

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

Islands, I would like to wish one of their favored daughters, Godspeed, as she moves forward on her life's journey.

HONORING MEMBERS OF THE DELTA BATTERY, 216TH AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY BATTALION FOR RECEIVING THE ARMY'S VALOROUS UNIT AWARD

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Delta Battery, 216th Air Defense Artillery Battalion as it is honored with the Army's Valorous Unit Award. This award requires an immense display of courage and skill from the United States Army unit when faced with a hazardous situation.

I want to congratulate every member of the Delta Battery for their contributions to the Battalion and especially for the actions that have led to earning this award. As the second highest award a Battery unit can receive, you should be proud of your efforts as individuals coming together to accomplish a mission as a team. Your heroic actions are what make America's uniformed services the pride of America.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the Delta Battery, 216th Air Defense Artillery Battalion today. Their heroic acts of bravery are what keep our national values and liberties safe. Every American owes our servicemen a debt of gratitude and I hope these fine soldiers know that we appreciate all that they do.

DANIELLE CONTRERAZ

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

The dedication demonstrated by Danielle Contreras 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 Danielle Contreras 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.

CONGRATULATING THE THOUSAND ISLANDS WINERY AS THE NEW YORK WINE AND GRAPE FOUNDATION'S WINERY OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Thousand Islands Winery upon being named the 2009 Winery of the Year by the New York Wine and Grape Foundation at its 38th annual New York Wine Industry Workshop and Unity Banquet. I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize the winery and its owners, Steve and Erika Conaway, and extend my sincere wishes for their continued success.

The Thousand Islands Winery is located between Clayton and Alexandria Bay in Jefferson County, New York, which I am proud to represent. This incredibly picturesque area is known as the Thousand Islands Region and consists of over 1,000 islands that are located along the U.S.-Canada border within the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario. Tourism has long been a crucial component of the economy.

The winery, which the Conaways established on May 16, 2002, holds the unique distinction of being the northern most farm winery in New York State. It has produced over 25,000 gallons of wines in 14 varieties and has won 21 medals for its wines in national and international competitions. Notably, its blush wine "Alexandria Bay Rose" won a double gold, best in class, at the 2008 National Women's Wine Competition in Santa Rosa, California.

Additionally, the winery was a founding member of the Thousand Islands-Seaway Wine Trail, which is over 78 miles long, and has already attracted more than 52,000 visitors since it was launched in 2007. The trail now consists of two grape nurseries, nineteen vineyards, and includes three other local wineries: the Coyote Moon Winery in Clayton, the Otter Creek Winery in Philadelphia, and the Yellow Barn Winery outside of Sackets Harbor.

Given the importance of economic growth to New York's 23rd Congressional District, I am particularly appreciative of the work done by the Thousand Islands Winery and others to develop the wine industry and the wine trail and thereby enhance the economy of the region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I voted in favor of H.R. 1728, Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act, during the first final passage vote. The vote was vacated three minutes into the vote due to a parliamentary error. I had left the building to return to California due to possible minor surgery on Friday, May 8, 2009.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. MARIAN ALICE "MALLY" MOODY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to the life and legacy of Dr. Mally Moody, her steadfast service in education, and her willingness to give back to her community in Oxford, Alabama.

Dr. Moody was born in Massachusetts on February 13, 1947, and came to Alabama over 30 years ago. As most folks that knew her can attest, she dedicated her life to education—working with students, teachers and school administrators alike. She taught math at Oxford High School and after retiring served on the Oxford School Board. She was in line to be the next president of the board.

Those she taught and all who knew her lovingly referred to her as "Doc" Moody.

Dr. Moody passed away on April 3, 2009, at the age of 62. On April 11, 2009, a celebration of her life was held at Grace Episcopal Church in Anniston, Alabama.

I am honored to help recognize this inspirational educator who spent her lifetime learning and always teaching. It is my hope her memory will serve as an example of what all educators can aspire to be.

BRENDA CATARINO

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 Brenda Catarino who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Brenda Catarino is a freshman 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 Brenda Catarino 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 Brenda Catarino 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.

HONORING THE 34TH ANNUAL CAPITAL PRIDE FESTIVAL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 34th 01 Annual Capital Pride