

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, President Obama recently unveiled a new plan to reduce foreign oil imports by one-third over the next decade, which is timely given the instability sweeping across oil producing countries in the Middle East. To achieve that goal necessarily involves more fully developing renewable energy which his Administration and the Congress are committed to achieving. In my district, I am pleased that over a dozen new solar and solar-related companies have opened in the last three years, creating hundreds of jobs while reducing our reliance on foreign sources and protecting our environment.

The Department of Energy's Loan Guarantee Program is a critical factor in our country's effort to be a world leader in renewable energy. I would like to place in the RECORD a recent article in the Huffington Post on the importance of DOE's loan guarantee program and the potential loss of thousands of megawatts of bankable electricity and the tens of thousands of jobs if it is not allowed to continue.

A WIN-WIN FOR CLEAN ENERGY

(By Uwe T. Schmidt)

The nuclear tragedy in Japan and the disturbing upheaval in Libya and the Middle East have dominated the headlines, but it also serves as a haunting reminder that America's own energy security may be in peril unless we accelerate efforts to more fully develop energy alternatives that are reliable, safe and sufficient to meet our future needs.

Achieving energy independence has been a laudable but daunting goal since the first energy crisis in 1979. Fortunately, the Obama administration and Congress have embraced policies intended to spur investment and development in renewable energy projects, but it will take a major effort by the private sector and the support of government at all levels.

The private sector is doing its part. They have invested heavily in new, innovative technologies, assembled the engineering and technical support, arranged the necessary financing, and have been engaged at all levels to secure the Federal and local permitting and ultimately the requisite utility and distribution outlets.

Solar Trust of America (STA) is one of many American companies that are investing millions and utilizing proven technology to achieve California's ambitious goal of 33 percent renewable energy by year 2020. Such goals are unlikely without private-public collaboration. It is our job to harness the solar potential in areas like STA's thermal solar project site near Blythe in South-eastern California, utilizing our parabolic trough technology that will ultimately produce 1,000 megawatts of bankable electricity that is sufficient to supply 300,000

households with electricity, avoiding over 2,000,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

Our business model is unique in that it encompasses the entire American-based supply chain that involves engineering and technology specialists, financing through private equity funds, creating new demands for steel and other metals, project development and construction of the facilities, and management and operation of the plants.

Finally, it is a job producer. The first two of our four MW Blythe plants will employ 1,000 union construction jobs, another 7,500 supply chain jobs throughout the country, 100 on-going plant operations and post construction positions and, of course, the residual economic benefits to the local communities.

What is the government's role and how can it partner with STA and other companies to achieve these goals? Congress previously authorized a renewable energy loan guarantee program which is vital to securing the necessary financing to build large scale, sophisticated solar power plants and other renewable projects.

Without it, U.S. companies will be confronted with the sudden reversal of a national policy that two years ago encouraged them to invest in energy alternatives. Our Blythe plant is one of several major solar projects that has advanced through a diligent DOE review process for over a year and has met all the Federal and state permitting requirements.

STA and other solar companies have commenced preliminary site work just as Congress is considering legislation that would all but eliminate the loan guarantee program. Ironically, the House of Representatives passed a spending bill last month that would delete the loan guarantee program for renewable and clean coal technologies but left untouched loan guarantees for building nuclear plants.

This is not a government grant but simply a guarantee to facilitate the financing on loans to bring advanced technology to the market. Every dollar appropriated by Congress to DOE's Loan Guarantee Program spurs \$13 dollars in private investments and indeed whatever taxpayer funds are involved are repaid in full with interest.

The DOE loan guarantee is a "win-win" for government and the companies involved and will not only advance the cause of energy independence but will create hundreds of thousands of jobs across the country.

Yet all this is at risk if Congress rolls back the program and put into jeopardy the enormous amounts of private capital already committed and the tens of thousands of sustainable jobs involved in the construction and operation of the plants. Apparently there are no guarantees when the Congress acts in a politically charged atmosphere.

For our nation to fully develop renewable energy, it is clear that neither the private sector nor government can do it alone. It requires a partnership.

As we advance into this new millennium, it is now understood that our raw resources are finite, the planet is fragile, and that energy consumption to sustain growth globally is our greatest challenge. The answer to all this is renewable energy. There are no boundaries or limits to what we can accomplish if we work together.

HONORING OUR NATION'S NURSES

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our nation's nurses, and in recognition of the exemplary healthcare they provide to patients all across our country. Nurses represent the largest group of healthcare professionals, standing at the front lines of our nation's healthcare system. They are our brothers, our daughters, our neighbors and friends. My own sister was a nurse and my mother was a nurse's aide, and I remember the dedication and sense of service they brought to their job every day.

I'm sure that everyone in this chamber can remember one time, if not many, when a loved one needed medical help or felt ill. Often, a nurse is the first person by our side when we need it most. Often, their compassion, their expertise, and their decisions make all the difference.

Recently, my office had the chance to welcome my constituent Grace Paranzino, as a part of the Nurse in Washington Internship Program. She spoke of her experiences in nursing, and how we as a nation can better serve the needs of those who so often serve ours. For all the vital services they provide, nurses are severely short-staffed across the country: 2.5 million nursing positions are currently waiting to be filled. The Health Resources and Services Administration predicts that by 2030, that number could climb even higher to nearly 30%.

Nurses across this country need our help. They need lawmakers here in Washington to enact smart policies that don't impede their ability to save lives and ease suffering. They also need us to encourage qualified, professional, and educated citizens like themselves to take up the profession of nursing.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me today in applauding these nurses from my home state of Michigan and across the country.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NATIONAL MATH AND SCIENCE INITIATIVE

**HON. CHAKA FATTAH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of my colleagues to the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI). This initiative, focusing on recommendations put forth by the National Academies of Science's 2005 report, "Rising above the Gathering Storm," seeks to enhance science and technology enterprise in the United States. Specifically, NMSI and the National Academies argue

• 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.

that the most effective way to do this is to dramatically improve K–12 math and science education. They will achieve this end through increasing the production of more, and more effective, math and science educators, strengthening the skills of existing classroom teachers through training programs, and expanding the pipeline of students with the desire and preparation to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in higher education.

As the Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee Ranking Member, I have had the opportunity to hear witnesses testify to the incredible discoveries and innovations currently underway to address some of our nation's most pressing concerns—energy security, global climate change and human health and development. These same experts have repeated the same refrain—absent a significant change in course, the United States is poised to lose our global supremacy in scientific discovery and enterprise. I am greatly encouraged that NMSI has taken on this challenge and is engaging a diverse range of partners to develop a new generation of mathematicians, engineers and researchers.

I would specifically like to take this opportunity to recognize one of NMSI's founding sponsors, the ExxonMobil Foundation. In a show of great community-mindedness and corporate responsibility, ExxonMobil has committed \$125 million to NMSI. These funds, among other purposes, will go to increase access to and successful completion of Advanced Placement courses in the nation's high schools. I have long been an advocate of the AP program, and other efforts to increase rigor and college-readiness for all students in all schools. I am grateful to have such a partner, and to have the opportunity to engage with NMSI, ExxonMobil and others committed to addressing this critical question of global competitiveness.

Difficult budget times call for creative solutions and I believe it would serve Members of this body well to turn attention to these innovative public-private partnerships which serve our nation's young people and economic future well.

IN HONOR OF KENNETH H.  
COOPER, M.D., M.P.H.

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kenneth H. Cooper, M.D., M.P.H., my friend, renowned physician, and the Father of Aerobics.

The importance of cardiovascular exercise and fitness in our world today can be attributed to the dedicated efforts of Dr. Cooper. Throughout his career, Dr. Cooper has focused on preventive medicine and his work has revolutionized the physical fitness world. Aside from working with the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) to create a fitness program for astronauts and designing the "Cooper test" used by the military to assess fitness, Dr. Cooper also trained the 1970 Brazilian soccer team to a World Cup victory. At the local, national, and international levels, Dr. Cooper has educated numerous individ-

uals about the importance of diet and exercise and motivated them to adopt healthy lifestyles. He is also aggressively combating the childhood obesity epidemic with the Our Kids' Health initiative and by working with legislators to bring physical education back into our schools. The impact of Dr. Cooper's work spans across the globe; I know he has made our world a healthier place.

His family, friends, colleagues, and patients will gather to honor him at Health Needs a Hero on May 22, 2011 in Austin, Texas. I am delighted to join them in recognizing Dr. Cooper's many achievements and contributions to the health and medical fields. Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Cooper.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2011 VIENNA VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DAY HONOREES

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize outstanding citizens of our community. Each year, the Town of Vienna celebrates the extraordinary contributions of its residents with a "Volunteer Recognition Day" to honor those individuals and organizations who have been nominated by members of the community for their commitment to improving the community.

