

private entrepreneurship, attracting investment in non-oil sector, creating new jobs, evaluation of potential industries and markets, and development of infrastructure in the regions.

The last 16 years of independence has not been without challenges. In 1993 the UN Security Council adopted four resolutions demanding complete, unconditional, and immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. NATO, OSCE, EU, and other international organizations also repeatedly called for the restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity.

In January 2005 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution clearly stating that "considerable parts of the territory of Azerbaijan are still occupied by Armenian forces and separatist forces are still in control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region" and urged the withdrawal of Armenian military forces from all Azerbaijani territories.

We, the United States, recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as a part of Azerbaijan. A State Department's 2005 Fact Sheet states: "The United States does not recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent country, and its leadership is not recognized internationally or by the United States. The United States supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and holds that the future status of Nagorno-Karabakh is a matter of negotiation between the parties."

Let us today commend the Republic of Azerbaijan on their forthcoming 16th Anniversary celebrations. And, let us today commit ourselves to their continued development as a global partner against the war on terrorism, toward economic growth, diversification of energy resources, and strengthening stability and security in the region.

**TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT BRIAN DEGENHARDT, OFFICER THOMAS BARKER, AND OFFICER JAMES CONLAN OF THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate members of the Chicago Police Department, including Sergeant Brian Degenhardt, Officer Thomas Barker, and Officer James Conlan, for receiving the "2007 Humane Law Enforcement Award" last week from The Humane Society of the United States and the National District Attorneys Association. This award was presented to Chicago's Police Department for the creation of its Animal Crimes Unit, which focuses on tackling illegal animal fighting in urban Chicago, where dogfighting has unfortunately flourished in recent years.

With its innovative focus on animal abuse prosecutions, the Animal Crimes Unit of the Chicago Police Department, overseen by Sergeant Degenhardt, now leads the way in combating dogfighting and serves as a model for tackling this insidious crime across the Nation. Although only one single officer in the city used to address crimes against animals in the past, there are now more than 8 specially-trained officers within the Animal Crimes Unit. In 2007 alone, officers Thomas Barker and

James Conlan logged more than 40 arrests related to dogfighting and animal abuse, and they recovered more than 100 abused dogs.

But the accomplishments of the Unit don't stop there. When Sergeant Degenhardt was making the case for the creation of the Animal Crimes Unit, he analyzed arrest records for the city between July 2001 and July 2004 and discovered that nearly 70 percent of the 300 individuals arrested for animal crimes were also arrested for other felonies. The methods used by the Animal Crimes Unit have also led to a reduction in other types of criminal activities, including human violence and drug dealing.

I am pleased to join The Humane Society of the United States and the National District Attorneys Association in congratulating these individuals in honor of their dedicated work on behalf of animals.

**HONORING THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN**

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Army Air Corps' legendary Tuskegee Airmen. On March 29, 2007, in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, the surviving Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the most prestigious recognition that federal lawmakers can bestow. Tuskegee Airmen, from Colorado, that received the Congressional Gold Medal include: James E. Harrison, James H. Harvey III, Samuel C. Hunter Jr., Franklin J. Macon, John W. Mosley, Fitzroy "Buck" Newsum, Marion R. Rodgers, David A. Smith, William A. Walters, and Randolph Edwards.

The first African-American airmen unit in the U.S. military trained in Tuskegee, Alabama. A total of 450 Tuskegee Airmen served overseas on various missions. During WWII, the Airmen flew missions over North Africa, Italy and Sicily. Collectively, they flew more than 15,000 combat sorties, shot down 111 German planes, and disabled 150 German planes on the ground. Thirty-three Airmen were shot down and held as pawns, and 66 of the Airmen were killed.

