

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING RICH KOSSUTH

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mr. Rich Kossuth, this year's Sunday Dispatch 2010 Person of the Year.

Rich is a Greater Pittston area resident. A co-owner of Rock Street Music, the drummer in Pittston's local band Flaxy Morgan, and part of the rock duo CNR, Rich has grown up working in Pittston's music scene. He started out as an employee of local music businesses and eventually formed Rock Street Music with his mother and brothers. Through these affiliations, Rich has unselfishly donated his time and efforts to various facets of our community.

Mr. Kossuth founded 12/24, a Christmas holiday seasonal band dedicated to raising funds for autism research. In 2010, he volunteered his talents, time, and equipment to over 40 benefits for causes ranging from supporting local recreational groups to helping local heroes in need of assistance in their fights against cancer. Rich has dedicated himself to improving the lives of our children, making appearances as Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny at local events, as well as serving as an assistant scout manager.

Mr. Kossuth never asks for anything in return. In fact, when Rich was informed he'd be receiving the Person of the Year Award, he promptly named others he felt deserving of recognition before finally graciously accepting the acknowledgement of all he has done to serve the Greater Pittston area.

Mr. Speaker, Rich Kossuth is a compassionate, generous humanitarian who truly cares about our community and his fellow citizens. His kindness has touched the lives of countless people. We could never thank Mr. Kossuth enough for the service he provides and the spirit he instills in the Greater Pittston area. He is truly an inspiring individual. Mr. Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Kossuth and recognizing his being named the Sunday Dispatch's 2010 Person of the Year.

HONORING THE HONOREES OF THE MID-MAINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorees of the 2011 Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Dinner. The Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce serves the people and business community of the greater Waterville area, working with the business community to strengthen

economic opportunity throughout the region and the state.

Each year, the Mid-Maine Chamber recognizes some of the outstanding businesses and individuals that make Maine "the way life should be" for all Mainers and Maine businesses. These individuals and businesses are committed to strengthening opportunity and prosperity in Maine.

This year's award recipients include Robert Martin, recipient of the Distinguished Community Service Award; Fortin's Home Furniture, Business of the Year; Bill Mitchell of GHM Insurance, Business Person of the Year; Barbara Haynes, recipient of the Elias A. Joseph award; David Holden of Bangor Savings Bank, Outstanding Professional of the Year; the Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers, Community Service Project of the Year; Matthew Clark of Weeks & Hutchins, LLC and Sarah Sugden, of the Waterville Public Library, both recipients of the "Rising Star" Award; and Valley Distributors' Flint Collier, recipient of the Customer Service Stardom Award.

These nine recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and incredible commitment to their communities and the region, Maine is a better place to live and do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce and these individuals on their outstanding service and achievement.

HONORING AMBASSADOR TERENCE A. TODMAN

**HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN**

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding leader from my congressional district in the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Honorable Terence A. Todman, a Career Ambassador who served our country across the globe for almost 50 years.

On Saturday, March 12, 2011, my community will honor Career Ambassador Todman on the occasion of his 85th birthday. A native son, he began his distinguished career with service in the U.S. Army from 1945 to 1949, including a tour as a Commissioned Officer in Japan. He went on to diplomatic service as a Desk Officer for India-Ceylon-Nepal Affairs in 1952 and as a U.S. Government Intern on the United Nations Secretariat in 1954. From 1954 to 1957, he served as an Advisor to U.S. Delegations to the United Nations General Assembly and U.S. Representative on various Trusteeship Council committees. He ended the decade of the 1950s as a Political Officer in New Delhi from 1957 to 1959.

Career Ambassador Todman, who is fluent in many languages, served as the Arabic Language and Area Specialist in Beirut from 1960 to 1961. From 1961 to 1964, he served as the

Political Officer in Tunis, from 1965 to 1968 as the Deputy Chief of Mission and Charge d'Affaires in Togo and as the Country Director for East African Affairs from 1961 to 1969.

Mr. Speaker, as United States Ambassador, Terrence Todman served in Chad from 1969 to 1972, in Guinea from 1972 to 1975, in Costa Rica from 1957 to 1971, in Spain from 1978 to 1983, in Denmark from 1983 to 1989, and finally in Argentina from 1989 to 1993.

Although retired since 1993, Ambassador Todman has remained active serving on corporate and community boards from Argentina to the U.S. Virgin Islands. I recall that during one of Haiti's many crises and during the Aristide presidency, he was called back into service to share his expertise and experience as a special advisor to the Organization of American states. His recent focus has been on establishing joint ventures between U.S. and foreign companies with special emphasis on transportation and the environment. He is one of the Directors of the American Academy on Diplomacy, the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training, the Constituency for Africa and the Atlantic Council of the United States. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and a member of its International Panel and many other organizations in the diplomatic field.

He serves on the board of Syracuse University, the Duke University Provost Advisory Council and the Advisory Board of the African Studies Program at Georgetown University.

Ambassador Todman has received the Presidential Distinguished Service Award, the National Public Service Award, the Department of State's Superior Service Honor Award and the Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Award. He has been decorated by the governments of Argentina, Denmark, Spain, Chad and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In 1997, he received the U.S. Department of State's Director General's Cup.

Mr. Speaker, as an ambassador extraordinaire who is credited with guiding our country through some difficult relationships and challenges, Ambassador Todman paved the way for other people of color to excel at and eventually lead the U.S. State Department. He is a trailblazer, and has opened many doors for young people who aspire to his level of excellence and dedication to country.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands, I wish Ambassador Todman a very happy 85th birthday and I extend my best wishes to his wife Doris and their 4 children, Terence, Patricia, Kathryn and Michael and his wider circle of family and friends. May God continue to bless him with good health and long life and on behalf of the Congress of the United States, thank him for his long, dedicated and distinguished service to our country.

• 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.

HONORING FERNANDO “CHITO”  
SALINAS

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Fernando “Chito” Salinas for his dedication and contributions to the City of Laredo and South Texas.

Mr. Salinas was born in 1924 in Laredo, Texas. “Chito”, as he was known by friends, attended Christen Junior High School and later graduated from Martin High School in 1942. After he graduated, he attended Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. He transferred to Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana where he pursued a medical career. However, he found that his true calling was in fashion and retail. After moving back to Laredo, he helped his father run the family retail business, Los Dos Laredos. In 1952, Mr. Salinas opened his own store, Don Antonio’s Men’s Wear. After a brief trip to Europe in the 1960s, Mr. Salinas added the Castilian room to Don Antonio’s that would specialize in high-end styles and hats. He was known both locally and internationally for the quality of clothes, but especially for the unique hats that his store carried. Mr. Salinas would travel regularly around the world to fashion hot spots, such as New York, Los Angeles, and Europe, to bring high-end fashion back to southern Texas.

Aside from his impact on the fashion industry in Laredo, Mr. Salinas started the Fernando A. Salinas Charitable Trust in 2005 to benefit Laredo and Webb County. This Trust was designed to provide funding to charitable programs around Laredo and has made donations to over 75 different charitable organizations and government agencies. Mr. Salinas had a commitment to improve his community, especially its education, religion and health programs. The Trust has made it possible for the youth in Laredo to go to college through the scholarship portion and also provided healthcare services to the underserved. Javier B. Santos, trustee for the Salinas Trust on behalf of Fernando Salinas, will continue to provide services to Laredo and Webb County.

