

high school, and onto the campuses of the California State University in Los Angeles, where she earned her bachelor of science in nursing degree, and UCLA, where she earned a masters degree in public health.

After college, Lou returned to Guam to serve as a nurse. After serving for many years as a nursing administrator in one of Guam's largest family clinics, Lou began her public service in Guam's legislature, where she served as a senator for five terms. As a member of Guam's legislative body, Lou pursued policies which have improved healthcare services on Guam. She worked with the Commission on Nurse Leaders and the Civil Service Commission to secure fair and equitable pay for Guam's nurses. A strong advocate for a tobacco-free environment, Lou introduced and supported landmark legislation, including the Natasha Act, which prohibits smoking in public places on Guam. She has initiated the development of programs in order to ensure that women, children, the elderly and the disabled are provided accessible and affordable healthcare.

As a healthcare professional, Lou has fought for the viability of health insurance programs for the medically indigent and disabled. She has supported legislation which encourages the disabled to become self-sufficient entrepreneurs, and she has fostered policies which ensure that dignity and respect are always afforded to the community's senior citizens.

Lou continues to champion for the rights of the indigenous population on Guam, and to support Federal legislation which will recognize the loyalty and patriotism of the people of Guam during World War II and provide reparation for the horrific injustices endured by the Chamorro people during the occupation of Guam by Imperial Japanese forces.

Today, as chairperson of the board and chief executive officer of the Bank of Guam, Lou is active and involved with the Bank of Guam's daily operations, meeting regularly with the bank's policymakers and coordinating with the top management staff. Through her work, Lou continues the legacy of fairness, honesty, and trust that her father and brother began before her. By continuing this legacy, Lou has proven her dedication to serving the people of Guam and ensuring that the Bank of Guam continues to be an institution that can meet the unique needs of the local community.

TRIBUTE TO THE PORTAGE YOUTH COMMISSION'S FIRST ANNUAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you to recognize the Portage Youth Commission's first annual Youth Leadership Summit. This remarkable event, which will bring together students from over 40 area high schools, will take place on Saturday, March 17, 2007, at Woodland Park in Portage, IN.

The Portage Youth Commission was established in 2002 after local officials recognized the need for greater participation from the

youth in the community. They knew the youth had a very influential voice, and that voice needed to be heard. Advised by Mayor Doug Olson and Councilwoman Olga Velasquez, the commission, made up of high school students from the city of Portage, has become a very significant component of the Portage community. Through their efforts, the commission has successfully founded a Youth Service Day and an annual charity art auction, and they have also sponsored various other events focused on the community's youth.

With this year's Youth Leadership Summit, the Portage Youth Commission hopes to set the tone for years to come. During this event, students from all parts of Northwest Indiana will come together to share experiences and learn valuable leadership skills that will benefit them throughout their lifetimes. The goal of the commission is that by learning from each other, as well as teaching each other, these students will realize that they are the leaders of tomorrow, and it is up to them to take responsibility for the progress of their communities and their Nation.

A special guest at this year's event will be Brett Eastburn, a motivational speaker who will address the students on the need for leaders to emerge in their generation. The summit will also consist of various exercises and activities aimed at promoting leadership qualities and a roundtable discussion on the importance of leaders in society.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the efforts of the Portage Youth Commission and the organizers of their first annual Youth Leadership Summit as they strive to educate the youth of Northwest Indiana on the importance of true leaders in our society. Their inspiring efforts are to be commended.

TRIBUTE TO HONEY KESSLER AMADO AND JUDITH PODOLSKY

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize two remarkable and accomplished women who are being honored as Women of Valor by the West Coast region of the American Committee for Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem. Honey Kessler Amado and Judith Podolsky are both being named Women of Valor at a concert by the world-renowned Klezmer musician Giora Feidman on the evening of March 14, 2007, in Beverly Hills, California. I cannot imagine more deserving recipients of this honor.

Honey Kessler Amado has been keenly active in the Jewish community since college, when she served as a religious schoolteacher under her mentor and rabbi, Rabbi Mordechai Soloff. Honey became active in the Los Angeles Jewish community soon after her marriage to Ralph Amado, 30 years ago. She is now a central figure in the Los Angeles Jewish community and is regarded as an expert on issues affecting the community. She first worked in the Soviet Jewry movement, during which time she and Ralph traveled to the Soviet Union to visit Refusenik Jews. Her involvement and passion for the issue led her to become chair

of the Commission on Soviet Jewry of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation Council.

