

the President's Award, a recipient of the Chief Engineer's Award, and a two-time recipient of the Fire Fighter of the Year Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today to recognize Robert Stephens's dedication to volunteer work and the East Norriton Fire Engine Company and the contributions he has made to the East Norriton community and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

REGARDING H.R. 4280, THE  
H.E.A.L.T.H ACT

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 2004*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I'm holding my nose and voting against H.R. 4280, which would limit medical malpractice awards. I am not pleased that we are voting on this bill again, since an identical bill is languishing over in the Senate and I doubt that by passing it today we will jolt the Senate into moving on the bill. I think the vote today has more to do with politics than with policy.

I think we're beating a dead horse. Both sides have dug in and aren't willing to compromise. In the meantime, we aren't doing anything to reform our medical liability system and we aren't doing anything to make health care more affordable and accessible for Americans. Our system is inherently adversarial and we've continued this fingerpointing game and done nothing to improve patient safety and health care access, which is what we're really talking about here.

I think we need a system that is non-punitive and encourages openness and improvement so that doctors can report medical errors without fear of being sued. This will help us understand medical errors and improve procedures and patient safety. Fewer medical errors will result in fewer medical malpractice suits, which in turn will help keep malpractice insurance rates and health care premiums down. That's why I voted for H.R. 663, the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act, which would create a voluntary medical error reporting system under which patient safety organizations would receive, on a confidential basis, and analyze information on reported errors. They would then be expected to develop and disseminate evidence-based information to help providers implement changes in practice patterns that help to prevent future medical errors. In addition to this legislation, I think we should explore ideas like alternate dispute resolution, no-fault systems, and medical courts.

I also want to make it clear that I am not opposed to capping damages because I think it helps keep health care costs down and keeps doctors accessible, like in my home State of Colorado where we have caps. However, I think H.R. 4280 sets low and arbitrary limits on damages, which will hurt those at the bottom of the income scale the most. Also, I don't think we should be shielding large and powerful HMOs and drug companies from liability.

Mr. Speaker, ultimately this issue is about health care access and patient safety. If we aren't going to compromise, I hope we'd start thinking outside the box on how to end the logjam on tort reform. I offer these ideas as a way to get there, because we aren't going to get there from where we are today.

RECOGNIZING ASIAN AMERICAN  
HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 2004*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and to pay tribute to the 120,000 individuals of Asian descent I represent in California's 32nd Congressional District. I am fortunate to represent an ethnically diverse district that has experienced first hand the economic and cultural contributions of the Asian Pacific American community.

Although less than 4 percent of the U.S. population is Asian, I am proud that 19 percent of the congressional district I represent is of Asian descent. Some cities in my congressional district have a well-established Asian Pacific American community. Monterey Park, for example, is home to a vibrant Asian American community and has a City Council that is majority Asian. Other cities in the congressional district I represent, like West Covina, have experienced an increase in their Asian population in more recent times. From 1980 to the present, West Covina's Asian Pacific American population has grown from 4 percent to 23 percent.

Asian Pacific Americans bring diversity to our community and also contribute to our economy and to our advancement as a nation. Asian Pacific Americans have made vast contributions in the fields of medicine, technology, and agriculture that benefit all Americans. Furthermore, throughout times of heightened national security, Asian Pacific Americans have fought to protect democracy in every war since the Civil War. For example, despite the disturbing racism toward Japanese Americans during World War II, Japanese Americans volunteered to serve in the armed forces as part of the 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team remains the most decorated unit in U.S. military history. Not only did these Japanese servicemen show their loyalty to the United States, but they also earned more than 18,000 individual decorations in less than 2 years. These noble service members deserve our recognition.

In closing, I would like to commend organizations in California's 32nd Congressional District that exemplify and promote Asian diversity during Asian American Heritage Month.

A TRIBUTE TO JOAN PETERSON

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Joan Peterson in recognition of her substantial contributions to her community.

Upon gazing on their beautiful baby girl, parents Emily Cole and John Stafford named her Joan, celebrating the namesake of both grandmothers.

Joan spent her early years of elementary education at Clio Public School where her grandmother, Joan Guice taught first grade,

her mother taught 10th grade and her grandfather Professor Charles Guice served as principal for 50 years. Her latter years were spent at St. Joseph Catholic School where she graduated 8th Grade. Upon completing elementary school, she attended Holy Rosary High School in Lafayette, Louisiana and graduated with honors.

