

and even expanded its educational role with the establishment what is now the St. Peter's Boys High School under Monsignor Joseph Farrell in the early 20th Century. The contributions of the St. Peter's community continue up to this day, with the parish under the faithful guidance of co-vicar Monsignor James J. Dorney since 1986.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply humbled to represent this dedicated congregation in Congress, and I would ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the virtues that the St. Peter's parish has displayed over its long history. I cannot imagine what the Staten Island community would be like today without the contributions of the St. Peter's congregation, and I sincerely wish this incredible institution a happy 175th birthday, with hopefully just as many more to come.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF PATRICK J. McDONOUGH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, Robert Mansker, a longtime and now retired staff member in the House, asked me to recognize the passing of another longtime and dedicated staff member of this body: Patrick J. McDonough, as Chief of the Publications and Distribution Service.

The House lost a fine citizen on Sunday, November 10. Patrick J. McDonough of Friendship Heights passed away from a continuing struggle with respiratory problems. His illness took him from us far too soon. He was a very familiar face to the long-time employees of the House.

When the House maintained the "Folding Room" in years past, Pat rose to the position of Chief of the Publications and Distribution Service, as it was formally known. He maintained an incredibly personable demeanor, and he worked well with both Democrats and Republicans.

Born October 25, 1943, Pat was originally from Parkersburg, West Virginia, where he attended the Parkersburg Catholic School System. He continued his higher education at The Pontifical College Josephinum, Catholic University and American University.

Pat taught high school religion at St. Anthony's Catholic High School in Washington, DC, and coached junior varsity basketball during the period John Thompson, Sr. was head coach. He was an avid supporter of the Georgetown Hoyas, always inviting friends to join him to share his mid-court seats at the Verizon Center for home games.

Pat then began his career in government, when he came to the House of Representatives. He then served in the Clinton Administration in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, until his retirement.

Pat was a proud member of The Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in the City of New York and joined with them each year when the group convened.

A celebration of his life was held at St. Margaret Mary Church in Parkersburg on Sunday, November 18, followed by his burial at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Our condolences are extended to his family and to his many friends.

RECOGNIZING VICTIMS OF THE MASS MURDER OF ARMENIANS

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness of the mass murder of Armenians during the state-sponsored pogroms 26 years ago in Sumgait, Azerbaijan. These ethnically motivated mass killings were an affront to basic human rights and the continued lack of international recognition and acknowledgment represents a grave injustice.

Peaceful demonstrations by Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh, who sought freedom and protested against policies that discriminated against Armenians, were met with violence against the Armenians of Sumgait, who were hundreds of miles away, defenseless, and targeted simply because they were Armenians. Nearby security forces allowed the violence to continue unabated and turned a blind eye to the horrific violence directed against Armenian civilians. True democracies must respect the rights of the minority and the human rights of all residents.

On July 27, 1988, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed Amendment 2690, which called upon the Soviet government to "respect the legitimate aspirations of the Armenian people", and noted that "dozens of Armenians have been killed and hundreds injured during the recent unrest." The U.S. Senate passed an amendment in July 1988, acknowledging that even the Soviet authorities had described these massacres as a 'pogrom'.

Today, I remember the victims and ask this body to join me in honoring their memories.

ECOGRAPHICS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud EcoGraphics Printing and owner Scott Feavel for receiving the Small Business of the Year award from the West Chamber serving Jefferson County.

The Small Business of the Year is awarded to a business with 50 employees or less and is involved and engaged in improving the business community in Jefferson County.

EcoGraphics Printing produces excellent work for their clients. As the leader of the company, Scott Feavel is involved with the community on many fronts. He generously raises money for Children's Hospital cancer ward, donates to several associations throughout Jefferson County and mentors other chamber members and small business people.

I extend my deepest congratulations to EcoGraphics Printing and owner Scott Feavel for this well deserved honor from the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt Scott and EcoGraphics Printing will exhibit the same dedication and character in all their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS A. SHERMAN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a man who has dedicated 50 years of his life in the service of the State of California and to the United States of America. I say with the utmost sincerity there are few who have contributed more to the understanding and development of the challenging and dangerous discipline of wildland firefighting as Thomas A. Sherman. Riverside County is fortunate to have enjoyed the leadership and experience that Tom Sherman has provided. On March 8, 2014, he will formally retire from the Bureau of Land Management Fire Service as Division Chief of California Desert District Fire and Aviation. In total, Tom has served in multiple capacities of the fire service at the county, state, and federal level.