In December of 2008, Mr. Salinas was honored as a “Paul Harris Fellow”. He also worked heavily with the South Texas Food Bank and helped start Kids Cafes in El Cenizo, Rio Bravo and at the Main Boys and Girls Club in Laredo. He renovated the main building and set up an endowment for its maintenance for one million dollars. He has continued his philanthropic efforts with all organizations and institutions qualifying as 501 agencies in the community and completed the renovation of the Saint Anthony de Padua Chapel at St. Augustine High School. In 2008, he pledged one million dollars to Texas A&M International University for its College of Business Administration.

At the time of his passing, his trust had initiated his contract for Laredo property that will serve as an off campus site of Laredo Community College. The property, a landmark home, will house special events, small classes and receptions, and allow for easier registration and information.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the time to recognize the dedication, accomplish-

ments, and commitment of the late Fernando “Chito” Salinas.

HONORING NICOLLE AMOS

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of Nicolle Amos, a nurse practitioner in Mason City, Iowa. Nicolle was recently named the Iowa Nurse Practitioner of the Year by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP).

Established in 1985, the AANP was the first national organization to organize and advocate for issues affecting nurse practitioners. It currently serves eleven different regions and represents over 135,000 nurse practitioners in the United States. In addition to promoting education and research, the AANP advocates at all levels of government to shape various health policies and to recognize “NPs as providers of high-quality, cost-effective, and personalized healthcare.” The AANP gives the Nurse Practitioner of the Year Award to a nurse practitioner in each state who demonstrates excellence in their area of practice.

Nicolle has a degree as a family nurse practitioner as well as a master’s degree in nursing. She worked for seven years as a registered nurse before becoming a nurse practitioner. In November 2005, Nicolle opened her own practice, North Iowa Family Health Care. Although initially staffed only by herself, Nicolle now employs three other individuals—a receptionist, a medical assistant and a licensed practical nurse. She sees an average of 13–16 patients every day, and on Wednesdays she provides health services to local jail inmates. She believes that “God gives you a purpose in life,” and that that purpose is to meet her patients’ needs to the best of her ability.

I commend Nicolle on the hard work and quality of care she is providing to her patients in Iowa. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating her for the receipt of this award. I wish nothing but success and happiness to Nicolle, her husband Matt, and children Olivia and John.

RECOGNIZING PHARMACY’S CONTRIBUTION TO THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

**HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize pharmacy’s contribution to the American health care system. This week, over 300 members of the pharmacy community—including practicing pharmacists, pharmacy school faculty and students, state pharmacy leaders and pharmacy company executives—are here on Capitol Hill for the Third Annual National Association of Chain Drug Stores RxIMPACT Day.

These important health care providers are here to urge Congress to recognize the value

of pharmacists and promote access to these medication experts throughout our health care delivery system.

Nearly all Americans live within five miles of a community pharmacy, making pharmacists one of our most accessible health care provider groups. As my colleagues know, one of the most important functions of local pharmacies is to assist individuals in the communities where they operate with their health care needs. While the convenient, safe and efficient dispensing of prescription medicines is a core function of the modern neighborhood pharmacy—and one they take very seriously—pharmacies do much more that positively impacts the lives of their customers and patients. Today’s pharmacies offer a variety of preventive health care services including immunizations and vaccinations, health screening services, disease management services and routine advice on the best and most effective over-the-counter products for patients’ specific needs. Americans trust their neighborhood pharmacies to provide these services, which is one reason pharmacists have ranked in the top three each of the past eight years in Gallup’s annual survey of integrity across all professions.

As the face of neighborhood health care, pharmacies across the nation offer these and other cost-saving programs and services to help patients take medicines they need to achieve positive results from appropriate use of their medications.

Today, I celebrate the value of pharmacy and support efforts to protect access to neighborhood pharmacies and utilize pharmacies to improve the quality and reduce the costs of health care.

CONGRATULATING THE STRAITS EXCHANGE FOUNDATION

**HON. DAVID WU**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) of the Republic of China (Taiwan) as it marks its 20th anniversary.

Twenty years ago, the SEF was established as a semi-official organization with the mission of negotiating with mainland Chinese authorities. Soon thereafter, China established its own Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS). These two organizations have enabled officials from their respective governments to negotiate directly without affirming each other’s sovereign status.

Despite the suspension of negotiations for nearly a decade, SEF-ARATS talks resumed in Beijing in June 2008. The subsequent talks held in Taipei, Nanjing, Taichung, and Chongqing resulted in several agreements designed to promote economic and social relations between the two sides. Taiwan and China established direct flights for shipping and postal services, built a framework for financial cooperation and investment, agreed to increase tourism, and enhanced law enforcement coordination.

I congratulate Taiwan for the achievements of the Straits Exchange Foundation. I look forward to the SEF’s continued contributions in cultivating peace and prosperity across the Taiwan Strait for many years to come.

OBSTETRIC FISTULA PREVENTION,  
TREATMENT, HOPE AND DIGNITY  
RESTORATION ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Representatives BALDWIN, HIRONO, MOORE, and STARK, I am reintroducing comprehensive legislation to both prevent new obstetric fistulas and treat existing ones. The "Fistula Prevention, Treatment, Hope and Dignity Restoration Act" will bring new hope and opportunities to finally end this preventable condition. On the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, this is a fitting bill that will help millions of women achieve their maximum potential.

Pregnancy shouldn't leave a woman with a disability and ostracized from her community. Congress should ensure investments for the more than two million women worldwide that have obstetric fistula and we do what we can to prevent new cases. Fistula results from prolonged labor without medical attention due to the pressure created internally from obstructed delivery, which kills tissue where a hole between the woman's vagina and rectum develops, leaving her without control of her bladder and/or bowels for the rest of her life if she goes untreated. It often results in the death of the infant. Many women with obstetric fistula are abandoned by their husbands and families because they are considered "unclean" due to leaking excrement. Left without support, the women are forced to beg or turn to sex work to survive.

Fistula was once common throughout the world, but over the last century has been eradicated in Europe and North America through medical care. For example, New York's hospital for fistula patients, now the site of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, closed in 1895 due to diminishing cases. But still in 2011, from Bangladesh to Botswana, women continue to face these challenging deliveries and the complications associated with them, including obstetric fistulas.

Fortunately, multilateral organizations such as UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, and its partners in the Campaign to End Fistula, as well as bilateral organizations such as USAID are working with partners on a global campaign to prevent and treat fistula with the goal of making the condition as rare in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia as it is in the United States. Being able to repair a fistula is life changing—and it will have a direct impact on a woman and her family if she is able to stay in her community, rather than be shunned. At this point, the global community can do just that for about \$300 for each repair.

This bill authorizes the President to provide assistance to prevent and treat fistula. This legislation allows for a comprehensive, three pronged approach of prevention, treatment and reintegration which includes: increasing access to prenatal care, emergency obstetric care, postnatal care, and voluntary family planning; building local capacity and improving national health systems; addressing underlying social and economic inequities such as reducing the incidence of child marriage and increasing access to formal and informal education; and supporting reintegration and train-

ing programs to help women who have undergone treatment return to full and productive lives. These essential investments create a multiplier effect of benefits in the lives of women and their communities. The legislation also supports coordination among the community working to prevent and treat obstetric fistula through the International Obstetric Fistula Working Group. Support for monitoring, evaluation, and research to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of such programs throughout their planning and implementation phases will ensure the most efficient and effective use of U.S. foreign assistance dollars.

