

up with two brothers and a sister. At the age of 23, he was drafted into the Vietnam War. Although his family was uneasy about the draft, they supported him. First, he attended Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri for basic boot camp and training. The hardest thing about this time was that he was ripped away from his daily life, and thrown into a life of rules, schedules, and tough workouts. But he also trained with helicopters in Ft. Virginia, which led him to working at the helicopter bases while stationed in Vietnam. From January of 1970 to December of 1970, he worked 13 hour days, 7 days a week, taking soldiers out, flying them in, and doing aircraft maintenance.

While most of it was sheer boredom, there were also times with unexpected terror. There was always the threat that his base at Camp Evans could be attacked. Thankfully it wasn't, and he was able to return home 2 days before Christmas in 1970. He still carries the values and lessons he learned during the war and it has helped him to be successful in life. After telling his story, he concluded by saying that what we have in this country is valuable, and we better be willing to fight for it. Charles and many other men were able and willing to fight for our protection and I value the courage it took to do so. I can only hope that the future generations, no matter how anti-war they might be, will be willing to fight for our freedoms and protect this beautiful country.—Erin McGranahan

Antonio Molina served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam conflict in 1972. After growing up in southern California, he enlisted himself in the Navy at the age of seventeen as a seaman recruit (E-1) and left as a Commander (O-5E). He helped with the evacuation and dismemberment of military bases during the withdrawal of troops from the region. In addition, he helped to clean up many of the mines and other weapons left by troops as they were withdrawing. After leaving the service, he eventually joined a local reserve unit where he attended flight and officer school. He now works in Hollywood using his military and technical experience to create films and spends time stressing the importance of veterans' issues including the existence of post-traumatic stress disorder among the returning troops. This experience stressed the importance of realizing the impact combat situations have on the young minds of our men and women who are fighting in conflicts worldwide from Vietnam veterans to current Gulf War veterans. We owe it to them to help them readjust to life back in the United States just as we help them to adjust to life in conflict.—Laura Rector

In hearing a veteran's story, we become more appreciative of the freedoms soldiers fight to protect every day. I had the privilege of hearing the story of Specialist 4th Class Gary Herrin of the 101st Airborne, 326th Battalion of the United States Army. Herrin was born and raised in Amarillo, Texas and was drafted into the Army in 1968 to fight in Vietnam. He fought in the Battle of Hamburger Hill, placing C4 and grenades in the North Vietnamese bunkers as the infantry charged up the hill to clear the way for his battalion which followed behind. Specialist Herrin was also involved in numerous reconnaissance missions to scout out sites for potential firing bases. If a site was chosen, Herrin and his unit would clear the plot and construct bunkers. On one particular reconnaissance mission, Herrin was knocked off his feet by the concussion of a rocket-propelled grenade and he sustained a bullet wound in the leg as Viet Cong trackers opened fire on his unit. Ironically, Specialist Herrin believes to this day that had the RPG not knocked him off his feet, he would have been a standing target for the V.C. bullets

and probably would have been killed. Specialist Herrin's story brought me to realize that there are people we encounter every day with a story of heroic service to tell. They are seemingly ordinary people that have done the extraordinary by sacrificing their time and possibly their lives to ensure that their fellow Americans and others around the world are safe and free. We owe these heroes a debt of gratitude and I hope that one day I too can serve my country in an honorable fashion as our soldiers do every day.—Patrick Ivey

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELKINS/RANDOLPH COUNTY YMCA

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the Elkins-Randolph County YMCA located in West Virginia's Second Congressional District.

For the past century, the Elkins YMCA has played an integral role in the history of the community and its people. The YMCA building was originally built with \$25,000 donated by Mrs. Hallie Davis Elkins, the wife of a prominent West Virginia capitalist, Stephen B. Elkins. During the outbreak of World War I and World War II, local troops were reviewed for mobilization in front of the YMCA. The Y building was also used as a training facility for the National Guard between World War I and World War II.

Throughout its many renovations over the next 50 years, the original structure still stands in place to serve the youth, families, and senior citizens as the county's premier recreation and community center. The Elkins YMCA has the proud distinction of being one of three YMCA facilities to serve a city with a population under 10,000.

On March 22, 2008 friends and members of the Elkins-Randolph County YMCA will celebrate its 100th anniversary and name its newest addition, the Legg Family Youth Center.

I would like to recognize all of those who were a part of the Elkins-Randolph County YMCA 100 year history and wish the members and friends of the Elkins-Randolph County YMCA congratulations in celebrating its 100th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING MS. LAURA-LYNN VIEGAS DACANAY AS THE 2008 FINANCIAL SERVICES CHAMPION OF THE YEAR FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ms. Laura-Lynn Viegas Dacanay on being named the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2008 Financial Services Champion of the Year for Guam.

