

Authority for 33 years, and is currently serving as the President and CEO. Rossi has previously served as the Authority's executive vice president and senior vice president of marketing. He is also an active member of a number of professional associations, such as, the International Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus, the American Society of Association Executive and the Hotel Sales Marketing Association.

During his long and distinguished career, Rossi has received numerous accolades; most recently the Las Vegas Ad Club inducted him into the Las Vegas Advertising Hall of Fame for his lifetime marketing achievements. Rossi has also been honored by the American Marketing Association and the Travel and Tourism Research Association with Lifetime Achievement awards, and in 2004 he was selected by Brandweek Magazine as the Grand Marketer of the year. On Sunday, February 25, 2007, Rossi is being honored as the "Man of the Year" at the 79th Annual Academy Awards Oscar Night America and Arthritis Foundation Ceremony.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my friend Rossi Ralenkotter for his considerable contributions to the success and expansion of the Las Vegas community. I commend his professional and personal commitment to southern Nevada. I applaud his efforts and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF WOMEN'S HEALTH OFFICE ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Women's Health Office Act with my Republican colleague, DEBORAH PRYCE from Ohio. This Act establishes permanent authorization for the offices or officers of women's health in five federal agencies: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Food and Drug Administration.

Women's health research has been historically underfunded in the United States and for years women have been banned from clinical trials. For example, in 1977, the FDA barred all women of child bearing potential from participating in most early phase clinical research, and this continued for 16 years. Unfortunately, sex differences continue to be ignored in medical research today and we have not made up for the dearth of information on women's health.

The offices of women's health in these federal agencies were intended to provide a much needed focus on women's health including research, service delivery, policy, education, and outreach. However, these offices are currently unable to perform their responsibilities due to a lack of support from our federal government. They are severely underfunded and understaffed, and vulnerable to elimination in the future.

The work of these offices is essential to improving the health of women in the United States. Creating a permanent authorization

would ensure that these offices retain their allocated funding, are sufficiently staffed, and can accomplish the important work for which they were established.

HONORING ZACH COHEN FOR HIS WORK WITH OPERATION DVD

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Zach Cohen, an extraordinary young man from Lower Makefield, Pennsylvania. Through his involvement with Operation DVD, Zach has shown exceptional selflessness and caring, well beyond his years.

The Charles Boehm Middle School seventh grader wrote me recently to promote the project, excited to help our community show support for troops overseas. Operation DVD was started by AMVETS, a national veteran's organization. Those running the project collect new or used DVDs and CDs, which are sent abroad to our service men and women. The goal of Operation DVD is to send over one million discs to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, where outdoor recreational activity comes at great risk. By providing soldiers with music and movies, they can enjoy what little free time they might have in safety.

Zach became involved with the project when he was researching a community service project to complete in preparation for his Bar Mitzvah. He felt his love for movies and music would be shared by our men and women fighting overseas. But most important, Zach's attitude showed appreciation and maturity that hopefully rubs off on others his age. Zach wrote in his letter, "I also think it's very important to support our troops and thank them for all that they do for our country. And I thought it was great that I had found a way to do a lot of good without having to ask people for money." Madam Speaker, we should all share this genuine thoughtfulness and consideration, especially for men and women who have sacrificed so much. And as someone who served in Baghdad only three years ago, I can attest to the affect these acts of generosity have on morale.

From the moment Zach discovered Operation DVD, he showed tremendous determination in spreading the word. He attended a Lower Makefield Township Supervisors meeting. He was featured in articles by the Yardley News and the Trend Midweek. He has sent letters to Bucks County school districts and various other community organizations. Madam Speaker, Zach's tireless efforts represent the potential of our youth for contributing to our communities through selfless and noble acts.

TRIBUTE TO ARNOLD GERMANN

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Arnold Germann on the occa-

sion of his retirement from the Farm Service Agency after 35 years of service. Since December of 1971, when he began as a County Office Manager trainee, he has dedicated his professional life to the Farm Service Agency. He became very effective in his first position as the Office Manager in El Paso County. After serving in El Paso County for a short time, he decided to give up his position and go to Weld County to manage the county office with the largest workload in the State.

