

knew they could always depend on the steady hand of Sgt. Kasper to guide them through the tension-filled moments.

In addition to pinning on a badge for work each day, Sgt. Kasper passed on his knowledge about police work as one of the Department's original firearms instructors. Sgt. Kasper's dedication to the Department was surpassed only by his devotion to his family. In a testament to just how well Sgt. Kasper juggled the demands of police work and the needs of his family, his daughter, Heather, followed in her father's footsteps to become a police officer with a department in Florida.

Rick's career and accomplishments will be celebrated on Friday, May 9, 2008 during a dinner at the Downingtown Country Club.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in praising the outstanding service of Sgt. Richard J. Kasper, and all those who take an oath to serve and protect their communities.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GILBERT GUY FRANCIS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Gilbert Guy Francis upon the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Gilbert Francis dedicated his life to selflessly serving our community and country. Following service in the Air Force, Mr. Francis graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Education and subsequently taught for 10 years at Southwestern High School in Detroit. Many happily remember his efforts as he found the time to teach typing and accounting to the continuing education school at night and the regular students during the day.

Gil has many hobbies as well. He faithfully studies the genealogy of the Francis family, tracing their roots back to Wales. Gill also excels at stamp collecting, roller-skate dancing, and playing the piano. As well as being an expert keyboardist, Gil has along the way done much to further the study and appreciation level for pipe organs. Not the first book he has put pen to paper for, "Michigan Pipe Organ Theaters" is his latest anticipated forthcoming publication. He has distinguished himself serving as the Treasurer and then President of the Detroit Theater Organ Society for a number of successful years. These days, lucky listeners can happen upon the organ historian playing the pipe organ at the famed Redford Theatre for classic old films.

Gilbert Francis is a man of integrity, devoted to his family, who has dedicated his life to his wife Penny, his two children Carl and Nancy, and their wonderful grand- and now great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, for eighty years Gilbert Guy Francis has faithfully served his family and community. As he enters the next phase of his life, he continues a legacy of dedication, skill of craft, and dignified leadership. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Gilbert upon this momentous day and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community and country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 5th, 2008, I was absent for legislative business to attend a Department of Defense event in my district.

Had I been present, on H. Res. 952 to establish a National Teacher's Day, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING MRS. DEBORAH ANN HARRIS

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Deborah Ann Harris, a teacher at St. Francis Episcopal Day School in Houston, Texas, for receiving a 2008 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Under a bill Congress passed in 1983, the President selects up to 108 teachers every year to recognize for their exemplary contributions. This Presidential Award is the highest honor a kindergarten through 12th grade math or science teacher can receive for outstanding teaching in the United States.

Anne Chisholm, middle school principal at St. Francis Episcopal Day School, says of Mrs. Harris, "Debbie has a true passion for life and teaching science, the world is her classroom. Debbie sees the goodness in people, and she believes that all children can be great and she exhibits this through her teaching."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to Mrs. Deborah Ann Harris for inspiring the students at St. Francis Episcopal Day School, and to congratulate her for earning this prestigious award.

INTRODUCTION OF HOME OWNER-SHIP TAX CREDIT LEGISLATION

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, today I, along with several of my colleagues, am introducing legislation to provide homebuyers with incentives to purchase as a way of eliminating the excess inventory of homes, relieving some of the pressure on falling housing prices, and increasing housing demand at a time when mortgage lenders are tightening up their loan requirements.

According to the Nebraska Business Forecast Council, December 2007, inventories of completed and unsold housing units in Nebraska remain high. Although housing construction in Nebraska did not experience the surge seen on the east and west coasts, it could take the balance of 2008 before new house inventories in Nebraska are drawn down. Reducing these housing stocks in Nebraska is critical to the continued growth of

Nebraska home builders and the many other sectors of the economy dependent on the housing construction industry.

According to the National Association of Realtors, total housing inventory rose 5.5 percent at the end of this January to 4.19 million existing homes available for sale, which represents a 10.3-month supply at the current sales pace, up from a 9.7-month supply in December. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan noted in November 2007 that reducing home inventories is critical for the health of the economy.

