

HONORING SUE PALKA

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 24, 2010*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, on Monday, September 27, 2010, one of my constituents will be celebrating 25 years of outstanding service to the Washington, DC metropolitan region.

WTTG Fox 5 News weather forecaster Sue Palka has been bringing Washingtonians their weather reports for decades. For those of you who have seen her, you know her for her irrepressible enthusiasm and good humor. I am proud that Sue, a resident of Gaithersburg, Maryland, is a constituent of mine.

Sue is a six-time Emmy award winner for outstanding weather forecasting and has been with Fox 5 since 1985. In 1997, she was named Broadcaster of the Year by the National Weather Association. She was featured on the cover of Washingtonian Magazine in March 2004, and on the cover of the Washington Post TV Week in July 1997 with an extensive article profiling her career. Sue received the Distinguished Alumnae Award from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in 2005.

Sue has an undying passion for weather forecasting. From taking on Hurricane Bertha when it made landfall, to flying into the eye of category 4 Hurricane Edouard with the famed Hurricane Hunters, to tornado chasing in Texas and Oklahoma, Sue loves to be in the middle of the action and to share its excitement with her viewers.

I am delighted to congratulate Sue Palka, her husband Joe and daughters Elizabeth and Nora, for her 25 years of dedicated service to our community and to all visitors to the Nation's Capital.

IN SUPPORT OF H. RES. 1595, RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS (REITs)

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 24, 2010*

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1595, which recognizes the 50th anniversary of Real Estate Investment Trusts, commonly known as REITs. I am proud to cosponsor this resolution introduced by my colleague, Representative SANDER LEVIN from Michigan and I thank him for introducing this resolution.

For 50 years, REITs have provided a way for average investors to invest in large-scale commercial properties in the same way they invest in other industries, through the purchase of equity. In addition, REITs offer investors distinct advantages such as portfolio diversification, reliable dividends, liquidity, and solid long-term performance.

Fifty years after Congress created REITs, average investors continue to benefit in the same ways as corporate stockowners, as REIT investors earn a pro-rata share of the economic benefits that are derived from the production of income through commercial real estate ownership.

It is important to recognize ways in which average investors of all ages and income levels can access the same benefits as large real estate investors. I stand with my colleague in commending the 50th anniversary of Real Estate Investment Trusts, and 50 years of providing a broad range of investors an opportunity to achieve the investment goals of diversification, strong and reliable dividends, liquidity, solid performance, and transparency.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM REEXTENSION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2010*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to address the issue of flooding raised by the National Flood Insurance Program Reextension Act of 2010 before us today. Although it is critical that we pass this legislation to ensure that flood insurance remains available to those in flood prone areas, this reextension is not the ultimate solution. Congress has followed a dangerously inconsistent stopgap approach of short-term fixes to the National Flood Insurance Program, or NFIP, for almost 2 years now.

We need a permanent solution for the sake of my constituents and all Americans in flood-prone regions. Too frequently, the NFIP has been allowed to lapse. The House recently passed a bill which would address this issue by providing long-term authorization for the NFIP. This type of solution is necessary to provide certainty in real estate markets and the greater economy, as thousands of potential real estate transactions were stalled every day during the 53 days this year which the program lapsed.

These issues further damage our economy, as homeowners in the flood-prone areas of more than 20,000 communities across the U.S. could not obtain mortgages without the critical flood insurance made available through NFIP. In these regions, homeowners face a one in four chance that their property will suffer flood damage over the life of a 30-year mortgage.

My constituents and I are all too familiar with the issue of flooding. The Passaic River basin in my district is a historically flood-prone region, and the rapid growth of population and industry in that region has made the threat of loss of property and life a serious problem. Since 1900, at least 26 lives have been lost in floods and the total losses over that period are over \$4.5 billion.

Just this March, the residents of the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey along the Passaic basin suffered some of the most extensive flooding in the region to have occurred in the last quarter century. Approximately 2,500 residents in the district were forced from their homes and the estimated damage to the public sector alone is over \$10 million dollars. These events resulted in a Federal Disaster Declaration issued by President Obama. All across this country, access to flood insurance is an absolute necessity just as it is in the Passaic River basin.

