

of emergency services to fight the fire, and began evacuating the other apartments.

Mr. Speaker, the citizens of Paris, Tennessee are safer because of the selfless acts of bravery from public servants like Officer Colley. We are lucky to have such professional and well-trained personnel to protect our community. I am honored to join his colleagues and neighbors in applauding him for his courage.

**CELEBRATING JAMES DARBY AND PATRICK BOVA**

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 16, 2013*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of James Darby and Patrick Bova. Since 1963, Jim and Patrick have been in a loving, devoted relationship and together they have fought to secure marriage equality in Illinois and to allow gay and lesbian Americans to serve openly in the armed forces. I am proud to recognize this Chicago couple who have been at the forefront of the fight for equality in Illinois and across the country.

Jim was born and raised on the south side of Chicago, where he worked in the stockyards before enlisting in the Navy. He served four years during the Korean War as a Communications Technician Second Class. In this role, Jim worked as a cryptographer and Russian linguist and earned both the National Defense Service Medal and the Naval Occupation Service Medal.

Patrick grew up in Pennsylvania and attended Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. before moving to Chicago in 1960 to attend the University of Chicago Graduate School in Education.

After Jim's honorable discharge from the military, he met Patrick in Chicago on July 17, 1963. They have been in a committed relationship ever since. Jim spent a 29-year career as a teacher in the Chicago Public Schools where he was recognized in 1985 as the Outstanding Teacher of the Year. Patrick spent a career working at the National Opinion Research Center. When Illinois legalized same-sex civil unions in 2011, Jim and Patrick were among the first couples to share in that new form of partnership.

Together, Jim and Patrick have been working to ensure equality for all Americans serving in our armed forces. Jim founded the Chicago chapter of American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) in 1992 and served for many years on the organization's executive board. Jim and Patrick have attended every AVER conference since 1992 and fought together to end discrimination against gay men and lesbians serving in the United States Armed Forces and for the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell.

Jim and Patrick are also active in the fight for marriage equality in Illinois. As the lead plaintiffs in *Darby v. Orr*, the case before the Illinois Supreme Court challenging the ban on marriage equality as unconstitutional, Jim's and Patrick's advocacy and testimony have been instrumental in the fight to bring equal rights to all citizens of Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of

James Darby and Patrick Bova, a Chicago couple whose patriotic advocacy is improving the lives of gay and lesbian Americans in Illinois and across the country.

**HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY FAIR**

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 16, 2013*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the many dedicated volunteers, exhibitors, sponsors and visitors of the Ramsey County Fair on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of this community festival. This annual fair attracts thousands of attendees through a wide variety of events and activities that entertain families today.

The Ramsey County Fair began in 1913 in White Bear Lake, Minnesota as a simple agricultural event where farmers showcased produce and livestock as well as recent innovations. As the rural parts of Ramsey County gave way to suburban development during the 1950's, the fair had to adjust its events to appeal to a new generation of visitors. Creative arts activities and shows became more prevalent than traditional agriculture. As local historian Jim Lindner has said "the fair had to change to stay relevant, and it did." In 1953, the White Bear Lake School Board purchased the former fairgrounds to expand a local school, forcing the fair to find a new home. The fair opened in its current location in Maplewood, Minnesota in 1954 on what was known as the Ramsey County Poor Farm.

As the Ramsey County Fair prepares to begin its second century of community celebration, the event continues to educate, entertain and delight families from across the Saint Paul-Minneapolis metropolitan area. Mr. Speaker, in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Ramsey County Fair, I am pleased to submit this statement.

**HONORING PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR WALTER R. GORR**

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 16, 2013*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pearl Harbor survivor Walter R. Gorr, who passed away on July 8. Staff Sergeant Gorr served the United States of America honorably and earned a Bronze Star.

Mr. Gorr was born in Shell Lake, Wis., on July 4, 1918. He was living in Tracy, California at the Astoria Gardens care facility following a long illness.

In addition to serving in the United States Army, Mr. Gorr was a member of Mount Oso Masonic Lodge, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Tracy American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts and several other organizations. He was a proud member of the First United Methodist Church.

Mr. Gorr leaves behind a son, Darrell Gorr, and his wife, Sherry, of San Jose; a daughter, Linda Hahn, and her husband, Mark, of

Ladera Ranch; and two grandchildren. Preceding his death were his wife of 61 years, Dorothy Gorr, who died in 2008, three brothers and five sisters.

Walter R. Gorr was a retired Tracy High School teacher but is probably best known as Tracy's last Pearl Harbor survivor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Walter R. Gorr for his accomplishments and contributions. He will be remembered as a highly respected Tracy school teacher and for his efforts in bettering and developing services for veterans.

**THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE SHORT-TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE ACT OF 2013**

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 16, 2013*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, as many of our federal workers face furloughs and a third year of pay freezes, I introduce the Federal Employee Short-Term Disability Insurance Act of 2013, which will help provide some financial relief for federal employees who suffer a short-term injury or disability. This bill will offer federal employees short-term disability insurance at no cost to the federal government. Employees will be responsible for 100 percent of the premiums. If federal employees elect to purchase the short-term insurance provided for in my bill, and they become injured or ill because of a non-work-related injury or illness, they will be able to collect disability insurance benefits, for up to one year, to replace a portion of their lost income.

I decided to investigate how we could provide short-term disability insurance to federal employees after learning that many of them already buy short-term disability insurance as individuals in the private market at high rates. Although federal employees have good health insurance, federal health benefits do not replace lost income if employees are unable to work. And, while federal employees may have available sick or annual leave days, they may not have enough such days if they have to be out of work for an extended period of time. Moreover, although there are long-term disability options for federal employees who become permanently disabled, federal employees do not qualify for such benefits if they have not worked for at least 18 months. My bill does no more than put federal employees in the same position as their private sector counterparts, who have access to disability insurance through their employers at group rates. The bill will not allow participating insurance companies to exclude persons based on pre-existing conditions. And, because of the federal government's purchasing power, the bill will provide all of these benefits at a more competitive rate than is available if an employee sought such insurance as an individual.

According to the Social Security Administration, studies indicate that a 20-year-old worker has a one in four chance of becoming disabled by retirement age. The majority of disabilities are not caused by major accidents,