

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF PEACE CORPS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 50th Anniversary of Peace Corps. Fifty years ago today, Congress passed legislation authorizing Peace Corps, and giving it the mandate to “promote world peace and friendship.” Since then, over 200,000 Americans—including myself—have served our great country in the name of peace and friendship.

I am so proud of the 18 Volunteers currently serving from my district. Among them are Tim and Chelsea Tibbs, a husband and wife from Santa Cruz who are serving in Guyana. Chelsea created a Youth Friendly Center at a local health clinic that has been highlighted by the Ministry of Health’s Adolescent Unit as one of the best models for successful and targeted programs in the region. And Tim has been working with Guyana’s Regional Education Office to develop and implement teacher training modules. But Tim and Chelsea are just a few examples of how the 8,655 current Peace Corps Volunteers serving in nearly 80 countries around the world are changing lives and creating hope.

But Peace Corps also has a strong presence right here in the United States. In 1987, Peace Corps established the Peace Corps Masters International program, an innovative opportunity that enables students to combine a graduate education with Peace Corps service. In my district, the Monterey Institute for International Studies (MIIS) has 76 PCMI students, making it the fourth largest PCMI program in the country! That’s an incredible 10% of the MIIS student body that has dedicated their brains and their hearts to realizing America’s commitment to peace.

In honor of Peace Corps’ 50th Anniversary, MIIS is hosting Monterey Institute and the Peace Corps: Celebrating 50 Years of Global Engagement on October 8th. I am honored to be a part of this inspiring day of panel discussion and movie showings that honor Peace Corps’ legacy of service at MIIS.

This is just one of many celebrations around the country and around the world in honor of Peace Corps’ first 50 years of service. For a complete list of events, please visit <http://events.peacecorps50.org>.

I urge my colleagues to honor the past and present Peace Corps Volunteers in their districts, and I hope you will join me in celebrating America’s 50-year legacy of service in the name of peace.

A TRIBUTE TO PRINCIPAL STEVE
KWIKKEL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa’s excellence in education, and to specifically congratulate Waverly-Shell Rock Junior High School Principal Steve Kwikkel of Waverly, Iowa for being named Iowa Middle School Principal of the year by the School Administrators of Iowa.

Mr. Kwikkel’s career began as a sixth grade classroom teacher in rural Iowa in 1986. In 1994 Steve earned his master’s degree in secondary school administration from the University of Northern Iowa. Steve has made a name for himself serving as an administrator for four schools, most recently joining the team at Waverly-Shell Rock Junior High School in 2002.

Since Steve became principal of Waverly-Shell Rock, the school has enjoyed much acclaim from Steve’s commitment to improvements in school transformation, systems thinking, school culture and student achievement. In addition to his achievements at Waverly-Shell Rock Junior High School, Mr. Kwikkel has also served as the Executive Director for the Iowa Association for Middle Level Education and currently leads the Cedar Valley Middle School principal’s cadre.

Mr. Speaker, I consider it a great honor to represent a state with such a proud academic tradition. Principal Kwikkel, the teachers, students, and parents of Waverly-Shell Rock should be very proud of what they have accomplished. Their future is certainly bright and I wish Mr. Kwikkel and all of Waverly-Shell Rock Junior High School continued academic excellence as they continue to have a positive impact on the future leaders of our state and country.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF
OWENSVILLE ON ITS CENTEN-
NIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Owensville, located in Gasconade County in Missouri, as the community recently celebrated its centennial anniversary.

What is now the City of Owensville began as an early trail called the Potosi to Boonslick Trail. Spurs from this main trail went to the current city, creating a crossroads that later became the St. Louis to Springfield Road and the St. James to Hermann Road, called the “Iron Road.”

The city was originally laid out in 1886 by the Owensville Improvement Company, whose

owner, Frank Owens, is the town’s namesake. According to legend, businessman Frank Owens and blacksmith Edward Luster were both vying to be the town’s namesake and held a horseshoe pitching contest to determine who would win. Owens won, and Owensville residents believe their city is the only place named as a result of a horseshoe pitching contest. Owensville was incorporated as a fourth-class city on May 27, 1911.

Over the past century, industries such as a corn cob pipe factory, a tomato cannery, shoe factories and clay mining supported the town. Today, the RR Donnelly printing company and Emhart Glass Manufacturing are located there. Owensville is a thriving town and a proud community of more than 2,500 residents.

In closing, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the residents of the City of Owensville congratulations on their centennial anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE DISASTER
AT THE JIM WALTER RE-
SOURCES #5 MINE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago, on September 23, 2001, 13 brave miners lost their lives in two mine explosions in the depths of the Jim Walter Resources, JWR, #5 Mine, which is located approximately two miles from Brookwood, Alabama.

This mine is located in the deepest and most gas laden coal mine seam in the United States, some 2,100 feet below ground. The miners are represented by the United Mine Worker of America, who conducted a thorough investigation and report on this tragedy.

Four miners were building wooden cribs to fix a badly supported mine roof, when the roof collapsed nearby. Shortly thereafter, there was an explosion that injured these four miners. The roof fall occurred on top of a large six-ton, 64-volt scoop battery that was suspended from the mine roof in a track entry. The battery was connected to a battery charger, according to reports. The first explosion was likely caused by the scoop battery, which was damaged and short circuited, igniting methane that had become trapped due to the lack of adequate ventilation caused by the roof fall.

A chaotic emergency response followed and miners tried to assist those who were injured. About 55 minutes after the first explosion, a larger and more violent explosion rocked throughout the mine, and 13 miners were killed—12 rescuers and one miner who had been hurt and unable to move after the initial explosion. The second explosion was, according to reports, fueled by methane and float coal dust. This explosion took the lives of Gaston Adams, Jr., Raymond Ashworth, Nelson Banks, David Blevins, Clarence “Bit”

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Boyd, Wendell Johnson, John Knox, Dennis Mobley, Charles Nail, Joe Riggs, Charles Smith, Joe Sorah and Terry Stewart.

Rescue and recovery was difficult, since the ventilation controls were destroyed. It took seven weeks—until early November—until teams could recover 12 of the victims. It took eight months to rehabilitate the mine so it was safe enough to resume operations.

At the time of this mine disaster, the Nation's attention was focused the events of 9/11, which had occurred only two weeks earlier. As such, no mining law changes followed.

Five years after the JWR #5 disaster, a series of tragedies at Sago, Aracoma Alma and Darby spurred enactment of the MINER Act. The law largely focused on improvements to post-accident emergency response, and mandates for operators to provide tracking, communications and shelters. Had Congress acted in a timely way after the JWR #5 disaster, it is likely that other miners' lives could have been saved.

Important mine law changes have yet to be mandated by Congress from the JWR #5 disaster that should be acted upon.

For example, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has developed coal dust explosivity meters, which can give miners real time information on the presence of explosive coal dust—a substance ten times as explosive as methane—and can signal whether additional rock dust is needed to prevent mine explosions. The Robert C. Byrd Miner Safety and Health Act, which was introduced in 2010 but was not enacted, mandates that mine operators use coal dust explosivity meters as a way to assure more timely compliance with rock dusting requirements.

Independent investigations of major mine tragedies are needed to assure there is no conflict of interest involving questions about the adequacy of mine safety oversight and the performance of state and federal regulators. The Byrd bill contained a requirement for independent investigations.

Battery chargers, which ventilate explosive gases such as hydrogen, need to be directly vented to the returns in mines so that they cannot ignite fires. Roof control plans need to assure that areas around battery chargers have robust roof support.

As the senior Democratic Member on the Committee on Education and the Workforce, I strongly urge Congress to follow up on the lessons from the JWR #5 mine disaster, as well as the Upper Big Branch Mine disaster, which took the lives of 29 miners on April 5, 2010. Miners' blood should not be spilled in vain. Continued inaction by Congress on matters of the health and safety our Nation's miners is simply inexcusable.

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II
VETERANS PARTICIPATING IN
THE QUAD CITIES HONOR
FLIGHT

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, today I have the great honor of welcoming to our nation's capital 90 Iowa veterans of the Greatest Generation. Accompanied by over 70 volunteer

guardians, these veterans have travelled to Washington, DC to visit the monument that was built in their honor.

For many of these veterans, today will be the first time they have seen the National World War II Memorial. I am deeply honored to have been invited to join them when they see their memorial for the first time and to have the opportunity to personally thank these heroes.

I am proud to have a piece of marble from the quarry that supplied the marble that built the World War II Memorial in my office. Like the memorial that it built, that piece of marble reminds me of the sacrifices of a generation of Americans. When our country was threatened, they rose to defend not just our nation but the freedoms, democracy, and values that make our country the greatest nation on earth. They did so as one people and one country. Their sacrifices and determination in the face of great threats to our way of life are both humbling and inspiring.

The sheer magnitude of what the Greatest Generation accomplished, not just in war but in the peace that followed, continues to inspire us today. They did not seek to be tested both abroad by a war that fundamentally challenged our way of life and at home by the Great Depression and the rebuilding of our economy that followed. But, when called upon to do so, they defended and then rebuilt our nation to make it even stronger. Their patriotism, service, and great sacrifice not only defined their generation—they stand as a testament to the fortitude of our nation.

I am tremendously proud to welcome the Quad City Honor Flight and Iowa's veterans of the Second World War to our nation's capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our country.

SMAST PROFESSOR HONORED FOR
FISHERIES WORK

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the latest award recognizing the distinguished career of Dr. Brian Rothschild of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth School for Marine Science and Technology.

Dr. Brian Rothschild was recently presented the prestigious Oscar Elton Sette Award for "sustained excellence in marine fishery biology" by the American Fisheries Society. For many years, it has been my privilege to work closely with Dr. Rothschild on numerous issues involving the fishing industry as well as marine science, maritime safety, and ocean studies. This has included discussions on global warming and renewable energy possibilities in the northeast as well as the development of critical partnerships abroad such as that which now exists between the University of the Azores and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth where he is the Montgomery Charter Professor of Marine Science. He has advised me and my staff on the critical issues that face both fishermen and scientists as these stewards of our oceans work to find that critical balance between sustainable fishing and conservation of fish stocks.

Dr. Rothschild has dedicated himself to public service by working in various government roles that have dealt with both fishery management and oceanography. I submit the following article into the record, which describes how Dr. Rothschild was recently honored by his peers for his important contributions to fishery science. I congratulate him, and thank him for his commitment to our community.

[From SouthCoastToday.com, Sept. 20, 2011]

SMAST PROFESSOR HONORED FOR FISHERIES
WORK

(By Don Cuddy)

Dr. Brian Rothschild, a distinguished professor at UMass Dartmouth's School for Marine Science and Technology, has again been honored by his peers in the scientific community.

Rothschild traveled to Seattle earlier this month as this year's recipient of the Oscar Elton Sette Award, presented annually by the American Fisheries Society to an individual who has made "sustained and important contributions to marine fishery biology."

Oscar Elton Sette was a pioneer in the development of fisheries oceanography and is regarded by many fisheries scientists as the father of modern fisheries oceanography in the United States. A National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration research vessel based in Hawaii is named for him.

Rothschild was a friend and colleague of Sette in Honolulu and while Sette was at Stanford University, and the pair co-authored a report on skipjack tuna in 1996.

The American Fisheries Society describes itself as "the world's oldest and largest organization dedicated to strengthening the fisheries profession, advancing fisheries science and conserving fisheries resources." Its first president was elected in 1870.

Rothschild has been working in fisheries for close to 60 years. As director of policy at NOAA, he oversaw the successful implementation of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976.

In 1986, Harvard University Press published his book "Dynamics of Marine Fish Populations." This was the first book to comprehensively address the abundance of fish populations in historical, life-history and modeling contexts, according to professor Changsheng Chen, one of his colleagues at SMAST who put forward the nomination.

