

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE SERVICE OF INTELLIGENCE SPECIALIST FIRST CLASS PETTY OFFICER (SURFACE WARFARE/AIR WARFARE) JAMES K. BROWN

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the service and accomplishments of Petty Officer James K. Brown, who is retiring following 20 years of service in the United States Navy.

IS1 (SW/AW) Brown enlisted in the Navy in 1989 and has had numerous operational deployments including Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Desert Fox, Kosovo, and the Global War on Terrorism. His honors and awards include the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (second award), the Combat Action Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal (sixth award), the NATO Medal for Yugoslavia, and the Joint Staff Identification Badge.

Petty Officer Brown's distinguished service reflects greatly upon him and the United States Navy. I thank him for his service to our nation and wish him and his family my sincerest congratulations.

HONORING A CAREER OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a public servant that has dedicated his life to improving and enriching communities across the state of Tennessee.

Lee Holland will retire this June from his position as President of the Tennessee Municipal League's Risk Management Pool. For more than two decades, Lee has demonstrated integrity, professionalism, and efficiency while serving the people of Tennessee. During his tenure, TML's Risk Management Pool became the leader in providing insurance and risk management to Tennessee's municipalities. The Pool today provides a vital public service by insuring over 40,000 public employees and over \$5.8 billion in municipal property.

Before starting his career in the insurance industry, Lee served as the city manager for Collegedale, Tennessee. Beginning in 1975, his stewardship brought revitalization and new industry to a city in disarray. If you drive through Collegedale today, you can see for yourself the positive impact that Lee brought to the city.

Today, I am proud to honor Lee Holland's tireless work on behalf of the people of Tennessee. He has truly earned not only our re-

spect and admiration, but also a well deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN RANDOLPH E. DERR—SCOTTSDALE HEALTHCARE'S "SALUTE TO MILITARY" HONOREE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding member of the Armed Forces from my home State of Arizona. Each month, Scottsdale Healthcare honors military personnel who perform diligent service to this country. For the month of March Scottsdale Healthcare has recognized Captain Randolph E. Derr.

I commend Scottsdale Healthcare for recognizing Captain Derr for his life-saving service to our country.

Captain Derr recently completed a yearlong tour as a critical care nurse at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. While there Captain Derr provided life-saving care to wounded service members suffering from combat injuries, including traumatic amputations, burns, head injuries, and fractures. For his outstanding service, Captain Derr was awarded the Army Commendation Medal. This was Captain Derr's third post-9/11 deployment which included a year in Afghanistan and eight months in Kuwait.

In his new role as a clinical educator for the Military Partnership Training Program at Scottsdale Healthcare, Captain Derr will use the experience he acquired during his deployments to educate military medical personnel about wartime medical skills. His efforts will advance the critical care skills of deploying military personnel and improve the medical readiness of our Nation.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing a truly outstanding Army Nurse for serving our country and caring for fellow service men and women in combat.

SUPPORT THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF GLOBAL CHILD NUTRITION MONTH

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, today, along with my good friend Congressman JIM McGOVERN, I introduced a resolution of support for the goals and ideals of Global Child Nutrition Month. The fact that hunger and malnutrition is experienced by any person is a sad reflection on our society. However, it is even more troubling to know that roughly 300,000,000 children are experiencing hunger

around the world. There is no greater investment in our security and global economic development than ensuring hungry children have access to nutritious food. A hungry child, suffering from malnutrition, will not reach their full physical or mental potential. A hungry child rarely attends school, leaving another, larger generation of hungry and uneducated men to be recruited into radical militant groups and uneducated women to be oppressed.

We have the tools today to fight hunger and malnutrition in the world's youngest and most vulnerable. The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program has proven to be a very effective tool for providing hungry children nutritious food. The program has the added benefit of encouraging parents to send their children to school, and not to rely on them for income or food. I also believe the political will to make the fight successful is increasing. Although we have a long way to go, President Obama's Administration is making visible efforts to add resources to fighting global hunger. Two examples include the increased budget for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program and the leadership being displayed by the Administration's Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative. Internationally the attention to global food security has rarely been more focused; and hopefully, the resources will soon follow the pledges.

This April, many of our non-governmental organization partners will recognize Global Child Nutrition Month and the hunger facing children around the globe. I would like to particularly thank the Global Child Nutrition Foundation and School Nutrition Association for their work in increasing awareness of the problem global hunger presents and for raising funds to help feed hungry children. These two organizations partner with school nutrition professionals around the country and encourage them to take a day, week or even longer to work with students and teachers educating them and raising donations. It is grassroots education and fundraising at its best.

Ensuring every child around the world has access to sufficient nutrition is a challenge that will not be easily met, but it will be met. With dedicated partners both in and out of government, we will achieve this goal quicker, which is why I am happy to introduce this resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Global Child Nutrition Month.

H. CON. RES. 248, A RESOLUTION TO DIRECT THE PRESIDENT TO REMOVE THE U.S. ARMED FORCES FROM AFGHANISTAN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, for years, the mission in Afghanistan was poorly defined and managed by the Bush Administration—despite the 9/11 attacks having been perpetrated

● 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.

by those trained and based in Afghanistan. Still, President Bush diverted attention and resources to Iraq, misleading the American people and Congress as to the true source of the threat to our nation and the world.

After considerable and careful review of military options in Afghanistan, President Obama submitted to the American people a sober assessment of the realities on the ground and a plan to end U.S. involvement. I believe that the President is committed to ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and I support his efforts, but I believe we must expedite his timetable.

Undoubtedly, our brave men and women in uniform have fought well and deserve our full support and commitment to return them home safely to their families and loved ones.

Our troops have fought with honor and professionalism in the face of great challenges, and at great cost—I am truly humbled by their service and sacrifice.

While I support the President and our military leadership in bringing this war to a responsible end, I believe the time has come to send a message that the United States cannot sustain an open-ended commitment in Afghanistan. I believe the resolution before us sends that message.

That is why I vote in favor of the resolution today.

HONORING SAM H. PACK

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and pride that I rise today to recognize Mr. Sam Pack, owner and president of Sam Pack Auto Group. Mr. Pack has earned the recognition as one of the most prominent leaders in the American automotive industry in recent years.

Mr. Pack has held various management positions with Ford Motor Company. In 1980, Mr. Pack became the president, general manager, and partner of Lee Jarmon Ford Inc. in Carrollton, TX. During Mr. Pack's tenure as a business executive, he has developed Sam Pack Auto Group into a nationally renowned and influential business.

Throughout his professional career, Mr. Pack has always had a reputation of high customer satisfaction, owner loyalty, and leadership in the community. Mr. Pack was honored in 1988 by Time Magazine as the “Quality Dealer of the Year,” which is the highest industry standard for new-car dealers who exhibit exceptional performance in their dealerships, combined with distinguished community service. The Texas Automobile Dealers Association bestowed Mr. Pack with the prestigious “Legends Awards” in 2006, which makes him one of only nine dealers to receive this accolade.

Mr. Pack is an active member in many civic service organizations. In 1990, Mr. Pack was named “Citizen of the Year” by the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Pack was also the recipient of the 2003 “Award for Outstanding Community Service” from Ford Motor Company. These achievements display Mr. Pack's community involvement and selfless service to others.

