

operations. Joshua James, referred to as the world's most celebrated lifesaver, rescued over 600 people during his 60 years of service in the 1800s. Jack embodies the traits of Joshua James—traits that all Coast Guardsmen aspire to.

Additionally, the Coast Guard presented to Jack the Meritorious Service Medal with a gold star and operational distinguishing device, the Coast Guard Commendation Medal with three gold stars and operational distinguishing device, and the Letter of Commendation with operational distinguishing device. Jack was also awarded the prestigious Navy League Douglas A. Munro Award for his inspirational leadership and professional competence.

A friend of mine, Retired Rear Admiral Jack Linnon, once called Jack Downey an Officer-in-Charge that he would entrust his own child to; a fact that is especially touching considering the dangers of the profession. "Youngsters turned over to his charge," Linnon said, "when transferred, had grown both in their professional development but also in maturity." Jack's greatest legacy may not be his personal heroics, but the wisdom, guidance and experience he has shared with innumerable Coast Guardsmen, from cadets to commanders.

Since 2006, Jack has served as the District One Command Master Chief at the First District Headquarters in Boston. By leaving this position, the Coast Guard loses one of its finest, most talented men. He has earned the respect and admiration from us and from people throughout New England. On behalf of a very grateful constituency, I want to say thank you to Jack and congratulations on a job well done.

#### TRIBUTE TO KEITH LAFFMAN

### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2008*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Keith Laffman on his eight years of dedicated service to the Office of the Attending Physician (OAP). Prior to his position at the OAP, Keith served as a physical therapist in the United States Navy, training at Fort Sam Houston in Texas, and then stationed at the Bethesda Navy Medical Center.

Working as a Physical Therapy Technician in the OAP since November of 2000, Keith has consistently maintained close working relationships with the patients he serves. His dedication to his work and patients, along with his ability to organize and manage, made him a competent and effective office manager during much of his tenure at the OAP.

Keith is an integral part of the team in the Attending Physician's office. As a person who has broken many bones and suffered multiple injuries, I can attest to the fact that Keith is one of the most professional, caring, and healing physical therapists I have ever worked with during my time as a patient. In addition to providing basic care to a wide variety of patients, the Office of Attending Physician provides a broad spectrum of services, including emergency evaluations, flu vaccinations, physician referrals, and occupational exams and certifications. Eight separate health units in Con-

gressional and other federal buildings ensure that the OAP is able to provide convenient and quality health care around the Hill.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Keith Laffman for his committed service to his patients, from visitors and staff to high ranking government officials. It is with great pride that I congratulate Keith for his work at the Office of Attending Physician and his continued exemplary service to our Nation.

#### HONORING FLORESTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2008*

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Floresta Elementary School of Port St. Lucie, Florida. The National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project Youth Award has selected Floresta Elementary as Florida's Rookie Elementary School of the Year. Floresta was also selected as a Finalist for Rookie of the Year Elementary School at the National Level for 2008.

Floresta Elementary's school-wide project, "Floresta Dolphins NEED Energy," gave students from kindergarten through the fifth grade the opportunity to learn about renewable and non-renewable energy resources. Students in the fifth grade specifically focused on wind energy and worked to increase community awareness regarding Florida Power and Light's wind turbine project on the local coastline. The entire school also took part in Energy Star's Change a Light, Change the World campaign that encourages citizens to conserve energy by switching to more energy efficient light bulbs.

I am proud that the teachers, staff, and students of Floresta Elementary School are working to educate themselves and their community on what we can do to meet our country's critical energy needs.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Floresta Elementary School.

#### THE DAILY 45: IT'S THE NATION'S PROBLEM

### HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. The reflections I continue to share happen in communities big and small, everyday, all across our nation. Like Chicago, the city of Los Angeles is having its own unprecedented wave of deadly gun violence.

Earlier this month, during the weekend of June 7 and 8, the Los Angeles Times reported that 14 people lost their lives to violence with most of those dying at the hands of a gun. That's 14 people who lost their lives in one weekend in only 48 hours! Why no national outrage over this senseless violence? Even though the headlines read that many of these deaths "appear to be gang-related," those

who died—regardless of their age, their economic status or their race—are children of God. They had lives that mattered to somebody. They certainly mattered to me.