Among the major accomplishments credited to Rothschild is his work on the scallop fishery. "His innovative sampling strategy, along with Kevin Stokesbury, for ocean scallops allowed new assessments to be made, allowing the opening of scallop beds and preventing the collapse of the most valuable fishery in the U.S.," Cheng wrote in the nomination letter.

The citation on the award reads: "For sustained excellence in marine fishery biology through research, teaching, administration or a combination of all three."

Rothschild, who left for a global fishery conference in Gdansk, Poland, on Friday, said he felt honored to receive the award.

"I would like to thank all of my colleagues," he said. "It's so great to be working in a field that is so important to so many people."

HONORING CLIFF EVERTS

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, over the course of many years, I have observed the

work ethics, tenacity, and love of Alaska by a Pioneer of Alaska Aviation. Today, I stand in recognition and honor Mr. Cliff Everts.

Mr. Everts was an instructor for the predecessor of Alaska Airlines, Alaska Star Airlines. In 1945 he joined the team of Wien Alaska flying Boeing 247s and Lockheed Lodestars hauling fuel from Barrow to Umiat and after 15 years saw an opportunity to begin his first business experience. When Wien's business plan dropped fuel delivery, he purchased one of the C-46s and continued delivering fuel to Alaska's villages. Wien was lucky to keep Mr. Everts as one of their team until 1980 when he retired after 35 years and 30,000 hours in a cockpit.

Mr. Everts has flown at forty below temperatures, through dark days and nights, in snow, sleet, and rain, to supply the needs of village residents. He is a true Alaskan with a frontier spirit.

One of the most interesting adventures of Cliff was delivering 110 reindeer from Nome to Colorado so that people in the "lower forty-eight" could experience a Santa Clause sleigh ride. Somewhere today there are decedents of one of the escapees there in Colorado along with our Alaskan wolves!

Cliff also gave new meaning to "when pigs fly" when he delivered several dozen pigs in a C-46 from Ohio to Big Delta for a farm project.

As a committed Alaskan, he realized early the opportunity in our State and the value of our resources, our people, and our commodities. He purchased surplus equipment and resold or rented it. His renowned collection of planes with historical nose art, which are still flying today, is an example in recycling and honorable use of assets, when others may have disregarded them for lack of value.

Cliff has contributed to Alaska with the creation of more than one successful company; the leadership today exemplifies his integrity, values, commitment to community and family, and love for our State and Country. Cliff and his planes have provided fuel to villages and mines, while not only improving quality of life, but often saving life. Our State would be less today without you and Pioneers like him.

I rise today to congratulate Mr. Cliff Everts on this day as we place a plaque and memory in perpetuity on the East Ramp of the Fairbanks International Airport.

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF
CENTER POINT

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Center Point and Dr. Sushma Taylor who serves as President and CEO. Center Point was founded in 1971 as a private, not-for-profit corporation which offers rehabilitation and a spectrum of health and social services to high risk families, men, women, women with dependent children and youth. Since its founding, Center Point has served over 450,000 men, women, families and veterans.

Center Point's mission is to provide comprehensive social, educational, vocational, medical, psychological, housing and rehabilita-

tion services to combat social problems including substance abuse, poverty and unemployment. Center Point provides rehabilitation and treatment services to interrupt abusive cycles of psychological, social and economic dislocation by providing critical training and support so that individuals can claim self-worth and dignity through accountability and self-responsibility.

Center Point's leader, Dr. Taylor, first joined Center Point as its Executive Director in 1981. Dr. Taylor has sought to create opportunities and help individuals and families overcome the barriers of drug and alcohol abuse, homelessness, criminal justice involvement, unemployment, poor health and mental health problems to make a positive contribution to society. Under Dr. Taylor's leadership, Center Point has grown to develop and provide a wide array of services to those in need in California, Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana.

Oklahoma's female incarceration rate ranks number one in the Nation and in my district Center Point is making a difference with the Tulsa Women's Program. The burgeoning program helps women transition away from the criminal justice system and back into society. Center Point, the Tulsa Women's Program and the passionate leadership of Dr. Taylor provide countless inspiring examples of how treatment and rehabilitation can work to restore dignity to an individual and help people take responsibility for their own lives.

I am grateful for the contributions of Center Point and Dr. Taylor as we commemorate their 40th anniversary and their positive and lasting contributions to society.

A TRIBUTE TO PRINCIPAL DALE
BARNHILL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa's excellence in education, and to specifically congratulate Norwalk High School Principal Dale Barnhill of Norwalk, Iowa, for being named Iowa High School Principal of the year by the School Administrators of Iowa.

Dale Barnhill's vision for becoming a teacher began to take form after graduating from Twin Cedars High School in Bussey, Iowa. Dale would then graduate from Iowa State University with a bachelor's degree in history and then from Northeast Missouri State University with a master's degree in guidance and counseling. After earning his administrative certification from Iowa State, Dale began his career in Iowa as a teacher and a coach at Ringsted Community School. Dale would go on to attain his first administrative position in Winthrop, Iowa, and later serve as the Assistant Principal at Pella High School in Pella, Iowa. Mr. Barnhill's entire career in education has been in Iowa and our state has benefited greatly from it.

Since Dale joined Norwalk Schools in 1998, the high school has enjoyed more than a decade of positive growth. Mr. Barnhill's work with improving the high school and its students has directly led to the increased quality of Norwalk's programs. Additionally, Dale took Norwalk High School into the 21st century by im-

plementing electronic portfolios for students to facilitate exit interviews for graduating seniors and an improved method for calculating class rank. Mr. Barnhill has not been shy about pushing students to challenge themselves academically, and the result has been demonstrably effective for both students and the school itself.

Mr. Speaker, I consider it a great honor to represent Norwalk High School Principal Dale Barnhill, the teachers, students, school board members and administrators of the Norwalk Community School District in the United States Congress. I wish Mr. Barnhill and all of Norwalk High School continued academic excellence as they continue to have a positive impact on the future leaders of our state and country.

CELEBRATING THE END OF DON'T
ASK, DON'T TELL

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the end of the discriminatory Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy, and to celebrate that qualified men and women who have the desire to serve their country can no longer be denied simply because of sexual orientation.

Don't Ask, Don't Tell limited the ability of our armed forces to recruit and retain talented Americans. Hundreds of men and women with critical abilities, including language skills, have been discharged under this policy.

Meanwhile, many of our closest allies have demonstrated that allowing open service does not harm unit cohesion or military performance.

Most importantly, Don't Ask, Don't Tell institutionalized discrimination in our military. It was a policy that forced men and women to lie about their identity in order to serve their country.

As of this week, no one is prohibited from serving the country they love because of whom they love.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOYS & GIRLS
CLUBS OF LAS VEGAS

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Las Vegas.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Las Vegas opened their first club in 1961 in a casino basement in North Las Vegas and today serves over 14,000 children in eight dedicated facilities throughout Clark County.

Their mission is to enable all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Several of the Clubs are placed to serve the neighborhoods, where children are most at-risk for educational and financial failure, drug and alcohol abuse, gang involvement, and teen pregnancy.

Many children come home to an empty house while their parents are at work. It is important for those children to know that they have a place to go where people care for them. That is where the Boys & Girls Clubs of Las Vegas fills a vital role.

Their programs engage young people in activities with adults, peers, and family members that enable them to grow and flourish. Based on the interests and needs of the boys and girls they serve, clubs offer diverse program activities in five areas: character and leadership development, education and career development, the arts, sports, fitness and recreation, and health and life skills.

A survey conducted on the Boys & Girls Clubs determined that over half of the adults that participated in Club events as children attributed the Boys & Girls Clubs to saving their lives. Eighty percent said they learned right and wrong from a member of the Club staff.

While many Club alumni have achieved distinction in fields such as entertainment, business, politics, and sports, the average alumnus is not famous. Most have achieved success by getting an education, raising families, serving their country, pursuing careers, and supporting their communities.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Las Vegas uses a lineup of tested and proven nationally recognized programs that address today's most pressing youth issues, teaching young people the skills they need to succeed in life.

Nearly a third of the Clubs' members who participate in the homework assistance and tutoring program are on their schools' honor rolls. Most importantly, those children have a safe place they can stay while their parents are at work.

As the Representative for Nevada's First Congressional District, it gives me immense pride to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Las Vegas.

HONORING DR. JERRY PREVO FOR
40 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Jerry Prevo and the 40 years of service he has given to the Anchorage Baptist Temple community in Alaska where he is the pastor of one of the State's largest and most active churches. Sporting an auditorium able to seat over 2,000 people and a regular congregation of 2,200 it is difficult to imagine the church's very humble origins.

The church was founded as the Bible Baptist Church in 1956 by Missionary Don White who oversaw a congregation of 300 people until, in 1971, a young graduate of the Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri, was called. In just a few short years under his careful and dutiful stewardship, Pastor Prevo saw attendance increase rapidly, until there was just no more room.

He needed to do something about it. In 1973 he proposed to move the church to their present location on Northern Lights Boulevard—a magnificent 20-acre estate. The community needed a church, the church needed the community. Answering the call, the new building was built, largely, by hundreds of

church members who freely volunteered their time and talents in an outstanding example of community-wide cooperation. It was then that the church was renamed Anchorage Baptist Temple.

Pastor Prevo, always committed to the education of future generations, saw the opportunity to found the Anchorage Christian Schools. Within just 5 years more classrooms and a gymnasium had to be built due to its massive popularity. Decades later the school and the Children's Ministry Center consists of 26 classrooms, a 300-seat gymnasium, library, music department, computer lab, and a chemistry lab over a 350,000 square feet complex—all built from the community's generous donations with no debt incurred. The Christian School now has over 750 students as well as a Sunday school, a preschool and all-day child care.

In the midst of running a school and a church the Pastor Prevo took the time to pursue a Doctor of Divinity degree at Hyles Anderson College and the Liberty Baptist Theological in 1978 and 1993, respectively. He expanded his community work to philanthropy by serving on the Board of Samaritan's Purse and on the Board of Liberty University in Virginia.

Today, through three radio stations, a contemporary Christian music station, and a television station he can be seen and heard daily by over half the population of Alaska.

On a personal note, Pastor Prevo has been there for me during some tough times. The loss of my wife, Lu, was sudden and painful and Pastor Prevo helped by offering the use of the Anchorage Baptist Temple and its ability to broadcast to a good portion of the State for her memorial service. In the two years since her passing I have come to rely on his spiritual leadership and guidance.

As a result of his far-reaching state-wide community work and success in reforming and growing one of Alaska's largest churches, and his extensive outreach in Europe and the Middle East, the Alaska Journal of Commerce has listed him as one of the 25 most influential individuals in Alaska.

Dr. Jerry Prevo has always worked hard and been nothing but loyal to his community and church and I commend him for his 40 years of service.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF ROSEBUD ON ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Rosebud, located in Gasconade County in Missouri, as the community will be celebrating its centennial anniversary.

What is now the city of Rosebud was organized in 1911, receiving its name from the wild rose bushes that reside in the community. By 1911, Rosebud had expanded to considerable size because of the Rock Island Railroad, farming, clay mining, selling wood to kilns in St. Louis and many other industrious endeavors of the time. A number of citizens wished to have their village incorporated in Gas-

conade County, so they sent a letter to the County Court in Hermann. Within the year, the city received incorporation. Over the years, Rosebud's population, infrastructure and economic activity have increased.

Over the past century, industries such as antique and craft shops, restaurants, churches and thoroughfare from Highway 50 have supported the town. Today, Finale International Tool Inc. is the top employer in the community. The proud community of Rosebud is home to 378 residents.

In closing, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the residents of the city of Rosebud congratulations on their centennial anniversary.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,705,188,086,992.02.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$4,066,762,340,698.22 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps, an organization of volunteers who are dedicated to helping individuals build better lives for themselves by living and working in developing countries.