Madam Speaker, under the legislation I am introducing today, home buyers who purchase a qualified principal residence within a year of the Act's enactment will be eligible for a one-time tax credit of 10 percent of the home's purchase price, up to \$10,000. Mortgages which exceed the maximum original principal obligation of a mortgage the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation will purchase, will not qualify.

American taxpayers should not bear the burden of bailing out scam artists and speculators. This bill provides a market incentive which works to actively reduce local inventory of homes, stimulate the economy and empower homebuyers. I encourage my colleagues in the House to examine this bill and join me in helping provide Americans with a viable pathway to home ownership.

SALUTING MINNESOTA'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR, CARLEEN GULSTAD OF HOPKINS NORTH JR. HIGH SCHOOL

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, today is National Teachers Day, and Mr. RAMSTAD and I want to pay tribute to all of America's dedicated, talented and energetic teachers who have so much influence on our Nation's children and our country's future. We thank them for their sacrifice, selfless devotion to young people and their public service.

We want to call special attention today to one such teacher, Minnesota's "Teacher of the Year," Carleen Gulstad. Carleen, who lives in Maple Grove, teaches language arts at Hopkins North Jr. High School in Minnetonka, which serves the families of both the 3rd and 5th Congressional Districts. She has been teaching 8th and 9th grade students in English classes at Hopkins North since 1999.

Carleen is truly most deserving of this distinguished honor from Education Minnesota. The award was announced Sunday, May 4, at its 44th annual awards program in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.

Madam Speaker, Carleen says that one of her guiding principles as a teacher is to treat each student as an individual. "Every kid counts. Every kid has a story. And every kid has value," Carleen says. "I teach them critical thinking. They need to decide for themselves."

That kind of approach is what makes Carleen a great teacher, and our Nation's outstanding teachers carry those very same traits, teachers who are brilliant in their ability to offer encouragement, who can spark the

imagination, instill in young people the drive to reach for excellence in all their varied pursuits and the confidence to speak their minds.

Carleen's principal at Hopkins North Jr. High, Pat Schmidt, says: "Carleen has the courage to lead discussions focusing on racial identity, religious affiliations, cultural and ethnic customs and family membership."

To all of America's teachers, thank you for your steadfast commitment to quality education. Thank you for caring so much about our kids and their future. Thank you for overcoming immense challenges to provide Minnesota's and America's children with the best education.

You hard-working, dedicated educators are Minnesota's and America's unsung heroes. With great challenges ahead, we need more than ever to put partisanship aside, take off our Republican hats and our Democrat hats and come together as Americans. We must find common ground to adequately support public education and provide maximum flexibility at the local level to manage our schools and teach our children.

Madam Speaker, our Nation salutes Carleen Gulstad and all our remarkable teachers who bring an exciting world of opportunity and justice to the door of our children's classrooms each and every day. It is often a thankless and difficult task, but today we thank them for their great perseverance, commitment and inspiration.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, as the State of Israel commemorates its 60th anniversary, I take this opportunity to recognize the long-standing friendship between the State of Israel and the Republic of Turkey.

Turkey was the first country with a predominantly Muslim population to step forward and recognize the Jewish State in 1949. Moreover, for three decades the Republic of Turkey remained the only Muslim country to have full diplomatic representation in Israel. This historical fact alone speaks well for the solid, special, and valuable relationship between Turkey and Israel. It is no wonder this relationship stands on its uniquely own merits—unmatched in the entire Middle East. Historical facts and recollections in the collective memories of both Turkish and Israeli peoples testify this sense of togetherness, standing shoulder to shoulder in testing times.

In recent years, more than 60 agreements have been enacted between the State of Israel and the Republic of Turkey in the economic and military fields. These have not only bolstered the bilateral relationship between the United States and these two close friends and allies, but have also created a legal framework that serves to institutionalize the bonds we have collectively developed. Since Turkey and Israel are the only two countries in the region that have embraced the principles of democracy and liberal market economy, it is easier to develop both the content and the depth of the bilateral relations in a multitude of different fronts.

Also, through a large volume of tourism and cultural sharing, countless citizens of Turkey and Israel, not just the two governments, have developed strong bonds of benevolence, a sense of togetherness, collaboration, and mutual respect.

