

discover that, upon his return home, Chris and Meredith decided to publish this poignant collection of letters and use the book as a means to further support members of our military and their families.

All of the proceeds from the sales of "Made a Difference" will be donated to the Fisher House Foundation, an organization which supports America's military and their families in times of need. Because members of the military and their families are stationed worldwide and must often travel great distances for specialized medical care, Fisher House Foundation donates "comfort homes," built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers. These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one at the most stressful times—during the hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease, or injury.

As a husband, father, doctor, surgeon, and Air Force Major, Chris has touched countless lives—exemplifying the very spirit of Xavier's educational mission and I cannot think of a more fitting recognition than the Saint Francis Xavier Award. It is with great pride that I rise today to join all of those gathered to join his wife, Meredith, his parents, Dr. Paul and Eileen Coppola, family, friends, and Xavier High School in congratulating Dr. Christopher Coppola on this very special occasion.

A TRIBUTE TO OLANIKE T. ALABI

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Olanike T. Alabi, who is the proud daughter of immigrants who came to the United States several decades ago. She is a product of the New York City Public School system, graduating from Midwood High School. She also attended Brooklyn College's prominent Medical Science Institute. She later received her bachelor of arts degree from Temple University, where she carried a double major and a minor. In 1999, she was accepted to the prestigious University of London in Great Britain, where she pursued a master of arts degree.

Olanike Alabi is currently employed by Local 1199 of the SEIU United Healthcare Workers East as an assistant to the president. There, she also participates in a voluntary voter-registration program as well as political campaign events.

Ms. Alabi has received certificates and awards from such organizations as the Family and Support Resources Group; the Training and Employment Council (TEC) Brooklyn; the Access Fund, an organization dedicated to providing scholarships for students attending institutions of higher learning; a Great Force Partner Award from former Congressman Major Owens; a Woman of the Year Award from State Senator John Sampson; and I have presented Ms. Alabi with a Community Service Award for her outstanding work in the community.

Additionally, she has established herself as a fighter for justice. In June of 2003, after being fired from her job as the District Manager for CB No. 2, she filed an Article 78 proceeding at the Kings County Supreme Court and was granted a favorable, unanimous deci-

sion from a panel of judges at the Appellate Division, 2nd Department in April of 2005. Her lawsuit resulted in her reinstatement with compensation and the City of New York issuing proper procedures for terminating a community board employee. In June of 2004, she filed a New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) proceeding against a Brooklyn-based property owner and was successful in the venture in March of 2005.

She continues to be featured as a public speaker at events celebrating women's history, school graduations, chemical dependency programs, and college fairs, and as a moderator for political debates, some of which were most recently aired on Manhattan Neighborhood Network (MNN). She was recently elected as the state committeewomen (district leader) of the 57th A.D.

Finally, her primary interests include public service, international affairs, labor, industrial relations and education. She enjoys reading, writing and traveling. Her church, organizational board and memberships include: Emmanuel Baptist Church in Brooklyn, Board for the Education of People of African Ancestry, the Community Advisory Board of the Cumberland Diagnostic and Treatment Center, League of Women Voters, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Church Women United, Inc., and a host of other local and civic organizations.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Alabi and all of her hard work and the precedents she has set.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ms. Olanike T. Alabi.

IN REFERENCE TO THE COOPER RIVER 10K BRIDGE RUN

**HON. MIKE FERGUSON**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2007*

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Michael L. Drozd of Hillsborough, New Jersey. He is dedicating his time and efforts to an important cause. On March 31, Michael will be running in the Cooper River 10K Bridge Run to support the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund.

This fund provides financial assistance to Marines in combat and training and to their families. Since its inception in May 2004 through the end of last year, the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund has provided more than \$8 million to our wounded heroes.

At 23 years old, Michael has served in the Army, Navy, and the Marines. Michael is a senior First Classman who will be commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps when he graduates from the Citadel in May. He is the only Marine representative Cadet from New Jersey participating in the run and will be running in battle dress uniform, combat boots, and wearing a 50-pound rucksack.

I'd like to commend Michael not only for his selflessness and service to our country but also for his commitment and dedication to such a worthy cause. It is truly inspiring to see a young person like Michael give so much of their time and energy to help others in need.