Communities are only as strong as the residents who live there. Through their selfless actions, civic activists improve the quality of life for all and help improve their towns and neighborhoods. The recipients of the 2011 Vienna Volunteer Recognition Honors are shining examples of how each of us can contribute to the betterment of our communities.

I am pleased to recognize the following individuals for their accomplishments: Robert Borgatti, Harold Bonacquist, Miles Bowen, Sydney Bowen, Linda Collins, Mike Davis, Alma Frank, Laurie Harmon, L.F. Jennings, Steve Kenney, Mark Lander, Ann Martin, Marjorie Midili, John "Jack" Reichert, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Tim Sampson and family, John Shults, Susan Stillman, Anne Stuntz, Howard Svigals, Dorothy Evans, Bill Farrell, Mike Garbacz, Julius Hankin, Jean Jennings, Marcie Lee, Harry Mason, Ralph Nider, Eileen (Casey) Tarr, June Terry, Maria Alvarez-Lundie, Diane Eckert, Sara Freund, Cynthia Kohrmann, Sharmila Rao, Deborah Roney, Katie Wolffe, Liz DiFrancisco, Barbara Mackie Franklin and Dan Mulville.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these individuals and in congratulating them on their contributions to their community. Civic engagement is what defines a community, and it is thanks to these individuals that Vienna will remain a wonderful place to call home. Their contributions and leadership have been a great benefit to our community and truly merit our highest praise.

REPEALING PREVENTION AND  
PUBLIC HEALTH FUND

SPEECH OF

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1217) to repeal the Prevention and Public Health Fund:

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1217, a bill to repeal the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

Prevention works. It's the best way to keep costs down and keep people healthy.

For decades our healthcare system has been designed to treat patients once they're sick. This is inefficient and costly. The Prevention and Public Health Fund included in healthcare reform is finally starting to change this backward system and invest efforts to keep people healthy.

The Fund is important because it offers flexibility—grants are awarded to states, communities, and local public health groups to implement local prevention programs that work for the local community.

Any person in this chamber who is concerned about the rising cost of healthcare in our country should be embracing the Prevention and Public Health Fund. Study after study has proven that prevention saves money. This legislation willfully ignores this fact and instead, favors an "every man for himself" approach.

Is it any wonder why we spend more on healthcare than any country in the world with lackluster results? Other nations are out-investing us in prevention, public health infrastructure, and primary care. Smart healthcare saves money.

Unfortunately, we're also considering several bills this week to eliminate healthcare and none of them are wise. Efforts to chip away at the first meaningful health reform our country has ever seen are shortsighted and foolish . . . even worse is to take away basic preventive health services that women already have. Ninety seven percent of the services Planned Parenthood provides have nothing to do with abortion and everything to do with family planning, diabetes care, vaccines, physicals, and, for men, testicular cancer screenings. Eliminating funding for the preventive services of Planned Parenthood will increase the number of abortions in our country and reverse the positive results of mammograms and cervical care.

I urge my colleagues to vote against these efforts.

HONORING TOMMY MARSH FOR  
WINNING THE LESSONS OF THE  
AFRICAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE  
WRITING CONTEST

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tommy Marsh as a winner of the second annual Lessons of the African-American Experience Creative Writing Contest.

Tommy is currently in the fifth grade at North Stonington Elementary School, which is located in North Stonington, Connecticut.

In celebration of Black History Month, I sponsored a creative writing contest for all third through eighth grade students within the Second District. As we know, Black History Month is a time to reflect on the struggles and triumphs of our nation's past. The lessons learned during this month continue to serve as the stepping stones of our nation's future. Tommy's essay eloquently embraces this belief.

Tommy's essay shows a remarkable enthusiasm for learning that is inspiring to all. He creatively discusses Rosa Parks and Wael Ghonim, describing how one defiant act has the power to affect an entire nation. For this, his essay was among the winners selected.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on official business and missed rollcall vote No. 263. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 263.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. TERI O'CONNOR

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Teri O'Connor, the recipient of the 2011 Women of Distinction Award presented by the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore. Ms. O'Connor has demonstrated unwavering commitment to serving the people of Monmouth County. Ms. O'Connor's devotion is undoubtedly deserving of this body's recognition.

Ms. O'Connor is currently the County Administrator for Monmouth County and manages the day-to-day operations of 60 county departments comprised of over 3,000 employees. Her responsibilities include supervising, directing and managing all county administrative departments, divisions and offices. She is also responsible for carrying out the policies and directives of the Board of Chosen Freeholders. In addition to her duties as County Administrator, Ms. O'Connor admirably serves as Administrator and Freeholder Representative to the Emergency Management Homeland Security Working Group since 2002. She has also supervised the County Insurance Office for 13 years. Ms. O'Connor is currently Freeholder Liaison to the Freehold Center Partnership as well as County Representative to Freehold's Downtown Planning & Design Committee. Through her personal, professional and community achievements, Ms. O'Connor embodies the mission of the Girl Scouts to help young girls build courage, confidence and character.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in leading this body in congratulating Ms. O'Connor for receiving the prestigious Women of Distinction

Award, presented by the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore. Her steadfast dedication is an example of what hard work and determination can accomplish.

APPLAUDING SUSAN G. KOMEN FOR THE CURE®

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, understanding the basics regarding risk factors, diagnosis, and treatment of breast cancer, has made a positive continuous journey towards better management and victory over the disease. The American Cancer Society in 2010 estimated that among U.S. women there would be more than 207,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer and nearly 40,000 breast cancer deaths.

However, despite the alarming numbers, there remains hope for a cure of this disease. Because of the efforts of Nancy G. Brinker who lost her sister to the fight of breast cancer, Ms. Brinker has done everything in her power to fulfill her promise of ending breast cancer forever. And, I am proud that the Susan G. Komen for the Cure®, is headquartered in my District, the 30th Congressional District of Texas.

Beyond leading the charge of eradicating breast cancer for women in the United States, Susan G. Komen for the Cure® remains the premier global leader at the forefront of the breast cancer movement since their 1982 inception. Komen has significantly contributed to the advancement of breast cancer research, education, advocacy, health services and social support programs in the United States and through partnerships in more than 50 countries as sustained by more than 100,000 volunteers who work in a network of 124 affiliates worldwide. Further, the organization is attributed to investing more than \$1.9 billion to the fight for breast cancer for women. I applaud the Susan G. Komen for the Cure® for their accomplishments, dedication, and commitment to unparalleled breast cancer advocacy efforts. As global citizens, by educating women about the available predictive screening and preventive care, we can successfully help our women, mothers, sisters and daughters to live longer, healthier lives.

A MAN OF GRACE

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

A  
A man  
A man of grace  
Our Lord, upon this place  
Had so placed  
As a true reflection of His face  
All in this temple of democracy's faith  
This shrine our forefathers had so embraced  
For America was founded on such faith  
For no other experiment has since been  
raised

For Father Dan, you were a pioneer  
As America's first Catholic chaplain so here  
To spread the word, upon each morning  
heard

To council and to inspire, lifting hearts higher

All for our Nation's leaders, you never tired  
As an instrument of our Lord's heart  
Oh how you fine faith, has so done its part  
To bring a Congress through storms and dark  
All but with, the light of your fine heart  
And our Lord's word, casting out the dark  
And we will miss your kind warm face  
And your inspiring call to God, on each new  
day

And your warm heart, filled with such grace  
Forever, in our hearts you shall hold a place  
For your blessings bestowed upon us all  
Answering our Lord's call, call to faith  
For such people, Heaven so holds a place  
For such men of grace

In honor of father Dan Coughlin, and all of the hearts you have touched over the years  
. . . bless you—Albert Carey Caswell.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE ACCESS TO REHABILITATION ACT OF 2011

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bipartisan Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Act of 2011 which Representative JAMES GERLACH and I are introducing today. This important bill repeals the monetary caps that limit beneficiary access to medically necessary outpatient physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services. Senators BEN CARDIN and SUSAN COLLINS are introducing this legislation in the Senate.

To remove all uncertainty for Medicare beneficiaries about being able to receive the appropriate therapy, the bipartisan Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Act of 2011 creates a stable payment environment so that health professionals can focus on providing quality health care. Rehabilitation services provided by physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists are essential to assisting individuals reach their highest functional level possible and the monetary caps are inconsistent with this objective.

A March 2008 Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, study provided evidence that enforcement of the monetary caps could cause Medicare beneficiaries harm since it may require them to delay necessary medical care, force others to assume higher out-of-pocket costs, and disrupt the continuum of care for many seniors and individuals with disabilities. Specifically, the study demonstrated that the sickest patients who suffered from Parkinson's disease or who have multiple medical problems were most likely to exceed the monetary caps.