Following President John F. Kennedy's challenge to 5,000 students at the University of Michigan to dedicate two years of their lives to help people in developing countries, the Peace Corps was officially established on March 1, 1961. Young people throughout the country were inspired, and by June 22, 1961, Peace Corps Director Sargent Shriver had received 11,000 applications. On August 30, 1961, the first group of Peace Corps volunteers arrived to serve as teachers in Ghana. By December of 1961, more than 500 volunteers were working in nine countries around the world.

Today, 50 years after the Peace Corps began; there are more than 8,600 active volunteers and trainees working in 76 different countries. The mission of the Peace Corps that was adopted in 1961 still remains the organization's mission today. "Helping the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women. Helping promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served. Helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans."

Throughout its history, the Peace Corps has continued to adapt to the needs of developing countries. Volunteers work in areas such as education, business development, environmental preservation, youth development, agriculture and HIV/AIDS relief. Returned Peace Corps volunteers return to the U.S. with incomparable experience and have gone on to become directors of the Peace Corps, Members of Congress, presidents of universities and CEOs in the business world.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the more than 200,000 volunteers who have dedicated themselves to promoting world peace and friendship throughout 139 countries over the past 50 years.

ON THE OCCASION OF CELEBRATING RABBI DANIEL SCHWARTZ'S FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY IN THE RABBINATE AND HIS RETIREMENT AS SENIOR RABBI OF TEMPLE SHIR SHALOM

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Daniel Schwartz of Temple Shir Shalom in West Bloomfield, Michigan, on the occasion of his retirement after forty years in the rabbinate and a lifetime of service to the Jewish community in Michigan and beyond.

Like many who heed to a call to serve their community, Rabbi Schwartz's leadership began early in his life when he served as President of the Bronx and Manhattan Federation of Temple Youth. Rabbi Schwartz completed his rabbinical training in 1972 and has served the Jewish community of Southeast Michigan as Senior Rabbi of Temple Beth El of Bloomfield, Michigan, and for the last two decades has served as Founding and Senior Rabbi of Temple Shir Shalom. For the past two years, Rabbi Schwartz has also served as CEO of The Corners, an institution that provides affordable space and resources to non-profit organizations.

Rabbi Schwartz has not only taught the values of Judaism, but has also set an example for his congregation and the Greater Detroit community through his commitment to service. As a member of the Michigan Board of Rabbis and its former president, Rabbi Schwartz devoted considerable time and energy to providing spiritual leadership beyond his own congregation. Rabbi Schwartz also serves as Chaplain at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan, and through his work there has offered patients and their families important emotional and spiritual support in times of difficulty. And as a believer in lifelong learning, Rabbi Schwartz has continued his education both formally by obtaining a doctoral degree from the Jewish Institute of Religion and informally through his experiences with his congregation, family, and friends.

On many occasions Rabbi Schwartz has demonstrated his ability as a leader in Michigan's Jewish community, but one occasion serves as a seminal example of his leadership: the founding of Temple Shir Shalom. It was Rabbi Schwartz who gathered together with thirty families just over twenty years ago

to establish their new congregation. And through his guidance and support of those families, the congregation of Shir Shalom has prospered and grown to over nine hundred families. Along the path of the Temple's history there have been many obstacles, including the need to construct a permanent home for the congregation, which was first housed in a converted office building, but with Rabbi Schwartz's unyielding efforts, the congregation of Shir Shalom overcame those challenges.

Mr. Speaker, the congregation of Temple Shir Shalom and the Jewish community of Michigan are blessed to have benefitted from the wisdom, knowledge, and service of Rabbi Daniel Schwartz over the last forty years and I know his retirement will affect generations of worshippers. I wish Rabbi Schwartz well in his retirement and I know his commitment to service will continue through his volunteer work and the Rabbi Daniel Schwartz Legacy Foundation.

RECOGNIZING THE LINN STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Linn State Technical College, located in Osage County in Missouri, for its exceptional performance in training scholars of higher education.

Linn State Technical College, LSTC, founded in 1961, is Missouri's only two-year public technical college with a statewide mission. Originating as Linn Technical Junior College, the college became a part of the public higher education system in Missouri in 1996 as a result of legislation by the 88th General Assembly.

Linn State Technical College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association. Thirteen programs are accredited by the Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering, ATMAE. In addition, 15 other program-level professional accreditations and certifications have been obtained by programs at the college.

Linn State Technical College monitors the economic, industrial and technological needs of the state as new programs are proposed for development. In response to industry demand over the last decade, Linn State Technical College has started 19 degree and certificate programs.

In closing, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the faculty, staff and students of Linn State Technical congratulations in their pursuit of higher education.

RECOGNIZING SUZANNE KILBY ETGEN FOR HER SERVICE AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Suzanne Kilby Etgen, the 2011

recipient of the Jan Hollmann Environmental Education Award, for her service as an educator and advocate for environmental preservation.

The Jan Hollmann Environmental Education Award was established in 1994 to recognize an individual or organization which demonstrates outstanding effectiveness as an environmental educator. This year, Suzanne Etgen has been recognized for her work as the coordinator of the Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy. At the Academy, Ms. Etgen teaches members of the community how to preserve and protect watersheds by minimizing the damage caused by water runoff in the area. Addressing issues such as rainscaping, pollution reduction strategies, and community outreach and engagement, Ms. Etgen has worked tirelessly to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and its inhabitants.

Getting citizens involved in protecting the rivers and streams that make up the Chesapeake watershed is the key to the future health of the Bay. That is why I introduced the No Child Left Inside Act, which seeks to better incorporate environmental education in the curriculum as a means to teach students about their natural surroundings and spark their interest in science. It is critical that the next generation be armed with the knowledge that Ms. Etgen has dedicated her life to sharing. Throughout her years of work as an environmental advocate, Suzanne Etgen has played a pivotal role in ensuring that our natural environment remains as majestic as ever.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again congratulate Suzanne Kilby Etgen for her dedication to environmental awareness and protection.

HONORING FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN CARRIE MEEK

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a former Member of the Florida state and U.S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Carrie Meek. Congresswoman Meek has also served in the Florida State Senate in what was a small part of a diverse history of public service.

With over 24 years of combined public service on both the state and national level, Congresswoman Meek has a true understanding of what it takes to enrich the lives of others. Her service, as a teacher before winning her seat in the Florida State House is yet another testament to her public contributions.

Congresswoman Meek had all throughout her career a reputation for being a strong legislator. She was the first African American woman elected to the Florida Senate and the first African American to serve there since Reconstruction. In the Florida State Legislature, she staunchly promoted literacy and championed minority business enterprise laws.

Her career in the U.S. House was no less distinguished than it was on the state level. Almost immediately, the Congresswoman established herself as a champion of expanding federal programs to create jobs and providing

initiatives for African American business owners. In a battle that is still being fought today, Congresswoman Meek passionately opposed cuts to social welfare programs in the 90s to prevent the financial burden from being carried on the backs of the middle class and the disadvantaged.

Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman Meek has been an asset to this country and it is important that we recognize her lasting contributions to her district and our nation. It is always my pleasure to honor an individual with such exemplary character and integrity such as my dear friend Congresswoman Carrie Meek.

INTRODUCING THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES LEAVE TRANSFER ACT OF 2011

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Federal Employees Leave Transfer Act of 2011. Put simply, this bill will permit federal employees to transfer unused sick leave, without compensation, to agency sick leave banks.

I offer this bill during a time when federal employee benefits and service are under attack. Unlike some voices, I believe that public service as a worthwhile endeavor, and that the civil service is a talented workforce that needs to be carefully managed and developed.

Though this bill is a small change to existing law, it is an important one because it reassures federal employees that if they became catastrophically ill, or require extended leave due to the illness of a loved one, other federal employees can come to their assistance through the donation of their excess sick leave.

This bill is expected to be nearly cost-neutral. The bill states that federal employees cannot be compensated for transferring their sick leave to a sick leave bank. That provision is expected to nearly eliminate the cost of the bill, with the small exception of program administration.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, until 2014, Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) employees will be allowed to use one-half of their accumulated sick leave for annuity purposes. This bill will allow federal employees to donate their excess leave to a sick bank, rather than suffering from the "FERS flu." This bill could even increase productivity by preventing the abuse of sick leave.

Sick leave donation programs and banks are abundant in state and local government, at public and private universities, and in the private sector. Therefore this bill will not grant federal employees a benefit not enjoyed by the private sector.

For those who believe this bill may contribute to abuse, it must be noted that a federal employee cannot draw from a leave bank unless he/she donates to the bank in the first place. That incentivizes participation. Second, a federal employee cannot actually draw from a leave bank until he/she has exhausted all of their own sick and annual leave. Therefore, leave banks are shielded from abuse since federal employees cannot take advantage of this benefit until they have significant skin in the game.

Finally, I am proud that this bill has 4 esteemed public servants as original co-sponsors: Congressmen CONNOLLY, WOLF, SARBANES and VAN HOLLEN. This bill is also supported by the American Federation of Government Employees, the National Treasury Employees Union, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, and Federal Managers Association.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF LINN ON ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Linn, located in Osage County in Missouri, as the community recently celebrated its centennial anniversary.

In what is now the city of Linn settled a diverse group of people with different nationalities and backgrounds. They settled in the region that is currently Osage County, calling the settlement Linnville but then later renamed the town more simply Linn, after the U.S. Senator Lewis F. Linn. It was in 1842 that Linn was designated the County Seat for Osage County.

Here is the home of Linn State Technical College. The college was started with some of the foresight that is indicative of this region, recognizing the need for training a talented workforce. This vision has grown with the community for the last fifty years, putting technical education as an integral part of the community.

Over the past century, a multitude of trades and occupations supported the town. Today, Linn is known for its diverse population, collection of many religious ideologies and exceptional school system. Linn is a thriving town and a proud community, thankful for those that have paved the way to the present and laid the foundation for our tomorrow.

In closing, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the residents of the city of Linn congratulations on their centennial anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON LAKEWOOD HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the dedication of The University of Akron Lakewood Higher Education Center. The University of Akron Lakewood will give students throughout Cuyahoga County an opportunity to benefit from the quality education that The University of Akron (UA) has been providing its students for more than one hundred years.

Founded in 1870 by John R. Buchtel, the University of Akron was originally Buchtel College. When Butchel College first opened its doors in 1872, 46 collegiate students were

taught by seven faculty members. Over the past 140 years, UA has expanded and in 2010 welcomed 4,796 freshman students, the largest incoming class in the school's history. Today, the University of Akron offers 300 undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 29,000 students. The Princeton Review listed UA among the "Best in the Midwest" in its 2011 edition of Best Colleges: Region-by-Region.

The University of Akron Lakewood Higher Education Center will be housed in downtown Lakewood's Bailey Building on the corner of Warren Road and Detroit Avenue. The Lakewood location will offer variety of classes for students enrolled in the College of Nursing, College of Education and College of Business. Additionally, general education courses will be offered to high school students who wish to pursue dual-enrollment.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the new University of Akron Lakewood Higher Education Center.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances I was absent on September 21, 2011 for the vote on H.R. 2608, The Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012. However, had I been present I would have voted no for H.R. 2608.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF HERMANN ON ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Hermann, located in Gasconade County in Missouri, as the community recently celebrated its 175th anniversary.

What is now the city of Hermann began as a small colony of the German Settlement Society of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1836. Hermann has remained the county seat of Gasconade County since 1842.

The city was originally laid out by the German Settlement Society of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with the intent of preserving the German language and culture. In 1847 what is known today as Stone Hill Wine Company was formed. Today the winery hits an annual wine output of 1,250,000 gallons. Hermann became the "Wine City of Missouri," and today is still the center of Missouri's wine industry.

Over the past century, industries involved in the cultivation of grapes, production of wine, shoemaking and tourism have supported the town. Hermann is a thriving town and a proud community known for its many festivals and also as "The Bed and Breakfast Capital of Missouri."