If Congress does not act now, the flood insurance program will expire once again on

September 30, at the peak of hurricane season. Madam Speaker, distinguished colleagues, I ask you today to join me in passing this bill. However, we must dedicate ourselves to finding a permanent solution for those Americans adversely affected by flooding. The people of my district need a long-term extension of the flood insurance program—and they need to know that the flood insurance program will always be there for them. While we are working to mitigate the damage caused by floods, this program remains essential for those tragic times when nature takes over. With homes in my district and in every flood-prone part of the country in harm's way, it is simply too dangerous to risk disaster because we failed once again to extend the National Flood Insurance Program.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 29, 2010*

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 534, 535, and 536. If present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 534, 535, and 536.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF DOMINIQUE NOTH, EDITOR, MILWAUKEE LABOR PRESS

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 24, 2010*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dominique Paul Noth and the Milwaukee Labor Press. The Milwaukee Labor Press provides news, features, commentary, and information on important issues and events. In late August, editor Dom Noth and the Labor Press won the most multiple awards in the history of the International Labor Communications Association. The Milwaukee Labor Press has continued its legacy of excellence by proving successful in the most intense and prestigious North American contest for all labor publications.

As the second largest home-delivered newspaper in Wisconsin, the Labor Press consistently speaks honestly to its readers. The ILCA awarded the Labor Press First Place, General Excellence among all state and central council publications. ILCA praised the Labor Press for "Quirky and interesting writing, [ . . . ] makes points without being preachy."

MilwaukeeLabor.org the website of the Labor Press' publisher, Milwaukee Area Labor Council, received First Place General Excellence Internet. News, Take Action, events, and original content by Dominique Noth are featured on the website. Dominique is an intrepid seeker of newsworthy information, camera at the ready, quotes in context forming in his mind.

Last December's examination of the health care debate in the article, "Heeding the Human Cost," was honored with the First Place Saul Miller Award. Noth attributes this success to diverse opinions of union and community members in a no-holds-barred forum

on health legislation. Judges cited the story as candid and heartfelt writing which “debunks the opposition’s argument attacking the need for health reform.”

Third Place Award for Special Performance (best editorial or column) went to the Labor Press for “City Should Sink Its Own Breed of Water Pirates” which highlighted the privatization of public services. The article shed light on a significant issue for labor unions across the country.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to say the Milwaukee Labor Press provides a significant avenue for discussion for the people of the Fourth Congressional District. Thanks in no small part to Dominique Noth; the Labor Press’ continual excellence is based on its open-minded, intelligent, and relatable examination of pressing labor issues that impact the whole community. I applaud Dominique Noth and the Milwaukee Labor Press for their success in such a competitive and prestigious contest.

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HONORING NATIONAL TRUCK  
DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK

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**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 24, 2010*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize America’s professional truck drivers who serve our Nation by delivering the clothes we wear, the food we eat, or the medicine we rely on. This week, September 19–25, has been designated National Truck Driver Appreciation Week, which provides a perfect opportunity to express our appreciation to the 3.4 million professional truck drivers in the United States. I urge my colleagues and all Americans to use this week to reflect on the important role these hard-working and dedicated drivers play in facilitating many aspects of our daily lives.

Trucking serves as the backbone of our economy, responsible for nearly 70 percent of the total U.S. freight tonnage. Over 80 percent of communities rely solely on the trucking industry for their goods and commodities. Across the Nation, the trucking industry allows businesses and manufacturers to connect with consumers in a reliable and efficient manner that allows the free flow of goods to power the American economy every day.

One out of every 15 people across this country is employed in the trucking industry, making it one of our Nation’s largest employers. Most individual long-haul drivers average 100,000 to 110,000 miles driving per year. In doing so, America’s truck drivers sacrifice precious time from their families, all the while, they deliver for ours. This week we pause to say thank you to them and to their families.

I salute the fine professionals of the Nation’s trucking industry and their families for the dedication they continue to demonstrate to America and for delivering life’s essentials safely and securely.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER  
THREE MATTHEW WAGSTAFF

**HON. JASON CHAFFETZ**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 24, 2010*

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, Americans lost one of our finest early Tuesday morning when the Blackhawk helicopter carrying Chief Warrant Officer Three Matthew Wagstaff of Orem, Utah, went down in Afghanistan.

