

the organization's longstanding commitment to the Jewish faith and strong community values. Please join me in congratulating the B'nai Israel community on this milestone one hundred and fifty year anniversary and wishing them many years of future success.

HONORING DORAL PERFORMING  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT ACADEMY

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 2014*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Doral Performing Arts & Entertainment Academy and to congratulate the school on being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon recipient.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Every year the U.S. Department of Education seeks out and celebrates great American schools, and Doral Academy has earned that distinction.

This is quite an accomplishment, and a testament to the commitment the school has shown to educating its students and providing them with the best faculty and resources to succeed. The school has truly taken its mission of preparing students, and instilling in them a belief in their own efficacy, seriously.

Doral Academy opened its doors in 1999, and currently serves 2800 students. Doral Academy believes that engaging families and communities contributes to greater academic achievement and to the improvement of the school as a whole. This model of engagement is predicated on three core beliefs: student achievement increases the more knowledge parents have about their children's school experience; greater involvement of families through non-academic channels still contributes to greater academic buy-in by all; and the more a school invests in a community, the more resources, support networks, and allies are available to bolster the health and vitality of the school holistically.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Doral Performing Arts & Entertainment Academy for their tremendous service to its students and the tireless work of their faculty, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable school.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF  
VERLEIGH BLOOM

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 2014*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of a dear lady in our district, Ms. Verleigh M. Bloom, 83, who passed away peacefully on Friday, August 29th.

Verleigh was a genuinely thoughtful and loving mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, who held onto her family very dearly.

Verleigh cherished the time spent with her loved ones, and considered her family one of her greatest joys and accomplishments.

Preceded in death by parents, James and Verleigh Darnell, Verleigh will continue to live on through the many lives she has touched. Verleigh is survived by her daughter Verleigh I. Gray of Niles, OH; two sons, James C. Bloom of Leavittsburg, OH and Ted E. Bloom of Howland, OH; nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren. It gives me great pride to honor the life of Verleigh M. Bloom. I am deeply saddened and I extend my condolences to her entire family. Her loving character and considerate nature will be immeasurably missed. Our community is a much better place because of Verleigh's loving approach to life.

RECOGNIZING PETER LAVALLEE  
AS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 2014*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Peter LaVallee, who was honored as the Humboldt Citizen of the Year on October 2, 2014, an award he richly deserves.

Peter LaVallee's long history of public service has been of tremendous benefit to the community. His work as an elected official, as an advocate for youth and vulnerable populations, and as a conservationist has made Peter LaVallee a vital member of my congressional district and the surrounding region.

After attending Wayne State University, Peter LaVallee completed his bachelor's degree in political science at Humboldt State University. He went on to graduate studies at Sacramento State University. Peter LaVallee served as director of youth services for Trinity County from 1980 to 1985. He then spent 26 years as director of Redwood Community Action Agency's Youth Services Division. California Gov. Pete Wilson appointed Peter LaVallee to the State Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in 1992 and he served until 2000 in that capacity.

Peter LaVallee was mayor of the City of Eureka from 2002 to 2006. During that time, he also was a member of the Eureka Rotary Club. From 2006 to 2011, Peter LaVallee served on the Humboldt County Housing and Homeless Coalition. Among his contributions are the development of services for runaway and homeless youth, including 24-hour crisis intervention, street outreach, school-based prevention and intervention services, short-term emergency shelter and long-term transitional housing and supportive services.

Mr. Speaker, Peter LaVallee's dedication to youth and community services in Humboldt County is commendable and worthy of recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations to him.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 2014*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support and congratulations for the people of Taiwan, who celebrated their National Day on October 10, 2014.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the enduring value of Taiwan's friendship with the United States, and to reaffirm our commitment in Congress to strengthening our nations' ties.

Taiwan stands as an example in the Pacific of what economic and political freedom can bring to a country and its people. Since its founding 103 years ago, Taiwan has established itself as a country dedicated to citizen government and the free exchange of goods and ideas that forms the foundation of any modern and prosperous society. Taiwan has also made significant economic and cultural contributions to the global community, and to peace and stability in the region.

Again I would like to offer my congratulations to the people of Taiwan on their 103rd National Day.

HONORING MATER GARDENS  
ACADEMY

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 2014*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mater Gardens Academy and to congratulate the school on being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon recipient.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Every year the U.S. Department of Education seeks out and celebrates great American schools, and Mater Gardens Academy has earned that distinction.

This is quite an accomplishment, and a testament to the commitment the school has shown to educating its students and providing them with the best faculty and resources to succeed. The school has truly taken its mission of bringing about meaningful achievement enabling students to become confident, life-long learners.

Mater Gardens Academy opened its doors in August 2006 as a K-8 charter school sponsored by Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Mater Gardens upholds core values that pave the way for student success: setting high expectations, valuing individuality, expecting accountability, and demonstrating respect, honesty, and integrity. The school has consistently been recognized for outstanding achievement. In 2011 Mater Academy placed sixth in the county on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Science, and has also won the Gold Award from Miami-Dade County Public Schools in 2006 and 2007. In 2012 and 2013 the school was named one of the top 10 schools in Miami-Dade County.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mater Gardens Academy for their tremendous

service to its students and the tireless work of their faculty, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable school.

RECOGNITION OF POLICE CAPTAIN  
DARRIN M. MOODY

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 2014*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Darrin M. Moody who is leaving the Fairfield Police Department. After serving two years with the Modesto Police Department, Captain Moody was hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department on September 5, 1989. As an officer, he worked in various capacities that include Patrol, Youth Services, Investigations, Field Training, and Special Activity Felony Enforcement. He was promoted to Police Corporal in 1999 and became a K-9 handler in 2001.

