

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE HOLOCAUST

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on Yom Ha'Shoah to honor the memory of the victims of the Holocaust. In the 1940's, the Nazi regime murdered six million innocent human beings in an attempt to wipe out the entire Jewish community.

It is of the utmost importance that we continue to reflect upon this tragedy and teach our children about this horrific event, so that we fully understand the importance of embracing our common humanity, so that we recognize the universality of human dignity, and so that we prevent genocide from ever occurring again.

In the first few years of the Nazi regime, Jews were harassed and humiliated in every imaginable way to tear away at their basic human dignity.

This denial of their human dignity and humanity culminated in the death camps, where mass murder was accomplished with a factory-like efficiency that shocks the soul.

Facing a totalitarian state intent on genocide and war, several Jewish underground organizations found the strength to create resistance movements. In the Warsaw Ghetto, these groups launched an uprising that lasted over a month against the entrenched Nazi war machine. The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising inspired other uprisings across Europe, including in the Bialystok and Minsk ghettos and in the Treblinka and Sobibor death camps.

The indomitable resilience of the human spirit was also demonstrated in the aftermath of the Holocaust when Jews recreated their lives, rebuilt their families and their culture. This rebirth is epitomized by the creation of the first independent Jewish state in our modern era—the state of Israel.

In Israel, Yom Ha'Shoah is marked by the sound of a siren, which calls for two minutes of silence. Two minutes when an entire country stands in silent reflection.

I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in observing the lives that have been lost, in honoring the survivors, and in recommitting ourselves to ensuring that such a tragedy is never repeated again.

HONORING ALVIN AURELIANO DAVIS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Alvin Aureliano Davis, who was recently named the 2012 Macy's Florida Department of Education

State Teacher of the Year. With this honor, Mr. Davis will serve as the Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for education, touring Florida as an education advocate. Mr. Davis is the band teacher at Miramar High School and has been a music educator for the past 11 years. By actively encouraging his students and keeping them engaged on obtainable goals, his students find success both in and out of the classroom. For the past three years, every student who was a regular participating member of the Miramar High band program has gone on to college under his guidance and leadership.

Alvin Davis graduated from Florida A&M University with a Bachelor of Science degree in, Music Education. He began his professional career as the band instructor at Crystal Lake Middle School, teaching the fundamentals of band to 6th thru 8th graders. As the director of the Miramar High School band, Mr. Davis has continuously constructed his music program and performances with the philosophy of developing an award winning, academic-focused music program on the cutting edge of creativity and band pageantry.

Mr. Davis has a genuine and vested interest in his students. Passing on the legacy of music appreciation is only part of his greater mission of instilling academics and discipline. He requires his students to receive one-on-one counseling with a member of the band staff, and he personally reviews students' report cards and interim reports. Every school band rehearsal includes a one-hour study hall where students are tutored. He has implemented guidelines that high school seniors can perform only if they have registered to take the ACT or SAT college entrance exams, and must prove they have applied for admission to a college or university.

Over the years he has developed a reputation as an educator with a heart as big as the moon as he is wholeheartedly dedicated to the entire educational welfare of students.

Alvin Davis is the husband of Tiffani Davis and the proud father of his daughter, Caitlyn. I proudly acknowledge his achievement as the 2012 Macy's Florida Department of Education State Teacher of the Year and appreciate his commitment to the many students whose lives he has positively impacted.

HONORING MRS. LOURDES LOZANO

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Lourdes Lozano, a remarkable leader in the South Florida community.

Mrs. Lozano was born in Las Villas, Cuba and attended the Escuela Normal de Maestros in preparation for her teaching profession. After graduation she received a post graduate degree from the University of Martha Abreu, in Santa Clara. Once arriving in Miami, she re-

ceived her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from St. Thomas University.

Mrs. Lozano began her professional career working at ARSCO International, a company in the paint roller industry. While working for this company she became the first woman in the industry to hold the position of Plant Manager. She later went on to become Vice President and General Manager of the company. Mrs. Lozano has also worked as a realtor for the past 28 years and as a supervisor for twelve social workers and one specialist for 22 years. In the past she has been appointed to serve the community as a Commissioner for Hialeah's Housing Authority, and is currently serving as a Council Member for the City of Hialeah.

Mrs. Lozano's work does not stop there, as she has been a volunteer for Liga Contra el Cancer and for the Muscular Dystrophy Association for over 30 years. Along with her husband Richard Irizarry, Mrs. Lozano has made tremendous contributions to our community and both are highly admired for their hard work. In 2004 she was recognized as one of the eight public service employees in Miami-Dade who perform their professional duties with excellence. She has also received the "Most Humanitarian Award" from the Department of Children and Families. She has also been recognized by the Mayor of the City of Hialeah, for her leadership on a number of projects which help alleviate some of the burdens of needy families in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute my dear friend Mrs. Lourdes Lozano for her continued service to the South Florida community. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual and wish her continued success.

TRIBUTE HONORING ISRAEL'S SIXTY-FOURTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Israel's sixty-fourth Independence Day. Today is a cause for true celebration.

On May 14, 1948, Mr. David Ben-Gurion declared the independence of the State of Israel. It is with this in mind that families and friends across the globe come together to celebrate on this very special occasion.

The United States' strong solidarity to the Israeli people is continually fortified. Since Israel's independence, the ties of democracy between Israel and the United States have been unwavering.

The United States was one of the first nations to recognize the nation of Israel, just minutes after Prime Minister Ben-Gurion declared the independence of the State of Israel.

As the only democracy in the Middle East, Israel has been one of the United States' most

• 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.

important allies since its founding. This relationship remains strong and vibrant to this day.

While many things have changed in the past sixty-four years, the bonds of friendship between our two great nations has remained constant.

President of Israel Shimon Peres has called on all Jewish people across the world to participate in Independence Day celebrations being hosted at the Presidential residence in Jerusalem.

These celebrations will include honorary flyovers of Israeli combat planes and helicopters and a full military review by President Peres and Chief of Staff Gantz. President Peres will also be awarding 120 soldiers with the President's Outstanding Service Award.

Also, President Peres and Prime Minister Netanyahu, will partake in singing songs commemorating Israeli independence with the Israeli Defense Forces band and numerous patriotic singers.

I am always pleased to recognize and commemorate historic occasions such as this one.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, all Jewish people, and me, in recognizing Israel's sixty-fourth Independence Day.

HONORING THE NEW JERSEY
STATE ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS
ON POLICE ON THEIR 100TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police on 100 years of leading the way in providing the highest level of professional and ethical police services. I join with the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police in recognizing their centennial anniversary to commemorate the many years of their outstanding leadership. These servicemen and women are exceptional in both their professional field and community service to the public.

The New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police is one of the oldest, largest and most respected police executive associations in the country. Membership includes the sworn chief executives of local, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies throughout the state of New Jersey. Since its founding in 1912, the Association has been a driving force for implementation of the latest techniques, technology and methodologies in New Jersey police agencies. In 1945, they began administering professional entry level and promotional examinations for non-civil service police departments. As the responsibilities of the organization continued to grow, the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police developed the Command and Leadership Academy in 1993 for law enforcement executives in New Jersey. Striving to uphold its mission of maintaining the highest standards for law enforcement, the Association provides command school, executive and professional development, administrative, management and leadership training for New Jersey police professionals. In that same vein, the Association offers at no cost full portfolios of model policies

and resources to law enforcement agencies throughout the state. It also established and administers New Jersey's law enforcement agency accreditation program. In addition to all these services, the association founded, coordinates and hosts the annual New Jersey memorial service for officers killed in the line of duty—the first of its kind in the United States. After a century of service to New Jersey, I join the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police in honoring this exceptional organization and its members who have dedicated themselves to delivering quality service to both the law enforcement community as well as the citizens of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police and honor all of its members for their role in keeping this wonderful organization going for so many years. I know I join with all of my constituents in wishing the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police continued success as they proudly serve the communities of New Jersey.

NINETY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, *parev, pari yegak* (Hello, welcome.)

Thank you to the Armenian National Committee of America, the Armenian Assembly, the Armenian Caucus, the Embassy of Armenia, and the Office of Nagorno Karabakh for organizing this very important event.

I would also like to give a special thanks to all of the Armenian Genocide survivors and their families who are here tonight.

I am very proud to represent the 7th district of Massachusetts because my district includes the community with the third highest percentage of Armenian-Americans in the Nation.

We have gathered today to remember and commemorate the Armenian Genocide, one of the darkest chapters of World War I, and the first of many genocides we saw in the 20th century.

Ninety-seven years ago, the Armenian Genocide was initiated when hundreds of Armenian political, religious, and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople and then deported and murdered. Unfortunately, these terrible atrocities that occurred in the capital of the Ottoman Empire only represented the beginning of the suffering inflicted on the Armenian people.

Between 1915 and 1923, the Ottoman Empire carried out the deportation of nearly 2 million Armenians from their homes, resulting in the deaths of 1.5 million innocent children, women and men.

This must never happen again.

In order to prevent future genocides, we must recognize those of the past. For many years the House has had before it a resolution which clearly affirms the United States record on the Armenian Genocide.

I have been a strong supporter and vocal cosponsor of this resolution in every Congress, and I remain so today.

Almost one-hundred years have passed since the Armenian Genocide, yet the suf-

fering will continue for Armenians and non-Armenians alike as long as the world allows denial to prevail.

Already, 43 states and 22 nations have officially recognized the Armenian Genocide, and it is long overdue for the United States to do the same.

Unfortunately, the Republic of Armenia's challenges continue even after its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

In the face of ongoing blockades from Turkey and Azerbaijan, the United States must provide assistance to Armenia while working to reestablish the Turkish government's commitment to normalized relations in order to ensure peace and stability in the Caucasus region. I strongly support these efforts.

The Armenian people are true survivors. Despite the reappearing themes of invasions and land loss that the Armenians have dealt with for over 3,000 years, coupled with the loss of between one-half and three-quarters of their population in the early 20th century, the people of Armenia have prevailed.

In fact, I have a wonderful Armenian intern in my office, Victoria Hines. Victoria's grandmother was born on a train in Moscow during her family's journey to America after her mother hid her father from the Ottoman Turks, allowing for their escape.

Despite watching their friends and even their own first-born perish in the genocide, the Tutunjian family, along with the rest of the Armenian people, view the stories of their families as reminders of the importance of preserving the fight for recognition.

The journey of the Armenian people continues today, with our shared responsibility to ensure that the Armenian people are able to build their own independent and prosperous future.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Armenian-American community to address the issues facing this longtime friend and important ally of the United States. Together we can build something positive, something hopeful, something good for the future—an Armenia that is respected and honored by its allies and neighbors.

And this cannot come without universal acknowledgement of the horror that was the Armenian Genocide.

IN RECOGNITION OF RONALD
McDONALD HOUSE OF LONG
BRANCH & NEW BRUNSWICK'S
25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate The Ronald McDonald House of Long Branch and New Brunswick's 25th Anniversary. The Ronald McDonald House organization and its charities have provided warm and hospitable living environments and support to families whose children are being treated at area hospitals at little or no cost. Their outpouring of support and charitable efforts to serve the members of their community is worthy of this body's recognition.

The Ronald McDonald House was established in 1974 through a collaborative effort by Philadelphia Eagles football player, Fred Hill and Dr. Audrey Evans at Children's Hospital of

Philadelphia. Mr. Hill's three-year-old daughter Kim Hill and her childhood battle with leukemia inspired the model for the first Ronald McDonald House. Facing the rigors of multiple hospital visits, the Hill family sought to find a comfortable and supportive place of refuge for other parents facing similar situations. Through the support of Eagles owners, managers, teammates and various fundraising endeavors, the first Ronald McDonald House was opened in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Ronald McDonald House provided the amenities of home while offering families a comfortable and supportive environment with easy access to area hospitals. The Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House would later act as the model for what would become an international network of temporary housing for families of ill children. By 1985, more than 88 Ronald McDonald Houses were established worldwide. The popular and unique fundraising strategies, including the "Pop Tab Collection Recycling Program", were raised millions for participating Houses and furthered the success of the organization. In 1984, Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) was established in memory of McDonald's founder Ray Kroc. Since its inception, RMHC and its network of Chapters have awarded more than \$16 million in grants to more than 1,300 U.S. Children's organizations.

As a result of their commendable efforts, for two consecutive years, Worth magazine named RMHC one of "America's 100 Best charities of 2002".

The Ronald McDonald House of Long Branch and New Brunswick, New Jersey was established in 1987 and services community members throughout the State. Through the support of area businesses, organizations, civic groups, schools and individuals, as well as various fundraising and special events, the two Houses have served more than 4,000 families.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in thanking the Ronald McDonald House of Long Branch and New Brunswick for their 25 years of service. The Ronald McDonald House continues to provide outstanding services to the Middlesex, Monmouth and NJ community.

HONORING MS. LOURDES UBIETA

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Lourdes Ubieta, a Venezuelan-born journalist and freedom fighter.

Ms. Ubieta speaks three languages and has profound experience in journalism, with a specific interest in human rights. In her current position, she serves as a co-host on a daily talk radio program broadcasted on Actualidad 1020AM. The two-hour long program focuses on domestic and international issues, which informs and educates thousands of Spanish speakers in our community.

Ms. Ubieta's leadership was instrumental in the organization of Venezuela's 2012 Presidential primary elections in Doral, Florida. With her assistance, twenty voting stations were set up at a strip plaza in order to accommodate the expected turnout. In all, more than 8,000 Venezuelan's exercised the right to vote in

their homeland's primary. Ms. Ubieta's commitment to democracy and the Venezuelan community in South Florida is clearly evident and extraordinary.