I urge my colleagues to support this important, meaningful legislation.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER FILLYAW

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 12-year-old Christopher Fillyaw, of Waterville, Maine, and his participation in Civic Day 2010 at the Alford Youth Center, in Waterville, Maine.

On Civic Day 2010, 8 students from Benton Elementary School shadowed civic leaders to learn about the important work that they do to serve their communities. I was very impressed with Christopher's comments during a ceremony honoring our troops and would like to enter his remarks into the RECORD:

I would like to start out by saying Thank You to all of our brave men and women and their families in the military. They risk their lives and the lives of their families and fight everyday to ensure the freedoms that we as Americans enjoy and sometimes take for granted. If it were not for these brave men and women who serve our country so well, who knows where we would be today.

We really owe them so much more than they receive, for every day is a struggle and the hardships they have to endure while they are in enemy's territory away from loved ones and unfamiliar grounds and then here at home getting readjusted to fit back into their own surroundings. There are no words to describe how important of a job they have and the sacrifices they have to make to do their jobs. It is really amazing. This is one of the hardest and most unbearable jobs in the world to risk the life of your own and the stability of your own family in hopes to save and secure the American way.

I hope that when I grow up I can pay a little something back in some way to show how much I thank them for making my life and my family's life safer.

Chris's comments ring true and showcase the next generation's respect for the sacrifice made by those who keep all of us safe here at home.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the words of Christopher Fillyaw and his commitment to public service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN AND THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW YORK CITY BRANCH

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Women's History Month to recognize the 125th Anniversary of the American Association of University Women New York City Branch. Since 1881 the American Association of University Women, AAUW, has been the nation's leading voice promoting education and equity for women and girls. Through its vital nationwide network, AAUW influences public debate on critical social issues such as education, civil rights, and health care.

AAUW sponsors community programs; publishes groundbreaking research on women, girls and education; provides the world's largest source of funding exclusively for graduate women; and fights sex discrimination in education. AAUW's work extends globally through its membership in the International Federation of University Women, 72 national federations and associations worldwide.

The New York City Branch was founded in 1886 and is the second oldest established Chapter in the nation. In 1949, the New York City chapter purchased their Victorian Italianate Brownstone headquarters at 111 East 37th Street in the historic Murray Hill district of Manhattan. Under the leadership of President Dr. Nkechi Agwu, the Association continues to carry out the mission, value statement, vision and diversity of this great institution.

In 1951, under the Presidency of Dr. Ruth Wright, the New York City Branch began to honor women who have contributed immensely to the city, nation and the world. These were women who made outstanding contributions in many fields—education, the arts, business, science, medicine, anthropology, law and journalism. Some notable past "Woman of Achievement" honorees include African American trailblazing history makers like operatic and concert singer, Marian Anderson; American journalist and former foreign news correspondent, Charlayne Hunter-Gault, who was also one of the first Black students to attend the University of Georgia and graduate; and "The Mother of Medicine in Harlem," Dr. Muriel Petioni, who founded the Susan Smith McKinney Steward Medical Society for Black women physicians.

This year's theme, "She Touched Me," will salute distinguished women who have played an important role in spearheading women and girl issues throughout this Nation and around the world. Please join in recognizing the 130th Anniversary of the American Association of University Women and the 125th Anniversary of the New York City Branch Chapter.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JIM JORDAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor during two rollcall votes taken on Thursday, March 3.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcalls 161 and 162.

HONORING 8TH GRADERS AT  
CARLISLE MIDDLE SCHOOL**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the eighth-grade students at Carlisle Middle School in Carlisle, Iowa. These students recently finished first in the nation in the FBI's Safe Online Surfing (SOS) Internet Challenge in December 2010.

The SOS Internet Challenge is a national competition that seeks to educate elementary and middle school students about the importance of safety when using the internet. The topics include protecting personal information, online predators, cyberbullying, instant messaging, social networking, copyright, and more. Scores in this competition are determined by a series of web-based quizzes the students take after completing the program. Over 1,000 eighth-grade students from 47 schools in 17 states participated in the December SOS Internet Challenge.

The Carlisle Middle School eighth-grade students completed the SOS Internet Challenge under the direction of their technology instructor Julie Thompson. While the class as a whole placed first in the challenge, those students who received the top scores were Bailey Garner, Kaleigh Haus, Max Becker, Lynn Huang, and Josh Hagedorn. These five students were awarded FBI bags that included school supplies and certificates.

I commend the eighth-grade students at Carlisle Middle School for their exemplary work in the SOS Internet Challenge. In this world of advanced technology that allows for increased networking, it is imperative that our children know how to keep themselves and their personal information safe.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating these students on their accomplishments. It is an honor to serve as their representative, and I wish them the best of luck in the future.

## IN RECOGNITION OF JOE BURNS

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Joe Burns, a U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman from San Bruno who will celebrate his 20th birthday on March 5, 2011. This is an extraordinary birthday for Joe, not only because he is

entering the second decade of his life, but because it's a miracle that he is alive.

Joe's job was to provide medical care for Marines with Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Division in Afghanistan. On February 17, 2011 he and three Marines were in an armored vehicle in Helmand Province, when they struck an Improvised Explosive Device. The IED literally blew up underneath Joe's feet. The vehicle went up in the air and was propelled forward. Joe broke five bones in his heel and suffered a concussion. One Marine also suffered a heel injury, the other two were not hurt.

It is absolutely miraculous that everyone survived the ambush. The vehicle was Mine Resistant Ambush Protected, or MRAP. Joe's mother Lori Burns is convinced that it was that technology that saved her son's life. She recalls how she first learned about the incident. The hospital corpsman treating Joe handed him a phone and he said: "Mom, I'm ok, I broke my heel, they blew me up. I got to fly in a helo and I think I'm getting a Purple Heart."

Joe was treated in hospitals in Afghanistan, Germany and San Diego and received a cast on his foot in each place. This young man did not want to leave Afghanistan; he wanted to continue serving his country despite his injury. I want to thank Joe for his service. He represents the courage and bravery of our troops.

Joe grew up in San Bruno, California and went to St. Roberts Elementary School. After he graduated from Burlingame High School in June 2009, he was enlisted in the Navy in October of the same year.

On January 1, 2011, Joe was deployed on his first tour to Afghanistan—not exactly what he expected. When you enlist in the Navy, his mother quotes Joe as saying, you think you are going to be on water, not sand. It was on day 47 of his deployment that the IED blew up underneath him and sent him back home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to celebrate the life and 20th birthday of Joe Burns on this day, March 5, 2011.

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to International Women's Day, which recognizes and celebrates the economic, political, and social achievements of women throughout our global community. Since 1911, millions of women and men have gathered together on this date to campaign for the right of women to vote, work, hold public office and be treated without discrimination. This year marks the Global Centenary of International Women's Day and I am proud to help commemorate this anniversary by recognizing the incomparable achievements that women here in the United States and throughout the world have thus far achieved.

Over the years, women have made great strides in their quest for equality and we should applaud these advances. However, we must also recognize that our work is not over. While women now hold positions in the highest ranks of government, work as doctors, sci-

entists and attorneys, their wages still lag behind those of men performing the same work. The passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act moved us one step closer to equality in the workplace, but there is still progress to be made. And though it is encouraging that crimes against women are now treated with the seriousness they deserve, the rate of crimes committed against women continues to exceed that of those committed against men. Although we must view the advances that have been achieved as heartening and important strides forward, we must continue to labor until full equality and equal access to opportunity for women is achieved.

