

Virgin Islands, but for the Caribbean region as well.

By all accounts, Rodney Miller did an excellent job, administering the 250-bed acute care Schneider Hospital, as well as the Charlotte Kimelman Cancer Institute and the Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center on St. John in a manner that has advanced health care in the territory.

Most noteworthy among his accomplishments was the emphasis on improved patient care and the opening of the Charlotte Kimelman Cancer Institute. With an announced emphasis on quality patient care, enhanced customer service and improved cleanliness of the health facilities, Miller embarked upon a course for change that was driven by the expressed needs of patients. He emphasized that being the only choice for health care for most of the residents of the island meant that quality care was a must. He equally emphasized that Schneider Regional should be a good place for employees as well.

With the opening of the Charlotte Kimelman Cancer Institute in 2006, Rodney Miller and his administrative and medical team worked to realize the dream of many in the territory for a "world class cancer care facility with an array of support services and resources" that would allow patients to seek treatment at home, closer to the comfort of family and friends. Rodney Miller's leadership in health care has been marked by this and other noteworthy accomplishments in the territory.

In addition to his duties as head of Schneider Regional, Rodney Miller immersed himself in the civic activities of the community, and in 2004 was named Person of the Year by Rotary II Club of St. Thomas. Just last year, he received the 2006 Wilbur "Bill" LaMotta Community Service Award from the St. Thomas-St. John Chamber of Commerce.

His peers in the health care profession have long acknowledged his extraordinary talent. In 2002, he received the Young Healthcare Executive of the Year Award from the National Association of Health Services Executives. In 2003, he received the American College of Healthcare Executives' Regents Award and in 2005, he was elected to serve as president of the National Association of Health Services Executives. In 2006, he was named one of the Top 25 Minority Healthcare Executives by Modern Healthcare Magazine.

Recently, Rodney Miller announced that he has accepted a new position in the Florida health care system. I know that he will distinguish himself there as well, but we in the Virgin Islands wanted to express our thanks to him for the good work that he did in the territory for the past 5 years. On behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands, particularly those on the island of St. Thomas, I wish Rodney Miller bon voyage and great success in his new endeavor. He has definitely left health care in the territory in better shape than when he got there, and for that we are all grateful.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my regret for missing votes on the

House floor on Monday, October 22, 2007 and Tuesday, October 23, 2007. I was in my district for the launch of Shuttle STS-120: Discovery.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in returning to Washington, DC, on Monday, October 29th and so was not present for 3 votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

(1) H.R. 3224—Dam Rehabilitation and Repair Act of 2007—I would have voted "yea" on this excellent bill by our Colorado colleague, Representative JOHN SALAZAR;

(2) H. Res. 573—Recognizing and commending the efforts of the United States public and advocacy groups to raise awareness about and help end the worsening humanitarian crisis and genocide in Darfur, Sudan, and for other purposes—I would have voted "yea"; and

(3) H. Res. 747—Recognizing the religious and historical significance of the festival of Diwali—I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1010, 1011, and 1012 on 10/29/07, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to explain my absence from votes cast on October 29, 2007. I was in Houston yesterday, tending to a family health care issue, and was unavoidably detained.

On rollcall vote No. 1010, to approve H.R. 3224, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 1011, to approve H. Res. 537, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 1012, to approve H. Res. 747, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN CELEBRATION OF THE BOSTON RED SOX'S 2007 WORLD SERIES VICTORY

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker:

The Red Sox we proudly honor today
For another championship and remarkable play

That's two in four years, all of Beantown
"hurrahs!"

It's not the curse, but clutch play, for these
kings of Fenway

We hail the team's defense, top-notch in the
field

And a mighty potent offense that refuses to
yield

From top to bottom, the Sox have shown
Why in baseball's history books they will
forever be known

The club led by Henry, Werner, and Lucchino
And don't forget the dream team—Epstein
and Tito!

But it's the players who win each big game
And they all belong in baseball's Hall of
Fame

Josh Beckett, a baseball legend-in-the-mak-
ing

He won 4 playoff games, leaving foes with
heads shaking

And then there was Schilling, Dice-K, and
Lester

With unhittable splitters, the batters they
pestered.