The numerous awards Ms. Ubieta has received are further proof of her hard work and dedication. In the past three years, she has been recognized by the Venezuelan American Chamber of Commerce, Broward Community Center, and has received the Venezuelan Business Club Award, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize a dear friend, Ms. Lourdes Ubieta for her outstanding professional career and leadership in our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this accomplished individual and wish her continued success.

THE CITY OF MOUND TURNS 100

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the centennial of the city of Mound, Minnesota. And although this picturesque community was officially incorporated in 1912, its roots run all the way back to before the Civil War when the town was known as Mound City.

In the early days, Mound was a bustling business district on the shores of Cooks Bay, frequented by the street car boats which travelled Lake Minnetonka at the turn of the 19th century. In 1900, the railroad came to town, requiring the business district to move to where we see it today.

From a city which derives its name from Indian burial mounds, this vibrant community has not only flourished over its 100 years as a home to close to 10,000 Minnesotans—and this year being named Minnesota's Best Place to Raise Your Kids 2012 by Bloomberg Businessweek—but has also been home to many of Minnesota's innovative small businesses.

I'd like to congratulate Mayor Hanus, and all of my neighbors who call Mound home—Happy 100th!

SALLIE MAE LOAN SERVICING CENTER IN HANOVER TOWNSHIP

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Sallie Mae Loan Servicing Center in Hanover Township, which will celebrate its 25th anniversary today, April 25, 2012.

The Student Loan Marketing Association, commonly known as Sallie Mae, was originally created in 1972 as a government sponsored enterprise. In 1997, Sallie Mae began privatizing its operations. At the end of 2004, Congress terminated Sallie Mae's federal charter, officially ending its ties to the government. Today, Sallie Mae is the nation's number one financial services company specializing in education and offering a wide range of products and services from college savings programs to education loans.

Currently, Sallie Mae employs an estimated 8,000 individuals nationwide and is one of the largest employers in Northeastern Pennsylvania. In addition to providing jobs, Sallie Mae sponsors The Sallie Mae Fund, a charitable organization with a mission to increase access to higher education for America's students. In honor of the Hanover Township facility's 25th anniversary, The Sallie Mae Fund announced a \$150,000 donation to the Osterhout Free Library in Wilkes-Barre to support the library's early literacy outreach program. The Fund also supports employee volunteerism and community service. I am proud to say that Sallie Mae employees have raised more than \$2.5 million for Pennsylvania charities.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 25 years, Sallie Mae has proudly served the citizens of Hanover Township and all of Northeastern Pennsylvania. I commend Sallie Mae and all those employed at the Loan Servicing Center for their dedication to education, to the community, and to our country.

WORLD IMMUNIZATION WEEK: PREVENTING PNEUMONIA AND DIARRHEA WITH THE POWER OF VACCINES

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, this week marks World Immunization Week, in which countries across the globe mobilize for a week of vaccination campaigns and public education about the value of immunization. I rise today to celebrate a major milestone in global health: the rollout of two new vaccines to protect infants from two of the biggest killers of children under the age of five—pneumonia and diarrhea—that is taking place today in Ghana.

Hundreds of Ghanaians have played a frontline role in making their country the first in Africa to simultaneously introduce both pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccines to their people. While the Government and the people of Ghana are to be congratulated for this unprecedented accomplishment, I also want to acknowledge the role U.S. taxpayers have played in making this moment possible.

The United States' commitment to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI Alliance) has been instrumental in making these vaccines affordable and accessible for children in the world's poorest countries. Immunization is one of the most successful and cost-effective public health interventions. By supporting new vaccines, the GAVI Alliance is well within target to immunize more than 250 million children in the world's poorest countries by 2015, preventing more than 4 million premature deaths.

Seattle, which I represent, has made significant contributions toward the United States becoming a leader in global health innovation, including vaccination research. For example, earlier this year, promising preliminary results from the trial of a malaria vaccine known as RTS,S made headlines around the world when it showed that nearly fifty percent of children who received the vaccine were protected from malaria—a leading cause of death among children in developing countries. The Bill and

Melinda Gates Foundation and PATH, both based in Seattle, were at the forefront in developing this potentially life-saving vaccine.

I am proud to say that American research and technology in global health are at the forefront in making medicine accessible to the most remote corners of the world. But we cannot stop here.

U.S. bilateral support for maternal and child health provide critical infrastructure—including supply chains, trained health workers, and facilities—to deliver vaccines around the world, along with other essential and complementary interventions such as nutrition and clean water.

Immunization leads to significant economic benefits by protecting individuals not just against life-threatening illnesses but against long-term effects of that illness on their physical, emotional and cognitive development. With the introduction of these vaccines, mothers across Ghana will be able to provide their children hope for a brighter future.

On this day, while communities around the world are celebrating the power of lifesaving vaccines, we can be proud as Americans that our investments are making a durable impact on the prosperity and security of those who need it most.

IN HONOR OF THE SANTA CRUZ
WORLD SURFING RESERVE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of the Santa Cruz World Surfing Reserve. Santa Cruz is one of just four surf zones located around the world that has qualified to be designated as a World Surfing Reserve by the Save the Waves Coalition. This designation is intended to focus attention on the need to protect our natural resources along the coast including surf breaks and the unique conditions that allow them to exist. The program serves as a model for preserving wave breaks and their surrounding areas by recognizing the positive environmental, cultural, economic, and community benefits of surfing areas.

The surf zone encompasses seven miles of coast and includes world-famous spots such as Steamer Lane, Pleasure Point, the Hook, and Shark's Cove. The zone extends from the high-tide line out to the first surfable break along the designated coastline. The four components that make Santa Cruz uniquely qualified for the creation of the World Surfing Reserve are: the high quality of the waves and surf zones in the area; its rich surf culture and history; local community support; and the incomparable environmental characteristics of its shores.

The World Surfing Reserve designation takes an additional step toward protecting our irreplaceable natural resources along the coast. Residents of Santa Cruz and the surrounding area have a history of strong community action to protect and preserve clean waters and the wealth of marine life that flourishes in the bay. Members of this community value the bountiful resources the coast provides and have worked tirelessly toward ensuring it stays a safe place to swim and surf for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Santa Cruz World Surfing Preserve as a step forward in the preservation of California's central coast. May the Preserve inspire future generations to share in celebrating, enjoying, and preserving our valued coastlines.

HONORING THE DR. HECTOR P.
GARCIA MIDDLE SCHOOL
SCIENCE BOWL TEAM

HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor and congratulate the Dr. Hector P. Garcia Middle School science bowl team from San Antonio, Texas. Led by their coach Shelley Beck, these fine young men and women have achieved a spot in the 2012 U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl competition on April 26–28, 2012 in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC.

Through their perseverance and hard work the team won their regional elimination tournament to be selected as one of the 44 middle schools to compete at the national finals for prizes and rewards. I am proud to congratulate Rachel Moore, Irene Chu, Kathleen Ran, Minji Kim, and Sophie He for this outstanding achievement and wish them the best of luck in the competition.

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHUCK
COLSON

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, in the passing of Chuck Colson, the earthly life of a consequential American has come to an end, and I marked that day with a sense of personal loss. Chuck Colson rose to the heights of political power and fell to the depths of disgrace, but in his fall, he found redemption in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Having been given a second chance, Chuck Colson devoted his life to carrying the Christian message of second chances to those in prison, and countless lives were changed by his compassion and example.

His voice of moral clarity was an inspiration to millions of Americans and made him an invaluable counselor to leaders in government and business. I will always count it a privilege to have been able to call him my dear friend and mentor. His dedication to moral integrity, serving his fellow man and his steadfast faith have always and will always be an inspiration to me and my family. Karen and I offer our deepest condolences to Patty, the whole Colson family and to all who mourn the loss of Chuck Colson. The below article written by Michael Gerson and published in the Washington Post on April 22, 2012, is a true testimony to the legacy left by his transformed life.

[From the Washington Post, April 22, 2012]

CHARLES COLSON FOUND FREEDOM IN PRISON

(By Michael Gerson)

Charles W. Colson—who spent seven months in prison for Watergate-era offenses

and became one of the most influential social reformers of the 20th century—was the most thoroughly converted person I've ever known.

Following Chuck's recent death, the news media—with short attention spans but long memories—have focused on the Watergate portion of his career. They preserve the image of a public figure at the moment when the public glare was harshest—a picture taken when the flash bulbs popped in 1974.

But I first met Chuck more than a decade after he left the gates of Alabama's Maxwell prison. I was a job-seeking college senior, in whom Chuck detected some well-hidden potential as a research assistant. In him, I found my greatest example of the transforming power of grace. I had read many of the Watergate books, in which Chuck appears as a character with few virtues apart from loyalty. I knew a different man. The surface was recognizable—the Marine's intensity, the lawyer's restless intellect. The essence, however, had changed. He was a patient and generous mentor. And he was consumed—utterly consumed—by his calling to serve prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families.

Many wondered at Chuck's sudden conversion to Christianity. He seemed to wonder at it himself. He spent each day that followed, for nearly 40 years, dazzled by his own implausible redemption. It is the reason he never hedged or hesitated in describing his relationship with Jesus Christ. Chuck was possessed, not by some cause, but by someone.

He stood in a long line of celebrated converts, beginning with the Apostle Paul on the Damascus road, and including figures such as John Newton, G.K. Chesterton and Malcolm Muggeridge. They were often received with skepticism, even contempt. Conversion is a form of confession—a public admission of sin, failure and weakness. It brings out the scoffers. This means little to the converted, who have experienced something more powerful than derision. In his poem, "The Convert," Chesterton concludes: "And all these things are less than dust to me/ Because my name is Lazarus and I live."

Prison often figures large in conversion stories. Pride is the enemy of grace, and prison is the enemy of pride. "How else but through a broken heart," wrote Oscar Wilde after leaving Reading Gaol, "may Lord Christ enter in?" It is the central paradox of Christianity that fulfillment starts in emptiness, that streams emerge in the desert, that freedom can be found in a prison cell. Chuck's swift journey from the White House to a penitentiary ended a life of accomplishment—only to begin a life of significance. The two are not always the same. The destruction of Chuck's career freed up his skills for a calling he would not have chosen, providing fulfillment beyond his ambitions. I often heard him quote Alexander Solzhenitsyn, and mean it: "Bless you, prison, for having been in my life."

Chuck was a powerful preacher, an influential cultural critic and a pioneer of the dialogue between evangelicals and Catholics. But he was always drawn back to the scene of his disgrace and his deliverance. The ministry he founded, Prison Fellowship, is the largest compassionate outreach to prisoners and their families in the world, with activities in more than 100 countries. It also plays a morally clarifying role. It is easier to serve the sympathetic. Prisoners call the bluff of our belief in human dignity. If everyone matters and counts, then criminals do as well. Chuck led a movement of volunteers attempting to love some of their least lovable neighbors. This inversion of social priorities—putting the last first—is the best evidence of a faith that is more than crutch,

opiate or self-help program. It is the hallmark of authentic religion—and it is the vast, humane contribution of Chuck Colson.

It is a strange feeling to lose a mentor—a sensation of being old and small and exposed outside his shade. Chuck's irrational confidence in my 21-year-old self felt a little like grace itself. The scale of his life—a broad arc from politics to prison to humanitarian achievement—is also the scale of his absence. But no one was better prepared for death. No one more confident in the resurrection—having experienced it once already. So my grief at Chuck's passing comes tempered—because he was Lazarus, and he lives.

ISRAEL CONTINUES TO SHINE 64 YEARS LATER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, 64 years ago, David Ben Gurion declared the establishment of Eretz Israel, the State of Israel. Today, Israel serves as a harbinger of freedom in a part of the world where this concept is not fully embraced by leaders of neighboring states.

The horrific tragedy of the Holocaust instilled a sense of survival in the Jewish people, which led to the creation of the Jewish state. In Israel, the USA found a new ally in promoting democracy, equality and justice. Israel celebrates the diversity and the contributions of people from all walks of life.

Israeli contributions to science and research are testaments to the work-ethic and resilience that define the character of its 7.8 million residents. The Israeli Defense Forces prepares each generation with the skills and innovation that have earned a small city like Tel Aviv the title of being the "Silicon Valley of the Middle East." Israel produces more tech startups per capita than any nation on Earth. We as Americans are especially thankful as many of these companies are expanding to the U.S. and providing high-paying jobs here.

Despite facing overwhelming odds and emboldened adversaries, Israel continues to thrive. America has proudly stood by Israel as it has evolved from a concept, to a state, and to becoming a world-leader for peace. I am honored to represent a Congressional District that has always maintained strong ties with Israel and the Jewish community. We need to continue supporting our brothers and sisters in Israel and ensuring its existence for the rest of time.

HONORING THE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE BOWL TEAM

HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor and congratulate the Sandra Day O'Connor High School science bowl team from Helotes, Texas. Led by their coach Tony Potter, these fine young men and women have achieved a spot in the 2012 U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl

competition on April 26–28, 2012 in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC.

Through their perseverance and hard work the team won their regional elimination tournament to be selected as one of the 69 high schools to compete at the national finals for prizes and rewards. I am proud to congratulate Zac Cozzi, Yun Liang, Paul Cozzi, Jenny Qi, and Robert Perce for this outstanding achievement and wish them the best of luck in the competition.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MSG KEVIN FOUTZ AND SFC THOMAS PAYNE

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize MSG Kevin Foutz and SFC Thomas Payne of the United States Army on winning this year's Best Ranger Competition.

The competition took place at Fort Benning, Georgia, over three days and included challenges such as a grenade assault course, a helicopter jump, and the Darby Queen obstacle course, as well as plenty of running.