Honey's work in Soviet Jewry led to her involvement in the Jewish National Fund, where she served as a regional and national officer. She also served as co-chair of the Jewish Feminist Center of the American Jewish Committee (AJC). She currently sits on the regional and national boards of the American Jewish Committee and serves as co-chair of AJC's regional International Relations Committee.

Honey also serves on the speakers' bureau and the Synagogue Advisory Council of Jewish World Watch, and on the board of the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony. At her synagogue, Temple Isaiah in West Los Angeles, she sits on the board of trustees and serves as chair of the Jewish World Watch Committee, having chaired and sat on several other committees of the synagogue.

In 2002, Honey was a member of a 9-person delegation from the AJC to go to Germany as a guest of Germany's Konrad Adenauer Foundation to address post-Holocaust relations between Germans and Jews and between Germany and Israel. In September 2005, she was invited to return to Germany as a representative of the AJC on an Adenauer Foundation delegation observing the campaign of the CDU/CSU party in Germany.

This past December, Honey volunteered through Sar-El (Volunteers in Israel) to work for two weeks on an Army base in Israel.

Honey and Ralph have three children: Jessica, Micah and Gabrielle. They have an extended circle of family and friends, which includes Esther, an Ethiopian law student they have been sponsoring through the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry, and Brenna, a young Navajo child in New Mexico Honey mentors through Futures for Children.

Judith Podolsky has both volunteered and offered her professional services to the Jewish community for many years. She has been a tremendous fundraiser for numerous causes and is regarded as the consummate fundraiser for Israel.

Judy has received awards from the Masorti Foundation, the Schecter Institute, the University of Judaism and the Los Angeles Human Rights Commission for her remarkable contributions.

Judy has played an historic role in the Los Angeles Jewish community. She served as the first female President of a Los Angeles area synagogue—Beth Kodesh (now Shomrei Torah). In addition, she has served as the vice president of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism. Judy is a member of the Executives Support for the Associates/IMC Support Groups of the Los Angeles Jewish Home for the Aging. She is also a member of the Los Angeles Human Rights Advisory Commission and a lifetime member of Hadassah.

After 18 distinguished years as one of Jewish National Fund's most successful and beloved staff members, Judy enjoyed a brief retirement. She has recently joined the staff of the American Committee for the Shaare Zedek and is responsible for attracting one of the largest gifts ever received by the Medical Center.

Judy is a beloved, admired and respected mother, sister, aunt. She is a confidant to countless others. Her husband Stanley and her extended family will be with her to receive this prestigious award.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Honey Kessler Amado and Judith Podolsky for their tireless dedication to the Los Angeles Jewish community and in congratulating them on being named Women of Valor by the West Coast Region of the American Committee for Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL W. NAHOLOWAA ON BEING NAMED THE 2007 SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FINANCIAL SERVICES CHAMPION FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Mr. Michael W. Naholowaa, vice president of the Bank of Guam and manager of the Bank's Upper Tumon Loan Center on being named the U.S. Small Business Administration 2007 Financial Services Champion for Guam. Mr. Naholowaa is responsible for all loan activities, including the underwriting and marketing of new and prospective businesses in Tumon/Tamuning, the heart of Guam's commercial district. He is also responsible for loan administration for the bank branches in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, CNMI, and the Micronesian region.

Mr. Naholowaa is known for his concern for his customers and for making an extra effort to advise and assist those would-be entrepreneurs who wish to start a business. Mr. Naholowaa is a true mentor for Guam's youth, and his dedication is evident in his community service. As a former Junior Achievement advisor, he remains actively involved in the Guam Junior Achievement program, helping young people hone their entrepreneurial skills and providing them the tools necessary to succeed in the future.

Mr. Naholowaa earned an associate's degree in Computer Science and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Guam in 1975 and 1978, respectively. He continued his education in banking as he rose through the ranks in the Bank of Guam, graduating from the Pacific Coast Banking School of the University of Washington, Seattle, in 1988, and completing numerous Institute of Banking courses and workshops as well as Small Business Administration, RDA, and other government-sponsored courses and workshops.