Since inclusion of the caps in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, both Democratic and Republican Congresses and Administrations have interceded to prevent their implementation and enforcement citing the negative impact the caps would have on elderly patients' access to necessary services. Most recently, Congress extended through 2011 the existing medical exceptions process that gives the

Secretary of Health and Human Services the authority to allow patients to exceed the monetary caps if deemed medically necessary.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue ensuring that Americans have access to the highest quality physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech and language pathology services by supporting this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IMPROVING ACCESS TO MEDICARE COVERAGE ACT

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation to improve a component of our Medicare program that has left many without coverage of needed services and guaranteed benefits. My legislation, the Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act, will allow time spent on hospital observation status to count towards a three-day qualifying hospital stay requirement for skilled nursing care services. Under current regulations established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), only those that have received an inpatient designation and have a hospital stay of at least three days, qualify for Medicare coverage of skilled nursing care. Those on observation status, which is often indistinguishable from inpatient care, are excluded from this coverage because of an outdated and unfair CMS policy.

Our systems of care have changed, and so should our Medicare policies. This point has been reiterated in cases heard by administrative law judges involving Medicare coverage of skilled care and observation status designations. Many of these cases have supported the notion that Medicare should cover skilled nursing care, regardless if the patient's qualifying hospital stay is as an inpatient or on observation status. While administrative law judges have often supported patients in these cases, the CMS policy creates a system with arbitrary winners and losers, based on access to legal appeals. My legislation will fix this broken system.

The Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act will count time spent in hospital observation status towards the three-day hospital stay requirement for skilled nursing care. My bill will also establish a 90-day appeals period following passage for those that have been denied coverage after January 1, 2011 due to this CMS policy. The appeals process will allow those that have a qualifying hospital stay—either as an inpatient or on observation status—after January 1, 2011 to be eligible for skilled nursing care. While I believe that the legislative text clarifies that the appeals process is available to any Medicare beneficiary that has been denied coverage after January 1, 2011 due to this policy, there should be no doubt as to my congressional intent. It is my intent that any individual, regardless of whether an initial appeals process has expired, can appeal during the 90-day window following passage so long as their hospital stay and subsequent denial of skilled care occurred after January 1, 2011.

I also want to thank the Center for Medicare Advocacy for bringing to light the impact of

this broken policy. I look forward to working with the Center and the other organizations that have expressed their support of this legislation to bring resolution to this issue that has negatively impacted many of my constituents, and patients and families across the country, for far too long.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN A. SMITH

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a leader in San Diego's veterans' community, and a treasured member of the San Diego family.

Mr. Smith was buried today in Miramar National Cemetery. My thoughts are with his family and friends as they mourn the loss of this honorable and dedicated man.

Mr. Smith joined the Army in 1966 and served as a medic with the 1st Air Cavalry Division in Vietnam. He was wounded three times while serving and was medically retired as a disabled veteran in 1972.

Following his time in military service, Mr. Smith became committed to honoring and advocating for veterans. His involvement with the Veterans Village of San Diego, and its annual Stand Down event to provide services to homeless veterans, exemplify his personal dedication to helping veterans experience an improved quality of life.

Through his active membership with the United Veterans Council, U.S. Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Legion, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Vietnam Veterans of America, and other organizations helping veterans, Mr. Smith touched many lives. He was also a special representative for the California Department of Veterans Affairs. His admirable reputation in San Diego is known far and wide in the veteran community. In 2004, Mr. Smith was honored as the San Diego County Veteran of the Year.

Mr. Smith's sense of integrity, dedication to service, and commitment to his community should serve as examples to us all. He will be missed.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING GREATER KALAMAZOO ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise today to recognize and honor the Greater Kalamazoo Association of REALTORS. For 100 years, this organization and its members have proudly served the people of southwest Michigan, while setting the bar for excellence within the real estate industry.

What began a century ago as a group of 29 individuals with the common purpose of promoting real estate in Kalamazoo, Michigan, the Greater Kalamazoo Association of REALTORS has grown to an organization with hundreds of members representing over 100 real estate firms.

Since 1911, the Greater Kalamazoo Association of REALTORS has been a leader in real estate, all the while maintaining the same professional and ethical standards upon which it was founded. From creating the first exchange of real estate listings in the State of Michigan to helping usher new industry technologies, Kalamazoo realtors represent the best in their field.

As we know, any organization or body is only as strong as the sum of its members. I would like to thank all of the members of the Greater Kalamazoo Association of REALTORS for their longstanding commitment to local economic growth as well as their work to improve housing standards and home financing, and promote private property rights and commonsense, pro-growth policies. They are truly leaders in putting Michigan back on track.

HONORING THE COMBAT SERVICE OF CORPORAL COLBEY YAZZIE

**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our country's wounded warriors.

Corporal Colbey Yazzie, a resident of Kayenta, Arizona and a 2007 graduate of Monument Valley High School, volunteered to serve our nation and joined the elite ranks of the United States Marine Corps just after high school graduation. We have spoken to Corporal Yazzie's father, Henry, who we know could not be more proud of his son. Corporal Yazzie is also a member of the Navajo Nation, a tribe that has provided our country with brave warriors year after year for decades. For this sacrifice, I stand here and pay our respects as a nation and I ask for a moment of prayer.

Today I want to specifically honor Corporal Colbey Yazzie. Corporal Colbey Yazzie was deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He was assigned to the Marine Corps Combat Engineers. Corporal Yazzie was seriously wounded while supporting combat operations while engaged in a dismounted marine force patrol in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He detonated a push plate improvised explosive device while on this combat patrol, and the resulting explosion severed his right leg above the knee.

Just shortly before Corporal Colbey Yazzie was injured, author Bing West travelled with Corporal Yazzie's unit, and described the high level of professionalism, determination and bravery these Marines demonstrated day in and day out. I truly wished everyone in America understood the sacrifice, bravery and diligence our Marines embody. The article is called "With the Warriors: Patrol Base Fires, Sangin District, Helmand Province, Afghanistan" and was published in the March 7th edition of the National Review. Let me excerpt some of what Mr. West wrote about Corporal Yazzie and his unit, again, shortly before Corporal Yazzie was injured:

The view from this platoon outpost in southern Afghanistan is unobstructed, both visually and strategically. On all sides stretch flat, bare, winter farmlands dotted with walled compounds. The strategy is aggressive patrolling to kill and drive out the

Taliban, who have acted as the rural government here for 15 years. . . .

The patrol base, named Fires because of the intensity of the daily fighting, was at the northern edge of the Marine advance. When I arrived in mid-January, Lt. Vic Garcia, the seasoned platoon commander, handed me two tourniquets. "If someone goes down near you on patrol," he said, "wrap him real tight and watch where you step." Garcia explained that the Taliban roam in small gangs among the farm compounds, sow mines, and attack from the flanks. When we set out on a combat patrol, the 15 Marines walked in single file across brown, furrowed farmlands suggestive of New England in early spring. Lance Cpl. Colbey Yazzie, a full-blooded Navajo Indian, swept a narrow path with his metal detector, while his Irish-American partner, Lance Cpl. Kyle Doyle, watched out for snipers.

Near a footbridge across an irrigation canal, Yaz clenched his fist to halt the platoon, then knelt down and scratched at the dirt. He took out wire cutters, snipped a few wires, and held up two small boards wrapped in tape. Glued to the underside of each board was a sliver of metal. When a foot pressed down on the boards, the metal plates came together, completing an electrical circuit connecting a flashlight battery to a plastic jug filled with explosives. Yaz attached a small charge to the IED (improvised explosive device) and blew it up, and the patrol continued.

In 100 days of patrolling four kilometers north of the Sangin district center, Kilo Company of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment had found 115 IEDs. Another 14 had exploded. Of the 136 Marines in Kilo, nine had been killed and 35 severely wounded. Of four platoon commanders, one had been killed and another had lost a leg to a mine. . . .

After discovering the first IED, we walked north at a steady, careful pace. Not one farmer was out tilling the lands sown with mines. Yaz again clenched his fist, knelt down, disarmed and blew up an IED. The patrol continued for a while, then halted suspiciously at the edge of a large field. On the far side were two long compound walls, dotted with "murder holes"—small peepholes for the Taliban rifle barrels.

The Marines peered at the wall through the telescopic sights on their rifles. Suddenly, the squad leader, Sgt. Philip McCulloch, fired a single shot. The Marines' counter is equally simple. One element peels off to flank the enemy, while another keeps aimed fire on the enemy position. If the Taliban remains too long in a fixed location, indirect fire (fire without a line of sight to the target, as from artillery) is called in. Every Marine has a telescopic rifle, and most of the fleeting targets are about 400 meters distant.

Yaz was leading the patrol back by a different route across a furrowed field when he stopped a third time. Again he uncovered a pressure-plate IED. "That's crazy," McCulloch said. "An IED in the middle of nowhere." That IED was sure to blow the legs off a passing farmer—or a Marine. Yaz pointed to three small rocks several feet away, a tipoff for a passing Taliban gang that there was a mine in the vicinity.

A few minutes later, we walked past a crumbled wall, startling two dark brown coyotes. Again Yaz stopped, knelt, and disarmed a pressure plate. Four mines in the path of one patrol, and he had found them all.