This marks the third consecutive year that soldiers from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, have won the competition, and the first time that one of the winners was from a non-combat arms MOS.

I congratulate MSG Foutz and SFC Payne on this impressive accomplishment.

May God bless them, their families, and our great nation.

RECOGNIZING ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support and recognition of Israeli Independence Day and to honor a country that has made huge strides since its independence in 1948.

In my close-knit Buffalo neighborhood, where I was born and raised, I learned that while friends may not agree on everything, they do always have each other's back. Israel is our friend, with good reason, and that is something I hope our country never forgets.

Last week, we honored Holocaust Remembrance Day. We join our Israeli friends in mourning those who lost their lives in this attempted genocide of the Jewish people and also promise to move forward ensuring that history will never repeat itself.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Israel on the 64th anniversary of their independence and hope for many more years of mutual friendship between our nations.

UNIFORMED CHAIN OF CUSTODY

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to restore respect for the remains of our fallen heroes by mandating a uniformed chain of custody for overseas military casualties.

Since the beginning of combat operations in Afghanistan, there have been several instances of gross misconduct in the treatment of the remains of our fallen heroes. Body parts have been lost, the cremated remains of 274 servicemembers were dumped in a landfill, and in one incident a Marine was dismembered in order to fit inside his uniform. In each of these unfortunate examples, non-uniformed personnel were intimately involved in the callous behavior. To ensure the reverent care of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for this country, I am sponsoring a bill that mandates a uniformed member of the armed services be accountable for the remains of overseas casualties from the battlefield until the remains are accepted by the member's next of kin.

Civilian personnel involved in the chain of custody are not subject to the Uniformed Code of Military Justice, UCMJ, and the Department of Justice has not seen fit to prosecute a single case of misconduct. A uniformed chain of custody law would clearly define accountability for the remains as a military honor and duty, and any violations of this responsibility will be punishable under UCMJ.

The men and women who serve as our nation's Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines have few assurances when they deploy to combat to defend our nation. One of the few assurances they do have is that if they make the ultimate sacrifice and lay down their lives in the line of duty, then their remains will be treated with the utmost dignity and respect of a grateful nation. I believe this is not only a legal requirement, but also our moral obligation. My legislation will reassure servicemembers and their families that our nation honors their service in life and in death.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 4348, SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2012, PART II

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Democratic motion to instruct conferees on the surface transportation reauthorization bill (H.R. 4348 and S. 1813).

While the Senate bill is not perfect, it does provide certainty to State DOTs, transit agencies, and contractors that will help create and sustain jobs for out-of-work Americans. Further, it creates or saves more than two million jobs and strengthens our economy. The legislation passed the Senate by a vote of 74 to 22, with strong Democratic and Republican support.

Adopting this motion to instruct will allow the conferees to make technical corrections to improve the legislation enabling Congress to move quickly to finalize a robust bill, as the construction season is already underway.

Investing in our roads, bridges, waterways and rail systems creates good-paying jobs now while making our transportation system more efficient for decades into the future. Our backlog of maintenance needs alone is staggering, and we need to address it or continue to jeopardize our economic future.

I urge my colleagues to support the motion to instruct conferees.

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE
70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATAAN
DEATH MARCH

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Bataan Death March and to recognize one of my constituents, Dr. Lester Tenney, who took part in that long and inhumane march. He and some 76,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war made the 65 mile march from Mariveles and Bagac in the Philippines to Camp O'Donnell and were eventually transported by Hell Ships to Japan during April of 1942.

Dr. Tenney is a truly remarkable individual who has dedicated his life to serving his country and his community. When he was twenty years old, Lester joined the Illinois National Guard. His Battalion arrived in the Philippines on November 20, 1941. He was at Clark Field in the Philippines on December 8th when Japanese bombers and fighters attacked within hours of the Pearl Harbor assault.

He was engaged in the first U.S. tank battle in World War II when his Battalion, the 192d Tank Battalion of the Illinois National Guard, was sent to the Lingayen Gulf on the Northern Philippine Island of Luzon where the Japanese forces landed on December 22, 1941. Overwhelmed by the invading Japanese forces, his tank company and all other U.S. troops on Luzon Island retreated into the Bataan Peninsula.

Dr. Tenney became a POW of the Japanese when the U.S. forces on the Bataan Peninsula were surrendered on April 9, 1942. The already sick and starving troops were forced to walk 65 miles in sweltering heat with virtually no food and water in what later became known as the Bataan Death March (the March). He described his experience on the March: "Day after day, on that march, I watched in utter helplessness as hundreds of my friends—many who had become brothers—were shot, bayoneted, decapitated, and in some cases buried alive. I listened to their cries, their last requests, and the unspeakable sadness that comes to a man when he realizes he will never again see his family."

Dr. Tenney suffered severe abuse while held in POW camps and was tortured when he tried to escape. He was transported to Japan on a "Hell Ship" in September of 1942. Dr. Tenney worked as a slave in a Mitsui coal mine in Ohmuta, Japan until the end of the war in August 1945. He, along with his fellow POW's, were often beaten by employees of

Mitsui and received inadequate food and little medical care. Even as he was held in one of the worst POW camps in Japan where 138 POWs died, Dr. Tenney tried to lift the spirits of his fellow POWs by organizing and producing many variety shows as camp entertainment. Even the Japanese guards came to watch.

For these shows Dr. Tenney received a special commendation award for his contribution to improving morale among his fellow POWs in addition to the Bronze Star with two oak-leaf clusters, the Purple Heart with two oak-leaf clusters, and other medals.

It was not until 1995, when Dr. Tenney published his memoir *My Hitch in Hell: The Bataan Death March*, that he was finally able to revisit his POW experience. In this book, he vividly described his horrific experience during the March, in the POW camps in the Philippines, and in his three years of slave labor in the Mitsui coal mine. But he also wrote about a Japanese exchange student whom he and his wife hosted in the late 1960s, and whom he came to love like his own son. They were so close that when the matured student married, Dr. and Mrs. Tenney accompanied them on their honeymoon.

Since his time as a POW in Japan, Dr. Tenney has worked to advance the cause of American POW's from all conflicts. He has testified repeatedly before Congress on POW issues. The peace treaty between the U.S. and Japan took away the rights of the individual POWs to sue for their very real damages. Later the State of California enacted legislation allowing the POWs to sue the Japanese companies who enslaved them. Dr. Tenney was the lead plaintiff in the first such suit. Unfortunately the U.S. State Department took a contrary position and supported the defendant companies; and the suit failed at the Supreme Court.

Then Dr. Tenney turned to the Japanese government in the person of Ambassador Fujisaki. After several meetings with Dr. Tenney, the Ambassador received permission to attend the last reunion of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, the umbrella group of the Pacific POWs. Ambassador Fujisaki apologized to the group on behalf of the Japanese Government, the first time such a thing had happened. In 2008 Dr. Tenney was able to achieve one of his goals of an official apology from the Japanese Government for the horrors of Bataan and World War II. He has also made repeated appearances at Japanese schools and universities, appearances in the Japanese media, and met with Japanese government officials to promote awareness and improve relations between the United States and Japan.

In addition to his many years of efforts to preserve the history of American POWs of the Japanese during WWII and to reach out to the Japanese people to learn that history together, Dr. Tenney started a project which he named "Care Packages from Home" in 2007. He and friends in his retirement community in Carlsbad, California, have been sending gift packages to thousands of U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Having received no package from home while he was a POW, Dr. Tenney is determined to make sure that today's troops never feel like have been forgotten.

As of June of 2011, Dr. Tenney's Care Packages from Home has mailed 11,350 packages and are sending 200 more every

month. Maj. Gary Bourland, 39, a Marine who was on his fourth deployment said; "It is the best feeling in the world opening up one of these packages," Dr. Tenney believes that basic necessities such as nail clippers, foot powder, socks and wet wipes, can "make or break you out there." It also signals to our troops, many of whom are young and away from home for the first time that they are being remembered. Maj. Bourland also added, "If they know the American people are supportive, my troops will walk through fire for them."

Dr. Tenney is here in Washington, DC this week to tell his story and commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Bataan Death March. His service to the United States of America is a model to us all and I am proud to call him my constituent and my friend.

TRIBUTE TO NICK NICHOLSON

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has served as a true Kentucky leader, innovator, and businessman, Nick Nicholson. On April 18th, 2012, Nicholson announced his retirement as CEO of Keeneland. This remarkable Thoroughbred enthusiast has forever impacted the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the horse industry and most indelibly, Lexington's Keeneland Race Course. By implementing new technology, expanding racing enthusiasm, and bringing sound accounting and business management practices, Nicholson has contributed to making Keeneland the top-rated North American track for the last four years. Over the past 13 years, Nicholson and Keeneland have thrived during a time of industry contraction. I commend Mr. Nicholson on his dedicated service as the Keeneland Association's chief executive and as an astute leader in the Bluegrass.

In his youth, Nicholson developed his interest for horse racing when attending Keeneland races with his grandfather while growing up in Central Kentucky. Nicholson's early career began in Washington, DC, where he served as executive assistant to Kentucky Senator Wendell Ford. He next went on to serve as the executive vice president of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association where he was instrumental in the drafting and passage of legislation that permits interstate track wagering. In 1989, he became the executive vice president and director of the Jockey Club, an organization dedicated to the improvement of Thoroughbred breeding and racing. While employed by this organization, he most notably introduced the world's first interactive Thoroughbred registration system. In 2000, he joined the Keeneland family and became Keeneland's sixth president.

In his 13 years serving as Keeneland's president, Nicholson led the industry by introducing an all-weather surface that has made Keeneland the safest major racetrack in North America. Nicholson has also led Keeneland in setting numerous attendance and wagering records for its race meetings, including an all-time record of 250,163 attendees during its 75th Anniversary meet in October 2011, and

an all-time one-day record of 40,617 attendees for the 2012 Toyota Blue Grass Stakes. During his tenure, Keeneland's auction company's top sales figures included \$11.7 million for Meydan City at the 2006 September Yearling Sale and has amassed more than \$7 billion in total gross sales since 2000. He also led many efforts to update Keeneland with several construction projects, including the completion of a new outdoor walking ring; an enclosure of the first floor of the clubhouse; the renovation of the historic Keeneland Sales Pavilion, the construction of the Keeneland Library and the restoration of Keene Place. For his many contributions to the industry, Nicholson was honored with the Lifetime Service Award from the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, as well as The Jockey Club Gold Medal. In 2004, he was honored by election as a member into the Jockey Club.

Nicholson is a highly active member of his community and has served on the board of the Board of Trustees of UK Healthcare, Urban League, Commerce Lexington Inc., KET Commonwealth Fund, Transylvania University, Shakertown and Central Bank. Nicholson is a husband and father of two, as well as a graduate of Wake Forest University and the University of Kentucky College of Law.

Nicholson has served as a remarkable guide for Keeneland as the racetrack president. Through his leadership, wisdom, and outstanding vision, Nicholson has solidified Keeneland's status as an industry leader and treasured Kentucky tradition. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a true leader and visionary and wish him well in his new endeavors, Mr. Nick Nicholson.

IN HONOR OF ISRAEL'S
INDEPENDENCE

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the state of Israel, one of our country's great allies, on the 64th anniversary of its independence.

On May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the sovereign and independent State of Israel.

Shortly after, President Harry Truman signed the order recognizing this new Jewish State of Israel.

Ever since, the United States and Israel have had an unshakeable relationship, bound together by common interests and shared values.

As the great symbol of democracy in the Middle East, the people of Israel continue to prosper despite the on-going challenges they face.

The Israeli people remain committed to achieving a lasting, long-term peace with their neighbors.

We must continue to support Israel, and to ensure that the peace process moves forward.

Today, I honor our ally and its commitment to democracy and freedom and offer congratulations to the State of Israel on the 64th anniversary of her independence.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST PRES-
BYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUFFALO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, known commonly as "First Church," a staple in my Western New York community, is celebrating its bicentennial this year.

First Church of Buffalo is the home of Buffalo's oldest congregation. Founded on February 2, 1812 by missionaries and veterans of the Revolutionary War, the church was the first religious body formed in what was the western frontier of New York State.

Often referred to as the "Mother of All Churches," First Presbyterian Church has served as a place of worship for the diverse communities of downtown Buffalo and Niagara County.

The current church located at One Symphony Circle since 1889, stands today as one of Buffalo's greatest architectural treasures. The building was designed by E.B. Green after land was donated by Mrs. Truman Avery in 1889. It is characterized by its varying historical influences with its overall Roman exterior, Byzantine interior design and Anglican chapel.

For more than two-hundred years, First Presbyterian Church has been a beacon on the West Side of Buffalo and has earned its rightful place in our city's storied history. President Theodore Roosevelt worshipped here when he visited Buffalo, the Visiting Nurses Association started as a mission project here, the Welcome Hall Mission was born at this church, and many outreach programs have found their footing through the churches indelible commitment to Buffalo's community.

Mr. Speaker, on Sunday May 20, Western New Yorkers will gather in Symphony Circle to commemorate First Church's bicentennial, joining together with prayer and with fellowship in celebration of this momentous achievement. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and all Western New Yorkers in wishing the leaders, congregants and friends of First Church the very best as they embark upon their second 200 years of service to the people of Buffalo and Western New York.

IN HONOR OF DR. HANIMIREDDY
LAKIREDDY

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Dr. Hanimireddy Lakireddy on the event of his 70th Birthday.

