

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER OF GENESEE COUNTY 2006 HONOREES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the organizations and individuals honored by the Child Advocacy Center of Genesee County for their service to the youths of our community that are the victims of child abuse. Genesee County will express its gratitude to these persons at a dinner today in Flint, Michigan.

The Child Advocacy Center of Genesee County was founded to react to allegations of child abuse. A multidisciplinary team responds by providing forensic interviews, medical evaluations, therapeutic intervention, and victim support/advocacy. Their goal is to provide these services to children and families in a safe and consistent manner.

This year the Child Advocacy Center is honoring the following Stars for Children. Four individuals will be recognized as Multi-Disciplinary Team Members: Detective Matthew Bade of the Burton Police Department, Detective James Santa of the Flint Township Police Department, Lieutenant Timothy P. Johnson of the City of Flint Police Department, Detective Diana Mills with the Mt. Morris Township Police Department.

Three persons have been nominated as the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year: Trooper Ryan Pennell with the Michigan State Police, Detective Diana Mills of the Mt. Morris Township Police Department, and Detective Matthew Bade of the Burton Police Department.

There are three nominees for the Department of Human Services Worker of the Year: Jana Carroll, Adriane Laugavitz and Marie Putnam. All three are with the Genesee County Department of Human Services High Risk Unit.

Three Genesee County Assistant Prosecutors are nominated for the Prosecutor of the Year Award. They are Gerald Snodgrass, Andrea Legendre, and Gladys Christopherson.

Receiving the Board of Directors Award is Sheryl Thompson, Director of the Genesee County Department of Human Services. Detective Sean Murphy is the recipient of the CEO Award. Nancy Walsh-Clifford of the McLaren Specialty Clinic is the Social Worker of the Year. Marie Putnam of the Genesee County Department of Human Services High Risk Unit will receive the Outstanding Service to Children Award. The Ruth Mott Foundation is being honored as Foundation of the Year. The Corporation of the Year Award is being given to Genesys Regional Medical Center. The Child Advocacy Center Award will go to McLaren Specialty Clinic, Dr. Edwin Gullekson and Dr. Mischa Pollard.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating these individuals and organizations for

their service to the most vulnerable of our society, our children. They are to be commended for their work in providing on a daily basis, a safe, nurturing environment for children victimized by abuse and neglect.

TRIBUTE TO THE HOSPITAL OF SAINT RAPHAEL AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join all administration, staff, and the New Haven community in extending my sincere congratulations to the Hospital of Saint Raphael as they mark their 100th Anniversary. The Hospital of Saint Raphael is one of New Haven's leading employers as well as one of the largest providers of healthcare in Connecticut. As we commemorate this remarkable milestone, we also celebrate all that the Hospital of Saint Raphael has brought to our community and look forward to the innovations that are sure to come in the future.

Since its founding by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth 100 years ago, the Hospital of Saint Raphael has grown from a 12-bed facility to a 511-bed community teaching hospital. The Sisters came to New Haven at the request of a group of local physicians who asked that they administer a hospital that would be open to all—all members of the medical profession and any patient, regardless of race, creed, color, or economic status. The Hospital of Saint Raphael, named for one of the few archangels recognized by many faiths and who has been long revered as a patron of the sick and healing, has built on this original vision and has become a local leader in providing quality healthcare to all members of our community. In addition to meeting the general healthcare needs of their patients, the administration and staff have developed a myriad of outreach programs designed specifically to ensure that those most in need—those who are the most underserved—are educated about healthcare and have access to the care that they need. It is that special vision that has driven the success of Saint Raphael's and how they continue to make a difference in our community.

Over the course of my career I have been proud to stand with the leaders of Saint Raphael's—those like my dear friends Sister Louise Anthony, Sister Anne Virginie, and David Benfer—to work with them to bring both local and national attention to a number of healthcare issues facing our communities. Devoting their lives to the Sisters of Charity, Sister Louise and Sister Anne brought not only their compassion, but a unique dedication to the mission of Saint Raphael Hospital. Sister Louise began her time at Saint Raphael's as

a nursing student and retired as the chief executive officer. It was under the leadership of Sister Louise that the Hospital of Saint Raphael opened the first freestanding, self-contained radiation therapy treatment center in New England as well as became the first community hospital in Connecticut to perform open-heart surgery and open a coronary care unit. Beginning her career as associate administrator, then as president of the hospital, and finally as president and chief executive officer of the Saint Raphael Healthcare System, Sister Anne provided Connecticut residents with the highest quality health care. Today their outstanding leadership is followed by David Benfer who, during his tenure of six years, has enabled Saint Raphael's to further its reputation as a clinical pioneer in cardiac, cancer, orthopedic, neurosciences, and geriatric services.

