

on Books, and CelebrateErie. Chapter members regularly speak at local schools on financial literacy and career. The chapter sponsors scholarships open to students in accounting at the local colleges and universities and has made significant contributions to the statewide scholarship program administered by the PICPA.

The Erie Chapter is a diverse group of individuals united by their dedication to serving their clients, employers, and community with integrity, promoting financial literacy and advancing the profession by the maintenance of high ethical standards. I hope my colleagues will join me at this time in recognizing the efforts of the Erie Chapter of the PICPA and in congratulating its 50 years of service.

**TRIBUTE TO THE USCG TRAINING
CENTER AT TWO ROCK IN
PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA**

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, every day our Nation's first responders work tirelessly to protect and aid victims of disasters across our country. We have an absolute responsibility to make sure our police forces, firefighters, emergency medical service personnel, and public health personnel have the resources they need to effectively confront and overcome threats at the local, State, and national levels.

California's Sixth District is blessed with thousands of dedicated men and women who bravely serve their communities with distinction and honor. I rise today to commend the exemplary leadership of the Fire Department at the United States Coast Guard, USCG, Training Center at Two Rock in Petaluma, California, for their unwavering dedication to improving firefighter health and safety. Fire Chief Alfredo Ramos and the firefighters at the USCG Training Center have reduced fires and firefighter risks throughout the Bay area by providing world-class training to local first responders. We cannot expect local communities to be the first to respond to an emergency unless they are given the resources and training to do so, and the USCG Training Center has been instrumental in this effort.

Madam Speaker, fire departments throughout the country have helped provide our Nation's firefighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics, and other first responders with the tools they need to do their jobs safely and efficiently. Today, I am proud to recognize the courageous and committed firefighters at the USCG Training Center in Petaluma who have made immeasurable contributions to public safety, and they deserve our deepest thanks.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, on February 25 and 26, 2008, I was unavoidably absent from the House due to a family illness.

If I had been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #69, a motion by Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut to suspend the rules and agree to the passage of H. Res. 978, expressing support for the designation of the week of March 3–7, 2008, as "School Social Work Week" to promote awareness of the vital role of school social workers in schools, and in the community as a whole, in helping students prepare for their future as productive citizens.

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #70, a motion by Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut to suspend the rules and agree to the passage of H. Res. 930, supporting the goals and ideals of "Career and Technical Education Month."

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #71, a motion by Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut to suspend the rules and agree to the passage of H. Res. 944, honoring the service and accomplishments of Lieutenant General Russel L. Honoré, United States Army, for his 37 years of service on behalf of the United States.

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #72, on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #73, a motion by Mr. HASTINGS of Florida to order the previous question on adoption of H. Res. 974, a resolution providing for the consideration of H.R. 3521 to improve the Operating Fund for public housing of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #74, on agreeing to H. Res. 974, a resolution providing for the consideration of H.R. 3521 to improve the Operating Fund for public housing of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #75, an amendment offered by Mr. SIREs of New Jersey to H.R. 3521. The amendment clarified the intent of an amendment offered by Rep. VELÁZQUEZ and adopted by the Financial Services Committee by ensuring that public housing authorities that apply to HUD for "stop-loss" do not have their applications rejected on the basis that the management and related fees they establish pursuant to this bill are not reasonable as defined by HUD. Additionally, the amendment was a restatement of current law with respect to the ineligibility of illegal immigrants for assistance.

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #76, an amendment offered by Mr. MEEK of Florida to H.R. 3521. The amendment holds HUD responsible, in the case of receivership, for performing the same responsibilities that the local housing agencies have in respect to working with tenant associations before building public housing. Additionally, in the case of receivership, before building new public housing HUD must honor any formal agreements entered into before the commencement of such receivership between the local housing authority and the tenant association.

I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote #77, a motion by Mr. SIREs of New Jersey to table the motion of Mr. SMITH of Texas to appeal the ruling of the chair that the provisions of the amendment contained in the instructions accompanying the motion to recommit offered by Mr. SMITH were not germane.

I ask unanimous consent that this statement be inserted in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

HONORING IOSCO COUNTY CLERK
MICHAEL WELSCH ON HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a northern Michigan resident who has been an exemplary leader in his community. Michael Welsch is celebrating his retirement after more than 35 years of service to Iosco County, Michigan. Mr. Welsch served as the Iosco County Clerk from 1988 until his retirement on December 31, 2007. But long before that he was serving his community, State and country.