On December 24, 2004, Captain Moody was promoted to Police Sergeant and served in Patrol and Investigations before being promoted to Police Lieutenant on December 7, 2007. He was a strong and decisive leader which led to him receiving the Manager of the Year award in 2007. As a Police Lieutenant, he served as Commander for Patrol, Quality of life, and Major Crimes Bureaus, and for the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team.

As the Police Department experienced changes in leadership and command staff, Captain Moody constantly stepped in and assisted City management in filling the gaps. Before being officially promoted to Police Captain on May 6, 2011, he willingly assumed the Captain's position twice and managed Patrol Operations in 2008 and 2010.

Captain Moody has been a valued employee and leader and his commitment to the City and community was evidenced on a daily basis. He is commended for his selfless contribution to Fairfield and its constituents.

IN MEMORIAM—FRANK  
ALEXANDER GRANT III

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 2014*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, we rise today in memory of Frank Alexander Grant III, who passed away on September 16, 2014 in his Altadena home following a battle with cancer. A natural leader and mentor to others both professionally and privately, Mr. Grant was a model of achievement and a positive force within the local community.

Frank Alexander Grant III was born in Eureka, CA on December 7, 1942, and grew up on the Yurok Indian Reservation, where he attended grammar school and high school. After graduating as high school valedictorian, Mr. Grant went on to receive a B.S. and M.S. in civil and sanitary engineering from Stanford University. On graduation day in 1966, he married Carole Susan Magnus. Mr. Grant served his country in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps stateside for two years before earning a Ph.D. in engineering at University of California Berkeley in 1972.

Frank Grant worked for over 30 years at MWH Global, an international engineering firm, managing large projects throughout California and abroad. Following a very successful career at MWH Global, Mr. Grant retired as the company's Senior Vice President. He built his own cabin along the Klamath River and was an active member in the Yurok community. Mr. Grant provided economic development advice to the tribe in addition to his involvement in other community organizations and pursuits in both Northern California and the Pasadena area.

Mr. Speaker, Frank Alexander Grant III leaves behind a legacy of professional and personal achievement and community engagement that will not soon be forgotten. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to him today and express our deepest condolences to his wife Carole; sons Frank IV and Philip; grandchildren Frank V, Andrew, Eva and Naomi; brothers Zane Grant Sr. and James Jackson Jr.; and step-mother Elinor Grant.

RECOGNIZING BEN NICHOLSON

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 2014*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ben Nicholson, who left the Appropriations Committee staff in October after more than 12 years of distinguished service. Ben started his career serving our Nation in 1992 when he joined the U.S. Coast Guard, serving for 10 years before joining the Appropriations Committee staff in 2002. Since that time, Ben has worked on various subcommittees, and for several chairmen, ultimately becoming the Clerk and Staff Director of the Homeland Security Subcommittee in 2011.

As the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I have had the honor and pleasure of working closely with Ben. He is professional, he is reliable, he is dedicated, and he gets the job done, regardless of the circumstances. Ben is a born leader and a Patriot. He holds himself accountable to a code of the highest standards. He efficiently manages his staff, not by micromanaging but by setting an example and empowering them to make informed recommendations. He is affable, thoughtful, determined to make a difference, and calm under pressure.

As we all know, congressional staff work long hours, and often sacrifice weekends and holidays in order to keep this esteemed institution running. This inevitably takes a toll on personal commitments, and nothing means more to Ben than his supportive and loving family. In his new employment, Ben will hopefully have more time to spend with his lovely wife, Anna, and their son, Tim. I have said before, and I will say again, the Appropriations Committee has the best staff on Capitol Hill. And Ben Nicholson is the epitome of that statement.

Congress, the House, the Appropriations Committee, and I will surely miss Ben's contributions and leadership; but we thank him for his service and dedication and we wish him well now and in the future.

RECOGNIZING CONNIE STEWART  
AS 2014 NONPROFIT LEADER

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 2014*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Connie Stewart, who was honored on November 5, 2014, with the Northern California Association of Nonprofits 2014 Nonprofit Leader Achievement Award, a recognition she richly deserves.

Connie's service to California and my congressional district has been exemplary. Her work on the Arcata City Council, as staff for the California Assembly, and as the executive director of the California Center for Rural Policy at Humboldt State University has improved the lives of many in the community. Connie Stewart has worked tirelessly to promote broadband deployment, economic development, food security, youth leadership, and improved healthcare for all.

Raised in New Jersey, Connie Stewart later attended Humboldt State University, where she graduated with a B.A. in speech communication. She went on to work at the Northcoast Environmental Center for 14 years before serving as senior field representative to Assemblywoman Patty Berg for seven years. Connie Stewart was elected to the Arcata City Council in 1996, was re-elected in 2000, and served as mayor for two years.

Connie Stewart became executive director at the California Center for Rural Policy in 2009. Within four years, she had expanded staff from three to 25 and cultivated relationships with private foundations and government agencies, bringing in millions of dollars for a wide variety of rural projects. During this time, she also served on the Aspen Institute Community Strategies Group Product Design Advisory Team for the Wealth Creation and Rural Livelihoods Initiative. Connie Stewart is well respected throughout the community as a civic leader and rural policy powerhouse.

Mr. Speaker, Connie Stewart's commitment to improving community services through her nonprofit work in Humboldt County is commendable and worthy of recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations to her.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 2014*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, I was unavoidably detained due to the necessity of accompanying the Vice-President of the United States on his visit to Houston and attending to other representational activities in my congressional district, and thus unable to return in time for Rollcall Vote 516. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

1. On Rollcall No. 516 I would have voted "aye" (Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 4194—Government Reports Elimination Act)