Dr. Lakireddy is a well known and respected doctor in Merced, California. He is the owner and cardiologist at Merced Heart Associates. He is also a physician and surgeon with University Surgery Center. He became the first cardiologist in Merced in 1984. Dr. Lakireddy earned his medical degree from Oasmania Ganshi Kakatiya Medical College.

Dr. Lakireddy is a major supporter of the tenth University of California campus in

Merced. Along with his wife, Vijaya, he generously gave a one million dollar gift to name the Classroom Auditorium and enabled the campus to enhance the main lecture hall to provide a performance-based venue for campus events. A leader in the medical and East Indian community, Dr. Lakireddy has helped cultivate numerous gifts to the campus. He not only helps the campus through monetary donations, but he lends his support as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Lakireddy has a philanthropic goal to promote the virtue of education in the community. He sponsors a scholarship at Merced High School in honor of his parents. He donated one million dollars to Merced College to establish the Dr. Lakireddy School of Health Sciences which offers vocational certificates, vocational nursing, nurse assistant, emergency medical technology, registered nursing and sports medicine. He was awarded Philanthropist of the Year by the Merced community in 2006.

Dr. Lakireddy not only lends his support to the Merced community but he also continues to help those in Southern India. He has funded several schools, hospitals and a sports complex in two poverty stricken cities, Velvadam and Mylavaram. In addition, Dr. Lakireddy runs a pension program in Velvadam where he promised that "as long as I live, not a single person will go hungry."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring my good friend, Dr. Hanimireddy Lakireddy for his civic engagement and support for the community.

CARLOS LOPEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Carlos Lopez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Carlos Lopez is a 9th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Carlos Lopez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Carlos Lopez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENARY OF
THE BAHÁ'Í HOUSE OF WORSHIP
IN WILMETTE, ILLINOIS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the Bahá'í House of Worship is a source of great

pride in my district—not just because of its beauty but more importantly because of its meaning as a place of faith, unity and peace. I rise today to commemorate the laying of its cornerstone one hundred years ago and to congratulate the Bahá'í community for a century of worship in this magnificent temple.

The Chicago area has played a pivotal role in the development of the Bahá'í community in America. The first public mention of the Bahá'í faith was in Chicago on September 23, 1893. It happened at the World's Parliament of Religions, which was connected with the Columbian Exposition commemorating the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America.

In 1907, the Local Assembly of the Bahá'í of Chicago was incorporated, making Chicago the first local Bahá'í community in the world to acquire legal status.

The Bahá'í House of Worship in Wilmette has been a focus of the Bahá'í world for over a century. It began with the vision of 11 local Bahá'ís in Chicago, who began work on it in 1903. Its cornerstone was laid in 1912. In 1953, following two World Wars, the Great Depression, and numerous financial and technical difficulties, the Bahá'í community completed construction of the temple. Fifty years after its vision was conceived, this House of Worship, which was the first Bahá'í Temple in the West and is known as “the Mother Temple of the West,” opened its doors to the peoples of the world. The temple in Wilmette, like the six Bahá'í temples throughout the world erected after it, is free and open to people of all backgrounds and is offered as a place for peaceful prayer, meditation, and reflection.

One hundred years ago, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, the son of the founder of the Bahá'í Faith, arrived in America and he participated in the historic cornerstone laying ceremony. A prisoner of the Persian and Ottoman empires since childhood, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá left the Ottoman prison fortress of Akka at the age of 67 and set out on a historic journey to the West, which culminated in a 239-day journey through America. He traveled to several important cities across the country and met with people of diverse backgrounds, teaching the elimination of racial prejudice, the equality of women and men, the unity of religions, and the fundamental oneness of all humankind.

Throughout his travels, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá spoke of the great destiny of America. In a public talk in Cleveland, he stated, “This revered American nation presents evidences of greatness and worth. It is my hope that this just government will stand for peace so that warfare may be abolished throughout the world and the standards of national unity and reconciliation be upraised. This American nation is equipped and empowered to accomplish that which will adorn the pages of history, to become the envy of the world and be blest in the East and the West for the triumph of its democracy.”

One of the most significant events of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá's journey was the laying of the cornerstone of the Bahá'í House of Worship on the shores of Lake Michigan in Wilmette. For several decades, Bahá'ís around the world sent money to support the construction of the temple. One of the Bahá'ís who wanted to support the construction of the temple, was Nettie Tobin, a humble seamstress living in Chicago. Nettie had no cash money to contribute for the Temple but thought she might find a stone for its construction. Nettie went to

a construction site and asked for a stone from the foreman, who pointed out to her a pile of rejected stones from which she could choose. With the help of a neighbor she got the large limestone home and sometime later, through an even greater effort involving a baby carriage and a wagon, deposited it on the temple grounds in Wilmette.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá arrived in Chicago on April 29, 1912, and, while there, penned a special prayer for America. The next day he spoke to over one thousand people gathered in Chicago for the public session of the Bahá'í Temple Unity convention on the subject of building the Bahá'í Temple. The evening before the laying of the cornerstone of the House of Worship in Wilmette—‘Abdu’l-Bahá the son of the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, explained that places of worship have a special unifying power:

In brief, the original purpose of temples and houses of worship is simply that of unity—places of meeting where various peoples, different races and souls of every capacity may come together in order that love and agreement should be manifest between them . . . that all religions, races and sects may come together within its universal shelter, that the proclamation of the oneness of mankind shall go forth from its open courts of holiness . . .

On May 1, a chilly, blustery and overcast day, a tent was erected on the temple grounds and hundreds gathered for the dedication of the temple. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, standing at the center of the crowd, called for Nettie Tobin's stone. The ground was so hard that ‘Abdu’l-Bahá swung an ax to break through the rigid topsoil, and representatives of various races and countries came forward to share in the digging. After ‘Abdu’l-Bahá rolled the cornerstone into the ground he proclaimed, “The Temple is already built.”

On this hundredth anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone, I thank the Bahá'ís for their contribution to our district and I congratulate the Bahá'ís of Wilmette, Chicago, and, indeed, the world on this important centenary.

CASEY SOUTHWICK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Casey Southwick for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Casey Southwick is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Casey Southwick is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Casey Southwick for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

HONORING FLORA WALKER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Flora Walker on receiving the Eleanor Roosevelt Award at the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) Jefferson-Jackson Annual Women's Caucus Luncheon. She is a truly deserving recipient and I am pleased to see her contributions recognized with this prestigious award.

Not only has Ms. Walker blessed us with over forty years of service in Michigan, as well as continuing service with the UDW/AFSCME in Nevada, but she was also the first female president of the AFL-CIO in Michigan. Thanks to her efforts, the bar was set very high for those following in her footsteps. Her work has greatly enriched the common good and improved the lives of many families. I commend her and am grateful for her tireless work ethic and the important work she has accomplished.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Award hosted by the MDP honors members of the community who have furthered the ideals of the Democratic Party with their commitment to the party's cause. Each year one man and one woman are selected to receive this prestigious award, which recognizes their work as continuing the work of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his wife, Eleanor Roosevelt. It fills me with great pride to see my friend, Flora Walker, be the recipient in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I would request that the House of Representatives join me in offering congratulations to Ms. Walker for her outstanding achievements. I commend the organizations and honorees for their important work in advancing the values of the Democratic Party and wish her the best of luck in all future endeavors.

CHEVELLE DASSOW

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Chevelle Dassow for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Chevelle Dassow is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Chevelle Dassow is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Chevelle Dassow for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Israel Independence Day. Sixty-four years ago, after 2,000 years in exile, the Jewish people declared their independence and established a nation in their ancient and sacred homeland.

Since then, the Israeli people have developed a vibrant democracy, a vigorous economy, a dynamic cultural life, and an admirable commitment to the environment.

In the Jewish tradition, even joyous occasions are mixed with sorrow, to honor past history and to acknowledge the debt owed to those who came before us.

I have always admired the confluence of Israel Independence Day with Remembrance Day, when the day before the celebration of independence Israelis stop to remember their fallen soldiers, and those who gave their lives in service to the nation. It is a reminder of the heavy price of freedom, and of the burden on future generations to uphold the ideals for which Israel's sons and daughters gave their lives.

Beyond the conflicts that seem to dominate the news, Israel has made extraordinary achievements in every field imaginable. From agriculture and medicine to environmental sustainability and literature, Israelis offer a steady stream of improvements to global challenges.

One of my most memorable visits to Israel was to a desalination plant in Ashkelon, where I saw firsthand how Israel deals with some of the same water challenges that confront South Florida. This is just one example of how the close relationship between our two countries benefits both Israelis and Americans.

Israel Independence Day is a celebration of renewal, and this year Israelis have much to be proud of in the remarkable nation they built from the desert. For 64 years Israel has stood as a symbol of hope for millions of people around the world. For 64 years Israel has modeled a society where determination and passion, and an emphasis on social progress and education, can build a productive nation.

Mr. Speaker, I have been to Israel 14 times as a Member of Congress, and every time I go I encounter ordinary citizens and government officials alike who are genuinely dedicated to living up to the ideals of Israel's independence. I am always impressed by the Israelis' intense desire to persevere. Israel deserves to be secure and prosperous, to live in peace with its neighbors, and to live free from fear and violence.

HONORING DR. HERBERT DARDIK

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Herbert Dardik, the Chief of Vascular Surgery at Englewood Hospital, in recognition of his designation as honoree at the Englewood Hospital's 2012 Gala. For more than 50 years, Dr. Dardik has dem-

onstrated his abiding commitment to Englewood Hospital and to its patients.

He served with distinction as Chief of Surgery from 1984–1995 and from 2000–2011, playing an instrumental role in establishing the surgical program's outstanding record of excellence. During his tenure, Dr. Dardik led pioneering efforts in the field of vascular surgery, developing new techniques to facilitate carotid artery surgery and the umbilical cord vein vascular graft, used worldwide to prevent gangrene and salvage lower limbs. He founded the Vascular Fellowship Program in 1978 and has trained generations of world-class vascular surgeons.

Today, Dr. Dardik serves as Chief of Vascular Surgery and as Senior Medical Director of the Hospital's Institute for Patient Blood Management and Bloodless Medicine and Surgery. He lives in Tenafly with his wife Janet.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the remarkable career of Dr. Herbert Dardik, whose tireless efforts have benefited patients everywhere. I join with the grateful guests of the Englewood Hospital Gala, and all of my constituents in northern New Jersey, in thanking him for his innumerable contributions to the good health of our community.

HONORING MARSHA LEWIS BROWN

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a proven and respected leader and my Soror, Marsha Lewis Brown, the 17th Director of the South Atlantic Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She has honored Alpha Kappa Alpha with her sterling commitment for the last 38 years.

Marsha Lewis Brown has served as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian in her home chapter, Gamma Theta Omega, located in Tampa, Florida. In all of these positions she has served with dignity, grace and fortitude. Soror Brown has been the recipient of many Alpha Kappa Alpha accolades including, Soror of the Year, Soror in the Spotlight, President Meritorious, and most notably the Chapter Leadership Award.

Marsha Lewis Brown has had an impressive tenure with Alpha Kappa Alpha. She was awarded the 2004 Margaret Davis Bowen Outstanding Alumna Soror of the South Atlantic Regional Conference award. She has been at the helm of many committees including, Chairman of the South Atlantic Regional Heritage Committee from 2006 to 2010, a four-year chairmanship of the South Atlantic Regional Standards Committee, a four-year chairmanship of the South Atlantic Regional Leadership Development Committee, and 1999 General Conference Chairman for the South Atlantic Regional Conference in Orlando, Florida. She also served four years as a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha International Standards Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that such an energetic, gifted and dedicated Soror is following in my footsteps and joins the ranks of so many other distinguished Regional Directors from the great State of Florida. Soror Marsha Lewis

Brown is an exemplary member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. I honor her today for her leadership as she continues to inspire and motivate the women of the South Atlantic Regional Conference.

SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT
AVAILABILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, while there is a legitimate role for swaps and other derivatives when it comes to managing risk, one of the inescapable lessons from the last economic crisis is the havoc those instruments can cause when they are insufficiently regulated.

In an effort to make sure the abuses that led to the Great Recession never happen again, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act properly placed these kinds of transactions under far more meaningful prudential regulation. Just last week, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission finalized the "swap dealer" rule at issue in today's legislation.

Unfortunately, that final rule—already the product of compromise at the CFTC—is further weakened by the misleadingly named "Small Business Credit Availability Act" to the point where its ability to protect the public from the systemic risk it was originally intended to prevent is undermined.

For example, we should not let big oil companies speculate in the oil futures markets without limit or oversight under the guise of hedging their commercial operations. Furthermore, we should not exempt vast swaths of our credit and debt markets from prudential regulation under the CFTC rule. Yet that's precisely what this bill proposes to do.

Madam Speaker, we know where this road leads, and we simply can't afford to go back there.

I support smart regulation that permits the legitimate uses of these instruments for the benefits they can provide while eliminating the speculative abuses that can cause the rest of us so much harm. And that is why I oppose today's legislation.

CRISTINA MERAZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cristina Meraz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Cristina Meraz is a 12th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Cristina Meraz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Cristina Meraz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

NORTH HOLLYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
2012—U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EN-
ERGY NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to North Hollywood High School on the occasion of advancing to the U.S. Department of Energy's National Science Bowl competition.

Under the leadership of Coach Altair Maine, North Hollywood High School students Rain Tsong, Daniel Bork, Vivek Banerjee, Kennedy Agwamba, and Chiyoung Kim have proven their knowledge and skill by winning the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's 20th Annual Science Bowl Regional Competition. As regional champions, North Hollywood High School is advancing to a field of 69 regional high school championship teams from 40 States. This annual competition provides these commendable young scholars the opportunity to compete in an academically challenging environment that focuses on the principles of mathematics and science.

