

served for the past 26 years as fire captain. Ostrum has completed many fire and emergency response training programs, including water rescue, firefighter survival, and emergency vehicle driver training.

Alan Klapat has served the Wilkes-Barre fire department for 23 years. During his career, Klapat has served as lead fire investigator, fire training officer, and fire inspector for the city's fire department. He also provides fire safety education programs to civic and social organizations, elementary schools, educators, and child/adult caregivers. Before joining the Wilkes-Barre Fire Department, Klapat was enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and attained the rank of Sergeant.

I am proud to celebrate the achievements of these two distinguished public servants. They deserve our gratitude for their decades of dedication to public safety, and I wish them the best of luck as they protect the city of Wilkes-Barre in their essential new roles.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 120TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2014*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of the General Federation of Women's Clubs as its members gather for its 120th Annual Convention.

The New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC) was founded in 1894 as a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. With a membership of nearly 8,000 women among 220 clubs, NJSFWC is the largest women's volunteer community service organization in New Jersey. It also boasts the third largest state membership of all of the clubs within the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The 220 clubs of the NJSFWC are committed to fulfilling the NJSFWC's mission of making a difference in the community through projects and volunteerism. In 2012, the NJSFWC clubs completed over 35,500 community service projects and over 800,000 volunteer hours. The NJSFWC partners with other community-based organizations, such as The Community Food Bank of New Jersey, Autism New Jersey and Domestic Violence Shelters of New Jersey, among others, to help raise funds and organize projects. In addition to their volunteerism, NJSFWC members also advocate for policy issues fundamental to community improvement.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in recognizing the 120th Anniversary of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of the General Federation of Women's Club. The club's commitment to providing opportunities for women to engage in community service and improve the lives of others is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

THE NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES: 2014 NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICE WINNER

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2014*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences on receiving the 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. This prestigious award, offered annually by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries for service to the community.

I have the good fortune to represent our state's Fourth Congressional District, which has earned accolades as one of the nation's best places to live, work, do business and raise a family. The vibrancy of this district stems from a remarkable concentration of world-renowned educational and cultural institutions—North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences prominently among them.

As one of the oldest natural history museums in the United States—providing services to our state for the past 134 years—it has transformed how museums engage their community and how members of the public understand, learn and participate in science activities. It strengthens North Carolina's K–12 education pipeline, increases the public's science literacy, and prepares tomorrow's researchers with college- and workforce-ready skills.

The Museum of Natural Sciences has positioned itself as a highly-regarded venue for topflight special exhibits of all kinds. Right now, it features a Rainforest Adventure exhibit, and it has hosted special exhibits on Birds of Paradise, Dinosaurs, Wildlife in North Carolina photography, and Journey through the Arctic in recent years. But it has also gone off the beaten path to expand the breadth of the Natural Sciences with special exhibits on the Titanic, Genghis Khan, the Brain, and my two personal favorites: Chocolate and the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Along with the museum's permanent collections, these outstanding exhibits have helped make the Museum the most-visited museum and one of the top overall attractions in the state. Consider these numbers: more than 1 million people come to visit this museum in Raleigh every year; more than 30,000 others experience the museum's off-site offerings, with its world-renowned scientists and staff visiting locations such as schools, libraries, hospitals and senior and community centers; and millions of additional people are able to take advantage of interactive educational programs offered online. The Museum also makes unique efforts to reach lower-income communities and those with special needs.

Our Museum is one of just ten recipients of the Institute of Museum and Library Services National Medal for Museum and Library Service—an award reserved for museums that are making exceptional contributions to their community. The Museum of Natural Sciences has had a remarkable impact on the community—not just in Raleigh, but across the state of North Carolina.

As we congratulate Director Emlyn Koster and the Museum's other current leaders, it is

also important to recognize long-time Director Dr. Betsy Bennett, who retired just over a year ago. Betsy took the museum from modest circumstances to the gleaming, high-tech, user-friendly facility we see today. The Nature Research Center, for example, which opened in 2012, is a testament to her dogged determination to see her shared vision come to fruition. Betsy's skill working with the State Legislature, successive state administrators, and collaborators in Washington is legendary. As former Governor Jim Hunt aptly noted, she is a "force of nature." As her partner in the never-ending quest for funds, I have particular reason to see this award as a culmination.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I offer congratulations to the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences—and each of the other National Medal winners—for achieving this distinction. And I thank each of this year's medal recipients for their innovation and their dedication to serving their communities. Our nation is better for your service.

CONGRATULATING TERRY GIBSON

**HON. JULIA BROWNLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2014*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Terry Gibson, a vibrant resident of Ventura County, who will celebrate her 80th birthday on May 27, 2014.

Originally from the San Fernando Valley, Terry has always been an active member of her community. Her generosity and spirit of giving is resonated in her work, where her depth of sincerity and selflessness knows no limits.

While living in Glendale, California, Terry served as President of Temple Sinai, President of the Sisterhood of Temple Sinai, Vice President for new members of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations Southwest Region and Executive Vice President of the Western States Federation of Sisterhoods. In each of these leadership roles, Terry's spirit of volunteerism and commitment to her community never wavered even while she was a full-time, single working mother.

When Terry moved to Ventura County, her penchant for being an active and contributing community member continued. As a resident of Oxnard, she helped in the founding of the Ventura Chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC) and served as its first president for two years. Under her direct leadership, the Ventura County Chapter of the NWPC was able to increase women's participation in the political process. Today, with Terry's unwavering help, the organization continues to recruit, train and support diverse female candidates who will bring a woman's perspective to issues such as reproductive health, the environment and social, educational and economic justice. Her vision of gender parity in California politics is a mission we are all united on.

With her extensive experience, Terry has served as the treasurer for the Ventura County Women's Forum Collaborative, where she is part of an organization that is dedicated to empowering Ventura County women in areas such as education, health, economic justice, power sharing, institutional mechanisms, and