In closing, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the residents of the city of Hermann congratulations on its 175th anniversary.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR.
JOSEPH R. FINK

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Joseph R. Fink and recognize his contribution to higher education and community involvement in Marin County, California. Dr. Fink is retiring as the President of Dominican University of California.

It has been my privilege to work closely with Dr. Fink for many years, during which time his friendship and assistance have been invaluable. Under his leadership Dominican has established itself as a successful university with high ideals and a big vision. Establishing the Green MBA Program and the Center for Sustainability, Dominican University has emerged as an innovative school whose students are working to develop creative solutions to some of the world's toughest problems.

Dr. Fink earned a doctorate in American History from Rutgers University and began his career as an Associate Professor of History and Assistant to the President at a small liberal arts college. Before coming to Dominican University, he served as Dean of Arts and Sciences at the City Colleges of Chicago, president of a public college in New Jersey, and president of an independent liberal arts college in Pennsylvania. He is the recipient of many awards and recognitions, including four honorary doctorate degrees for his achievements in higher education and community service.

Starting at Dominican University in 1988, during a period of transition, Dr. Fink restructured the management of the university to move it from small college to university status. He worked with the Board of Trustees and the faculty to successfully assume control of academic and fiscal affairs to put the university on a whole new course. With his expertise in management, the university's enrollment almost quadrupled while the average SAT scores rose by more than 180 points. A leader with considerable collaborative skills, he has been innovative in creating opportunities for friends of the university to support its mission. With increased fundraising, the annual operating budget rose dramatically allowing extensive campus renovation, the building of a new recreation complex, new residence halls, and a state-of-the-art science research center.

In addition to being a very competent administrator, Dr. Fink is an outstanding member of the community, serving on the boards of a variety of organizations, including the Council of Independent Colleges, the World Affairs Council of Northern California, the Marin Symphony, the American Land Conservancy, and the Commonwealth Club of California.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Fink is a man of remarkable talent and considerable commitment, he will be missed in the community and at the university, but we honor him today and wish him well in his next endeavor. Congratulations, Joseph Fink.

HONORING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE
CARRIE P. MEEK

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I had the honor and the privilege of serving in this house with Carrie Meek for ten years. The granddaughter of a slave and a daughter of sharecroppers, Carrie has always held in her heart a deep and abiding concern for the rights and the welfare of others. She made public service a life's calling, and her time as a member of this body was but one chapter in a lengthy career doing what she loves most: fighting for justice and the advancement of those who have something to contribute but are not given the chance.

When Carrie was determined to pursue a graduate degree, the high obstacle of segregation was the first of many she would overcome. Her fourteen years of service in the Florida legislature, in both the House and Senate, helped make Floridians safer from crime, opened new opportunities to Florida's students to achieve higher education, and provided affordable housing to those facing financial difficulty. Her historic election in 1992 as the first African American to represent a Florida district in Congress since Reconstruction began a decade of distinguished service here in Washington.

In Congress, Carrie championed economic development, housing, education, and access to affordable health care. Her relentless advocacy on behalf of her constituents in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew brought over \$100 million in assistance to rebuild communities across Miami-Dade County and South Florida. Since her retirement from Congress in 2003, Carrie has continued her work at the helm of the Carrie Meek Foundation, a charitable venture committed to improving the lives of Americans by supporting programs in housing, education, health care, and community development.

I am grateful to call Carrie my friend, and I join with my colleagues in celebrating her service to the people of Florida in Congress and her continuing commitment to her fellow Americans across the country.

HONORING THE NEVADA GOES
FALL FREE COALITION

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Nevada Goes Fall Free Coalition on the occasion of the Nevada Fall Prevention Day.

The Nevada Goes Fall Free Coalition has fostered community partnerships across the aging and disabilities service network to provide education and fall prevention programs to local residents.

Nevada Fall Prevention Day is sponsored by the Nevada Goes Fall Free Coalition; a community based task force supported by the National Council on Aging.

The Coalition was formed to promote collaboration among members, to bring aware-

ness to this issue, to promote the effectiveness of risk factor identification and intervention, and to work toward the implementation of the 36 strategies contained within the National Action Plan.

It is estimated that nearly 12 percent of Nevadans are over the age of 65. Additionally, it is estimated that in the United States one-third of all people over the age of 65 will fall each year. Furthermore, over half of the seniors over the age of 80 will fall each year. This would result in medical costs that would exceed \$27 billion annually.

Falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among people over the age of 65 and the leading cause of nonfatal injuries and hospital admissions for trauma.

Falling and the fear of falling, can lead to depression, hopelessness, loss of mobility, and loss of functional independence. However, falls and injuries from falls are largely a preventable community health problem.

As the Representative for Nevada's First Congressional District, it gives me immense pride to recognize the Nevada Goes Fall Free Coalition on the occasion of the Nevada Fall Prevention Day.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN
INDEPENDENCE

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the full declaration of Armenian independence on September 21st, and to acknowledge the numerous contributions of Armenian-Americans to the history, society, and culture of the United States.

The legacy of the Armenian people is one of strength, resilience, and determination, and we pay tribute to those who struggled for and won their independence twenty years ago today.

The thorny path to freedom is difficult for so many throughout the world, and I am proud to stand alongside the Armenian people as they continue to consolidate the gains of independence. Over the past two decades, Armenia has moved toward a modern, dynamic economy, reduced poverty and inequality, and built a vibrant civil society. I personally experienced the warmth and generosity of the Armenian people first-hand during my visit there.

Here in the United States, the contributions of Armenian-Americans are innumerable. Hundreds of thousands of Armenian-Americans have contributed to the strength, prosperity and creativity of this country by leading the way in diverse fields such as medicine, literature, business, the arts, human rights, and science. The contributions of the Armenian-American community to the United States—and in particularly to life in New York—cannot be fully appreciated quantitatively. It can only be realized by those who walk the streets of New York and interact with the Armenian-American community there and throughout the country.

All those of Armenian heritage throughout the world rightfully celebrate this national day with pride in their hearts and hope for the future. It is my honor to send congratulations to the people of Armenia, along with best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous year ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of International Day of Peace. This year represents the 30th anniversary of this global celebration and focus on international peace.

In 1981, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly first established the International Day of Peace. It mandated that it be observed annually on the third Tuesday of September, coinciding with the opening of the General Assembly. The resolution was introduced jointly by the United Kingdom and Costa Rica. The first International Day of Peace, also known as World Peace Day, was observed in 1982. In 2001, a new resolution passed the UN General Assembly, specifying September 21st as the annual day of non-violence and cease-fire.

Today, September 21, 2011, marks the 30th anniversary of International Peace Day. This year's theme is "Peace and Democracy: Make Your Voice Heard." The UN welcomes nations throughout the world "to honor a cessation of hostilities during the Day, and to otherwise commemorate the Day through education and public awareness on issues related to peace." UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon will also ring the Peace Bell today at the UN Headquarters. The Peace Bell was donated by Japan in 1549 and is inscribed with the phrase, "Long live absolute world peace."

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me as the global community comes together to celebrate the UN's International Day of Peace.

HONORING THE COUNTY COLLEGE
OF MORRIS

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the County College of Morris, located in Randolph, New Jersey, for its outstanding record as an academic institution.

CCM has long been representative of academic excellence in the State of New Jersey. Since the opening of its doors in 1968, the school has provided a diverse and enriching environment for both students and faculty alike. With the understanding that their institution provides our future leaders with the knowledge, education and experience they will need to excel in their lives, the faculty and staff of CCM have embraced the responsibility of creating a solid foundation from which our young people will grow.

Much of the CCM's success can be attributed to the exceptional leadership of Dr. Edward J. Yaw, who is celebrating his 25th Anniversary as President of CCM. In accordance with its mission to provide dynamic, challenging, high quality and accessible academic programs, Dr. Yaw helped to establish the CCM Foundation in 1987, which aims to help ease the burden of college. Since its inception, the CCM Foundation has raised more than \$7 million to support programs, scholar-

ships, staff development and numerous other projects that, while not funded through tuition and public support, are vital to the development of CCM students.

Under the leadership of Dr. Yaw, who was awarded the Community College Spirit Award in 2008 for his exemplary service to New Jersey's community colleges, CCM continues to modernize and expand the college's facilities. In a burgeoning society that is ever introducing new technology, CCM ensures its students have access to the resources necessary to develop the skills vital to success in the world beyond the classroom.

Since its founding, CCM has been a positive force in the lives of thousands of men and women who pass through its halls. Those it has influenced over the years continue to serve as leaders and role models in communities all over the world. Thanks to devoted faculty and staff, like Dr. Yaw, CCM continues to flourish and provide education for those seeking to further their knowledge and learning.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring and recognizing the achievements of the County College of Morris and those who devote themselves to its continuing success as an institution of higher learning.

COMMEMORATING HUNGER ACTION
MONTH AND HONORING ARLINGTON
FOOD ASSISTANCE CENTER

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Hunger Action Month and to honor the Arlington Food Assistance Center, located in the Eighth Congressional District.

Hunger Action Month was established to help inform individuals, communities, corporations and policy makers that hunger is a severe domestic issue and deserves our critical attention. The Arlington Food Assistance Center's sole mission is to feed the hungry. This important action allows their clients to make other necessary purchases, such as paying for rent and utilities, without having to sacrifice their health and nutritional needs.

Despite the fact that Arlington County is one of the wealthiest areas in the country, plenty of local residents do not have enough to eat. The Arlington Food Assistance Center seeks to remedy this problem by distributing fruit, vegetables, meat, milk, eggs, bread and other food items to those in Arlington who are in need. It currently distributes food to approximately 1,350 clients each week, amounting to 2.1 million pounds of food provided directly to Arlington families last year. About 65 percent of this food was donated from bakeries, supermarkets, farmers' markets, food drives, schools, congregations, businesses and private donors in the local community.

I would like to commend the staff and volunteers of the Arlington Food Assistance Center for their hard work providing food for Arlington's needy families and raising awareness of hunger in our communities.

HONORING PRINCIPAL MARTHA
GUSTAFSON

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Martha Gustafson, the Principal of Walt Clark Middle School in Loveland, Colorado.

In 2011, Ms. Gustafson was given the Colorado Middle Level Principal of the Year award by the Colorado Association of School Executives.

Just two years after being named Principal of Walt Clark, the school has improved significantly, most notably with strong growth by students in math.

In the Thompson School District of Colorado, Walt Clark Middle is a leader in academic growth for reading and writing. The tremendous leadership of Ms. Gustafson has provided the highest quality standards of learning.

Ms. Gustafson has utilized new and creative measures to motivate teachers. Walt Clark's academic achievements prove that Ms. Gustafson's plan is succeeding.

Each week, teachers analyze data regarding student performance and discuss strategies on how to improve. Ms. Gustafson's direction is innovative and illustrates that Walt Clark is consistently striving to better their students and surrounding community.

This dedication to public education is moving and I am privileged to have such an outstanding educator in my Congressional District.

Her commitment to public education gives inspiration to all educators that want to make a difference in every student's life.

I am proud to recognize Colorado Middle Level Principal of the Year, Martha Gustafson on the House Floor.

IN MEMORY OF RAYMOND C.
SINGLETERY, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American farm advocate, successful businessman and dedicated community leader from the State of Georgia, Raymond C. Singletary, Jr.

Mr. Singletary, a pillar in Georgia's agricultural community, recently passed away at the age of 99 at Pioneer Community Hospital of Early in Blakely, Georgia. His funeral service was held at the First United Methodist Church on Saturday, September 17, 2011.

He was born March 26, 1912 to the late Raymond Cook Singletary, Sr. and Emma Quillian Singletary. He was preceded in death by his loving wife Margaret Sparks Singletary, his two sons Raymond Clifford Singletary and Marvin Sparks Singletary, and a brother A.J. Singletary and a sister Alice S. Dunn.