Now the Nation's largest high school science-based academic tournament, the National Science Bowl underscores the importance of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education. This provides a pathway to encourage America's bright young scholars to enter the fields of mathematics and science. As we progress further into this decade, it is becoming increasingly clear that our economy's future will be technology-based. STEM education produces critical thinkers and facilitates the next generation of innovators. This represents the very fabric of American ingenuity. Through STEM education, America will remain a pioneer in science and technology, ensuring our global competitiveness for years to come.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in saluting North Hollywood High School and all of the regional champion teams at the National Science Bowl for contributing to a truly excellent educational event that will spark further interest in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for young Americans.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN FORTIN

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of John "Jack" Fortin, who passed away on April 20, 2012. Jack and I coached football together at St. Thomas More High School in West Philadelphia in the 1970s.

From his start as a truck driver for 7Up, Mr. Fortin became one of our nation's greatest en-

trepreneurs. He bought a small chemical manufacturing company in North Philadelphia that had about \$150,000 in revenue and three employees in 1975 and built it into Haas Group International, a company with 1,300 employees and revenues of \$560 million that does business in more than 75 countries around the world.

Mr. Fortin, known as Jack, grew up in Southwest Philadelphia. He took on his first job at age 8 delivering alcohol for his uncle during Prohibition.

He attended John Bartram High School and played second base on Bartram's championship baseball team in 1941.

After graduating from high school in 1942, Mr. Fortin joined the Navy that July. As a radioman second class, he spent his active duty in the Pacific and was in Nagasaki, Japan, two weeks after the atomic bomb was dropped. He earned two medals before his discharge in 1945.

After the war he drove a truck for 7Up, where he met his future wife, Maria, who was the switchboard operator. He then got a job with Quaker Chemical in 1957. Eighteen years later he bought Haas Chemical. He retired in 2000, and in 2007 his family sold the business to the Jordan Co., a private equity firm.

Mr. Fortin was a lifelong sports fan and spent more than 20 years coaching youth and CYO football. His last stop was as assistant varsity coach and head freshman coach at St. Thomas More High School in West Philadelphia until it closed in 1975.

During his lifetime, Mr. Fortin received many awards and commendations for his contributions to youth sports but perhaps his greatest thrills in sport were leading all hitters at the age of 62 at Phillies Dream Week in 1985 and receiving the Matt Guokas Sr. Memorial Award from the Philadelphia Basketball Old Timers Association.

Together with Jack's family and friends, I mourn his passing but celebrate his life.

IN HONOR OF TERESA MURACO

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th birthday of a very special woman from my district, Teresa Muraco of Grosvenordale, Connecticut. Teresa is beloved by her community for her unflinching commitment to helping those in need.

A lifelong resident of the Second District of Connecticut, Ms. Muraco graduated from Tourtellotte Memorial High School with the Class of 1940. From there, she went on to hold several local jobs, working in the spinning department of a Grosvenordale mill. She also spent 15 years in the Putnam Superior Court in the family services office.

Although her factory days are behind her, Teresa Muraco very much remains active. By her own estimate, she spends about 10 to 12 hours each week volunteering. She belongs to three different fire auxiliaries, where she helps out at barbecues and suppers. Ms. Muraco is also an active member of St. Joseph Church in North Grosvenordale, helping out at their thrift shop once a month.

Teresa Muraco was named Thompson Volunteer of the Year in 2011 and Citizen of the

Year by the Thompson VFW for her dedication to the town and its veterans. I ask my colleagues to join with me in wishing Teresa Muraco a happy birthday and applauding her tireless efforts to better her community.

DARLENE CHAVEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Darlene Chavez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Darlene Chavez is a 7th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Darlene Chavez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Darlene Chavez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

H.R. 4257, FEDERAL INFORMATION
SECURITY AMENDMENTS ACT OF
2012

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, as a co-sponsor of the Federal Information Security Amendments Act of 2012, I rise to commend Chairman ISSA and Ranking Member CUMMINGS and the members of the House Government Oversight Committee for their bipartisan efforts in crafting this thoughtful and timely piece of legislation.

This bill is necessary because there has been an increasing number of cyber-attacks against federal information systems, including incidents in which operations were disrupted or sensitive data placed at risk. Among the number of notable security breaches in 2011 were cyber-attacks at the Pentagon, the Oak Ridge Laboratory and the Veterans Administration. According to the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team, the number of cyber-incidents reported in 2010 totaled more than 107,000. The number of federal-only incidents was up 39 percent compared with 2009, at nearly 42,000 incidents.

This act is intended to help arrest and reverse this troubling trend by ensuring that federal agencies use risk-based approaches to defend against cyber-attacks and to protect government information from unauthorized access.

By shifting the federal government to a system of continuous monitoring of information systems and streamlining reporting requirements, the bill addresses concerns that

FISMA, in its current form, places too great an emphasis on compliance over outcomes.

The bill requires OMB to oversee agency policies and develop information security protections consistent with standards issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and OMB would have to report to Congress annually on agency compliance.

Additionally, each agency would be required to provide protections that are commensurate with the risks posed to the security of the agency's information. The head of each agency would be required to appoint a Chief Information Security Officer responsible for developing and implementing an information security program and the bill mandates that each agency develop and implement an information security program that is approved by OMB.

Mr. Speaker, as a leading employer in the U.S., the federal government has a special responsibility to ensure that the electronic points of entry it maintains with Americans and with the world are protected from unauthorized access and disruption.

The common sense and necessary legislation before us today is an important step in that direction. I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of the bill.

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, this week, we joined people in the State of Israel and her many friends around the world in celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut—the independence from British mandatory rule and the establishment of the State of Israel.

The United States and Israel have shared a special bond since the establishment of the Jewish State in 1948. The United States, under the leadership of then-President Truman, was the first country to recognize Israel, only 11 minutes after its founding. Today, the United States and Israel continue to share a commitment to democracy, the rule of law, the freedoms of religion and speech, as well as respect for human rights. The United States and Israel also share a desire for peace and stability.

Our countries cooperate closely on intelligence issues, partnering on the development of new technology to promote the security and safety of our citizens. Bilateral ties in trade were codified in the 1985 U.S.-Israel Free Trade Agreement. Today, the American and Israeli governments and businesses are working together to develop and promote new energy solutions.

The Jewish people paid a heavy price for security and independence. Nearly 23,000 men and women have been killed defending Israel since the first Jewish settlers left the secure walls of Jerusalem in 1860. Since the end of the War of Independence, nearly 2,500 people have been killed by terror attacks in Israel, including 14 in the past year.

Today, despite disturbing political instability in the region, Israel stands strong. She is among the safest countries in the world, her economy is sound, life expectancy there is among the highest in the world, and more Israelis earn advanced degrees than most

other nations. And, at a time when our own country is challenged by polarizing politics, an astounding 88 percent of Israelis say they are proud to be Israeli.

I want to extend my best wishes to the people of Israel as we celebrate Israel's extraordinary friendship and honor her achievements over the past 64 years.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LA VERNIA IN TEXAS, HAROLD SCHOTT

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retiring Mayor of the City of La Vernia in Texas, Harold Schott. He was elected Mayor of the City of La Vernia in May 2008 and ends his tenure in May 2012. His tireless efforts have improved the community and served to better the development and progress of the City of La Vernia.

Mr. Schott was born in Castroville, Texas and grew up in San Antonio, Texas where he graduated from the Central Catholic High School. At twenty-five years old, he joined the San Antonio Police Department in 1970. In his duration with the department, he was a Police Department Union Representative for his substation. After 33 years of dedication and service, he retired from the Police Department in 2003. His work with the City of La Vernia began in 1998 when he was elected to the La Vernia City Council and held his position as a council member for a decade. By May 2008, he was elected Mayor of the City of La Vernia. I had the pleasure of working with the Mayor on various projects, such as securing a \$500,000 earmark on a new water well and assistance for a grant that brought a new energy efficient roof for City Hall.

His work as Mayor led to a list of accomplishments that benefited the city and people of La Vernia, including new pumps and vault at Wood Creek water plant, TMRS Retirement plans for employees, and residential water meter replacement. Additionally, he increased safety and protections by reducing speed limits at the city limits and developed emergency response plans for water and wastewater systems. His actions were for the betterment of the community and commendable.

Along with serving the city, he sat on the Canyon Regional Water Authority Board of Trustees from 2004 through 2012. He has been married to his wife, Lucy, who has served as a U.S. Marshal for 17 years. The couple has two children and one grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Harold Schott, retiring Mayor of the City of La Vernia. His years of dedication and commitment to our community have truly impacted the quality of lives for the people of the city.

CARLOS DELACERDA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Carlos

DeLaCerde for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Carlos DeLaCerde is a 10th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Carlos DeLaCerde is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Carlos DeLaCerde for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE 64TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF ISRAEL

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with a strong spirit of solidarity that I recognize the 64th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel. On May 14, 1948, as the world was working toward a brighter and less war-torn future, the Israeli people declared their independence from the British Mandate. The United States recognized the new State of Israel minutes after its birth and, ever since, our two nations have remained strong allies and profound friends.

During its 64 year history, the State of Israel has weathered persistent threats with a remarkable resolve. The nation has not only survived, but has prospered. While ensuring the security of her people, Israel has maintained a firm commitment to democracy. We in the United States are fortunate to have Israel as an unshakeable ally in the Middle East. On this anniversary of independence, we should reflect upon the endurance of that alliance and renew its promises for future generations.

I further recognize the importance of fostering our alliance with mutual cooperation. The second ten-year Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and Israel, which was signed in 2007, has established a fruitful security agreement that has served both of our nations well. A later Memorandum in 2009 further strengthened our joint commitment to counter-terrorism by pledging our mutual assistance to stop the supply of arms to terrorist organizations. It is strategic landmarks like these that help support the lasting bond that we have established with the Israeli state and people.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the 64th anniversary of the State of Israel. I am proud of the historic relationship that the United States has with Israel and look forward to the future of our friendship.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,623,285,528,454.41. We've added \$4,996,408,479,541.33 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN HONOR OF THE EEOC RULING
THAT GENDER-IDENTITY DIS-
CRIMINATION BE COVERED BY
TITLE VII

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's decision that an employer who discriminates against an employee or applicant on the basis of gender-identity violates the Civil Rights Act. This decision is a massive step forward for transgender employment protection, a right that the transgender community has fought hard to ensure over the past decade.

As a result of this ruling, investigators at all 53 of the EEOC's district offices will now accept discrimination claims brought by transgender individuals. The EEOC's legal staff can also bring lawsuits against employers the agency determines have discriminated against transgender employees or job applicants. The decision will be binding on all federal agencies. This definitive ruling gives transgender Americans the certainty, security and reliable legal protection they deserve.

On June 25, 2008, I headed the first Congressional hearing on transgender discrimination. As I stated then, I feel strongly that a person's gender identity is an irrelevant criterion and should not play a role in his or her ability to get a job. The person best qualified to fill the role should get the job. This ruling from the EEOC ensures that transgender people across the country will be protected by federal law if they are denied a job or fired because of who they are or how they appear.

Given the incredibly high rate of employment discrimination facing transgender people, it is important to recognize all of the people who have struggled through discrimination and adversity to get this ruling passed.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the EEOC's decision and encourage Congress to seek further protections for transgender Americans and work to end all forms of discrimination.

CHESLE PARSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Chesle Parson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Chesle Parson is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Chesle Parson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Chesle Parson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

RIVERDALE WOMEN'S CLUB 60TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Riverdale Women's Club, located in the Borough of Riverdale, Morris County, New Jersey as they celebrate their 60th Anniversary.

The Riverdale Women's Club was founded in 1952 as a community service and social organization to provide community improvements, cultural enrichment and educational opportunities to the residents of Riverdale and surrounding municipalities.

The Riverdale Women's Club has made many significant contributions to their community throughout their long history.

Utilizing the many talents of group members, the Club crafts lap robes and afghans for local nursing homes and hospitals, as well as newborn baby hats for area maternity departments. In addition, the members of the Club sew sheets for local school nurses and make teddy bears to be used by local Police, Fire and Rescue for trauma victims.

During holiday seasons the Club collects food and provides food baskets to Morris County's neediest as well as making candy and cookies for local nursing homes. Throughout the year the members of the Club collect clothing and sanitary items to give to New Jersey's veterans' homes.

Every year the Women's Club fulfills their longstanding tradition of encouraging educational opportunities through the Marie S. Hagberg Scholarship, Adele Wasek Art Award and Helen Spengler Continuing Education Scholarships given to deserving students. They also sponsor Annual Academic Essay and Art Award Competitions.

In addition, the Club has participated in the establishment of the Riverdale Senior Citizen's Club, the Friends of Riverdale Library and the

Local 4-H Club. They were also instrumental in the foundation of the Children's Wellness Clinic and a number of additional health clinics in Riverdale.

Through their steadfast dedication to addressing the educational and social needs of the community while providing a gathering place for women, the Riverdale Women's Club has proved itself to be a pillar of the Borough of Riverdale. We are proud to have such a dedicated group here in Morris County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Riverdale Women's Club as they celebrate their Sixtieth Anniversary.

HONORING 100 YEARS OF
HADASSAH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, and to recognize its 100 years of service in our communities. As a lifetime Hadassah member, it is a great privilege to recognize the important work the organization continues to do, both in the United States and around the world.

