

I join the community in congratulating CSD for 150 years of exemplary service to deaf students and their families. The California School for the Deaf is a valuable resource beyond measure.

CELEBRATING ONE-YEAR ANNI-
VERSARY OF SWEARING IN OF
PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, this week, on May 20, 2009, the Republic of China on Taiwan will celebrate the one year anniversary of the swearing in of President Ma Ying-jeou. On a recent trip to Taipei, I had the privilege of meeting President Ma. His inauguration marked the second successful and peaceful transfer of power from one political party to another. This is an example of Taiwan's steadfast progress toward full democratization in just the last few decades.

After implementing democratic and economic reforms the Republic of China on Taiwan has become a true model of success throughout Asia. Through the hard work and entrepreneurship of the Taiwanese people, Taiwan has become one of the strongest economies in the Pacific Rim and a showcase democracy in the world.

I was proud to cosponsor H. Con. Res. 55, which recognizes the 30th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, TRA—landmark legislation that forms the foundation of the relationship between the United States and the Republic of China on Taiwan. The House of Representatives' unanimous support for the resolution on March 24, 2009 reaffirms Congress' unwavering commitment of the TRA as the cornerstone of relations between the United States and Taiwan, reiterates its support for Taiwan's democratic institutions and supports the continuation of the strong and deepening relationship between the United States and Taiwan.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in recognizing this important occasion. We are proud of its political and economic transformation, and wish Taiwan continued success and prosperity.

RECOGNIZING THE PENNDEL-
MIDDLETOWN EMERGENCY SQUAD

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Penn-del-Middletown Emergency Squad for 50 years of distinguished service to Middletown Township and its adjoining boroughs. Since their inception as a non-profit emergency ambulance service in 1959, they have selflessly served tens of thousands of residents in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Penn-del-Middletown Emergency Squad has come quite a long way since its incorporation. Their first ambulance was a used 1947 Cadillac-Superior Coach, and now their purpose is

to provide the best and most modern emergency care and transportation that can be made available. The Penn-del-Middletown Emergency Squad also offers education and training to the community for first aid and emergency care.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing the Penn-del-Middletown Emergency Squad for their 50 years of service to Middletown Township and the neighboring boroughs of Hulmeville, Langhorne, Langhorne Manor and Penndel, an area of more than 25 square miles. I am honored to serve as their Congressman.

SALUTING HARLEM'S OWN CROWN
JEWELS—LILLIAN "DIAMOND
LIL" PIERCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute and congratulate my dear friend, Lillian "Diamond Lil" Pierce as an ensemble of Harlem Legendary entertainers gathers to perform a special tribute at the famous Alhambra Ballroom on Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard.

Affectionately known in Harlem as "Diamond Lil," she was born in Cameron, North Carolina, and graduated from Pinckney High School in Carthage, North Carolina. Lil came to New York in 1958 and enrolled at City College. She later worked at the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles followed by a brief stint at a bar on Broadway, which proved to be a solid stepping stone to her becoming a co-owner of Carl's Off the Corner in West Harlem. But it was "Diamond Lil's" 21-year tenure at Showman's Café where she established her reputation and earned the appreciation of countless customers and musicians.

During her many years as a barmaid at Showman's, Lil heard and entertained a veritable Hall of Fame of Jazz and popular musicians, and Showman's Elite personalities. Showman's, originally located next to the World Famous Apollo Theatre over the years has been the home club of choice and hang-out for many of Harlem's renowned entrepreneurs and personalities. Since 1942, Showman's Jazz Cafe has showcased top musicians for Harlem and International audiences, as Mona, Co-owner and retired Son of Sam New York City Police Detective Al Howard, and our Crown Jewel "Diamond Lil" refers to as "family."

