

scholarship program for eligible graduates of Davis High School, at the time Houston's lowest-performing high school. By 1992, the number of Davis graduates entering college had more than quadrupled. Still, Mr. Ketelsen was not satisfied because high school graduation rates and college matriculation rates continued to fall short of his expectations. He knew, given the right investments and the right commitment, that Davis students—and all students from economically disadvantaged communities—were capable of much more. As Mr. Ketelsen is inclined to insist, "It's not the kids!" Armed with that belief, Mr. Ketelsen has dedicated the last two decades to making an enormous difference for America's highest needs students.

I have been a longtime supporter of Project GRAD in Congress and was pleased to be able to get a provision into the recently-enacted Higher Education Opportunity Act to expand Project GRAD so that more low-income and minority students can attend college and earn degrees. Today, Project GRAD has expanded to 13 communities and reaches more than 120,000 students and families from California to New York, Alaska to Georgia. In the longest-served group of schools, GRAD scholars are completing college at a rate 92 percent above the national average for students from similar demographic backgrounds. A statistically significant sample of GRAD scholarship recipients who have completed college shows that the proportion who graduated with majors in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—concentrations of dire need for the national economy and national security—exceeded the national average for minority students by 71 percent. In the coming academic year, more than 7,500 students will be in college, funded by a Project GRAD scholarship. GRAD has already sent high school graduates to more than 100 institutions of higher education, including many of the most highly selective colleges and universities in the Nation. At the beginning of high school, many Project GRAD students would never have dreamed of attending Harvard, Yale, MIT, Cornell, Emory, Georgetown, Rice, Texas, Virginia, or Amherst, yet because of Mr. Ketelsen's vision, determination, and remarkable leadership, Project GRAD has altogether altered those expectations.

I am honored to know James Ketelsen personally and I am grateful for the tenacity and passion with which he has served America's children and families. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the gratitude of the U.S. Congress for the extensive contributions to education and our society that he made during his lifetime.

#### VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2008*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House is considering today S. 2617, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Act of 2008. If enacted, this bill would require the Secretary of Veterans Af-

fairs to provide a COLA to veterans receiving disability compensation and other select VA beneficiaries that matches the cost-of-living increase rates of Social Security beneficiaries. The increase would take effect December 1, 2008.

I am pleased that this Congress has kept its promises to America's veterans. Last year, we passed the largest single funding increase in the history of the VA, and I am hopeful that we will continue to increase funding for key VA programs over the coming year. In the meantime, it is necessary for us to meet some other basic challenges facing our veterans, and the bill before us addresses one of those challenges.

Many veterans live on fixed incomes, and thus have been very hard hit by recent increases in prices for food, gasoline, and other essentials. By passing this COLA, we will give veterans across America the additional financial assistance they need to care for themselves and their families. The Senate passed this bill in July 2008. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I urge the President to sign it as soon as it reaches his desk.

#### HONORING MARK TEETERS OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 11, 2008*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mark Teeters, who is being honored as the Napa County 2009 Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Teeters is entering his ninth year as Director of Choral Activities at Vintage High School in Napa. He also serves as chair of the Vintage High Visual and Performing Arts Department.

Under his leadership, the Vintage High School choir has ascended to elite status, winning gold medals at competitions around the world. They are a fixture at community events and contribute greatly to the cultural and artistic vitality of the Napa Valley. During the past 4 years, they have performed two extremely well-received musicals: *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon*.

As a lifelong Napan, Mr. Teeters not only uses his considerable talents to serve his students, but the community at large as well. He serves as Music Director at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Napa and co-conducts the Napa Valley Chorale, a local community choir.

A great teacher can have an impact on a young person that lasts forever. All of us can remember a teacher that has had a profound influence on our lives. Mr. Teeters has had this impact on hundreds of his students and is a sterling example of the best his profession has to offer. Under the constant specter of budget cuts to art and music programs, Mr. Teeters works tirelessly to ensure music education continues to play an important role in the life of his students.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Mark Teeters for the leadership, guidance and inspiration he has provided to hundreds of young people throughout his career. I join the entire community in thanking him for his service and wishing him continued success.

#### RECOGNIZING THE WORKFORCE MOSAIC AND THEIR ROLE IN THE ANCOR 2008 GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES SEMINAR

**HON. LEE TERRY**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 11, 2008*

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize all the good people at Mosaic, who have come to Washington, D.C. to take part in the American Network of Community Options and Resources, ANCOR, 2008 Governmental Activities Seminar.

Mosaic, a disability advocacy organization based in my Congressional district, has a long history of providing direct support and services to individuals with disabilities of all ages. It employs more than 5,000 employees nationally who provide a range of supports 7 days a week, 24-hours a day. In Omaha, Mosaic's highly skilled and committed workforce support more than 250 individuals, making Mosaic one of the largest providers in the metropolitan area.

Throughout this week, people from Mosaic, along with the attendees at ANCOR's events are meeting with their Congressional offices to raise awareness about the need for an adequately paid, trained and dedicated workforce. Most direct support professionals are women with families working 40-hour work weeks at an average of \$9.47 an hour. That amounts to an annual salary of \$18,182, a figure below the \$21,200 poverty level for a family of four. Low wages have been a prime obstacle in maintaining a qualified workforce. Unlike other sectors of the private market, the formal long-term supports system is almost entirely dependent upon public financing—particularly Medicaid funding.

Demand for direct support professionals continues to grow and is estimated to increase by about 38 percent over the next 12 years. We must ensure that qualified and reliable people are recruited as caregivers so that they in turn can help individuals with disabilities participate and contribute to their communities.

Madam Speaker, there is no better way to recognize this workforce's contribution to the Nation than to ensure that these dedicated direct support professionals are fairly compensated. I urge my colleagues to join with me in cosponsoring the bipartisan Direct Support Professionals Fairness and Security Act, H.R. 1279.