The Hospital of Saint Raphael has been a long-standing champion of efforts to bring awareness to lawmakers of the seriousness of today's healthcare crisis as well as the plight of uninsured Americans. Saint Raphael's and its staff were also one of the leading advocates for and were instrumental in the passage state legislation which protects women from the dangers of drive through mastectomies. This is an issue which I have taken an active interest in at the federal level and I am grateful for the support I have received from the Hospital, its staff and its leaders. It is this kind of advocacy, compassion, and commitment to quality healthcare that has made Saint Raphael's such a success over the last century.

It is a privilege for me to rise today to pay tribute to the invaluable contributions the Hospital of Saint Raphael has made, not only to our community, but to the healthcare community as well. I am proud to extend my sincere congratulations to this outstanding institution as they celebrate their centennial anniversary. I have no doubt that in the years to come, the Hospital of Saint Raphael will continue to be a leader in the healthcare industry and a vigilant advocate on behalf of those most in need.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE FRANCES TYDINGCO-GATEWOOD ON HER INVESTITURE AS A FEDERAL JUDGE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Honorable Frances Marie Tydingco-Gatewood, who was nominated by the President and sworn in on October 30, 2006 to serve as a United States District Court Chief Judge for the District of Guam. One of our island's finest jurists, Judge Tydingco-Gatewood has a distinguished career of service to our island in the judicial system.

Born on January 21, 1958 on the island of Oahu, Hawaii to Daniel J. and Francesca S.

• 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.

Tydingco, she returned with her family to her island of Guam as a young child and grew up in the village of Mongmong-Toto-Maite. She attended Yigo Elementary School, Barrigada Junior High, Dededo Junior High and graduated from George Washington High School in Mangilao in 1976.

Proving that hard work leads to success, Judge Tydingco-Gatewood earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Marquette University in 1980 and in 1983 achieved a personal milestone as she earned her law degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. After graduating from law school, Judge Tydingco-Gatewood began her career as a law clerk for the Presiding Judge of the Jackson County Circuit Courts in Kansas City, Missouri. In 1984, she returned home to Guam and became the first Chamorro woman to be appointed as an Assistant Attorney General. She served as an Assistant Prosecutor in Jackson County, Missouri from 1988 to 1990, and upon returning to Guam with her new experience, became Guam's first Chamorro woman appointed as Chief Prosecutor.

As Chief Prosecutor, Frances Tydingco-Gatewood exhibited the professionalism and leadership skills that would earn the respect of her peers and later appointment to the bench. She gained a reputation as a tough prosecutor and a savvy lawyer. In 1994 Governor Joseph F. Ada appointed her as a Judge in the Superior Court of Guam and in 2001 she was appointed by Governor Carl T. C. Gutierrez as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of Guam.

She was appointed by Chief Justice F. Philip Carbullido to chair seven Guam Supreme Court subcommittees. She served as co-chairperson of the Family Violence Task Force where she has been a community leader in raising awareness about domestic violence. Justice Tydingco-Gatewood serves as co-chairperson for the Pacific Judicial Council Education Committee, which is dedicated to improving the education of all Justices, Judges and Courts staff for Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau, American Samoa, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

It is Judge Tydingco-Gatewood's character and her distinguished career that led me to confidently recommend her for the federal bench at her confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on July 11, 2006. She is a leader, a role model for our young citizens, and a strong Chamorro woman who embodies the integrity and pride of the Chamorro people. On behalf of the people of Guam, it is my privilege to recognize Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood and her achievements which are an inspiration to women in Guam and throughout our nation.

As she stands alongside her husband of 25 years, Dr. Robert Gatewood and their three sons, Daniel, Michael and Stephen, she has the support of our community and the confidence of the President and the Congress. We all share her joy with her family and friends and we wish her every success as she undertakes the greatest challenge of her remarkable legal career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 514, I was unable to vote due to unforeseen circumstances. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO DR. PRASAD KOMMAREDDI

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Prasad Kommareddi as he completes his term as President of the Genesee County Medical Society. Dr. Kommareddi was honored at the annual President's Ball held on November 4th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

After attending Guntur Medical College in India, Dr. Kommareddi completed a residency in Pediatrics at St. John's Episcopal Hospital and a residency in Internal Medicine at Hurley Medical Center. After adopting Flint as his new home, Dr. Kommareddi went on to become board certified in three areas, Internal Medicine, Addiction Medicine, and Quality Assurance and Utilization Review.