Bing West, "With the Warriors" (emphasis added). What Mr. West has described here is an amazing act of bravery and professionalism by Corporal Yazzie and his fellow Marines. In

just one patrol, on one afternoon, Corporal Yazzie located and disarmed four IEDs. Four hidden bombs designed to kill or maim indiscriminately, whether it is a child, a farmer, or a Marine. By doing his job, Corporal Yazzie can be credited with saving lives and limbs that day, and likely on many other days.

But Corporal Yazzie's service was not free. There is a high cost that has been paid, and continues to be paid. On March 26, 2011, in an effort to save lives, Corporal Yazzie detonated an IED and sacrificed his right leg.

Corporal Yazzie, we honor your service. To the others in your unit, and the rest of the Marine Corps, please know, we honor your service and sacrifice as well. You are not forgotten. You are appreciated more than you know.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY IDENTITY DEFENSE ACT OF 2011

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Rep. JOE DONNELLY of Indiana, I am introducing the Social Security Identity Defense Act of 2011, legislation to enhance the ability of the Internal Revenue Service to fight identity theft when that agency becomes aware of the fraudulent use of a taxpayer's personal information.

This legislation is a direct response to the experience of constituents of mine in Princeton, Wisconsin. After a routine review of his credit report, this constituent found accounts opened by another person that had used his Social Security number. This discovery raised many concerns, not the least of which that this person's income might be reported to the IRS under his Social Security number. Upon contacting the IRS, he was told that the IRS was aware of the situation and that they had known about it for some time.

Not surprisingly, this answer was not altogether comforting. The IRS knew that someone else had been using his Social Security number, but kept that information to themselves. While the IRS remained silent, additional frauds were committed, resulting in the credit accounts opened using my constituent's personal information. When he raised this issue with the IRS, he was astounded by the agency's answer. Privacy statutes prevent the IRS from discussing the return information of one taxpayer with anyone else. In the view of the IRS, the fraudulent use of my constituent's Social Security number was the personal return information of another taxpayer, and this fraud could not be disclosed to the rightful owner of that personal identifier.

This policy makes no sense and actually puts the IRS on the wrong side in the fight against identity theft. Our legislation aims to correct this problem by changing the privacy statutes to direct the IRS to inform a taxpayer when it learns through its normal course of business that a Social Security number assigned to that taxpayer has been used fraudulently by another worker.

In May 2006, President George W. Bush signed an executive order establishing the Identity Theft Task Force made up of the U.S. Attorney General, the Chairman of the Federal

Trade Commission, several heads of cabinet-level departments, and various other officers of the U.S. Government. The Task Force was directed to implement a policy "effectively to deter, prevent, detect, investigate, proceed against, and prosecute unlawful use by persons of the identifying information of other persons." Elaborating on this policy goal, the Executive Order went on to specify actions to increase safeguards that Federal departments and agencies could implement to better secure government-held personal data.

In responding to the President's charge, the Task Force issued a strategic plan, including numerous specific recommendations focused on improvements in four key areas. Keeping sensitive consumer data out of the hands of identity thieves; increasing the obstacles to the fraudulent use of any personal data obtained by an identity thief; assistance for victims of identity theft; and deterring this crime by aggressive prosecution and punishment of identity thieves.

Combating identity theft is an important and difficult job. I believe that the Task Force has made a commendable contribution to this effort and that implementation of its recommendations by public and private entities will help in fighting this crime. As the report itself notes, "Only an approach that encompasses effective prevention, public awareness and education, victim assistance, and law enforcement measures, and fully engages federal, state, and local authorities will be successful in protecting citizens and private entities from the crime."

The recommendations included in this strategic plan, however, do not include improved efforts by the IRS in assisting honest taxpayers in fighting identity theft. For this reason, the Social Security Identity Defense Act picks up where this strategic plan left off and provides an additional vital tool for our government to deploy.

Under this legislation, the IRS would be required to share any information in its possession about the fraudulent use of a taxpayer's personal information with that information's rightful owner. The agency also would be directed to transmit information that may be evidence of an identity theft to the FBI so that the Bureau can make this material available to state and local law enforcement agencies upon their request. Finally, the Social Security Identity Defense Act calls for the IRS to direct employers not to include a Social Security number on a W-2 form when that agency is aware that the employee is making fraudulent use of that number.

These are important steps forward. They will empower both citizens and law enforcement agencies in their efforts to combat identity theft, and they will limit the use of personal identifiers in the commission of future crimes. I urge my colleagues to join me and Rep. DONNELLY in this effort by cosponsoring the Social Security Defense Act.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL PATRIOTS MEMORIAL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the National Patriots Memorial Act. The

bill will authorize the establishment of a memorial on federal land in the District of Columbia to honor the patriots of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, as well as our international allies that fought in support of gaining and then preserving our nation's freedom during these wars. Funding for the memorial will come entirely from private funds.

The National Patriots Memorial will be an important addition to the nation and to the District of Columbia alike. The memorial will preserve the history of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and celebrate the patriots and allies who fought in them. The National Patriots Memorial also will remind the nation that DC residents fought in the Revolutionary War, the war that created the nation itself, and the War of 1812, just as our residents have served in all of the nation's wars, and are doing so today. The memorial also will serve to educate visitors to the nation's capital about the early years of our country's issues, conflicts, and growth.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

HONORING RICHARD E. WINNIE

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Mr. STARK to honor the extraordinary life of Mr. Richard E. Winnie, a brilliant legal mind whose combination of integrity, acumen and good humor made him an outstanding public servant and invaluable in his role as County Counsel for the County of Alameda. With Richard E. Winnie's passing on March 28, 2011 at the age of 63, we look to the remarkable legacy of his life's work and the joy he inspired in his many friends and loved ones.

Richard E. Winnie was born April 14, 1947 to Emily and H. Edward Winnie in Oakland, California. The family eventually settled in Eureka, California, where Richard attended high school. He graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in Economics from Humboldt State University, HSU, received his master's degree in Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley, and his law degree from the University of San Francisco. Mr. Winnie's early interest in civic service and local municipalities began while still a student at HSU in his work for the Eureka City Manager's office and the Associated Students Council.

His next destination was Washington, DC, where from 1971 to 1977, he served the Urban Institute's State and Local Government Research Program as a policy analyst. During his time there, Mr. Winnie authored several publications on municipal government, one of which became the Institute's largest-selling published text.

In 1975, Mr. Winnie was admitted to the California Bar. He returned to his roots to serve as Oakland City Attorney from 1981 to 1987, and also worked for the cities of Berkeley, Palo Alto, and Santa Rosa. For the next 6 years, he specialized in property, business and municipal law as a partner with Jacobs, Spotswood, Ryken, and Winnie, and in 1993 began a 4-year stint as an advisor to the Government of Armenia in its transition to independence and a market economy. In fact, Mr.

Winnie's penchant for international legal guidance had a global reach. Over the course of his career in the Bay Area, he also helped to develop local property laws for emerging governments throughout the South Caucasus, Central Asia, Southeastern Europe, and small parts of South America and the Middle East.

After specializing in public law as a partner of Oakland's Wendel, Rosen, Black, and Dean from 1994 to 1997, Mr. Winnie began his 13-year tenure as Alameda County's top legal advisor to the Board of Supervisors, County Administration and the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum Authority. In his role as County Counsel, Mr. Winnie's many accomplishments included successful litigation to restrict gun shows at the Alameda County Fair, to allow public access to Oakland's waterfronts and to confront legal clashes with local professional sports teams. Among his many accolades and associations, Mr. Winnie served numerous local boards, was a member of the U.S. Supreme Court Bar, worked to promote micro-enterprise with the New America Foundation, and received HSU's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2009.

Richard E. Winnie was known for fostering mutual relationships of respect and pride among his talented staff and colleagues. In his legal dealings, he was skilled at eliciting an agreement through logic, diplomacy, and steady professionalism. And in his free time, he enjoyed being a youth mentor, an avid baseball fan, an accomplished mountain climber and a prolific party host. Mr. Winnie will be remembered as much for his ability to inspire people, as his ability to make them laugh.

Today, the residents of California's 9th and 13th Congressional Districts salute and honor a stalwart member of our community and a dear friend, Mr. Richard E. Winnie. The countless contributions he made to others throughout his life are lasting and significant. We express our sincere condolences to his extended group of loved ones, friends and colleagues. He will be deeply missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHARLES F. BASS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, while I was present for rollcall vote 200 on March 30, 2011, my vote was not recorded. This vote was on H. Res. 186, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 471 to reauthorize the DC opportunity scholarship program.

Had my vote been recorded, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 186.

HONORING NICOLE PASSONNO  
STOTT

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor NASA Astronaut Nicole Passonno Stott, who served on the final mission of the Space Shuttle *Discovery*.

