

In addition, she managed the coordination of all legislative items, approximately 1,000 per fiscal year, which included House and Senate Bills, executive agency proposals, testimony and executive orders. She provided consolidated Navy positions on these legislative items to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Office of Management and Budget, and Congress, while successfully meeting all deadlines and suspense dates. Her effective coordination and thorough review consistently ensured a concise and well thought out Navy message to Congress.

It is through the commitment and sacrifice of Americans like Patricia Boyle that our Nation is able to continue upon the path of democracy and strive for the betterment of mankind. I am proud, Madam Speaker, as a fellow Virginian, to thank her and her family for her honorable service to our Nation with the United States Navy. I wish her fair winds and following seas as she concludes a distinguished career of public service.

#### VETERANS DAY

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Veterans Day. This national holiday serves as reminder of the enormous sacrifices that brave men and women have made for the ideals and beliefs that all Americans value. Veterans Day is also an opportunity to give thanks to the hundreds of thousands of armed forces personnel serving our country to protect our Nation and to secure the peace around the world.

To mark this special holiday, I had the honor of attending both a ceremony for Mexican American Post 5, where I learned of the hardships faced by American soldiers of Mexican descent, and the Minnesota State Veterans Day program to pay tribute to the men and women serving our country in uniform. This year, I also had the privilege of visiting our troops in Afghanistan and Pakistan to witness the tremendous sacrifice they and their families make each day.

On the battlefield, the U.S. Armed Forces pledge to leave no soldier behind. As a nation, it must be our promise that when they return home, we leave no veteran behind. Fully preparing our troops, and providing the necessary healthcare, education, and disability benefits to meet the needs of our veterans, is our responsibility and moral obligation.

The 110th Congress has honored our commitment to veterans by making their needs a priority. This Congress passed the largest funding increase in the history of the Department of Veterans Affairs, which ensures that our veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan receive the quality health and mental health care they deserve. This year, we have also provided tax relief for military families, increased pay for members of our armed services, established a suicide prevention program, improved housing assistances for homeless veterans, and helped military families avoid home foreclosure. Lastly, this Democratic led Congress passed a GI bill for the 21st century that fully restores four-year college scholarships for Iraq and Afghanistan

veterans, on a par with the educational benefits after World War II.

The men and women of the armed forces who have served this country with honor during times of war and peace deserve the best this country can afford. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress and President Obama to ensure veterans receive the highest level of care and compensation they have so bravely earned serving this country. This is a commitment to which I hold fast on Veterans Day and everyday.

To all veterans, you have my thanks and that of a grateful nation.

#### IN HONOR OF THE SERVICE OF NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS CHAIRMAN DANA GIOIA

### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and laud Dana Gioia's service as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. Since 2003 when he began his service, Chairman Gioia has played a vital role in advancing America's cultural vitality and economic prosperity by promoting and expanding access to the arts. As a co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I am grateful for Chairman Gioia's efforts and look forward to his future contributions to the arts in America after he leaves the NEA in January 2009.

Chairman Gioia has launched a handful of national initiatives that have spread the reach of the NEA across the country and expanded arts education in schools and communities. One favorite program of mine, The Big Read, provides citizens with the opportunity to read and discuss a single book within their communities. The initiative includes innovative reading programs in selected cities and towns, comprehensive resources for discussing classic literature, an ambitious national publicity campaign, and an extensive Web site providing comprehensive information on authors and their works. The NEA inaugurated The Big Read as a pilot project in 2006 with ten communities featuring four books. The Big Read continues to expand to include more communities and additional books. By 2009, approximately 400 communities in the U.S. will have hosted a Big Read since the program's 2007 national launch.

Chairman Gioia has democratized the arts. Last year, the NEA awarded over twenty-two hundred grants totaling over \$100 million in 435 congressional districts. The National Endowment for the Arts is the largest national source of arts funding in the United States and supports local arts programs in every congressional district across the country. While the NEA's budget represents less than one percent of total arts philanthropy in the United States, Chairman Gioia has successfully leveraged NEA grants to have a powerful multiplying effect, with each grant dollar typically generating seven to eight times more money in matching grants.

Chairman Gioia is a Renaissance Man. As an artist himself, he recognizes that the arts are more than just a cultural or emotional enterprise. With his background in business, he

knows that the arts have immense financial and social impact. Creativity, innovation, and imagination fuel today's global economy, and America's artists are a large source of that investment. Chairman Gioia led the NEA with this always in mind. When Chairman Gioia visited my congressional district, he brought not only great enthusiasm and energy to all of the arts organizations he toured, but imparted valuable guidance and advice to these organizations on how to increase their membership, spur local investment in the arts, and expand their presence in the community.