The roots of Tom's service go back generations when the Sherman (Schermmarm) Family left Germany in the late 1800s to become some of the first settlers of the San Jacinto Mountains. Many years later, Tom was born in Upland, California on July 6, 1946 to Jack and Georgette Sherman. He spent a great deal of his youth in the Santa Ana Canyon learning from his grandfather and attending elementary school in Corona. He began what would become a long and thriving career in firefighting in 1963 as a Seasonal Firefighter with the California Division of Forestry (CDF) in Corona. After graduating from Blythe High School in 1965, he worked as a Firefighter with CDF in San Jacinto, California until 1966.

In September of 1966, Tom answered his nation's call and was drafted into the U.S. Army. He attended basic training at Fort Ord, California and was subsequently sent to Vietnam in 1967 as a soldier with the 1st Battalion, 84th Artillery of the 9th Infantry Division. His potential was recognized by his superiors with a promotion to Sergeant and gun-crew NCO in charge. He and his battalion earned two Presidential Unit Citations for their gallant service. Tom returned to the United States in March of 1968 and took the knowledge learned in Vietnam to train new artillery soldiers at the Artillery School at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. He was honorably discharged from the Army in June of 1968 as a Specialist 5th Class. Tom returned to California and immediately resumed his job at CDF as a Firefighter in Orange County.

Tom's natural leadership led to the initiation of numerous firefighting programs that exist to this day. He designed the Riverside County Fire Department emblem, which was formally adopted in 1976 and is still used. That same year while buying guitar strings at the Corona Music Center he met MaryAnn Colapinto. Not long after they were walking down the aisle to be married.

As the 1970s progressed, he was appointed the first Fire Captain in the Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD). In that capacity he further revolutionized wildland fire response through the development of rapidly deployable hand-crews and a state-recognized crew relief driver program. His vast experience led the transformation of obsolete fire trucks into "Brush Engines" specifically designed for the unique terrain of Southern California. In 1985

he was recognized as a California State Certified Fire Captain for the impacts made across the county and state. Tom continued to advocate issues at the RCFD as both the President of the Riverside County Volunteer Fire Association and Vice President of the Riverside County Fire Chiefs Association.

In the mid-1990s Tom expanded his influence when he was hired by the US Forest Service. There he was promoted to the position of Fire Crew manager for the Cleveland National Forest's Hotshot Crew. He transitioned to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as a seasonal Fire Prevention Technician at the Barstow District, Apple Valley Fire Center. His leadership was soon recognized, and he was promoted to Battalion Chief and permanent Fire Prevention Officer for Palm Springs and South Coast Regions. In 2003 was promoted to Division Chief and filled the position of California Desert District Fire Operations Supervisor. There, he was responsible for training, equipping, and standardizing engine crews, thus increasing professionalism of the teams and interoperability throughout the district. Most recently, Tom has acted as California Desert District Fire and Aviation Manager, where he enhanced interagency cooperation throughout the State of California, formalized federal air support to fire, and reinforced the reputation of BLM as a viable firefighting service.

Today, Tom and MaryAnn reside in Corona, where MaryAnn is a Librarian of 25 years at Jefferson Elementary and a member of the Corona Library Board of Trustees. Tom has also been a member of the Elks Club and supports veterans issues as an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Their son, Tom began following his father's footsteps as a volunteer firefighter until he entered the United States Air Force Academy in 1991. He is currently a Colonel-Select in the United States Air Force's Security Forces and a student at the National War College at Ft McNair. Their daughter, Nancy, is a Global Clinical Research Program Manager at City of Hope in Pasadena, California.

Throughout his career, Tom's unending love for the fire service created a drive that never ceased to encourage those around him. Fortunately, his legacy will live on through the countless firefighters he has mentored. I am proud to honor such a tremendous member of our community. Passion of this level is rare, but it is the standard that Tom has set for his family, his fellow firefighters, and his community members. I believe I speak for the countless individuals who have benefited from Tom's service when I thank him for the contributions he has made and salute him as he retires after 50 years of service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I want to state for the record that on Wednesday, March 5, 2014, I unfortunately missed rollcall votes as I traveled to New Britain, CT, with President Barack Obama on official business.