So many Americans look to the space program with pride and admiration. Many children aspire to one day become astronauts, which is where Mrs. Stott found her calling. Mrs. Stott is alumna of Clearwater High School, which is in my congressional district. She began her career at NASA in 1988, holding various positions within NASA Shuttle Processing, the Space Station Hardware Integration Office, the NASA Aircraft Operations Division, and the Astronaut Office Station Operations Branch.

In 2000, Mrs. Stott began astronaut candidate training and in 2009 completed her first long duration space flight on the International Space Station. She returned to the International Space Station in 2010, as part of the 39th and final mission for *Discovery*.

The space program is a huge economic engine for the state of Florida. Not only are breakthroughs made in science and technology, but the byproducts of this research also spur tremendous advancements in the medical field. I am particularly intrigued by the work NASA has done with prosthetics research that has benefitted our wounded warriors.

I look forward to watching the continued success of the space program in the future and watching future generations of my constituents advance science and technology, just as Mrs. Stott has done.

CONGRATULATING LAURA  
ELIZABETH HAHN

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Laura Elizabeth Hahn from Colchester, Connecticut on her selection into the Army Reserve Teen Panel. The honorable members of the Army Reserve make enormous sacrifices to guarantee the security of our great nation. In addition, their family members bravely make sacrifices every day in order to allow the soldiers to continue serving the nation. We recognize that this environment is often the hardest on children, who have to deal with unique pressures at a young age. This is why the Army Reserve Teen Panel, a select group of 30 high school students who represent and advocate for Army Reserve youth globally, exists and this is why Laura's selection should be honored.

Laura is currently a sophomore at Bacon Academy in Colchester, where she is an honors student. At Bacon Academy, Laura is also a varsity cross-country runner, a member of the Junior Engineering Technology Society, and a participant in the Science, Technology, Engineering, Math Club. Prior to her selection as a member of the Army Reserve Teen Panel, Laura has had experience serving as an ambassador; first with People to People in England and France, and more recently with the Trinity Lutheran Church as a youth delegate to the ELCA youth gathering in New Orleans. These experiences have well prepared Laura to fulfill all of her responsibilities as a member of the Army Reserve Teen Panel.

As a member of the Army Reserve Teen Panel, Laura will attend national panel conferences and serve as a junior mentor during Army Reserve Youth, Leadership, Education,

and Development summits. Laura will also be expected to volunteer in her community, write articles for the Army Reserve Teen Panel's quarterly newspaper, and prepare presentations to inform Army Reserve Leadership about the issues of Army Reserve youth. I am confident that Laura will excel in her position as a member of the Army Reserve Teen Panel.

I would like to offer my continued support of the Army Reserve Teen Panel and the bright young men and women like Laura who represent our Army Reserve youth. I would like to express my gratitude, once again, to the Army Reserve members who fight for America. Once again congratulations to Laura Hahn and thank you to the military personnel and their families who sacrifice so much for our Nation.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 FAMILY HUMANITARIAN RELIEF AND PATRIOTISM ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am reintroducing the bipartisan September 11 Family Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act with Representatives PETER KING, JERROLD NADLER, GARY ACKERMAN, RUSH HOLT, RAUL GRIJALVA, YVETTE CLARKE, ANTHONY WEINER, ELIOT ENGEL and STEVE ISRAEL.

The losses that resulted from terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 are tremendous. For a dozen individuals, the turmoil of the attacks continues as they remain in jeopardy of being deported since their immigration status was linked to a family member who was employed at the World Trade Center. To address this situation, I am reintroducing the September 11 Family Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act, which would provide for the adjustment of status or the cancellation of removal for those who are the spouse, child, dependent son, or dependent daughter of victims who were killed on 9/11.

The Department of Homeland Security under the Bush administration and the Obama administration has allowed the affected spouses and children to stay here while a permanent solution is crafted by Congress. Nearly ten years later, the surviving spouses and children of legal employment-based visa holders and undocumented workers who were killed during the attacks should no longer be in limbo.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. Those who lost so much on 9/11 deserve answers and should be given legal status in the U.S.

CELEBRATING THE SRI LANKAN NEW YEAR

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, having just ended a decades long conflict

in which the government finally defeated terrorist forces within its borders, the Republic of Sri Lanka recently celebrated its second New Year at complete peace.

In his New Year address, President Mahinda Rajapaksa stated celebrating the New Year is a "time when all enjoy the freedom achieved in our Motherland. Therefore, this New Year will help bring a renewal in spirit and new expectations to the people about future progress."

I would like to wish a happy new year to the 250,000 Sri Lankan-Americans, along with the 21 million citizens of Sri Lanka, a dynamic nation of South Asia.

During this time of national reconciliation, I look forward to a new era of Sri Lankan-American relations built on economic, strategic, and political cooperation between our two democratic societies.

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

**HON. ALBIO SIRE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. SIRE. Mr. Speaker, on April 22nd, we celebrate the 41st Earth Day and recognize the achievements Americans have made to improve our environment.

Since the first Earth Day in 1970, Americans have worked to improve the air we breathe and the water we drink. Four decades later, we have made great strides towards protecting our planet for future generations by making investments in a clean energy economy to create millions of American jobs, lower energy costs for American families and businesses, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil and our carbon foot print

We must tackle tough environmental challenges, such as climate change, through investments in a clean energy economy to wean our nation off of our dangerous dependence on foreign oil and create green American jobs. It is also important that as we find ways to reduce our deficit that we do not jeopardize the safeguards in place to protect our air and water.

It is necessary to continue to push forward with a clean energy plan, but the environmental challenges we face cannot be solved by laws alone. That is why it is important on this day for every American to take a moment and recognize the simple things that they can do within their own homes and communities to contribute to a cleaner and healthier planet Earth.

GASOLINE PRICES

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I'm angry. This week, I drove down to Washington from my hometown of Hazleton—a commute I make each week. As I filled up my tank, I got angry.

At home right now, gas prices average about \$3.80 a gallon. That's almost a dollar a gallon more than just six months ago.

In some parts of my district, gas is now at \$4 a gallon.

Mr. Speaker, I am angry. People back home are angry, and this Congress should be angry.

For too long, Washington has been ignoring our nation's need for liquid fuel.

Let's be completely honest: We need liquid fuel, and we will always need liquid fuel—in my lifetime, in my children's lifetimes, in my grandson's lifetime.

So why isn't Washington doing anything to address that need?

Alternative energy is fine. Solar power, wind power, even nuclear power—those are all well and good, but they're not going to move our nation's cars. They're not going to move our nation's trucks and trains. They're not going to keep our planes in the air.

Why does every energy plan we have seem to downplay our need for liquid fuel—liquid fuel that can be and should be produced here at home?

Instead, we rely on foreign sources for our liquid fuel. The United States may be the richest, most powerful nation in the world, but we ask other countries to provide the resources we need to power our factories, drive our vehicles, heat our homes, and live our lives.

And when there is a problem virtually anywhere in the world, we pay for it here at the pump. We pay for it when we buy milk, bread and eggs. We pay for it when we pick up our kids at school. We pay for it when a police car patrols our neighborhoods. We pay for it when we go on vacation.

So much of our economy is tied to the rise and fall of gas prices. And every single sign we see—the unrest in the Middle East, the economic tiger in the Far East, the coming seasonal spike in energy prices as Americans head into the summer vacation season—compels us to act.

And what is Washington doing? Nothing. And that's what makes me—and the American people—so angry about this problem.

It's not that we don't have the resources. We do. From the Arctic to the Gulf of Mexico, we have plenty of liquid fuel here in the United States. We also have plenty of other natural resources that can be used to free up liquid fuel to move our cars, trucks, trains, and planes.

For example, in my home state of Pennsylvania, we have up to 500 trillion cubic feet of natural gas available in the Marcellus shale. In northeastern Pennsylvania, we're sitting on more natural gas than Saudi Arabia has oil! What's more, there's research that indicates there is another, deeper layer of different shale that can yield even more natural gas in the future.

It's not that we don't have the innovators. We do. In and near my district, we have brilliant people figuring out ways to extract natural gas from Marcellus shale, and make our abundant coal cleaner, and turn that hard coal into liquid fuel.

So what's the problem? To me, the answer is simple: Washington.

At a time when gas prices are crushing our economy, we must use all the ways we can to provide people with some relief.

Instead, we tie up liquid fuel producers in red tape.

We need to cut that tape. We need to tap in to our nation's vast natural liquid fuel resources. And we must encourage innovation for new liquid fuel sources.

Every day I come here, we talk about continuing resolutions and budgets and taxes and creating jobs.

But absolutely nothing we can do right now will stimulate our economy as much as putting more gasoline, diesel, home heating oil, aviation fuel, and other liquid fuel into the market.

What in the world is Washington waiting for?

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of more than 111,000 of my constituents who are of Polish descent, I rise to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl. We remember those in Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine, many of whom suffered the loss of life, health, and home as a result of this tragedy.

