

hollered out, "there is a very persistent woman on the phone who wants to talk to a JOE right now and she really means it". Joe Mendoza calmly looked at me and said "That call is for you!" I took the phone and guess whose ear Mrs. Scotty burned to a crisp!

Joe and Scotty helped to organize the "world famous" Western Weekend in Point Reyes Station that continues to this day with a wonderful 2 block long parade that circled through town at least twice so that it would last longer than 10 minutes.

Joe had a great sense of humor and he loved a good story or a funny incident and when he really laughed he had a special little kick that just naturally happened. When you saw that extra little body language, you knew he was really enjoying himself.

Joe loved to dance and he was very good at it. So to his delight many Tomatas including daughter, granddaughters and great-granddaughters took turns sharing him with his very favorite Tomata and dance partner, his beloved "Scotty".

My last thoughts today are of Joe and Scotty arm in arm dancing to one of their favorite country songs, being sung by Pam Nadale, a local country artist who passed on some time ago. The song in which I have changed just one word is "Waltz Across Texas". It goes like this . . .

When we dance together my worlds in disguise

It's a fairyland tale that's come true

When you look at me with those stars in your eyes

I could waltz across heaven with you

Waltz across heaven with you in my arms

Waltz across heaven with you

Like a storybook ending I'm lost in your charms

and I could waltz across heaven with you

Waltz across heaven. . . .

IN HONOR OF ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of St. Paul United Church of Christ in Parma, Ohio on the occasion of its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary, and in recognition of its dedication to education, the community, and to God.

St. Paul United Church of Christ was founded 150 years ago and boasts a variety of programs dedicated to serving members of the congregation and the community. The Church has a number of ministries, including a scholarship program, a Hunger Task Force, and a Neighbors in Need ministry. The members of St. Paul United Church of Christ devote a significant amount of their time to community service and are an integral part of the Greater Cleveland community.

I also rise in recognition of Joseph Ripka, an internationally recognized and award-winning organist who will be performing at St. Paul United Church of Christ's anniversary celebration. Mr. Ripka is this year's winner of the Dublin International Organ Competition and was the 2006 winner of the San Marino/Elizabeth Elftman National Organ Competition.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of St. Paul United Church of Christ in Parma, Ohio as its congregation celebrates its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary, and in recognition of the Church's significant contributions to the community.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY TRANSPORT SYSTEM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS ON THE OCCASION OF CARRYING ITS 50 MILLIONTH PASSENGER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON. of California. Madam Speaker, I rise day to recognize the University Transport System of the University of California, Davis or Unitrans, as it is known to its riders. For over forty years, Unitrans has served both UC Davis and the broader Davis community, and is celebrating the boarding of its 50 millionth rider this year.

Founded in 1968 to support a growing UC Davis community, Unitrans has helped the University and the City of Davis grow and flourish. Originally, Unitrans had only two vintage double-decker London buses, which have become the most recognizable symbols of their presence in the community. The system is also notable because UC Davis students are almost entirely responsible for the day to day operations of Unitrans. All Unitrans drivers are undergraduate students and they are known for their professionalism and dedication to ensuring the system runs smoothly. Today, Unitrans has 49 buses servicing 14 routes and carries three million passengers every year.

The facts about the benefits of public transportation are clear. Bus systems produce half as much carbon dioxide and substantially fewer emissions per passenger mile driven than private vehicles. By providing convenient access to public transportation, Unitrans is helping to keep our air clean and reduce traffic on our streets. Unitrans has also led the way in supporting clean energy by using compressed natural gas to fuel 90 percent of their buses. As our nation continues to work to fight global climate change, Unitrans provides an excellent example of how we can reduce our environmental impact and our carbon footprint.

Madam Speaker, it is fitting at this time that we recognize the dedication and hard work of all the drivers, staff and riders who have made Unitrans such a success. Their efforts have been vital in supporting the growth of UC Davis, and we can expect that they will continue their service to the Davis community for many years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF PAT HOLLARN, OKALOOSA COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an

honor for me to rise today in recognition of Pat Hollarn upon her retirement as Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections.