Dr. Kommareddi has been active in enhancing the relationship between physicians and third party payers. He served as a medical advisor to MCare, Blue Care Network, and served as a member of the Michigan State Medical Society Committees on Licensing and Regulation and Third Party Payer Liaison.

Recognized by his peers for his leadership, insight, and focus, Dr. Kommareddi has been elected to several positions by his fellow physicians. He is the past president of the Physicians of India Association, has served on the Genesee County Medical Society Board of Directors, and as a delegate to the Genesee County Medical Society House of Delegates, and president of the Genesee County Medical Society Affiliated Companies. He is currently a Member of the Board of Genesys PHO, Chair of its Finance Committee and serves as its Administrative Medical Director.

Prasad Kommareddi's term as the President of the Genesee County Medical Society was underscored by his excellent guidance and concentration on implementing major components of the Medical Society's Strategic and Long Range plan. He worked to increase cooperation and involvement by the members and spotlighted the need for quality and evidence based initiatives.

Compassion is an integral part of being a good medical doctor and Dr. Kommareddi has worked over the years to educate patients about maintaining healthy lifestyles. Conducting weekly group meetings to explain the repercussions of diabetes, high cholesterol, cardiovascular disease and obesity. He provides these meetings free of charge. He provides these meetings free of charge. The Michigan Surgeon General has acknowledged his motivational efforts. He is the recipient of the Michigan Steps Up Award from the State of Michigan and the Health Plus Award for 25

years of service. In addition to being an outstanding physician, Dr. Kommareddi and his wife, Jay, are the proud parents of two daughters, Malika and Madhuri.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Prasad Kommareddi for sharing his skill with his patients, his co-workers, fellow medical doctors, and the people of Michigan. The Flint area is a better place because of his commitment to improving the health of its citizens. I wish him the best as he continues to serve to community.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MEL GOLDSTEIN AS HE CELEBRATES HIS 10TH ANNIVERSARY AS A CANCER SURVIVOR

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, in each of our communities we have local celebrities and there is always one to which we feel most akin—that personality that touches your life in a way that you never expected. For me, and for residents across Connecticut, that person is Dr. Mel Goldstein, meteorologist for WTNH News Channel 8. Tonight, family, friends, colleagues, and community leaders have gathered to celebrate a very special occasion for Dr. Mel—his 10th anniversary as a cancer survivor. This is a remarkable milestone—one which I am honored to share with him.

Dr. Mel, as he is affectionately known by all Connecticut residents, has been welcomed into thousands of homes over the years. He is more than just our weatherman—he is our friend. You can only imagine how stunned we all were when Dr. Mel announced that he had been diagnosed with multiple myeloma, an incurable but treatable cancer of the plasma cell. With a strength and determination that continues to inspire all of us, Dr. Mel shared his story with the world and in the 10 years since his diagnosis has brought much needed attention to this disease, the technological advancements in treatments that are available, and about living and coping with myeloma.

In bringing his personal battle with multiple myeloma to the public, Dr. Mel brought light to this rare disease and hope to the thousands of Americans, as well as their families and loved ones, who have been diagnosed with this cancer. Driven by his determination to win this fight, Dr. Mel established the Dr. Mel Goldstein Multiple Myeloma Fund at the Yale Cancer Center. Donating all proceeds from his speaking engagements as well as those from the two editions of his book, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Weather*, in the 7 years since its establishment, the Fund has raised thousands of dollars which have been directed to ongoing research and clinical trials that target this incurable form of cancer.

As a cancer survivor myself, I have the deepest respect and admiration for Dr. Mel and his willingness to be so open about something so personal and a health concern that can be the most frightening experience of your life. In describing himself, he uses the words optimistic, positive, and persistent—I cannot think of a more fitting description. Perhaps what has been most inspiring about his 10-year battle with myeloma is that we have

never seen him without that engaging smile and good-natured laugh. He has and continues to face the challenges of this disease with integrity and determination—he is one of a kind!