Mr. Naholowaa is a past chairman of the CNMI Banking Association, a past vice chairman of the Guam Institute of Banking; past president and vice president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and chairman of the Saipan Junior Achievement Program. He also served in various leadership positions for the Commonwealth Development Loan Fund, the Saipan Rotary Club, the CNMI Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, Bank of Guam Employee Club, Guam Lion's Club, and University of Guam Student Organization. Mr. Naholowaa currently is a member of the Guam Chamber of Commerce's Armed Services Committee and the Guam Junior Achievement program, and is vice president of the Alupang Cove Homeowners Association and

the San Vitores Court Homeowners Association. He is also the current chairman of UOG's School of Business and Public Administration Advisory Council.

Mr. Naholowaa now joins other Financial Services Champions for consideration as the Small Business Administration's National Champion award. I wish Mike and his wife, Leah Beth, the best and thank them both for their service to the people of Guam.

EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 800) to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to provide for mandatory injunctions for unfair labor practice during organizing efforts, and for other purposes:

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 800, the Employee Free Choice Act of 2007.

This bill should be recognized for what it is: a major advance for human rights, the right of a worker to associate freely and to bargain collectively. The freedom to form a union is a human right recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the internationally recognized standard of the most basic and fundamental freedoms to which all human beings are entitled. Article 23 of this document states: "Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests."

This Act restores and gives substance to the right to join a union. This right is a fundamental element of a healthy and vibrant economy. Further, reinforcing this right makes this prosperity accessible to working families and their communities.

Workers who belong to unions earn 30 percent more than nonunion workers. They are 62 percent more likely to have employer-provided health coverage and four times more likely to have pensions. A December 2006 research study conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates found that 60 million U.S. workers say they would join a union if they could. Workers know that a union job means respect on the job, and a better life for their families.

Fair wages. Good benefits. Secure retirement. These are core elements necessary to build the American Dream, and this legislation is a vital step toward renewing that promise to the workers of this Nation—the men and women on the ground, in whose labor and industry we rely to make this dream a reality.

The Employee Free Choice Act preserves the option for workers to choose to vote by secret ballot, and adds the option of choosing majority sign-up as their method of gaining recognition. This bill removes the de facto veto power employers currently exercise over the option of majority sign-up. The rights and prerogatives of workers will increase.

The right to form a union in America was born in struggle, and has been under attack ever since. This bill ensures participatory de-

mocracy in the workplace and returns workers their rights. The power to organize is the most powerful tool available to workers. It empowers workers to have their voice heard.

The working families of this Nation deserve recognition for the fruits of their labor. Through this legislation, today we empower American workers to raise their voice, to reclaim their rights, and introduce a vital measure of democracy to the American workplace.

RECOGNIZING THE 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 46th anniversary of the Peace Corps. For more than 4 decades, services donated by Peace Corps volunteers have played an integral role in developing countries, while fostering friendships and improving U.S. relations with their host countries. The Peace Corps' goals ultimately include promoting democratic values, peace and prosperity. More than 187,000 Americans have served worldwide in 139 countries, promoting an ethic of international stewardship and peace.

The Peace Corps was created by President John F. Kennedy on March 1, 1961, as an international volunteer organization dedicated to serving the United States and promoting peace around the world. During that time in history, the United States was deep into the Cold War, and President Kennedy saw the need for an organization to serve as a non-military response to the perceived threat of communism. President Kennedy invoked the spirit of American service in his 1960 inaugural address where he famously encouraged Americans to "ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." The program has since provided volunteers who train workers in the areas of education, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, small business development, agriculture, health care and public works.

While the world has changed dramatically since the 1960s, the challenges to peace and cooperation remain. I wholeheartedly support the current mission of the Peace Corps and its role in promoting cross-cultural relationships with our global neighbors. It is a tremendous educational tool and an opportunity for professional and personal development. Americans take as much away from their experiences as do the people in other nations whose lives they touch. It is my hope that the Peace Corps remains steadfast in its mission to foster peace and knowledge around the world and preserve the vision of President Kennedy.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to acknowledge the importance of the Peace Corps organization and the commitment made by these volunteers. The Peace Corps volunteers' selfless dedication to this nation and the international community is an example to us all.