On behalf of the 24th District of Texas, I would like to personally thank Mr. Pack for his diligent service and entrepreneurial spirit. Mr. Pack's civic and professional accomplishments have been numerous, and it is an honor for me to recognize him for his contributions to the people of 24th District of Texas. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Pack many years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF SAM H. PACK

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Sam H. Pack, one of the most influential leaders in the American automotive industry on thirty meritorious years of service.

Mr. Pack began his career in the automotive industry with Ford Motor Company. After his eighteen year tenure, he moved on to become the President, General Manager, and Partner of Lee Jarmon Ford, Inc., a dealership in Carrollton, Texas. In 1986, Mr. Pack purchased sole interest and as owner, the dealership has experienced continued growth under his leadership. The many loyal customers he has gained over the years can be attributed to his commitment to excellence and belief in quality customer service. His entrepreneurial spirit, business savvy, dedication, and hard work can be seen in his many successes as the proud owner and President of Sam Pack Auto Group.

Aside from his successful career, Mr. Pack firmly believes in giving back to his local community. His monetary contributions to numerous philanthropic organizations has touched the lives of many and helped nonprofit organizations more effectively achieve their mission. Beyond giving financially, Mr. Pack also gives generously of his time and effort. He is actively involved in various civic and professional organizations such as the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce, North Dallas Shared Ministry, Episcopal Diocese of Dallas Children's Foundation, National Automobile Dealers Association, and the Dallas New Car Dealers Association where he currently serves as the Chairman.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to joining me in honoring Mr. Pack. I wish him and his family all the best and congratulate him as he celebrates the 30th Anniversary of Sam Pack's Five Star Ford.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on Monday, March 15, 2010, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote No. 112 (on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1145, as amended), “yes” on rollcall vote No. 113 (on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1170), “yes” on rollcall vote No. 114 (on the

motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1163), and “yes” on rollcall vote No. 115 (on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 267).

HEALTH CARE

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, today's headlines are full of talk about process and vote counts, making it possible for some to forget what we are doing and why we are doing it.

We are reforming healthcare because our system is broken.

Insurance companies are discriminating against those with pre-existing or “on-going” conditions.

Companies are discriminating against people like Alicia Chester—a constituent from my district—who, after graduating from college, was denied adequate coverage.

Because she suffers from back pain, the insurance companies refused to cover Alicia's back treatment, deeming hers an “on-going” condition.

Then, due to one irregular pap-smear, the insurance companies declared Alicia a “cervical cancer risk” and barred her from re-applying for 18 months.

No one deserves to be dropped because they need help.

No one should have to decide whether to cover costs out-of-pocket, or to avoid medical treatment because the costs are too high.

We are fixing healthcare because of people like Alicia.

U.S. RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to insert my views into the RECORD regarding the importance of the relationship between the United States and Israel.

Vice President BIDEN's visit last week to Israel and subsequent public statements made by U.S. and Israeli officials have given rise to a storm of speculation about the strength and durability of the alliance between our two nations.

The Obama administration in recent days has expressed frustration over an announcement made by the Israeli government during the Vice President's visit that it intends to build 1,600 additional housing units in East Jerusalem.

The administration contends such plans place in jeopardy its initiative to resume peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians, and has publicly rebuked Israel for last week's announcement, an act seldom seen from U.S. Government officials.

These events deeply concern me, and I find the administration's rhetoric troubling. Now is the time for greater solidarity between the United States and Israel, not less.

We cannot forget that the United States faces considerable challenges in the Middle

East. Iran is quickly advancing its nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities to threaten the United States and our allies in the Middle East and Europe. Our significant political and military gains in Iraq and Afghanistan remain fragile and reversible. Moreover, the Middle East remains the epicenter of violent extremism, serving as a base for terrorist groups who continue to plan and launch attacks against America.

The United States cannot confront these threats alone. Israel has been our most critical partner in the Middle East, helping us to protect our national security. The ability of the United States to defeat our adversaries depends on Israeli support.

Bringing my remarks to conclusion, the relationship between the United States and Israel rests firmly upon the foundation of more than half a century of history. It is grounded in mutual respect, supported by shared values, and guided by our common long-term interests. Therefore, our alliance remains strong and, despite what some may speculate, it will not succumb to the shifting politics of the day or to petty disagreements.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons I call upon the President, members of his administration, and my fellow members of Congress, to remain steadfast in their unwavering commitment to the relationship between the United States and Israel.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO "METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH" ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I rise to congratulate Metropolitan Baptist Church as they join together in celebration of their 100th Anniversary. This momentous and joyous celebration will commence on March 21, 2010.

Metropolitan has a very rich history that has given it life and longevity for the past 100 years. At a time when a systematic campaign had been started by area landlords to force African-Americans out of my beloved Harlem, the Metropolitan Baptist Church began with the merger of two churches: Zion Baptist Church pastured by the Reverend P.C. James, and Mercy Seat Baptist Church, pastured by Reverend Dr. N.S. Epps.

The officers of both churches met at the home of Reverend Epps. At the meeting, it was decided that both church names be dropped. Trustee Robert L. Hill of the Mercy Seat Baptist Church suggested the name that would be carried on throughout its History, Metropolitan Baptist Church. A motion was made, carried and recorded, and that day, March 12, 1912, the Metropolitan Baptist Church was started. Its first location was the Subway Church, home of the old Mercy Seat Baptist Church, on West 134th Street near the new 135th Street Subway station. The new church was led by Dr. Epps, its first pastor until 1914.

In 1916, under the Rev. W.W. Brown, the church built the enormous Metropolitan Baptist

Tabernacle at West 138th Street. After the Baptist congregation bought the New York Presbyterian Church on West 128th Street in 1918, where it remains to this day, the Tabernacle became Liberty Hall. This was the focal point of Marcus Garvey's Back-to-Africa movement, where the first convention was held in 1920 of the Universal Negro Improvement Association. Thousands were drawn to the elaborately ritualistic, almost religious, meetings at the hall.

Since its inception, many Governors and Members of Congress from both the Democratic and Republican Party have visited the church to garner the support of its congregants. In 1994, Metropolitan Baptist Church, under the tutelage of Reverend John A. Smith, became a Triple Landmark, having earned Federal, City, and State landmark status.

From its modest beginning, Metropolitan Baptist Church has emerged as a cornerstone of my beloved village of Harlem. Under the guidance of its 5th pastor, Reverend Bobbie McDaniel, Metropolitan continues to thrive, both in terms of spiritual growth as well as practical improvements. The proud members of the church are thankful for the spiritual and emotional leadership he and the previous pastors have provided during their 100 years.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Metropolitan Baptist Church on their historic 100th Anniversary. Their historic significance, constant dedication, and spiritual guidance is worthy of the highest commendation.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS NATIONAL MEMORIAL ACT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, today, H.R. 2788 passed the House with the unanimous support of my colleagues. The bill designates a memorial that is currently under construction at March Field Air Museum, in Riverside, California, as the Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial.

