

missioners for the Town of Weldon and has been a Deacon at the First Baptist Church in Roanoke Rapids for the past 50 years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in paying tribute to this outstanding citizen, the Honorable Dock Monteria Brown, Sr.

IN CELEBRATION OF BETTY PIA'S  
90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I join my colleague Congressman GEORGE RADANOVICH, and rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mrs. Betty Pia, a wonderful mother, advocate, and community leader.

Betty has had an interesting life story. As a native of the state of Georgia, she was born on May 29, 1917. She moved to Madera, CA from Southern California in 1965 with her husband Joe. Betty and Joe have one daughter, Nancy, who they raised in the Central Valley of California. Betty has accomplished much in her life, but she is most known for her commitment and passion for taking care of others. As owner and operator of Magic Heart Guest Home, she has been in the residential care business for over 35 years.

As a community leader, Betty has been involved in the local Women's Improvement Club, Kiwanis Club, Chamber of Commerce, and was the 2005 Grand Marshall of the Old Timer's Day Celebration in Madera. As an advocate of the Valley, Betty has been involved in local, state, and national politics for most of her life.

In Georgia she got her start in politics by serving as President Franklin D. Roosevelt's nurse and developed a personal friendship with President Jimmy Carter, who she later was able to bring to the Valley during his term in office. Despite being a lifelong Democrat, Betty has truly been bipartisan in nature as she has always put people before politics. This is evident in the fact that Betty has served on Congressman RADANOVICH's Educational Committee and has been his delegate to the National Silver Hair Congress for 12 years. Betty has actively supported California Governors that range from former Governor Jerry Brown to former Governor Pete Wilson.

Despite pleas from family and friends to slow down, Betty still continues to operate her guest home and continues to be a driving force in local politics. Throughout the many roads she has traveled, we thank Betty for the many lives that she has touched along the way. It is for these reasons that we join Betty Pia's family and friends in wishing her a blessed 90th birthday and continued health and happiness in the years to come.

VETERANS OUTREACH  
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased that as Memorial Day approaches, this Congress is

taking concrete action to help our Nation's veterans.

This week we passed several pieces of legislation designed to both make it easier for veterans to get access to health care and to improve the quality of that care for those who are returning home from Iraq or Afghanistan.

Sometimes it's hard for veterans or their family members to be certain as to what benefits they qualify for and how to apply for them. The Veterans Outreach Improvement Act of 2007 (H.R. 67) seeks to address this problem by mandating greater coordination between the federal and state governments on the availability of programs to help veterans. The bill authorizes \$75 million between 2007 and 2009 for intensified outreach efforts to veterans and their family members.

Due to geographical constraints, many veterans who return home will not have ready access to a military hospital within an easy driving distance of their homes. To help remedy this, Congress is taking action on the Returning Servicemember VA Healthcare Insurance Act of 2007 (H.R. 612). This bill extends from 2 years to 5 years the period of eligibility for VA health care for veterans of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, regardless of whether or not a veteran has an established service-connected condition. As a result, veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will have more time to take advantage of VA health care whether or not they're awaiting the processing of a disability claim.

For many veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, access to routine medical care will not be enough. A large number of American soldiers have experienced traumatic brain injury (TBI) as a result of being injured by road-side bombs or snipers. Passage of the Traumatic Brain Injury Health Enhancement and Long-Term Support Act of 2007 (H.R. 2199), of which I am a co-sponsor, will help meet the special needs of these veterans.

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish:

A program to screen veterans for traumatic brain injury (TBI);

A comprehensive program for long-term care of post-acute TBI rehabilitation at four geographically dispersed polytrauma networks site and to establish TBI transition offices at these same sites to help better coordinate the delivery of health care and other services to veterans with moderate to severe TBI;

A registry of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who exhibit TBI symptoms;

Centers for TBI research, education, and clinical activities;

A committee on the care of veterans with TBI;

A pilot program for delivering readjustment counseling and mental health services through mobile vet centers; and

An Advisory Committee on Rural Veterans to help develop recommendations on how best to meet the needs of veterans living in rural areas.