For over twenty years Pat Hollarn has ensured the process of fair and balanced voting. As Supervisor of Elections for Okaloosa County, Ms. Hollarn has distinguished herself as a champion of increasing voter turnout, voting access, and overall knowledge of the electoral process. With incredible foresight and a keen understanding of the needs of the community, Ms. Hollarn paired advanced technology with the voting booth, serving at the forefront of the Internet voting project. This project has enabled voting access to disabled voters and military personnel serving overseas. Operation Bravo, a program founded by Ms. Hollarn to alleviate the problem of servicemen and women not receiving their absentee ballots while abroad, has made it significantly easier for troops and other Americans living overseas to vote. Additionally, Ms. Hollarn stresses the importance of voter education with programs like "Kids Voting" and "Kids Vote Too" which relay the practice and privilege of voting to a younger audience.

Ms. Hollarn's dedication to the civic realm spans far beyond her current position of supervisor of elections. Ms. Hollarn's résumé is clustered with board and committee memberships as well as numerous positions in various organizations. Chambers of Commerce, The Bidgeway Center, and the North Okaloosa American Cancer Society highlight the long-standing career Ms. Hollarn has fashioned out of civic duty and community service.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor Pat Hollarn for her enduring allegiance to the voting process and the subsequent benefits such dedication has provided for the First District of Florida.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women of Arizona's 8th Congressional District who for the past two years have served as members of my Military Academy Nominating Committee.

These 23 dedicated citizens have played an invaluable role in assisting me with one of my most important duties as a member of the House of Representatives: nominating young men and women for admission into our nation's military service academies.

As a result of this committee's wise counsel and careful consideration, in my first year I nominated 24 constituents for admission to the U.S. Military, Naval, Air Force and Merchant Marine academies.

Committee members spent countless hours reviewing applications, interviewing students and drafting their recommendations for nomination to the academies. Their singular goal was to make sure that the best and brightest students received a nomination.

My Military Academy Nominating Committee members are:

Ellen Ackerman, Jim Ackerman, Steve Alexander, Terri Allaire, Adalberto Araiza, Larry Bahill, Bill Benedict, Dan Cavanagh, Ed Cerutti, Mike Crawford, Mimi Finch, Bruce Greenberg, Doug Kliman, Robert Nichols, Chris Palmenberg, Bob Parson, Larry Putman, Joe Sciabarra, Burney Starks, Bob Strain, Tim Timmins, Paul Weishaupt, and Jessica Woelbling.

I commend them for their commitment to this important nominating process and for their help in identifying the United States military leaders of the future.

HONORING THE REVEREND
BONITA GRUBBS FOR HER OUT-
STANDING SERVICE TO THE
COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join family, friends, colleagues, and the New Haven community in extending recognizing my good friend, the Reverend Bonita Grubbs, as we gather to celebrate her 20th Anniversary as the Executive Director of Christian Community Action. It has been through her outstanding leadership and vision that Christian Community Action has grown into an invaluable resource for those most in need.

Christian Community Action is a non-profit ecumenical social service organization whose mission includes providing emergency food, housing, and support to New Haven's poor while encouraging them to attain self-sufficiency. Christian Community Action is also a vocal advocate for the most vulnerable of our citizens—working to change the systems that perpetuate poverty and injustice. For twenty of its thirty year history, Bonita has been at the helm of this institution where she has led the way in expanding its programs and services. She has a unique combination of compassion, generosity, and vision which has enabled her to ensure that this agency can continue to meet the changing needs of the poor.

More than just her professional contributions have made Bonita one of our most respected community leaders. She has served on the Boards of the Greater New Haven Community Loan Fund, the International Festival of Arts and currently serves on the Boards of the Hospital of Saint Raphael, Connecticut Voices for Children, the Connecticut Housing Coalition, Quinnipiac Bank and Trust, and the Connecticut Center for School Change. She has been a member of the Judicial Review Council for the State of Connecticut as well as president of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness. Ordained to the Christian Ministry within the American Baptist Church in November of 1987, Bonita has also served as the Interim Pastor of the Christian Baptist Church in Hamden, Connecticut. Bonita understands the importance of being involved in one's community and has made an extraordinary effort to enrich the lives of those less fortunate.