I am proud that the Distinguished Flying Cross recipients, who have received this prestigious medal for their heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Armed Forces, are closer to having a memorial designated as a National Memorial with the passage of this bill.

March Air Reserve Base is adjacent to the location of the memorial at the March Field Air Museum. Today at the base there are active operational air units providing support to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, which is why this is an appropriate setting for the memorial to the many aviators who have distinguished themselves by deeds performed in aerial flight.

I am including in today's RECORD, my floor statement from Tuesday, March 16, 2010, regarding H.R. 2788.

FLOOR STATEMENT ON H.R. 2788, THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS MEMORIAL ACT

Rep. Ken Calvert

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2788, a bill to designate a national Distin-

guished Flying Cross Memorial in Riverside, California.

I am honored to represent the Inland Empire Chapter of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society which is the primary sponsor of the memorial. Last June, I introduced H.R. 2788 which would designate a memorial, which is currently under construction at March Field Air Museum as the Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial. It honors all current and former members of the Armed Forces who have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

The bill has strong bipartisan support both from the committee and with 48 cosponsors. The legislation is supported by the Distinguished Flying Cross Society, Military Officers Association of America, the Air Force Association, Air Force Sergeants Association, The Association of Naval Aviation, The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, and the China-Burma Indian Veterans Association. I'd like to point out language in the bill that specifically states that the designation shall not be construed to require or permit federal funds to be expended for any purpose related to the national memorial. Funds have been and will continue to be raised through private means for these purposes.

Distinguished Flying Cross recipients have received the prestigious medal for their heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Armed Forces. There are many well-known people that have played a vital role in the history of military aviation and have received the award. This renowned group includes: Captain Charles L. Lindbergh, former President George H. W. Bush, Brigadier General Jimmy Doolittle, General Curtis Lemay, Senator McCain, Jimmy Stewart and Admiral Jim Stockdale, to name just a few.

The March Air Reserve Base, which hosts the C-17As of the 452nd Air Mobility Wing is adjacent to the location of the memorial at the March Field Air Museum. When completed, visitors will be able to witness active operational air units providing support to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, which is an appropriate setting that honors the many aviators who have distinguished themselves by deeds performed in aerial flight.

I'd like to thank those who have worked tirelessly to ensure this memorial is built and is properly designated in honor of the distinguished aviators that have served this great Nation. In particular, I'd like to recognize, Jim Champlin, with the loving support of his wife Trish, who recently passed away, who have been instrumental in this effort.

Again, I hope you will join me in supporting the designation of the National Distinguished Flying Cross Memorial at the March Field Air Museum and H.R. 2788.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I was not present in the chamber yesterday afternoon to vote on rollcalls 131, 132, 133, 134, and 135. I would have voted "yea" on each measure.

SUPPORTING GOALS AND IDEALS
OF RED CROSS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, since 1943 Americans have celebrated the month March as Red Cross Month. I am proud to continue this tradition and recognize the humanitarian spirit of the Red Cross' mission and the dedication of its volunteers.

The American Red Cross of Greater Cleveland, which has its headquarters on Euclid Avenue, does a tremendous job serving the community. The Cleveland chapter improves the quality of lives through emergency preparedness, responding to disasters with humanitarian aid, and providing health and safety training.

When a recent explosion on West 83rd left several families with nothing, the Greater Cleveland Red Cross stepped in and opened a temporary housing facility for them. It then joined with local residents to raise funds and accept donations. That situation demonstrates our Red Cross' responsiveness to community needs and compassion for Americans.

I'd like to congratulate Mary-Alice Frank, CEO of the Greater Cleveland Chapter, David Plate, CEO of the Northern Ohio Blood Services, and Richard W. Vogue, Chairman of the Greater Cleveland Chapter's Board of Directors, on their stewardship of the American Red Cross of Greater Cleveland.

I am equally proud of the Red Cross on the national level. Bonnie McElveen-Hunter, the first woman to be selected as Chairman in the organization's 126-year history, and Gail J. McGovern, the President and CEO, are doing an outstanding job in furthering the goals of the organization. As its mission states, the Red Cross continuously provides relief to victims of disaster and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. These goals deserve recognition and celebration all year.

HONORING DR. ANTHONY BROWN

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss and honor the life of Dr. Anthony Brown of Madison.

Anthony was indeed larger than his own life. The gift of love and compassion that he tirelessly bequeathed to all of us during his lifetime is one that can be passed on and passed down forever. He taught us to believe in the power of one to make a difference and more importantly, he showed us by bringing joy and purpose to others every single day. His legacy transcends time, place, person, and death. We are all better for knowing Anthony, for having him in our community, and for feeling his radiant affection for all people.

It would be impossible to recite the countless professional achievements and accomplishments that he accumulated throughout a career without end. To Anthony, his work was

never done and that mindset permeated his every action.

He was the epitome of a brother's keeper and embodied all that we strive for in a community of shared responsibility. No matter one's color, creed, or station in life, Anthony was never satisfied until the least among us was given the helping hand we all too often take for granted. While Anthony's spirit of uplifting love and generosity will live on in each of us and all those with whom we share it, the memories of our cherished moments with him will only live on in our thoughts and prayers.

For me, that moment came the day before the Inauguration of President Barack Obama. When I was fortunate enough to be able to present Anthony and Brenda with an invitation to attend, I was met with tears of gratitude. For Anthony and millions more around the world, this was not simply a celebration of a new American leader. It was the realization of a dream told decades ago. It was only fitting for Anthony to be a part of something that he had a hand in creating.

My condolences to Anthony's friends and family could never repay the debt of gratitude we owe Anthony for all he has done for us. All I can say is thank you.

COMMENDING OUR ALLY,
AZERBAIJAN

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to highlight the small country of Azerbaijan, wedged between Russia and Iran, on the Western shore of the Caspian Sea. Azerbaijan has now been an Independent Republic for the longest time period in its history—nearly 20 years. The Region contains oil and gas resources equivalent to those of Saudi Arabia, and Azerbaijan owns one-third of the oil and gas deposits in the Region. Their main oil pipeline runs from the capital city, Baku, through Georgia and Turkey, and out to the Turkish Port of Ceyhan on the Mediterranean Sea. An important oil customer of theirs is Israel. Azerbaijan is a Muslim country that has practiced complete religious tolerance for hundreds of years, with some five Jewish Temples in Baku alone. And of major importance, Azerbaijan has provided troops to support our military efforts in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Between 1991 and 1993, Azerbaijan was locked in a conflict with surrounding countries. A brutal act during the conflict happened at the Azerbaijani village of Khojaly in February 1992, when women, children, and old people were killed. Therefore, February is an especially emotional time for the people of Azerbaijan.

With the help of the government of Russia, a cease-fire was negotiated in this war in 1994, leaving 16 percent of Azerbaijan, including the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, occupied by Armenian forces. Since that time, the Minsk Group of OSCE has played the lead negotiating role in attempting to bring about a solution to this situation, encouraged by numerous international resolutions including five in the United Nations.