Veterans with TBI will require special forms of rehabilitative care and follow up for the rest of their lives, and this bill will help ensure they get the care and services that they've earned.

Mr. Speaker, as America pauses this Memorial Day to remember those who've gone in harms way for the rest of us, Congress can express its thanks to America's veterans by passing these bills today.

JOHN FEINBLATT TESTIMONY  
BEFORE CONGRESS—SUPPORT

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to respond to and support the testimony by Mr. John Feinblatt, Criminal Justice Coordinator for the City of New York before the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Domestic Policy Subcommittee on May 10, 2007, regarding illegal guns and the Tiahrt amendment.

First, I applaud Michael Bloomberg for his leadership with reducing crime in New York City. Crime fighting is tough and it requires strong and bold leadership to be effective.

Second, I along with other Members of Congress formed the bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Illegal Guns in January of 2007. This task force was formed during the Mayors Against Illegal Guns Summit held on January 23, 2007 in Washington, DC. The bipartisan task force is solely concerned about illegal guns and crime control. Let me be clear that the task force supports the Second Amendment and believes in protecting the rights of responsible and legal gun owners. We oppose the traffic in illegal guns which presents a danger to our society.

Third, to begin to address the problems associated with crime and illegal guns, members of the task force and other Members of Congress sent a letter to the leadership of the Commerce Justice and Science Subcommittee requesting Mr. MOLLAHAN and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN to change the language in the Tiahrt Amendment.

We support providing local law enforcement agencies with the tools and information they need to fight crime, particularly getting information on gun trace data.

Lastly, day in and day out, reports are aired in local and national media outlets about people being wounded and killed by guns. I'm certain that the vast majority of those incidents are committed with illegal guns. This is deeply troubling and disheartening to me. Action is needed and it is needed now.

CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS  
OF SUGAR GROVE ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL

**HON. PHIL ENGLISH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, the students of Sugar Grove Elementary School in Warren County, Pennsylvania are making great strides in promoting

the importance of physical activity and living a healthy lifestyle within their school's student body. As a 2006 recipient of the Keystone Healthy Zone School mini-grant, the elementary school has launched a Walking Club to incorporate nutrition and physical fitness into their learning environment.

This year, the Sugar Grove Elementary School Walking Club established a goal to cover 100 miles by the end of the school year. To achieve this, students dedicated the first 15 minutes of their daily recess to walking. Rain or shine, outside or inside, the students of Sugar Grove Elementary School kept their commitment to healthy well-being and rigorously incorporated exercise into their daily school routine.

To encourage students along the way, the Pennsylvania Advocates for Nutrition and Activity (PANA) awarded the Sugar Grove Elementary School with a walking shoe charm for every file mile mark they crossed. In addition, the outstanding leadership of the school's administrators and teachers as well as the guidance and support of local community volunteers helped to further motivate the students as they strived to achieve their goal.

On May 31, 2007 the Sugar Grove Elementary School will cross the finish line and achieve their goal of 100 miles. Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me at this time in congratulating the students of Sugar Grove Elementary School for their grand achievement. I wish them all continued success in their future endeavors.

#### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF SHIRLEY KAY FEGAN

#### HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2007*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Shirley Kay Fegan on the occasion of her retirement after 50 years of dedicated service to the greater Washington, DC metropolitan area.

Before rising to her present role as head of school at The Congressional Schools of Virginia, Ms. Fegan spent many years raising awareness about poverty and cultivating her passion for education.

Upon graduating from Georgetown University, Ms. Fegan traveled to Central America, where she worked with the Alliance for Progress to aid indigenous populations. Impassioned by this experience, Ms. Fegan returned to the Washington, DC area, where she developed programs through the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) to support migrant laborers. Ms. Fegan then applied the skills she had developed at OEO to the District of Columbia, helping to establish the first inner city HMO. Not only did this endeavor succeed in helping those affected by the 1968 riots, but the project eventually culminated in the opening of a 63,000 square foot facility which provides medical, dental, and pharmaceutical services.