As a blues singer myself, I can empathize with Chairman Gioia's decision to return to his artistic craft. But despite his departure from the NEA, Chairman Gioia will continue to enrich the arts community. Art transcends barriers of language, time, and generation, translating cultural differences, breathing life into history, and bridging experiences across cultures. Chairman Gioia's exceptional writing and poetry no doubt enrich the lives of all Americans. Chairman Gioia will leave big shoes to fill, but I am confident that his leadership has trickled down in the NEA over the years. The NEA will continue to drive excellence in the arts with his spirit always in mind.

#### THE BUSINESS CLIMATE IN RUSSIA AND THE STATES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, after the summer recess, the Helsinki Commission, which I chair, was preparing to conduct a hearing on United States and Western businesses at risk entering markets in Russia and the former Soviet Republics without the protections guaranteed by the rule of law and government adherence to market principles. The hearing had to be postponed due to the invasion of Georgia, but it is our intention to take up this issue in the next Congress.

The Helsinki Commission, and the OSCE, is fully committed to the development of democracy, civil society, the rule of law and free markets in the Russia Federation and in other states of the former Soviet Union. We trust that Russian President Medvedev shares that commitment when he proclaims that "my most important task is to further develop civil and economic freedoms."

Yet we see evidence that Russian authorities continue to selectively prosecute and harass human rights advocates, prominent business leaders and journalists by employing arbitrary and extralegal means to achieve state and political ends. This is often accomplished through a manipulated court system, thus denying its citizens and foreign investors the impartial application of the rule of law and equal justice.

In June, 1992, the United States and Russia negotiated and signed the Bilateral Investment Treaty, which grants investors the protections and safeguards necessary to conduct business in a fair and transparent environment. Unfortunately, Russia has failed to ratify this important measure that would ultimately serve the economic interests of both our nations.

Along the same lines, it is regrettable that Russia refuses to ratify the Energy Charter

Treaty. This measure insures the rights and protections of private and public sector interests against a government taking arbitrary action that would disrupt or threaten global energy security. The thousands of United States investors who became shareholders in the Russian oil company, YUKOS, lost everything when the Russian government seized the company's assets.

Finally, Russia has not honored its pledge to amend its federal laws to guarantee protections of intellectual property rights and enforcing such laws consistent with international standards. I would note the frequent Western media reports on cases where Russian authorities have seized the assets of certain companies, many with foreign investors, utilizing executive decrees, court orders, and extradition requests to assume ownership or control over Russian enterprises. Some foreign investors have been compelled to surrender their equity shares in Russian companies without proper due process and compensation only to have Western courts, in a series of cases, issue rulings in favor of such companies.

Madam Speaker, we appreciate that our economy is truly global and American and Western investments are essential in Russia and throughout Eurasia, given their abundant natural resources, and urge that all countries can mutually commit to an economic relationship that is based on mutual trust, the rule of law and market forces that are free of arbitrary or capricious government activity.

#### RAISING CAIN

#### HON. STEVE KAGEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 20, 2008*

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, this poem was written by Albert Carey Caswell, a member of the Capitol Guide Service in honor of SSG Michael Cain of Berlin, WI.

Staff Sergeant Cain is a disabled veteran currently undergoing treatment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. I met Staff Sergeant Cain at Walter Reed on November 18, 2008, while visiting another wounded soldier. I am proud and happy to submit this poem, written in his honor.

#### RAISING CAIN

A young man lies face down . . .  
Right between life and death, as found . . .  
Clinging to life, as now . . . with one leg  
lost . . .  
When, we hear a sound . . .  
For it's his heart, as we watch what is lost,  
as now is found . . .  
Which will not let him go, which will not let  
him down . . .  
As all inside of his fine soul, is so is now . . .  
As he raises his head up high, Raising  
Cain . . .  
As he brings such tears to eyes . . . as he  
astounds!  
What will we raise in these our days?  
To what heights and mountains, will we so  
climb?  
All in our lives and times . . .  
All in what we've so lost, and gained . . .  
All in that great heartache and pain, has  
made . . .  
To lie face down . . . upon battlefields of  
honor . . .  
As Michael you were bound . . .

