

States at its 92nd National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, on August 25, 2005.

She has served in many positions for the organization, including Auxiliary President. As District and State President, she earned Runner-Up Outstanding President of the Year. She also served as National Junior Girls Units Director, as National District Council Member #8, and eight years as State Secretary.

Ms. Germany is also a life member of the VFW National Home for Children and belongs to the American Legion Auxiliary and the Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sandy Germany, a woman who has dedicated herself to all veterans, our community and the State of Michigan.

RECOGNIZING THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, an international internship program that was highlighted in a Roll Call article last week. I have been a proud participant in the program since its inception seven years ago.

The Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program gives Australian university students the opportunity to intern in the office of a Member of the Congress. Each year, 12 students from all across Australia are selected to come to Washington to participate in the administrative and legislative processes that underpin the functioning of Congress as a democratic institution. Such experiences are invaluable opportunities for these students to gain knowledge and a deep understanding of the internal workings of the United States Government while bringing their own skills and backgrounds to their respective Congressional offices.

The Uni-Capitol Program selects undergraduates from 7 universities by matching the applicants with Members and Senators who share their views. The students who are selected come from a variety of academic disciplines, but all have an interest in learning about and promoting the U.S.-Australia relationship. The Program facilitates this by enabling the formation of genuine friendships and the exchange of views and ideas between the Australian interns and their respective offices. I have often enjoyed the interaction that has occurred between my Australian and American interns. This, my colleagues, is how we build relationships which will ensure that the U.S. and Australia remain friends and allies for years to come.

My office is currently hosting Sarah Dillon who is completing a double degree in law and international studies at Deakin University. She has been an exceptional addition to my staff and has provided us with an international perspective on constitutional governments, a passion for relieving suffering in Darfur, and the culinary delights of vegemite.

Sarah is participating with 11 other very qualified students. Andrew Brookes from Melbourne University is in Senator CHRISTOPHER

DODD's office; Ryan Conroy from Deakin University is in Representative SAM FARR's office; Jenna Davey-Burns from Melbourne University is in Representative LOUISE SLAUGHTER's office; Douglas Ferguson from the University of Canberra is in Senator DEBBIE STABENOW's office; Jessica Gurevich from Melbourne University is in Representative MIKE CASTLE's office; Scott Ivey from the University of Western Australia is in Representative LORETTA SANCHEZ's office; Saul Lazar from Deakin University is in Senator CHUCK HAGEL's office; Abbie McPhie from Melbourne University is in Representative JERROLD NADLER's office; Linda Nelson from the University of Wollongong is with the House Science Committee's majority staff; Marianna O'Gorman, from the University of Queensland is in Delegate ENI FALEOMAVAEGA's office; and Rachel Thomson from the University of Western Australia is with the Joint Economic Committee's minority staff.

I would also like to commend Eric Federling who founded and continues to direct this international internship program. Eric is a former senior House and Senate staffer of more than a dozen years, and I congratulate him on making his vision a reality. In the process, Eric continues to make a great contribution to the mutual understanding and appreciation shared by Australians and Americans, myself included.

I am proud that my office is part of this program, as I believe it provides a unique and important bridge between the United States of America and Australia. The program has been, and will continue to be, an extremely beneficial experience for all involved. I implore my colleagues to participate in this worthwhile program in the coming years.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution to honor America's Catholic elementary and secondary schools and to recognize Catholic Schools Week.

America's Catholic schools provide a well-rounded education to the millions of children who attend them. More than 27 percent of the students are from minority groups and nearly 14 percent are non-Catholics. With a strong tradition of social justice, Catholic schools combine strong academic rigor and moral development to prepare young people for life. Graduates of Catholic schools go on to make valuable contributions to our communities through their work, further education, and civic activities. It is important that we take this time to acknowledge the important role that Catholic schools play in educating students and supporting the communities in which they exist.

