

Ms. Farrell uses innovative strategies for workforce development and promotion of nursing. Faced with an increasing demand and a limited supply of nurses, she established partnerships with the local high school and higher education to train new nurses. In 2002, Mary initiated the MCH Nursing Scholarship Program, funded by MCH employees, which has provided over \$9,000 for local nursing students. She has been honored by various organizations for her leadership, and has formed partnerships with many organizations to keep the best and brightest nurses in their communities. Her dedication to nursing is an inspiration to nursing leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Farrell for her excellence in the field of Outstanding Administration. I invite my colleagues in wishing Mary many years of continued success.

ON THE CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, as Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, I am proud to recognize the significance of "National Teacher Day". Teachers are a valuable source of morals, veracity and integrity for millions of students in Puerto Rico and the United States. The Congress of the United States and various teachers' organizations have recognized their devotion and commitment through "National Teachers Day," since the 1940's.

The work that teachers perform every single day is worthy of such recognition. Unfortunately, violence in schools has become a common denominator affecting teachers and students alike. Earlier this year in Puerto Rico, we have seen students and teachers attacked or killed by students in their classrooms, turning schools into a battle field where teachers and students are losing their lives. Episodes of this nature demean and undermine this remarkable profession, and erode the spirit of education.

Teachers are a testament of perseverance in every student. As Members of Congress, we must focus on the contributions that every single teacher makes to the development of a healthy, well-educated and cultured youth in our society. The issues affecting our teachers challenge all of us to contemplate what we genuinely value in our society.

Looking into the future of our communities in Puerto Rico, the role of a teacher in our children's lives becomes a necessity more than a luxury. The progress of a population is determined by the skills and the preparation that an individual acquires and develops during the early learning phases, phases that are often initiated by teachers.

Teachers are more than authority figures inside a classroom full of students—they are heroes in our society. Their love for their work should be awarded and respected everyday, "National Teacher Day" is a symbolic indication of the importance and magnitude of their profession in creating the future leaders of our society. As a proud Puerto Rican, I salute and thank the teachers in Puerto Rico and in the

United States for their remarkable job, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the "National Teacher Day."

TRIBUTE TO NEIL DE KOKER, IN HONOR OF EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Neil De Koker, a giant in the automotive supply industry and the recipient of the 2004 Executive Leadership Award from the Marketing & Sales Executives of Detroit.

Known as a man who can turn a concept into reality, Neil founded the Original Equipment Suppliers Association, a strategic forum for automotive suppliers. With 353 members and global sales exceeding \$300 billion worth of components, modules, systems, materials, and equipment used by the original equipment automotive industry, the OESA has provided information for over 4800 customers since its founding in August of 1998.

A veteran auto industry executive, Neil's extraordinary skills as a manager creating consensus and delivering results, has led him to being recognized around the world as a key spokesman for the automotive supplier industry in North America.

Neil's career, from furthering the growth and welfare of OESA members, to his 39 years in the automotive field, including playing a key part in establishing the Saturn Corporation, has vastly improved the automotive industry, the outlook of this key economic sector and the people who work within it.

I am honored today to recognize Neil De Koker for his outstanding achievements and the undeniably positive impact he has had upon our State and Nation. He is truly an invaluable citizen.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. COAST GUARD PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS NATHAN B. BRUCKENTHAL

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Third Class Nathan B. Bruckenthal, who was killed on April 24th in a suicide attack in the northern Arabian Gulf. He is a true hero—a man who served his country and did the nation's work in the most dangerous part of the world. Our entire community grieves his loss.

Petty Officer Bruckenthal, 24, along U.S. Navy Petty Officer First Class Michael J. Pemaselli, 27, and U.S. Navy Petty Officer Second Class Christopher E. Watts, 28, boarded a small boat that approached the Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminal in the northern Arabian Gulf in order to inspect it. As it turns out, the boat was carrying bombs and exploded, killing all three young men.

Petty Officer Bruckenthal was stationed at Air Station Miami at the Opa Locka Airport in

my Congressional district prior to his deployment in Iraq. He and his wife had their home together in nearby Ft. Lauderdale.