At a time when dialogue between the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict is needed, Turkey is once again in the unique position of maintaining positive relations with all the parties to the conflict. This is undoubtedly an asset for the region, and a great contribution to the security of Israel. The Israeli President Shimon Peres and President of the Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas have addressed the Turkish Parliament last year in November and praised Turkey as an important ally in the peace process. President Peres's speech was the first to a parliament by an Israeli head of state anywhere in a predominantly Muslim country.

We also remember too well through what is known as The Ankara Forum, that Turkey has recently sustained Israeli and Palestinian joint efforts to provide support for economic development in the West Bank. Recent reports indicate that Turkey, investing on this ground of mutually earned respect, trust and confidence and taking steps at the request of both parties, has now embarked on facilitating dialogue between Syria and Israel.

Most members of the international community share the goal of a peaceful and prosperous Middle East. The security of all the countries in the region, including Israel, is dependent on this. Turkey believes that dialogue and cooperation are essential tools in working to make this dream a reality, and it is well equipped to chart its course for the benefit of Israel and her Arab neighbors, all for a peaceful and prosperous neighborhood.

On this note, the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel, I commend and encourage the strong relationship between our two allies, Turkey and Israel, which in fact stands stronger and more robust by each day offering hope for peace in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MARY NAUGHTON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mary Naughton on the celebration of her 90th birthday on April 29, 2008.

Mary was born on April 29, 1918 in Illinois. She moved to Marshalltown, Iowa in 1948 when she married John Naughton. They happily had two daughters, three sons, nine grandchildren and one great-grandson. Mary currently resides in Marshalltown and is an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

There have been many changes that have occurred during the past ninety years.

Since Mary's birth we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and the birth of new democracies. Mary has lived through sixteen United States Presidents and twenty Governors of Iowa. And, in her lifetime the population of the United States has nearly tripled.

I congratulate Mary Naughton for reaching this milestone of a birthday. I am extremely honored to represent Mary in the United States Congress and I wish her happiness and health for many years to come.

ON THE PASSING OF MILDRED LOVING

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the passing of a great lady and civil rights icon, Mildred Loving.

I did not know Mrs. Loving personally, but I do know of her accomplishments for which she deserves our praise and gratitude.

At a time of Jim Crow and powerful forces of racial hatred and segregation, Mildred Delores Jeter and Richard Perry Loving proved that the power of love and the simple act of living true to their beliefs was stronger and more enduring than base bigotry.

When Mildred and Richard married, they were breaking the law. As an interracial couple, it was illegal for them to be married in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Instead, they obtained a marriage certificate from the District of Columbia but returned to live in Virginia, their home. A short time later, they were arrested, literally in their bedroom, and hauled off to jail. Under a plea bargain, they agreed to a 1-year suspended sentence under the condition that they not return together or at the same time to Virginia.

Inspired by the civil rights movement, the couple challenged Virginia's Racial Integrity Act, taking Loving v. Virginia all the way to the Supreme Court—and winning. As the Washington Post reported today, Richard Loving counseled the couple's ACLU attorneys that the real issue was actually very simple. "Tell the court," he said, "I love my wife, and it is just unfair that I can't live with her in Virginia."

In my efforts to grant federal recognition to Virginia's Native American people, I have come across similar stories of courage, determination and love fighting to overcome Virginia's legacy of racial division and subjugation.

Today we recognize Mrs. Loving, her life, her courage, and her determination for equality under the law. She was an American hero and we mourn her passing.

[From the New York Times, May 6, 2008]

MILDRED LOVING, WHO FOUGHT BAN ON MIXED MARRIAGE, DIES AT 68

(By Douglas Martin)

Mildred Loving, a black woman whose anger over being banished from Virginia for marrying a white man led to a landmark Supreme Court ruling overturning state miscegenation laws, died on May 2 at her home in Central Point, Va. She was 68.

Peggy Fortune, her daughter, said the cause was pneumonia.

The Supreme Court ruling, in 1967, struck down the last group of segregation laws to remain on the books—those requiring separation of the races in marriage. The ruling was unanimous, its opinion written by Chief Justice Earl Warren, who in 1954 wrote the court's opinion in Brown v. Board of Education, declaring segregated public schools unconstitutional.