

KIMBERLY CROSS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kimberly Cross who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kimberly Cross is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kimberly Cross is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kimberly Cross for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

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**THE MEDICAID BIRTH CENTER  
REIMBURSEMENT ACT OF 2009**
**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicaid Birth Center Reimbursement Act.

Birth centers offer an alternative birthing environment to hospitals for mothers with healthy, low-risk pregnancies. They are also part of a vital safety net for Medicaid mothers across the country.

Last year, administrators at a birth center in my district reached out to me, distraught with what they saw as an impending Medicaid re-payment crisis. Even though birth centers had been recognized as Medicaid providers by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)—and, earlier, by HCFA—since 1987, over the past few years, CMS has begun disallowing federal matching funds for state Medicaid payments for freestanding birth center facility fees.

A recent decision by a federal administrative judge ruled against birth centers in a Texas Medicaid case, stating that CMS is not required to pay any state their federal match for birth center facility fees.

Without payment of these facility fees, birth centers in all states could be pushed to the brink of closure.

Today, I, along with my colleague Representative GUS BILIRAKIS, am introducing the Medicaid Birth Center Reimbursement Act, to ensure Medicaid birth center facility fee payments to states.

I urge you, Madam Speaker, and all of my colleagues, to support this legislation and ensure continued access to quality health care for pregnant women served by our Medicaid system in their districts.

**REINTRODUCTION OF "VOTERS'  
RIGHT TO KNOW ACT"****HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, I, along with Representative PETRI (R-WI), reintroduce legislation to subject operators of push polls or phone banks to the same disclosure requirements as other types of political communication. It will not ban push polls or phone banking—it will simply create a level playing field for all types of political communication. Under this bill, any person conducting these types of calls would be required to disclose to each recipient of a call the identity of the organization paying for the call. In addition, the bill would require that campaigns and other organizations that conduct advocacy phone calls report to the Federal Election Commission (FEC) the number of households they have contacted and the script they used in making the calls. The bill would not interfere with legitimate polling, conducted either by candidates or independent organizations, as it would only apply to phone banks in which more than 1,500 households are contacted within the 25 days preceding a federal election.

**TRIBUTE TO JACK MALTESTER****HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I acknowledge the passing, on May 1, 2009, of former San Leandro Mayor Jack Maltester. His colleagues have aptly described Jack as "the most powerful small-town mayor in this country. None of us can duplicate what he did."

Jack Maltester transformed the face of San Leandro during his 20 years of service as mayor from 1958 to 1978. Even as a private citizen, his influence remained strong in San Leandro, the city in which he was born in 1913.

A printer by trade, Jack served an interim term on the council in the late 1940s. He won election to the council in 1956, was selected by the council as Mayor two years later, and became the city's first Mayor elected directly by the residents of San Leandro instead of the City Council.

He was re-elected in 1966, 1970, and 1974 but was forced to leave office in 1978 after a voter approved two-term limit was enacted.

While serving as San Leandro's chief executive, Jack was president of both the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the League of California Cities. Presidents Johnson, Nixon and Ford appointed him to a federal commission five times.

Jack remained active in San Leandro affairs until his death at age 95. He founded The Sentinels, a group of local businessmen who provide support to local political candidates and ballot measures. He also served as President of the San Leandro Chamber of Commerce and President of the California League of Cities.

He cultivated political talent, represented private real estate developers, served on the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum board and was a member of local civic and regional committees.

I feel privileged to have known Jack. I treasure the opportunity I had to work with him during his tenure as the City of San Leandro's Chief Executive, and the relationship we maintained when he became a private citizen.

I join the community of San Leandro in honoring Jack Maltester. He truly loved the city of his birth and gave it his all during his lifetime. His presence and contributions will be felt for years to come.

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**SARAH ELLIS**
**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sarah Ellis who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Sarah Ellis is a junior at Ralston Valley High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Sarah Ellis is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Sarah Ellis for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

**RECOGNIZING DALTON PEPPER****HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dalton Pepper, a member of the Pennsbury High School boys' basketball team and 2009 Pennsylvania player of the year. Dalton has excelled as a student athlete in Bucks County, and I am eager to see him continue that legacy next year at West Virginia University.

Dalton's hard work and dedication led him and his teammates to four straight undefeated league championships and into their fourth PIAA AAAA State playoff. He was recently named The Associated Press' 2009 Pennsylvania Class AAAA boy's basketball player of the year.

These performances earned Dalton a position on the Pennsylvania all-state team. His high school career record of 2,207 points, nearly 1,000 rebounds and a 104–20 record is an extraordinary accomplishment.

The recognition and awards Dalton has received throughout his high school basketball career are no small feat. For his leadership and determination, he has gained respect from

his coaches and teammates, not to mention the admiration of our community, which has cheered him along throughout his career.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing Dalton Pepper for his hard work and dedication to the Pennsbury High School boys' basketball team—he sets an example for student athletes everywhere and I am proud to represent him.

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CONGRATULATING JIM YOUNG

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend Jim Young on his recent retirement as an Iowa Director for the National Education Association (NEA). Jim has dedicated his life to the education of children and the representation of teachers. Jim has been teaching in Cedar Falls, Iowa, for 25 years at the elementary school level.