Papelbon is the closer night after night
4 saves in the playoffs—to "the Nation's" de-
light

Youkilis at 1st, Mike Lowell the series
MVP,

Rookies Pedroia, Okajima and Ellsbury

With Manny & Ortiz, everyone agrees
the Sox are the best, from sea to shining sea

And Jason Varitek we cannot forget
From all in the clubhouse, he commands re-
spect

After 96 wins, the playoffs in full swing
The Angels came calling, but the Sox clipped
their wings

Down 3-1 to the Tribe, the Sox won it in
seven

Two pennants in 4 years, we were in baseball
heaven!

Then the Sox faced the tough Colorado team
Sweeping in just 4, completing the "possible
dream"!

Now the games are all played, the cham-
pagne popped and poured

Fire up those duck boats—let's all climb
aboard!

Another great season, fans and experts agree
The Sox are the newest baseball dynasty.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND
MONSIGNOR MICHAEL J. CO-
RONA, PHILLIPSBURG AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OUT-
STANDING CITIZEN OF THE
YEAR 2007

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the extraordinary public service of the Reverend Monsignor Michael J. Corona of Phillipsburg, New Jersey. Today, the Phillipsburg Area Chamber of Commerce will recognize his commitment to his community, naming him Outstanding Citizen of the Year for 2007.

Monsignor Corona completed his theological studies at St. Mary's Seminary and University

in Baltimore, Maryland. He also earned a Master of Arts in Education at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey. He was ordained for the Diocese of Trenton in 1968 and has been pastor of St. Philip and St. James Parish in Phillipsburg, New Jersey since 1979.

Under his guidance, the parish has been active in the community. While activities like their soup kitchen and Thanksgiving food drive feed the bodies of those less fortunate in Phillipsburg; their compassion and love feed their souls. And, the parish elementary school provides a quality education to so many local children.

In addition to his work directly in Phillipsburg, Monsignor Corona spreads his skills and good nature through his work with the Diocese and other Catholic leadership organizations. He is a member of the Diocesan Presbyterial Council and College of Consultors, as well as the Director of Education for the Diocese of Metuchen. He is also the President of the International Catholic Stewardship Council's Board of Directors, an organization dedicated to the proposition that "all members of our family of faith are called to be Christian stewards and share their gifts of time, talent and treasure in proportion to the blessings they have received from God."

Monsignor Corona is an integral part of the community of Phillipsburg. I join his neighbors in commending him for his good work, his dedication to the people and particularly the children of Phillipsburg, and his commitment to continually improving this historic city.

IN HONOR DR. ROBERT ABEL

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Robert Abel's lasting contributions and dedication to the oceans. Dr. Abel's environmental stewardship helped make New Jersey a leader in sustainable ocean and coastal research, policy planning and marine science education.

Sadly, Dr. Abel passed away on October 10th, but he left behind a lasting legacy of support for protection of coastal and ocean resources in New Jersey and the Nation. On October 31st, at the Monmouth University Urban Coast Institute's 3rd Annual Ocean Champion Awards, Dr. Abel will be honored with a State Ocean Leadership Award presented posthumously to his widow, Mrs. Nancy Abel.

Dr. Abel began his distinguished career in government service as a chemical oceanographer with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts. He then served as Staff Oceanographer to the Vice President of the United States from 1960–1967.

Later, he was appointed as the founding Director of the National Sea Grant College Program. During his tenure, Dr. Abel was responsible for transforming the Sea Grant Program. He expanded it to include education-based projects for shore protection, fisheries, aquaculture and environmental protection.

As President of the New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium, Dr. Abel ensured permanent New Jersey State funding for the Sea Grant Program, guiding the program to receive

the Nation's first and only non-university program college status. I had the privilege of serving as a fellow through the program, and have also had fellows serve in my office over the last 20 years, providing me with invaluable counsel on ocean issues.