Our brave men and women in the U.S. Coast Guard have long fought alongside our other members of the U.S. Armed Forces, but Petty Officer Bruckenthal's death is the first combat death of a member of the Coast Guard since the Vietnam War. He will be buried on May 7th at Arlington National Cemetery.

My heartfelt condolences go out to the family and friends of Petty Officer Bruckenthal and those of the other young men who were mortally wounded in this terrorist assault. They gave the ultimate sacrifice to their country, and we will never forget them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my vote on H.R. 4181 was not recorded. I would ask that the RECORD reflect that as a cosponsor of H.R. 4181 the record should reflect that I should have been recorded as voting "aye" on final passage.

CONGRATULATING RALPH AND CATHERINE BROSI ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ralph and Catherine Brosi as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. A party is being held in their honor on May 2, 2004 at the Dante Club in Fresno, California.

Ralph and Catherine Brosi were married on May 2, 1954 at Our Lady of Victory Church in Fresno, California. They are both natives of Fresno, California and currently make their home in Clovis, California. Ralph graduated from Clovis High School in 1946 and went on to serve in the United States Army from 1952–1954. Catherine graduated from Edison High School in 1945, and was later employed as a medical secretary. Ralph and Catherine started a successful farming and ranching business, Brosi's Poultry Farm.

Ralph and Catherine have always set a strong example of family values for their children. Their son, Robert, was born in 1955 and is currently a dentist practicing in Oakhurst, California. In 1956 their daughter, Karen, was born. Karen currently works as a Financial Planner in Mountain View, California. They enjoy spending time with their three grandchildren, Deena, Jenna, and Cayla.

The Brosi's are currently retired, but have been involved with various volunteer organizations in their community throughout the years. Ralph is a member of the California Water Fowlers Association, the Sons of Italy, Ducks Unlimited and has served as the President of the Clovis 20/30 Club. Catherine is an active member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ralph and Catherine Brosi on their Golden Wedding Anniversary. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing them many more years of happiness.

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 618

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce H. Res. 618, a resolution commemorating the 101st anniversary of Jack London's inspirational novel, *The Call of the Wild*. Originally published in installments from June 20th to July 18th 1903, *The Call of the Wild* is considered a uniquely American narrative, recounting the trials and tribulations surrounding the Klondike Gold Rush of the Yukon Territory in Canada, which impacted the District of Alaska and Washington State during the 1890s. This classic of world literature contributed to the spirit of exploration and discovery that swept the United States in the early part of the last century and led many others to explore what is now the great State of Alaska. One of the most widely translated and published works by an American author; *The Call of the Wild* has not been out-of-print in the past century.

Born John Griffith London in 1876 in San Francisco, California, the author began working during his adolescent years at various labor-intensive jobs, which included pirating for oysters on the San Francisco Bay, and serving on a fish patrol to capture poachers. It was his strong desire to escape the prospect of adult life as a factory worker that motivated him to begin his career as a writer. A restless spirit and strong sense of adventure led Jack to leave his native California in 1897, with his brother-in-law, James Shepard, to join the Klondike Gold Rush. His experiences that winter spent in a cabin by the Klondike river provided much of the rich material for his most well renowned novels, *The Call of the Wild* and *White Fang*, both of which became inspirations for full-length feature films. He went on to produce over fifty volumes of work in his lifetime, which included novels, short stories, and political essays. His literary portrayals of adventure and frontier life, unparalleled in their time, helped mark him as a truly great American author and seminal figure in turn-of-the-century social history.

The Call of the Wild, which remains London's most celebrated work, tells a story through the eyes of Buck the dog, half St. Bernard, half Scotch Shepard. Captured from his comfortable life on an estate in California's Santa Clara Valley, he is sold to dog traders who ship him north to the Klondike to serve as a sled puller. Surrounded by inexperienced and cruel masters, Buck must learn to survive the realities of the harsh winter. *The Call of the Wild* is a tale of travel, transformation, and adaptation, filled with Darwinian undertones of survival and written in a naturalistic style that London is so often praised for.