HONORING GENERAL AND MRS. MICHAEL L. OATES

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2007*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment today to honor the service of BG Michael L. Oates as he leaves the 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, and the Fort Campbell community. He has been selected for promotion to Major General and will soon take on even greater challenges and responsibilities as he assumes command of the 10th Mountain Division, Light Infantry, in Fort Drum, NY. This new assignment is further evidence that General Oates is among the most capable and trusted officers in our Army today.

In early 2005, General Oates was at the forefront as the Screaming Eagles returned to Iraq, taking control of four volatile provinces. The Division would later gain responsibility for training Iraqi forces in two additional provinces and would participate in security operations in Baghdad itself. The 101st was given a series of difficult missions, and performed each of them well.

General Oates was also instrumental to the continuing transformation of Fort Campbell. Soldiers returning from service in Iraq were greeted by new training facilities, new infrastructure, new barracks, and first-class housing for their families.

A deployment leaves behind thousands of family members who must daily confront the stress and hardship of having a loved one at war. Barbara Oates has been a cornerstone of Fort Campbell's efforts to take care of these families. I have great admiration for her leadership and value her friendship.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking General and Mrs. Oates for their extraordinary service to the Army, the 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, and the Clarksville and Montgomery County communities. We will miss them, and we wish them the best of luck in their next assignment.

SUPPORTING H.R. 1132

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2007*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among women and the leading cause of cancer death among women under the age of 40. Early detection and education are key to winning this battle. It is imperative that we reauthorize the National Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Act, H.R. 1132, so that all women are given access to free and low-cost breast and cervical screenings. No woman should be denied these lifesaving screenings simply because she cannot afford them. Further, all women should be made aware of the benefits of each screening and the risks of these cancers through public education programs.

This issue is very important within my District of Marin and Sonoma Counties in California, and especially so in Marin County because it has the highest rate of breast cancer

in the country. Among white women, aged 45 to 64, the breast cancer rate in Marin has increased 72 percent in the last decade. Marin County's rates are approximately 40 percent higher than the national average and about 30 percent higher than the rest of the Bay Area. This is why early detection and education in women of all ages is so important.

In addition to this important legislation, we need to do more to prevent breast cancer deaths in women under the age of 40. Approximately 11,000 women under the age of 40 will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, of which nearly 1,300 will die. That's why I introduced the Annie Fox Act, H.R. 715, named after a young woman in my district who was diagnosed with breast cancer and died at the age of 35. This bill will authorize research into the causes of breast cancer in younger women and educate them about the risks of breast cancer.

It is important that we not only continue to fund preventative screenings, education and research for women over the ages of 45, but that we also do so for our younger women so that they may live long, healthy lives.

I applaud the passage of this important legislation and look forward to working with my colleagues to pass H.R. 715, the Annie Fox Act.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE GARFIELD MA-  
SONIC LODGE

**HON. JOHN E. PETERSON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2007*

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the 125th anniversary of the Garfield Masonic Lodge in Dubois, Pennsylvania. Established in 1882, the Garfield Lodge has selflessly served the DuBois community with high distinction for 125 years.

I commend the Freemasons for their work and for instilling in its members the virtues of charity, benevolence, brotherly love, and practicing the moral principles of life. Again, I extend my best wishes to the Garfield Lodge and to all of the individuals that continue its good work, as they celebrate 125 years of service in my district on May 4, 2007.

IN TRIBUTE TO MAJOR EUGENE  
BARLOW ON HIS RETIREMENT  
FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR  
FORCE

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2007*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, I want to recognize MAJ Eugene Barlow for his 23 years of dedicated service to our country. In his most recent assignment, he serves as the Chief, Air Force Congressional Fellows Branch, Congressional Inquiry Division, Office of Legislative Liaison with, additional duties as a White House Social Aide.

In June 1984, Major Barlow started his outstanding career as an enlisted Information Manager. He was selected for promotion to senior airman below-the-zone and later selected for promotion to staff sergeant under the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program. After assignments in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Legislative Liaison Directorate, Major Barlow was selected to attend Officer Training School. He was commissioned in 1996 and assigned to Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, as the Chief of Customer Support.