Dr. Robert Abel was also a diplomat of the ocean. In 1981, he formed the Cooperative Marine Technology Program for the Middle East. He worked together with Israeli, Egyptian, Jordanian and Palestinian scientists, hoping that international environmental stewardship could help strengthen bilateral ties.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of Dr. Robert Abel, and extending our sincere condolences and deep appreciation to Mrs. Abel. Dr. Abel's scientific and diplomatic efforts will continue to benefit and inspire my constituents, and his many international colleagues and friends, for years to come.

ED AND MARILYN FITZGERALD:
HONORING LIFETIMES OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, during my years in public office, I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with many extraordinary constituents committed to a seemingly endless array of good works and causes. None has served their community more ably and admirably than my dear friends Ed and Marilyn Fitzgerald, recent recipients of the prestigious YMCA "Good Neighbor" Award. The Fitzgerald's volunteerism and decades-long service to the needy, to members of the Armed Forces and area veterans, and to the communities of Lomita, Wilmington, and San Pedro—all located in my Congressional District—make them richly deserving of this recognition.

I first met them years ago when their daughter Sharon applied to the Air Force Academy. Sharon received my top recommendation, and attained the rank of Captain before leaving active-duty to be a full-time mother. To this day, Ed and Marilyn are members of my Academy Nominating Committee.

Although technically retired, Ed and Marilyn have never stopped working, and probably log more volunteer hours than most people put in at the office. Whether it is teaching children to read at Taper Avenue School, or distributing food and clothing to the homeless at Beacon Light Mission, the Fitzgeralds do not waver in their efforts to help those less fortunate. Not content to help only with the basics, the couple also organizes movie and museum excursions for kids, whale watching trips, and other activities inner-city kids might not have a chance to experience.

The active military and veterans' communities in Los Angeles County—among the Nation's largest—have also benefited from the Fitzgerald's advocacy. Both volunteer at the Long Beach Veterans Hospital, transporting immobile veterans to and from doctor's appointments, and both devote hours of their time to helping the many veterans, including homeless veterans, in the Harbor Area. They reach beyond helping their neighbors by rais-

ing awareness nationally on behalf of America's POWs and MIAs.

And I only recently learned of Marilyn and Ed's fundraising campaign to gather and ship audio-video equipment to our troops in Iraq. Separation during wartime can severely affect morale—a problem the Fitzgeralds believe our soldiers and their families should not have to endure. With Sharon's husband serving in Iraq, this tireless twosome is even working on a better way to correspond with family members stationed overseas.

Madam Speaker, other communities have selfless people like Marilyn and Ed. But I am grateful to them every time we meet. They are true patriots.

ON INTRODUCTION OF GOOD SAMARITAN CLEANUP OF ABANDONED HARDROCK MINES ACT OF 2007

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am again introducing legislation designed to help promote the cleanup of abandoned and inactive hardrock mines that are a menace to the environment and public health throughout the country, but especially in the west.

In the 107th, 108th, and 109th Congresses, I introduced similar bills aimed at that result. Following the bill's first introduction in the 107th Congress, revisions were made to incorporate a number of changes developed in consultation with interested parties, including representatives of the Western Governors' Association, the hardrock mining industry, and environmental groups.

The bill I am introducing today is also the product of further consultations, including with the Environmental Protection Agency. It represents years of effort to reach agreement on establishing a program to advance the clean-up of polluted water from abandoned mines.

The bill is cosponsored by our colleague from New Mexico, Representative PEARCE. I greatly appreciate his support.

THE BACKGROUND

For over one hundred years, miners and prospectors have searched for and developed valuable "hardrock" minerals—gold, silver, copper, molybdenum, and others. Hardrock mining has played a key role in the history of Colorado and other states, and the resulting mineral wealth has been an important aspect of our economy and the development of essential products. However, as all westerners know, this history has too often been marked by a series of "boom" times followed by a "bust" when mines were no longer profitable. When these busts came, too often the miners would abandon their workings and move on, seeking riches over the next mountain. The resulting legacy of unsafe open mine shafts and acid mine drainages can be seen throughout the country and especially on the western public lands where mineral development was encouraged to help settle our region.

THE PROBLEMS

The problems caused by abandoned and inactive mines are very real and very large—including acidic water draining from old tunnels,