A lifelong Georgian, Mr. Singletary attended Sewanee Military Academy and graduated from Emory University in 1932 where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Following his graduation from college, Mr. Singletary embarked on a tenured and successfully dynamic professional career in the

fields of agriculture, banking and community service. He was a member of the Blakely Peanut Company and served as President from 1944 until 1978, and as Chairman of the Board from 1944 to 1985. Additionally, he was a member of the National Peanut Council, and served as the association's Chairman in 1966.

Along with his advocacy efforts on behalf of Georgia's peanut farmers, Mr. Singletary was the Supervisor of the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District from 1944 to 1971, and was Supervisor Emeritus from 1977 to 2011. Moreover, he served as a member of the Presidential Commission on World Hunger from 1979 to 1980.

Despite the demanding commitments associated with his occupational duties and agricultural advocacy initiatives, Mr. Singletary still found time to remain actively involved with other community organizations. He was a Mason, a Shriner, former Chairman of the Board of the First United Methodist Church and a distinguished member of the Blakely Rotary Club. In 2009, he received the Rotary Club's most prestigious award, the Four Avenues of Service Award.

He is survived by a daughter, Anne S. Hammack and her husband Albert of Dalton, Ga.; a daughter-in-law, Henrietta Singletary of Albany, Ga.; a sister, Emily S. Garner of Milledgeville, Ga.; 5 grandchildren: James Albert Hammack, III and wife Elizabeth of Atlanta, Ga; Margaret H. Long and husband Jason of Atlanta, Ga; McArthur Singletary and Duncan Singletary, both of St. Simmons Island, Fl. and Raymond Singletary of Atlanta, Ga.; 2 great-grandchildren: James Albert Hammack IV and Mary Moore Hammack of Atlanta, Ga.

I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in paying homage to Raymond C. Singletary, Jr. He lived a full life and the people of southwest Georgia will always be indebted to him for his unyielding support of our state's peanut farmers and our agricultural community at large. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and the Blakely, Georgia community at this time of great loss.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH DEFENSE SECRETARY PANETTA ON THE AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN STUDY GROUP

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit my correspondence with the administration on my call for an Afghanistan/Pakistan Study Group. My letters to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta of July 19, 2011; August 1, 2011; and August 8, 2011 follow:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
July 19, 2011.

Hon. LEON PANETTA,
*Secretary of Defense,
The Pentagon, Washington, DC.*

DEAR LEON: I write today concerning the U.S. mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan. My amendment, which gives the Secretary of Defense the authority to establish an Afghanistan/Pakistan (Af/Pak) Study Group, was included in the House-passed FY 2012 Defense Appropriations bill. I pressed for the amendment because I believe fresh eyes are

needed now to examine the situation on the ground and the overall U.S. mission.

I envision the Af/Pak Study Group being modeled after the Iraq Study Group (ISG). Both you and your predecessor Bob Gates served on the ISG and know better than most the benefits it provided after three years of fighting in Iraq. Now that the U.S. is in its 10th year in Afghanistan, I believe a similar effort is necessary.

Before he was appointed as ambassador to Afghanistan, Ryan Crocker supported creating an Af/Pak Study Group, along with Ambassador Ronald Neumann and Jim Dobbins from the RAND Corporation. American men and women are fighting and dying in Afghanistan. If we are asking them to put their lives on the line daily, I believe we have an obligation to provide an independent evaluation of the U.S. mission. We owe our military forces nothing less.

I do not have the answers. But as you know, there is a movement building in Congress in favor of pulling troops out of Afghanistan. An amendment offered by Rep. Jim McGovern earlier this year to the National Defense Authorization Act to accelerate U.S. departure from Afghanistan was narrowly defeated 204-215. If six members had changed their vote, the amendment would have passed. I have talked to several members who voted against the McGovern amendment who are seriously concerned about the war in Afghanistan and could change their vote if the situation on the ground does not improve rapidly.

I also believe it is critical that Afghanistan be examined in tandem with the facts on the ground in Pakistan. It is clear that in order to be successful in Afghanistan, we must have a clear understanding of how Pakistan is influencing U.S. operations. Just look at the recent news from the region. Hamid Karzai's half-brother was murdered and his funeral bombed, Karai advisor Jan Mohammed Kahn was murdered, and militants attacked and laid siege to the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul. The enclosed article printed recently in the Washington Post states, ". . . optimism and energy vanished long ago, gradually replaced by cynicism and fear. The trappings of democracy remained in place . . . but the politics of ethnic dog fights, tribal feuds and personal patronage continued to prevail."

The men and women serving in Afghanistan deserve to have fresh eyes look at this region as soon as possible. With House passage of the A/Pak amendment, I ask that you use your authority as secretary and move quickly to create this study group. I have discussed my amendment with John Hamre at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and he has offered to coordinate the group with professionals with a wide range of expertise.

I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this important initiative and look forward to working with you to ensure we are successful in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Best wishes,
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
August 2, 2011.

Hon. LEON PANETTA,
*Secretary of Defense,
The Pentagon, Washington, DC.*

DEAR LEON: I want to follow up on my previous letter regarding Afghanistan policy and bring to your attention a book I am reading, *The Wars in Afghanistan*, discussed in the enclosed Washington Post book review. Its author, Ambassador Peter Tomsen, is a veteran of the Foreign Service and has

an impressive background in the South Asia region. If you have not read his book, I highly recommend it to you. The Post review concludes: "This long overdue work. . . is the most authoritative account yet of Afghanistan's wars over the last 30 years and should be essential reading for those wishing to forge a way forward without repeating the mistakes of the past."

After three years of the Iraq war, the formation of the Iraq Study Group garnered the support of Secretary Rumsfeld, Secretary Rice, and Joint Chiefs General Pace. Our military men and women have been putting their lives on the line in Afghanistan every day for 10 years, seven years longer than when the decision was made to create the ISG to provide the independent assessment needed for U.S. policy in Iraq. I believe we owe it to our brave soldiers to focus now with fresh eyes on the target in Afghanistan.

I have spoken with Ambassador Tomsen about a framework for moving forward in Afghanistan, and he would be happy to meet with you and your team to discuss his breadth of experience there. I urge you to take him up on his offer.

Best wishes,
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
August 8, 2011.

Hon. LEON PANETTA,
*Secretary of Defense,
The Pentagon, Washington, DC.*

DEAR LEON: I want to draw your attention to the enclosed letter I received from retired Marine Corps General Charles Krulak regarding an Afghanistan/Pakistan (Af/Pak) Study Group.

General Krulak makes an important point that we cannot be successful in Afghanistan if we do not address the ongoing tensions and frequent hostilities between Pakistan and India. I again ask you to take the language in the FY 2012 Defense Appropriations bill and use your authority to create the Af/Pak Study Group. Every day we delay is another missed opportunity to successfully address U.S. policy in South Asia.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to meeting with you in the near future to discuss this important issue.

Best wishes,
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN COLLEGE,
Birmingham, AL, July 25, 2011.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,
*Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: Thank you so much for your letter of July 20, 2011 forwarding me your letter to Secretary Panetta. You asked for my thoughts on the proposed Af/Pak Study Group and here they are:

I think you are spot on! It should be obvious to everyone concerned that the time has come to do a professional evaluation of the current policy in the region. When I mention "region", I believe it is important to include India. At the end of the day, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India are inextricably linked . . . you cannot establish policies in a stove pipe manner. The Study Group will immediately recognize that fact and accommodate it.

It is important to understand that conflict occurs at three levels . . . Strategic, Operational, and Tactical. Too often we look at the tactical level . . . see the heroism and accomplishments of our servicemen and women . . . and make conclusions re. the conduct of the war. Unfortunately, that is

NOT the way to look at this current conflict. Like Vietnam, we can do a solid job at the Tactical Level and lose the war at the Operational and Strategic Levels. This is where we find ourselves today in Afghanistan . . . and the path to any kind of victory is closely linked to success in Pakistan and India. The possibility of achieving such success across all three countries is small . . . certainly following the policies in place today (and yesterday.)

Again, I applaud your work and on behalf of those young men and women who are sacrificing so far from home, I thank you.

Semper Fidelis.

CHARLES C. KRULAK,
General, USMC (Ret.).

ON THE OCCASION OF THE END OF
"DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL"

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy officially ended.

Yesterday, J.D. Smith, a 25 year-old Air Force officer and gay rights advocate could drop his pseudonym and come out as who he is—1st Lieutenant Josh Seefried.

Yesterday, Maj. Darrel Choat, a gay Marine officer wrote in *The Washington Post*: "I am a patriotic American. I am an officer who loves country and Corps. I am doing my best to serve honorably and proudly. And I happen to be gay."

Yesterday, a policy that since 1993 has led to over 14,000 servicemembers being fired simply for being open about their sexual orientation officially ended, allowing Major Choat, 1st Lt. Seefried and thousands of other servicemembers to continue their service in the U.S. military without having to hide who they are.

Policies like "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", which created an atmosphere of fear and mistrust among colleagues serving side-by-side, have no place in the military.

I applaud the official end of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the significance of its repeal in ensuring equality in our military and in securing rights for members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

WHEN WILL MARINE LEADERSHIP STAND UP
FOR GAY SERVICE MEMBERS?

(By Darrel Choat)

If President Obama could have ended "don't ask, don't tell" by announcing a policy change, rather than his intent to work with Congress to repeal the law, in his 2010 State of the Union address, I might have served in the Marines openly but quietly. But the repeal debate turned ugly, and as gay veterans and gay soldiers and Marines serving in Iraq and Afghanistan were disrespected by military and civilian leaders, I realized that a quiet transition was not an honorable course of action.

Remarks by senior Marine leaders made clear that their conception of "Marine" did not include those who were gay. During and following his confirmation hearings in fall 2010, Commandant Gen. James F. Amos said that he did not want his Marines dying because of a "distraction." He probably meant that managing the repeal would be a distraction, but many gay Marines, myself included, felt that Amos was saying that we

were the distraction that would get our fellow Marines killed. Given the number of gay Marines in combat, this comment was deeply hurtful.

I am a patriotic American. I am an officer who loves country and Corps. I am doing my best to serve honorably and proudly. And I happen to be gay.

My challenge is not to simply acknowledge my sexuality as a Marine officer but for my actions to reflect the legacy of the Declaration of Independence—that all Americans are created equal and deserve equal consideration from their government. My task is to demand no less from my country and Corps. I understand that my statements will prompt anger and disgust among some active-duty and retired Marines. History demonstrates, however, that deliberate steps are necessary to overcome the legacy of dishonor and prejudice such as that inspired by "don't ask, don't tell." I have confidence that my Corps will take those steps.

While working in the Senate in the 1990s, I remember Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) talking to the floor and disparaging the "agenda" of gays and their "sinful" and "deviant" behavior. I felt helpless. One day Helms stepped into an elevator in which I alone was riding. Slowly, I realized no words could be adequate to confront him. His hate and ignorance could not be rationally discussed. The only effective course, it seemed to me, would be to disprove him by example, by personifying a proud, honorable and gay American who—simply by existing—refuted Helms's demagoguery.

I came out to my family years earlier, and I had long been in the habit of letting co-workers become aware of my sexual orientation. Often I made no pronouncements. Engaging in honest discussions about weekend activities or personal relationships was all that was necessary. My guiding principle was simple: If I felt I had to say something or compromise out of fear or shame because I was gay, I had to stop and take the honest course. If I got fired, I got fired. No job was worth the sacrifice of my honor and courage.

In 1981, I had been awarded a four-year Marine Corps Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship. I was aware that I was different—I hated being different—and I was self-conscious. I found it difficult to interact with other midshipmen and Marines, so I left the program. In 1997, however, I knew that "don't ask, don't tell" did not preclude my service; it simply required that I shut up about being gay. So I applied and was accepted to attend Officer Candidate School in Quantico in October 1997. I greatly underestimated the personal cost of this compromise.