Americans of conscious must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say 'enough is enough, stop the killing!'

#### THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY COMMUNICATIONS AND VIDEO ACCESSIBILITY ACT OF 2008

### HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2008*

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, the advancement of technology over the last 20 years has revolutionized daily life for Americans. Most of us use some form of technology every day. Cell phones, computers, iPods, webcasts, and televisions are everywhere.

User-friendly technology is also important for people with disabilities. Televisions, computers, and cellular devices are available to the public at-large, but, unlike the "plain old telephone" there are no requirements to ensure that every American is able to use them. Technology can enable the disabled with things like specialized hardware that simulates the human voice reading the computer screen. Assistive or adaptive technology has taken down many barriers to education and employment for disabled Americans. The technology is there, and now we need to encourage its national availability.

Alice Marshall is a mother of two from Albuquerque, New Mexico. She works for the Bureau of Land Management and when she was watching the news a few weeks ago, northern areas of New Mexico were receiving warnings of possible tornados in the area. She was not aware of this news because it was scrolling across the emergency ticker at the bottom of the screen and Alice is blind. The only audio descriptor technology available to her has to be ordered by mail and costs about \$100.

Another constituent, Priscilla Stansbury, a grandmother caring for her 3 grandchildren, is not able to get information easily about snow days and school cancellation. She is blind and tells me that school cancellation and amber alert information generally runs along the bottom of her TV screen with no audio that she can hear.

The Twenty-first Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2008 would require that IP-enabled communication equipment manufactured in the United States have a built-in speaker and a closed captioning decoder. The speaker and decoder would allow Americans with visual and hearing impairments to access the Internet, computers, and cellular devices. Furthermore, it would ensure that IP enabled equipment is manufactured to be accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

Most Americans get emergency information over the radio, the television or the Internet. Warnings about tornados, such as the one we received on Capitol Hill the other week, should be accessible to all Americans. This bill would require audio and visual accessibility for those who are deaf and blind.

According to the Foundation for the Blind there are approximately 10 million blind people in the United States. The National Association of the Deaf report an estimated 22 million Americans who are deaf or hard of hearing, and there are a variety of other disabilities that affect the accessibility to audio-visual devices.

Today I joined Congressman ED MARKEY in introducing this legislation to ensure that American citizens with disabilities have full access to the information that the rest of us take for granted.

RECOGNIZING SAM KELTNER OF  
VIRGINIA BEACH

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2008*

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding achievements of Sam Keltner of Virginia Beach, and to commend him on becoming a Congressional Award Gold Medalist. This recognition by the United States Congress is the highest honor bestowed upon America's youth. It serves as a testament to Sam's strength of character and commitment to our national values of dedication to public service and the cherished qualities of personal growth, initiative, and achievement, all of which are cornerstones of the Congressional Award.

Sam's volunteer efforts are tremendous, speaking very highly of him and his level of commitment to the community and to public service. In earning the rank of Eagle Scout, Sam worked on behalf of Real Life Christian Church to help others, providing moveable storage crates for the church and fellowship. In addition, he continues to be active within the Boy Scouts of America, BSA, Tidewater Council, serving as Junior Assistant Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader, completing the Venturing Scout program, receiving the BSA Tidewater Council Venturing Leadership Award, and participating in the Physical Fitness QUEST program.

Sam has devoted time and energy to excellence in physical fitness, improving his speed in running and playing a diversity of sports. His incredible effort enabled him to reach a time of a little over 14 minutes for a 5k run. By maintaining his own physical fitness, Sam continues to push himself to achieve more, and engage in new opportunities for advanced leadership experience including the 2006 COPE Program, his membership with U.S. Track and Field, and his involvement with the First Colonial High School Varsity Cross Country Track Team.

Sam has become a role model not only for his peers, but for the large community around him. Upon receiving the Congressional Medal, he joins a most elite group of our Nation's youth who have set and achieved this very commendable goal. I am certain Sam's incredible accomplishments, dedication to service, and evident leadership talents will continue to speak highly of him, as they do now.