Had I been present I would have voted:

"No" on the Previous Question (roll #93). Had a majority of the House voted no, this bill

would have allowed a vote to renew the emergency unemployment insurance to help over 35,000 jobseekers in Connecticut;

"No" on H. Res. 497 (roll #94), which prevented any amendments to H.R. 4118 from being considered;

"Aye" on H.R. 938, the U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act (roll #95), which I proudly co-sponsored;

"Aye" on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 4118 (roll #96) to prevent H.R. 4118 from altering, weakening, or delaying the ACA's prohibition of discrimination based on pre-existing conditions or gender and tax credits and rebates;

"No" on H.R. 4118 (roll #97). Back in July of last year, I was concerned that the federal marketplace would not be ready for the October 1, 2013, start date for enrollment under the Affordable Care Act. And, in fact, as we saw last fall, the federal website was not ready to handle the volume from states that didn't set up their own exchange. The website problems were unacceptable. Based on the situation that I saw eight months ago, I believed that giving folks an extra year to learn about the benefits and responsibilities under the new law without penalty was a reasonable modification, particularly with misinformation spread about the Affordable Care Act and the uncertainty about the readiness of the marketplace.

I believe that my job is to solve problems and vote based on actual facts in my state and district, not ideology. And the facts in Connecticut in March 2014 are quite different than they were in July 2013. The exchanges have been up and running for five full months, and Connecticut is leading the way. With less than one month left in the enrollment period, over 130,000 people in Connecticut have signed up for health coverage through Access Health CT, exceeding the state and federal government's goals. Now is not the time to retroactively delay the individual mandate. As I've previously stated, the individual mandate, upheld by the Supreme Court, is a critical part of the Affordable Care Act. Since July 2013, I've held workshops for small businesses and individuals to learn more about the Affordable Care Act and how to sign up for health insurance. I've heard stories from constituents about how the Affordable Care Act has helped them access affordable, quality health care. A woman from Canaan, a breast cancer survivor, is now saving over \$1,500 on her monthly premium; a former small business owner in New Britain can afford health insurance for the first time in 12 years.

The law is not perfect, and improvements can, should, and have been made. I will continue to raise concerns I've heard from folks in my district and to work with the Obama Administration to fix problems as they arise. But there is no question that the responsible course of action is to continue to move forward;

"Aye" on H.R. 2126, the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act (roll #98), which was a bipartisan bill to expand energy efficiency standards.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 98 on Wednesday, March 5, 2014, I was inadvertently recorded as "nay" when I intended to vote "aye" on H.R. 2126, the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2014, as amended.

I've long been a proponent of improving energy efficiency across the board. I know the cheapest and cleanest kilowatts are the ones we don't need to generate because we are using energy more efficiently.

I've even authored my own bill to improve the energy efficiency of consumer electronics, the Smart Electronics Act. I wholeheartedly support the package of measures that were included in H.R. 2126, which include improving energy efficiency at federal data centers, increasing efficiency standards for grid-enabled water heaters, promoting efficiency retrofits on low-income housing, and creating incentives for landlords and tenants to boost energy savings in commercial properties.

I hope that House passage of this bill will enable progress in the Senate on energy efficiency legislation; and I want to reiterate my support for H.R. 2126, which I had intended to express through an "aye" vote.

CONGRATULATING THE OXFORD HILLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce Business and Community Award Winners. The Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce serves the people and business communities of central and western Maine, working hard to strengthen economic opportunity throughout the region and the state.

Each year, the Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce recognizes local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy business environment. These individuals and businesses are committed to strengthening opportunity and prosperity in Maine.

This year's award recipients include: Oxford Federal Credit Union, recipient of the Business of the Year Award; Ronald Kugell, recipient of the Community Service Award; Catherine Fanjoy-Coffey, recipient of the Employee of the Year Award; and Buy the Fire, recipient of the Rising Star Award.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and incredible commitment to their communities and the region, Maine is a better place in which to live and do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce and these award recipients on their outstanding service and achievements.