The late Rabbi Jerome Malino of Danbury, Connecticut once said, "It is much better to live one's life as an optimist and be wrong, than a pessimist and be right." This has been the motto by which Dr. Mel has not only approached his life, but his battle with cancer as well. He has given us all reason to be optimistic that we will find what we all seek—a cure. It is my great pleasure to rise today to salute Dr. Mel Goldstein for all that he has and will accomplish towards that goal. I am pleased to join his wife, Arlene, family, friends, and colleagues in extending my heartfelt congratulations on this very special occasion as well as my very best wishes for continued health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF SANCTUARY, INCORPORATED

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Sanctuary, Incorporated on the occasion of the organization's 35th Anniversary. Sanctuary is a community-based nonprofit organization in Guam dedicated to facilitating and supporting conflict resolution activities aimed to reconcile differences between family members and reunite estranged families.

Sanctuary was incorporated under the law of Territory of Guam in 1971. Originally the organization sought to provide counseling teenage runaways on the island. Sanctuary's primary purpose was to provide these youths with a temporary residential shelter while offering family counseling services. Sanctuary has grown over the last 35 years and it has expanded its services to accommodate the diverse needs and complex issues of today's youth.

Sanctuary began expanding its mission in the late 1980s. For instance, the organization opened its Transitional Living Program, TLP, to assist older youth who were aging out of the foster care system but who were unable to return to their families. The TLP program helped prepare these youths for adulthood by teaching them the fundamentals of independent living. Sanctuary also established a community-based Drug Prevention program in the 1990s. What is more, the organization developed the parental assistance program Ayuda Para I Manaina, APIM. Lastly, it created programs to provide for the emotional and physical needs of teens and young adults victimized by domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault or other crimes. These programs have made and continue to make important contributions to strengthening our community on Guam.

Sanctuary has led other initiatives as well. The organization recently received federal funding to create theatrical productions to prevent teenage tobacco use in Guam. With those funds, the organization produced a music album and video in 2003 featuring

young musicians and aspiring actors and actresses from Guam. The project advocated a tobacco-free lifestyle and was distributed to Guam's middle and high schools for use as a classroom instructional resource. Most recently, Sanctuary opened Guam's first and only substance abuse treatment program for adolescents, Sagan Na' Homlo (Para I Manhoben). Sagan Na' Homlo provides two cycles of services and counseling to youth between the ages of 12 and 17 who struggle with drugs and alcohol. This two cycle approach is taken to ensure these at-risk youths receive the maximum benefits of the service and counseling available to them through this program. Today, Sanctuary also operates a Co-Ed Emergency Shelter that has the capacity to care for 18 youths. The shelter is designed as a safe alternative for abused, runaway, homeless and troubled youth to turn to when they are experiencing challenges.

For the 35 years, Sanctuary, Incorporated has been the leader in increasing public awareness of at-risk youth situations and providing those youths, their families, and the community of Guam with resources, counseling and support services. With the steadfast commitment, dedication, and leadership of Sanctuary's current Executive Director, Sarah Thomas-Nededog, and Sanctuary's staff, faculty, Board of Directors and volunteers, the organization has become a true force for good on Guam, helping countless youths coping with the physical and emotional abuse to become valuable, functional and contributing members of society.

On behalf of all the people of Guam, I extend a most Dangkolo' Na Si Yu'os Ma'ase, Maraming Salamat Po, and Congratulations to Sanctuary, Incorporated on the occasion of its 35th Anniversary.

HONORING THE TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY, CONNECTICUT ON THE OCCASION OF ITS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Town of Middlebury, Connecticut, on the occasion of its bicentennial.

Once a Revolutionary War camp for French General Rochambeau and his troops on their march to Yorktown, West Farms and adjoining portions of Woodbury and Southbury first formed a distinct ecclesiastical society in 1790. The society took up the name Middlebury, derived from the central position its meetinghouse occupied six miles from its three older neighbors, Waterbury, Southbury, and Woodbury. After repeated petitions to the Connecticut General Assembly for independence from Waterbury, the Town of Middlebury was formally incorporated in 1807.

Today, recreational facilities and year-round cultural events are close by; Quassy Amusement Park, a local ski trail, and a town lake are some of the more popular amusements. Teikyo Post University is a short drive away, offering a variety of courses for students in pursuit of undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the Town of Middlebury in the United States House of Representatives, and extend my best wishes to the city and its citizens for another 200 years of prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP AND MRS. ODIS A FLOYD

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop and Mrs. Odis A. Floyd as they celebrate their 37th Pastoral Anniversary. The congregation is planning several events to commemorate this anniversary throughout the month of November starting with a banquet on November 4 and ending with a day of celebration on November 26.

Bishop Floyd accepted his call to ministry in April 1964. Working with his grandfather, Reverend L.W. Owens, he helped organize the New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church and in November 1969 was unanimously elected as pastor. In 1991 he changed the church's name to New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church.