Enlisting in the U.S. Air Force on August 15, 1966, Mr. Welsch was assigned to parachute rigging for technical schooling, where he graduated with honors. On February 14, 1967 he arrived at Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda, Michigan and remained there until he was honorably discharged in May 1970. While serving in the Air Force, Mr. Welsch also began working part-time for the Iosco County Sheriff's Department as a dispatcher/turnkey, working four consecutive days on the job, followed by four consecutive days off.

Upon his honorable discharge from the Air Force he began working full-time for the Iosco County Sheriff's Department as the marine officer. He became the first certified SCUBA diver employed by Iosco County. In this capacity, he was responsible for the recovery of 25 bodies. In 1970, Mr. Welsch attended basic police training at Delta College, where he finished first in his class. In late 1971, he left the Iosco County Sheriff's Department to work in the private sector. But his days of public service were far from over.

Just over a year later, in March 1973, he returned to the Sheriff's Department as a road officer. He was later promoted to detective then detective sergeant. It was during this time that he worked as an undercover narcotics officer throughout the state of Michigan. For his undercover work, Mr. Welsch sported long hair, a beard and a Harley-Davidson motorcycle. He also trained his cocker spaniel, Brandy, for drug searches.

In April 1977, Mr. Welsch married Debra Roach. Nearly 5 years later, in January 1982, their first son, Andrew, was born. Two years later, in April 1984, their son Peter was born. Peter's tragic death in 2004 brought shock and grief to the Welsch family, yet he remained active as ever with his work in the community.

In 1979, Mr. Welsch was promoted to undersheriff in Iosco County, a position in which he served until December 1984. In January 1985, he accepted a position with the 81st District Court as the probation officer and was later given the additional duties of court administrator. In addition to working in the court, he also worked nights and weekends at Freel's Market in Tawas City, Michigan.

This experience in law enforcement, the private sector and with the court, prepared Mr. Welsch for his next challenge. He successfully ran in 1988 for the position of Iosco County Clerk, a position in which he served until his retirement at the end of last year. He faced opposition in every election, but always prevailed. The community clearly recognized his selfless dedication to public service.

At the same time Mr. Welsch was preparing to take over the responsibilities of County Clerk, his wife began attending Alpena Community College, where she received her associate's degree in 1990. She then went on to Saginaw Valley State College, and in December 1991 she graduated *summa cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in accounting. As Debra was furthering her education, Mike worked nights as the janitor of Emanuel Lutheran School, while also taking care of the kids, cooking, cleaning and doing laundry.

Mr. Welsch has received recognition for his professional accomplishments over the years. In 1997 the Northeast Sunrise Chapter of the American Business Women named him Business Associate for the Year and in 2001 the Michigan Association of County Clerks selected him Clerk of the Year.

Serving from 1998–1999, Mr. Welsch was the longest serving president of the Michigan Association of County Clerks. He served from 2005–2007 as the president of the United County Officers Association of Michigan. He is a past chairman of the Statewide Pool board of directors, an arm of the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority, an organization for which he currently serves as secretary. He also serves on the board of directors for Ausable Valley Community Health.

Michael Welsch's service to his community, State and country goes beyond elected office, professional accomplishments and time served in the Armed Forces. He has served as chairman of trustees, school board chairman and treasurer at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Tawas City, Michigan. He has been a coach, referee and referee assessor for the Tawas Area Soccer Association. He has been a member of the Tawas Area Kiwanis Club since 1989, of which he served as president from 1994 to 1995 and was awarded a George F. Hixon Fellowship by the club, one of the highest honors the organization bestows.

He has worked as a pyrotechnician for the Tawas Area Fourth of July fireworks for 15 years and was grand marshal in the 2001 Fourth of July parade. He has served as the secretary of the Men's Major Bowling League for 10 years and was Perchville King in 1998.