Today, some 18 years after Khojaly, there is a glimmer of hope. President Ilham Aliyev of

Azerbaijan has been meeting regularly with President Sargsyan of Armenia, and in a recent weekend spent with President Medvedev of Russia, it was reported that the two Presidents worked on a Preamble to an agreement that will take great political courage for both of them. It is important that we give them our encouragement and make sure that our actions with respect to the Region support this historic agreement.

CONGRATULATING AND SUPPORTING KAZAKHSTAN FOR ITS NEW AND VITAL ROLE AS CHAIR OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION OF EUROPE (OSCE)

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to congratulate Kazakhstan for its new role as chair of the Organization for the Security and Co-operation of Europe, OSCE, and to let this serve as a reminder to the world that emerging democracies do in fact have an important and pivotal role to play on the global stage.

As we approach the 35th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki accords, a historic declaration by OSCE member states seeking to improve relations and foster dialogue between the West and the communist countries of the time, it seems duly appropriate to recognize the importance of Kazakhstan's new chairmanship since it is the first former Soviet state, the first CIS member, and the first central Asian country to assume such a role in the 56-member organization.

This past September, I commended Kazakhstan's President Nazarbayev for almost 20 years of vision and leadership in transforming the former Soviet republic into an emerging and thriving democratic society. The unanimous endorsement by all OSCE member states for the chairmanship by Kazakhstan only reinforces these enormous and positive steps forward by this young democracy from its former Soviet roots.

As a result, Kazakhstan and its neighbors have seen progress in regional security as Astana has emerged as both a regional and global leader on the non-proliferation and disarmament front, and its citizens have seen vast improvements to their daily lives as their country emerges as a regional economic leader. Furthermore, Kazakhstan has established itself as a strong ally and strategic partner to the United States fighting the global war on terror and especially playing an active role to ensure stability and security in Afghanistan.

As one of its first acts as a society free from Soviet rule, President Nazarbayev positioned Kazakhstan to be a leader in nonproliferation by shutting down the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, dismantling its nuclear and missile arsenal, which was the world's fourth largest at the time, and safely getting rid of, according to the president himself, 104 intercontinental missiles from the Soviet Union that were each tipped with 10 nuclear warheads.

This was not an easy decision considering the potential influence that such an arsenal could yield both in the region and the globe,

but the President has focused his country's efforts on building a "new economic and political model" that would strengthen its commercial and security relationships with the West. As a result, Kazakhstan has emerged as a regional economic leader, increasing its GDP to \$135 billion—six times greater than its \$22 billion GDP 10 years ago—in addition to increasing its foreign trade to more than \$80 billion. These economic strides and the increase in economic opportunities stand in stark contrast to life under communist rule and are enough to mirror similar opportunities in many western countries, which is no small feat in so little time.

Kazakhstan has also been a reliable ally to the United States, and President Nazarbayev has indicated that he looks forward to strengthening this relationship in addition to reinvigorating the OSCE. Proving his effectiveness and determination to tackle even the toughest of challenges, President Nazarbayev welcomes his country's new undertaking with the same gusto and leadership that helped him transform his country into the promising democracy and economic leader that it is today. Alluding to the many global challenges we face today, he issued a call to action to the member states, urging them to convene in a summit this year, for the first time in 10 years, in order to strengthen the role of the OSCE as we face "one of the most complicated periods in modern history."

One of the main issues he hopes to address and strengthen within the OSCE by holding this summit would be security matters and fighting terrorism. Accordingly, eliminating the terrorist presence and threat in Afghanistan is a matter of high priority that will not only benefit the region but will also have long-term positive implications for our own national security and international security.

The Kazakh president asserted that "it is a time when leaders of OSCE member states should demonstrate their political will and outline solutions to the difficult challenges facing our nations. The summit will not only give a powerful impetus to adapting the OSCE to modern challenges and threats, but also increase the confidence and respect among our peoples to the organization itself."

Madam Speaker and fellow colleagues, I once again commend President Nazarbayev for his steadfast vision and leadership and urge you today to support him as he sets out to reestablish dialogue among all OSCE member states by convening a summit this year. Such an assembly can only foster cooperation that will ultimately lead to increased security and stability for all.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF NOWRUZ AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF IRANIAN-AMERICANS

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, on the evening of March 17, 2010, the Nowruz Commission held its inaugural event at the Library of Congress. Nowruz is recognized by many people around the world who celebrate the exact moment of Vernal Equinox as the beginning of a New Year. Mr. Nasser Kazeminy and

Ms. Gissou R. Kian, serve as Chairman and President of the Nowruz Commission, respectively. Ambassadors and senior diplomats of eight nations serve on the Commission.

Dr. Kamran Khavarani, the creator of "Abstract Romanticism" presented a special painting entitled "The Bird of Freedom" to the spirit of Thomas Jefferson. The painting was accepted by Dr. James Hadley Billington, the Librarian of Congress. This was witnessed by nearly 400 people of Iranian, Iraqi, Turkish, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Tajik, Russian, Ukrainian and Kurdish origins at the Coolidge Auditorium.

This is the first time in history that an Iranian American artist has presented a painting to the spirit of Thomas Jefferson, the man whose gift of books provided the beginning for the Library of Congress. Dr. Kamran Khavarani deserves to be recognized for his unique gift.

The Nowruz Commission, whose mission of bringing diverse people together in search of peace and friendship, deserves special recognition on the first day of spring, Nowruz, March 20, 2010.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I traveled home for the birth of my grandchild. As a result, I missed a number of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

"Aye" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45300 Portola Avenue in Palm Desert, California, as the "Roy Wilson Post Office." (Rollcall No. 128)

"Nay" on Ordering the Previous Question providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules. (Rollcall No. 129)

"Nay" on Agreeing to the Resolution providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules. (Rollcall No. 130)

"Aye" on Motion to Refer the Resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House. (Rollcall No. 131)

"Nay" on Motion to Table raising a question of the privileges of the House. (Rollcall No. 132)

"Aye" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended State Admission Day Recognition Act of 2009. (Rollcall No. 133)

"Nay" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the Agricultural Credit Act of 2009. (Rollcall No. 134)

"Aye" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Vermont Long Trail, the oldest long-distance hiking trail in the United States, and congratulating the Green Mountain Club for its century of dedication in developing and maintaining the trail. (Rollcall No. 135)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, earlier yesterday I was unavoidably detained and

missed rollcall No. 132. If present, I would have voted "yea."

IN MEMORY OF FESS PARKER

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of an extraordinary actor, a gentleman, a family man, a successful vintner and hotelier, and a patriotic American, Fess Parker, who died Thursday after 85 years of making the world around him a better place.

My wife, Janice, and I were fortunate to call Fess Parker and his wife, Marcella, our friends.

I first met Fess in 1987 when by chance we were seated together on a flight from Washington, DC, to Los Angeles. He had just left the White House where he had been a guest of his old friend Ronald Reagan and I was on my weekly trip home.

From that chance meeting, we built a lasting friendship. I had the good fortune of visiting with Fess on several occasions at his home in Los Olivos. Fess was a humble man with a great sense of humor. He shared many great stories, like how he was discovered by Adolphe Menjou, the debonair movie star of the '30s and '40s.