Her work with Christian Community Action as well her myriad of volunteer efforts have changed the face of the New Haven community and brought much needed attention to the

needs of the poor. Bonita knows that the prosperity of a community lies in the willingness of its members to give back and she has done much to strengthen the bonds of our community.

I must also take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to Bonita for her many years of special friendship. She has been a source of inspiration to me and so many others. I am honored to take this moment to stand and recognize the Reverend Bonita Grubbs for her 20 years of dedicated service to Christian Community Action and her outstanding contributions. Every community should be so fortunate as to have such an accomplished and devoted advocate, mentor, and friend.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
EXTENSION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, although am disappointed that White House opposition will prevent the House-passed \$63 billion stimulus package from becoming law this year, we have at least reached bipartisan agreement on this seven week extension of unemployment benefits for our neighbors still looking for work in this struggling economy.

Today's unemployment report was not good: 159,000 jobs lost in September—the worst job loss in five years, on top of 600,000 jobs already lost in 2008. The Federal Unemployment Trust Fund currently has more than enough reserves to cover the cost of this extension, and nearly 800,000 workers will exhaust their benefits if this legislation isn't enacted into law. For their benefit, and the benefit of our economy, I urge my colleagues' support and yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING THOSE WHO FOUGHT
THE ANGEL ISLAND FIRE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic firefighters who, with bravery and dedication, halted the fire that threatened to devastate Angel Island State Park, one of our Nation's unparalleled treasures, located in San Francisco Bay near Tiburon in Marin County, California.

Heroic firefighters across America brave flames and smoke to save lives and protect homes and property. Everyday these men and women risk their safety on our behalf.

On Sunday, October 12, 2008 flames threatened to swallow Angel Island, a renowned landmark that boasts a history dating back to the Civil War. In 1863, Angel Island was home to Camp Reynolds, which guarded the bay during the Civil War. The island later served as an immigration station, dubbed "The Ellis Island of the West". During the Cold War, the Nike missile site was located on Angel Island.

Many of these structures are truly windows into our past. In particular, I have worked with my colleagues and with concerned citizens such as the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation to restore the immigration station. The stories of peoples' lives are literally written into its walls and have much to tell us about our own history and humanity.

When fire raged at Angel Island, threatening to devastate our Nation's jewel, 275 firefighters united forces to stop the fire and ultimately protect 120 historic buildings and 360 acres from destruction.

Days after the orange and red flames dissipated into a cloud of smoke, a crew of 100 dedicated firefighters remained on the island to complete their duties.

Successfully battling a major wildland fire is never the act of one person alone. Marin's fire agencies have an effective mutual aid agreement which brought skilled personnel and resources from agencies throughout the County with a shared objective—saving the Island's historical buildings and minimizing resource damage. Angel Island Park personnel were an instrumental part of the command structure and, with the help of the U.S. Coast Guard, quickly evacuated overnight campers to a safe location. As always, the air attack and support provided by crews and personnel from CAL FIRE gave firefighters the upper hand to ultimately bring the fire under control. This was an amazing example of inter-agency cooperation that was the key to a successful outcome.

Madam Speaker, I thank these leaders and their crews who saved a tremendous part of our history. They and their many colleagues across the country are truly our heroes. Thanks to their tireless and timely response to a looming threat, Angel Island, a beacon of history and environmental beauty, can continue to enrich the lives of visitors from around the world.

IN HONOR OF JOHANNA OROZCO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Johanna Orozco. Her courage, personal strength and concern for others in the wake of unimaginable personal tragedy nearly two years ago at the young age of fifteen, has lifted her into the rare and inspiring platform as a champion of women's rights. Her activism has inspired people of all ages throughout our Greater Cleveland community, especially young women who are vulnerable to domestic violence.

Ms. Orozco did not only survive the vicious attack by her ex-boyfriend, she has reached out as an activist, speaking openly on high school and college campuses. She selflessly shares her own painful experience in order to educate and protect others from unhealthy relationships and domestic violence. Despite her near death, she battled to recover, rising a stronger and wiser individual. Through every painful phase of her rehabilitation and surgeries, Ms. Orozco reflects grace and dignity.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Johanna Orozco, who has transformed her personal