Arnold has seen the office through numerous changes. When he started, farm programs in Weld County were limited to dryland farms. Through the years, the situation has changed dramatically and now nearly every farm in Weld County is enrolled in some sort of farm program.

Over the years, Mr. Germann has served on many State and National Committees to help develop ways to administer Farm Programs more efficiently. His impressive efforts earned him numerous leadership positions including President of the Colorado Association of County Office Employees from 1979 through 1982 and the Legislative Committee chair from 1987 to 1991. His outstanding work has been acknowledged with numerous awards including the 1976 Pro Employee award and the 1983 Service to Colorado Association of County Office Employees distinguished service award.

Mr. Germann has served the Farm Service Agency and the agricultural producers of Weld County with great dedication over these many years. I extend my heartfelt thanks to him for a lifetime of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. LINDA NOWLIN, KITTY STONE ELEMEN- TARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mrs. Linda Nowlin of Jacksonville, Alabama. Mrs. Nowlin is a highly accomplished educator and was recently named Kitty Stone Elementary School's Teacher of the Year.

According to recent media reports, for the past 34 years Mrs. Nowlin has been inspiring young students in Alabama and Tennessee and has been a member of the Kitty Stone Elementary faculty since 1998. Over the years, Mrs. Nowlin has integrated advanced teaching methods and the Internet to equip her kindergarten students with the skills they need to be successful.

I congratulate Mrs. Nowlin for her years of service, and for her recent commendation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO REBECCA A. JOHNSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rebecca A. Johnson, principal of Kirk

Adams Elementary School in Las Vegas, Nevada and recent recipient of the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award.

The Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards program recognizes and rewards outstanding teachers, principals, and education professionals who go above and beyond to achieve excellence in education. Since the first award was presented in 1987, over 2,200 recipients have this prestigious award. Ms. Johnson was one of the 100 educators chosen for 2006–2007 school year and the 78th Nevada educator to win.

Ms. Johnson's long career as an outstanding educator and an effective administrator has earned her this much deserved national recognition. For the past 17 years, Ms. Johnson has served the Clark County community where her insight, guidance, and leadership have propelled academic improvement in students of all levels and abilities.

As principal of Kirk Adams Elementary School, Ms. Johnson has implemented several programs that have not only inspired student successes but have also enhanced the professional lives of the teachers on her staff. Adams Elementary is one of only four schools in the Clark County School District to be designated as an empowerment school. This distinction allows the administrators of Adams Elementary to have more control over the school's budget and curriculum.

Most notably, under Ms. Johnson's leadership, the school has seen teacher turnover rate reduce to less than 10 percent. Finally, through the establishment of a Professional Learning Community, Ms. Johnson has created an environment in which teachers, parents, students, and the community work together to facilitate student success.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Ms. Johnson and her achievements. I wish Ms. Johnson continued success in her career in primary education.

INTRODUCTION OF SEPTEMBER 11TH HUMANITARIAN RELIEF AND PATRIOTISM ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the September 11th Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act with Representatives PETER KING, RANGEL, NADLER, SERRANO, ISRAEL, ENGEL, BERMAN, SCHAKOWSKY, and HARE.

We are introducing this legislation because the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, left many surviving spouses and children of legal employment-based visa holders and undocumented workers in jeopardy of being deported, because their immigration status was linked to a family member who was employed at the World Trade Center.

The USA PATRIOT Act initially gave some immigrants amnesty until September 10, 2002. Others, who were not protected by the amnesty provided by the PATRIOT Act, because they were undocumented, also face deportation. The administration has acted with care by not moving forward with deportation procedures for many of them, but their status nonetheless remains in limbo. This legislation

would provide permanent relief for the non-citizen dependents of deceased victim of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, as determined by the September 11th Victims Compensation Fund. These individuals should not be forced to leave the country because of the actions of the terrorists.

Finally, I would like to thank Moshe and Debra Steinberg for their assistance in preparing this legislation for introduction and for all of the work they have done on behalf of the victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and urge its swift passage into law.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF HOYA BASKETBALL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to call to my colleagues' attention this year's 100th anniversary of Hoya Basketball at Georgetown University here in the Nation's Capital. Over the last century, the Georgetown Hoyas have had great success on the basketball court, but I am proud to say there is much more to the Hoyas than their athletic prowess. The teams have had a strong record of academic success, community service and developing leaders that have served the Nation with distinction.