#### REMEMBER THOSE KILLED ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 11, 2008*

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, As our Nation reflects upon the day of the terrorist attacks 7 years ago this week, I cannot forget my friends who were killed by terrorists that day.

Some 7 weeks before September 11, 2001, I spent several days in New York City with Neal Levin, executive director of the Port Authority New York and New Jersey. I met Neal when he was the legislative director to Senator Al D'Amato of New York and when I was

chief of staff to Senator Paula Hawkins of Florida. In early 2001, he became director of the Port Authority, just as I became chairman of the U.S. House Aviation Subcommittee in Congress.

With New York area airports under his authority, he called on me as an old friend to come to New York, review the air congestion problem and conduct a hearing on the matter. I obliged my friend Neal and after visiting John F. Kennedy International, Newark Liberty International and LaGuardia Airports, held a hearing in the Port Authority Hearing Room in the World Trade Center. After the hearing, Neal hosted me and several other guests in the Port Authority's Dining Room adjacent to the Windows of the World Restaurant at the top of the World Trade Center. It was in that same room where I left Neal and the others who assisted me that they all met their deaths on Tuesday, September 11th.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld invited me and several other Members of Congress to a breakfast meeting at the Pentagon. Our discussion that day was how to rebuild our Nation's military capability that had been downsized under the outgoing Clinton Administration. Specific to the conversation was how our stretched and limited military could muster the resources to deal with a future engagement.

As the meeting concluded near 9 a.m., I was speaking with the Defense Secretary at the end of the conference table as word of the first plane to hit the World Trade Center reached us. Then we were told of the second attack. While the Secretary stepped into his adjacent office, I conferred with several of his top aides about the situation. Missing my ride back to Capitol Hill, I sought a ride to the House Office Building and arrived just as the plane hit the Pentagon.

Killed in the Pentagon, where I had departed just minutes before, was Terry Lynch who worked as a U.S. Senate staffer for Alabama Senator RICHARD SHELBY. Terry and I were friends from our U.S. Senate staff days. On Flight 93, was Barbara Olsen who worked with me on the House Government Reform Committee. She was a brilliant and most capable professional and a dear friend who was killed by fanatic terrorists.

While 7 years have passed, I can never forget these friends or the manner in which they were taken from us and their families. As Americans, we are blessed with a life most of the world can only dream about. While we go about our lives, we should not and can not ever forget those taken from us on September 11th.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WHITPAIN—FRANKLINVILLE ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE 150TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 11, 2008*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I come before you today to congratulate the Historical Society of Whitpain on the 150th anniversary of the Franklinville School. The Franklinville School, a one room schoolhouse, was originally constructed in 1858 to serve the small area of Franklinville and served in that capacity until 1916. After its closure, Ralph Beaver Strausburger, a Naval Academy Graduate and aide to President Theodore Roosevelt, purchased the schoolhouse as part of a small estate when he married into the Singer family, of the Singer Sewing Machine Company.

Mr. Strausburger modeled his estate after a French manor house and named it Normandy Farms. The Franklinville School was an integral part of Strausburger's estate, serving as a school not only for Strausburger's children but also for the children of the employees of the estate.

In the following years, the schoolhouse was abandoned and fell into a state of dilapidation and disrepair. In 1983, The Historical Society of Whitpain was founded for the purpose of restoring the old schoolhouse. Over the next 14 years, volunteers tirelessly worked to raise money to restore the schoolhouse and in 1997, the Historical Society gained title to the Franklinville School.

The Society has worked tirelessly to finish the restoration of the schoolhouse, including replacing the building's unsafe flooring. Prior to the completion of the restoration, the Society commissioned an archeological dig and recovered a number of artifacts that exemplify America of the 1850's, including medicine bottles, inkwells and an 1876 Liberty Head quarter.

Madam Speaker, once again I congratulate the members of the Historical Society of Whitpain on their tireless efforts to reclaim and restore the history that has made our country what it is today. It is through such efforts that we can hope to learn more about our Nation's past and ensure that our extraordinary history is accessible to future generations.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.  
CHARLES A. SARDO, SR.

### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 11, 2008*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Charles A. Sardo, Sr., a Southeastern Pennsylvania resident who dedicated himself to proudly serving his community, country, church and family.

Before his passing on January 21, 2008, Mr. Sardo served his community for 22 years as chairman of the Planning Board and Zoning Hearing Board in Lower Providence Township, Montgomery County. His service also included holding the posts of Building Inspector, Zoning Officer, Road Master, and Township Manager in Worcester Township, Montgomery County. His most recent post was Borough Manager in Trappe, Montgomery County. During his 22-month tenure, Mr. Sardo secured grants through the Kaboom program, which financed the construction of a playground at Waterworks Park. This playground will always stand as a symbol to Mr. Sardo's tireless commitment to the communities that he served.

In addition to giving his all to enhance communities, Mr. Sardo answered the call to serve his country as a Marine. It was during that service that an injury led to his honorable discharge.

While public service demanded a large portion of his time, Mr. Sardo always had time to faithfully serve his church. He was an active member of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary for 35 years where he attended mass and hosted an annual roast beef dinner for his congregation. As a member of the Knights of Columbus, he was recognized for great leadership as Knight of the Year and as Grand Knight for the Pope John Paul I Council.

Mr. Sardo's devotion to his family was about the only thing that surpassed his long list of good works in his public life. He was a proud father who was always involved in his children's activities, including Little League Baseball and Cub Scouts. He was a faithful and conscientious father, grandfather, and husband.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the life of Mr. Charles A. Sardo who was a shining example of what all of us strive to be, a dedicated citizen and loving family man.