After the Battle of Saipan in 1944, Marine Commandant Gen. Alexander Vandegrift said, "The Negro Marines are no longer on trial. They are Marines, period." His predecessor, Gen. Thomas Holcomb, had said that "Negroes did not have the right to demand a place in the corps" and that "If it were a question of having a Marine Corps of 5,000 whites or 250,000 Negroes, I would rather have the whites." It took leadership for Vandegrift to recognize the heroic service of African American Marines and end officially sanctioned segregation in the Corps.

While Sgt. Maj. Micheal Barrett, the service's senior enlisted official, clearly stated in June that a Marine is a Marine, regardless of sexual orientation, I am aware of no senior Marine officer who has followed Vandegrift's lead and set a leadership tone that will turn the page on the prejudice of the past. A January video by Amos and Barrett's predecessor, Sgt. Maj. Carlton Kent, sent the message simply that the don't-ask law has changed and that Marines follow the law. Action to overcome the legacy of "don't ask, don't tell" is still necessary.

Vandegrift is an example of the possible. With the formal repeal today of "don't ask, don't tell," it is time for the Marine Corps to end the bigotry and prejudice regarding sexual orientation and to give Marines, combat veterans and Purple Heart recipients the respect and consideration they have earned. Marine Maj. Darrel Choat, a student at the Marine Corps University in Quantico, is the author of a report and personal essay in "The End of Don't Ask, Don't Tell," a forthcoming book from Marine Corps University Press. The views expressed here are his own.

IN HONOR OF THE BUCKS COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the Bucks County Conservation District. Their mission is to provide for the wise use, management, and development of Bucks County's soil, water, and other important natural resources.

Through a comprehensive approach which includes traditional advocacy as well as educational efforts such as school-based programs to present lessons to students on soil and water conservation, and watershed education for teachers to educate them on the importance of protecting our watersheds, Bucks County Conservation District is leading the conservation efforts in my district.

Local solutions that originate in groups like the Bucks County Conservation District are often the best solutions, and I congratulate them on celebrating 50 years of success and I wish them the best of luck as they work to preserve vital soil and water resources for generations to come.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR STEVE BACH

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the new mayor of Colorado Springs, Steve Bach. Situated at the heart of my district, Colorado Springs is an exceptional community that deserves an exceptional leader. Mayor Bach is that man.

In 2010, Colorado Springs voters adopted a strong mayor-council form of government. As the city's first mayor under this new model, Steve will lead Colorado Springs through this historic transition. For the first time in the city's 140-year history, the Mayor will have broad powers over hiring and firing city workers.

Mayor Bach has a unique opportunity to shape the city's direction for years to come. Mayor Bach has lived in Colorado Springs for over 40 years and has seen the city change from a small town nestled in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains to the 41st largest metro area in the country.

Mayor Bach previously was a commercial real estate broker who retains longstanding ties to the business community. He promises to improve the business climate by cutting red tape at City Hall. His fresh ideas on job creation and his history of building coalitions in

the community will no doubt bring new vigor to the area's economy.

As a devoted husband and family man, Mayor Bach knows the kind of values and ideals that are required to lead in a responsible and conservative manner. I wish the Mayor success in his new job. I know that Colorado Springs could not ask for a better mayor at this critical time.

RECOGNITION OF ADMIRAL MIKE MULLEN'S FORTY-THREE YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Admiral Mike Mullen who is retiring as the 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff after more than 43 years of distinguished service to his country.

A proud graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy's Class of 1968, his rise in the Navy started at sea, when Ensign Mullen deployed to the western Pacific and participated in combat operations off the coast of Vietnam aboard USS *Collett*. Over the course of his career at sea he subsequently served on six other warships, including command of three of those vessels. Admiral Mullen also commanded the *George Washington* Carrier Strike Group and U.S. Second Fleet.

In July of 2005, Admiral Mullen was sworn in as the 28th Chief of Naval Operations, serving as the top uniformed leader and representative to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. During his tenure, he oversaw the service's efforts to man, train, and equip our Navy to fulfill its traditional missions at sea. Additionally, he conceived and championed the Navy's contributions to the fight on the ground in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other nations in support of our country's effort to combat violent extremism.

After successfully completing his tour as Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Mullen assumed duties as the 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on October 1, 2007. Since assuming duties as Chairman, he has, in concert with our Nation's leadership, overseen multiple, sustained joint military operations that disrupted terrorist networks, provided humanitarian assistance at home and abroad, and improved the security and stability in Iraq and Afghanistan.

While continuing to lead our men and women in uniform around the world, Admiral Mullen has been the catalyst for a nationwide dialogue to advance awareness and support for our warriors, veterans, and their families. I have no doubt his commitment to these Americans who have given so much will indeed be enduring, lasting far beyond his days in uniform.

Please join me in recognizing and commending Admiral Mike Mullen for a lifetime of service to his country and to wish him the best in his retirement. May God bless Mike and Deborah, and their family, for all they have given and continue to give our country. The United States Navy and our military will dearly miss one of its most respected and valued leaders.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MASTER SERGEANT RICHARD FRANCIS MURPHY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Master Sergeant, Richard Francis Murphy.

Richard was born in Providence Rhode Island on May 10, 1917. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps at the age of 19 and continued to show his dedication to our country for years to come. He served in both World War II and the Korean War before retiring as a Master Sergeant.

After his retirement from the Air Force, Richard went to work for the Electric and Water Department for the City of Santa Clara. He volunteered in his community, serving on many civic and veterans organizations including the United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County and the Air Force Sergeants Association. Richard was easily recognizable in San Jose, as he helped organize our Veterans Day parade and the Memorial Day ceremony at Oak Hill Cemetery.

On August 21st of this year, Richard passed away in his home in San Jose at the age of 94. Richard and his wife Kay had been married for 69 years. In that time they saw the birth of five children, four grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Richard was not only a dear friend of mine, but he was a friend to the entire veteran community in San Jose. He was proud of his service and grateful to others who served. I wish to honor the life of this American hero and memorialize our gratefulness for his dedication to his community and country.

IN RECOGNITION OF HELEN BRADLEY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Helen Bradley, this year's recipient of the Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award from Humanities Texas.

After graduating from the University of Dallas, Ms. Bradley joined the Social Studies Department at Nimitz High School in Irving, Texas. Her belief in and commitment to the concept of opportunity is evident in her approach to her U.S. history and government classes. By helping students recognize America's unique opportunities for all and elevating the material with visits to the Dallas Holocaust Museum and the Sixth Floor Museum, Ms. Bradley creates a distinct, positive, and enjoyable learning experience for her students. She exhibits great leadership by coordinating with teachers from other departments and different grade levels to enhance the material and ensure her students are informed, knowledgeable, and proud of our Nation's rich history.

Her lessons extend beyond the classroom. For over twenty years, Ms. Bradley devoted

the third Friday of every month to community service, volunteering alongside a group of her students and Nimitz alumni. What she teaches her students is not merely U.S. history; it encompasses life lessons and the values of opportunity and service. Ms. Bradley exemplifies the important role of educators play in shaping our youth and preparing them to be the next generation of great leaders.

This prestigious award recognizes her outstanding contributions in teaching and service to the humanities. It is my great pleasure and privilege to honor Ms. Bradley for her passion for teaching, commitment to service, and belief in the importance of education and opportunity. Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Bradley.

HONORING LONG-SERVING MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS IN WESTERN NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, in today's time of challenging budgets and fiscal uncertainty, at a time when the long term success of the United States Postal Service hangs in the balance, it is altogether fitting and proper that we recognize the dedicated public servants who have populated the rank and file membership of the Postal Service in Western New York.

The role of a letter carrier remains among the most fundamental in American society. It remains an amazing feat that a letter dropped into a mailbox in Buffalo, New York will shortly arrive at its destination, be it across town or across the country. Letter carriers face a wide array of complications, obstacles, hazards and other challenges as they complete their daily routes. Citizens across the United States open their mailboxes and routinely retrieve their mail, seldom stopping to reflect upon the work performed by letter carriers each day.

Beyond their professional responsibilities, Letter Carriers are integral members of our community as well. While Letter Carriers participate in dozens of charitable events throughout the year, they are particularly effective in the annual "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive, where millions of pounds of nonperishable food items are delivered to community food banks throughout the United States. I'm proud to add that the Buffalo region was the first to undertake this effort, and our region routinely leads the nation in tons of food collected for this annual event.

On Saturday, September 24th, Branch 3 of the National Association of Letter Carriers, representing Buffalo and Western New York, will hold its annual "Old Timers' Night." This event will pay tribute to the careers of eleven letter carriers, each having more than 50 years of service.

Scheduled to be honored are the following members with 55 years of service: Chester Gawel, Richard Miller, Albert Schattner, Chester Stuben, and John Zelli.

Those with 50 years of service who are to be honored include: Richard Bailoni, Edward Dudkowski, Robert Hibbard, Salvatore Iannello, Joseph Sikorski, and John Tutaro.

In addition, Life Members (past honorees with more than 50 years' service) will also be on hand for the event. They include: Florian Chmurzynski, Robert Connors, Frederick Diringer, Ronald Dubois, Norman Gast, Edward Jarrot, Kenneth Kreger, Albert Martin, Guy Merritt, James Mooney, Robert Ohlenschlager, and Thomas Trotta.

The inscription at New York City's James Farley Post Office reads, "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." I am pleased to join with Branch 3 of the National Association of Letter Carriers to honor these fine public servants, and to wish to them good luck and Godspeed in the months and years to come.

HONORING U.S. ARMY SERGEANT
GARRICK L. EPPINGER, JR.'S
SERVICE IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life and sacrifice of Sergeant Garrick L. Eppinger, Jr. A resident of Appleton, Wisconsin, Sergeant Eppinger died while serving our country in the Parwan Province of Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 395th Ordnance Company, 687th Combat Sustainment Support Brigade, 646th Regional Support Group, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, U.S. Army Reserve, Wausau, Wisconsin. Garrick Eppinger, Jr. died protecting the freedoms we take for granted every day. His heroic sacrifice will not soon be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Eppinger embodied the best qualities of a true American soldier. He served this country with honor and exhibited profound bravery and selflessness during his three overseas deployments. Sergeant Eppinger was a loving son, a devoted father and now he will forever be known as an American hero. He is remembered by friends and family as a man with a courageous and strong spirit who earned the unwavering respect of his peers. Although the loss of Sergeant Eppinger left a void in the hearts of many, his dedication and exemplary service has made Northeast Wisconsin and his country proud.

It is my honor to commemorate him and I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Sergeant Garrick Eppinger, Jr. for the sacrifice he made for the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE CRUTCHFIELD
FAMILY AS THE 2011 OKALOOSA
COUNTY OUTSTANDING FARM
FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to rise today to recognize the Crutchfield family for being selected as the 2011 Okaloosa County, Florida Outstanding Farm Family of the Year.

Reginald Crutchfield is a fifth generation farmer who truly understands the value of a strong work ethic and good soil, and he instills those values in his family every day. With the help of his wife Regina and his son Phillip, Reggie sows and harvests nearly 500 acres of peanuts, wheat and corn.

Throughout his life, Reggie has epitomized the true meaning of hard work. In 1981, Future Farmers of America (FFA) recognized his dedication to the farming industry and awarded him with the title of FFA Star State Farmer. Since that time, Reggie has worked independently as a farmer among other jobs in order to provide for his family. His impressive career includes work as a researcher of beef cattle with the University of Florida and as a golf course superintendent overseeing grass production. In 2008, Reggie successfully battled cancer and went back to work as a full-time farmer, replanting his crops and expanding his business.

Reggie and Regina have raised their children, Jhanna, Phillip, Bailey, and Paige, to respect the land and to be active members of their community. In addition to helping her husband out on the farm throughout their 27 years of marriage, Regina works as a speech pathologist for the Okaloosa County School District. The Crutchfields are members of First United Methodist Church of Crestview and the Okaloosa County Farm Bureau. This outstanding farm family has overcome constant challenges and continues to inspire those around them with their love of the land and their commitment to family.

