

merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cody Turnball for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS AND THE OHIO STATE ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE TO "STAMP OUT HUNGER"

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the dedication and achievements of the National Association of Letter Carriers and the Ohio State Association of Letter Carriers. May 9th, 2009 marks the 17th annual NALC National Food Drive to "Stamp Out Hunger." On that day, letter carriers will collect non-perishable donations from homes as they deliver mail along postal routes.

Letter carriers from over 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam collected a record setting 73.1 million pounds in last year's drive. The drive is held annually on the second Saturday in May. Donations will be collected by more than 1,400 local branches of the 300,000-member postal union and delivered to food banks, pantries and shelters in the communities where they are collected.

I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the National Association of Letter Carriers and the Ohio State Association of Letter Carriers for their dedication and hard work in the communities to help provide food for the growing number of American families facing hunger in these difficult economic times.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. ROB BISHOP

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to be able to sponsor this resolution commending Charter Schools for their contributions to education, and designating this week as National Charter School Week. Successful businesses don't build a product and then find a target group to which to market their product. Successful businesses pick a target group, find a need, then build a product that satisfies that need.

When we talk about reforming education, we must remember that parents are the target market. Kids belong to the parent, not to an educator or a legislator. We unfortunately forget this too often. There is sometimes an institutional attitude of antagonism toward parents. In a 1910 essay entitled *How We Think*, even John Dewey wrote that one inhibitor to problem solving was parental values. One could ask whose values would have been more ap-

propriate. A school's direction ought to be agreeable to parents. The final word ought to be with parents. If the parents are satisfied, who else cares and what else matters? Schools are for the kids and the parents and no one else.

Charter schools take us a large step in that direction—the direction of treating parents as the customers. In Utah, there are currently 67 charter schools serving 27,000 kids, and there are several more slated to open this year. Several have a specific emphasis on math and science, and several others focus on the arts. The curriculum is often selected by parents. There are no geographical boundaries to any of them. Some charters belong to a school district, and others are their own district.

There is often a higher demand than there is supply of seats in a charter, so in Utah those seats are generally awarded by a lottery system. Nationally, there are more than 365,000 kids on charter school waiting lists. Why is it that parents want their kids to attend charter schools? It's because a charter school meets their needs better. Charter schools take us closer to the goal of treating the parents as the customers. In many cases charters have a large percentage of students who are either minorities or economically disadvantaged—in one Utah charter, 70% of the students fall in this category. Many of these are kids who haven't done well in traditional public schools, but who thrive in the charter school. Several studies have backed this up by showing that kids who are behind academically do better in a charter school than they would in a traditional public school. Charters are able to innovate, find creative ways to meet the needs of parents and kids, and the customer is satisfied.

In that sense, charter schools are the most accountable of all our public schools. They're directly accountable to parents, because if the parents aren't satisfied, they'll take their kids elsewhere. In Utah, it's working. According to one study, 94% of parents gave their children's charter school an A or B grade. The success of Charter schools should also teach us the potential of the public education system. Charter schools are not private schools. They are public schools. Public schools can easily compete with private schools when the public schools are released from bureaucratic restrictions and allowed to be creative. Only with the freedom to be creative can any school meet the individual needs of students and parents. Without choices and freedom to be creative, kids become a widget on a conveyor belt to the local school "factory."

There are a number of things we can do to allow charters to continue to grow, including eliminating the caps on the number of charter schools, and addressing inequitable funding treatment. We will continue to encourage these reforms, and we'll continue to lower the barriers to innovation and creativity in education.

One member of the Utah State Charter School Board said, in many ways, charter schools are doing for education what the printing press did for the world of communication. Charter schools have promised creativity, innovation, inspiration, and motivation, and I believe they have delivered.

Charter schools have ignited the desire to rethink aspects of our nation's education system. They have shown how involved parents

can and will be in their children's education. They are finding ways to reduce class size, deliver the Core Curriculum to smaller school communities, and increase individualization of instruction.

Charter schools are helping our public education system to be the best it can be for every child. I commend the parents, teachers, administrators, and creative innovators involved in charter schools throughout the country.