Jim has been actively involved at all levels of the National Education Association. He has held virtually every leadership position at the local level serving as president, vice president, treasurer and building representative. Jim has also chaired several different association committees including Governmental Relations, Communications and American Education Week.

In 2003, Jim began his first 3-year term as a member of the board of directors for the NEA. As an NEA director, Jim advocated for issues affecting Iowa teachers at the national level of the NEA. Jim served two terms as an NEA director and retires from the position this year as it is term limited to two terms.

I'm happy to report that Jim will begin his 26th year of teaching this fall. He will be teaching 4th grade at Helen Hansen Elementary School in Cedar Falls. I congratulate him on all of his success and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, from Tuesday, May 5 through Thursday, May 7, 2009, I was provided a leave of absence from the House of Representatives due to the hospitalization of my daughter, and thus I missed rollcall votes Nos. 231–242. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on Nos. 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 239, 240, 241, and 242, and “nay” on Nos. 237 and 238.

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HANNAH CLAYTON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Hannah Clay-

ton who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Hannah Clayton is a senior at Compass Montessori High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Hannah Clayton is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Hannah Clayton for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

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ON THE RETIREMENT OF DR. LAVERNE RAGSTER FROM THE PRESIDENCY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

**HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN**

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and much gratitude that I rise to salute Dr. LaVeme Erin Ragster as she steps down from the Presidency of the University of the Virgin Islands.

Dr. Ragster was born and raised on St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, where she graduated, as valedictorian, from Charlotte Amalie High School in 1969. Her educational career includes completion of a bachelor of science degree in biology and chemistry, in 1973, from the University of Miami, a master of science degree in biology with an algal physiology concentration, in 1975, from San Diego State University, and a doctorate in biology with a plant biochemistry concentration, in 1980, from the University of California, San Diego.

Early in her career, Dr. Ragster served as a member of the teaching faculty at the College, which became the University of the Virgin Islands, where she was promoted from assistant professor to professor of marine biology. During that period she worked with a number of regional organizations, including the Caribbean Studies Association (past president), Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (former board member, past chair of the board), Caribbean Conservation Association (past vice president), Island Resources Foundation (board member), The Nature Conservancy (former board member) and the Caribbean Council for Service and Technology (USVI representative).

In addition to her professional activities, Dr. Ragster has always been actively involved in her community. She has served as president of the League of Women Voters of the Virgin Islands, and in a number of leadership positions in the territory in non-governmental organizations, particularly in the areas of education and the environment.

The second decade (and beyond) of Dr. Ragster's career has been devoted to professional pursuits leading to positions of progressively greater administrative responsibilities. She held positions such as: Chair of the Divi-

sion of Science and Mathematics; Faculty Trustee to the UVI Board of Trustees; Acting Vice President for Research and Land Grant Affairs; Vice President for Research and Public Service; and Senior Vice President and Provost at UVI. In addition, during this period Dr. Ragster published a number of papers on the role of natural resources in resource management and development, produced programs for the training of faculty and resource managers, and developed curriculum materials to teach natural resource management at the university level in the Caribbean.

Dr. Ragster helped to link UVI with other higher education institutions in the region when she served as sub-secretary general for the Association of Caribbean Universities and Research Institutes (UNICA) and as the coordinator of the Caribbean Universities for Natural Resource Management. More broadly, Dr. Ragster has served as a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Environment Program, as a member of the national Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee and as a member of the National Commission on Environmental Justice.

For the last seven years of her career, Dr. Ragster has served as President of the University of the Virgin Islands. She became the first female and fourth president of the University of the Virgin Islands on August 1, 2002. Dr. Ragster currently serves as a member of the UVI Research and Technology Park Board, past Chair and current member of the University Consortium for Small Island States Governing Board, Vice President for the Association of Caribbean Universities and Research Institutes (UNICA), member of the Liga Atletica Interuniversitaria de Puerto Rico y las Islas Virgenes Governing Board, a member of the American Council on Education's Organization of Women in Higher Education, a facilitator for the American Council on Education's Institute New CAOs, member of the Alexander Hamilton Distinguished Public Service Award Selection Committee, and the Caribbean National Resources Institute Partner, since 2009.

During her tenure as President, Dr. Ragster's leadership and commitment to excellence has been recognized by those both at home and abroad. Among community groups that have honored President Ragster are the Business and Professional Women's Organization, which named her person of the year for 2003. In March 2009, The Rotary Club of St. Thomas II bestowed the Paul Harris Award upon Dr. Ragster, as did The Rotary Club of St. Thomas East. Dr. Ragster has also been an honorary member of The Rotary Club of St. Thomas II for the past three years.

In early 2006, around the mid-point of her Presidency, Dr. Ragster received a Drum Major for Justice Women Leadership in Higher Education Award from the SCLC/W.O.M.E.N., Inc in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Ragster is married to Lloyd Gardner, an environmental planner, and they have two sons, Adrian and Alex.

Madam Speaker, throughout her stellar career, Dr. Ragster has displayed academic and professional integrity which has translated into the advancement of her students, her peers and indeed the entire Virgin Islands community. As she steps down from the presidency of the University, we are sure that this is but a step in the direction of even more commitment to community and advancement in both the personal and professional sphere. On behalf of the people of the United States Virgin