While, all in the midst of hell . . . as the  
dark evil lie all around . . .  
As your fine heart so chose, so chose to  
swell . . . swell somehow . . .  
To cheat death, with what you have so  
left . . .  
All in uniform, so brilliant now . . .  
When right there, on that edge of death . . .  
As you so looked down . . .  
To see what you had so left . . .  
As your once strong leg was gone . . .  
As your life so hung in the balance now . . .  
As you were the one who so raised his  
head . . .  
Whose fine heart so began to pound!  
Raising Cain . . .  
His Daddy raised a Hero, his Momma did the  
same . . .  
All in their hearts of love, which now so re-  
mains!  
A Wisconsin Man . . .  
Who love's his Packers . . .  
County music, and his Momma understand!  
There's a lot of Brett in this man . . .  
And there's a lot more of Michael, in Brett  
which stands . . .  
As a winner . . .  
And a simple man . . .  
Who wears his heart on his sleeve, time and  
again . . .  
With a heart of courage full . . .  
This American Jewel . . .  
Beating proud, for that old red white and  
blue . . .  
And most of all, he's a family man . . .  
As we watch, and see . . .  
All that a heart can be . . .  
As he fight's the good fight . . .  
As Michael's Raising Cain . . .  
Building where not lies left . . .  
As our world he'll bless . . .  
To come back from the dead . . .  
Back from that dark abyss, abyss of  
death . . .  
To go off to war . . .  
As one fine fighting machine sure . . .  
As an Army man . . .  
Who to courage ran . . .  
All in what he gave up . . .  
All in what he must endure . . .  
And if I ever raise a son . . .  
I but hope and pray . . .  
That he could but be, like this fine one . . .  
The kind who will teach us, who will reach  
us . . .  
Who to hearts will all so beseech us . . .  
All in how life is won . . .  
As Michael Cain, was raised this one . . .  
In honor of Michael Cain on your 27th  
birthday . . . your friend Bert—Albert Carey  
Caswell ©2008

#### RECOGNIZING FIRE SERVICE SPECIALIST RODERICK R. MENO, GUAM'S 2008 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

#### HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 20, 2008*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize, congratulate and commend Fire Service Specialist Roderick R. Meno on being named Guam's Firefighter of the Year for 2008.

Roderick, a native son of southern Guam, grew up in a family of outstanding firefighters: his father, retired Deputy Fire Chief Frank C. Meno; his brothers, Fire Specialist Frank R. Meno, Fire Captain Kurt R. Meno, Fire Fighter II Brian R. Meno; and nephew Fire Fighter I Joshua R. Meno. This exposure, from his

early youth, to a family of dedicated public servants imbued in Roderick an instinctive desire to serve the public, and protect life and property as his father and siblings did before him.

Roderick's upbringing in the closely knit village of Inarajan also inculcated in him the spirit of community and volunteerism. From his father, a recognized Chamorro master builder, he learned skills as a general overall handyman, a skill he unhesitatingly used to assist his fire precinct in the operations and maintenance of its fire station. He used these skills to perform renovations of the station control room, improving working conditions for his fellow firefighters. His skills as a carpenter and do-it-yourselfer enabled him to perform modifications to the sleeping quarters of his fellow firefighters, rendering those quarters more comfortable and organized. When he saw a need and he knew he had the skills to accomplish the work, he did not hesitate.

And just as his spirit of volunteerism motivated him to apply his skills to work he could perform, Roderick did not hesitate to use his own resources to accomplish these tasks. Roderick would begin projects knowing that financial support from the government may not be available. He used his own tools and when he needed materials and parts, rather than waiting for the cumbersome government procurement process, he used his own finances to purchase parts and materials.

And Roderick did all of this, ever mindful of, and never neglecting, his duties and responsibilities as a firefighter. As his father and brothers before him, Roderick Meno was always ready to serve and protect. For these attributes that have characterized our Nation's outstanding firefighters, Roderick Meno joins his father and brothers, and America's firefighters whose dedication to purpose and spirit of community make them outstanding role models for all citizens in all roles of life. Fire Service Specialist Meno, thank you very much.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARTHA FRANCO

#### HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 20, 2008*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, in my years of public service, I have benefitted from the efforts of many capable employees on my staff who have come and gone. Yet there has always remained one constant in my office, Martha Franco, and for that I am truly grateful.

Martha was born in Mexico and grew up in Colusa, California. As a naturalized citizen, she is a model example of someone who made the efforts required to become a U.S. citizen and has gone on to contribute to our country through public service.

Martha first came to work for me in 1984 when I served in the California State Senate. When I was elected to Congress in 1990, Martha became my Executive Assistant and Office Manager. She has worked for me in Washington and in California, and this year I named her as my Deputy Chief of Staff.

Martha's loyal presence has meant so much to my wife, Julie, to me, and to our entire organization. The people who call upon our office have appreciated seeing a familiar face