At the time, Fess was a student at the University of Texas and president of his fraternity. Fess chauffeured Mr. Menjou on his visit to the university, they built a rapport and Menjou paved the way for Fess's own success in Hollywood.

There were many other stories, but none that I enjoyed more than how he met the love of his life, Marcella. It was a true love story that even the most talented of Hollywood writers could not have created.

My experience with Fess is typical. He never acted like a Hollywood star in private life.

After more than 20 years in Hollywood, Fess and Marcella moved to Santa Barbara County. There he produced Fess Parker wine from his 2,200-acre vineyard and opened two top-class hotels, the Fess Parker Wine County Inn and Spa in Los Olivos and Fess Parker Doubletree Inn in Santa Barbara. His wine bottles feature the familiar coonskin cap he made famous in his role as Davy Crockett, as do wine glasses sold at the winery. Fess Parker was known to spend hours signing wine bottles for visitors while regaling them with stories of Hollywood.

He and Marcella also were well-known in town, often seen walking hand-in-hand.

In addition to Marcella, with whom Fess celebrated 50 years of marriage in January, Fess Parker is survived by his son, Eli; daughter, Ashley; 11 grandchildren; a great-grandchild; hundreds of friends and millions of fans.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in offering our condolences to Marcella, Eli, Ashley and their entire family, and in remembering a Hollywood icon whose off-screen values and successes in many ways surpassed the successes of his onscreen personas.

HONORING DREW LINN

HON. PARKER GRIFFITH

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to a fine American, Drew Linn, on an occasion when he and his business have received a prestigious honor: the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009.

The Circle of Excellence, which is awarded by the International dealer organization of Navistar, Inc., honors International truck dealerships that achieve the highest level of dealer performance with respect to operating and financial standards, market representation, and most importantly, customer satisfaction. It is the highest honor a dealer principal can receive from the company.

Drew's business, Southland International Trucks, is headquartered in Homewood, Alabama, where it was founded more than 30 years ago, and includes two dealerships in my district, in Huntsville and Decatur. Under his leadership, it has grown into one of the pre-eminent truck dealerships in the Southeast and the entire nation, with 171 employees and five dealer locations throughout Alabama. It was recently named the International Dealer of the Year, an honor awarded to the one International dealer who exhibits the highest commitment to best-in-class customer service. Last year, Southland delivered more trucks than any other International dealer in the global network. With this most recent award, Southland International has now received the Circle of Excellence Award, under Drew's leadership, a total of 10 times.

Drew has achieved this level of accomplishment and recognition through many years of hard work and service to his industry and community. He has also built a successful truck leasing business, Southland Idealease of Alabama, which is a multi-year winner of the IdealGold Award for Excellence. He is a past president or chairman of the Alabama Trucking Association, its Workers Compensation Fund, and the Shelton State Foundation. He is an active member of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, the West Alabama Regional Commission, the West Alabama Bank Board of Directors and the University Transportation Center for Alabama.

Through his commitment to hard work and outstanding customer service, he has built an economically vital business of which he can be justly proud. Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Drew Linn for his record of accomplishment and for his many contributions to his community, state and nation.

TO CELEBRATE THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BRYSON CITY LIONS CLUB

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Bryson City Lions Club as they celebrate their 70th anniversary in Swain County, North Carolina. For the past 70 years, this outstanding volunteer organization has

worked tirelessly to help the visually impaired through their SightFirst initiatives, and I commend their outstanding efforts to promote civic projects in the community.

Many years ago, Helen Keller challenged Lions across the country to be "Knights of the Blind" and the Bryson City Lions Club has continued to live up to that challenge. The generous efforts of the Bryson City Lions Club include providing the visually impaired with glasses, eye surgeries, and vision screening, as well as awarding college scholarships to children of blind parents. The organization's members and their works are a source of pride to Western North Carolina. I deeply appreciate all they have done in the past 70 years to make the lives of the visually impaired citizens more comfortable and fulfilling. I also want to commend the leadership of Judy Burnett, the current club President and the first female to hold the position.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to rise with me in recognizing the inspiring good works of the Bryson City Lions Club, and the civic leadership they have demonstrated in Western North Carolina. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating this outstanding organization's 70 years of service to those in our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, due to an unexpected illness I missed two votes on Thursday, March 18, 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 129 and 132. I would further like to note that I am a cosponsor of Mr. GRIFFITH's resolution, H. Res. 1190, requesting an up or down vote on the Senate health care bill.

RECOGNIZING THE ESTACADO MATADORS BOYS BASKETBALL 2010 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I proudly congratulate the Estacado Matadors boys basketball team of Estacado High School in Lubbock, Texas for winning the 2010 Texas Boys 3A State Basketball Championship.

The Matadors finished the 2009–2010 season with 33 wins and only 4 losses. The championship squad includes: seniors Eldon Gatewood, Barry Johnson and David Barnes; juniors Dallas Manahan, Kevin Wagner and Clarence Willard; sophomores Ti Russell, Nate Lewis, Anthony Robinson, Ryhiem Hunter and Kevin Manahan; and freshmen Dearius Poindexter, Tamarick Courtney and Tevin Faye. The Mats were led by head coach Tony Wagner and the 2010 Most Valuable Player, Clarence Willard.

Following a frustrating loss in last year's state championship game, the Mats' focus and determination throughout the season paid off in a stunning 69–63 victory over Dallas Madison. With this win, Estacado earned the first

University Interscholastic League boys basketball title for a Lubbock Independent School District team since 1951.

I applaud the Matadors' hard work and tradition of success. With great support from the community, the team proved itself as the best 3A basketball team in Texas. The Estacado Matadors exemplify the principles of competitive spirit and success both on and off the court, and I congratulate them on a well-deserved state championship.

HONORING MICHELLE RZEPKA

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Novi resident, Michelle Rzepka, for her contribution to the United States bobsled team during the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver.

As a student at Novi High School, Michelle demonstrated extraordinary athletic ability as a varsity letter winner in basketball, volleyball and track and field. During her college career, Michelle was a two time All-American pole-vaulter and Big-10 indoor and outdoor pole vault champion for Michigan State University.

In 2007, Michelle began her bobsledding career when she joined the World Cup team. Since joining the team, Michelle has placed in the top ten in seven out of eight World Cup races. In Vancouver, Michelle joined teammate Shauna Rohbock as the sled's brakeman on the United States first bobsled team. The duo finished in sixth place.

Madam Speaker, as we recognize Michelle Rzepka for her participation in the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her for her past athletic accomplishments and wishing her continued success in all future endeavors.

ATTACK ON KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, a team of militants launched a spectacular assault at the heart of the Afghan government on Monday, January 18, with two men detonating suicide bombs and the rest fighting to the death only 50 yards from the gates of the presidential palace.

The attack paralyzed the city for hours, as hundreds of Afghan commandos converged and opened fire. The battle unfolded in the middle of Pashtunistan Square, a traffic circle where the palace of President Hamid Karzai, the Ministry of Justice and the Central Bank, the target of the attack, are located.