The Tuskegee Airmen got their start in 1941 after the NAACP filed a lawsuit. President Franklin Roosevelt started the Army Air Corps training program as the first African-American training program. The Airmen were segregated from other units and endured blatant racism and discrimination while helping win World War II and change our Nation for the better. Their achievements helped contribute to the eventual integration of African-Americans into the military and also helped lead the way for further desegregation throughout the Nation.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating James E. Harrison, James H. Harvey III, Samuel C. Hunter Jr., Franklin J. Macon, John W. Mosley, Fitzroy "Buck" Newsum, Marion R. Rodgers, David A. Smith, William A. Walters, and Randolph Edwards for their patriotism and service to the United States of America. Their triumph over racism and discrimination, along with their outstanding service, is inspirational, and they are a source of pride for America and for all of Colorado. I wish them continued health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING MARGARET M. (PEGGY) MULLAN'S OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF HOMES AND SERVICES FOR THE AGING

**HON. JOHN B. SHADEGG**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mr. SHADEGG. Madam Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding leader in the field of long-term care and aging services. Margaret M. (Peggy) Mullan is the outgoing chair of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA), and I congratulate her on what has been accomplished during her 2-year term.

AAHSA members help millions of individuals and their families every day through mission-driven, not-for-profit organizations dedicated to providing the services that people need, when they need them, in the place they call home. Its 5,700 member organizations, many of which have served their communities for generations, offer the continuum of aging services: adult day services, home health, community services, senior housing, assisted living residences, continuing care retirement communities and nursing homes. AAHSA's commitment is to create the future of aging services through quality people can trust.

During the 2 years that Peggy Mullan led AAHSA, she worked tirelessly to transform aging services, and her leadership has moved the field forward in a number of ways. Under her stewardship, AAHSA has created the Long-Term Care Solutions Project, an innovative plan to revise the financing of aging services. In addition, she placed major emphasis on diversity as part of her leadership agenda, achieving substantive, enduring, and diverse leadership development among our members. She presided over the inauguration of the Advancing Excellence in Nursing Homes campaign, a coalition of long-term care providers, caregivers, medical and quality improvement experts, government agencies, consumers and other stakeholders dedicated to reinvigorating efforts to improve the quality of care and quality of life for those living or recuperating in America's nursing homes. She positioned AAHSA as a leader in achieving the goals of the National Commission for Quality Long-term Care, a non-partisan, independent body charged with improving long-term care in America. The commission is working to develop solutions to the challenges of better financing for long-term care, ensuring consumer choice, attracting and retaining qualified caregivers, and making useful information on long-term care options available to consumers.

Peggy Mullan is a true leader in the field of aging services. In addition to chairing AAHSA, she is the executive director of the not-for-profit Beatitudes Campus in Phoenix, where over 600 elders live in apartments, assisted living, and a skilled nursing center. Hundreds of other elders from the surrounding community receive rehabilitation and education at Beatitudes. At Beatitudes, she has been instrumental in developing a seamlessly integrated system of services to meet the changing needs of residents as they age, a model for the way aging services should be provided to

America's elders. Prior to her work at Beatitudes, Peggy had a leadership role with Volunteers of America. She has chaired the Arizona Association of Homes for the Aging, and has served on Arizona governor's committees and task forces on the nursing shortage, long-term care, Alzheimer's residential care, and assisted living. She also has been a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging.

Although Peggy Mullan is stepping down as AAHSA's chair, her service to our country's elder population will continue. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on her leadership and I look forward to continuing to work with her to create a healthy, ethical, and affordable system of long-term care and aging services for America's elders.

#### TRIBUTE TO EMPLOYMENT HORIZONS

#### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Employment Horizons of Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant organization I am proud to represent! On Thursday, October 18, 2007, Employment Horizons is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Founded in 1957, Employment Horizons is the premiere, not-for-profit agency providing comprehensive employment, training and job placement services to persons with disabilities in the greater Morris County area.

Employment Horizons, formerly known as the Occupational Training Center of Morris County, was founded by a group of concerned parents who wanted to expand work and personal growth opportunities for their children with disabilities. During the 1950s and 60s, those with disabilities had very few options available to them and special education services were just evolving. Work centers, such as their packaging and assembly unit, were developed at that time to provide disabled adults with a place where they could earn money and maintain their self-respect. Over the years the agency has experienced rapid growth in the number of and breadth of services provided to meet the needs and choices of the individuals they serve, both on-site as well as in the community, as well as to meet the changing needs of the business community.

As a social business enterprise, the agency seeks to provide high-quality, competitively priced, services to the business community through their commercial operations while, at the same time, furthering their mission to "assist people with barriers to employment to achieve their individual vocational objectives and establish self-sufficiency in the community."

