

productively growing the involvement the Chamber of Medford/Jackson County in the political process.

I am sorry to see Steve leave, but am pleased that he has been offered this great new opportunity. I thank him deeply for his exemplary service. Mr. Speaker, I know that you and my colleagues join me in wishing Steve and his lovely wife, Mindy, the best of success in this new avenue of service.

FREMONT EDUCATION FOUNDATION HONORS CHERYL COOK-KALLIO AND SANDI PANTAGES FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to two extraordinary women who were honored by the Fremont Education Foundation in Fremont, California on February 24, 2006 at the Foundation's Annual Excellence in Education Gala. The 2006 honorees, Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Sandi Pantages have provided exemplary contributions to the Fremont Unified School District. Ms. Cook-Kallio is the Excellence in Education Fremont Unified School District (FUSD) Honoree. Ms. Pantages is the Excellence in Education Community Honoree.

Ms. Cook-Kallio is an instructor at Irvington High School in Fremont, California and has been an educator with FUSD since 1979. She has coached and led her "We the People" team of students to win the California State "We The People" Competition. Her students placed fourth in the National "We The People" Competition in 2005. She is popular with her students and has received numerous professional honors, grants and fellowships for her teaching, mentorship, and excellence in the areas of Social Studies, United States History and Government. She is an exemplary mentor, motivator and respected educator.

Ms. Pantages has served as a member of the Fremont Education Foundation Board of Directors since 1992. She has provided immeasurable support to Fremont's students and has contributed greatly to the Fremont community through her 32-year association and employment with Alameda County Library. She developed the Alameda County Library Foundation and served as Manager of the Fremont Main Library and Fremont Libraries prior to her retirement in 2001. She has received numerous awards and recognition from the city of Fremont, Alameda County Library Foundation and was named Alameda County's Outstanding Manager of the Year-General Government in 1999.

Both Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Sandi Pantages have distinguished themselves in their careers and contributions to their community. I congratulate them for the well deserved honor they received from the Fremont Education Foundation.

COMMEMORATING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH FREEDOM MOVEMENT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, and the representative of a large and vibrant community of Armenian Americans, I rise today to commemorate the 18th anniversary of the Nagorno Karabakh Freedom Movement. On February 20, 1988, the people of Nagorno Karabakh officially petitioned the Soviet government to correct the historical injustices of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin by reuniting the area with Armenia. Six days later, one million people demonstrated in Yerevan's Opera Square. Unfortunately, the central Soviet and Azerbaijani leadership violently reacted to this peaceful and legal request by engaging in full military aggression against Nagorno Karabakh.

In 1991, the people of Nagorno Karabakh voted overwhelmingly to establish an independent republic. However, Azerbaijan continued to perpetrate horrific crimes against Nagorno Karabakh including indiscriminate bombing and artillery attacks. Since 1994, a cease-fire, which has held through today, was reached with help from Russian and European mediators.

Today, Nagorno Karabakh continues to strengthen its statehood with a democratically elected government, a court system, an independent foreign policy, and a commitment to educating its citizens. Just last year, Nagorno Karabakh held its fourth parliamentary elections which were declared to be free and transparent by election observers. I will continue to join with my colleagues in supporting assistance to Nagorno Karabakh, which has a vital role in achieving a peaceful and stable South Caucasus region. I commend the people of Nagorno Karabakh for courageously defending their right to live freely on their ancestral land. On this anniversary, I reiterate my unwavering support to Nagorno Karabakh's freedom, democracy, and economic development.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, due to other business, I missed three votes on February 28, 2006. I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 14, commemorating the lifetime innovations of Thomas Edison; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 15, celebrating the 40th anniversary of Texas Western's 1966 NCAA basketball championship; and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 16, to authorize the President to award a gold medal, on behalf of Congress, collectively, to the Tuskegee Airmen.

45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the United States Peace Corps and its more than 7,800 volunteers serving abroad as they celebrate the 45th anniversary of this respected organization. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps, impressing upon thousands of young people the need for public service and urging them to become not simply citizens of the U.S., but to become global citizens in pursuit of peace and friendship.