In New York's 22nd Congressional District, which I proudly represent, the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce and Women's Leadership Alliance, along with their partners in all of the other area Chambers, have been engaged in promoting, supporting and encouraging the leadership, professional growth and economic success of women throughout the Hudson Valley region. Their successes are clearly a shining example of the creative accomplishments that have been realized by women worldwide. I wish to compliment the Chamber on the excellent leadership in supporting women to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the women of the Hudson Valley, all of the members of the Dutchess Regional Chamber of Commerce, as well as women throughout the world as they celebrate the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day. I am proud to stand with them as they continue to work tirelessly toward full equality for women everywhere.

## HONORING CASIMIR PULASKI, POLISH-AMERICAN HERO OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND HONORARY AMERICAN CITIZEN, AND CELEBRATING PULASKI DAY

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Polish and American freedom fighter Casimir Pulaski. Yesterday in my home state of Illinois, we celebrated Casimir Pulaski Day, which is observed on the first Monday of March. Prior to the Pulaski Day celebration at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago, I joined with Representative MIKE QUIGLEY and Senator MARK KIRK to announce the introduction of a new bill to push for Poland's inclusion in the Visa Waiver Program. Certainly there is no better day than the one honoring Casimir Pulaski to promote the strengthening of America's ties with Poland.

Born in Warsaw, Poland, on March 6, 1745, Casimir Pulaski was a skilled commander who fought against Russian forces in Poland. Based upon his work fighting for freedom in Poland, Pulaski was recruited by Benjamin Franklin to join in the American Revolution. In his first correspondence to George Washington, Pulaski famously wrote, "I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it." In his first battle of the Revolution, the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777, Pulaski helped alter the course of history by rallying a counterattack

against advancing British forces that afforded Washington and countless American troops the time needed to successfully retreat. As a result, Washington promoted Pulaski to brigadier general of the American cavalry.

His influence on American independence did not end there. Pulaski organized the Continental Army's first successful cavalry unit, often using his own money to finance equipment for his men. He introduced modern military tactics to the Americans and led troops in numerous battles and sieges up and down the eastern seaboard.

On October 9, 1779, during the Battle of Savannah, Pulaski was struck by grapeshot while attempting to lead a secondary charge against the entrenched British. He was taken aboard the USS *Wasp* and died from his wounds two days later. On October 15, he was buried at sea. Today Pulaski is remembered as the father of the American cavalry and one of the heroes of the American Revolution.

In 2009, on the 230th anniversary of his death, Congress honored Pulaski posthumously as an honorary citizen of the United States, marking only the seventh time in America's history that an individual has been granted such an honor. Today, I ask all Americans to remember a true Polish-American hero who devoted and ultimately sacrificed his life to the pursuit of freedom.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF BILLY  
BOB'S TEXAS

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the 30th anniversary of Billy Bob's Texas, which opened on April 1, 1981 and is proud to be known as the World's Largest Honky-Tonk. The building known as Billy Bob's was built over a century ago in 1910 as a cattle barn in Fort Worth's historic Stockyards. This Fort Worth landmark has been an invaluable attraction for both local residents and visitors from around the world. But this iconic building does not only contribute to the Texas culture in Fort Worth, but also to the economic prosperity of the neighborhood and the city. It has entertained more than 17 million visitors, served as a venue to tens of thousands of music artists including the greatest names in country and classic rock, and is proud to have bucked more than 46,000 bulls in its indoor arena. Billy Bob's truly does preserve Fort Worth's western heritage. I want to congratulate owners Holt Hickman, Don Jury, Steve Murrin, and Billy and Pam Minick.

HONORING FIRE CAPTAIN SCOTT  
CARNEVALE

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Rep. LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor the memory of a man who gave his life serving the people of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Alameda Fire Captain Scott Carnevale, a resident of Mill Valley, California, died at the age of 42 on January 3, 2011, of occupational cancer.

Cpt. Carnevale was a proud Mill Valley native. He attended Mill Valley Middle School and Tamalpais High School, and it was at Tam High that he first met his future wife, Elizabeth. Mill Valley is also where Cpt. Carnevale took an early interest in firefighting, volunteering with the Mill Valley Fire Department in 1992. Cpt. Carnevale then attended the fire academy in Santa Rosa and graduated the following year.

Early in his career, Cpt. Carnevale served as a seasonal firefighter in Marin and worked for the Tamalpais Fire District before finally joining the Alameda Air Station as a full-time firefighter. When the airbase closed in 1997, Cpt. Carnevale was hired by the city of Alameda, where he was promoted to Apparatus Operator in 2001 and Captain of Station Two in 2007.

Cpt. Carnevale was also dedicated to his fellow firefighters. He served as an Executive Board Trustee and Shift Vice President for the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 689. He was also an active member of the Fire Labor Management Team, and he organized Alameda Fire Department's participation in the California Professional Firefighters Exposure Reporting Program.

Cpt. Carnevale had many outside passions and skills, including craftsmanship and the outdoors. He helped design and build his family's home in Mill Valley. He also helped to restore the fire department's two antique fire rigs, and he took it on himself to repaint the insignia at the front door of Station Three. Even a diagnosis of cancer could not slow him down, as he continued to enjoy spending time with his family, traveling, and kayaking.

Cpt. Carnevale is survived by his wife Elizabeth Carnevale and his eight-year-old son.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a profound sense of loss that we ask you to join us in honoring the life of Cpt. Scott Carnevale. Family and friends remember Cpt. Carnevale as an adventurer who was loved and respected for his integrity, selflessness, and dependability. The people of the Bay Area remember him as a true hero.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE CITY OF  
WALDPART, OREGON

**HON. KURT SCHRADER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Waldport, Oregon on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary. Nestled along Oregon's beautiful coast line, Waldport has long been known for its pristine beaches, premier fishing, and forest products.

The first settlers traveled to the town by means of the Alsea River in the late 1870's and named it Waldport. The name comes from the German word for forest "wald" and "port" for the town site's location. The town had long been home to several Native American coastal tribes and would come to lay upon an old Indian burial ground. Its founders, David and Orlena Ruble would map out the city, using only the evening stars as their guide. By 1890

the city would be chartered and would go on to see decades of robust economic growth.

In 1918, Waldport would build its very own railroad which was used by the United States Army to log and transport spruce for its airplanes. After World War I ended, communities throughout the Pacific Northwest would weather a small recession as the demand for such materials declined.

Prior to the last two decades, Waldport's economy was driven by logging, timber products, fishing, and dairy and would be home to sawmills and salmon canneries. Salmon, trout, and surf fishing is at its best in this quaint coastal community.

Today, Waldport is as resilient as ever and maintains its coastal charm. When the tide goes out visitors and residents alike can dig for clams, comb the city's pristine beaches, and rake crabs. Waldport is a quiet city where one can escape the hustle and bustle of daily life and enjoy everything life has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent the City of Waldport, Oregon and its residents. I congratulate the citizens of Waldport on their centennial and I look forward to sharing in the celebration.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S  
DAY

**HON. JOHN P. SARBANES**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day. Created in 1911 to demand equality, today's International Women's Day is a reminder of all of the glass ceilings that have been broken in the past century. But it is also a day to remember how far we have left to go. Nowhere is this more evident than in the maternal mortality rates in some parts of the world. As many as one in eight women die because of childbirth related complications in some parts of Afghanistan. A full third of women in the developing world deliver without a skilled attendant present. And we lose approximately half a million women every year in childbirth, or one woman every minute.