Joan attended college at Tuskegee University with a major in Nursing Education. However, when her mother moved the family to Brooklyn, New York, she enrolled at Medgar Evers College and completed her education in Business Management. She later attended New York University and received a certificate as an Administrative Assistant.

Joan worked with the United Negro College Fund as an Employee Associate where she began to develop a format that would bring together all graduates of other black colleges to participate in a job market. This has now evolved as a site on the Internet for job placements.

Joan later met and married hometown friend, David Peterson, Jr. From their union, two children, Danielle and David Peterson III, were born. The children attended St. Paul Community Christian School where Joan became very involved in her children's education and participated in all fundraising activities. When the children transferred to P.S. 308, Joan continued to be active and was the Financial Secretary for the P.T.A. until her daughter Danielle graduated. Joan joined the Concerned Women of Brooklyn in which she is still an active member. In 1997, Joan's husband became ill and passed away. Subsequently, Joan bought a house and moved to Bedford-Stuyvesant, where she immediately joined the Block Association where she now serves as Financial Secretary.

Joan presently works for the Health and Hospital Corporation as a Senior Systems Analyst. In her sixteen years of service, she has worked in several areas, Office of Affiliations, Construction Management, Kings County Reconstruction Project, Elmhurst Modernization Project, Accounting Department and presently she is in the Receiving Department at Queens Hospital.

As a recipient of several awards as an Outstanding Leader in her community and school, Joan is interested in developing a program that would address young males, ages 10-18 years. Joan is a member of St. Paul Community Baptist Church, where Rev. Johnny Ray Youngblood is the senior pastor.

Mr. Speaker, Joan Peterson has actively participated in improving her community through various volunteer positions. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

TRIBUTE TO THE 21ST SPACE  
WING GUARDIAN CHALLENGE 2004

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 2004*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 21st Space Wing at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado.

The 21st Space Wing, under the Command of Brigadier General Richard Webber, also

under Air Force Space Commander General Lance W. Lord, recently participated as champions in the 37th annual Guardian Challenge competition and won the coveted Aldridge Trophy for Best Space Operations

Guardian Challenge is the only national competition for Air Force Space Command professionals and has a history of competitions dating back to 1967. It allows nearly 200 best-of-the-best competitors from various Air Force Space Wing Teams around the nation to test their skills against each other in tough competition and rigorous evaluation. The competition helps them better perform their missions by increasing their overall capabilities. Teams qualify by competing at their home stations against difficult criteria set in a competitive environment. By qualifying, teams compete at the national Guardian Challenge competition where they demonstrate their capabilities. In this case, Team 21 from Peterson Air Force Base came home with high honors, securing the coveted Aldridge Trophy, which is awarded to the Best Space Operations Wing.

I extend congratulations to the top-notch competitors in Guardian Challenge who earned the Aldridge Trophy for the 21st Space Wing. From Space Operations this includes: Captain Michael Bruno, Crew Commander, Technical Sergeant Kenneth DeFeo, Space Operator, Captain Jennifer Berger, Crew Commander, Staff Sergeant Robert Widrick, Crew Chief, Airman First Class Jennifer McCord, Space Console Operator, Flight Lieutenant Jay Garratt, Crew Commander, Flight Sergeant Ken Callaghan, Space Operator, Sergeant Stewart Williamson, Operations Team Trainer, Corporal Andrew Leckie, Space Operator, Corporal Gary Wright, Space Operator, SAC Kristopher Cochrane, Space Operator. From Communications: Staff Sergeant David Kisner and Senior Airman Jon McCullar, both Communications competition. From Security Forces competition: Staff Sergeant Duane Blackmon, Staff Sergeant Jon Scott, Airman First Class Steven Israel, Airman First Class Thanongsack Phanda and Staff Sergeant Matthew Tussey.

In addition, I extend special congratulations to Staff Sergeant Matthew Tussey of 137th Space Warning Squadron, Air National Guard in Greeley, for earning the Top Gun Trophy and medal for overall best marksman in all of Air Force Space Command.