The Peace Corps has carried on that mission. By serving two years overseas, volunteers work cooperatively with local communities, providing expertise and assistance, and empowering people in developing countries. Their service continues President Kennedy's hopes for the Peace Corps to change the lives of countless individuals, families, and communities worldwide.

Today, I would also like to share the story of a volunteer from my district—a young woman from Santa Fe, New Mexico who was committed to the mission of the Peace Corps.

Tessa Marie Horan graduated from the College of Santa Fe in December 2003 and began a career focused on educating children. She was accepted to the Peace Corps in November 2005, and after nine weeks of training, was dispatched to work in Tonga to teach in the Community Education project. The education project is focused on building life skills for Tongan students, and Tessa, who was looking forward to getting to work, had already established a connection with the village youth.

Unfortunately, Tessa's life was cut tragically short this January when she was attacked by a shark in the waters off Tu'anuku. In what had become an afternoon ritual, she was playing outdoors with the village children when they decided to take a swim to cool off.

In the days before her death, Tessa's friends and family recall her saying that she was thoroughly enjoying her experience in Tonga and looking forward to the official start of the teaching program. Tessa was just 24-years old and often quoted Gandhi: "Be the change you wish to see in the world." Those words are very fitting to describe the character of Tessa and the thousands of other Peace Corps volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations again to the Peace Corps on its 45th anniversary, and a personal, thank you to all former and current Peace Corps volunteers from New Mexico. Your selfless dedication and service serves as an example of the American spirit.

IN MEMORY OF NORMAN MIRANDA

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on February 25, 2006, the citizens of East Providence and the state of Rhode Island lost

one of the beloved leaders of all time. A father, husband, grandfather and dear friend, Norman Miranda was a lifelong resident of East Providence. He was the city's longest serving elected and appointed official; 13 years as a councilman and 18 years with the Zoning Board of Review. Thirty-one years as a public servant, Norman was always passionate about the issues facing his community.

He was the loving father of Loriann and Norman Jr. and a loving husband to Shirley for 46 years. If you were to meet the two, you could easily sense their marriage was one built on love and faith. They worked together as a team to raise a beautiful family that will now carry on his legacy.

Norman's years of dedicated service to his community, speak volumes about his compassion for those in need and his ability to connect with others. He loved Ward 2 like it was an extension of his family and those who lived there loved him back. They knew he could be trusted for he represented the things that mattered most, family and faith.

I had the honor of knowing Norman and his family. I remember when I first ran for Congress he offered me his support and that meant I could count on all of East Providence. I can still see him proudly marching along the many parade routes in the city, smiling and waving at the crowd—most he knew by name. It's an image we all can hold onto, a man who left his mark by symbolizing all that is good and decent. He will be forever missed.

HONORING THE ANNIVERSARY OF
THE PEACE CORPS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the Peace Corps. I would like to thank the over 7,800 volunteers who currently serve overseas for their important work with this organization.

We are in a time when the Peace Corps mission is more vital than ever, and the organization is at a 30-year high in the number of volunteers in the field. The Peace Corps is currently in 69 posts and serving 75 countries across the globe.

I salute the outstanding individuals who serve and have served in the Peace Corps, specifically the sworn-in volunteers whose hometowns are in Texas District 24: Bonnie Barron, Amanda Bass, Christopher Bass, Scott Bennett, Eric Brooke, Jaime Bruner, Susan English, David Fox, Mary Kah, Geoffrey Keogh, Carolyn McGee, Roanne Perry, and Aubrey Weers.

I am proud to represent these men and women who empower people in developing nations and promote the Peace Corps mission of peace and friendship. These volunteers are making major strides to improve the lives of people and communities around the world.

I wish the Peace Corps and its volunteers continued success and perseverance. We are grateful for their contributions to society and dedication to providing assistance where it is needed. May the Peace Corps continue its legacy of service, both at home and abroad.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RICHARD
M. DEVOS ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to a native son and community pillar of my hometown, Grand Rapids, MI, Mr. Richard M. DeVos, on the occasion of his 80th birthday on March 4.