Pregnancy should not be a death sentence, and on this International Women's Day I recommit to meeting the challenges laid out in the 5th Millennium Development Goal (MDG). The 5th MDG states that the global community is committed to reducing maternal mortality rates by 75 percent by 2015; today we are only a third of the way there, and it will take action from us all in order to succeed. We know how to prevent maternal deaths. Women need a skilled birth attendant present when they deliver. They need access to life-saving and inexpensive medications in case something goes wrong. And they need sanitary conditions to prevent the spread of infection. One organization in my district is committed to making sure that every woman has access to these services when they deliver.

For nearly 40 years and in more than 150 countries, Jhpiego, an international health nonprofit affiliated with Johns Hopkins University, has worked to prevent the needless deaths of women and families. Working with

health ministries, community organizations, and USAID, Jhpiego prepares local health care workers with the latest in maternal and newborn health skills, building sustainable local capacity that will stay on the ground long after they leave.

Together with partner organizations, Jhpiego helped develop the national midwifery education program in Afghanistan that has educated and graduated more than 2,000 skilled midwives. When the 2010 earthquake devastated Haiti, Jhpiego was on the ground to ensure that pregnant women had access to the care they needed. And, Jhpiego is leading the way in finding innovative solutions for the developing world's most pressing medical problems—like an inexpensive way to diagnose cervical cancer in places that lack electricity and access to lab tests.

I commend the work of Jhpiego and others who are working day and night to end the dangers of childbirth. Childbirth is one of life's great moments, and together we can ensure that more women survive that day and live to see the 101st anniversary of International Women's Day.

HONORING MR. AND MRS. ALLAN  
AND ANN ROSE

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mr. and Mrs. Allan and Ann Rose, this year's recipients of the Joseph Saporito Lifetime of Service Award.

Allan and Ann have not only been married for 50 years, but they have been serving our community for just as long. Faithful church goers, Allan and Ann have been largely active in their respective parishes. Allan serves on the Administrative Board, which he has previously chaired, of the United Methodist Church of Pittston and the Board of Methodist Homes. Ann is a member of the Pastoral Advisory Council and Altar & Rosary Society of the Parish Community of St. John the Evangelist in Pittston. Both Allan and Ann credit their love of God for their drive to serve and give back to the community.

Allan Rose, a retired administrator at Abington Heights School District, is the chair of Local Development for Wesley Village. He is treasurer and past president of the Chanters of Irem Temple. Allan has been involved in the West Pittston Lions Club, the West Pittston Ambulance Association, the West Pittston Library Board, and the Shrine Club of Greater Wilkes-Barre, of which he is a past president. Ann Rose is a member of the JLW Mountain Laurel Lions Club, where her duties include volunteering at the local VA Hospital once a month. She is also a member and the past secretary of the Lithuanian Women's Club of Wyoming Valley, a volunteer with the Care and Concern Food Pantry and Kids' Kloset, and a member of the Blooms and Bubbles Chapter of the Red Hat Society. Together, Allan and Ann volunteer with Meals on Wheels of Greater Pittston and help at the annual summer bazaar of St. John the Evangelist Church and the United Methodist hoagie sale. They have always supported each other's selfless efforts, and have greatly enjoyed sharing their ability to give to others.

Mr. Speaker, Allan and Ann Rose are not only extraordinary individuals, but they are a remarkable couple. Their loving and kind nature has emanated throughout the community. Their altruistic spirit and devotion to our community will never be forgotten, and is enormously appreciated. Mr. Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Rose on receiving the Joseph Saporito Lifetime of Service Award and recognizing what an inspiring couple they have become to our community.

HONORING HENRY D. MOORE  
PARISH HOUSE AND LIBRARY

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Henry D. Moore Parish House and Library as it celebrates 100 years serving the community of Steuben, Maine.

Henry D. Moore, a native of Steuben, was a philanthropist who donated the library and parish house for use by the people of Steuben. Opened in 1911, the donation of the Parish House and Library was monumental to the towns and communities in rural, downeast Maine. Many towns in the region did not have a library, and the new building helped provide access to new information and resources in Washington County.

Today, the Parish House and Library serves as a non-profit community center, meeting house and venue for classes, arts and performances. The Moore Library also boasts an impressive 12,000 item collection, featuring many rare pieces of literature and other works collected over the years.

The Parish House and Library are a central part of Steuben and Washington County. The facility continues to serve the community, including the Kindergarten through Grade 8 students and teachers at the Steuben Ella Lewis School across the street.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that you will join me in celebrating the centennial of the Henry D. Moore Parish House and Library in Steuben, Maine.

THE EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT  
TAX CUT ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act. This act, a companion to my Family Education Freedom Act, takes a further step toward returning control over education resources to private citizens by providing a \$5,000 tax credit for donations to scholarship funds to enable low-income children to attend private schools. It also encourages private citizens to devote more of their resources to helping public schools, by providing a \$5,000 tax credit for cash or in-kind donations to public schools to support academic or extra curricular programs.

I need not remind my colleagues that education is one of the top priorities of the Amer-

ican people. After all, many members of Congress have proposed education reforms and a great deal of time is spent debating these proposals. However, most of these proposals expand federal control over education. Many proposals that claim to increase local control over education actually extend federal power by holding schools "accountable" to federal bureaucrats and politicians. Of course, schools should be held accountable for their results, but they should be held accountable to parents and school boards not to federal officials. Therefore, I propose we move in a different direction and embrace true federalism by returning control over the education dollar to the American people.

One of the major problems with centralized control over education funding is that spending priorities set by Washington-based Representatives, staffers, and bureaucrats do not necessarily match the needs of individual communities. In fact, it would be a miracle if spending priorities determined by the wishes of certain politically powerful representatives or the theories of Education Department functionaries match the priorities of every community in a country as large and diverse as America. Block grants do not solve this problem as they simply allow states and localities to choose the means to reach federally-determined ends.

Returning control over the education dollar for tax credits for parents and for other concerned citizens returns control over both the means and ends of education policy to local communities. People in one community may use this credit to purchase computers, while children in another community may, at last, have access to a quality music program because of community leaders who took advantage of the tax credit contained in this bill.

Children in some communities may benefit most from the opportunity to attend private, parochial, or other religious schools. One of the most encouraging trends in education has been the establishment of private scholarship programs. These scholarship funds use voluntary contributions to open the doors of quality private schools to low-income children. By providing a tax credit for donations to these programs, Congress can widen the educational opportunities and increase the quality of education for all children. Furthermore, privately-funded scholarships raise none of the concerns of state entanglement raised by publicly-funded vouchers.

There is no doubt that Americans will always spend generously on education, the question is, "who should control the education dollar—politicians and bureaucrats or the American people?" Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in placing control of education back in the hands of citizens and local communities by sponsoring the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act.

IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day. Around the world, this global milestone is marked as a time to celebrate

women and their achievements throughout history. It is also a time to reaffirm our commitment to ending discrimination and violence against women and pursuing policies to guarantee the basic rights of every woman and girl.