In 1979, Ms. Fegan began working at The Congressional Schools of Virginia, where she has made a tremendous impact on students and faculty alike. Her presence was felt from the start as she applied her knowledge of the non-profit field to help restructure the institu-

tion and organize a volunteer school board. After becoming head of school in 1992, Ms. Fegan launched a series of initiatives that have led to the creation of strong athletic and community service programs. She has also been instrumental in incorporating information technology into the school's classrooms.

Whether Ms. Fegan was raising awareness on behalf of minority communities, making an impact on the District's inner city areas, or helping transform The Congressional Schools of Virginia into a first rate learning institution, Ms. Fegan has always dedicated herself to the serving others.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Ms. Fegan on all of her achievements. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Shirley for her past accomplishments and in wishing her continued success in the years to come.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. HOWARD E. LEFEVRE

#### HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2007*

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, It is with great pleasure that I recognize the 100th birthday of Mr. Howard E. LeFevre.

Such a milestone is certainly deserving of recognition. Mr. LeFevre has been an eyewitness to some of the most tumultuous events in human history. Two World Wars, the birth and demise of the Soviet Union, the first flight of an airplane, and space travel are all examples of events that have transpired in his lifetime.

His life has been marked by his service and generosity. Service to others and service to the community are timeless American traditions and hallmarks of what has made our nation so great. Mr. LeFevre's leadership and strength of character have enhanced every organization under his care and positively influenced countless members of our community.

Mark Twain was right when he observed, "Only he who has seen better days and lives to see better days again knows their full value."

Please allow me to join his family and friends in wishing him all the best.

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL STEWART NAVARRE, USMC

#### HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2007*

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 30 years of exemplary service that COL Stewart Navarre of the United States Marine Corps has given to this great country.

Colonel Navarre has served in many capacities since graduating Marine Corps Basic School in 1977. He served as Rifle Platoon Commander and Commanding Officer and as the Commander of the Fifth Marine Regiment in Iraq. In 2004 and 2005 he oversaw and coordinated the training and operations of the Iraqi Army and Police in the Marine sector of

Iraq. Colonel Navarre is currently assigned to Camp Pendleton where he lives with his wife, Yana Lahanis.

As Chief of Staff for all Marine Corps installations west of the Mississippi River, he is a trusted advisor and true advocate of our troops. Over the years he has selflessly dedicated his life to injured Marines and their families by promoting community involvement, assistance for disabled Veterans, and support to troop family members.

In his 30 years of military service Colonel Navarre has proven himself an able and willing leader. He has received the Legion of Merit, an award given for exceptional service in a time of war or peace. He also received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the third highest peacetime defense award.

On behalf of the people of the United States, whom Colonel Navarre spent a career serving, I thank him for his service and commitment to the defense of our Nation.

#### TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL BEN DESILETS

#### HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2007*

Mr. LaHOOD. Madam Speaker, I submit the following article for the RECORD.

#### ELMWOOD: CITY MOURNS LOSS OF MARINE

ELMWOOD.—The city continued to grieve the loss of part of its "family" Wednesday, mourning the death of Lance Cpl. Ben Desilets, killed in action in Iraq.

"What people don't understand about Elmwood, it's a family. When we lose one person, we all lose," said Elmwood High School English teacher Cathy Meyers.

Nearly every flag in Elmwood was flying at half-mast to honor Desilets.

The 2004 Elmwood High School graduate and another Marine were killed Tuesday in the Anbar province of western Iraq, where Desilets was deployed with 3rd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment. Officials with the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force in Camp Lejeune, NC., declined to comment on how he died except to say it was during combat operations.

A statement from the family stated Desilets, 21, had been behind the wheel of a Humvee when he died in the early morning hours. The other Marine was Cpl Julian M. Woodall, 21, of Tallahassee, Fla.

"He thought he was doing good," said his mother, Brenda Desilets. "I was proud of him. It made him grow up a lot."

Desilets had been in the Marines since September 2004. He joined, in part, to support his 3-year-old daughter, Kyra.

It was Desilets' second tour in Iraq.

#### HONORING MR. MICHAEL HOGAN OF HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 204 ON HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2007*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional educator in my district, Mr. Michael Hogan. For 30 years, Mr. Hogan has devoted his time and energy to the