Laura is a leader in the financial services industry of the region and is a committed member of our island community. She has a re-

warding career in the banking profession dating back to the 1970s, when she began with an entry level position at Chase Manhattan Bank as a telephone switchboard and telex operator and cashier. In 1984, she became a loan officer and later was promoted to loan manager. In 1986, she joined the First Hawaiian Bank as an assistant branch manager.

In just over 10 years, Laura has been promoted from manager to assistant vice president, and today, to senior vice president of the Guam and Northern Marianas region. Under her leadership, First Hawaiian Bank has had outstanding performance ratings. She has increased residential funding to over \$8 million, managed the acquisition of accounts and employees of Union Bank of California on Guam and Saipan, and paved the way for the opening of the Tamuning branch and off-site ATMs.

Laura is active in our community and she is the current chairwoman of the Guam Chamber of Commerce. In addition, she chairs the Family Selection Committee of Habitat for Humanity. She serves as an advisor to the Guam Visitors' Bureau 5-Year Strategic Plan Task Force, Strategic Economic Development Council in Saipan, the USO Advisory Council, and Andersen Civilian Advisory Council. She is also a member of the Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association and Guam Board of Realtors Association.

Laura's expert knowledge of banking and finance has resulted in business success for her banks and quality financial services for our community. I commend her commitment to serving our people, and I congratulate her as the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2008 Financial Services Champion of the Year for Guam.

INTRODUCTION OF EMERGENCY WILDLAND FIRE RESPONSE ACT OF 2008

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Emergency Wildland Fire Response Act of 2008. This bipartisan bill, introduced by Chairman PETERSON and I, along with five other original sponsors, is a fiscally responsible solution to the USDA Forest Service and Department of the Interior wildfire budget dilemma.

The Emergency Wildland Fire Response Act of 2008 creates a new fund to pay for firefighting while setting strong standards for containing costs and holding the agencies accountable.

There's no question that firefighting costs will continue to rise in the future, given the current overly-dense condition of our forests and the fact that more people are moving into these heavily forested areas. Last year, over 9 million acres across the country went up in smoke, costing the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior over \$1.5 billion to suppress.

This does not mean that Congress should simply give the agencies a blank check to cover these rising costs. This bill sets up a funding structure to balance the need for more funding with the need for accountability.

As firefighting costs are increasing, the Forest Service and Department of the Interior's

budgets are not. This means that non-fire accounts are cut as more money is shifted to fight fires. Last year, wildfire expenses amounted to 48 percent of the total Forest Service budget. In the 1990's wildfire constituted only 13 percent.

Since 2000, Forest Service resources for managing recreation, wildlife, and timber in our national forests have been cut by roughly 23 percent. Programs that assist the Nation's 10 million family forest owners with forest management are facing a 58-percent cut this year alone because of the rising firefighting costs. These drastic funding reductions mean that it's nearly impossible for the agencies to fulfill their missions.

In addition to addressing the rising firefighting costs, the Emergency Wildland Fire Response Act provides new tools for reducing fire risks and getting ahead of the game to reduce costs over the long term. First, the bill provides the Forest Service with permanent authority to contract with States to reduce wildfire risks across boundary lines. This authority, commonly called "good neighbor" authority, has been tested successfully in Colorado and Utah for the past several years, accomplishing much-needed hazardous fuels reduction work in severely fire-prone areas. This work is done in compliance with all environmental laws. Since wildfires don't stop at boundary lines, this tool is about making sure the Federal land management agencies are good neighbors to their State and private partners.

The bill also encourages local communities to step up to the plate and reduce wildfire risks. Under this authority, the Secretary would give priority in Federal funding to communities that have taken proactive steps to make their homes and communities fire-ready.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to move this important legislation forward.

WOMEN IN THE TEXAS PETRO-
CHEMICAL INDUSTRY: PAT
AVERY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to pay tribute to a personal friend, Ms. Pat Avery, Administrative Manager of Total Petrochemicals. Patricia Avery came into this world a double minority—black and female, but that didn't stop her from pursuing her dream of making it in an industry dominated by white males.

Born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, she was surrounded by people who looked like her. When she graduated from high school, and stepped off of the plane in Iowa, to attend college at Drake University, that all changed. She was among the first women to live on the fourth floor of the university's Goodwin-Kirk Hall, previously an all male dorm. Ms. Avery graduated from Drake University, with an undergraduate degree in biology and a graduate degree in public administration.