First, to their success on the basketball court: The Hoyas were the NCAA National Champions in 1984 and have made it to the Sweet Sixteen or beyond in nine NCAA tournaments since 1980. They have played in National Championship games in 1943, 1982, 1984 and 1985. Since the founding of the Big East Conference in 1980, the Hoyas have been six time Big East Champions. Having played in ten National Invitational Tournaments, in three years, the Georgetown team made it to the NIT Final Four. Former Georgetown head basketball coach John Thompson, Jr., was named Coach of the Year seven times during his career at Georgetown. In 1988, Coach John Thompson, Jr. coached the U.S. Men's Olympic Basketball team, and six of the last eight U.S. Men's Olympic teams have included Georgetown Hoya players or coaching. After completing their careers at Georgetown, many of their players have gone on to success in the NBA including Alonzo Mourning, Dikembe Mutombo, Allen Iverson and Patrick Ewing, to name just a few.

Georgetown athletics have also been committed to ensuring the academic success of their players. In fact, during the years when Coach John Thompson, Jr. led the team to win after win on the basketball court, he also focused on ensuring that his players succeeded in the classroom. Of 78 players who stayed at the University for four years during the years that John Thompson, Jr., led the team, 76 received their degrees for a 97% graduation rate. Since being under the coaching of Craig Esherick and John Thompson, III, the Hoyas have maintained that same commitment to ensuring the academic success of their players on the court.

In addition to the Georgetown Hoyas who have gone on to professional basketball careers of significant renown, two former

Georgetown team members are names all of us in the Congress will recognize. First, our former colleague who just retired earlier this year after a long career in this chamber, the Honorable Henry Hyde of Illinois, played on the first Georgetown Hoyas team to play in a National Championship game in 1943. Here in the House, Congressman Hyde served with distinction both as Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and of the House International Relations Committee. The other familiar name, Paul Tagliabue, served as Commissioner of the National Football League from 1989 through September, 2006. Mr. Tagliabue graduated from Georgetown in 1962 and subsequently earned a law degree from New York University School of Law. His record of rebounds remains in the top 20 through Georgetown Hoya history.

It is also heartening to know that this team has a long record of community service here in the District of Columbia as well as nationally and internationally. Since 1980 when the Hoyas began playing in arenas off campus with adequate space, it has been Georgetown basketball policy to donate at least 1,000 tickets per game to community groups here in the City. At present, some 80 organizations benefit from those donations in a typical season. Recognizing the importance of developing interactions between young people and law enforcement, the Hoyas partner with the DC Police Department and Coca-Cola each year to sponsor the "Kids 'n Cops" program when about 1,500 young people from the District attend a Hoyas basketball game with members of the District police force. Also, as part of a broader Georgetown athletics mentoring program known as "GAME," basketball team members tutor students at the SEED School here in the District.

The experience of engaging in community service has carried forward as Hoyas graduate and go on to their own careers. I will share just a few of many examples of this important legacy of Georgetown basketball. Alonzo Mourning who graduated in 1992, is deeply involved in community programs in South Florida where he now lives with a focus on development and education programs for at-risk children and their families. He has also supported kidney research and programming for foster children. Since leaving Georgetown in 1998, Allen Iverson has established the Cross-over Foundation which is actively involved in mentoring young people, assisting with access to technology and providing scholarships. As we heard in this chamber last week during the President's State of the Union address, Dikembe Mutombo, who graduated from Georgetown in 1991, has funded a 300 bed teaching hospital in his home of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. In 1996, he also funded the expenses of the Zairian women's Olympic basketball team. In addition, he has been engaged in the NBA's Basketball Without Borders program in Africa and elsewhere.

In closing, I would also note that, as part of the important effort to promote public diplomacy, three former Georgetown Hoyas, Courtland Freeman, Omari Faulkner, and RaMell Ross, have in recent years participated in the State Department's cultural envoys program. That work has taken them to South Africa and Botswana where they have focused on efforts to promote behaviors to prevent the spread of HIV-AIDS and to El Salvador and