The Catholic tradition continues to acknowledge the importance of reaching out to the most vulnerable in our society and Catholic schools follow that lead by incorporating moral development, civic engagement, and service learning in their curriculum. In this time of difficult decisions and budget priorities, the Catholic community reminds us of our commit-

ment to all members of our society, especially the most vulnerable.

I am very proud to honor the thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools all across the Nation for their vital contributions to the education of children and young people. Attending an all-day Catholic kindergarten gave me a strong start in my own life. Later, while attending the College of St. Catherine, I had the opportunity to student teach at St. Luke's Catholic School in St. Paul and saw teachers who worked so hard to enrich students' lives through academics and spiritual development.

It is with gratitude for their commitment and efforts that I rise to thank Catholic schools, teachers, parents, and students for their valuable contributions to our Nation.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE USO TO OUR ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 322, expressing the sense of Congress regarding the contribution of the USO to the morale and welfare of our service men and women of our Armed Forces and their families.

I commend my colleagues Mr. MILLER and Mr. REYES for giving us this opportunity to express our appreciation to the USO for the service they provide to our country through their work with our military forces throughout the world.

I believe the United Service Organizations, USO, is best known to the public for bringing in diverse celebrity musicians, comedians and actors to entertain and to boost the morale of our troops around the world, including such familiar names as Wayne Newton, Robin Williams, actor Gary Sinise, the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders, and even including a son of my own district, Dwayne Johnson—the Rock.

What is less widely known is the existence of other important programs and services the USO has developed to support our troops, such as family crisis counseling; housing assistance; airport service centers; libraries and reading rooms; telephone, internet, and e-mail capabilities; support groups for families separated by deployments; and USO centers—on- and off-base—to provide relaxing and wholesome recreational activities to our service members and their families. In fact, the USO currently operates more than 120 centers around the world, including centers in Germany, Italy, France, Bahrain, Bosnia, Japan, Qatar, and Kuwait.

I note that the USO is a private, nonprofit organization relying on donations from private citizens, organizations and corporations to support their mission. The USO credits its success in large part to the services of more than 12,000 volunteers, who provide some 450,000 hours of service annually to support our troops.

I am a proud supporter of our military troops and a proud member of the USO Congressional Caucus. In my opinion, the work the USO has been doing for the past 65 years is

vital to the morale and welfare of our men and women in the Armed Forces. For this reason, I am honored to have this opportunity to speak in support of H. Con. Res. 322 and recognize the USO for their invaluable contributions to the success of our U.S. military.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 322.

IN GRATITUDE TO MR. JESUS
SALAS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments and contributions of a leader in the Fourth Congressional District. Mr. Jesus Salas retired in December 2005, concluding an 18-year teaching career at Milwaukee Area Technical College, MATC. Though his teaching career has ended, he will no doubt continue his life's work advancing the cause of civil rights and justice.

A noted pioneer in the fight for civil rights, Mr. Salas participated in a series of landmark actions in the 1960s. Together with Father Groppi, Mr. Salas helped organize the Welfare Rights March in downtown Milwaukee, and was a leader in the landmark march from Milwaukee to the State capitol in Madison. He was part of a multi-racial group of civil rights leaders who together protested segregated housing, pushed for greater worker protections and demanded greater access to education for people of color.

Mr. Salas has exhibited a profound commitment to the rights of migrant workers. He pushed for enforcement of laws that would protect migrant workers from exploitative conditions, including low wages, unhealthy working conditions and poor housing. As the founder of Obreros Unidos, Mr. Salas led the first sustained effort at unionizing migrant workers in the Great Lakes region, and he served as the first Hispanic executive director of United Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc.

Furthermore, Mr. Salas is a staunch advocate for education. He fought to improve access to college education for Hispanic youth, while also demanding that educational institutions provide curricula that reflect the history and accomplishments of the Hispanic community. As a result of his efforts, the University of Wisconsin-Madison created a Chicano studies program, the Milwaukee Area Technical College instituted a bilingual education program, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee created the Spanish Speaking Outreach Institute—now the Roberto Hernandez Center—to recruit, advise and support Hispanic students. Generations of Hispanic leaders to come will be able to thank Mr. Salas for working to ensure the increased educational opportunities they will enjoy.