Rich has played a leading role in making Grand Rapids a wonderful and vibrant place to live. Rather than keeping the fortune that he and his business partner and lifelong friend, the late Jay VanAndel, built after creating and growing their business, Amway Corporation, Rich and Jay and their families found countless ways to reinvest the fruits of their success back into their community. Just a few of the notable examples are the development of the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, which was the linchpin in the redevelopment of downtown Grand Rapids in the early 1980s, and a donation which led to the construction of DeVos Performance Hall, a world-class performing arts center which is the home of the Grand Rapids Symphony, Opera Grand Rapids and Broadway-class plays and musicals. The hall also is part of the larger DeVos Place Convention Center.

That Rich DeVos is still with us today is nothing short of a miracle. In 1997, he survived a unique heart transplant surgery in which he received the heart of a lung transplant patient, who in turn received a combination heart-lung transplant from the victim of an auto accident. As a result of his experience, Rich now serves as chairman of the speakers' bureau for the United Network for Organ Sharing and has even testified before Congress urging support to make organ donation easier. He and his wife, Helen, also provided funding for the DeVos Children's Hospital, the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, the DeVos Communications Center at Calvin College, the DeVos Center of Grand Valley State University and the Richard and Helen DeVos Fieldhouse at Hope College in Holland, MI.

Today, Rich DeVos is the same vibrant person who was a cheerleader at Grand Rapids Christian High School and who inspired thousands of people to open their own businesses with the help of Amway. Rich has continued his inspirational ways as an author, including "Hope from My Heart: 10 Lessons for Life" and "Compassionate Capitalism." Rich is also the owner of the National Basketball Association's Orlando Magic. DeVos and VanAndel's business, now known as Alticor, continues to be a major employer in West Michigan and throughout the world, with the reins of the business handed over to their children.

Throughout his life and career, Rich DeVos has been guided by his faith in God. This has manifested itself not only in his dedication to his church, but also in the way that he does business, how he works with and cares for his employees, and his involvement in his community. Rich truly is a person who understands the Gospel admonition, "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required." (Luke 12:48).

It is my very special pleasure to wish Rich DeVos a very happy 80th birthday and I urge my colleagues to join me in doing so.

HONORING RICHARD M. DEVOS, SR.
UPON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard M. DeVos, Sr. upon the occasion of his 80th birthday on March 4, 2006.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Richard DeVos and his wife, Helen, have been a blessing not only to the Grand Rapids area, but to communities throughout the United States.

He has positively impacted West Michigan through numerous civic and philanthropic contributions since cofounding the Amway Corporation in 1959 with lifelong friend and business partner, the late Jay Van Andel. He has helped to create the DeVos Children's Hospital, the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Services, the DeVos Communications Center at Calvin College, the DeVos Campus of Grand Valley State University, the DeVos Place convention center and the Richard and Helen DeVos Fieldhouse at Hope College.

Mr. DeVos has enhanced the quality of life in Grand Rapids through such generous support for educational, health and cultural initiatives.

Mr. DeVos's contributions are not limited to West Michigan, Mr. Speaker. He has contributed to numerous organizations in Central Florida as well, including the DeVos Sport Business Management Foundation Program at the University of Central Florida and the Orlando Magic Youth Foundation.

He has also touched hundreds of thousands of lives through his inspirational speeches and three books, "Believe!," "Compassionate Capitalism" and "Hope from My Heart."

Mr. Speaker, perhaps most importantly, Mr. DeVos has achieved so much in his life based upon a strong work ethic and an unyielding devotion to faith and family, ideals that we hold in the highest regard in our West Michigan community.

I wish Mr. DeVos all the best as he celebrates such a significant milestone with family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, please let it be known that on this 28th day of February in 2006, that the U.S. House of Representatives acknowledges the contributions and achievements of Mr. DeVos, and may God continue to bless him in the years ahead as he has so benefited the lives of those around him.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. RICHARD
M. DEVOS, SR.

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a civic and business leader of Michigan, Mr. Richard M. DeVos, Sr., who will celebrate his 80th birthday this year.

Mr. DeVos cofounded the Amway Corporation, one of the most successful direct selling companies in the world. His efforts have enabled over 3 million people to own independent businesses.

Yet Mr. DeVos's work stretches beyond the realm of business; both he and his wife are