Over the past century, tremendous progress has been made in achieving full gender equality. Internationally, women account for 80 percent of the 70 million micro-borrowers, 67 countries have gender equity laws on their books, and women have been elected to government leadership roles in every country. Here in the U.S., women continue to play an important role in caring for their families, but now, more than 50% of college students are women and nearly 60% of the American workforce is female. I am also extremely proud that today in the United States, more women than ever before are being elected to public office. I was honored to serve with the first woman Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and the 18 women Members of Congress from California.

But there is still more work to be done. At this very moment, there are too many parts of the world where women and girls are denied access to education, lack adequate health care, die from preventable causes, or are targets of sexual and physical violence. Even here, in our own country, women on average still earn 77 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. In the midst of our recession, pay parity is no longer solely a question of gender equity; it is an issue of economic necessity.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of Rep. JAN SCHAKOWSKY's International Women's Day Resolution. And while this day is of unique importance, I believe that we can and must treat every day as an opportunity to fight for gender equality around the world.

SMALL BUSINESS PAPERWORK  
MANDATE ELIMINATION ACT OF  
2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2011*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I have heard complaints from farmers and small business owners across the 2nd congressional district who believe that having to file this onerous 1099 form for any payment greater than \$600 is an unnecessary bureaucratic nightmare that needs to be repealed. Small businesses are the engines that drive our nation's economy, and they should focus on creating jobs, not filling out paperwork. Now is the time to reduce the obstacles for small business growth, not increase them, and repealing this provision would help accomplish that goal.

If action is not taken, the 1099 reporting requirements set to be enacted in 2012 will bury our country's farmers and small businesses owners in excessive paperwork. It ultimately will raise the cost of doing business and create an economic burden through increased prices for goods and services. Meanwhile, the IRS will be swamped in 1099 Forms while other vital enforcement activities are not met.

It is undisputed that these requirements are unacceptable. There is nearly unanimous

agreement in Congress around repealing this onerous provision. Already the Senate has taken action and approved bipartisan legislation that would fix this problem. Nevertheless, the House Majority has decided to poison the legislation at hand with an offset containing a severe tax increase aimed squarely at middle income Americans. It would raise taxes on middle-income families who simply get a new job, work extra shifts, or receive a bonus for good performance. It is insensitive and even more onerous due to the fact it would place a greater burden on working families trying to purchase health care.

While I support repealing the overly burdensome 1099 requirements—and while I will reluctantly vote for this legislation—I find the choice that the Majority has put in front of us to be truly objectionable. The current offset will raise taxes and will hurt Americans' access to health care. This choice is unacceptable, and I look forward to working with the Senate and the Administration to ensure that this divisive and unnecessary attack on middle-income Americans is taken out of the final legislation and that a more suitable offset is found.

WE THE PEOPLE

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the We the People Act. The We the People Act forbids federal courts, including the Supreme Court, from adjudicating cases concerning state laws and polices relating to religious liberties or "privacy," including cases involving sexual practices, sexual orientation or reproduction. The We the People Act also protects the traditional definition of marriage from judicial activism by ensuring the Supreme Court cannot abuse the equal protection clause to redefine marriage. In order to hold federal judges accountable for abusing their powers, the act also provides that a judge who violates the act's limitations on judicial power shall either be impeached by Congress or removed by the president, according to rules established by the Congress.

The United States Constitution gives Congress the authority to establish and limit the jurisdiction of the lower federal courts and limit the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. The Founders intended Congress to use this authority to correct abuses of power by the federal judiciary.

Some may claim that an activist judiciary that strikes down state laws at will expands individual liberty. Proponents of this claim overlook the fact that the best guarantor of true liberty is decentralized political institutions, while the greatest threat to liberty is concentrated power. This is why the Constitution carefully limits the power of the federal government over the states.

In recent years, we have seen numerous abuses of power by federal courts. Federal judges regularly strike down state and local laws on subjects such as religious liberty, sexual orientation, family relations, education, and abortion. This government by federal judiciary causes a virtual nullification of the Tenth Amendment's limitations on federal power. Furthermore, when federal judges impose their

preferred polices on state and local governments, instead of respecting the polices adopted by those elected by, and thus accountable to, the people, republican government is threatened. Article IV, section 4 of the United States Constitution guarantees each state a republican form of government. Thus, Congress must act when the executive or judicial branch threatens the republican governments of the individual states. Therefore, Congress has a responsibility to stop federal judges from running roughshod over state and local laws. The Founders would certainly have supported congressional action to reign in federal judges who tell citizens where they can and can't place manger scenes at Christmas.

Mr. Speaker, even some supporters of liberalized abortion laws have admitted that the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision, which overturned the abortion laws of all fifty states, is flawed. The Supreme Court's Establishment Clause jurisdiction has also drawn criticism from across the political spectrum. Perhaps more importantly, attempts to resolve, by judicial fiat, important issues like abortion and the expression of religious belief in the public square increase social strife and conflict. The only way to resolve controversial social issues like abortion and school prayer is to restore respect for the right of state and local governments to adopt polices that reflect the beliefs of the citizens of those jurisdictions. I would remind my colleagues and the federal judiciary that, under our Constitutional system, there is no reason why the people of New York and the people of Texas should have the same polices regarding issues such as marriage and school prayer.

Unless Congress acts, a state's authority to define and regulate marriage may be the next victim of activist judges. After all, such a decision would simply take the Supreme Court's decision in the *Lawrence* case, which overturned all state sodomy laws, to its logical conclusion. Congress must launch a preemptive strike against any further federal usurpation of the states' authority to regulate marriage by removing issues concerning the definition of marriage from the jurisdiction of federal courts.

Although marriage is licensed and otherwise regulated by the states, government did not create the institution of marriage. Government regulation of marriage is based on state recognition of the practices and customs formulated by private individuals interacting in civil institutions, such as churches and synagogues. Having federal officials, whether judges, bureaucrats, or congressmen, impose a new definition of marriage on the people is an act of social engineering profoundly hostile to liberty.

It is long past time that Congress exercises its authority to protect the republican government of the states from out-of-control federal judges. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor the We the People Act.

THE K-9 COMPANION CORPS ACT  
OF 2011

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would establish a



grant program to encourage the use of assistance dogs by members of our Armed Forces and veterans.

Tens of thousands of our service members and veterans are struggling to cope with physical or mental health disabilities. Assistance dogs help these men and women lead more independent lives, assisting with mobility and balance, retrieving and carrying objects, responding to sounds, getting help, and providing social interaction and companionship. Trained dogs also offer many therapeutic benefits to soldiers and veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder by elevating their moods, building confidence, and reducing stress, all of which assist them in their transition back to civilian life.

Nonprofit organizations that train and provide assistance dogs to help our military personnel and veterans are receiving more and more requests. Groups throughout the country—including Hawaii Fi-Do Service Dogs in my congressional district—train and provide dogs for returning soldiers and veterans but rely on fundraising and volunteer staff to meet the growing demand.

The K-9 Companion Corps Act would provide competitive grants to build the capacity of nonprofit organizations whose mission is to address the physical and mental health needs of the men and women who have served our nation so honorably through the dogs they train and provide.

I thank my former colleague, Congressman Ron Klein of Florida, for his work on this bill last Congress and for his unwavering commitment to our military personnel, veterans, and their families.