His family released a statement that reads, in part: “Matt died doing what he loved to do, and that was to fly. He was a tremendous husband, son, brother and uncle, and he served his country well.”

He was just married to his wife Tiffany in January, and was anticipating a visit home next month to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he was based. His wife and parents, Ronald and Suzanne Wagstaff, flew to Dover Air Force base in Delaware Wednesday morning to receive him and return him home for burial.

At 34 years old, CW3 Wagstaff had served for ten years as a Blackhawk helicopter pilot and was an active-duty member of the Army’s 101st Airborne Division. He had recently re-enlisted knowing he would most likely be called up for a second tour in Afghanistan, having already served a third overseas tour in Iraq.

A friend of the family shared that CW3 Wagstaff joined the military with a passion to fly helicopters, and that he was one of several pilots asked to fly Blackhawks in the original “Transformers” movie in 2007. He flew his helicopter in the action scenes in Los Angeles over Dodger Stadium, through alleys, and over rooftops. The friend went on to say that CW3 Wagstaff “felt like he was making a difference,” adding that his missions in Afghanistan included bringing injured soldiers out of combat zones.

A graduate of Orem High School and Utah State University, CW3 Wagstaff was among nine NATO service members killed in the crash near the town of Qatal in Zabul province. The soldiers were aboard an International Security Assistance Force helicopter. The cause of Tuesday’s crash was not immediately known.

Our hearts and prayers as Americans go out to the Wagstaff family for their willingness to send their husband, son, and brother to serve us all. We honor and appreciate him for his service, and his unselfishness in offering the ultimate sacrifice for his country and those whose lives he blessed both in and out of uniform. May God bless him, his family, and all those who join us now in mourning his passing.

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A TRIBUTE TO ANNETTE YOUNG

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**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 24, 2010*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a woman who had a tremendous impact on her community and the lives of countless individuals.

Annette Young was born on August 15, 1925 in Norfolk, Virginia. In 1944, she moved to New York and married Winfield Young, the love of her life, on March 21, 1944. They were later blessed with a son, Steven. Annette took great pride in family and was a devoted wife and mother.

Annette had a love for God and sought his guidance throughout her life. She understood that the power within us could evolve into something great if we trusted in the Lord. Annette joined the church family at the Berean Baptist Church in 1998.

Although Annette had a great sense of family, she also had a great sense of community. For more than 30 years, she was a resident of Ocean-Hill Brownsville and she served as president of the Council of Block Associations, organizing over 80 block and tenant associations. Additionally, she founded the Council of Block Associations Gazette, and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Daniel Hale Williams Housing Corp.

Through her roles as former district co-leader and legislative assistant, president of the Vanguard Political Club, honorary co-chair of Brooklyn C.O.R.E., Frank Edward Cook Scholarship Foundation and the N.A.A.C.P., Annette was a force that helped to empower others.

Annette worked in various industries and eventually became the Executive Secretary to the Vice President of International Banking at Chase Manhattan Bank. Following her retirement from Chase, she pursued a second career as a film promoter and as President of International Cinema. She also managed the musical group “Elegante.”

Annette utilized her acting ability and appeared in a number of productions. In 1996 she received the Unity Music and Arts Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement as an actress from the Unity Democratic Club.

In December 1991, Annette completed a certification from the NY State School of Industrial and Labor relations from Cornell University. In 2002, she proudly received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the College of New Rochelle. This was a monumental achievement and demonstrates that age is not a limit to learning.

She was extremely proud to be a long time member of the Jefferson Democratic Club of Brooklyn, NY.

Madam Speaker, Annette’s grace, poise, professionalism, witty nature and natural ability to “live life to the fullest” will be remembered by all who knew her.

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HONORING THE ABILITYONE  
PROGRAM

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**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 24, 2010*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the more than three years of service provided by the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point Base Supply Center (BSC) and to applaud the 15th anniversary of the AbilityOne BSC Program.

AbilityOne BSCs are retail stores located on military installations and in federal buildings. Operated through the AbilityOne Program, BSCs fulfill a dual purpose: supporting training and employment opportunities for people who