The accident at the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl occurred on April 26, 1986, and is considered to be the most serious nuclear disaster in human history. A flawed reactor ruptured, causing a cloud of highly radioactive smoke to be spread over a wide geographic area. Unaware of the seriousness of the situation, firemen and emergency workers were summoned to the catastrophe. Many received high doses of radiation and later died as a result.

The entire town of Pripyat was forced to evacuate, and, in total, it is believed that more than 200,000 people were forced to relocate due to the Chernobyl disaster. An area of more than 150,000 square kilometers is considered to be contaminated, and the immediate area around the plant is still, for the most part, uninhabited.

This tragedy came at a huge human and environmental cost, and so it is of the utmost importance that it not be forgotten. For this reason, I would like to acknowledge the work of the Kyiv Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program which is working to commemorate the anniversary of this tragedy through a program highlighting response and recovery efforts.

Mr. Speaker, on this, the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy, I invite my colleagues to remember those who suffered as a result of this disaster, as well as recognize the efforts of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program. Only by commemorating and learning from this catastrophe will we be able to move forward towards a safe and productive future for nuclear energy.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM P. HITE AND THE UNITED ASSOCIATION

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate General President William P. Hite

for his selection as the 2011 recipient of the Military Officers Association of America's Distinguished Service Award.

This most recent recognition and honor are well deserved. As General President of the 350,000 members of the United Association of Plumbers, Pipe Fitters, Welders, Sprinkler Fitters, and HVAC Technicians, Bill has worked tirelessly to ensure members of our armed forces have access to the very best careers in his industry.

His organization provides one of the best services available to our veterans. The Veterans in Piping Program trains veterans for the finest careers in the industry. The United Association's Veterans in Piping partnership with the Marines at Camp Pendleton is considered by many to be the most successful military transition program in the country. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis described it as "an awesome program" and one that "should be expanded throughout the United States." It differs from other programs in that it trains Marines prior to discharge—at no cost to the individual—in a certifiable skill, and then provides the network and connections to ensure job placement. Every graduate of the program has been successfully placed in the position of second year Apprentice or higher with the exception of a handful who have either re-enlisted or gone on to college.

General President Hite's service to our armed forces and veterans is accentuated by a distinguished career in public service. He was appointed by President George W. Bush to the Task Force on Rebuilding the Gulf Coast and to the Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations; and, by President Barack Obama to the President's Export Council. He has been called upon by the leaders of both of our political parties in recognition of his fidelity, objectivity, and candor. These characteristics have made him among the most respected labor leaders in the United States.

As we recognize General President Hite and the United Association today, I wish to point out that he is a third generation union member and the membership of the United Association voluntarily bears all of the costs of its veterans programs. The membership supports the men and women of our armed forces with a record of commitment that is second to none. I am particularly and personally proud of the work that San Diego based Local 230 has done to implement this successful and innovative program at Camp Pendleton.

HONORING YAZMIN SPEARMAN FOR WINNING THE LESSONS OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE WRITING CONTEST

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Yazmin Spearman as a winner of the second annual Lessons of the African-American Experience Creative Writing Contest. Yazmin is currently in the eighth grade at the Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication, which is located in New London, Connecticut.

In celebration of Black History Month, I sponsored a creative writing contest for all

third through eighth grade students within the Second District. As we know, Black History Month is a time to reflect on the struggles and triumphs of our nation's past. The lessons learned during this month continue to serve as the stepping stones of our nation's future. Yazmin's essay "African American Music History: The Reason I Remember Black History Month" eloquently embraces this belief.

Yazmin's essay shows a remarkable enthusiasm for learning that is inspiring to all. She identifies the principles of perseverance and discipline as embodied by Marion Anderson and Stevie Wonder. Yazmin creatively discusses how their successes and failures encourage her dreams of becoming a musician. For this, her essay was among the winners selected.

RECOGNIZING MONICA GUZMAN ON BEING NAMED THE 2011 U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S WOMEN IN BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR FOR GUAM

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Monica Okada Guzman for her years of outstanding business leadership and community involvement on Guam. Ms. Guzman is the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Partner of Galaide Group, a full service communications and public relations firm on Guam. She was recently named the 2011 U.S. Small Business Administration's Women in Business Champion of the Year for Guam.

Ms. Guzman partnered with local artist Ron Castro in 1998 to form the Galaide Group, which provides services that combine Chamorro culture, art, and language with public relations and advertising campaigns on Guam. Under Ms. Guzman's leadership, the Galaide Group has grown to 45 employees, more than half of whom are women. The Group has expanded its services to provide a full range of communications and public relations services to public and private sector clients on Guam. Ms. Guzman's efforts with the "We Are Guam" project through the Guam Visitors Bureau identified many women leaders on Guam to serve as Village Ambassadors and promote Chamorro cultural traditions. Her business has also focused on developing small business opportunities on Guam, and it helped to coordinate the Guam Industry Forum series and the Guam Economic Forum. These projects promoted awareness of business opportunities on Guam and helped to form partnerships between local small businesses and off-island firms.

Ms. Guzman is actively involved in a variety of community organizations on Guam. She has worked with the Guam Women's Club, Women in Movement, and the Guam Make-a-Wish Foundation. She is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities and TASI, an organization dedicated to the preservation of traditional canoe construction, sailing, and navigation practices.

I congratulate Monica Guzman on being named the 2011 U.S. Small Business Administration's Women in Business Champion of



the Year for Guam. I join the people of Guam in commending her for her award and thanking her for her contributions to our community.

THIRD ANNUAL DC TAP FESTIVAL

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the third annual DC Tap Festival, taking place in Washington, DC from April 15–April 17, 2011. I also ask the House to recognize its founders, Chloe and Maud Arnold, both of whom are natives of the District of Columbia, for their contributions to our great city and to the art form, tap dance.

The third annual DC Tap Festival will attract over four generations of tap dancers from around the world, and will heighten global respect and appreciation for a rich American art form, tap dance. The mission of the DC Tap Festival is to unite the global tap community, bringing people together from around the world to celebrate dance, while bridging the gap between the hip-hop and jazz generations through the classic, timeless art form of tap dance. The DC Tap Festival is a forum for the creative and artistic processes.

We acknowledge the founders, sisters Chloe and Maud Arnold, for their commitment to this city. They have received international acclaim for tap dancing, after studying at two Washington-based dance companies, DC Dance Collective and Duke Ellington School of the Arts, and performing at highly acclaimed D.C. venues such as Dance Place and the Kennedy Center. The Arnold sisters have returned to their hometown, every year for the past three years, to celebrate tap dance and to encourage the next generation of tappers to pursue their dreams. This year, the DC Tap Festival welcomes groups from as far away as Taiwan, and will showcase a fabulous array of tap-dance techniques and styles in a variety of musical genres through workshops, jam sessions, cutting contests, and an all-star concert performance.

Chloe and Maud Arnold were fortunate to grow up in D.C. during a time when funding for arts programs was available. They have trained with tap-dance legends such as Harold Nicholas of the Nicholas Brothers, Pegleg Bates, Buster Brown, Gregory Hines, Savion Glover, and with dancer and arts patron extraordinaire Debbie Allen. Both sisters are graduates of Columbia University's Film School, and performers, choreographers, and teachers worldwide.

In addition to being an art form, dance can be an aerobic activity that helps to improve heart health, strengthen muscles, increase flexibility, and burn calories. As I work to celebrate dance as an art form and to promote the health benefits of dancing, I will reintroduce a resolution to recognize July 31st as National Dance Day, both in the nation's capital and throughout the United States.

On July 31, 2010, with a few thousand District residents and tourists, we gathered on the National Mall to watch, learn from and dance with Fluria Flamenco, Step Afrika, Beat Ya Feet Kings, Capitol Movement Project, DCypher, Banneker Ball Room Dancing Club,

and many more. I was joined on the Mall by "So You Think You Can Dance" co-creator, executive producer, and judge Nigel Lythgoe, by Dominique Dawes, the U.S. Olympic gymnast and a member of the President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition, and by the Dizzy Feet Foundation to promote dance as an avenue for physical fitness and artistic expression. Our country has an adult and childhood overweight and obesity epidemic, and we need to promote physical activity among children and adults, especially dancing, the exercise that many of us most enjoy!

I ask the House to join me in celebrating the third annual DC Tap Festival, taking place in Washington, DC from April 15–April 17, 2011, and to recognize Chloe and Maud Arnold's lifetime of passion for tap dancing and hard and productive work and service to the community.

RECOGNIZING ALBERT WU ON BEING NAMED THE 2011 U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR FOR GUAM

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Albert Wu for his years of outstanding business leadership and community involvement on Guam. Mr. Wu is the Executive Partner of FADA Investment LLC, a small business that owns and manages numerous real estate properties on Guam. He was recently named the 2011 U.S. Small Business Administration's Minority Small Business Champion of the Year for Guam.

