

where she teaches and mentors mild to moderate special needs students. Drawing from the inspiration of her late-mother, grandmother, and late-class assistant, Mrs. Ainsworth prepares her students for their future by teaching them life and work skills so they can be productive citizens.

Mrs. Ainsworth attributes her success to unconditional love, hard work, and her dedication to making a difference in her students' lives.

Too often, people focus on the broken portions of our education system. We must recognize and celebrate our educators that go above-and-beyond their job duties, like Mrs. Ainsworth.

Our nation's teachers, especially our special education teachers, dedicate their lives to enriching the lives of our children. Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mrs. Ainsworth, and all of our country's educators, for their selfless commitment to our country's future.

THE ARC THRIFT

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Arc Thrift Stores for receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

The Ethics in Business Award was established by the Golden Rotary to honor for profit and not for profit businesses. The recipients of this award must maintain integrity, conviction and demonstrate high ethical standards, demonstrated by treatment of customers, employees, community and the environment.

The Arc Thrift is a 45 year old non-profit, with 21 stores across Colorado employing over 1,200 people. They are one of the largest integrated employers of people with disabilities in Colorado. The Arc Thrift Chapters provide the disabled community with help finding jobs, housing, medical assistance and services in schools. Also proving they are good stewards of the environment, last year the Arc Thrift organization diverted 20 million pounds of merchandise from Colorado landfills.

I congratulate the Arc Thrift stores for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by the Golden Rotary. I thank all the employees of the Arc Thrift for their continued commitment to the people they serve.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF GENERAL JOHN SHALIKASHVILI OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary life and achievements of General John Shalikashvili of Peoria, Illinois, who served as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1993 to 1997, and is being honored in a park dedication on May 17th.

General Shalikashvili was born in 1936 in Warsaw to Georgian exiles. His family sur-

vived the German occupation of Poland and the destruction of Warsaw during WWII and in 1952, when he was 16, he moved with his family to Peoria. When he arrived, speaking little English, he would leave Peoria High School at the end of the day and visit the local movie theater to help himself learn the language. In 1958, after Shalikashvili graduated from Bradley University in Peoria with a degree in mechanical engineering, he received his draft notice. He entered the Army as a private before attending Officer Candidate School (OCS) and embarking on a distinguished career that would span almost 40 years.

Under President George H.W. Bush, Shalikashvili served as NATO's Supreme Allied Commander. After the first Gulf War, he served as Commander of Operation Provide Comfort, the peacekeeping and humanitarian action in northern Iraq. In 1993, General Shalikashvili was appointed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by President Clinton, where he served until his retirement in 1997. He was the first foreign-born man to hold the position, as well as the first draftee to ever rise to become Chairman.

General Shalikashvili passed away in July, 2011, and was honored by the Presidents he served under and his fellow military leaders. President Clinton remembered that "he never minced words, he never postured or pulled punches, he never shied away from tough issues or tough calls, and most important, he never shied away from doing what he believed was the right thing."

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to commend Peoria for recognizing Shalikashvili's patriotism and dedicated service, and I hope those who visit General Shalikashvili Park continue to be inspired by his incredible story.

HONORING THE WORK OF CLAIRE THOMAS

**HON. SUZAN K. DeIBENE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

Ms. DeIBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Claire Thomas. Claire Thomas established The Root Connection in 1987 as the first Community Supported Agriculture farm in Washington State.

She started with a quarter acre of rented land in the Sammamish Valley between Woodinville and Redmond, just 18 miles from downtown Seattle. She improved soil, purchased land, and increased acreage until she now farms 20 acres.

Claire's farm is organic, and applies the same intensive growing techniques used by many home gardeners. The result is enough for about 600 families, a production rate six times that of farms using normal commercial agricultural practices.

The Root Connection provides its members a close connection to the land that grows their produce. Families pick up their produce at the farm, and can go out into the fields to harvest herbs and flowers.

In 2012, King County Executive Dow Constantine and Councilmember Kathy Lambert awarded Claire the King County Rural Small Business of the Year Award.

In addition to The Root Connection, Claire manages 47 acres of farmland and water

rights, advocates for farmland preservation, and helps run a non-profit that obtains fresh produce weekly from four local farms and distributes it through local food banks.

