

and her cats, and we all wish her well as she will have more time to pursue these passions. We are grateful to Diana for her service.

IN HONOR OF JACK AND GENEVIEVE CHAPMAN, THE REAL SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to share a story of two true public servants, Jack and Genevieve Chapman of Minnesota. As we enter a season when people's hearts and minds are turned to the spirit of giving, these two people have lived a life of selflessness and charity.

Jack Chapman of St. Paul was recognized by the Army as a Shot Expert Rifleman as an ROTC high school student. When Pearl Harbor was attacked, he was an electrical engineering student at the University of Minnesota. One year later, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and was sent to the prestigious Bellevue Radio Materiel School at the U.S. Naval Research Lab. His lifelong love of Ham radio made him a perfect candidate for the new science of radar. He was assigned to the Marine Night Fighters in the South Pacific, the very first to use radar at night. He earned two Bronze Service Stars on the Asiatic-Pacific campaign ribbon. Jack also earned the American Theater Campaign Bar before being honorably discharged to return home and complete his college education.

Genevieve Christgau of Minneapolis pursued a nursing degree and became a registered nurse working in the operating room at Asbury Hospital. Her status as essential personnel kept her from joining the Army Nurse Corps. But, as soon as her status changed, she enlisted and was assigned to the 77th Field Hospital in December 1944. Her tour took her to France where she worked with soldiers preparing to return home. Many had come from POW camps and were suffering severe malnutrition. Before her honorable discharge and return to the States, Genevieve was stationed in Nuremburg, Germany. When she returned home, she resumed nursing; this time in the Veterans Hospital in Minneapolis. During the Cuban Refugee Crisis, she worked at Fort McCoy, WI, and she earned certification as a Public Health Nurse, helping provide early childhood screenings and school nursing services.

Genevieve and Jack married on February 18, 1949 and continued to live a life of service. Both are active volunteers at Pax Christi Catholic Church. They also have been members of "Friday Friends," a group that visits Presbyterian Homes, formerly the Eagle Nursing Home, and of Bridging, an organization that provides household furniture and goods to those who need them most. Always putting their family at the center of their generous spirits, they have raised seven children, giving them 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

These two fine people have lived a life of service to their country, their community, and their family. They are two of the many unsung heroes that make America work, and today I rise to sing their praises and to thank them for their selflessness.

HONORING GEORGE BARANOWSKI

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Mr. George Baranowski, of Schererville, Indiana. George has always been a dedicated, distinguished, and honorable citizen, and I can say without hesitation that he is one of the most involved individuals I have ever known. As a businessman, entrepreneur, public official, and an avid volunteer, George has served the community in Northwest Indiana for many years. Through his service, he has brought honor to Americans of Polish heritage, and for his efforts, he will be honored with the Polish American Congress Meritorious Service Award at a banquet taking place at The Patio Restaurant in Merrillville, Indiana on Sunday, November 2, 2008.

George Baranowski was born on August 30, 1957 at Saint Catherine Hospital in East Chicago, Indiana. He was the third child born to immigrant parents, Mieczyslaw (Matt) and Janina Baranowski. A lifelong resident of Northwest Indiana, George attended Saint Casmir Elementary School in Hammond before moving on to George Rogers Clark High School. Following his graduation from high school in 1975, George went on to study Electrical Engineering Technology at Purdue University, where he earned both his associate and bachelor degrees.

After receiving his associate degree, George began working at the Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), where he remained until the completion of his bachelor degree. At that time, he accepted a position in management with Acme Steel in Riverdale, Illinois. Following seven successful years at Acme, George moved on in 1995, when he accepted a management position at BP Amoco in Chicago, Illinois. Recognized for his professionalism and leadership abilities, in 1999, George was awarded a position as Vice President at Prometheus Network Solution, Inc., thus allowing him to obtain one of his lifelong goals.

Having accomplished a goal he set forth for himself in business, George decided to move on, and after working for IBM for a period of time, he and his wife went into business for themselves. On October 1, 2004, George and his wife, Debra, opened their first Allstate Insurance Agency in Dyer, Indiana. Since then they have achieved great success, having been awarded Allstate's prestigious Honor Ring, Regional Champion, and Chairman's Club Member distinctions. In 2007, they were among the elite at Allstate as part of the top five percent. It is no surprise the couple opened their second branch in 2008.