Over the past 50 years, Employment Horizons has established relationships with hundreds of businesses and created training and employment opportunities for thousands of individuals who require special assistance to obtain employment.

Madam Speaker, I am privileged to honor Employment Horizons. I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of Employment Horizons for their fifty years of service! Again, I offer my praise and thanks to their dedicated trustees, administra-

tion, support staff, volunteers and active parents who work tirelessly on behalf of Employment Horizons' children.

#### HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FREMONT, NEWARK AND UNION CITY

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker I rise today to honor the League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark and Union City. On October 27, 2007, the League will be celebrating 50 years of civic engagement with our community. Individuals who helped to shape the Tri-Cities of Fremont, Newark and Union City, after their incorporation, formed the League.

Over the last 50 years, members of the League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark and Union City have registered thousands of voters, hosted hundreds of candidate and other public forums, published and distributed voter information, and produced a community based cable program that has been actively broadcasting for over 10 years.

The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark and Union City has stayed true to its mission and held to its motto: Democracy is not a spectator sport! The League has been a leading voice for voter service, citizen education, advocacy, and government accountability.

I applaud the League members for their commitment to empower citizens to shape better communities. The Tri-Cities, over the last 50 years, have greatly benefited from the League's activities and initiatives to make a positive difference.

I join the Tri-Cities community in thanking the members of the League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark and Union City for their untiring efforts and send best wishes for many more years of successful public service.

#### HONORING BUCKS COUNTY COMMISSIONER SANDRA MILLER

#### HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bucks County Commissioner Sandra Miller, a dear friend and committed public servant. Commissioner Miller has served Bucks County for over 16 years. First elected to the County Commission in 1991, Sandy was re-elected again 1995, 1999 and 2003.

As a Bucks County Commissioner, Sandra Miller was responsible for a county operating budget of over \$450 million and a workforce of 2,800 employees. Through her efforts, she was responsible for preserving over 12,000 acres of open space. She also made significant improvements to the emergency management system including the 9-1-1 emergency call system.

The Commissioner and I both attended Bucks County Community College. While I

stayed just 1 year, she finished what she started—she graduated from BCCC and went on to the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science. Sandra was the first graduate of the Community College to serve on its board of trustees. Commissioner Miller was also a pioneer—she was the first woman to serve on the Middletown Township Zoning Hearing Board. As a member of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, she is a past chair of the Democratic Caucus and was a member of the Tax Reform Committee.

Madam Speaker, Commissioner Miller is not just a great public servant; she is also a close friend. She has stood with me through tough times—times when others weren't around. She is second to none in her knowledge of Bucks County. She is a trusted advisor, a loyal friend and the dean of our county.

Madam Speaker, Commissioner Sandy Miller has led our community with distinction and her legacy is a source of great pride, both to the Miller family and to all of Bucks County. Her selfless devotion to the residents of Bucks County, Pennsylvania has been unwavering and her work to make Bucks County an even better place to live will no doubt continue after she leaves the County Commission. I urge my colleagues to join me today in thanking Commissioner Miller for a career of dedicated service as we wish her luck as she leaves public service and enters private life.

#### PRESIDENT'S VETO ON S-CHIP

#### HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the SCHIP program. President Bush's veto on SCHIP has abandoned at least 24,000 children in my District alone. President Bush claims we want "gimmicks" and "funding schemes"—we don't want gimmicks we want insurance for 8.7 million uninsured children. Children like Kristofer and Felecity Famutimi from San Bernardino County, whose hospital care for sickle cell anemia crippled the family financially. Their mom, Ola had to quit her job to take care of them. SCHIP is the only reason they have pulled through.

President Bush claims that Democrats are "putting health coverage for poor children at risk—to gain political points". I am not voting for politics, I am voting for the 33,000 children in my District who are currently uninsured. Covering 800,000 children costs the same as 1 week of the war in Iraq. It is time America gets her priorities in order. I urge my colleagues to secure the futures of our Nations' poorest children by voting to override the President's veto.

#### HONORING TEMPLE BETH EL'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 17, 2007*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Temple Beth El as it celebrates its 80th anniversary. A celebration will