As the gun battle raged, another suicide bomber, this one driving an ambulance, struck a traffic circle a half-mile away, sending a second mass of bystanders fleeing in terror. Afghan officials said that three soldiers and two civilians—including a child—were killed, and at least 71 people were wounded.

The war in Afghanistan is dynamic, fluid, and ever-evolving. What was true 9 months

ago is no longer the case. This means both that we cannot rely on our previous successes and that our current shortcomings can be fixed. It should give us hope but not foolhardy confidence. What the Kabul attacks prove is that we constantly have to be adjusting our strategy to keep up with the evolution of our enemy. The Taliban are a mostly rural phenomenon in a mostly rural country; the overwhelming majority of United States troops are deployed in small outposts in the countryside.

On most days, the war does not reach the urban centers, but on January 18 it did. Our strategy must be flexible enough to adapt. So to set an arbitrary deadline, to pull out our troops of Afghanistan in 2011, not only endangers our troops on the ground but also the ultimate success of our mission. We must finish the fight, root out the Taliban, and destroy al-Qaeda.

HONORING CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING COACH, MITCH HANCOCK

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Division 1 Wrestling Coach of the Year, Mitch Hancock. Hailing from my alma mater, Detroit Catholic Central High School, Coach Hancock led his grapplers to their first state championship in 22 years. Under his tutelage, all 14 Catholic Central wrestlers qualified for the individual state meet.

Taking over the head coaching reins from his mentor, 40 year legendary Coach Mike Rodriguez, in the fall of 2007, Mitch Hancock brought the unique perspective of having won an individual state title himself. Hancock was selected as a high school All-American and went on to have a stellar career at Central Michigan University where he again attained All-American status.

Though CC is known for excellence in many sports, it reserves a section of its rafters for state championship banners in the two sports the Shamrocks herald as their calling card: football and wrestling. In his inaugural season, Coach Hancock took his Shamrocks to the state regionals, where their season ended at the hands of Hartland, 39–33. Hancock's sophomore campaign ended at the state quarterfinals as Catholic Central was bested by Lake Orion, 42–27. This season Coach Hancock and the Shamrocks reached the pinnacle by dethroning perennial power Rockford, 39–24, earning their first state championship under Hancock's reign. Mitch Hancock has coached five individual state champions in three short years, amassing a record of 56–18. He has placed eight wrestlers in All-State status with the 2010 selections as yet to be announced.

It is understandable why former coach Mike Rodriguez felt completely comfortable in turning his legacy of 40 years over to Hancock. Rodriguez saw a willingness to get on the mat and challenge his wrestlers. Mitch Hancock has an incredible passion for the sport and enjoys helping his athletes develop. Coach Hancock's priorities are, in order; God, family, job

and wrestling. His wrestlers understand that excellence is the expectation, not the exception.

Madam Speaker, after earning his first state championship and being selected as the Michigan High School Association's 2010 Division 1 Wrestling Coach of the Year, Mitch Hancock deserves to be recognized for his dedication to the young men of Catholic Central and his determination to keep the highly respected winning tradition of the Shamrocks alive. In recognition of his effort and the honor bestowed upon him, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Detroit Catholic Central Wrestling Coach Mitch Hancock on his accolades and in honoring his devotion to our community and country. Live and Die for CC High!

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY AND LIFETIME OF SERVICE OF MS. CATHERINE MENNINGER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Catherine Menninger who is celebrating her 80th birthday this week. Ms. Menninger has selflessly committed her life to public service, making a positive impact to the lives of hundreds of children through the organization she helped establish, CEP Youth Leadership Inc. in La Grange, Illinois.

Ms. Menninger was born on March 16, 1930, in Brooklyn, New York. The daughter of Italian immigrants, she grew up in the Belmont Community of the Bronx, where she was one of the first lay people allowed to teach religious education at the Holy Rosary in the Bronx. In the 1960s she moved to Chicago.

In 1978, Ms. Menninger helped found CEP Youth Leadership Inc., which develops child enrichment programs and peer counseling programs for a diverse group of youth. Ms. Menninger served as the executive director of CEP from October 1980 until September of 1991. After her tenure, Ms. Menninger continued to work at CEP as the tutoring and mentoring coordinator. In addition to her extraordinary work with CEP, Ms. Menninger has opened her home to more than 100 foster teens.

Her tremendous contributions have been recognized through the United Way Voluntary Action Award for Outstanding Achievement, the Western Springs Citizen of the Year Award and the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year Award in 1999. Also, in 1995 CEP established the Catherine Menninger Scholarship.

Today Ms. Menninger works as a life coach. She is blessed with five children Chris, Cathy, Carl, Carolyn and Lisa and six grandchildren Katie, Megan, Tyler, Alex, Sarah and TJ.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Ms. Catherine Menninger for her years of service and congratulating her on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Her efforts and leadership have been a great benefit to the children of her community and truly merit our highest praise.

CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL BOWLING TEAM

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the Division 1 State Championship Bowling team from my alma mater, Detroit Catholic Central High School. This has been a noteworthy year for the gentleman at Catholic Central, as this championship marks the fourth state title of the 2009–2010 school year.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association recognized bowling as an official sport in 2006. Thus, it is impressive how the Catholic Central team has risen to state prominence in a very short time. Two members of this State Championship Bowling team qualified for the individual finals and, although they did not ultimately win, they represented CC High admirably and honorably.

After defeating Salem 1856–1824 in quarterfinals, the Shamrock bowlers outdueled Flint Carman-Ainsworth 1855–1747 and earned a berth in the finals setting up to take on Macomb Dakota. On March 5, 2010 the Catholic Central Shamrocks rolled over Macomb Dakota 1834–1565 to earn their first state championship trophy.

Coach Al Bridges saw his bowlers in seventh place after the morning qualifying round. In true Shamrock fashion the team kept fighting and refused to give up. As the day wore on, CC kept moving up in the standings, leading by 143 pins after the Baker games. From that point on the Shamrocks never looked back. Coach Al Bridges credits good conditioning and a lot of practice for the payoff of winning a championship. The hard work and dedication of each team member epitomizes what it means to be a Shamrock. By the teaching of our Basilian Fathers through goodness, discipline and knowledge, the entire Catholic Central family, including this alumnus, shares in this accomplishment.

Madam Speaker, in earning their first bowling title, the 2010 Catholic Central Shamrocks deserve to be recognized for their determination, achievement and spirit. In recognition of their effort, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Shamrocks for obtaining this spectacular championship and honoring their devotion to our community and country. Live and Die for CC High!

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,661,296,056,307.25.

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

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,022,870,310,013.45 so far this Congress. The debt has increased \$21,516,577,665.36 since just yesterday.

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

**CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
WRESTLING TEAM**

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the Division 1 State Champion Wrestling team from my alma mater, Detroit Catholic Central High School. On February 27, 2010, the Catholic Central Shamrocks defeated Rockford 39–24 to hoist their first state championship trophy since 1988.