Mr. Speaker, our great nation was built by farmers and their families. The Okaloosa County Outstanding Farm Family of the Year award is a reflection of the Crutchfield family's tireless work and dedication to family, faith and trade. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Crutchfield family for this great accomplishment. My wife Vicki and I wish them the best for continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 15, 2011, I was inadvertently detained on rollcall vote 709. Had I been present to vote, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING MICHAEL FORAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary service of Michael Foran, the 2012 MetLife/NASSP National High School Principal of the Year. A native of Newington, Connecticut, Mr. Foran has worked for 20 years within the New Britain school district and became Principal of New Britain High School in 2006. In this time, he has been instrumental in providing the 2,700 students of New Britain High School with the

foundation they will need to succeed in today's competitive economy.

Among many of his notable initiatives, Mr. Foran's focus on career education led to the start of the New Britain Academy for Health Professions, which helps students prepare for careers in health care. He has also greatly expanded the school's mentoring programs for at-risk students. Despite school budget reductions and layoffs, Foran has sustained and advanced his school's reputation by building a more collaborative work environment between administrators, teachers and ancillary staff. As a result, since 2006, test scores have risen, more students are taking AP courses, and fewer students are dropping out. This can be credited to better instruction due to Foran's excellent leadership attributes, which were essential in awarding him the honor of National Principal of the Year.

The MetLife/NASSP program honors secondary school principals who have arrived at administering distinctive learning opportunities for students. High school and middle school principals from every state in the nation are nominated. From this accomplished pool, 6 finalists are chosen as contenders to be named Principal of the Year. This program recognizes the very pivotal role that principals such as Mr. Foran play in the education system as leaders and role models who excel in maintaining a positive community for both students and teachers.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we can all learn from Mr. Foran's dedication to education and service, and so I ask my colleagues to join me, and the people of Connecticut, in recognizing Michael Foran as the National Principal of the Year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 715, I was attending a meeting that ran long, and therefore, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 715.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Defense Intelligence Agency on the occasion of its' 50th Anniversary.

Created in 1961, DIA is our nation's premier provider of intelligence on foreign military intentions and capabilities. DIA's workforce of over 16,500 military and civilian intelligence professionals conducts all-source analysis, human and technical intelligence collection, counterintelligence and provides secure information technology support worldwide for military commanders, warfighters and policymakers.

DIA is responsible for the Defense Attaché System, Defense Counterintelligence and HUMINT Center, National Defense Intelligence College, National Media Exploitation Center, National Center for Credibility Assessment and several specialized intelligence centers: the Underground Facility Analysis Center, the Missile and Space Intelligence Center and the Joint Intelligence Task Force—Combating Terrorism.

In addition to these components, I am especially pleased that DIA's National Center for Medical Intelligence, NCMi, is located in my Congressional District on Fort Detrick. NCMi's 150 civilian and military intelligence analysts and scientists are charged with preparing and coordinating intelligence on foreign health threats and medical issues to protect U.S. interest worldwide.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee and a frequent visitor to NCMi and Fort Detrick, I have received numerous briefings from DIA and NCMi personnel. Each time I have been briefed by DIA analysts I have been impressed by the Agency's expertise identifying medical threats to U.S. forces and our allies, and the insights these intelligence professionals bring on foreign military intentions and capabilities.

During DIA's five decades of existence, the Agency has remained agile in the face of evolving national security threats. From the Cold War, to the Vietnam War, to the first Gulf War, DIA's early efforts focused on understanding and, if necessary, defeating state-sponsored militaries and providing strategic warning.

Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, DIA has responded to the asymmetric threat posed by transnational terrorist groups such as al-Qaida by pushing more analytic and collection capabilities forward in direct support of our military forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. Today intelligence professionals from across DIA, including personnel from NCMi are forward deployed alongside our troops to provide the best and most timely military intelligence possible.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the men and women of DIA on 50 years of service. Guided by their Agency motto "Committed to Excellence in Defense of the Nation", I am confident that DIA will be standing watch to defeat the threats we face today and to identify and meet the national security challenges of the next 50 years and beyond.

CONGRATULATING COLUMBUS
CLIPPERS

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Columbus Clippers on winning their ninth, and second consecutive, Governor's Cup. The Governor's Cup is a baseball tradition dating back to 1933 and is awarded annually to the International League's champion.

First at Cooper Stadium and now at Huntington Park, since 1977 the Columbus Clip-

pers have been a Central Ohio institution. The Clippers are a world-class organization, and attending a game at Huntington Park is a world-class experience. I have enjoyed many warm summer evenings cheering on the Clippers, and I know countless other Ohio families have shared similar fun-filled experiences enjoying America's favorite pastime in each other's company.

In Columbus, we take our sports seriously, and the Clippers have always been a point of pride for us. Their past two seasons have been particularly impressive with the team winning back-to-back championships. A single Governor's Cup win is an impressive achievement but two in a row is truly extraordinary. Over the years the Clippers have made their city and state proud with similar championship streaks, including holding on to the Governor's Cup for three consecutive years from 1979–1981.

A winning season takes hard work and many hours of practice and a great deal of effort. The team's success brings City of Columbus together to celebrate as a community. To the Columbus Clippers, I offer my congratulations on this season's championship and my best wishes for a strong season next year.

Columbus Clippers, RING YOUR BELL!

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMAN
CARRIE MEEK

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as a 30-year colleague of Congresswoman Carrie Meek of Miami, I submit this tribute to honor of my dear, dear friend. Ms. Meek's life and career began from the most humble of backgrounds in segregated Tallahassee during the 1930's. She was the granddaughter of slaves and daughter of former sharecroppers, yet graduated from Lincoln High School, and later stayed in north Florida and graduated from Florida A&M University in 1946. Unfortunately, this was still a time when African Americans could not attend graduate school in the state of Florida, yet because of her fearless spirit and tenacity, Ms. Meek did not give up studying; she enrolled in the University of Michigan and received her M.S. degree in 1948. After graduation, Carrie was hired as a teacher at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida, and then at her alma mater, Florida A&M University. She then moved to Miami in 1961 to serve as special assistant to the vice president of Miami-Dade Community College, which was desegregated in 1963, largely due to Ms. Meek's integral role in the push for its integration.

I distinctly recall the years we served together in the Florida State legislature in the 1980's. And although Ms. Meek became Florida's first African American female state Senator in 1983, the same year I began my career of public service in the Florida House, we worked jointly on numerous projects beneficial to minority communities across the state of Florida. And since she served on the Education Appropriations Subcommittee, we tag teamed on various projects, including critical

funding for HBCU's, affordable housing for minorities and the poor, as well as funding for critical transportation and infrastructure projects in areas previously overlooked.

And in 1992, after a long and bitter legal fight, Ms. Meek and I, along with Congressman ALCEE HASTINGS, became the first African American Members elected to the U.S. House of Representatives since 1871! Together in Washington, Rep. Meek and I worked arduously together on issues such as economic development for underserved areas, both nationally and in the state of Florida, on decreasing disparities in health care treatment and in increasing access to health insurance, as well as on education and housing issues. And as Floridians passionate about improving the conditions on the island nation of Haiti, we also traveled to Haiti together, and worked to advocate for Haitian immigrants and for increased U.S. foreign aid and investment on the island nation of Haiti. I will always fondly remember the years of working together with Ms. Meek, and am pleased to see Members of the Florida delegation coming together on the House Floor this morning to recognize her many achievements during her time in Congress.

THE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION
ACT AND TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE
FOR NEEDY FAMILIES
EXTENSION

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of two of today's scheduled bills, the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Extension.

The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act makes the necessary improvements to the Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs to ensure accountability of the funds spent in the programs. Particularly, the waiver requirements and the required Government Accountability Office study will help reduce the duplication of funds for these programs.

Regarding the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Extension, I feel that this three month extension will provide the proper time to discuss, debate and research the benefits of mandating drug-testing and substance abuse treatment programs as a requirement for individuals to receive funds under this program. Including such a provision will increase the accountability of means-tested cash recipients and send a message that substance abuse will not be tolerated or supported by the federal government.

I see a direct link in the issue of substance abuse and child maltreatment; I feel that the inclusion of a drug-testing requirement would improve both programs and increase their efficiency.

I look forward to working on this issue with my colleagues in the Subcommittee on Human Resources, the Ways and Means Committee and the House of Representatives at-large.

PARKROSE CENTENNIAL

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Parkrose, Oregon on your Centennial.

Founded by Italian, Dutch, and German farmers in the late 1890s, the community of Parkrose was incorporated by its business community in 1911 and quickly faced the challenges of rapid growth.

By the 1920s, the farmland that supplied nearby Portland with much of its food was developed into motels, serving the travelers that traveled from the Columbia Gorge into the "big city". Next came housing developments, changing the landscape even more. In the 1960s, the newly constructed Banfield freeway attracted motorists off of Sandy Boulevard, Parkrose's main thoroughfare.

By the time of annexation by the City of Portland in 1980, Parkrose had faced challenges as great as any part of the metropolitan area. Throughout, Parkrose has fought to retain its identity, as well as its farmland, and have kept its schools an important focal point for the community.

In more recent years, Parkrose has rediscovered its past, celebrating many rich traditions. From its schools and businesses to its community gardens, parks, local farms, and thriving Farmers Market, the residents of Parkrose continue to shape their community into one that will be treasured and celebrated 100 years from now.

I offer my congratulations to the good citizens of Parkrose, Oregon as they begin their next century.

HONORING THE FAIRFIELD
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department, located in Essex County, New Jersey, as it celebrates 100 years of dedicated volunteer service to the Township of Fairfield.

The Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department, formerly the Township of Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department, was founded in 1911, with the help of a handful of residents. The very first firehouse in the township was built in 1912, on the lands given to the department by a generous donor. Unfortunately, the building burned in 1915. Due to a lack of necessary firefighting equipment, the department was helpless to combat the flames.

After the devastating fire, the department assumed a somewhat inactive status until a group of citizens reorganized in 1924 and erected a new firehouse in 1925 at the site of the old structure. To finance its new building, a \$1500 mortgage was assumed. In 1927, the township's first fire truck, a 1926 Day-Elder Pumper, was purchased. Three years later the township purchased the truck to help alleviate the department's costs. Since that time, the township has purchased all necessary equipment used by the fire department.

In 1948, the Day-Elder was retired and replaced by a new 1948 GMC Pumper. Subsequently in 1952, the Township purchased a second GMC 1000 gallon Pumper. These two vehicles were housed at town hall, the location of the present day municipal building and Firehouse No. 1. In 1964, the department acquired a FWD four wheel drive GMC 1000 GPM Pumper, "Old Engine 3." Then, in the spring of 1970, the present Firehouse No. 2 located on Plymouth Street was constructed and dedicated.

Continuing through the rapid growth of the town and the fire department, March 1974 brought the addition of the new 1500 GPM Hahn Pumper, Engine 4. Three years later, in September 1977, the nearly 30 year old GMC's were retired and replaced by two new twin Hahn 1500 GPM Custom Pumpers, Engines 1 and 2, rounding the arsenal to 4 modern pieces of apparatus.

In 1981, the members of the department designed and constructed a new Firemen's Recreation and Training Hall on land received from the town, adjacent to the Plymouth Street Firehouse. The organization sold the old firehouse which still stands today, now occupied by a privately owned business.

Three years later, the department purchased a 1984 LT1 100-foot Ladder Tower with a 1500 GPM pump. This vehicle was added to the Township's firefighting capabilities in response to the rapid growth of larger office buildings and multi-floor hotels. After 30 years of service, Old Engine 3 was soon replaced with a new Pierce 2000 GPM custom built Pumper. This engine represented the epitome of modern firefighting, with a fully enclosed cab, up-to-date radio equipment and computerized pump controls. The department also purchased a 1995 GMC Suburban Incident Command Vehicle, complete with radio equipment; enabling the department to directly communicate with any of the surrounding fire departments, State Police, West Essex First Aid Squad, paramedics and NorthStar Medical Helicopter.

