Development Act aims to capture some of the increasing value of commercial development around station areas, which in turn would help finance rail corridor infrastructure and operational expenses. Besides providing a funding stream for intercity and passenger operations, the initiative places emphasis on intermodal connectors to create vibrant communities along the corridor. The legislation aims to begin a major public private partnership initiative that will revitalize America's rail infrastructure to create a true third passenger transportation option to highways and aviation while at the same time creating intermodal access for communities.

Under the proposal, the U.S. Department of Transportation will retain a Planning Developer who will establish guidelines for transportation oriented development programs, including special assessment districts or similar mechanisms to capture revenues from increasing commercial value. Rail corridor development funds will be established at the regional level to capture increasing real estate values. A stream of those revenues will be directed to support rail passenger operations.

The proposal permits qualified projects to apply for federal incentives to finance construction and produce jobs. These incentives will include direct access to existing Federal Railroad Administration and Federal Transit Administration programs. The initiative will be staffed by existing employees and remain revenue neutral in that all program activities, including the work of the Planning Developer, will be repaid once the high performance rail service and commercial development is implemented and generating revenues.

I hope that this bill will open a discussion on the possibilities and potential promise of passenger rail development in the U.S.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT THOMAS MORE PARISH

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 12, 2013*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Saint Thomas More Parish

in Fairfield, Essex County, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2013.

The St. Thomas More Parish has been a staple of religious excellence in the Township of Fairfield over the past half a century. Founded in 1962, the parish has grown steadily, and today is made up of different groups of people within its organization to assist its parishioners. This includes the Pastoral Council that was put in place to assess the needs of the church and decide its future paths. The council is made up of members of the community in addition to the pastor and two other members of the parish's staff. They pride themselves on always being available to hear concerns, ideas, and opinions of the parish members.

Furthermore, St. Thomas More provides consistent adult education to those looking to learn more about their religion. Often times, these educators are taken directly from the community or surrounding parishes. The adult program is coupled with the Baptismal Team which provides new, young parents with education on how to properly prepare one another for their children to be baptized and how to cope with bringing an infant into their lives. The team not only helps guide them, but participates in the baptism and follows up with the family in the forthcoming months in order to maintain a continued relationship.

St. Thomas More takes great responsibility in ensuring the proper religious education for children who partake in the CCD program. Available from the ages of kindergarten to ninth grade, there are individuals trained to demonstrate and teach the concepts of Catholicism to the children. The Parish has said that, "The goal is to have the children realize that being a Catholic Christian is a way of life. It is a spiritual journey that one walks to grow in faith, to make a Christian difference in the world." These instructors work together to guarantee they are on the same page at all times.

The Parish also offers intense spiritual programs, such as Cornerstone, that enable men and women to take part in a 26 hour retreat, intended to bring to light a buried sense of faith and show these adults that they are not alone in their struggles. Sponsored by the lead Pastor, the church offers many social groups such as Bible study, prayer groups, adult, children, and bell choirs, high school music ensembles, senior clubs, and various committees. Specifically these committees include an Evangelization committee, a Stewardship committee, a Eucharist committee, and a music committee that oversees all music in the Church.

Lastly, St. Thomas More continually strives to give back to those who need assistance in the community. They do this through programs such as the Giving Tree during Christmas, a food pantry year round, soup kitchens, and a Homebound Ministry that provides elderly members of the community with volunteers to assist with their needs. Moreover, their Annual Carnival has become an important part of the season, allowing community members to celebrate the word of God with fellow parishioners.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the St. Thomas More Parish as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE ARIZONA STATE MUSEUM ON THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 12, 2013*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Arizona State Museum on the 120th anniversary of its founding.

Established by the territorial legislature in 1893, Arizona State Museum is the oldest and largest anthropology museum in the region, focusing on the indigenous cultures of Arizona, the American Southwest, and northern Mexico.

The museum's seminal field research in the early 20th century is the foundation on which the very discipline of Southwest anthropology sits.

The museum's laboratory research sets worldwide standards in object preservation.

The museum's collections research continues to inform the world about the ancient, historic, and present-day southwestern cultures of this great nation.

The museum's award-winning and nationally recognized exhibits and public programs celebrate the vibrant and enduring cultures of the region with international audiences.

The museum's archaeological repository is the largest and busiest state-run facility in the country.

The museum is a national model in working with Arizona's tribal leadership under NAGPRA, to repatriate items of cultural heritage, having respectfully returned or reentered thousands of sets of human remains and funerary objects. The museum began this important work years before NAGPRA became law and continues to be a leader in this effort. Last year, an Arizona State Museum/Bureau of Indian Affairs joint project transferred 1,148 sets of human remains and 2,827 funerary objects to the Hopi, Zuni, and White Mountain Apache tribes.

As it cares for millions of artifacts in perpetuity, the museum is home to the world's largest collections of Southwest Indian pottery and American Indian basketry—both collections having been designated American Treasures.

Best wishes to Arizona State Museum, itself a National Treasure, after a century and a score of national leadership in research, preservation, collections care, and public outreach.

NATIONAL RETIREMENT  
PLANNING WEEK

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 12, 2013*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Retirement Planning Week. National Retirement Planning Week is an important effort to get more Americans thinking about their long-term financial goals, and building toward a strong foundation for a financially secure future.

The recent economic downturn illustrated how retirement planning for many in America