I want to honor Claire's commitment and drive to overcoming food insecurity by creating a means to get healthful food directly from farms to the homes that need it most.

HONORING ISABEL MARIE ZUREK

**HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, we honor Isabel Marie Zurek, one of the many women who rose up to help the wartime effort during WWII. Ms. Zurek is proudly recognized as a "Rosie the Riveter" who worked in one of the many factories in Detroit during the war. Now celebrating her 90th birthday, we honor the life and accomplishments of Isabel Marie Zurek.

HONORING MR. ED VAN BUREN

**HON. TED S. YOHO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Ed Van Buren, an American hero and Army veteran from back in my home district in Florida who recently passed away. Mr. Van Buren was a patriot and family man who constantly strove to help his fellow veterans. I have had the privilege and distinct honor of speaking with his wife and son, Vickie and Ben, and learned just how great of an American he was. I would like to share his story.

Ed was proud not only to have served his country, but he was honored to have been both the son and father of a veteran. After Mr. Van Buren left the military, he continued to serve his nation in the General Services Administration as a computer specialist. These principles of service and education are ones that we must pass on to the next generation of Americans.

After retirement, Mr. Van Buren never faltered from his sacred mission of assisting veterans any way he could. He commanded American Legion Post 16 and was a member of the American Legion honor society. As the Chairman of the Veteran's Advisory Board, Alachua County is indebted to the service of Mr. Van Buren. In all of his roles, he championed assisting and advocating for his fellow veterans and their families.

About a year ago, Mr. Van Buren was diagnosed with lung cancer, but his commitment to improving the lives of others never wavered. Though Ed lost his battle with cancer, the impact he has made in the life of each and every veteran he helped will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to recognize the life of a distinguished citizen patriot, Ed Van Buren.

CONGRATULATING MRS. JILL  
ROTH

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Jill Roth for winning The Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers Association of America's "Young Agent of the Year" award. Mrs. Roth and her family reside in McLean Virginia, within Virginia's 8th Congressional District. Jill serves as the Executive Vice President in the Ahart Frinzi & Smith Alexandria, Virginia office. In that role, Jill has worked tirelessly to serve our areas insurance needs.

In granting the award, the Association recognized Mrs. Roth's hard work, her passion, and her dedication to civic involvement. The annual award is given to only one outstanding agent per year.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my hearty congratulations to Jill Roth and her coworkers at Ahart, Frinzi & Smith for this achievement. I wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors, and I'm proud to serve as her representative.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT SOSA

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retiring, Director of Foundation, Corporate, and Government Relation at University of the Incarnate Word, Robert Sosa. He has been Director of Foundation, Corporate, and Government Relations at OIW since 1992 and is ending his tenure after twenty two years. His tireless efforts have improved the community and served to better the development and progress for UIW.

Robert Sosa was born in San Antonio, Texas. Sosa became the first person in his family to graduate from college, earning a Bachelor's and Master's degree in English from St. Mary's University. Prior to becoming the Director of Foundation, Corporate, and Government Relations he taught high school English for 7 years. Following his career as a teacher he worked at various marketing and advertising agencies before launching his own marketing and advertising company in the 1970s. In 1992 Sosa sold his business and returned to education when the president of the University of the Incarnate Word asked him to launch the university's grants operation. During his tenure at UIW Sosa has been responsible for attracting and managing the philanthropic interests of corporations, foundations, and the government. As Director, Sosa has dedicated his life to helping the university and community develop projects that serve low income residents and first-generation college students. Under his direction the Department of Foundation, Corporate, and Government Relations at UIW has raised \$100 million dollars for scholarships, research, academic programs, construction, and healthcare services.

Outside of his work as director Sosa has focused much of his time to teaching and community service. He taught English, Sociology,

and Marketing at San Antonio College, UIW, and St. Phillips College. He has been a member of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Las Casas Foundation and Workforce Solutions Alamo. In addition, he has served as chairman of the board of the Guadalupe Cultural Arts center and has been a committee member of Leadership in San Antonio.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Robert Sosa, retiring Director of Foundation, Corporate, and Government Relation at University of the Incarnate Word. His years of dedication and commitment to our community have truly impacted the quality of lives for the people of the city.