As a young child, my father read this moving novel to me on many occasions. Filled with recollections of adventure and explo-

ration, I too, as a young man left my home in California to explore a world full of budding possibilities. These notions led me to a land less discovered, the Last Frontier, the State of Alaska. What I found when I arrived there was an untold potential for greatness for the land and its people, an inspiring setting for leadership and representation. Had it not been for the spirit of Jack London's experiences that he eloquently shared with the world—and me—in *The Call of the Wild*, I might never have journeyed to this great state that I have called home for more than 47 years and have had the great honor to represent, here in Washington, for the past 31 years.

HONORING GENERAL LARRY R. ELLIS, COMMANDING GENERAL, U.S. ARMY FORCES COMMAND, FORT MCPHERSON, GA

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor General Larry R. Ellis, Commanding General of U.S. Army Forces Command, on the occasion of his retirement from military service on May 7, 2004. His distinguished military career spans more than 35 years and as a four-star general and Commander of United States Army Forces Command he is the highest ranking African American officer within any branch of the United States military.

General Ellis assumed his current post as Commander, U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM), at Fort McPherson, Georgia on November 21, 2001. FORSCOM, the Army's largest major command, consists of more than 750,000 Active Army, U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard soldiers. FORSCOM trains, mobilizes, deploys and sustains combat ready forces capable of responding rapidly to crises world-wide. The FORSCOM commander functions as commander of the Army forces of this unified command and plans for and, on order, provides military support to civil authorities, including response to natural disasters and civil emergencies.

As the Army service component commander for U.S. Joint Forces Command, General Ellis has been responsible for the training and readiness of Army forces stationed in the continental U.S. and with the mission of performing as the Department of Defense's premier force provider, meeting the needs of Combatant Commanders worldwide. Therefore, General Ellis has overseen the preparation and deployment of every active duty division in the United States. In addition, he has commanded the mobilization, training, and deployment of more than 225,000 reserve component soldiers in more than 550 units across the nation.

Previously, General Ellis commanded the 1st Armored Division in Bad Kreuznach, Germany from May, 1997 to July, 1999. Following this division command, General Ellis served as Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, and Plans from August, 1999 to November, 2001. When terrorists attacked the United States on September 11, 2001, General Ellis was responsible for Army operations, planned and exe-

cuted the Army's role in the National Military Strategy, and developed and implemented the Army's Transformation Campaign Plan. The Army's Transformation Campaign Plan serves as the Army's roadmap into the 21st century which General Ellis devised as a comprehensive modernization of the Army's doctrine, training, leadership and education, organizations, soldiers, personnel, and facilities through the year 2010. As part of this project, he oversaw the research, development, and fielding of the Stryker family of vehicles and designed "Task Force Soldier" which codified the Army's warrior ethos and fostered the redesign of basic combat training.

General Ellis devised the Army's initial response to the September 11th attacks which involved the deployment of force protection and security units to Washington, D.C. and the Capitol region, chemical and munitions storage facilities, airports and other transportation terminals, military installations across the world, and the nation's borders. He also led the deployment of Army forces to combat the war on terror in Afghanistan.

General Ellis has served in the United States, Vietnam, Germany, the Republic of Korea, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. His command assignments include 1st Armored Division, Germany; Multinational Division (North), Bosnia and Herzegovina; Assistant Division Commander, 2d Infantry Division, Korea; Brigade Commander, 3d Infantry Division, Germany Battalion Commander, 5th Infantry Division, Fort Polk, La.; Company Commander, 101st Airborne Division, Vietnam; and 82d Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

General Ellis' awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Army Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the National Defense Service Medal with three stars, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with three stars, the Armed Forces Service Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry/Palm, the Korean Cheonsu Medal, the German Armed Forces Honor Cross (Gold), the NATO Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Senior Parachutist Badge, the Office of Secretary of Defense Staff Identification Badge, the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge, and the Army General Staff Identification Badge.

General Ellis received a Bachelor of Science degree from Morgan State University and a Master of Science degree from Indiana University. He is married to Jean and has two daughters, Renee and Debra. *Ebony Magazine* recently recognized General Ellis as one of the "100 plus most influential people in America." General Ellis enjoys physical fitness activities, traveling, and playing golf. Responding to an inquiry about his future plans, General Ellis says he is "sprinting to the finish line, moving 101 miles per hour, and has not slowed to consider what he will do following retirement."

Due to his honorable military career, I am pleased to honor him and his service to this great country. God bless General Larry Ellis and his family.