

lead the daily activities and provide personal care to the participants. In addition, the program is designed to provide respite, education, and support to family caregivers.

The first Fairfax County Adult Day Health Care Program center opened its doors in Annandale on January 3, 1980. The Annandale center was the first public nonprofit elderly daycare facility in Fairfax County. This program was an exemplary example of inter-agency collaboration, a visionary approach to providing long-term care services, and innovative use of county resources. Over the next 22 years, four additional centers were opened including: the Lewinsville Adult Day Health Care center in June 1985, the Lincoln Adult Day Health Care center in January 1990, the Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care center in July 1990 and finally the Herndon Harbor Adult Day Health Care center in June 2000. In 2006 the county is planning to open a sixth adult day health care center in Fairfax City.

In 1986, the Annandale and Lewinsville Adult Day Health Care centers were the recipients of the National Achievement Award given by the National Association of Counties. The centers were recognized for their new and innovative programs.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the Fairfax County Health Department Adult Day Health Care Program for the immeasurable contributions they have made to the community by taking care of the sick and elderly. I congratulate the program on its successes over the last 25 years and wish for continued success in the future. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding this outstanding and distinguished institution.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
STATE POLICE CAPTAIN KATHY
STEFANI

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman who has dedicated the better part of her life to ensuring the public safety of our community. She is a pioneer in law enforcement, and a role-model for all who choose to wear the uniform. Dedicated, visionary, and compassionate, she has left a lasting legacy on the Massachusetts State Police, the troopers under her command, and the public she serves.

I'm talking of Capt. Kathy Stefani.

Where I'm from, it's not uncommon for children to want to follow in their parents' professional footsteps. No where is this more so than with the police department. So it was with a special pride that Kathy's father, Gerry Coletta, a good friend and my chief administrative assistant from my tenure as Norfolk district attorney, encouraged her pursuit of a law enforcement career.

Joining the ranks of the Massachusetts State Police force in 1978, she was one of only three women on the job. It was clear from the beginning that her career was going to be special.

In 1995, when she was elevated to the rank of lieutenant, she became the first State Police officer to run the Commonwealth's crime Lab. During her tenure there, she successfully se-

cured a \$1 million grant to develop the first DNA testing facilities in Massachusetts.

And, in 1999, when Kathy was promoted again she made more history as the first woman ever to hold the rank of captain. Law enforcement has always been a family affair, and at her promotion ceremony she proudly accepted her husband Michael's badge as her own.

During her 26 years on the force, Captain Stefani has been involved with some of the most important public events in recent memory. Long before we talked about homeland security, she used her position as Troop H commander to push for a more integrated approach for securing large events—including the 2000 Presidential Debate held at UMASS-Boston, the annual Sail Boston events, the July 4th celebrations on the Esplanade.

During her long career she's been recognized with the Superintendent's Commendation, the Distinguished Service Award for Forensic Science and the prestigious State Police Medal of Merit.

But perhaps the greatest compliments come from those who don't know her personally, but benefit from her forward-thinking plan for the State crime lab during the 1990's. Long before television shows like CSI made forensic science popular, Captain Stefani recognized the role that DNA testing could play in bringing criminals, especially rapists, to justice. Her perseverance in advocating for this technology has brought solace and comfort to victims and their families.

As Captain Stefani prepares to enter into a well-deserved retirement, I doubt very much that she'll be working on her tennis game. My guess is that she'll continue to be involved professionally—inspiring the next generation in the classroom; being a role-model to those who continue to wear the uniform, like her brother Chip; being an involved mom to her two kids, and a loving wife to Michael; and a devoted daughter to Gerry and Marge.

I'm honored to add my voice to the chorus of friends, family and colleagues who wish her well as she embarks on her retirement. Job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, January 6, 2005, I was unavoidably detained and thus missed rollcall vote No. 7. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 7.

On Tuesday, January 25, 2005, I was unavoidably detained and thus missed rollcall votes Nos. 8 and 9. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both votes.

On Wednesday, January 26, 2005, I was unavoidably detained and thus missed rollcall votes Nos. 10–13. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall Nos. 10, 11, and 12, and "yea" on rollcall No. 13.