I know Mr. Salas will continue to identify and advocate for educational innovations in his role as a member of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents. Along with members of the Fourth Congressional District's Hispanic community, I extend to him my heartfelt congratulations and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

A PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING VICE ADMIRAL THAD ALLEN FOR HIS NOMINATION TO COAST GUARD COMMANDANT POST

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, Mr. COBLE, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, and I would ask that you join us today in congratulating Vice Admiral Thad Allen in his nomination for the post of Commandant.

Mr. Speaker, on September 11, 2001 the United States of America experienced the greatest terrorist attack to ever reach U.S. soil. We were not prepared for such a horrific event, as we never imagined terrorists would take such drastic measures.

While we've always been a strong nation with resilient leaders, the post 9-11 world we live in has taught the American citizens that we must be prepared for the unknown. The people who lead this country must be amongst the elite. It has been challenging to restore the confidence Americans have in their leaders since that attack. As elected officials it has been our duty and privilege to protect and uphold the safety and the ideals of our citizens. We must be diligent in choosing people to manage this Country.

The White House announced that the Coast Guard's Chief of Staff, Vice Admiral Thad Allen was nominated for the Commandant Post. At this time, we ask that our colleagues join with us in congratulating him on this nomination.

Vice Admiral Thad Allen is known for his loyalty, hard work, and dedication to his post. The American people can be proud to have this man working for them. He first showed his distinct leadership skills as he led Atlantic services in the Coast Guard's reaction to the September 11th attacks. Then, just last year we watched with anticipation as he replaced FEMA Director, Michael Brown. His strength as a leader changed the dynamic of the relief efforts, helping to ensure our citizens received the assistance they sought.

Vice Admiral Thad Allen restored the faith the American people so desperately needed in a leader. Without a doubt, he is revered for his work after the Hurricane Katrina disaster. We are confident he will not disappoint with the Commandant Post. He has served as the Chief of Staff and Commanding Officer at the G.G. Headquarters, Commander of Atlantic Area, and Commander of the Fifth and Seventh Coast Guard Districts.

Mr. Speaker, we ask that you join with us today in congratulations to Vice Admiral Thad Allen for his nomination to the Commandant Post. A man of his caliber is truly an inspiration.

RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE FRANK L. OLIVER OF 195TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pennsylvania State Representative Frank L. Oliver, for his outstanding service and invaluable dedication to the people of the 195th Legislative District of the State of Pennsylvania.

Representative Oliver, a lifelong Philadelphian, began his tenure in the State House in 1973. He serves on the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee, the Democratic Policy Committee, and most notably, as Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee, a post he has held since 1995. As Chairman, he has overseen proposed regulations of the Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Public Welfare, and the Healthcare Cost Containment Council.

Most recently, Mr. Oliver recommended a study on ways to improve urban public health, specifically investigating the lack of supermarkets in urban areas. Within months of the study's completion, the General Assembly passed, and Governor Rendell signed into law, an economic stimulus package that will provide financial assistance to urban and rural supermarkets in underserved areas. Pennsylvania is the first state to create a statewide supermarket-directed development program of this kind.

Also notable in his legislative career is Mr. Oliver's "Healthier Women Today for a Better Tomorrow" initiative. The plan calls for expansion of family leave, strengthening of domestic violence laws, funding for community outreach to at-risk families with young children, and providing access to treatment options for breast and cervical cancer.

Representative Oliver's extensive legislative accomplishments are a testament to his unwavering commitment to the causes of the residents of the City of Philadelphia and the State of Pennsylvania. For that reason I am proud to recognize his accomplishments here in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CATHOLIC CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church on the occasion of its 100th year.

St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church has been a vital partner of the city of Foley and the state of Alabama. The church was founded in 1906, and for a century, this congregation has been worshipping God and serving the people of south Alabama.

The congregation of St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church has used its resources