A TRIBUTE TO SISTER JULIA MARY FARLEY, C.S.J. ON THE OCCASION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF HER WORK AS FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER FOR HOMELESS WOMEN & CHILDREN IN LOS ANGELES

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sister Julia Mary Farley, an extraordinary and dedicated woman who has been providing care and shelter for homeless women and children in the 34th District in Los Angeles for the last quarter of a century. On May 15, 2009, friends and supporters of the Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women & Children will celebrate the center's 25th anniversary and honor Sister Julia Mary for her years of service to the homeless.

A native of Chicago, Sister Julia Mary has been a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet since 1951. She has a Master's Degree in Health Administration from the University of California, Los Angeles, and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Loyola Marymount University. As a hospital administrator, Sister Julia Mary worked in hospitals in Lewiston, Idaho, and Pasco, Washington, St. Mary's Hospital in Tucson, Arizona, and Daniel Freeman Hospitals in Inglewood and Marina del Rey, California. She also taught at Mount St. Mary's College and several elementary schools in Los Angeles. In 1983, Sister Julia Mary joined the staff of Angels Flight, a crisis intervention center for runaway teenagers operated by Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.

The following year, Cardinal Timothy Manning noticed that the number of homeless women on the street around St. Vibiana's Cathedral in downtown Los Angeles was increasing dramatically. To address this disturbing trend, he initiated the establishment of a program to provide emergency services to homeless women. He named Sister Julia Mary as the new program's director.

Since 1984, the Good Shepherd Center has empowered women to move from homelessness to self-sufficiency through its housing, employment, and support services. Under Sister Julia Mary's leadership, the center has grown from an emergency shelter and drop-in center to five residential facilities offering a broad spectrum of employment and support services a quarter of a century later.

Following the opening of the emergency shelter and drop-in center on May 6, 1984, Good Shepherd Center expanded its services

over the next eight years. The center added a Mobile Outreach Program to take food, clothing, offers of shelter and words of hope to women on the street. In 1988, the center's Belmont Avenue shelter expanded to provide transitional housing for 30 single homeless women, and four years later, the center established a transitional residence serving nine mothers and 20 children in an old Craftsman house.

In 1998, fulfilling Sister Julia Mary's dream, the center opened the first phase of the "Women's Village." The Hawkes Transitional Residence provides transitional and affordable housing for homeless women and their children as well as facilities to train the women for jobs. Two years later, in 2000, the second phase of the "Women's Village" was completed with the Angel Guardian Home. It provides 12 apartments that offer long-term housing in a supportive community setting for homeless mothers with disabilities and their children. In June 2008, the final piece of the Women's Village was completed, with the opening of the Sister Julia Mary Farley Women's Village. This facility provides transitional housing in one-bedroom apartments for 21 employed homeless women. It also includes an employment and client services center that serves all Good Shepherd Center residents, and The Village Kitchen—a bakery and cafe in which residents receive job training and experience in the culinary arts.

With the completion of the Women's Village, Sister Julia Mary and Good Shepherd Center now serve more than 1,100 homeless women and children annually, and house 150 women and children each night.

I have had the privilege of visiting with Sister Julia Mary and the residents of Good Shepherd Center, and I must say the determination of the women to make better lives for themselves and their children is truly inspiring.

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Sister Julia Mary Farley's founding of Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women and Children, I ask my colleagues to please join me in commending Sister Julia Mary for her vision and tireless efforts to provide daily inspiration to the center's residents, friends, generous donors, skilled staff, and caring volunteers, and in thanking her for a lifetime of dedicated service to homeless women and their children.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF COLONEL
JANE HELTON, UNITED STATES
ARMY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Jane Helton, United States Army, who is retiring after thirty-five years of dedicated service to our nation. Colonel Helton currently serves as the Chief of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office for the Joint Staff of the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Virginia. She is the principal advisor to the Chief and senior National Guard leaders for all sexual assault prevention matters.