TRIBUTE TO MARY "JOSIE" CUDA

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary "Josie" Cuda for her three decades of service in community and housing development, from Bolivia to Elkins, West Virginia.

Josie started her career serving others thirty years ago as a community organizer in Bolivia, followed by jobs as a flood relief worker and a position in human services. She spent seventeen years with the Randolph County Housing Authority and her final fourteen years as the agency's Executive Director. During Josie's time with the Randolph County Housing Authority, she developed a reputation as an innovative leader, using creativity and imagination to maximize her agency's footprint, serving moderate to low income hard-working West Virginians. She used funds from the West Virginia Housing Development Fund, the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and money from the Federal Home Loan Bank to develop over one hundred homes and thirty apartment units during her tenure as Executive Director of the Randolph County Housing Authority. In addition, independent non-profit partners Woodlands Development Group and the Home Ownership Center were both started during Josie's tenure, in order to make safe, decent, affordable housing more accessible.

Since leaving the Randolph County Housing Authority, Josie's attention has remained focused on community and housing development. She has worked with CommunityWorks and the West Virginia Community Development Hub to bring Achieving Excellence in Community Development to West Virginia, a program which helps provide training to non-profit organizations working to improve their communities. So far, ten housing organizations and sixteen community groups have utilized this program in West Virginia.

On May 1, 2014, Mary "Josie" Cuda will be inducted into the Affordable Housing Hall of Fame by Habitat for Humanity of West Virginia. Mrs. Cuda is truly deserving of such an honor, as countless West Virginians have her to thank for a better quality of life, better housing, and better communities.

Josie is married to Frank Cuda, a family nurse practitioner. Together they have twin sons and three grandchildren, with a fourth on the way!

Mr. Speaker, Randolph County, as well as the State of West Virginia, owe Mary "Josie"

Cuda a debt of gratitude for her many years of devoted community service. I am proud to call her a friend and fellow West Virginian.

IN RECOGNITION OF LI MOON

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Li Moon, an outstanding educator with the Hillsborough City School District for 22 years, who has changed the lives of hundreds of children, including my own daughter. Mrs. Moon is being honored with the Community Care Award from the Associated Parents Group.

Mrs. Moon is a Resource Specialist and the Data Advisor at North Elementary School. She served as Teacher-in-Charge for twelve years. I can say without fear of contradiction that she is one of the most effective, empathetic and innovative educators I have known. She believes that all children can succeed and will not stop until she finds what will make a student succeed. Her patience and compassion are inexhaustible.

Li Moon, a native of New York City, was a University Scholar at New York University. She received her BA in English in 1971, graduating cum laude and earning a membership in the Phi Beta Kappa Society. While teaching at Rivendell School, a small alternative school in San Francisco, she attended San Francisco State University, graduating in 1991 with her Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, MA in Special Education and Educational Therapist Certificate. The following year she started her teaching career at North School as a Resource Specialist, simultaneously continuing her private practice as an Educational Therapist for several years. She has also taught several courses and led numerous workshops in the Special Education Department at San Francisco State University and has been a Guest Lecturer at UC Berkeley Extension.

Mrs. Moon has a long and impressive list of training and credentials, including a Behavior Intervention Case Manager Certificate (BICM), Autism Authorization Training and English Language Development (ELD) and Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE) Certification. Her professional development includes training through Intel Math, the Columbia Math Camp, summer institutes at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (including Data Wise), IEP Skills Facilitation, TEACCH, Schools Attuned Profile Advisor training, Lindamood-Bell Phonological Sequencing Training, Project Read Phonology and Junior Great Books Discussion Leader Training. She received her Board Certification in Educational Therapy in 2001, is a former editor of The Educational Therapist and is currently the Chair of the San Francisco Association of Educational Therapists Study Group.

As you can surmise from this list, Mrs. Moon is always working on improving and expanding her skills so that she can use them to make her students thrive and succeed.

Her talents have not gone unnoticed in our community. Mrs. Moon deservedly received the school district's TONY and Teacher Leadership awards in 2001.

Mrs. Moon and her husband of 40 years, Jason Stillwater, live in San Francisco. They