TRIBUTE TO GREAT COMEBACKS  
TONY SNOW WINNER JUSTIN BLUM

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, Justin Blum of Florence, South Carolina. Justin has been selected as the Great Comebacks Tony Snow Public Service Award recipient for 2010. This award, named in memory of the former White House advisor and news broadcaster who passed away from colon cancer, was created to honor extraordinary individuals who are passionate about serving their country while dealing courageously with debilitating intestinal diseases and ostomy surgery.

The Great Comebacks Program is sponsored by ConvaTec in partnership with the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation (CCFA), the United Ostomy Associations of America, Inc. (UOAA) and the Intestinal Disease Education and Awareness Society (IDEAS). Each year, Great Comebacks presents awards to individuals throughout the United States who have struggled with a chronic intestinal condition and have exhibited extraordinary strength and courage for managing to live full and productive lives despite daily struggles. Today, there are more than 700,000 men, women and children throughout our country affected by the very conditions that can result in an ostomy.

Following a 21-year history of ulcerative colitis, Mr. Blum opted for ostomy surgery while a Major on active duty in the Army. The words

"I can't" have never been part of Mr. Blum's vocabulary and he uses his ostomy to set an example to others that anything is possible in life if you set your mind to it. This drive allowed Mr. Blum to complete 21 years of active Army service before retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and to tackle his next goal of becoming a JROTC instructor. He is currently in his 15th year as a JROTC instructor at Marlboro County High School in Bennettsville, South Carolina and in this capacity has worked with more than 5,000 at-risk students.

Mr. Blum credits his wife for providing him with the emotional and physical support needed to transition to "life" as a permanent ostomate. He also credits his Wound Ostomy Care (WOC) nurse, Cindy Norris with performing selfless acts on behalf of her clients and for always being available to him.

Commenting on his ostomy, Justin says, "The best advice I have given other ostomates is that they are very fortunate and are now in a position to accomplish anything. As an ostomate, they are cured from previous afflictions like colitis or Crohns' and they have been provided a second chance for life. They can set an example for all to emulate by making a difference in the lives of others who do not have the motivation and self-esteem they are experiencing."

I urge my colleagues to take the time to meet with some of the Great Comebacks award recipients. Their personal stories, like Justin's, are inspirational and will heighten your awareness about some of the huge strides being made by people living with intestinal diseases or recovering from ostomy surgery.

THE FAMILY EDUCATION  
FREEDOM ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Family Education Freedom Act, a bill to empower millions of working and middle-class Americans to choose a non-public education for their children, as well as making it easier for parents to actively participate in improving public schools. The Family Education Freedom Act accomplishes its goals by allowing American parents a tax credit of up to \$5,000 for the expenses incurred in sending their child to private, public, parochial, other religious school, or for home schooling their children.

The Family Education Freedom Act returns the fundamental principal of a truly free economy to America's education system: what the great economist Ludwig von Mises called "consumer sovereignty". Consumer sovereignty simply means consumers decide who succeeds or fails in the market. Businesses that best satisfy consumer demand will be the most successful. Consumer sovereignty is the means by which the free market maximizes human happiness.

Currently, consumers are less than sovereign in the education "market." Funding decisions are increasingly controlled by the federal government. Because "he who pays the piper calls the tune," public, and even private

schools, are paying greater attention to the dictates of federal "educrats" while ignoring the wishes of the parents to an ever-greater degree. As such, the lack of consumer sovereignty in education is destroying parental control of education and replacing it with state control. Loss of control is a key reason why so many of America's parents express dissatisfaction with the educational system.

According to a survey conducted by Education Next/Harvard PEPG, the majority of Americans support education tax credits. This poll also found strong support for education tax credits among liberals, moderates, conservatives, low-income individuals, African-Americans, and public-school employees. This is just one of numerous studies and public opinion polls showing that Americans want Congress to get the federal bureaucracy out of the schoolroom and give parents more control over their children's education.

Today, Congress can fulfill the wishes of the American people for greater control over their children's education by simply allowing parents to keep more of their hard-earned money to spend on education rather than force them to send it to Washington to support education programs reflective only of the values and priorities of Congress and the federal bureaucracy.

The \$5,000 tax credit will make a better education affordable for millions of parents. Madam Speaker, many parents who would choose to send their children to private, religious, or parochial schools are unable to afford the tuition, in large part because of the enormous tax burden imposed on the American family by Washington.

The Family Education Freedom Act also benefits parents who choose to send their children to public schools. Parents of children in public schools may use this credit to help improve their local schools by helping finance the purchase of educational tools such as computers or to ensure their local schools can offer enriching extracurricular activities such as music programs. Parents of public school students may also wish to use the credit to pay for special services, such as tutoring, for their children.

Increasing parental control of education is superior to funneling more federal tax dollars, followed by greater federal control, into the schools. A recent review of the relevant research conducted by Andrew J. Coulson of the CATO Institute shows that increasing parental controls increases academic achievement, efficiency, the orderliness of the classrooms, and the quality of school facilities. Not surprisingly, graduates of education system controlled by parents tend to achieve higher levels of education and earn more than their counterparts in bureaucratically controlled education systems.

Clearly, enactment of the Family Education Freedom Act is the best thing this Congress could do to improve public education. Furthermore, a greater reliance on parental expenditures rather than government tax dollars will help make the public schools into true community schools that reflect the wishes of parents and the interests of the students.

The Family Education Freedom Act will also aid those parents who choose to educate their children at home. Home schooling has become an increasingly popular, and successful, method of educating children. Home schooled children out-perform their public school peers



by 30 to 37 percentile points across all subjects on nationally standardized achievement exams. Home schooling parents spend thousands of dollars annually, in addition to the wages forgone by the spouse who forgoes outside employment, in order to educate their children in the loving environment of the home.

Ultimately, Mr. Speaker, this bill is about freedom. Parental control of child rearing, especially education, is one of the bulwarks of liberty. No nation can remain free when the state has greater influence over the knowledge and values transmitted to children than the family.

By moving to restore the primacy of parents to education, the Family Education Freedom Act will not only improve America's education, it will restore a parent's right to choose how best to educate one's own child, a fundamental freedom that has been eroded by the increase in federal education expenditures and the corresponding decrease in the ability of parents to provide for their children's education out of their own pockets. I call on all my colleagues to join me in allowing parents to devote more of their resources to their children's education and less to feed the wasteful Washington bureaucracy by supporting the Family Education Freedom Act.

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TWO WEEKS CONTINUING  
RESOLUTION

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, just last week, Congress passed a two-week Continuing Resolution to cut spending and keep the government running. Now, in all my years as an elected official I have never seen a CR (Continuing Resolution) last as little as two weeks!

I clearly see that on Capitol Hill these days it is only the big dogs that get to eat at the table! The Republican Party, while slamming through tax cuts for the rich last December is leading the charge for tens of billions of dollars in budget cuts for job training programs, environmental protection, disease control, programs to assist homeless veterans; transportation and infrastructure (including cuts to high speed rail and Amtrak), crime protection, education programs and dozens of other critical Extension of Remarks areas for our country.

As always, if these cuts do pass, they will fall on the shoulders on the working poor and middle class. It is obvious that Republican lawmakers in the House remain indifferent to the suffering the cuts could bring to the American people. Moreover, as shown in a study conducted by Moody's Analytics, their budget plan also jeopardizes American jobs and our country's economic future by rolling back investments that would help the private sector to grow and put people back to work!