Colonel Helton enlisted in the Army in August, 1974. After departing active duty she

served as a Noncommissioned Officer with the 143d Evacuation Hospital in the California National Guard. In 1980 she graduated from Officer's Candidate School and was commissioned as a Medical Service Corps officer. She served as a Health Services officer in the 175th Medical Brigade and commanded the 980th MEDSOM and the 308th Medical Company. Colonel Helton was activated and served in Kuwait during Desert Storm in the 3d Medical Command as a medical logistics officer and as the Director of Medical Redeployment. After returning to the United States she returned to active duty and served as an Operations Officer and Special Events Officer in the Army G3's Office of Military Support to Civilian Authorities. She helped coordinate and provide medical support during several natural disasters, including New York City immediately after the terrorists' attacks on September 11, 2001. Colonel Helton served as the Chief of the Wounded Warrior Program for the 27th Infantry Brigade at Fort Drum, NY where she helped develop the model wounded warrior program for the entire Army. She also served as the Chief of Command Policy and Programs in the Army G1, responsible for Army policies which included Women in Combat, Suicide Prevention, Religious Accommodation, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and other high profile Army policies.

Colonel Helton's military education includes the AMEDD Officer basic and advanced courses, Medical Logistics Management Course, Contracting Officers Course, Movement Officers Course, Mobilization Officer Planners Course, Military Support to Civil Authorities Course, Command and General Staff College, Army Management Staff College, Risk Communication Course, Georgetown University Congressional Liaison Course, and Advanced Crisis Incident Stress Management Course. She also earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Management from the California Coast University and a Master of Science degree in Quality Systems Management from the National Graduate School.

Madam Speaker, few can match the dedication and professionalism of Colonel Jane Helton. On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I express our appreciation of Colonel Helton for her tireless service and support of the warfighter. She has been a compassionate leader and professional staff officer whose expertise and sacrifice showcase her patriotism and selfless commitment to our great nation. She is a woman of honor and principle. I would like to thank Colonel Helton for her years of dedicated service, and I wish her, her husband Ray, their children and grandchildren the best wishes for continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY
OF PRAYER

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join the millions of Americans who will participate in the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 7, 2009.

Since the earliest days of our republic, our nation's leaders have seen fit to formally ac-

knowledge the value and power of our people's prayers by designating specific times where we encourage prayer for the future of our country. President Truman declared the first National Day of Prayer in 1952, and in 1988 President Reagan signed a law declaring that the first Thursday in May would be an annual National Day of Prayer.

I can think of no greater calling than for people of all ages, races, and religious creeds to join together and raise their prayers and petitions to the Almighty.

To that end, the YMCA of Middle of Tennessee and the Operation Andrew Group are organizing National Day of Prayer events all across Middle Tennessee. These events will encourage citizens to pray for the future of our communities and our nation, to pray for those placed in positions of societal leadership, and to thank God for the many blessings we enjoy.

At the Maryland Farms YMCA, in the City of Brentwood, individuals will gather to lift up prayers and participate in this wonderful occasion.

I invite all Members of Congress to please join me in praying for the City of Brentwood, the State of Tennessee, and the United States of America during the National Day of Prayer.

HONORING LT. MATTHEW JOHN
GORDON

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant in Chester County, Pennsylvania who has retired after more than 20 years of loyal service in law enforcement.

Lieutenant Matthew John Gordon started his law enforcement career with the Parkesburg Police Department and has faithfully served the City of Coatesville Police Department since 1989.

Lieutenant Gordon earned the respect of fellow officers and elected officials with his outstanding work ethic and exemplary police work throughout his distinguished career.

In addition to protecting the citizens of Coatesville, he also served as Commander of the Chester County Emergency Response Team since its inception in 2002.

Colleagues and friends will celebrate Lieutenant Gordon's career accomplishments and wish him well in retirement on May 8, 2009 during a dinner at St. Anthony's Lodge in Downingtown, Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in praising the outstanding service and dedication of Lieutenant Matthew John Gordon, and all those who take an oath to serve and protect their communities.

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL
NURSING WEEK

HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, in honor and in celebration of National Nursing