Third year Head Coach Mitch Hancock, an individual state final winner for the Shamrocks in 2000, saw all fourteen of his wrestlers earn a berth to the Individual State Finals. This is the first time in recent Division 1 history that an entire team has qualified for the Individual State meet. Three Shamrock grapplers brought home individual state titles to complement the team championship. This is truly a tremendous accomplishment for a devoutly dedicated group of young men. The hard work and dedication of all of its members epitomizes what it means to be a Shamrock. By the teaching of our Basilian Fathers through goodness, discipline and knowledge the entire Catholic Central family, including this alumnus, shares in this accomplishment.

Following in the remarkable tradition of legendary Catholic Central Coach Mike Rodriguez, who was both coach and mentor to current Coach Mitch Hancock, the Shamrocks brought home their eighth state wrestling team title.

Madam Speaker, with a season record of 27–4, the 2010 Catholic Central Shamrocks deserve to be recognized for their determination, achievement and spirit and I am very proud of their determination and effort. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Shamrocks for obtaining this spectacular title and honoring their devotion to our community and country. Live and Die for CC High!

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2010 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today, joined by my colleagues Representative FRANK WOLF and Representative JAMES MORAN, to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exem-

plified by our public safety agencies and their commitment to the community. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line everyday to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. Nearly 80 individuals are receiving awards at the 2010 ceremony in a variety of categories: The Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Medal of Valor.

Four members of the Herndon Police Department are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that we submit their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Recipients of the 2010 Lifesaving Award are: Corporal Robert Galpin, Senior Police Officer Justin Dyer and Officer Jeffrey Lange.

Recipients of the 2010 Certificate of Valor are: Corporal Robert Galpin, Senior Police Officer Mark Fraser.

Madam Speaker, we would like to thank all of the men and women who serve in the Herndon Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in commanding this group of remarkable citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF NOWRUZ AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF IRANIAN-AMERICANS

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 15, 2010

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, the following speech, "Nowruz: A New Day for Humanity," was given by Dr. Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, on the evening of March 17, 2010, at the Library of Congress for the Nowruz Commission's inaugural event. Dr. Karimi-Hakkak serves as Chair of the Nowruz Commission's Cultural Committee.

NOWRUZ: A NEW DAY FOR HUMANITY

Nowruz, literally meaning "new day," has lived up to its name in wondrous ways. For at least three millennia, it has provided the supreme occasion for renewal and rejuvenation. The power behind its inexhaustible appeal resides in a simple truth: humans need a ritual that transcends distinct and distinguishable group identities to celebrate our common humanity. Nowruz does so by inviting everyone to contemplate nature as it puts on its most magnificent dress at springtime and to synchronize personal and communal relations with the spirit of nature. Pointing to nature's ability to renew itself each and every year, Nowruz manifests intense human yearnings that transcend all divisions. The roots of Nowruz are scattered in myth and in history in much of western Asia and is anchored most profoundly in Persian mythology, where it marks the beginning of the calendar. In recent centuries, as Empires in India and Iran, in Anatolia and Central Asia gave way to the modern countries, Nowruz has been celebrated in accordance with myriad local customs and traditions. Everywhere, however, it offers the promise of a human community in which a race of all races can create a new global culture beyond all nationhood and nationality. It aspires to

no less than a human community as beautiful and colorful as nature on the first day of spring.

**CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
FOOTBALL TEAM**

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the Division 1 State Champion Football team from my alma mater, Detroit Catholic Central High School. On November 27, 2009 the Catholic Central Shamrocks steamrolled Sterling Heights Stevenson 31–21. The win capped off an undefeated season for the Blue and White.

This 2009 Catholic Central football team gave Coach Tom Mach the 10th State Championship in his 34 seasons as head coach of the Shamrocks. This is truly a remarkable accomplishment for this close-knit group of young men. The hard work and dedication of all of its members epitomize what it means to be a Shamrock. By the teaching of our Basilian Fathers through goodness, discipline and knowledge the entire Catholic Central family, including this alumnus, shares in this accomplishment.

Following a wildly successful Catholic season that saw 6 shutouts and a defense that allowed only 23 points on the season, Catholic Central added yet another shutout, edging Orchard Lake St. Mary's 7–0 for the Detroit Catholic League Championship. After routing Livonia Franklin 42–7 in the district opener, the Shamrocks exacted revenge on Livonia Stevenson, who had ended Catholic Central's 2008 playoff run by trouncing the Spartans 38–0. With the win Coach Mach became only the 7th coach in Michigan history to have reached 300 wins, all at the helm of Catholic Central.

But there was more to accomplish. A determined Canton team forced the Shamrocks into overtime before Catholic Central ran into the end zone on the first possession. The stingy Shamrock defense wouldn't budge, and the beloved Blue and White eked out a 31–27 triumph.

With only Holt standing in the path to the finals at Ford Field, the Shamrocks rolled to a 31–0 win, racking up the 9th shutout of their spectacular season.

Finally a winning team took to the turf of Ford Field as Catholic Central went to the big dance against Sterling Heights Stevenson. While this Stevenson team fared slightly better than their Livonia counterparts, the Shamrocks met their final challenge and soared to a 31–21 victory, raising the Division 1 trophy in triumph.

Madam Speaker, with a season record of 14–0, the 2009 Catholic Central Shamrocks deserve to be recognized for their determination, achievement, and spirit and I am very proud of their determination and effort. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Shamrocks for obtaining this spectacular title and honoring their devotion to our community and country. Live and Die for CC High!

SUPPORTING GOALS AND IDEALS
OF RED CROSS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of our Nation's outstanding service organizations, the American Red Cross.

The American Red Cross has been at the forefront of disaster preparedness and response for more than a century. Since its formation in 1881, the foundation has established itself as one of the most effective and recognizable disaster relief organizations in the world. In President Franklin D. Roosevelt's first Presidential Declaration in 1943, he requested that "people rededicate themselves to the splendid aims and activities of the Red Cross" each March. We have an opportunity this month to continue this tradition, and recognize the essential role the Red Cross plays in our communities.

Over 600,000 Red Cross volunteers provide shelter, food, health, and mental health services for more than 70,000 natural and man-made disasters every year. Additionally, the Red Cross provides blood to disaster victims, helps those affected to access other available resources, and assists concerned family members outside the disaster area.

Whether it is a hurricane or a single-family home fire, the American Red Cross is there. During the past year, the local Red Cross Chapter helped 500 Nassau County residents who were displaced by floods or fires. The timely response to these small-scale, but devastating disasters is one of the Red Cross' most invaluable humanitarian services.

Large-scale disasters also demonstrate the Red Cross' successes. Since the January 12th earthquake in Haiti, the Red Cross has provided assistance to more than 1.9 million people in that country, and will continue to aid hundreds more in the months ahead. In addition to the ongoing, large-scale response to Haiti, the Red Cross plans to assist 15,000 families affected by the recent earthquake in Chile with shelter, emergency medical care, and water and sanitation services.

The employees of the Red Cross, the tireless and dedicated work of volunteers, and the thousands of citizens who donate to support these relief efforts epitomize the altruism and community spirit of the American people. I join with my colleagues to recognize the Red Cross, and once again thank the organization's staff and volunteers for all of their continued assistance to American communities.

HONORING DICK PURTAN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of WOMC-FM radio host Mr. Dick Purtan after 45 years on the air in Detroit.