Undoubtedly, George Baranowski has been extremely successful as a businessman and entrepreneur throughout his career. However, his efforts on behalf of his community have truly set him apart from his peers. As a public official, George is currently the Commissioner of the Dyer Redevelopment Commission and a Trustee for the Lake Central School Board. He has also served as Chairman of the Saint John Township Board as well as a Legislative Committee Member for the Indiana School

Board Association, serving all of Jasper, Lake, Newton, and Porter Counties. He has also served as a member of the Chambers of Commerce for the communities of Schererville and Dyer, for which he is currently the Director. In addition to his many civic responsibilities, George has also been extremely active in various charitable and community-based organizations, including: Christmas in April, the Lions Club, Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, and the Polish American Congress.

A devout family man, George spends much of his spare time with not only his business partner, but his loving wife of 28 years, Debra. George and Debra have two sons, Brett and Bryan, and one daughter, Kristy.

Madam Speaker, George Baranowski has given his time and efforts selflessly to the people of his community, and he has served as a source of pride for the Polish American community. His efforts have touched the hearts of many people throughout the years, and at this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending him for his lifetime of service and dedication.

HONORING THE REVEREND
GEORGE M. DOCHERTY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of the Reverend George M. Docherty, whose influential sermon in 1954 led to the insertion of the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. Reverend Docherty passed away on Thanksgiving Day in his home in Alexandria, PA at the age of 97.

Reverend Docherty came to the United States from Glasgow, Scotland to become the pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, which was attended by President Lincoln in the 1860s and later became known as "Lincoln's church." It is tradition for the President to attend a special service at the church on the Sunday closest to Lincoln's birthday. It was during this special service on February 7, 1954, that Reverend Docherty gave a sermon before President Dwight D. Eisenhower calling for the Pledge of Allegiance to be amended to acknowledge God. Reverend Docherty took the phrase "under God" from the Gettysburg Address, in which Lincoln said, "this Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom."

Reverend Docherty first heard the Pledge of Allegiance from his then 7-year-old son, Garth, and was surprised that it made no reference to God. He argued in his sermon to the President that "To omit the words 'under God' in the Pledge of Allegiance is to omit the definitive factor in the American way of life." Without any acknowledgement of God, Reverend Docherty said the pledge could apply to nearly any nation, including the communist Soviet Union. The sermon had an immediate effect on President Eisenhower, and several bills were introduced in Congress that week to amend the Pledge. The bill to add "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance was signed into law by President Eisenhower just 4 months later on Flag Day 1954.

The Pledge of Allegiance is a national symbol of unity and a reflection of our shared

ideals upon which this country was founded, and it is with great honor and respect that we honor the life and service of Reverend George Docherty. Our great thanks go to this remarkable individual, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

RECOGNIZING BILL DOUGLASS
CONVENIENCE STORE HALL OF
FAME INDUCTEE

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to honor an outstanding citizen in the Fourth District of Texas and my longtime friend, Bill Douglass of Sherman, as a 2008 Convenience Store Hall of Fame Inductee.

This year's Convenience Store News Hall of Fame induction ceremony in October honored Bill as much for his strong character, integrity and community service as for his business achievements. Bill was honored for his tireless efforts on behalf of the convenience and petroleum retailing industry and for the level of integrity that he has upheld over the years. The W. Douglass Distributing Company, which Bill founded in 1981 and which he serves as CEO, is a full-line distributorship and operator of the 15-unit Lone Star Food Stores chain servicing the region of north Texas and southern Oklahoma. The company, which began with just six employees, has grown to more than 280 employees.

Throughout his career, Bill has been a tireless and effective advocate for the convenience and petroleum retailing industry. He has served as chairman of the General Committee of State Relations for the American Petroleum Institute, chairman of the National Association of Convenience Stores and director of the Texas Petroleum and Convenience Store Association, and he has testified on several occasions before Congress about issues important to his industry.

Bill is also a widely recognized and respected member of the north Texas community, providing financial support and volunteer efforts to various local organizations each year. In 2002 he and his wife, Joan, were named as the Outstanding Employer of Older Workers for their strong belief in the value of older workers by maintaining an age-balanced group of employees. Their winning combination of younger workers and their older counterparts has created a work environment where age and experience can assist in training, advice and counseling. The company has no mandatory retirement age and provides flexibility in scheduling of employees' hours.