Madam Speaker, all of us struggle to balance our professional lives with involvement in our local communities. As a public servant and community leader, Michael Welsch exemplifies that balance. I regret that I cannot personally attend his retirement party on March 1 in East Tawas, Michigan.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting Mr. Michael Welsch for his years of dedication to his community and in congratulating him on a well deserved retirement.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN TOM
LANTOS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I extend my deepest regrets for the

passing of Congressman Tom Lantos. His death is an enormous loss to Congress and our Nation. I always deeply admired his unwavering commitment to human rights. In this area, he believed our Nation could reach a higher standard, and we are all better off because of it.

Madam Speaker, I first met Congressman Lantos when I was an aide in California's 19th Assembly District. I had a high regard for him then and am honored that I was able to serve with him in Congress. My sincerest condolences go to his wife Annette, his two daughters, Annette and Katrina, his 17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING THE 47TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE
CORPS

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Peace Corps Week, February 25–March 3, and recognize the 47 years of compassion, hard work, and dedication of our Nation's Peace Corps volunteers.

Following a passionate call to service by President John F. Kennedy, more than 190,000 Americans have volunteered their time, labor, and personal expertise to the aid of 139 developing nations.

Today, more than 8,000 Peace Corps volunteers serve in 68 posts in 74 countries. Ranging from positions in agriculture, business development, information technology, education, health and HIV/AIDS, youth, and to the environment, volunteers promote global progress while building lifelong friendships in their host countries.

I would like to thank the following Peace Corps volunteers from my own district for sacrificing their time in the promotion of our Nation's values: Kristel Balbarino, serving Nicaragua; Kevin Kalhoefer, serving in Cambodia; Elyse Petersen, serving in Niger; Kevin Schmitz, serving in the Dominican Republic; Theodore Yams, serving in Guatemala; and Lisa Wasilewski, serving in Namibia. I also want to recognize and thank the many Peace Corps alumni who reside in Hawaii. I have many friends who are former Peace Corps members. To a person, each has told me that their time of service had a major impact on their lives.

Aloha and mahalo for answering the call for peace in all nations of the world.

IN MEMORY OF EUNICE
PETTIGREW

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my dear friend Eunice Pettigrew of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, who passed away February 8, 2008, at the age of 92.

Eunice Pettigrew was a beacon of light and an inspiration to all of those who knew her and were blessed to call her friend. As someone who was determined to make the most out of life, Eunice chose to make her focus one of selfless service, and throughout her life she never stopped giving back to her family and her community. She was well known in Jefferson County for teaching cosmetology at what is now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and for owning her beauty shop which led her to become only the second African-American inspector of cosmetology in the State of Arkansas.

While her motherly spirit and knack for teaching was apparent in Eunice's daily work, it was also representative of her selfless nature in life. She took great joy in helping others and worked tirelessly to create a strong sense of community in Pine Bluff. She took great pride in serving as PTA president of her children's schools for over 10 years, working tirelessly to ensure the best education for every student. She was also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., and was named to Who's Who in the Southwest by the nationally recognized Who's Who in America publication.

Eunice was passionate about studying her family's genealogy, which she successfully traced back for centuries. It is because of her research and work in this field that I have my most cherished memory of Eunice, dating back 6 years ago. Due to Eunice's work, I had the distinct privilege to read a manuscript into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the House of Representatives based on her grandfather, Isaac Johnson, and his service to our country as a Buffalo Soldier, and I will forever be grateful for that opportunity to commemorate in history her proud family heritage.

I send my deepest condolences to her children, Carol Thomas of Chicago, Illinois; Alonzo Pettigrew, Jr., of Pine Bluff; Paula Patterson of Little Rock; George Pettigrew of Kansas City, Missouri; Robert Pettigrew of Kansas City, Missouri; and her 17 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren as well as three generations of nieces and nephews. Eunice Pettigrew will be greatly missed in Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, and throughout the State of Arkansas. I will continue to keep her family in my thoughts and prayers, and I am honored to speak to her wonderful life as a dear friend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows: February 14, 2008: rollcall vote 60, I would have voted "nay"; rollcall vote 61, I would have voted "yea"; rollcall vote 62, I would have voted "nay"; rollcall vote 63, I would have voted "yea"; rollcall vote 64, I would have voted "yea"; rollcall vote 65, I would have voted "yea"; rollcall vote 66, I would have voted "yea"; rollcall vote 67, I would have voted "yea"; and rollcall vote 68, I would have voted "yea."