Madam Speaker, the Friends of Showman's roster include luminaries and entertainers like Count Basie, Billy Eckstine, Sammy Davis, Jr., Charles Honi Coles, Leroy Myers, Gregory Hines, Pop Brown, Nat Davis and Savion Glover. Personalities like Jesse Walker, Joe Yancy and Jimmy Booker. Performers like Bill Doggett, George Benson, Seleno Clarke, Irene Reid, Jimmy "Preacher" Robins, Gloria Lynne, Joey Morant, Akiko Tsuruga, Grady Tate, Frank Dell, Bill Saxton, Annette St. John, Wolf Johnson, Pat Tandy and the Prince of Harlem Lonnie Youngblood. Among the elected officials who graced her bar and thrilled to her service were Governor David Paterson, Assembly Members Denny Farrell and Keith Wright, State Senator Bill Perkins,

Councilmember Inez Dickens, former Borough President C. Virginia Fields, my brother and former Mayor, David N. Dinkins, and me.

Yes, diamonds are forever and so is our extraordinarily precious Lillian "Diamond Lil" Pierce.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH
MONTH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of May as National Women's Health Month. This designation encourages women to make their own health a top priority by obtaining regular medical check-ups and preventive screenings.

As we urge women to prioritize their own health care, we must also call attention to the disproportionate impact the health care crisis is having on women, particularly women of childbearing age.

In fact, earlier this month the Department of Health and Human Services released a new report, titled Roadblocks to Health Care: Why the Current Health Care System Does Not Work for Women which states that women, especially those of reproductive age, are more vulnerable to high health care costs because they require more regular contact with health care providers, including yearly Pap tests, mammograms, and obstetric and gynecological care.

While the study sheds much needed light on the impact of the nation's health care crisis on women, its findings are not surprising.

Last year, I had the opportunity to visit a women's health clinic run by Planned Parenthood and saw first hand patients seeking the affordable, accessible, high-quality preventive reproductive health care.

At Planned Parenthood clinics, health professionals provide over 950,000 cervical cancer screenings and breast exams to more than 850,000 women. Sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment are performed and made available to both women and men. In fact, 97 percent of the services provided at these clinics are preventative.

In Virginia alone these clinics provide basic health care, including lifesaving cancer screenings, to over 28,500 patients a year. But these clinics are only meeting a fraction of the need in my state. There are 846,100 women in need of contraceptive services and supplies. Of these, 371,640 women need publicly supported contraceptive services because they have incomes below 250 percent of the federal poverty level (251,710) or are sexually active teenagers (119,930). Eleven percent of women aged 15–44 have incomes below the federal poverty level, and 18 percent of all women in this age-group are uninsured (i.e., do not have private health insurance or Medicaid coverage).

Increasing health insurance coverage for women is essential. Approximately 17 million American women have no health insurance coverage. It's critical that health care reform requires coverage of comprehensive reproductive health services.

With the economic downturn, these health centers have seen a significant increase in utilization, just as their funding streams, both

public and private, have become more precarious. Across the country, they are seeing an increase in patients—women who have lost their jobs and health insurance, or who no longer have money to pay for medical care. These women are literally choosing between a month of birth control and bus fare.

Planned Parenthood health centers are part of an important network of women's health care providers and serve as a critical entry point into the health care system for millions of women.

In fact, Guttmacher reports more than six in ten clients consider family planning centers their main source of health care. Oftentimes, it is their first interaction with the country's health care system.

This is why increasing health insurance coverage is not enough. Ensuring access to a strong network of health care providers is fundamental to improving health care coordination and quality outcomes.

A strong women's health care infrastructure must be developed as we proceed with health care reform. Women need preventative services for reproductive and general health. Planned Parenthood clinics are providing these services now and we should make sure they continue to do so.

BELATED THANK YOU TO THE
MERCHANT MARINERS OF
WORLD WAR II ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service the U.S. Merchant Marines and the sacrifice each gave for our country. The merchant seamen of World War II were volunteers and a civilian military corps serving the United States in the war. They were denied veterans' benefits comparable to those provided to World War II era military veterans. By most reports, the World War II merchant marines suffered the greatest casualties of any of the fighting branches—with nearly 1-in-26 dying in battle.

H.R. 23, the Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2009 will provide benefits for an estimated 38,000 individuals in the first year of the enactment of this legislation. I believe this legislation is long overdue. I am eager to see them receive all the benefits they deserve.

I am proud and grateful for the opportunity to nominate constituents to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. There they receive an education for a future in this field. I applaud the hard work and dedication of the merchant mariners and the sacrifices they have made for our country.