After graduating from college, Ms. Avery joined Church's Fried Chicken, Inc., as a Personnel Assistant and later Regional Personnel Manager. She noted, "You may not start out

where you want to be in your career, but take advantage of every opportunity and make the best of it." Five years later, she took the helm of corporate personnel management at Bleyle of America, Inc., a German company that manufactures international women's better sportswear. Pat then joined Mobil as an employee relations representative in Houston and quickly began her march up the corporate ladder. She served as employee relations advisor at Mobil's plastic packaging division in New York. She became the first woman and first minority manager of employee relations at Mobil's chemical specialty division in Beaumont, the first woman and minority manager of employee relations at Mobil's Mining and Minerals Co. in Houston, and manager of Human Resources at Mobil's Polyethylene Plant in Beaumont.

Ms. Avery joined Total's Port Arthur Refinery in March of 1998, again as the first woman and minority on their management team. As the Administrative Manager, she manages the refinery's human resources department, as well as the accounting, security, training, labor relations, purchasing, warehouse, contracts, and public affairs activities. She admits, "I have been the first female and the first African-American throughout my entire career in my industry and really in all of the industries I have worked in. Having been the first and the only in many jobs that I have had has been bittersweet. It was lonely, awkward, challenging, very scary, and extremely hard at times, but it was also invigorating, exciting, rewarding, and historic. I don't want to give the impression that it all happened in perfect order. That is far from the truth. Many times, I wanted to run back into the comfort of my own community where I felt safe, but I didn't. It's one of the most significant lessons I've learned: Nothing ventured, nothing gained."

As busy as she is, Ms. Avery still finds time to serve the community. She is involved in numerous projects and serves as a Board Member with Communities in Schools; United Way of South County; Art Museum of Southeast Texas; the Texas Association of Business; Lamar Institute of Technology Foundation Board; Julie Rogers Gift of Life Board; and Inspire, Encourage, and Achieve Board. She is the Vice Chair of the Golden Triangle Business Roundtable, and also served as their Safety Committee Chairperson for 5 years.

Ms. Avery was appointed by Mayor Evelyn Lord to the Beaumont Board of Adjustments, and reappointed by Mayor Becky Ames. She currently co-chairs Golden Triangle Days in Austin for the Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce and will again be co-chair in 2009. She chaired the Texas Museum Blowout in 2007; is a member of the Port Arthur Rotary Club; and will be President of the 2009/2010 Season of the Symphony of Southeast Texas. In addition, Ms. Avery serves on my Service Academy Board. From 1999–2002, she served on the Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce Board. She was recognized as Business Advocate of the Year in 2002 by Lamar State College's Small Business Development Center, and is a graduate of the 2000 class of Leadership of Southeast Texas.

Madam Speaker, Pat Avery, a former high school track star and cheerleader, found her niche by helping people through employee relations and management. She is a pioneer in the male dominated petrochemical industry, and I am proud to celebrate her accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO THE GAMBLE
HOUSE UPON ITS ONE-HUN-
DREDTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Gamble House upon the occasion of its one-hundredth anniversary.

The Gamble House was designed by American Arts and Crafts architects Charles and Henry Greene. The Greene brothers have left an indelible impression on the design heritage of California houses, and their influence is most evident in their best-preserved work, the Gamble House in Pasadena, California.

The Greene brothers' distinctive style was deeply influenced by Japanese architecture and the English Arts and Crafts Movement, and is visible in the distinguished treatment of wood, stone, shingle, and brick. They designed all aspects of the house with assistance from notable European-trained craftsmen, John and Peter Hall, who elevated their exquisite designs to high levels of artistic excellence both throughout the house and in all the joinery, furniture, and decorative arts.

Construction on the Gamble House began in 1908. In January of 1909, the owners, David and Mary Gamble, moved in. The house was inhabited by the Gamble family for over fifty years, and remained their property until 1966, when the Gamble heirs, led by James N. Gamble, deeded the house to the City of Pasadena in a joint agreement with the University of Southern California's School of Architecture.

Boasting nearly 30,000 visitors annually, the Gamble House continues to play a leading role in educating the public about a unique part of Pasadena's heritage, as well as the history of the Arts and Crafts Movement. The Docent Council of the Gamble House, formed in 1967, encompasses a group of volunteers who aid with the cultural and educational components of the Gamble House. The Friends of the Gamble House, founded in 1972, is composed of individuals and organizations whose purpose is to financially support the house and its programs. Some of the programs include the Scholars in Residence Fellowships, the Junior Docent Program, and participation in the Museums of the Arroyo Day celebration.

In 1974 the Gamble House was named a California State Historic Landmark, and four years later the United States Department of the Interior designated the Gamble House a National Historic Landmark. The house has been preserved with the help of the James N. Gamble Preservation Fund.

I ask all members to join me in recognizing the Gamble House upon its one-hundredth anniversary, and to congratulate the staff and volunteers who keep the facility open for the public's education and enjoyment.