Over the years New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church has grown under Bishop Floyd's guidance. As a "Church on the Move for Christ" the congregation has answered the Bishop's call to expand the ministry beyond the sanctuary doors. The church operates several outreach programs including the New Jerusalem Intervention Ministry Team, Operation Blessing, Nurses and Health Team, Philadelphia Ministry, Youth Ministry, and Singles Ministry. Mrs. Floyd heads the United Women of New Jerusalem. Bishop Floyd's message of salvation is broadcast throughout the week through several media outlets. The New Jerusalem Tape Ministry makes available copies of church services, special programs and Bible Study. The Christian Education Department runs the vibrant Children's Church, Sunday School, Adult Bible Class and the Upward Bound program. As part of the foundation of church life, the Prayer Ministry is at the forefront of the Wednesday Night Intercessory Prayer services and the 24-hour prayer vigil, "The Jerusalem Watch." The church moved into the present worship complex in 1994.

Bishop Floyd is the 2nd Presiding Bishop of the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship, a board member of Concerned Pastors for Social Action, the Visually Impaired Center, and Gospel Today Magazine. He is the Past President of the Baptist Assembly of Free Spirit Churches, the Past Youth Director of the Great Lakes District Congress of Christian Education, he has received the Good Scout Award, and he was a nominee for the Soul Train Award, the Gospel Music Workshop of America Excellence Award, and a Grammy nominee for Best Soul Gospel Male Performance. Music has played an important part in the church ministry and Bishop Floyd can be heard performing on several albums.

His participation in the Flint community goes beyond New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church. Bishop Floyd has served on the boards of several organizations and is involved in improving the quality of life in the Flint area including the Bishop International

Airport Authority Board and the Flint Urban Insurance List Steering Committee with the Governor's Office of Community and Faith-Based Initiatives. In addition to their service to Our Lord, Bishop Floyd and his wife Brenda are the devoted parents of Anthony and Nikki.

Mr. Speaker I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Bishop Odis and Brenda Floyd as they celebrate their 37th Pastoral Anniversary. May Our Lord bless them and bless New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT LATORRACA
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered in extending my sincere congratulations to Robert LaTorraca as he celebrates his retirement after more than thirty years of dedicated service to American Medical Response.

In each of our communities, we have emergency response services which we depend on. However, ambulatory services, like those provided by American Medical Response, are often overlooked with police, fire, and other services at the forefront of discussion and debate. American Medical Response serves more communities and customers than any other private ambulance service provider in the nation. But more importantly, the organization's employees, those like Bob LaTorraca, serve their local communities on a personal basis, as part of the community where they live and work.

A graduate of Hamden High School and alumni of Quinnipiac College and Southern Connecticut State University, Bob has spent a lifetime in the community and his dedication to its protection and safety is unquestionable. Bob began his career as a field emergency medical technician with the New Haven Ambulance service and quickly earned his way to the position of Vice President of Operations. During the beginning of his career, Bob distinguished himself as an innovator by developing the first proprietary accounts receivable system in the state and establishing the first neonatal transport contract with Yale-New Haven Hospital. When, in the early nineties, New Haven Ambulance Service became one of the four founding companies of American Medical Response, Bob was named Chief Operating Officer for Connecticut and for the Northeast Operations just a few years later.

Leading a team of more than eight thousand employees in 23 states prior to his retirement, Bob achieved great professional success, however, his innumerable contributions to communities in need are what set him apart. Most recently, and perhaps most notably, were the actions he took following two of the most devastating events in our Nation's history. On September 11, 2001, he personally led a contingent of American Medical Response personnel from both Connecticut and New York to support of Fire Department of New York, and, just this past year, Bob has made a number of trips to assist in the on-

going relief efforts in Mississippi in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Bob has also left an indelible mark on his own community with his outstanding efforts on behalf of a variety of local organizations and committees. The Hamden Fire Commission, the Shirley Frank Foundation, the Clelian Adult Daycare Center, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving are just a few of those who have benefited from Bob's support. The myriad of awards and citations that he has been honored with are testament to his enduring commitment to our community.

I have often said our communities would not be the same without the efforts of those who dedicate their time and energies to making a difference. Bob is a reflection of all that we want our community members to be. His compassion, generosity, and faithful service has touched countless lives. It is an honor for me to stand today to join his wife, Marby; his children, Maresa, Rob, and Jared; as well as the family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered today in extending my sincerest thanks and appreciation to Robert LaTorraca for all that he has given to our community. He is an inspiration to many and leaves a legacy that will continue to have a positive impact on the lives of others for generations to come. I wish he and Marby the very best as they enjoy his retirement and many more years of health and happiness.