Albert Wu was born in Taipei, Taiwan to Chuck C. Wu and Shiu Fong Wu. He and his family moved to Guam in 1972—when he was just 11 years old. After completing his secondary education in the Guam public school system, Mr. Wu went on to attend California State University in Los Angeles; he graduated in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. After graduation, Mr. Wu worked for several California businesses, but he returned to Guam to assist with his family's business, Sunny Wholesalers. In 1991, Mr. Wu married Shana Wu, and they have three children: Stephanie, Alexander, and Sophia.

In the early 1990s, Mr. Wu founded AAA Cellular, which later became HafaTel GSM Telephone, a wireless communications company on Guam. HafaTel provided affordable telecommunication rates to over 15,000 subscribers and revolutionized Guam's wireless communications industry as the first provider of GSM and SMS texting services on the island. Mr. Wu helped to serve minority groups on Guam by providing multi-lingual services and offering affordable fees for clients to communicate with family and friends off-island. In 2007, Mr. Wu sold HafaTel and founded FADA Investment LLC, a real estate property management firm.

Mr. Wu is an active member of our island community. He has been involved in several charitable and civic organizations, including the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese School Foundation, and the Make-a-

Wish Foundation. Through his involvement in these organizations he has helped to improve our island community.

I congratulate Alfred Wu on being named the 2011 U.S. Small Business Administration's Minority Small Business Champion of the Year for Guam. I join the people of Guam in commending him for his award and thanking him for his contributions to our community.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CHARLIE STILLITANO

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention to the work of a man I am proud to represent in Congress and prouder still to call friend, Mr. Charlie Stillitano. Charlie has been named Man of the Year by the Milan Club and was recognized in a ceremony on Saturday, March 26, 2011.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for he has a long history of dedication and commitment to his community.

Charlie Stillitano is a man who has led a most distinguished career in the world of professional sports. He is a great American who has found a way to put his passion for soccer and love for others into all that he does. Charlie began this journey at Princeton University where he was a four-year starter, three-time All-Ivy, All-American Captain of the Men's Varsity Soccer Team. He also received his Juris Doctorate Degree from Rutgers University.

His unparalleled career took off in 1992, serving as the Venue Executive Director for the FIFA World Cup right here in the tri-state New York area.

Following the 1994 FIFA World Cup Mr. Stillitano was named Vice President and General Manager of the NY/NJ MetroStars' Major League Soccer Team. Under Charlie, the MetroStars were able to secure the services of some of the world's top Managers including Carlos Alberto Parreira (former Brazilian National Team World Champion Coach), Carlos Queiroz (2-time World Youth Champion Coach with the Portuguese National Team) and Bora Milutinovich (former U.S. National Team Coach); and international stars such as Roberto Donadoni (of Italy), Branco (Brazil), Anthony De Avila (Colombia), Lothar Matthaus (Germany), Shaun Bartlett (South Africa), Tony Meola (USA), Tab Ramos (USA) and Nicola Caricola (Italy).

During this time, Mr. Stillitano created and established an international division which became responsible for implementing numerous successful football events such as the 1995 Parmalat Cup, 1996 FIFA World All-Star Game, 1996 U.S. Cup, 1998 Colombia vs. Scotland and Jamaica vs. The Caribbean All-Stars Matches.

Following five successful years as Vice President and General Manager with the MetroStars, Charlie continued his work with Metromedia Company as the Managing Director of the newly formed Metromedia Soccer Properties, LLC.

Metromedia Soccer Properties was responsible for the development of Metromedia's

international soccer business, including exploring the acquisition of soccer clubs, stadium development and the international match business.

Charlie's influence in the soccer world cannot be overstated. Over the course of fifteen years, from 1993–2007, Charlie also served as an inaugural Board Member of the U.S. Soccer Foundation; as its Vice Chairman for 11 years and Chairman of the Grants Committee for 14 years until his retirement from the U.S. Soccer Foundation in 2007.

Mr. Stillitano currently serves as an esteemed soccer agent at CAA Sports (a division of Creative Artists Agency), which represents more than 400 of the world's best athletes in team sports such as baseball, football, hockey and soccer, in addition to icons in individual sports, on-air broadcasters and numerous other sports personalities. Based out of CAA's New York office, Charlie represents many of the world's leading athletes and sports personalities, including Cristiano Ronaldo, Jose Mourinho, Deco, Chelsea FC—the English Premier Club and the 2009 European Champions-FC Barcelona.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the accomplishments of community leaders like Charlie Stillitano. I applaud the Milan Club for its initiative in naming Charlie the 2011 Man of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the members of the Milan Club, Charlie's family and friends, all those who have been touched by Charlie and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable achievements of Charlie Stillitano.

RECOGNIZING REANNA A. CRUZ ON BEING NAMED THE 2011 U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S FINANCIAL SERVICES CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Reanna A. Cruz for her years of outstanding financial expertise, business leadership, and community involvement on Guam. Ms. Cruz is Assistant Vice President and Commercial Loan Officer for the Bank of Guam. She was recently named the Guam Financial Services Champion of the Year for 2011 by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Ms. Cruz graduated from the University of Guam in 2001, with a Bachelor of Arts in Finance and Economics. Shortly thereafter, she joined the Bank of Guam as a management trainee. In 2003, she joined the Commercial Banking Group and helped increase its SBA lending portfolio. Ms. Cruz was selected to receive special training in SBAExpress and Community Express Loan Programs. Helped in part by her expertise, the Bank earned the SBA Lender of the Year in 2010. Further, in her role as an assistant vice president, she assisted community organizations and the Small Business Development Center assess

ways to improve the relationship between financial institutions and small businesses.

Ms. Cruz also serves as a mentor to junior loan officers, one of whom was named the 2010 SBA Loan Officer of the Year. Her contributions to the small business community and her understanding of modern financial services tools have helped the Bank of Guam grow and adapt to changes in the industry. Additionally, Ms. Cruz is an active volunteer for the Soroptimist International of the Marianas, where she helps women entrepreneurs navigate the challenges that many small business owners encounter.

I congratulate Reanna Cruz on being named the 2011 U.S. Small Business Administration's Financial Services Champion of the Year for Guam. I join the people of Guam in commending her for her award and thanking her for her contributions to our community.

HONORING COLONEL JOHN LAZAR

**HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Colonel John Lazar, upon his retirement after having served this great Nation since 1981, most recently as Director of Operational Contracting Support and Policy with the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army.

In 1981 John Lazar enlisted in the United States Army. Upon his graduation with a Bachelor of Science from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1986, he was commissioned as an Armor officer. Colonel Lazar went on to serve as a Tank Platoon Leader, Scout Platoon Leader and Assistant Battalion Operations Officer in the 1st Battalion 68th Armor Regiment at Wildflecken, Germany. He commanded Alpha Troop 5th Squadron 12th U.S. Cavalry at Fort Knox, Kentucky, served as an Assistant Professor as a member of the faculty at West Point, as Chief of the Joint Contracting Center in Hungary and as a Brigade Operations Officer for the United States Army Contracting Command Europe. Colonel Lazar commanded the Defense Contract Management Agency of both Canada and Central Iraq. He also served as Military Deputy to the Director of Acquisition Resources and Analysis in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.

Colonel Lazar has earned several graduate degrees including a Master of Science in Kinesiology from Indiana University in 1994, a Master of Arts in Procurement and Acquisition Management from Webster University in 2000, and a Master of Science in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College in 2007. He has a vast military education consisting of Armor Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms Services Staff School, Command and General Staff College as well as the aforementioned United States Army War College. Colonel Lazar holds acquisition certificates of Level II in Program Management and Level III in Contracting.

Highly decorated and awarded in his career, Colonel John Lazar has earned the Defense

Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and the NATO Medal with Yugoslavia Bar.

Mr. Speaker, since 1981 Colonel John Lazar has faithfully served the citizens of the United States. As he enters the next phase of his life with his beloved wife Renee and their three children Erika, Jacob and Matthew, he leaves behind a legacy of dedication, integrity, and excellence. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Colonel John Lazar upon his retirement and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community and country.

RECOGNIZING VICENTE D. ADA ON BEING NAMED THE 2011 U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S JEFFREY BUTLAND FAMILY-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR FOR GUAM

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Vicente D. Ada for many years of outstanding business leadership and contributions to our island community. Mr. Ada is the founder of Ada's Mortuary, Inc., a family-run funeral service on Guam. His company was recently named the 2011 U.S. Small Business Administration's Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Small Business of the Year for Guam.

In 1972 Mr. Ada founded Pacific Funeral Home, which was renamed Ada's Mortuary, Inc. in the mid-1990s. Under his leadership, the mortuary has grown from a small, home-based business with limited inventory into a full-service operation that provides funeral services for more than 300 families on Guam every year. Throughout its history and growth, Mr. Ada has maintained Ada's Mortuary as a family-run business—with many of his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and their spouses getting their first real-work experience there. Mr. Ada has successfully guided Ada's Mortuary from a small, family-run, operation into Guam's most successful funeral service business.