Founded in 1912 by Henrietta Szold, Hadassah has the extraordinary distinction of being the largest volunteer organization, as well as the largest women's organization, in the United States. A century later, Hadassah has maintained its commitment to Judaism, Zionism, and American ideals, promoting health care, education, youth institutions, volunteerism, and land reclamation in Israel, as well as Jewish and Zionist education programs, Zionist Youth programs, and health awareness programs in the United States. Hadassah remains a critical voice of the Jewish community, advocating for issues of importance to women and to American Jews.

The Hadassah Medical Organization operates state-of-the-art medical facilities in Israel, including the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center at Ein Kerem and the Hadassah University Hospital at Mount Scopus. Hadassah also maintains an extensive healthcare network including community healthcare programs, specialized outpatient clinics and services, and consultation clinics in the center of Jerusalem and in Tel Aviv. Hadassah's medical services continue to set the standard for health care in Israel, providing over 1 million people with hospital care each year.

Hadassah's critical services extend far beyond health care. The organization offers continuing education in fields such as nursing, medicine, business, and law, offering women in those professions the opportunity to join profession councils and to affiliate on a national level with other members who share the same vocation. Further, Hadassah College Jerusalem has, for over 35 years, been providing Academic and Associate degrees in a variety of subjects.

Within our own communities, Hadassah strengthens Jewish identity and support for Israel through community programs for both youth and adult members to foster community bonds, create volunteer opportunities, and develop Jewish leaders. Hadassah members organize and advocate on issues including hate

crimes, anti-Semitism, reproductive choice, and genetic discrimination, as well as support for Israel, Middle East peace, and Israeli security.

For the past century, Hadassah has been a critical voice for women and the Jewish community and has translated that voice into powerful action around the world. I congratulate Hadassah and its more than 300,000 Members, Associates and supporters on their successes of the past 100 years, and I look forward to continuing to work together to build communities and improve lives in the United States, Israel, and throughout the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday April 23, 2012, I missed the following vote: H.R. 2157—To facilitate a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands in the Inyo National Forest, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall No. 178.

CHLOE GROSSETETE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Chloe Grossetete for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Chloe Grossetete is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Chloe Grossetete is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Chloe Grossetete for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING YOUTH SPORTS SAFETY MONTH 2012

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Youth Sports Safety Month and the work of the National Youth Sports Health & Safety Institute, NYSHSI. NYSHSI was formed in the fall of 2011 through a partnership between the American College of Sports Medicine and Sanford Health. I am pleased to serve as an honorary member of the Institute’s

Leadership Board. NYSHSI is dedicated to leading and advocating for the advancement and dissemination of the latest research and evidence-based education, recommendations and policy to enhance the experience, development, health and safety of our youth in sports. The need for this commitment is underscored by a recent poll that shows 91 percent of Americans feel sports participation is important for children and adolescents, and 94 percent feel more needs to be done to ensure the health and safety of youth athletes. These concerns have been fueled by reports of widespread escalating prevalence of exertional heat illness, concussion, and overuse, as well as other consequences and hazards of sports unnecessarily harming the health of our youth. I look forward to all the great work that is planned over the next year and beyond, beginning with NYSHSI’s initial focus on these four key areas of emphasis: Sports Trauma, Environment, Overload/Overuse, Chronic Disease & Disabilities.

As Founder and Co-Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports, I believe the work of NYSHSI is extremely important to the youth of America participating in sport and as a complement to the mission and goals of the Caucus. During Youth Sports Safety Month and throughout the rest of the year, our young athletes urgently need leadership from NYSHSI, their peer organizations, and Members of Congress, so that youth sports in America can be fun, healthy and safe.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT JEFFREY J. RIECK

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful nation to celebrate the life of Ohio Army National Guard MSG Jeffrey J. Rieck—a true American hero who lost his life on April 4, 2012, while deployed to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. An Ohioan and fellow soldier from Columbus, Ohio, he recently joined the countless number of fearless warriors who have given the final measure of devotion in defense of our great nation.

Master Sergeant Rieck, 46, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and served a 25-year career with the military that began in May 1987. Among the medals awarded for his heroism are a Bronze Star and Purple Heart, which are just the beginning to the honors owed to him.

A dedicated and loving father, brother, uncle, nephew, cousin, and friend, Master Sergeant Rieck will be remembered as a true hero who dedicated every aspect of his life to his family, loved ones, and country—a man who served with true pride and grace. I feel absolutely privileged that I had the opportunity to serve with Master Sergeant Rieck in the Ohio Army National Guard.

George Orwell is known to have said, “We sleep soundly in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm.” Master Sergeant Rieck highlighted this quote as one of his favorites, and no better quote could be referenced to describe the soldier we lost a few weeks ago.

As I pray for the family and friends of Master Sergeant Jeffrey Rieck, I ask that all Members of Congress join me in offering our eternal appreciation for his life and sacrifice. He went to the furthest and greatest extent in order to secure our freedom here at home, and that must never be forgotten.

CRYSTINA HOLENCY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Crystina Holency for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Crystina Holency is an 8th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Crystina Holency is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Crystina Holency for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING ANNETTE FENTIN, RECIPIENT OF THE BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING AWARD

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Annette Fentin, recipient of the Jewish Museum of Florida’s Breaking the Glass Ceiling Award. Her tenacity, professionalism, and role as a business and philanthropic leader in Florida are truly an inspiration, and it is an honor to represent her in the United States Congress.

Annette Fentin is a pioneer. At a time when the very existence of her career seemed improbable, she not only entered the workforce but skyrocketed to the top of her field. As a young mother balancing numerous family obligations, Annette was inspired to get a real estate license, and after overcoming numerous hurdles was soon a top seller at a real estate firm.

In 1969, after being recognized as a respected member of the business community, Annette became the first woman member to be appointed to the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce. She worked side by side with 99 men to help make Jacksonville a place where businesses could grow and thrive. Soon, Annette was appointed to their board of governors, was organizing business exchanges with countries around the world as head of the World Trade Committee in Jacksonville, and began her own firm where she employed 30 individuals. And the honor of being the first

woman member of an influential organization was given to her once more, as she was appointed to the University of North Florida board of trustees.

But Annette's service to her community transcends far beyond the realm of creating an environment where business can flourish. She is committed to improving education for people in Florida, and has organized fundraisers with her Synagogue, B'nai Torah, to assist students in need at FAU. Furthermore, in Miami she was instrumental in the creation of Israel Tennis Centers, a Jewish organization that fosters cultural exchange by connecting athletes who are part of the global Jewish community.

Today, women make up half of our workforce here in the United States. And although we have made great strides since the 1960's when Annette first began her career, we are often reminded that there is still room for progress. Business owners like Annette who took on careers previously reserved for men are an inspiration to us all. She reminds us that with tenacity and courage it is possible to break barriers and give women a seat at the table.

HONORING LIEUTENANT KEITH
WHEELER

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Keith Wheeler for his tremendous service to the people of Aroostook County.

On May 6, 2012, Lieutenant Wheeler will have completed his 40th year of exemplary service in the Aroostook County Sheriff's Office. Keith began his career in law enforcement as a jail guard at the age of 24. As a Patrol Officer, Detective, Patrol Sergeant and a Lieutenant, he has never wavered from his dedication to the community or his desire to help people. These values have made Lieutenant Wheeler a fixture in the Country and a highly effective Commander of the Sheriff Office's Law Enforcement Division.

Lieutenant Wheeler is also known for his ability to form close relationships and inspire confidence amongst his colleagues. Retired Chief Deputy Shirley Cleary has been a career long role model and friend to Keith, always stressing the importance of treating people the way you would want to be treated. Lieutenant Wheeler was also entrusted to coordinate the state's Marijuana Eradication Program. In 2008, he was named the Deputy Sheriff of the year by the Maine Sheriff's Association.

I am pleased to join the Aroostook County Sheriff's Office, and the people of Maine, in celebrating Lieutenant Wheeler's 40 years of commendable service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Lieutenant Wheeler on achieving this milestone, and thanking him for all that he does to keep Maine families safe.

NATIONAL DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, imagine one million pounds, 500 tons of prescription pills piled high on the National Mall. Those numbers and that image boggle the mind. And yet, in thirteen short months, that's just about the amount of leftover or expired drugs legions of concerned and compassionate Americans have turned in during the last three National Drug Take Back Days sponsored by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

That total may well be only the tip of the iceberg threatening our National ship of state. On this Saturday, April 28, 2012, the American people and every Member of Congress have the opportunity to strike a blow to rid our nation of the prescription drug abuse scourge that is ravaging so many of our families and communities. The DEA, along with almost 4,000 state and local law enforcement partners are, once again, sponsoring a National Drug Take Back Day.

This is a national call to action. Everyone can participate; everyone needs to participate, because one of the most insidious contributors to this growing epidemic lurks in every home bathroom.

"Ground Zero" for Drug Take Back Day is each medicine cabinet in humble homes across the country. Participation is made simple by the vast number of drop-off points made available by our law enforcement professionals—over 5,300 sites in all 50 states of our nation.

A resounding and very clear message at the nation's first National Summit on Prescription Drug Abuse was made: one of the most cost effective, long-term measures we can take to turn the tide on prescription drug abuse is prevention. That effort starts in our own cabinets and cupboards.

Once described as America's "Silent Epidemic," the abuse of prescription drugs can be openly witnessed any hour—day or night—on countless street corners across the country. Today, prescription drug abuse may be the biggest challenge of our society, and the only way its destructive trend can be reversed is if everyone—I mean, everyone—gets involved.

We are traveling a difficult and challenging path to save an entire generation. But, events and action on a national level, like Drug Take Back Day, provide simple and effective solutions in our quest to conquer the problem of prescription drug abuse.

Let us act with dispatch and compassion and with an acute understanding of the enormity of the challenge before us. Working in partnership with law enforcement, not as vigilantes or self appointed marshals Drug Take Back Day is one of the simplest, most effective, prevention measures we have on our side.

DANIEL KOHEN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Daniel Kohen

for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Daniel Kohen is a 12th grader at Pomona High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Daniel Kohen is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Daniel Kohen for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to rise today in order to recognize the sixty-fourth anniversary of Israel's independence. After 2,000 years the Jewish people regained their independence with the establishment of the State of Israel on April 26, 1948.

Israel was conceived during a dark time for the Jewish people and for the world, but because of their steadfast vision and perseverance they have become a beacon of prosperity and hope for the entire world to follow.

For sixty-four years the United States and Israel have been unwavering partners. We share an unbreakable bond based in mutual respect, shared values, and the ideal of equal opportunity for all. Our two nations have worked together side by side to promote respect for human rights and to ensure a more secure and stable world for all.

As President Obama has said, and as I have said so many times before, the security of Israel is of paramount importance, and our support for that security is unbreakable. We should take this occasion to reinforce this bond and renew our commitment into the future.

It is also fitting to take this occasion to focus on the future of a lasting peace. As I and my colleagues have repeatedly said, the only path to a lasting peace is through direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians that lead to a two-state solution. We must also acknowledge that a lasting peace cannot be achieved while a contingent within the Palestinian Government does not recognize Israel's right to exist. The State of Israel has existed for sixty-four years and will continue to endure. It is time all factions within the Palestinian Government acknowledge this so that we can move forward to achieve peace for a region that so greatly desires it.

Mr. Speaker, Israel has much to be proud of today. On this day of independence, I congratulate the people of Israel for their perseverance and for the hope of a brighter future as our two nations continue down a path of prosperity and peace for years to come.

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1971, the Pharmacy Competition and Consumer Choice Act. This legislation will help level the playing field between neighborhood pharmacies and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) ensuring rural communities will continue to have access to see the providers of their choosing.

The 7th Congressional District of Minnesota, which I represent, is made up of more than 31,000 square miles and many small towns and farms. Small and independent retail pharmacies serve the pharmacy needs of residents in this large rural area. Residents of my district are concerned that they are losing access to their local community pharmacist whom they trust and have built relationships with throughout the years.

These PBMs tend to encourage patients to use their own mail-order-only operations in order to receive discounted co-pays on prescription drugs. Many constituents have expressed how they want to save money but also would like to talk to the pharmacists about their drug regimens and possible drug interactions. They do not like the idea of dealing with faceless employees of a managing company and talking with someone new each time they call. Patients should not have to choose between best price and best care.

Small pharmacies play a vital role in rural communities. Not only are they an employer, but serve as a health care advisor to senior citizens and families. I have heard concerns that such market concentration, like one we will see with Express Scripts and Medco, will likely lead to higher prices for consumers and fewer choices. During this difficult economic time, we cannot afford to lose jobs and the small businesses that serve the very important health-care needs of American consumers. This is especially true in rural areas, where there are already fewer choices.

H.R. 1971, the Pharmacy Competition and Consumer Choice Act, would provide transparency into how PBMs deal with Medicare Part D plans, and would require PBMs to deal more honestly with pharmacies when contacting and conducting audits. By protecting Part D plans and beneficiaries, as well as patient access to local community pharmacies, this legislation will help ensure that rural patients will continue to have access to local pharmacies.

RECOGNIZING DIANA Z. YSRAEL ON RECEIVING THE 2012 GUAM BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mrs. Diana Z. Ysrael on being awarded the 2012 Guam Businesswoman of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award. Diana Ysrael is the owner of Diana's Specialty Shops, which opened in 1960, and she is an advisor for Tanota Part-

ners, a family-owned real estate business that was established in 1970.

Diana was born in Graceville, Minnesota on November 9, 1935 and attended George Washington High School in Mangilao, Guam. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing Education from St. Theresa's College in Winona, Minnesota and went on to work as a registered nurse for the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota and the Guam Memorial Hospital. In 1960, Diana decided to start her own business and opened Diana's, Guam's first children's specialty shop. Over the years, Diana expanded her business to five locations with over 50 employees. She also provides guidance and consultative work to her family businesses, Tanota Partners and Dizzy Inc. clothing stores.