Rounding off its modern arsenal of firefighting apparatus, the two 1976 Hahns were retired and replaced with twin Pierce 2000 GPM Custom Pumper Engines 1 and 2. Both trucks came with safety features and capabilities that far outperform the old equipment, including fully enclosed 6 seat cabs and computerized pump controls. The latest piece of apparatus replaced the first ladder truck with a 2005 Pierce 100 foot ladder tower with the newest technology.

Due to the high volume of industry, waterways and major highways, the department's duties have increased from basic firefighting to extra services including vehicle extrications and water rescue that demands not only the purchasing of specialized equipment but also many extra training hours. As an all-volunteer department, the members give their own time and sacrifice their safety for the good of their community and mutual aid to surrounding towns. Many members have surpassed 50 years of volunteer service to the department and for that they are commended.

From past to present the Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department has worked through many hard times, experienced its share of success and tragedies, and has developed and grown right along with the community it serves. Its past and present members should feel pride to be part of such a group of dedicated individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Fairfield Fire Department as it celebrates 100 years of volunteer service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE
GILLIS E. POWELL, SR.**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the life of northwest Florida's beloved Judge Gillis E. Powell, Sr.

Over the course of his life, Judge Powell was a fixture in the northwest Florida community. His family was one of the first families to settle in Crestview, and his mother was a founding member of the First Presbyterian Church of Crestview. Judge Powell's assiduous work ethic was apparent when he began working as a delivery boy at Sullivan's Grocery Store at the young age of 12. In 1938, Judge Powell graduated from Crestview High School and went on to study business administration at the University of Florida (UF).

Judge Powell was also a true patriot, and when his country called him to duty during World War II, he responded with honor and distinction. In 1942, as a Second Lieutenant, he was one of only five officers from his squadron chosen to attend intelligence training at Yale University. While training at Yale, he married his childhood sweetheart, Avis Elizabeth Moore. After finishing his intelligence training, Judge Powell served as an intelligence officer in north Africa, rising to the rank of Major and becoming a squadron commander. During his military career, he was recognized by President Franklin D. Roosevelt for his role in preparing for the Big Three Conference between President Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin in Tehran, Iran.

After fulfilling his service commitment, Judge Powell returned to Florida with his wife, Avis, where he finished his bachelor's degree at UF, before earning his law degree from UF's College of Law. Judge Powell had a true aptitude for business and passion for law. He started his first business near UF—The Tackle Box—which started as a small bait shop and has grown over the course of 60 years into a large sporting goods store.

In 1951, he returned to his native Crestview to establish his own law firm. During his accomplished legal career, he served in his private practice and as an Assistant State Attorney, before being appointed in 1971 to serve as Circuit Judge in the First Judicial Circuit of Florida. He served as a Circuit Judge until he retired from the bench in 1977, when he returned to private practice with his oldest son, Gill. Over the years, the law firm of Powell, Powell & Powell grew to include his daughter, Ava, and younger son, Dixie; as well as his granddaughter, Lacey and her husband, James; his granddaughter, Ginny; and his grandson, Gillis E. Powell III. In 1991, while serving as the City Attorney for City of Niceville, Judge Powell argued and won a case before the United States Supreme Court and was featured on NBC's "Today Show." Judge Powell remained active in his law practice until his recent retirement at the age of 87.

To some, Judge Gillis E. Powell, Sr. will be remembered as a courageous member of our armed services who answered the call of duty during one of our Nation's most trying hours; to others, he will be remembered for his acumen in law and business. Judge Powell was a distinguished attorney, judge, businessman, and Air Force officer; however, above all Judge Powell was a true family man. He was especially proud of being able to work with his children and grandchildren in his law practice, and he loved nothing more than spending time with his family cheering his Gators to victory. Northwest Florida mourns the loss of a true leader, and his service to the community and this Nation will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the life of Judge Gillis E. Powell, Sr. and his living legacy. My wife Vicki and I extend our most sincere condolences to the entire Powell family.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF PAUL
WILLIAM BELTZ

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday, September 20, 2011 we lost a good and honorable citizen and someone I considered a friend. Mr. Paul William Beltz of Buffalo, New York and North Palm Beach, Florida died at the age of 85 years old in his home in Buffalo surrounded by his loving family.

Mr. Beltz was one of Buffalo's leading trial attorneys and founder of the law firm that bears his name. He personified all that is honest, all that is good in the legal profession and built a firm that embodied Mr. Beltz's honorable reputation, his steadfast determination, unmatched work ethic and a firm that believed in family and commitment to one's family.

Mr. Beltz lived his life, and instilled in the lives of his children and grandchildren, that if you work hard, love your family and your country and give back to your community, you will have truly lived. We are grateful to Mr. Beltz who served our nation during World War II with the Army in the Pacific.

Mr. Beltz graduated from St. Bonaventure University and Cornell Law School and received numerous recognitions for his contributions to Education and Law. In 2001, Mr. Beltz was named Lawyer of the Year by the Erie County Bar Association. In 2005, Mr. Paul William Beltz received the Gaudete Medal, from St. Bonaventure University which recognizes business and community leaders for service in the tradition of St. Francis of Assisi.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Paul William Beltz, to his wife Catherine, his children Anne and Phil Rimmler, Margaret and Bill Gellatly, Kate and Steve Foley, John and Katherine Beltz, Mary Elizabeth and Naill Falls, and Sara and Mario Rodriguez and to his sixteen grandchildren, as well as his surviving family and friends. It was evident from the first time I met Mr. Beltz that he was a kind and generous man who had earned the respect of many. Although words cannot truly express the man that Paul William Beltz was, it is my hope that the memories and stories of Mr. Beltz can

serve as a lasting tribute to his life, his service, and his impressive career. I will remember Mr. Beltz for his generous spirit, for his hard work on behalf of so many working men and women in our community and for the impact he had on so many families throughout Western New York.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Martial Law Authority Rule. Had I cast my vote, I would have voted "no."

HONORING MENTAL ILLNESS
AWARENESS WEEK 2011

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mental Illness Awareness Week. Every year the American Psychiatric Association, the National Alliance on Mental Illness and the National Mental Health Association designate one week in October to put the spotlight on mental illness and the associated policy issues. This year we recognize this important time on October 2nd through 8th.

Mental illness doesn't discriminate. One in five Americans bear mental illness, ranging from mild depression to severe disorders such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. One in five children endures a diagnosable disorder and one in ten children suffer from a serious disorder which, if unaddressed, can lead to poor school performance, social anxiety and seclusion and even violence against themselves and other people. Unfortunately, less than one-third of adults and less than half of children receive treatment for diagnosed serious disorders, leading to an average lifespan 25 years less than the general population.

Organizations like the American Psychiatric Association, the National Alliance on Mental Illness and the National Mental Health Association and their field partners work with municipal and state governments to make sure those who need care have access to it. In my district and around the country, local governments such as the Pima County Board of Supervisors are working diligently to ensure high-quality, cost-efficient community mental healthcare is available.

However, there is still much work to be done. When there is a lack of mental healthcare in a community, we see more lost jobs, more people out on the streets and more broken families. Often these communities see more emergency room visits, larger prison populations and higher social services costs all around. We must stay diligent in addressing mental illness and always stay focused on the individual.

Again, I want to recognize these organizations for their important work, and I urge those who need help to ask for it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, during the recent severe flooding events that occurred in the 10th District of Pennsylvania, I remained in home to assist people who had been impacted. Due to this, I missed the votes that occurred from September 8 through 15. Had I been present I would have voted: Vote 693—Aye; Vote 694—Aye; Vote 695—Aye; Vote 696—Aye; Vote 697—No; Vote 698—Aye; Vote 699—Aye; Vote 700—Aye; Vote 701—Aye; Vote 702—No; Vote 703—No; Vote 704—No; Vote 705—Aye; Vote 706—Aye; Vote 707—Aye; Vote 708—Aye; Vote 709—Aye; Vote 710—No; Vote 711—Aye.

CONGRATULATING MELISSA
SEIBERT

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Melissa Seibert, of the Stark County Chapter of the American Red Cross, for receiving the Ohio Commendation Medal. This is the highest Ohio military honor and is awarded to only a few distinguished persons each year. It is presented to each person who, while a member of the state military forces, distinguishes himself/herself while serving in any military capacity by meritorious achievement and in an outstanding manner.

Melissa Seibert began her work with the Red Cross in 1999, where she started as a First Aid and Disaster Action Team volunteer. Shortly after, she was asked to be the Health and Safety Instructor; leading to a promotion to a position in the Health and Safety Services Department. In 2004, Melissa became the Assistant Director of Emergency Services, and in 2008 was challenged with the opportunity to develop a new Military Outreach program.

The development of the Military Outreach Program has become a vital part of the military community in the Stark County area. Melissa's passion and dedication has taken the program to great heights, providing military families in the community with much-needed support, resources and strength. She provides support for military personnel during times of deployment and organizes many "Welcome Home" and "Send Offs" for the military men, women and family members. Melissa is the foundation of the "Military Family Connection" support group, where family members of service personnel meet to support each other and gain valuable information on many local resources. She also hosts quarterly "Psychological First Aid" programs for local families dealing with the stress and emotions that come with the deployment of a loved one.

Ms. Seibert has successfully networked with countless military groups and associations in the community; strengthening the common bonds that tie these families together. She works closely with Blue Star Mothers, USO, the Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee and the Gold Star Mothers. In addition, Melissa participates on the board for

the Stark County Safe Kids and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA.

Since the inception of the Military Outreach Program, Melissa Seibert has helped over 5,000 individuals. True to her nature, she is now helping start similar outreach programs in the Ohio Red Cross chapters of Alliance and Muskingum Lakes. Recognized by her peers, she will soon be seeing her ideas applied nationally as her program is cloned in communities across our land. Melissa thoroughly enjoys working with Military Services and says, "It's not a job, it's a calling. A job is doing something because you are required to do it. A calling is doing something because you are passionate about it."

Ms. Seibert's dedication to Ohio military personnel and their families has warranted this prestigious award. Her selfless endeavors and meaningful contributions remind us of what can be accomplished when we give of ourselves for the benefit of others.

RECOGNIZING MARINE SERGEANT
DANIEL J. PATRON

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marine Sergeant Daniel J. Patron. Sgt. Patron—a member of the 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force—was tragically killed on August 6 while trying to defuse a roadside bomb in the Helmand province of Afghanistan.

Our Explosive Ordinance Disposal, or EOD, teams are even more important and face even more dangerous tasks now that we are dealing with an enemy who relies on improvised explosive devices. From the start of our combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, insurgents have often refused to fight our forces in the open, choosing instead to hide in the shadows waiting to attack our brave men and women from afar.

Standing between our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines and those insurgents are our EOD teams. They selflessly place them-

selves face-to-face with increasing advanced and intricate explosives. Their office resides fully in harm's way, and they know one loose wire or one extra-sensitive detonator could kill them or their team members. Still they accept the job of protecting their brothers and sisters, too often laying down their own lives in the process.

I have no doubt Sgt. Patron knew the risks he took on a daily basis. He knew that each day the challenges would be great and the task at hand would be vitally important. That kind of noble commitment to others may seem incredible to many of us. But what it is truly remarkable is how often we see it from those who serve in our Armed Forces. Daniel was certainly no exception.

Sgt. Patron leaves behind his wife Cody Drace Patron, his parents Frank and Kathy, and his older brother Matthew. I would like to pass on my deepest condolences to his family and share with them the thanks of a grateful nation. Daniel was, and will remain, a shining example of the best America has to offer.

I honor Daniel's life, his sacrifice and his memory. He will surely be missed by many, but he—along with all of our fallen heroes—will not be forgotten.