Mr. Ada has been actively involved in public service to our nation and on Guam. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and a former Senator in the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th Guam Legislatures. Mr. Ada has also focused his business to support youth development by participating in school-to-work programs, which allows youth to gain work experience at the company. Ada's Mortuary also provides caskets and funeral services, at no cost, to certain religious orders, unborn children, and families who cannot afford to bury their loved ones.

I congratulate Vicente Ada on being named the U.S. Small Business Administration's Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Small Business of the Year for Guam. I join the people of Guam in commending him on this award and thanking him for his contributions to our community.

HONORING RAMON CORTINES FOR HIS EXTRAORDINARY CAREER EDUCATING OUR NATION'S CHILDREN

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ramon Cortines, a great educator who has spent more than a half century serving America's youth at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. His remarkable career as an educator dates back to 1956 when he began teaching in the small town of Aptos, California. Since then he has worked for seven school districts, spanning the country from New York to Los Angeles.

In his 55 years as an educator, Mr. Cortines has held many titles: professor, administrator, principal, chancellor, senior advisor, deputy mayor, superintendent—you name it, he's done it. But if you were to walk up to him on the street and ask him what he does, his response would be simple: "I'm a teacher." Now the Superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, Mr. Cortines will soon begin a much-deserved retirement. It is therefore my pleasure to publicly thank him for all he has done for our children. I highlight his career with the hope that many bright young Americans follow his example of service.

Mr. Cortines earned a bachelor's degree in speech and education as well as a pair of master's degrees in school administration and adult learning, from Pasadena College. After serving in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955, he took his first teaching job in Aptos, CA. In the following years he served as a teacher and administrator in Covina, CA; an administrator and superintendent in Pasadena, CA; a superintendent in San Jose, CA; and a superintendent in San Francisco, CA.

In 1993, he was appointed Chancellor of the New York City Schools, where he served for two years. He soon went on to become the Senior Advisor to U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley under the Clinton Administration.

For several months in 2000 he served as the interim superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, then went on to become Los Angeles' Deputy Mayor for Education, Youth, and Families. In addition to advising numerous non-governmental organizations and working at Harvard, Columbia, Stanford, and Brown universities, Mr. Cortines accepted his most recent post as the Superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District on January 1, 2009.

Superintendent Cortines assumed this position with the same goals that he advanced as its interim director in 2000. He consistently challenged Los Angeles' lowest-performing students and schools to perform at a higher level, improving overall academic achievement and ensuring that every classroom and child is properly equipped to learn. He streamlined internal operations and encouraged greater decision-making among the administration of every school in the nation's second largest school district.

Mr. Speaker, Superintendent Ramon Cortines is one of this country's great educators, and though we are sad to see him go, we are thankful for his years of service and the impact he has made on the American sys-

tem of education. I commend him for his remarkable achievements.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE OF WASHINGTON, DC (GLAA)

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC (GLAA), a valued organization that has become a local leader in the struggle for equal rights for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) community.

Since its founding in April 1971, GLAA has been a respected and tireless advocate for full and equal rights for the District of Columbia, and has been at the forefront of efforts to strengthen enforcement of the landmark D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977. One of GLAA's most significant achievements, on which it worked with coalition partners, D.C. elected officials, and District residents, was the enactment of the District of Columbia Religious Freedom and Civil Rights Equality Amendment, which permits same-sex couples to marry in the District of Columbia.

In addition to its leadership on GLBT rights in the District, GLAA has always provided leadership on a wide range of civil rights issues, such as family rights, police accountability, and access to condoms in prisons and D.C. public schools. GLAA also emphasizes effective public health strategies and accountability in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the District.

At GLAA's 40th anniversary reception on April 20, 2011, the recipients of its 2011 Distinguished Service Awards will be recognized, including The Right Reverend John Bryson Chane, an Episcopal Bishop of Washington since 2002, a leader on issues of faith, politics and religion, an advocate for seniors, homeless and GLBT citizens, and a leader on inter-faith dialogue and study; Sharon Farmer, a native of the District of Columbia and the first African American and woman to serve as Director of White House Photography, where she shot news stories, political campaigns, cultural events, conferences and portraits, including of President Bill Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton; David Friedman, Director of the D.C. Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, a co-founder of the Bias Crimes Task Force, and a long-standing ally of the GLBT community who advocates for victims of hate crimes and legislation to address bullying and harassment of GLBT students in D.C. public schools; Theodore "Teddy" Guerrant, the longest serving accompanist in the gay and lesbian choral movement, including with the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC since 1983, an accompanist for the Central Maryland Chorale for eleven years, a member of the National Philharmonic Chorale at Strathmore Music Center for twenty-nine years, and an Organist-Chor-master at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Washington, DC for thirteen years; Ronald King, a longtime public servant in the District

of Columbia who served as a Director of Prevention and Intervention Services for the HIV/AIDS Administration, a Government Co-Chair of the D.C. HIV Prevention Community Planning Group, a manager of the first Centers for Disease Control & Prevention-funded outreach program in the District of Columbia for Black and Latino sexual minorities and of several HIV/AIDS programs, and co-founder of the DC Needle Exchange Coalition and the award-winning AIDS Program of the National Basketball Players Association; and David C. Ward, co-curator, with Jonathan Katz, of the National Portrait Gallery's landmark "Hide/Seek" exhibition who defended the integrity of the show in the face of censorship and controversy, an author, poet, and literary critic, as well as an historian at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery.

I ask the House to join me in honoring the recipients of GLAA's 2011 Distinguished Service Award and celebrating GLAA's 40th anniversary of contributions to the GLBT community in the District of Columbia.

RECOGNIZING CENCIO VY ON BEING NAMED THE 2011 U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR FOR GUAM

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Cencio Tan C. Vy for his years of outstanding business leadership on Guam. Mr. Vy is the President of Benson Guam Enterprises, a locally-owned construction materials and hardware supplier. He was recently named the 2011 U.S. Small Business Administration's Small Business Person of the Year for Guam.

Cencio Vy came to Guam in 1980 to help manage Benson Guam Enterprise, a construction materials supplier founded by his father, Tan Beng Chiat, in 1976 to help rebuilding efforts in the wake of Super Typhoon Pamela. One year later, at the age of 19, Mr. Vy was given full responsibility for business operations, and he grew the company, developing his business model through mentoring by his father and his own innovations. Under his leadership, Bensons has grown from five employees to 50, and his company is one of the largest construction materials suppliers on Guam. Over the years, Bensons has been able to weather both natural and economic headships, including several devastating typhoons and economic recessions in the Asia-Pacific region and the United States.

Mr. Vy is married to Noriko Vy and they have three children: Hardy, Mikkel (deceased), and Cefani. Aside from managing Bensons, he opened and operates Guam's only commercial golf driving range, which he opened in 1991. In 1997, Mr. Vy entered into a joint venture with his brother-in-law and Japanese investors to open two semi-conductor factories in Japan.

I congratulate Cencio Vy on being named the 2011 U.S. Small Business Administration's Small Business Person of the Year for Guam. I join the people of Guam in commending him for his award and thanking him for his contributions to our community.

REMEMBERING BEA MOTEN-  
FOSTER

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2011*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a kind-hearted and generous woman who will forever be remembered by Hoosiers in my district. Bea Moten-Foster was the owner and publisher of the Muncie Times, and she will be greatly missed by those in the community.

Bea was born in Selma, Alabama. Her media career began soon after she graduated from high school when she took a position as

a radio announcer in Birmingham, Alabama. She went on to work in television and radio in Miami, New York City and Indianapolis.

Bea moved to Muncie in the early 1980's and later married a professor at Ball State University, Robert O. Foster. Bea immediately began to impact the Muncie community. She organized Muncie's city-wide celebration of Black History Month, helped launch the Muncie coalition of 100 Black Women, and helped establish the Muncie Black Expo.

Some of Bea's other accomplishments include founding the Muncie Times, an African-American newspaper in 1991. The twice monthly publication now has a circulation of over 10,000 readers. She was also awarded the Indiana Black Expo 2010 Trail Blazer Award, the Sagamore of the Wabash, the

Spirit of Chief Muncie Award, and the Indiana State Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Business Person of the Year for 1996.

Those who were closest to Bea will remember her commitment to faith and family. Bea's daughter, the Reverend Pamela Emmanuel, said the motto her mother passed on to her was "Never accept 'No,' from somebody who doesn't have the power to say 'Yes.'" Bea's leadership in the Muncie community as well as her compassion for troubled youth will be sorely missed. I offer my sincere condolences to her beloved family, daughter Reverend Pamela Emmanuel, who will be continuing Bea's legacy and leading the Muncie Times, and her two grandchildren, Ebonye Endsley and Corey Van Horn.