PETE WHEELER, COMMISSIONER,
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICE

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and contributions of Pete Wheeler, the Georgia Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, who is being honored this Veterans Day as Georgia's "Veteran of the Century." Pete Wheeler is an incredible person and a true friend to all those who have served in our country's armed forces.

Pete Wheeler's dedication to public service and our veterans is deep-rooted. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942 and served in the Army Infantry. He retired as a Brigadier General in the National Guard in 1978. After graduating from the University of Georgia, he began his career with the Georgia Department of Veterans Service in 1949, and has worked personally with the 11 U.S. Presidents and 11 Georgia Governors since then. In 1954, he was appointed Georgia Chairman, National Veterans Day Committee and he still serves in that capacity. He was appointed to the U.S. Veterans Advisory Commission by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1967. Upon his appointment in 1994, he served as chairman of the World War II Memorial Advisory Board for President Clinton and President George W. Bush.

A true and faithful friend to veterans, Pete Wheeler has been an advocate of their causes for more than half a century. On a national level he is looked upon among the State Directors and Commissioners as the "Dean of Veterans." He has been instrumental in many innovative programs to benefit veterans and their families, including starting the first ever "State Supermarket of Veterans Benefits" in

1966, a one-stop service for veterans and their families to gather information regarding Federal and State benefits to which they might be entitled. During his tenure, established two State veteran's cemeteries and played an influential part in the establishment of the GA National Cemetery in Cherokee County, Georgia, and the Annual Service Officer School was established. This workshop brings together veterans benefit counselors from field offices as well as leadership from the State's veterans groups and national offices involved in veteran's issues. This has been an annual event for 47 years.

His awards include the Silver Helmet Award, presented by AMVETS; Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge George Washington Honor Medal; the American Legion Gold Honor Medal and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Silver Medal of Merit.

Veterans and all Georgians are fortunate to have Pete Wheeler working for them. He is a model of civic pride and community service. Pete Wheeler has made an immeasurable contribution to our State, and our Nation.

WELCOMING THE UNITED JEWISH
COMMUNITIES GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TO LOS ANGELES

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to welcome the 2006 United Jewish Communities General Assembly to Los Angeles. It is an honor to host this national gathering and showcase our very own LA Jewish Federation, which has deep roots and a long and accomplished history of community service.

The UJC's tireless advocacy on behalf of seniors, children, and countless others in need is critically important and deeply valued. The reach of their care and concern extends across the United States, Israel and to Jewish communities around the world. I am particularly proud of the UJC's efforts to expand the Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC) program, which brings dignity and much-needed help to the elderly. I would also like to commend their immediate mobilization to rebuild neighborhoods and kibbutzim in Northern Israel recovering from Hezbollah rocket attacks.

Collectively, UJC shines as a beacon of the Jewish value of tzedakah. Individually, each one of the dedicated UJC staff, volunteers and contributors deserves recognition for making a real difference in people's lives, one person at a time. I look forward to working with UJC in the future to achieve the goals we share.

TRIBUTE TO DARLENE HUNTER
DAVIS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Darlene Hunter Davis, the Illustrious Commandress of Oman Court Number

132, Daughters of Isis Auxiliary, to the Imperial Council Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. Darlene was honored at the 46th Annual Commandress Ball on October 28th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

The Daughters of Isis Auxiliary was formed in 1910 as an auxiliary of the family members of the Prince Hall Shriners. The purpose was to unite the relatives of A.E.A.O.N.M.S. Inc. members together under one bond of friendship, charity, benevolence, honor and integrity

as symbolized in the legend of the Egyptian queen, the goddess Isis.

Darlene Hunter Davis embodies these qualities. After graduating from Flint Central High School she attended Detroit College of Business and started working for Hurley Medical Center. She went back to school after 20 years and obtained her Associate's Degree in Business Administration/General Management from Detroit College of Business.

She is active with Mount Pisgah Church, her family and friends and serves on various com-

mittees at Hurley Medical Center. Married to Emery Davis, she is the mother of Gaquilla H. Skinner, the grandmother of three and has several great-grandchildren. Darlene is a member of the Royal Star Chapter 27 O.E.S., P.H.A. Jurisdiction of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Darlene Hunter Davis on her service to the Oman Temple and the Flint community and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.