Madam Speaker, Bill Douglass is the kind of employer who leads by example. These are some of the words that his employees used to describe him and his family in a full-page newspaper ad: "wonderful, inspirational, brilliant, graceful, generous, charitable, tireless, encouraging, selfless, devoted, integrity." Bill Douglass embodies all of those qualities—and I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing this wonderful man and outstanding American, Bill Douglass.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL
EMILIO ALBERT DE LA GARZA, JR.

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take this time to recognize Ivy Tech Community College as it dedicates its East Chicago, Indiana campus and to join the institute in paying tribute to its namesake, Vietnam War hero Lance Corporal Emilio Albert De La Garza, Jr. After completing the first phase of a new modernization project, Ivy Tech will be holding a dedication ceremony on Sunday, December 7, 2008 at the campus in East Chicago, Indiana. The event will serve not only as an opportunity to showcase the improvements to the campus and to reaffirm its commitment to excellence in higher learning, but it will also serve as a chance to reflect on the bravery and heroism of one of East Chicago's own.

Ivy Tech Community College's East Chicago campus has served students from Northwest Indiana and beyond since 1994. Always committed to improving the learning environment for its students, the De La Garza campus, which began with 376 students and now serves an impressive enrollment of 1,122 students, recently completed the first phase of a modernization project. This project, which began in July 2006, features improvements to general maintenance and enhanced safety measures, as well as new and improved conference rooms and student common areas. Phase II of this project, set to begin in January 2009, will focus on improvements to the classrooms and computer labs.

These renovations are the result of the continuous outpouring of support from the community, offered as a living memory of one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens and greatest heroes, Lance Corporal Emilio A. De La Garza, Jr. Lance Corporal De La Garza was born in East Chicago, Indiana on June 23, 1949. Following his graduation from East Chicago Washington High School in 1968, the patriotic and devoted De La Garza decided to serve his country and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. While serving as a machine gunner with Company E, Second Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division in the Republic of Vietnam on April 11, 1970, Lance Corporal De La Garza paid the ultimate sacrifice. Demonstrating the most selfless act imaginable, Lance Corporal De La Garza placed himself between two of his fellow Marines and a live grenade. While Lance Corporal De La Garza's life was lost, his courageous act spared the lives of the other Marines.

Lance Corporal Emilio De La Garza, Jr. performed the ultimate act of heroism, setting aside personal safety for the safety of others. For his bravery, Lance Corporal De La Garza was posthumously honored by President Richard Nixon with the nation's highest honor, the Medal of Honor.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Ivy Tech Community College's administrators, faculty, staff, students and members of the community who, over the years, have contributed to its success in achieving its standard of excellence, as well as in honoring

the school's namesake, Lance Corporal Emilio Albert De La Garza, Jr. The efforts of those involved have made the De La Garza campus a tremendous source of pride of Indiana's First Congressional District, and they have made the campus a constant reminder of one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens.

HONORING AL AUSTIN ON THE
OCCASION OF HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of one of Tampa Bay's finest citizens, Al Austin, on the occasion of his upcoming 80th birthday.

A lifelong Floridian, Al grew up on his family's egg farm in St. Petersburg. After his high school graduation and college at the University of Tampa, Al joined the Coast Guard, where he performed admirably in service to our Nation.

Following his military service, Al partnered with his family to start a real estate development business in the Tampa Bay region. Since then his family-owned company has continued to grow and helped build the greater Tampa community. Without his influence the Tampa St. Pete region would not be the economic growth engine for the State that it is today.

In addition to his success in real estate, Al and his wife Beverly share a passion for education. After founding the Tampa Preparatory School in the 1970s, they went on to lead fundraising campaigns for the refurbishment and growth of the University of Tampa campus. Their commitment to local charitable organizations has truly benefitted thousands of people throughout the region.

In his spare time, Al loves to collect and drive classic sports cars. He has also earned a reputation as one of the leading Republicans in Florida, having worked with State and national leaders for the past 40 years to help grow and expand the party. Al has also served various Florida Governors throughout his career as the head of the Florida Racing Commission, a member of the Hillsborough Aviation Authority as well as serving on the Military Base Closure Advisory Committee.

Madam Speaker, I know that Al's upcoming birthday celebration will commemorate a lifetime of hard work and service to others. He has a proven track record of giving back and helping to make Florida and our Nation better and more prosperous places. I know that the House will join me in wishing Al a happy 80th birthday, with many more to come in the future.

HONORING M. PAUL REDD

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize M. Paul Redd and the 80th anniversary of the Westchester County Press and