RECOGNIZING YVONNE AUSTIN

**HON. STEVE STIVERS**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Yvonne Austin of Grove City, Ohio. Yvonne has been selected as a 2010 Great Comebacks Award recipient for the Central Region. Each year, Great Comebacks presents regional awards to 12 individuals throughout the United States who have struggled with a chronic intestinal condition and have exhibited extraordinary strength and courage for managing to live full and productive lives despite daily struggles.

An 18-year-old freshman in college, Yvonne was balancing two jobs with her education, while secretly struggling with symptoms she could not explain. A year later, she finally sought medical advice and was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. Despite this diagnosis Yvonne was determined not to let the disease hinder her tenacious work ethic or interrupt her active lifestyle.

With a great desire for travel, Yvonne set out to explore the world. Her adventurous spirit led her to the Great Barrier Reef, spending her time scuba diving, swimming with sharks, and even taking up waterskiing. However, Crohn's disease continued to invade her life with painful flare-ups and numerous hospitalizations. After 15 years of managing her symptoms with medications, Yvonne consented to a temporary ostomy in 2002 and opted for a permanent ileostomy in 2004.

Three friends nominated Yvonne for the Great Comebacks Award, describing her as a confident and inspirational woman who radiates positive energy and goes the extra mile for her family and friends. Yvonne's friends also recalled how she quickly rushed to the aid of a friend's mother who had received an emergency ostomy.

Today, Yvonne is a successful mortgage banker, and led by her adventurous spirit has for the past three years been a nationally-ranked competitive water skier. She is also an avid golfer, fundraises for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, and volunteers at a local children's hospital to provide support to parents and children who are living with an intestinal disease and/or an ostomy. Yvonne believes faith, humor and a positive attitude can overcome any adversity.

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MAKE COLLEGE AFFORDABLE ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to help millions of Americans afford higher education by introducing the Make College Affordable Act of 2011, which makes college tuition tax deductible. Today the average cost of a college education is over 30 thousand dollars per year! These high costs have left many middle class American families struggling to afford college for their children, who are often ineligible for financial aid. Therefore, middle class students have no choice but to obtain student loans, and thus leave college saddled with massive debt.

Even families who plan and save well in advance for their children's education may have a difficult time because their savings are eroded by taxation and inflation. The Make College Affordable Act will help these middle class students by allowing them, or their parents or guardians who claim them as dependents, to deduct the cost of college tuition as well as the cost of student loan repayments.

The Make College Affordable Act will also help older or nontraditional students looking to improve their job skills or prepare for a career change, by pursuing higher education. In today's economy, the average American worker can expect to change jobs, and even careers, several times during his or her working life, making it more important than ever that working Americans be able to devote their resources to continuing their educations.

Helping the American people use their own money to ensure every qualified American can receive a college education is one of the best investments this Congress can make in the future. I therefore urge my colleagues to help strengthen America by ensuring more Americans can obtain college educations by co-sponsoring the Make College Affordable Act.

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RECOGNIZING GREG SEGHEZZI

**HON. TOM McCLINTOCK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Greg Seghezzi of Grass Valley, California.

Greg was well-known in the Grass Valley community, and it would be hard to find many who didn't know and care for him. He was a member of the Grass Valley Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce and an active member of the men's ministry at Twin Cities Church. Greg had an uncompromising and uncommon work ethic: having owned a wine store and catering business as well as working as a realtor in Nevada County. He was the quintessential example of the American entrepreneur and innovator. Going far beyond being a successful businessman, Greg was also a dedicated servant to his community: donating food, supplies and hundreds of hours in the kitchen cooking for local fundraisers and special events.

For all of his success in the public arena, the single greatest joy in Greg's life was his family. Greg and Angie, his wife of 26 years, raised four outstanding children: Antonio, Gianna, Roman and Dominica. Whether it was driving across the state chasing volleyball matches and diving meets, or providing a strong and guiding example of hard work and fine values, Greg's largest investment of his time and energy went to loving and caring for his family in every way possible.

Mr. Speaker, men like Greg Seghezzi don't quickly fade from memory, nor can they ever be replaced. Whether through his professional life, or his personal dedication to his family and community, Greg touched many lives in our community; lives that he undoubtedly changed for the better and it is my honor to rise in his memory today.

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAIWAN'S STRAITS EXCHANGE FOUNDATION

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, on March 9, 2011, we celebrate the 20th anniversary of Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF). This Foundation was established as a vehicle to allow Taiwan and mainland China to work together on business matters, and other related issues.

Twenty years ago, when the Straits Exchange Foundation was formed, there was a great deal of tension between China and Taiwan. Flash forward to present day and the relationship between the two neighbors across the Taiwan Strait has improved dramatically.

These improved relations since President Ma Ying-jeou took office are most evident in The Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) that was signed between China and Taiwan in 2010, and allows for greater trade and commercial exchanges between the two countries.

Other significant agreements signed between Taiwan and China include: Direct Air and Sea Transport Agreements, which facilitate the free flow of people, goods and trade; Judicial Cooperation Agreement, by which the two sides agree to exchange law enforcement information to combat crime; Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Protection and Cooperation Agreement, which allows for better enforcement of IPR laws; plus an agreement to allow tourists from China to visit Taiwan. All these agreements and measures have resulted in increased trade flow, more cultural and tourism exchanges, and most of all, reduced tension along the Taiwan Strait.

While the Straits Exchange Foundation has improved the means of communication between Taipei and Beijing, I remain concerned

about the excessive Chinese military build-up off the coast of Taiwan. For the dialogue between China and Taiwan to have its intended effect—to promote peaceful and productive relations—then militarization of the region is not helpful.

Nevertheless, my colleagues and I are very encouraged to see the efforts between Taiwan and China to maintain peace and stability in East Asia. On the 20th Anniversary of the Straits Exchange Foundation, we congratulate the SEF on its achievement in promoting exchanges and better understanding across the Taiwan Strait.

**OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT**

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,186,168,803,680.47.

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

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,547,743,057,386.60 since then.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

**THE TEACHER TAX CUT ACT AND THE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS TAX RELIEF ACT**

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2011*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce two pieces of legislation that raise the

pay of teachers and other educators by cutting their taxes. I am sure that all my colleagues agree that it is long past time to begin treating those who have dedicated their lives to educating America's children with the respect they deserve. Compared to other professionals, educators are under-appreciated and under-paid. This must change if America is to have the finest education system in the world!

Quality education is impossible without quality teaching. If we continue to undervalue educators, it will become harder to attract, and keep, good people in the education profession. While educators' pay is primarily a local issue, Congress can, and should, help raise educators' take home pay by reducing educators' taxes.

This is why I am introducing the Teachers Tax Cut Act. This legislation provides every teacher in America with a \$3,000 tax credit. I am also introducing the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act, which extends the \$3,000 tax credit to counselors, librarians, and all school personnel involved in any aspect of the K-12 academic program.

The Teacher Tax Cut Act and the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act increase the salaries of teachers and other education professionals without raising federal expenditures. By raising the take-home pay of professional educators, these bills encourage highly qualified people to enter, and remain in, education. These bills also let America's professional educators know that the American people and the Congress respect their work.

I hope all my colleagues join me in supporting our nation's teachers and other professional educators by cosponsoring the Teacher Tax Cut Act and the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act.