CONGRATULATIONS TO 11TH GRADUATING CLASS OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST'S LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

HON. PETER J. VISCOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. VISCOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and admiration that I offer congratulations to many of Northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, February 4, 2005, Indiana University Northwest's Leadership Development Program will honor their 11th graduating class.

The Institute for Innovative Leadership is a partnership between Indiana University Northwest and Northwest Indiana's community and business leadership throughout all sectors. The Institute is designed to create a binding link between educational experience and leadership practice. The Leadership Development Program is the core of the Institute. Various resources are utilized to help ensure that students of every level acquire the skills, knowledge, values, motivation and vision needed for success in careers and as citizens.

The Institute for Innovative Leadership will be recognizing and honoring the following 2004 Graduates: Bobbi Atzhorn, Sandra Bowie, Alice Carter, Gail Coleman, Larry Hayden, Crystal Jelks, Brock Lloyd, Ryan Mistarz, Melissa Murdock, Damian Perkins, Mary Louise Rieger, Cora Robinson, Jennifer Stewart, Gabriela Tirado, and Reginald Williams.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these hardworking individuals. I am very proud to honor them in Washington, DC.

ON THE 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL
LEAVE ACT

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, February 5, 2005, will mark the 12th anniversary of legislation that has made an enormous difference in the lives of millions of working Americans since its enactment in 1993. I speak of course of the Family and Medical Leave Act, FMLA.

I count myself among the Family and Medical Leave Act's strongest supporters. Since its enactment, this law has brought peace of mind and job security during critical times to millions of American workers and their families. The FMLA allows qualified employees to take unpaid leave from their employer for the birth or adoption of a child, to attend to the serious health crisis of a family member, or attend to their own serious medical issue. The law makes clear that no American should have to choose between caring for a gravely ill family member and losing his or her job.

Since its enactment in 1993, millions of Americans have used the FMLA to take time to care for a newborn, to attend to an adult parent or child's serious illness, or perhaps to

attend to their own critical medical needs. They have done so knowing that their job remained safe and secure. Indeed, many employers have gone far beyond the requirements of the FMLA, providing their employees with leave benefits beyond those required under state or federal law.

In congressional hearings on the FMLA, in town meetings, and in speaking with both employers and employees in our districts, we hear that so much of the FMLA works the way Congress intended. As all of us who serve in this body know, however, actions we take here in Congress with the best of intentions often end up going in a direction we don't expect.

In particular, with respect to the FMLA, we have heard that the "family" part of Family and Medical Leave has worked well, providing employees a much-needed benefit and the time to care for a newborn or adopted child, while enabling employers to manage and maintain the productivity of their workforce.

It appears that implementation of "medical" leave has been less successful. It is plain that Congress intended FMLA to serve as a safety net for employees to meet serious and unforeseen medical needs. The Act was not intended to be—nor dare I say would it have been enacted if it were—a national "sick leave" policy. When medical leave is used for those serious health conditions for which it is intended, we hear from employers that morale and productivity are unaffected—indeed, that employees often rally to the aid of a colleague. In contrast, where medical leave is abused, or used beyond its intended purpose, morale and productivity suffer, employers are unable to manage their workplace, and resentment grows in co-workers who are forced to pick up chronic slack.

Similarly, we have heard repeatedly that recordkeeping and notice requirements under the Act are not in tune with the realities of today's workplace, and serve as a barrier to both employers and employees in knowing and exercising their rights. Concerns about misapplying the FMLA have often discouraged employers from providing more generous leave policies to their workers. Research also has shown that confusion surrounding FMLA regulatory requirements has actually served to hurt those it was supposed to help—workers.

Employers and employees alike have expressed concerns that the effectiveness of the law is being hampered by the way the Act has been implemented by regulatory agencies and interpreted by the courts. This is troubling and has, unfortunately, led to charges that the FMLA is a bad law. As a supporter of the FMLA, I would be the first to say that is not true: the FMLA is a good law, although with the benefit of 12 years of experience, perhaps a law in need of fine-tuning. Without action to clarify the law, we will surely see an increasing number of lawsuits challenging FMLA regulations—litigation that costs employees, employers, unions and the courts valuable time, effort and money.