In addition to being a local entrepreneur for over 50 years, Diana is an active member of Guam's community. She has dedicated her time to volunteering for Strides for the Cure, a local non-profit organization that raises awareness of cancer and seeks to reduce cancer rates on Guam. Diana also frequently contributes to the American Red Cross and provides financial support to St. John's School athletic program and scholarship fund. Further, through Tanota Partners, Diana has helped provide funding to repair the Agana Pool.

Diana has dedicated her career to building a successful self-owned business, and she serves as a positive role model for businesswomen on Guam. I join the people of Guam in thanking her for her many contributions to our community, and I wish her continued success in the years to come.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED WAY OF BUCKS COUNTY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of United Way of Bucks County, an organization that strives to better the lives of countless people in my Congressional District.

United Way was founded shortly after World War II, just as Bucks County began to experience a rapid growth in population. Fearing this new influx of local residents would place too much of a burden on existing charitable agencies, a group of determined citizens began meeting to discuss the struggles that the new community faced. Although small at first, these meetings eventually led to the creation of United Way of Bucks County in 1952.

Over the years, United Way has worked with many different people and organizations in order to identify and resolve pressing neighborhood issues. Since 1952, United Way has worked with various schools, government agencies, businesses and neighborhood associations in an effort to foment public policy and much needed community change.

Today, the organization allocates over \$1 million to 31 different agencies that support 52 local programs in Bucks County. Undoubtedly, United Way of Bucks County has become a vital attribute to our community, and I am honored to speak on behalf of its members and affiliates today.

Thank you for 60 years of public service, and dedication, I am proud to have such an

admirable organization work on behalf of the constituents in my Congressional District.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE MERGER OF EXPRESS SCRIPTS, INC., AND MEDCO

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the potential impact of the merger of two major pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), Express Scripts, Inc. and Medco. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recently decided not to oppose this merger, which combines two of the "Big Three" PBMs. However, the FTC decision was not unanimous; in fact, one FTC Commissioner who opposed the merger called it a "game changer."

The merger of Express Scripts and Medco now means that the top two PBMs will cover approximately 72 percent of the privately insured Americans. This "mega PBM" will have the ability to raise prices for health plans and patients, limit access to pharmacy patient care and force patients to use the PBM's mail order pharmacies rather than their trusted community pharmacies, driving up costs for employers, health plans and other federal and state programs.

Additional concerns resulting from the Express Scripts and Medco merger include increased market concentration in the PBM market, with decreasing competition. The "Big Three" PBMs controlled approximately 80 percent of the national prescription drug plan market for large plans. This merger reduces the options for large plans from three to two. For large health plans that have typically selected one of the "Big Three" PBMs, the merger creates a firm with more than 50 percent market share.

The new mega PBM alone will control over 40 percent of the national prescription drug volume. Approximately 135 million Americans—more than one-third of all Americans—will rely on this new "mega PBM" to manage their prescription benefits. The merger combines two of the three largest suppliers of specialty pharmacy services, consolidating an excessive share of all specialty pharmacy sales. The merger creates the nation's largest mail-order pharmacy accounting for close to 60 percent of all mail-order prescriptions processed in the United States. This is a very troubling situation.

I have actively sought to bring this issue to the forefront, through floor speeches, letters to the FTC, and calls for hearings in the House Energy & Commerce Committee. I am concerned that this "mega PBM" will only exacerbate the problems for community pharmacies and consumers caused by PBMs currently. Already, many PBMs disallow pharmacies the ability to appeal pricing decisions with which they disagree. It is documented that they often mandate that a covered individual use a specific retail pharmacy, mail order pharmacy, specialty pharmacy or other pharmacy or entity. This is exceedingly problematic in places like the First Congressional District, where there are limited options for seniors and the disabled to reach certain pharmacies.

Only a handful of states directly regulate some PBM functions, such as how they conduct audits of pharmacies, and some state

boards of pharmacy regulate them to the extent that their activities can be construed as practicing pharmacy. The vast majority of their remaining functions and activities are unregulated.

We must do more to rein in some of the worst abuses of PBMs against community pharmacies and consumers. In addition to supporting state actions against the Express Scripts/Medco merger, I am a cosponsor of H.R. 4215, the Medicare Pharmacy Transparency and Fair Auditing Act, important legislation that will protect patients and providers from the egregious practices of PBMs. Similar legislation that includes the provisions of H.R. 4215 has been introduced in the Senate. This legislation will help level the playing field between neighborhood pharmacies and PBMs and ensure Americans have access to see the providers of their choice. PBMs are the little-known, but powerful, virtually unregulated middlemen that administer prescription drug benefits for most Americans.

TRIBUTE TO ST. BERNARDINE
PARISH ON THEIR 150TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today and ask Congress to recognize the 150th anniversary of the St. Bernardine Parish in San Bernardino, California.

In 1862, Reverend Raho chose a site for the St. Bernardine Parish to be built in the town square in the current city of San Bernardino. Here, Reverend Raho held mass and established the Parish in the name of Bishop Amat. In 1865, the first St. Bernardine Church was completed, only to be destroyed by a fire a year later. The church was rebuilt and expanded between 1867 and 1880 to accommodate a growing population.

The St. Bernardine Parish continued to change and expand with the beginning of the 20th century. In 1907, the Church built a new two story brick school to accommodate 200 students. Three years later, in 1910, the new Church building was completed and dedicated, becoming the fifth Catholic Church in San Bernardino.

During the 1920s, the San Bernardine Parish flourished and helped provide guidance and inspiration to the people of San Bernardino. A decade later, during the Great Depression, the San Bernardine Parish was instrumental in helping the community get through rough times.

I commend the San Bernardine Parish for their tireless work to support our soldiers and their families during and after World War II. Many men and women from the Parish fought bravely to preserve the freedoms of democracy and religion that we hold today.

After the war, St. Bernardine constructed a new convent and built additions onto the existing school building. From the 1960s until the 1990s, Msgr. John Bradley oversaw the period of growth and change for the St. Bernardine Parish, where he is known as the "Preservation Pastor." With Msgr. Bradley's leadership, a new senior citizens housing complex was

completed and dedicated. Msgr. Bradley's legacy has impacted Father Leonard Depasquale, who continues to lead the St. Bernardine Parish in improving the life of the people and community of San Bernardino.

I am proud of the way the St. Bernardine Parish has positively impacted the people of San Bernardino for over 150 years. The St. Bernardine Parish has provided spiritual support and assistance to the people of San Bernardino, and I am grateful to their service to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognition of the St. Bernardine Parish as they celebrate their 150th anniversary.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT
SHAWN T. HANNON

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful nation to celebrate the life of Ohio Army National Guard Master Sergeant Shawn T. Hannon—a true American hero who lost his life on April 4, 2012, while deployed to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. A fellow Ohioan and soldier from Grove City, Ohio, Master Sgt. Hannon, 44, gave the final measure of devotion when he was killed in action while serving in the line of duty in the protection of our nation.

Master Sgt. Hannon was a lifelong soldier who served for almost 20 years in the Ohio Army National Guard. Hannon was the kind of soldier who makes the citizens of Ohio's 15th Congressional District so proud. He served in multiple deployments, which included Iraq, RAF Lakenheath, England, Mississippi for Hurricane Katrina, and Florida for Hurricane Andrew. He earned a well-deserved Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and the Ohio Distinguished Service Medal for his outstanding service. As a father, husband, son, brother, and friend, Master Sgt. Hannon was known for his charisma, love, and loyalty. I consider myself privileged to have had the opportunity to serve with him in the Ohio Army National Guard.

We should thank God every day that heroes like Master Sgt. Hannon exist, because every day he stood ready to protect and fight for our freedom. His bravery, selflessness, and sacrifice will be forever remembered, as will his unwavering commitment to God, country, and his family.

I ask that every Member of Congress join me in paying tribute to the life of Master Sgt. Hannon—his bravery and selflessness are deeply missed and felt. We are able to have freedom and safety today because of the ultimate sacrifice that he has made, and for that we owe a great debt of gratitude.

RECOGNIZING THE 64TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 64th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel.

Today, Israelis and their friends around the world celebrate the renewal of a Jewish State in the land of Israel. Since the U.S. became the first country to recognize Israel, a mere 11 minutes after her founding, the relationship between our two nations has continued to grow and strengthen. That friendship is as important now as it was in 1948, and, after 64 years of cooperation and collaboration, we still subscribe to the same Democratic ideals, face the same global threats, and share the same dreams. As a Jew and a Member of Congress, I am committed to continuously working to grow and strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Israel is not just a strategic ally, but also a friend and partner of the United States. I have traveled to Israel many times in recent years, and I am continuously impressed by the high level of technology, energy, and scientific innovation. Even as Israelis face an uncertain security outlook and the very real possibility of violence from neighboring nations, Israel continues to be a leader in innovation.

Today we celebrate, but yesterday we paused for Israel's Memorial Day to remember the many men and women who have been killed defending the Jewish state. According to the Israeli government, 22,993 men and women have given their lives defending the land of Israel since 1860, and 2,457 people have been killed in terror attacks. In the past year, 126 members of the Israeli security forces have been killed in the line of duty.

After 64 years, Israel continues to be our closest friend and ally in the Middle East, and the United States remains absolutely committed to ensuring a secure future for the Jewish State. For over six decades, the cornerstone of that relationship has been bipartisan agreement recognizing the critical importance of that relationship to both our nations.

As we celebrate the 64th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, this Congress, this Administration, and this country will continue to work together with our Israeli partners to ensure a secure and peaceful future for Israel and the entire Middle East.

IRA FREEMAN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to my dear friend Ira Freeman, who is being honored by the Valley Community Clinic for his many years of dedicated service and is being named 2012 Pharmacist of the Year by the California Pharmacists Association.

I know firsthand of Mr. Freeman's many outstanding contributions to our community. Ira is a founding member of the Valley Community Clinic (VCC), whose vision is to provide high quality healthcare for all regardless of their ability to pay. Since 1970, Ira has been the Pharmacist of Record for VCC's in-house dispensary, where he oversees the medication processes for all its patients. In addition, he has spent the last four decades volunteering his time in the dispensary every Thursday and Saturday. Along with giving his time to VCC, he also supports many other Valley non-profits including: New Horizons, Ovarian Cancer Coalition, AIDS Walk LA, Executives of the Jewish

Home for the Aging. He was also a board member and Board president of Sun Valley Chamber of Commerce from 1981–1990 and the Studio City Residents Association.

Along with a long and distinguished record of volunteerism and service to his community, Mr. Freeman has been the Owner and Pharmacist at Key Pharmacy since 1964. He earned his degree from Columbia University College of Pharmacy. He actively participates in professional pharmacy associations at the national, state and local level and is actively involved with the legislative process. In fact, his legislative efforts on behalf of pharmacists led pharmacist Barry Pascal to say, "Ira Freeman has put a pharmacist's face into our political process." I can attest to the veracity of this statement because I, myself, have spent many years with Mr. Freeman here in Washington D.C. and in Los Angeles working on different legislation. He served as a member of CPhA–PAC, President of the Pharmacists' Professional Society of the San Fernando Valley, and is a founding member of the United Pharmacists Network. He is known as a political activist extraordinaire and is one of the most loved leaders in the community. It is with great pleasure that I call him my good friend.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in recognizing Ira Freeman for his years of service and dedication to the community, to honor his many dedicated years at Valley Community Clinic, and to congratulate him on being named 2012 Pharmacist of the Year.

RECOGNIZING TOVE E. ESTABROOK ON RECEIVING THE 2012 GUAM BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mrs. Tove E. Estabrook on being awarded the 2012 Guam Businesswoman of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award. Tove Estabrook is the proprietor of Tove's Flower Shop.

Ms. Estabrook was born in Haderslev, Denmark on August 28, 1935, and she moved to Guam in with her late husband, Fred Estabrook. For 44 years, Tove has dedicated her career to providing Guam residents with unique and creative floral designs, and for more than 30 years she has been a business owner as the chief executive officer and proprietor of Tove's Flower Shop. Her business has become a mainstay for floral arrangements and event consultation on Guam, and she continues to grow and expand the services and product offering she provides.

Tove also uses her talents to help various community organizations by making monetary and in-kind floral contributions to their causes. She also delivers weekly floral donations to the Carmelite Sisters' Chapel, San Vicente and San Roque Catholic Church, Our Lady of the Waters Church, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica, and the Bayview Baptist Church.

Tove Estabrook has dedicated her career to building a successful self-owned business, and she serves as a positive role model for

businesswomen on Guam. I join the people of Guam in thanking her for her many contributions to our community, and I wish her continued success in the years to come.

IN COMMEMORATION OF ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the contribution of the State of Israel as it celebrates its 64th anniversary as a vibrant and open democratic society.

I had the great privilege to live and work in Israel in the mid-1960's and celebrated Israel's 22nd anniversary by taking part in a three-day walk from the shores of Tel Aviv to the hills of Jerusalem.

Now, I marvel with every visit at the extraordinary changes that have taken place.

In its 64 years, Israel has managed some incredible achievements.

Israel leads the world in the number of scientists and technicians in the workforce per capita. These Israeli scientists have made great contributions to human understanding and invented revolutionary products.

The cell phone was developed in Israel by Israelis.

Israeli doctors and researchers have produced countless medical advances helping those with diseases such as cancer and Parkinsons.

Israel is also a leader in conservation and renewable energy. In fact, Israel is the only country in the world that entered the 21st century with a net gain in its number of trees, made more remarkable because this was achieved in an area considered mainly desert.