During his 45-year career, Mr. Purtan has become a well recognized radio personality

nationwide. From his work at WOMC-FM, Mr. Purtan has been inducted into the Michigan Broadcasters Hall of Fame, National Radio Hall of Fame and won the Marconi award for being the Nation's top radio personality.

Mr. Purtan is also known for his dedication to philanthropic works benefitting the Metro Detroit area. In September 2009, he and his wife Gail were named "Goodfellows of the Year" by the Detroit Goodfellows Organization. Since 1988, Mr. Purtan has raised \$22 million for those in need through an annual Radiothon to benefit the Salvation Army's Bed and Bread program. Also, Mr. Purtan supports Children's Hospital as well as the Karmanos Cancer Center through the Gail Purtan Ovarian Cancer Research Fund.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Dick Purtan will be remembered for his award winning personality and as a philanthropist and friend to Metro Detroit. As we celebrate his retirement, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his many achievements and honoring the contributions he made to society.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2010 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today, joined by my colleagues Representative FRANK WOLF and Representative JAMES MORAN, to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety agencies and their commitment to the community. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line everyday to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. Nearly 80 individuals are receiving awards at the 2010 ceremony in a variety of categories: The Life-saving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Medal of Valor.

Five members of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that we submit their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Recipient of the 2010 Certificate of Valor is: Second Lieutenant William A. Cooper

Recipient of the 2010 Silver Medal of Valor is: Sergeant Shannon T. Willey

Recipients of the 2010 Bronze Medal of Valor are: Second Lieutenant Charles E. Formeck, Private First Class Frederick H. Cameron and Private First Class Jesse Hernandez.

Madam Speaker, we would like to thank all of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in commending this group of remarkable citizens.

CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
HOCKEY TEAM

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the Division 1 State Champion Hockey team from my alma mater, Detroit Catholic Central High School. On March 13, 2010 the Catholic Central Shamrocks routed Howell 6–1. In a repeat of last year's matchup the Royal Blue and White again hoisted the championship trophy and capped off a nearly perfect 27–1–1 season.

This victory marked the 14th state title for Catholic Central and a record 5th Division 1 state title for the 2009–2010 athletic season. This victory came right after the cross country, football, wrestling and bowling teams all won championships. This is a remarkable achievement for these exemplary young men. The hard work and dedication of all members epitomizes what it means to be a Shamrock. By the teaching of our Basilian Fathers through goodness, discipline and knowledge, the entire Catholic Central family, including this alumnus, shares in this accomplishment.

Following a successful regular season campaign with only a single 1–0 loss, Catholic Central embarked on a determined postseason run, outscoring their opponents 31–3. After beating Northville 5–1 in their first pre-regional game, the Shamrocks decimated Brighton 8–0 in the second pre-regional round. In the Region 7 Final, they defeated Livonia Stevenson 2–0.

Head Coach Todd Johnson's players crashed the net in their quarterfinal match against Ann Arbor Huron, hammering out an 8–0 win. In a true test of will, CC relied on a strong defense to oust a scrappy Orchard Lake St. Mary's squad as they cleared the semifinal to make their second consecutive trip to the Division 1 final against Howell. Going into the 3rd period the Royal Blue and White held a 3–1 lead before slamming home three unanswered goals for a 6–1 win.

Madam Speaker, with a season record of 27–1–1, the 2009–2010 Catholic Central Shamrocks Hockey Team deserves to be recognized for their determination, achievement and spirit. I am very proud of their effort and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Shamrocks for having brought yet another title home and in honoring their devotion to our community and country. Live and Die for CC High!

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2010 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

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Sixty-two members of the Fairfax County Police Department are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that we submit their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Recipients of the 2010 Life Saving Award are: Police Officer First Class Scott J. Abram, Officer Eric Acevedo, Officer Robert J. Gogan, Officer Chad T. Cosgrove, Police Officer First Class Ronald J. Grecco, Police Officer First Class Michael G. Green, Police Officer First Class Marisa D. Kuhar, Police Officer First Class Justin E. Lascola, Police Officer First Class Brendan D. Miller, Police Officer First Class Sean P. Regan, Police Officer First Class John Spata III, Officer Andrew P. Courier, Police Officer First Class Nicholas A. Gruber, Detective Andrew L. Smuck, Police Officer First Class Luis E. Martinez, Police Officer First Class Larry W. St. Clair, Officer Brian J. McClelland, Officer Terence M. Stokes Jr., Police Officer First Class Christopher S. Newton, Police Officer First Class Ali Sepehri, Police Officer First Class Joshua D. Shoemaker, Auxiliary Police Officer Jorge A. Canovas, Master Police Officer Paul Pickett Jr., Master Police Officer Marshall E. Thielen, Private First Class Brian Byerson, Police Officer First Class Daniel W. Pang.

Recipients of the 2010 Certificate of Valor are: Police Officer First Class Brian J. Ames, Police Officer First Class Justin M. Urbaniak, Police Officer First Class Donald W. Amos Jr., Police Officer First Class Katherine S. Wright, Police Officer First Class John T. Asper, Officer Patrick C. Briant, Police Officer First Class Kenneth M. Bridgeman, Police Officer First Class James L. Thur, Police Officer First

Class John P. Brusch, Police Officer First Class David Kroll, Master Police Officer Alice E. Eggers, Master Police Officer Robert M. Evans, Police Officer First Class John R. DeBonis Jr., Police Officer First Class Christopher J. Elliott, Police Officer First Class Julia M. Elliott, Police Officer First Class Craig A. Thibault, Helicopter Pilot Jason Post, Officer Eric R. Glueckert, Police Officer First Class Nicholas A. Gruber, Police Officer First Class David W. Kennedy, Police Officer First Class Peter L. Micker, Police Officer First Class Steven C. Nance, Police Officer First Class Michelle P. Letellier, Officer Kevin J. Rusin, Officer Alyson R. White

Recipient of the 2010 Silver Medal of Valor is: Police Officer First Class Matthew J. Allen

Recipients of the 2010 Bronze Medal of Valor is: Police Officer First Class Bruce E. Blackwell, Police Officer First Class Thomas R. Divers, Police Officer First Class Jose R. Morillo, Officer Christopher L. Ganci, Police Officer First Class Brooks R. Gillingham, Officer Beth L. Gardner, Police Officer First Class David J. Montgomery, Detective Steven A. Wahrhaftig, Detective Patrick S. O'Hara.

Recipient of the 2010 Meritorious Service Award: Canine Molly

Madam Speaker, we would like to thank all of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in commending this group of remarkable citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2010 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

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Eight members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that we submit their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Recipients of the 2010 Certificate of Valor are: Firefighter Jessica T. Pickett, Volunteer Firefighter Bryan Zissel, Battalion Chief Richard Roatch, Firefighter Brian Snyder and Firefighter Claude R. Johnson.

Recipients of the 2010 Silver Medal of Valor are: Fire Technician Eric S. Craven and Master Technician Steven Schellhammer.

Recipient of the 2010 Bronze Medal of Valor is: Firefighter Nathaniel R. Moore.

Madam Speaker, we would like to thank all of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in commending this group of remarkable citizens.