On the anniversary of its enactment, I look forward to working with a wide array of members of Congress on both sides of the aisle and in both chambers of Congress, to keep the best parts of the FMLA intact, while targeting common-sense, necessary improvements where the Act has failed to meet Congressional expectations.

Many issues in Congress are polarized, but restoring the Congressional intent of this law

needn't be. I am confident that good minds can and will agree so that we can work to preserve the protections offered to workers by the FMLA, address failings in the Act that serve the interests of neither employers nor employees, and ensure that the benefits afforded to millions of working Americans in the last 12 years will be afforded to millions more in the years to come.

HONORING CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues in recognition of Catholic Schools Week.

My district is home to over 30 Catholic schools, serving a whole generation of young people and their families. My district is also home to the University of Dayton, one of the nation's ten largest Catholic universities and the largest private university in the state of Ohio. I am a proud alumnus of the University of Dayton, where I earned my MBA.

Catholic schools have enriched the lives of generations of students. These schools have attained a well-earned reputation for academic excellence, and it is appropriate that Congress pay tribute to their contributions to our country. Catholic schools welcome children from a variety of social and economic backgrounds, and many non-Catholic parents have turned to these schools to educate their children. The theme of this year's week is: "Faith in Every Student." I strongly support the sound, values-based education Catholic schools provide.

I am proud to join my colleagues in support of H. Res. 23, honoring the contributions of Catholic schools in America and thank my colleague, Representative MARK KENNEDY of Minnesota, for bringing this resolution to the attention of the House.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF ANDREW M. KYOVSKY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Andrew M. Kyovsky, beloved son, brother, uncle, colleague and friend to many. His steady and spirited presence radiated warmth and light along the granite walkways of Cleveland City Hall, and his kind and gentle spirit will be deeply missed.

Mr. Kyovsky's 41 year legacy as the key staffer in the mail department of Cleveland City Hall was framed by loyalty, dependability, integrity and concern for others. He rarely missed a day of work, and his love for his job and for the people he worked with reflected daily within the smiles and laughter he enticed from others—from the first-floor receptionist to seven of Cleveland's mayors—including me.

Despite life-long medical challenges, Mr. Kyovsky's spirited demeanor, generous heart

and zest for life was never dimmed. His quick smile and kind words served to disarm even the most guarded employee or visitor to City Hall. Whether presenting a rose to a charmed female colleague or offering a kind word to a visitor, Mr. Kyovsky did so with grace, dignity and humanity. His personal difficulties never prevented him from helping others, and he did so daily. Mr. Kyovsky's life was a lesson in humanity, showing us the power of kindness and giving—universal truths infinitely more supreme than any lofty municipal project or political agenda.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Andrew M. Kyovsky, whose exceptional work in the mail room at Cleveland City Hall is eclipsed only by the brilliant legacy of his gentle and courageous heart. I offer my deep condolences to his mother, Ann Kyovsky; his sister and brother-in-law, Margaret and Joseph Dzurma; his nieces, Anne Marie and Paula; and also to his extended family and many friends. His friendship, perseverance and unyielding loyalty will forever light the hearts of all whom knew and loved him well.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE SERVICE OF ELAINE T. VALENTE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an important leader in the Denver, Colorado metropolitan area. Ms. Elaine Valente, outgoing Commissioner for Adams County, will be leaving her post after 16 years of dedicated service.

Commissioner Valente was born and raised in Adams County. She and her husband Larry own the successful Valente's Deli, are proud parents of two accomplished children, and are passionate community activists.

Elaine's interest in her community began long before assuming her role as County Commissioner. She served on the Adams County Planning Commission, the City of Westminster Urban Renewal Authority, the Westminster Planning Commission, the Citizen's Evaluation for Retention of Judges, and the School District 50 Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee.

That deep passion to give something back and to help improve the community in which she lives motivated her to run and win election as a County Commissioner in 1988. After her election, Elaine began a noteworthy career as a public official. Serving as Chairman of the commissioners, she took an interest in many issues affecting her constituency, helping pave the way for future county development and responsible economic achievement. Elaine's heartfelt desire for progress in the county she knew from birth allowed us all to bask in the results of her accomplished career.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Elaine Valente and in wishing her success in all her future endeavors. It has been a true privilege to work with such a remarkable public servant.