These achievements are truly inspiring. But the daily news reports from the Middle East continue to remind us of the daunting challenges that Israel faces.

Foremost among those challenges is the existential threat posed by a nuclear Iran. There is no debate here—Iran's leadership many times has stated that, "Israel must be wiped off the map." Containment of a nuclear Iran is simply not an option for the United States or Israel.

In light of the ongoing threat from Iran and other neighboring countries, the United States must remain firm in its steadfast commitment to the security of Israel as an independent, democratic Jewish state. We must continue to provide Israel with the military capabilities and intelligence necessary to defend itself.

In addition, Israel still lacks a real partner for peace with the Palestinians. However, this does not mean efforts for peace should not continue.

As we know well, achieving peace will not be easy, but I remain hopeful that Israel, her neighbors and the U.S. can get the peace process back on track and that Israel will continue to thrive as a vibrant and open democratic society.

I join my colleagues in recognizing Israel's 64th Anniversary.

STUDENTS AT McCracken Middle School: Making a Difference Through A.C.T.

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary students at the McCracken Middle School in Skokie, Illinois, who are working to improve the lives and futures of children around the world.

Through the organization that they created—Aiding Children Together, or A.C.T.—these remarkable young leaders are making a real difference—not just studying the many problems that confront children but taking action to help solve them.

Two years ago, I received letters from McCracken middle-schoolers who were moved to get involved to help address the crisis of child labor. They wrote to voice their support for the UN Rights of a Child and to speak up for children who are forced to work in often dangerous conditions in order to support themselves and their families.

Since A.C.T. was founded, the students have continued to show their commitment to providing every child with the right to education and to a safe and healthy life. They know that many children are forced to live in poverty, to suffer and sometimes die from preventable diseases, and even to be forced to serve as child soldiers. The members of A.C.T. believe that unless we solve these problems, too many children will be denied the opportunity to become productive members of their communities.

The students participating in A.C.T. are learning and they are taking action to protect individual children and to create a better future. Through fundraising efforts from walkathons to selling t-shirts, they have raised funds for nonprofit organizations like Free the Children—groups that empower youth to promote children's rights.

Currently, McCracken students are focused on learning about and raising funds for an orphanage in Ghana, engaging with A Better Life for Kids in the effort to expand educational opportunities to some of the most vulnerable children in the world. The orphanage is a safe place and one where deaf children can now go to school, instead of being forced onto the streets.

I want to recognize this year's A.C.T. participants and congratulate them on their work. They are: Lily Shearer, Rebecca Janw, Gabrielle Younan, Mariel Younan, Alex Davood, Juliana Tichota, Nora Gaul, Tenzin Wangdak, Trisha Gandhi, Andrea Hoglund, Sean Loach, Violette Shearer, and Nathaniel Schetter.

These McCracken students are doing amazing things and they are setting an example for all those who see problems as too big or too difficult, those who throw up their hands instead of getting to work. I am so proud of them and I know that they will continue to be a powerful force for change on behalf of children.

I also want to thank Jennifer Ciok and Bethany Blades, the teacher sponsors of A.C.T., and Shelley Nizynski, who teaches at Middleton Elementary School in Skokie and is the founder of A Better Life for Kids. They demonstrate the critical role of teachers in inspiring

students to learn, to solve problems and to become leaders in their communities.

HONORING THE EURO-AMERICAN BRANDS

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Euro-American Brands, in recognition of its designation as honoree at the Englewood Hospital's 2012 Gala.

What began as a childhood passion for sweets today stands as a model for success, ingenuity and perseverance. Founded in 1990 by siblings Dite Van Clief and Tami Targovnik, in partnership with Peter Leiendecker, Paramus, New Jersey-based Euro-American Brands (EAB) is one the nation's premier importers of confections and specialty food products. EAB's love of sweets soared to new heights in 2010.

Joining forces with its supplier of 20 years—Ritter Sport, a popular German confectionery brand—they introduced the Strawberry Crème Bar to support the fight against breast cancer: 100% of the profits earned by EAB from sales of the Ritter Sport Strawberry Crème Bar benefit The Leslie Simon Breast Care and Cytodiagnosis Center at Englewood Hospital. Their efforts yielded much-needed support for The Breast Center which provides lifesaving medical services to countless women in need.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor this remarkable company, and the great work they are doing in support of the Breast Care Center at Englewood Hospital. I join with the grateful guests of the Englewood Hospital Gala, and all of my constituents in North Jersey, in thanking the Euro-American Brands for its generous contribution to the good health of our community.

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise with pride and exuberance to mark my return to Greenville, SC, home to my very first regional conference as the 11th South Atlantic Regional Director in 1987.

In March of 1987, more than 1,300 sorors from Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina convened in Greenville, South Carolina for the South Atlantic Regional Conference. We captured the attention of both State and local dignitaries, including Lt. Governor of South Carolina, the Mayor of Laurens, South Carolina, and were presented "Keys to the City" by the Mayor of Greenville William Workman. Former Supreme Basileus Janet Ballard and many members of the Directorate were in attendance. The conference theme was "Service with a Global Perspective" and it was planned and coordinated by Soror Charlotte Walker and Soror Xanthe Norris, Cluster VIII coordinator. When the conference concluded on

March 22, 1987, we returned to our respective homes renewed in our bonds of sisterhood.

Two decades later, the South Atlantic Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., continues to blaze trails and stands largest of the ten Alpha Kappa Alpha regions with more than 10,000 members strong. Our region is home to two former Basilei, Soror Mary Shy Scott, and Soror Norma Solomon White. Currently leading our esteemed sisterhood is our own, Soror Carolyn House Stewart, the 28th Supreme Basileus of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

It is my pleasure to pay tribute to each of my Sorors of the South Atlantic Region as we gather for our 59th annual conference, under the leadership of our Regional Director, Soror Marsha Lewis Brown. There is no other place I would rather call home. My pride is showing.

A TRIBUTE TO NEUMANN BROTHERS, INC.

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the renowned, family-owned Iowa building company, Neumann Brothers, for turning 100 years old this month.

Since its founding in 1912 by then 28-year-old Arthur Neumann, Neumann Brothers, Inc. has played an integral role shaping the landscape of the state we love. It's no exaggeration to say that you can look down any street in downtown Des Moines and recognize a building that has been touched by the expertise of Neumann Brothers. A full century in business is quite a feat, but it is no surprise Neumann Brothers' reputation for putting their customers first through keeping deadlines and being accountable have earned them a stellar rapport with Iowa communities.

Thankfully, Neumann Brothers is no longer limited to erecting buildings with mules and steam power. Instead, the company has continually remained on the cutting edge of building technologies and techniques. Neumann Brothers continues that tradition today through their innovation in constructing the most important buildings in our state, and recognition through dozens of awards and the continued patronage of its customers. From the reconstruction of William Penn University in 1916, to recently converting Des Moines' century-old public library into the headquarters of the World Food Prize, the contribution of the Neumann Brothers to Iowa's rich history is incalculable.

Mr. Speaker, it goes without saying that Neumann Brothers has become synonymous with Iowa's most treasured buildings. I know that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating this company on the milestone of their 100th birthday. I wish Neumann Brothers another hundred years of success and thank them for their contribution to Iowa's history and landscape. Thank you.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS LIFE SAVING CORPS' IN DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Centennial anniversary of the American Red Cross Life Saving Corps' outstanding volunteer services to the beach communities in Duval County, my hometown. On April 29, 2012, the members of the Volunteer Life Saving Corps will rededicate the Station at Jacksonville Beach and its new training wing, which will enhance its life-saving mission. Created in 1912 by locals who saw the need, the U.S. Volunteer Life Saving Corps was established to protect lives along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline and became Florida's first chartered American Red Cross Volunteer Life Saving Corps on April 17, 1914. Today, we celebrate a century of uninterrupted beach guard services each Sunday and holiday throughout the summer season.

Beginning with the first class, volunteers have been required to undergo a vigorous training regimen and meet the high physical and mental standards established by the Corps before they are allowed to stand watch on our beaches. My father, McCarthy Crenshaw, was a proud member of this Corps. For the past 100 years the American Red Cross Life Saving Corps has protected our beaches and has built a long-lasting working relationship with our community, which benefits both our local residents and visitors as they enjoy the surf.

Florida's northeast coastline has 20 miles of gorgeous beach and the Life Saving Corps has a long, rich history of protecting those who come to swim or surf. The first station built for the Corps was established on April 6, 1913, at Pablo Beach. The Corps was comprised of 19 volunteers equipped with a surf boat and life lines. Over the years, the Corps has recorded over 1500 ocean rescues, logged 1,300,000 volunteer hours, made 1700 life-saving assists, and administered first aid to 26,000. The faces of the Corps change each year, but the mission remains the same as the summer of 1912 when the first Life Saving Corps posted the beach watch.

It is my honor to bring this historic commemoration of a century of service by volunteers in the American Red Cross Volunteer Life Saving Corps to the attention of the United States Congress and to invite Members to join me in extending our appreciation.

FIGHTING TO PREVENT A STUDENT LOAN RATE HIKE

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, "Don't double my rate."

I've heard this message loud and clear from college students in Hawaii and across the country. If Congress does not act, almost 17,000 student loan borrowers in Hawaii will

see their interest rates double on July 1. Hawaii college students will owe nearly \$1,000 more next year.

I have heard countless stories of people in Hawaii burdened by student loan debt. One woman in Kailua told me she took out student loans to afford graduate school, and now teaches part time at Hawaii Pacific University. Her husband is a Marine who's currently deployed. She says, "My education was important to me, but now I wonder if it was truly worth it. I have the education that has provided me the job of my dreams but we are drowning in so much student loan debt that I may have single-handedly ruined both of our futures."

Hawaii students shouldn't have to drown in debt to achieve their dreams. Education is too important: it's the key to greater opportunity.

I know firsthand how education opens the door to a better life. I came to this country from Japan when I was nearly 8 years old. My mother courageously plotted and planned in secret in order to flee an abusive marriage and bring us to this country so we could have a better life. We came to Hawaii in steerage with little more than the clothes on our backs. I did not speak a word of English but my mother enrolled me in the public schools and that's where I learned to read, write and speak English. I used financial aid and student loans to put myself through college and law school.

A recent study found that by 2018, nearly two-thirds of jobs in Hawaii will require some type of post-secondary education or career training. Meanwhile, tuition is rising and student loan debt is a serious problem. The average Hawaii college graduate has over \$15,000 in student loan debt. Nationwide, Americans now owe more in student loan debt than credit card debt.

In my first year in Congress, I cosponsored the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007. This bill passed on a strong bipartisan basis and was signed into law by President George W. Bush. This law cut low- and middle-income student loan interest rates in half, from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent. This provision will expire on July 1. We need a solution right away.

Yet, rather than seek a real, bipartisan solution like we did in 2007, the House Majority continues to play politics with the issues that matter most to our families.

Their latest ploy is H.R. 4628. This bill is a sheep in wolf's clothing. It supports college

students, but on the backs of women and children. The bill would pay for keeping the lower interest rate for one year by repealing the Public Health and Prevention Fund. It's yet another partisan attack on the Affordable Care Act.

The Public Health and Prevention Fund has already had a major impact in Hawaii. Our state has received grants to provide vaccinations, HIV testing, obesity and smoking prevention, and warning systems for disease outbreaks. The Public Health and Prevention Fund is supported by American Academy of Pediatrics—Hawaii Chapter, American Lung Association in Hawaii, CHOW Project, Faith Action for Community Equity, Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation, Hawai'i Primary Care Association, Hawaii Public Health Association, Malama Pono Health Services, and Papa Ola Lokahi. National organizations supporting this fund include the AARP, Alzheimer's Foundation, American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association, American Nurses Association, March of Dimes, and hundreds more.

Today's vote is a false choice. Let's stop playing games with our students' future, and let's not balance the budget on the backs of women's and children's health. Today's vote is just a skirmish. The game is not over. We need a real solution right away.

That's why I'm a cosponsor of the Stop the Rate Hike Act, H.R. 4816. This bill would keep student loan interest rates low for another year, long enough to find a longer-term solution. We'd pay for this by ending tax loopholes for big oil companies. These companies are already raking in record profits, and don't need another year of handouts from you and me.

I voted today to take up H.R. 4816, a real solution for our students. I urge my colleagues to come together and get this done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Nos. 179, 180, and 181. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote Nos. 179 and 181; I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 180.

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the 1.5 million Armenians, men, women, and children, who were massacred under the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the 20th century.

Each year, Armenians throughout the world mark April 24 as Genocide Remembrance Day by honoring those who perished from 1915 to 1923, and I join my friends and colleagues in remembering the victims today.

It's important to raise awareness about the Armenian genocide not only because it is an undeniable chapter in world history, but also because learning more about this horrific tragedy underscores the importance of eliminating intolerance and bigotry wherever it occurs.

I have enormous respect and admiration for the strength, resilience, and perseverance of the Armenian-American community. Over the decades since this massacre in their homeland occurred they built lives, homes, and businesses, and raised families in Rhode Island and across the country.

As the Congressman from Rhode Island's First Congressional District, I have the honor of representing many Armenian-Americans who grew up hearing family stories about the atrocities firsthand, as many are children and grandchildren of genocide survivors. Armenian-Americans living in my home state of Rhode Island have made significant contributions through their leadership in business, law, academia, government, and the arts.

As a cosponsor of the Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution, House Resolution 304, I strongly believe that the time has come for the United States government to recognize this atrocity for what it was—genocide.

I join my colleagues today in remembering and honoring the victims of the Armenian genocide.