HONORING MR. GLENN COLEMAN FOR HIS 23 YEARS OF SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE USDA NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Glenn Coleman, upon the occasion of his retirement, effective June 13, 2009, for his 23 years of service and dedication to the USDA National Forest Service.

Mr. Coleman, who came to the City of Alexandria, LA in 1986, has dedicated 23 years of service as a landscape architect to the Kisatchie National Forest Service. His service includes management and volunteer work with projects and organizations such as the Alexandria Tree Board Committee, the Forest Service African American Strategy Group, "Smokey the Bear" and the Rapides Parish School Fire Prevention Program, annual outdoor recreation events, recreation facility design, and the Forest Service Human Resource Program.

Beyond his professional career, Mr. Coleman has been proudly married for 20 years to Patricia Ann Coleman and is a loving father to Angela, Alisha, Andre, Kimberly, and Gregory. Friends and family describe Mr. Coleman as an individual who has dedicated his life to Christ and is an active member of The Greater New Hope Baptist Church where he served on the Deacon Board for 18 years under the direction of Rev. Robert Butler.

Mr. Coleman is a friend to many, and is deemed a gracious and hardworking person to all who have had the privilege of making his acquaintance.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Glenn Coleman for his many years of service to the National Forest Service in Louisiana and for his dedication to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE ELECTION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S (TAI-
WAN) PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the first anniversary of the election of the Republic of China's (Taiwan) President Ma Ying-jeou. With close to 65,000 Taiwanese Americans in the Chicagoland area, I have closely observed President Ma's progress on the world stage during his first year in office.

In just one year, the Harvard educated President Ma has made accomplishments in leaps and bounds to improve Taiwan's international standing in no small part because of his work to normalize relations with mainland China.

Most recently, Taiwan has been accepted as an official observer at the World Health Assembly that will take place later this month in Geneva. The World Health Assembly, which is part of the World Health Organization, will give Taiwan's 23 million citizens a voice at this very important international forum.

Also, in April, officials from China and Taiwan participated in the Chiang-Chen Talks. The talks resulted in the signing of the following agreements: (1) "Agreement on Joint Cross-Strait Crime-fighting and Mutual Judicial Assistance;" (2) the "Cross-Strait Financial Cooperation Agreement;" and, (3) the "Supplementary Agreement on Cross-Strait Air Transport". All of these agreements will result in improved coordination between the Taiwan Straits neighbors in the areas of law enforcement, financial exchanges and travel.

Finally, President Ma's administration has successfully removed Taiwan from the Special 301 Watch List which is maintained by The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. The removal from this list shows Taiwan's commitment to preventing the importing and exporting of illegally pirated materials such as DVDs and CDs.

These are three of President Ma's many achievements during his first year in office. Please join me in congratulating, President Ma, on a very successful first year.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
TRUTH IN FUR LABELING ACT
OF 2009

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce, along with Representative MARY BONO MACK, the Truth in Fur Labeling Act of 2009, which would require the labeling of all garments containing animal fur.

Current law contains a glaring loophole that allows garments containing less than \$150 dollars in fur to be sold in the U.S. without an identifying label. The result is that consumers lack the information they need to make informed choices and may inadvertently purchase garments that contain real fur, possibly from a dog or cat. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) strongly supports this bill as a way to guarantee consumers full and accurate information and to cut down on the amount of illegal dog and cat fur making its way into the U.S.

In recent years, HSUS investigators found a proliferation of falsely labeled and falsely advertised dog fur on fashion clothing sold by some of the largest names in U.S. retailing. Of the fur-trimmed jackets subjected to mass spectrometry testing by HSUS, 96 percent were found to be domestic dog, wolf or raccoon dog, and either mislabeled or not labeled at all.

Half of all fur garments entering the United States come from China, where large numbers of domestic dogs and cats as well as raccoon dogs are killed every year for their fur by brutal methods, sometimes skinned alive. The Dog and Cat Protection Act of 2000 banned the trade in dog and cat fur after an HSUS investigation revealed the death toll at 2 million animals a year and found domestic dog fur for sale in the United States.

While it is currently illegal to import, export, sell or advertise any domestic dog or cat fur in the United States and fur from other animals must be identified with a label, a loophole exists that allows a sizable portion of fur garments to avoid this labeling requirement.