In August 1998, Major Barlow was selected for assignment to Kadena Air Base, Japan, where he served as Squadron Section Commander in the 67th Fighter Squadron. Before being handpicked for his current assignment, Major Barlow was assigned to his alma mater, the University of Maryland, as an Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing our sincere appreciation to MAJ Eugene Barlow for his outstanding service to both the Legislative and Executive Branches and our United States Air Force. We wish him the best as he transitions into a new career. Major Barlow is a true professional and a credit to himself and the United States Air Force.

CELEBRATING THE 136TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF KERNERSVILLE

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2007*

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the town of Kernersville, NC, which will celebrate its 136th anniversary this Saturday, March 31.

Kernersville is a town with a rich heritage dating back hundreds of years. Known as Kerner's Crossroads in the mid-1800s, the town of Kernersville was officially incorporated on March 31, 1871. It had a small but respectable population of 147. Today, about 20,000 call Kernersville their home in the heart of North Carolina's Triad region.

The town has experienced dramatic growth in recent years as it transitions from what was once a rural community to a town making its mark in the economically vibrant Triad area. In the midst of this transition, Kernersville has worked to preserve its unique small-town character and historic architecture.

One of the most notable relics of Kernersville's historic flavor is an exceptional home called Korner's Folly. Some people have called it the strangest house ever built. Others have said it looks more like a small castle straight from the heart of Germany than a home built in the heart of North Carolina. But regardless, today it is a historic museum and serves to illustrate the unique place Kernersville holds in the Triad region.

I applaud the vision of Kernersville's citizens to pursue commonsense growth policies without sacrificing the essence of what makes Kernersville Kernersville. Their efforts will ensure that this great town celebrates many more anniversaries, each one a tribute to an attractive community that offers a small town atmosphere with the benefits of a community nestled in the Triad.

TRIBUTE TO THE SMITHSONIAN  
INSTITUTE'S SAN ANTONIO  
MUSEO ALAMEDA

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2007*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, on behalf of Texas's 20th Congressional District, it is my honor to welcome the Smithsonian Institution to San Antonio as it officially launches its first formal affiliate, the Museo Alameda, from April 12 to 15, 2007. The National Center for Latino Arts and Culture is the only organization in the country that maintains formal partnerships with the Smithsonian Institution and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts—important milestones in the development and appreciation of the diversity of the United States of America. Through its programming, the Museo will showcase stories of the Latino experience through art, history and culture.

The 4 days of opening festivities will begin with Tito Puente, Jr.'s Orchestra, the Latino Giants of Jazz, at the Gala Pachanga in Historic Market Square. It continues with John Quiñones of ABC as master of ceremonies for the opening festivities and concludes with Linda Ronstadt as headliner for *Canciones de mi Padre*, a concert for the people. I along with the Museo Alameda thank the Ford Motor Company, AT&T, and the Anheuser-Busch Foundation for their commitment and friendship in making the museum a reality.

From its inception as the vision of its founding chairman, Henry R. Muñoz III, to its designation as the first of more than 150 affiliates bridging the Smithsonian Institution across the country, the museum has impacted our country and our historic city. Through the years of planning and development, the unique and vibrant Museo Alameda has captured the imagination and inspired the support of countless admirers. The Nation's families are invited to visit our museum, to be inspired by it, and to appreciate the diversity, contributions and pride which Latinos bring to our Nation's greatness. It is time for these stories to be told.

HONORING JOE HOLLSTEIN

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2007*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Joe Hollstein, who is retiring after 28 years of service to the city of Ceres.

Joe Hollstein has admirably served Ceres and its residents since 1979. In most cases, Joe has supervised most of the capital projects that have occurred in Ceres for nearly three decades. Joe was instrumental in getting new wells drilled to increase the water supply and he explored the possibility of tapping into surface water. Joe also increased water storage capacity by having ground water reservoirs constructed which added to the city's firefighting capabilities.

Seeing a need to expand the city's wastewater treatment plant, Joe has worked continually on this project with the latest development to develop a sewer line to Turlock from Ceres.