REVISING SHORT TITLE OF THE  
FANNIE LOU HAMER, ROSA  
PARKS, AND CORETTA SCOTT  
KING VOTING RIGHTS ACT REAU-  
THORIZATION AND AMENDMENTS  
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2008*

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today in support of S. 188. In passing this bill, we will honor true pioneers in the struggle for civil rights by adding the names of Cesar Chavez, Barbara Jordan, William Velasquez, and Dr. Hector Garcia to the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Today, we honor their instrumental role in the struggle for civil rights, and celebrate the historic contributions and enduring legacy of these great Americans.

Dr. Hector P. Garcia was a Mexican immigrant who came to Texas fleeing the violence of the Mexican Revolution in 1917, and through hard work and tenacity became a doctor, soldier, and true American hero. After being wounded in battle and fighting for VA benefits, he founded the American G.I. forum to help Mexican Americans claim the VA benefits they had earned. After World War II, the American G.I. Forum became the leading voice for Mexican American veterans. As a resident of my hometown Corpus Christi, Dr. Garcia was an inspiration to me because he stood tall for veterans to see that they received the benefits they have earned through service to country.

It is my hope that Hispanic Americans, who have time and again served our Nation in combat with distinction, will take special pride in knowing that Dr. Hector P. Garcia will forever stand as a symbol of all Hispanics who have so patriotically served America in uniform.

Dr. Garcia first became a national figure when he successfully fought for the burial rights of Private Felix Longoria, killed in the line of duty during World War II. After Private Longoria's widow's request to have him buried in their hometown cemetery in Three Rivers Texas was denied, Dr. Garcia and the American G.I. Forum took his case to Senator Lyndon Johnson, who pushed to have Private Longoria buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Dr. Garcia, Private Longoria became the first Mexican American to be honored with a burial at Arlington.

Dr. Garcia's groundbreaking work to advance the cause of Hispanic civil rights continued for decades and he became a trusted adviser to American presidents. His successful efforts to break down barriers and desegregate American society, improve working conditions, increase access to health care and educational opportunities for Hispanic Americans became legendary and deserve our utmost respect.

Dr. Garcia's many accomplishments and honors include:

The Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1984.

Appointment as alternate U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

The U.S. Army's Bronze Star and six battle stars for his service in World War II.

The American G.I. Forum's Medalla al Merito in 1952, for his work with Mexican American veterans.

The Distinguished Service Award from the National Office of Civil Rights, 1980.

The National Hispanic Leadership Conference's Hispanic Heritage Award, 1989.

The Equestrian Order of Pope Gregory the Great from Pope John Paul II, 1990.

On a personal note, I had the privilege of growing up in Corpus Christi, Texas just four houses down the street from Dr. Garcia and his family. His life's commitment to the cause of civil rights was an inspiration to me in my youth and played an important role in my entering public service. It was an honor to call him my friend and mentor.

Madam Speaker, with deep respect for the life and extraordinary accomplishments of Dr. Hector P. Garcia, I urge my colleagues to support S. 188.

HONORING DAN MEYER FOR WIN-  
NING THE CABLE'S LEADERS IN  
LEARNING AWARD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2008*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, it's with great honor that I congratulate my constituent, Dan Meyer, a teacher with the San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District who has been selected to receive the Cable's Leaders in Learning Award for creating and implementing innovative ways to educate students. He is one of 14 national winners selected from a pool of 44 finalist applications.

As the sole winner in the "Pushing the Envelope with Cable Technology and Programming" category, he is being recognized for improving algebra instruction by creating and posting a video lesson for teachers online. Mr. Meyer found a way to improve algebra instruction and share it with math teachers worldwide. After spending three weeks helping students to understand a single algebra equation, he came to the conclusion that using video as a teaching tool was the answer. He produced 10 short videos to accompany his lesson plan, and was shocked at the pace his students learned the once confusing algebraic equations after viewing the videos.

Mr. Meyer decided to post the video and lesson plan on his blog and its viewings jumped from 30 visitors a day to 6,000 downloads in two weeks. His teaching technique has now been shared with teachers all over the country and our Nation's students are better for his efforts.

Our Nation depends on teachers like Dan Meyer who use technology and innovation to help students learn and grow. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dan Meyer for his extraordinary leadership and distinguishing himself as a Cable's Leaders in Learning Award recipient.