

HONORING DEKLAN LOUIS
KENNEDY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Deklan Louis Kennedy of Blue Springs, Missouri. Deklan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1362, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Deklan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Deklan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Deklan Louis Kennedy for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE VALUABLE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF NICARAGUAN-AMERICANS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the contributions of our Nation's Nicaraguan-American population. The South Florida community that I represent is blessed to have many of these hard-working and talented individuals. Their contributions to our community's success and growth are a testament to their dedication and service.

It is fitting that this recognition occurs in the month of September. The rapid growth of Nicaraguan immigrants started in September 1972 following a devastating earthquake. The largest group of refugees arrived on our shores in September 1979 as they escaped the communist Sandinista regime.

Out of this tragedy came the triumph of a people who were determined not be victims of circumstance. They took charge of their life and decided to make a better life for themselves and their children in our great country. They have contributed to the fabric of American society and helped strengthen the ties between both our nations.

During the next Congressional session, I will be introducing a resolution to designate September as Nicaraguan-American Heritage month. It is a fitting tribute for a people who have truly realized their own American dream.

HONORING VARTKESS BALIAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Vartkess Balian. Mr. Balian

epitomized the life of a community leader. His contributions enriched the lives of countless Armenians and Armenian Americans. He will be remembered for his graciousness, compassion, and ingenuity.

Vartkess Balian grew up in Beirut, Lebanon, in a family that taught him to value his Armenian ancestry. When he moved to the United States, he brought his love of being Armenian to his new home. Championing Armenian issues, Mr. Balian served in various leadership positions at the Armenian General Benevolent Union. Through his generosity and interest in enhancing the lives of Armenian youth, he and his wife, Rita Balian, spearheaded the AGBU's successful New York Summer Intern Program, giving hundreds of Armenian college students the opportunity for professional development and international experience in the United States.

Mr. Balian also served as president of the Tekeyan Cultural Association. During this time he established the Vartkess and Rita Balian Press Award to foster excellence in the field of journalism by giving grants to promising correspondents. Dedicating himself to education, Mr. Balian helped found the Friends of Yerevan State University. This organization has raised millions of dollars to improve university facilities and provide for scholarship endowment funds.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of Vartkess Balian, and extending our sincere condolences and deep appreciation to Mrs. Rita Balian. Mr. Balian's efforts will continue to benefit and inspire Armenian youth and his many international colleagues and friends for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, on the evening of September 28, 2008, I was unable to vote due to illness and missed three Rollcall Votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall number 666, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 1514; "yea" on Rollcall number 667, on agreeing to H. Res. 1514; and "yea" on Rollcall number 668, on passage of S. 2840.

Additionally, due to illness, I missed five Rollcall Votes on September 29, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall 669, passage of S. 906; "yea" on Rollcall number 670, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 1517; "yea" on Rollcall number 671 on agreeing to H. Res. 1517; "yea" on Rollcall number 672 on agreeing to H. Con. Res. 440; and "nay" on Rollcall number 673 on the motion to adjourn.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LARRY M. WADE,
SR.

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Larry M. Wade, Sr., a distin-

guished individual who recently became the State Commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, Department of Pennsylvania. As State Commander, he is responsible for Pennsylvania's 29 districts and over 550 posts. He works with Pennsylvania's line officers to ensure the operations and programs of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Pennsylvania. He also represents Pennsylvania's V.F.W. on a national level and serves on a number of commissions working tirelessly on behalf of our Nation's veterans. Mr. Wade has also served his country honorably in the United States Navy, where he served three tours of duty in Vietnam.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Wade started working in the V.F.W. Post 7377 in Sankertown, Pennsylvania, where he still lives with his wife Debra. As Post Commander, he was honored as an All-State Commander for five consecutive years. Furthermore, he was previously honored as the Cambria County Veteran of the Year. In addition to holding positions at the post level, Mr. Wade has also held office at the county, district, and State levels. Before being named the State Commander, he held the positions of Department Senior Vice Commander, Department Junior Vice Commander, and Community Activities Chairman.

Madam Speaker, the Veterans of Foreign Wars is a strong advocate on behalf of our Nation's veterans and is particularly strong in Pennsylvania. Mr. Wade's leadership will help to ensure that the V.F.W. will continue in its central mission. I wish to conclude my remarks by congratulating Mr. Wade on his outstanding accomplishment.

HONORING THE 11TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INSTITUTE FOR
BEHAVIOR CHANGE

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 11th Anniversary of a professional organization dedicated to improving the lives of adolescents in Southeastern Pennsylvania with autism and other developmental disabilities.

The Institute for Behavior Change of Coatesville, Chester County was founded in 1997 by Dr. Steven Kosor, a licensed psychologist and certified school psychologist. Dr. Kosor's vision was an Institute that would recruit and train those providing quality in-school and in-home psychological treatment and behavioral support to children.

Since the Institute's inception, its dedicated staff has served more than 500 children throughout Philadelphia and the surrounding Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties.

The Institute will commemorate its 11th Anniversary during a conference at the Eden Resort in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on November 21, 2008.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in celebrating this special milestone for The Institute for Behavior Change and thanking the staff for its outstanding professionalism and commitment to helping youth with developmental disabilities fulfill their maximum potential.