I would also like to honor the entire Team 21 Wing Staff: Command Chief Master Sergeant for the 21st Space Wing, Vance Clarke; Colonel Gary Pond, 21st Maintenance Group Commander; Lieutenant Colonel Bryant Anderson, 21st Operations Group Deputy Commander; Colonel Al Kemmet, Jr., 21st Space Wing Guardian Challenge Project Officer; Staff Sergeant Jason Hand who was "Iron Mike"—the Team Mascot; Major Matthew Carroll, Guardian Challenge Project Officer Advance Team; Mr. Dick DuBose and Mr. Mel Thiel, both Guardian Challenge Advance Team and Technical Sergeant Roger Kelley, Transportation Support.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure today in congratulating the 21st Space Wing for their outstanding achievements in this year's Guardian Challenge. They are true professionals in our United States Air Force and are part of the best space and missile team in the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF INDIANA STATE TROOPER SCOTT PATRICK DURING NATIONAL POLICE MEMORIAL WEEK

### HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 2004*

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. In recognition of National Police Memorial Week and the ultimate sacrifices given by police officers across the nation, I wish to recognize the service and memory of Indiana State Trooper Scott Patrick.

Trooper Scott Patrick, a three-year veteran of the department, was shot by a driver he had stopped to help on an exit ramp of Interstate 80/94 in Gary, IN. He died December 22, 2003 at the age of 27.

Trooper Patrick's name and service will be among 362 fallen officers, killed in the line of duty in the past year and added to the National Police Memorial here in Washington during National Police Memorial Week.

Our mere words, even our sincere thanks cannot add to the life of this young husband, father, son and brother. Trooper Patrick has paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to the people of Indiana.

We can ensure the life and sacrifice of every officer slain in the line of duty is never forgotten. We can try to assure the survivors that his sacrifice was not in vain, and we must do what we can as citizens to increase the public's appreciation for law enforcement, especially the dangers faced on our behalf to protect us.

To the Patrick family, grateful Hoosiers and a grateful nation say thank you.

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUZANNE WILLIAMS

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Suzanne Williams and thank her for her extraordinary contributions to the State of Colorado as a member of the Colorado General Assembly. As a four-term member of the State House of Representatives, she will always be remembered as a dedicated public servant and leader of the community. As she moves on in her career, let it be known that I, along with the people of Colorado, are eternally grateful for all that she has accomplished in her tenure in the Colorado House of Representatives.

Representing Arapahoe and Denver counties for District 41, Suzanne has worked in neighborhood schools for twenty-two years as a special education teacher. Suzanne's intimate knowledge with education has served her well as a member of the Education Committee, sponsoring legislation to implement funding for full-day kindergarten in low-performing school districts. Other legislation Suzanne has sponsored includes the Child Care Loan Forgiveness Program that assists childcare professionals in attending community college to gain more skills, and the American Indian Scholars license plate, which estab-

lished a scholarship fund for Colorado American Indians to attend a college or university within the state.

Suzanne's efforts to better her community include extensive involvement with civic organizations. She currently sits on the Colorado Special Education Advisory Board and the Colorado Medicare Consortium, and she has served on the board of directors for Aurora Sister Cities, D.A.R.E. Colorado and the United Cerebral Palsy Association. The Colorado Chapter of American Mothers, Inc. recognized her outstanding commitment to community service in 1996 when she received the Colorado Mother of the Year Award.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that State Representative Suzanne Williams is a person who has demonstrated an exceptional level of dedication and commitment to her life long pursuit of public service. It is her incredible devotion along with her passion for contributing towards the betterment of her community and the State of Colorado that I wish to bring before this body of Congress and this nation. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Suzanne here today, and wish her and her husband Ed all the best in their future endeavors.

### RECOGNIZING GORSKI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 2004*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Gorski Construction Company as it celebrates 50 years of excellence in the construction industry.

Caesar J. Gorski, Sr. started the Gorski Construction Company in 1954 with a \$75 surplus pickup truck from Peco Energy Company and carpentry and masonry tools that he had gathered during a four-year apprenticeship with Mecca Construction. In the beginning, Gorski constructed stone chimneys and repaired barns. From 1954 until 1974, Gorski Construction built three to four custom homes each year. In the late 1960s, Gorski Construction took on the new task of building commercial properties.

Gorski Construction earned a first-place award from Associated Builders and Contractors for the design and construction of the Gorski headquarters building. The 16,200 square-foot, two-story brick building won the "Excellence in Construction" Eagle award for pre-engineered buildings costing less than 2 million dollars. The \$1,640,000 building was built in 7 months and was occupied in November 2002. The Company uses the corporate headquarters to showcase their construction prowess for prospective clients.

In 2003, the Company completed three major construction projects with a 17-person crew and several subcontractors. For example, they designed and built the \$3.5 million, 30,000 square foot food processing facility for Don's Salads in Skipack Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Gorski Construction also built the \$1.4 fire station for Goodwill Fire Company in West Chester, Pennsylvania. The Company also completed a five-bedroom, 6,000 square foot Mediterranean style home in Limerick Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.