

Mr. Bancroft's company employs one hundred-thirty workers during the winter and more than two hundred during the summer. The Small Business Administration has recognized Mr. Bancroft's business expertise and commitment by naming him the Maine Small Business Person of the Year for 2009.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Bancroft on a lifetime of hard work and devotion.

HONORING RABBI HOWARD
HERSCH

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 Rabbi Howard Hersch, the spiritual leader of Congregation Brothers of Israel in Newtown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Rabbi Hersch will be retiring in July after 48 years of dedicated service to his community.

While serving at the Congregation Brothers of Israel, Rabbi Hersch has worked tirelessly to provide his congregants with leadership, kindness, and an open ear. His combination of wisdom, humor, and compassion has created an atmosphere of warmth in his synagogue that his congregants will truly miss.

Rabbi Hersch is not only a scholar, teacher, and respected associate of several Rabbinical Boards, but also a member of many humanitarian and civic organizations. He has dedicated his life to advancing the causes of the State of Israel, the Jewish people, and of all people in need.

Rabbi Hersch has contributed enormously to his community in Bucks County. His commitment to service through spiritual leadership and education is a characteristic to be emulated. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Rabbi Hersch for his outstanding efforts, and am extremely honored to serve as his Congressman.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF "MR.
BRONX," DR. ELIAS KARMON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise with great sadness as I remember the life of my dear friend Dr. Elias Karmon who recently passed away. As I speak with profound sorrow, I ascend to celebrate a life well lived and to remember with fondness the accomplishments of a remarkable man who, over his many years in our community, etched his name in history as a visionary who erected institutions and forever transformed the quality of life of his fellow Bronxites.

Mr. Bronx, as he was affectionately called, was born on March 4, 1910 and until his death on October 21, 2008, he was doing what he loved the most—attending to the needs of The Bronx community. His death at the age of 98 years old does not signal an end to a dedicated career of serving his community, but the beginning for those whose lives were touched by Dr. Karmon to continue his work.

The Bronx is full of busy men, but most of us found the activities of Dr. Karmon astonishing. He took time to work with dozens of groups and organizations in keeping The Bronx a good place to work and live, and all of that on a "volunteer basis." This had been a "working together" story with people of all groups. Dr. Karmon was one of the most deeply involved residents of our borough. For all his work, Dr. Karmon was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters by Lehman College, the Presidential Medallion by Bronx Community College, and the first Hostos Community College Presidential Medal.

A graduate of New York University, Dr. Karmon worked as an accountant, a manufacturer of clothing and as a clothing retailer on Prospect Avenue. The business, Hollywood Clothes, was a Bronx Institution for over 30 years. He was also a builder of parking lots, developer of buildings for use by public and private agencies and was very active in many phases of real estate. Dr. Karmon served The Bronx for 68 years in many business, civic, health, service and humanitarian organizations. He served on the organizational committee that brought about the Einstein College of Medicine and he continued to work on behalf of the College until his death.

Dr. Karmon served as an officer or chairman in The Bronx Rotary Club, The Bronx Council of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, American Jewish Congress, Bronx Division, Bronx Boy's and Girls Clubs', Visions and Community Services for the Blind and the Bronx YMCA. Dr. Karmon served as President of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce for four consecutive terms after serving on its Board since 1953. He played an instrumental role in organizing the South Bronx Board of Trade, which greatly aided minority businesses and was one of the founders of the Ponce de Leon Federal Bank in 1959.

For twenty-two years, Mr. Karmon served as a member of the Lay Advisory Board for Lincoln Hospital, nine of those years as its chairman, and he played a pivotal role in the establishment of the new Lincoln Hospital. Dr. Karmon was also credited with helping to create the first building of Hostos Community College.

Elias will be long remembered for his extraordinary commitment, energy, wisdom, discipline, principle, and clear purpose which won the admiration of all who were privileged to come to know and work with him during his distinguished career in and around music. I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to observe and experience his example as a personal inspiration.

Madam Speaker, rather than mourn his passing, I hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of Dr. Elias Karmon by remembering that he exemplified greatness in every way.

RECOGNIZING MR. SUTTON BACON

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor America's entrepreneurs, those distinguished individuals who support our communities, drive innovation, and keep our nation

strong. Small businesses bring fresh ideas to the table, develop the resources to meet the demands of an ever-changing world, and make a meaningful impact on our neighborhoods. Entrepreneurs are responsible for providing 60 to 80 percent of all new jobs, giving them the potential to propel rapid economic growth and expand ever-developing fields. Some of the country's largest companies began as start-ups in small offices, homes and garages exploring these new fields. Limited only by their imagination, these firms performed cutting-edge work in emerging industries that have become the very foundation of our society.

As our nation and the world face the most difficult economic conditions in decades, entrepreneurs have the potential to lead us back to prosperity. The resiliency and adaptability shown by small businesses in past recessions demonstrate their capability to meet the challenges standing in their way and emerge stronger than ever. America's small businesses will drive the economic recovery from this downturn and our economy will emerge stronger than ever. Times may be tough, but America's entrepreneurial spirit is tougher.

To recognize the monumental achievements of our nation's small firms, the Small Business Administration (SBA) has declared May 17–23 as the 46th Annual National Small Business Week. The House Small Business Committee is celebrating all our country's hard-working entrepreneurs by saluting the Heroes of Small Business, those men and women who have shown the strength, leadership, and resourcefulness that keep our economy moving forward.

I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing and thanking Mr. Sutton Bacon for his tremendous accomplishments on behalf of small businesses. Mr. Bacon is President and CEO of Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC), the largest outdoor recreation company in the United States. He is responsible for overall business strategy and operational performance of the employee-owned company, which draws over half a million visitors every year. Located near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, NOC has been honored by several publications for its exemplary facilities and service excellence.

Mr. Bacon is an active conservationist, serving on the boards of multiple outdoor recreation and natural preservation organizations. He is an advocate of increased youth involvement with nature, and established the NOC Foundation to provide better access to outdoor experiences, equipment, and education for youth and underserved communities. A classically trained musician, Mr. Bacon has performed with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus and has performed on GRAMMY Award-winning commercial records.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Bacon has exemplified the remarkable accomplishments of which America's entrepreneurs are capable. This week, he will testify before the House Small Business Committee to share his story. I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join with me in honoring him for the extraordinary work he has done for the small business economy. His efforts demonstrate that if given access to the right resources, America's small businesses can be the catalysts that lift our economy from the current downturn and put us on the road to recovery.

HONORING THE EMPLOYEES OF GENESYS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the employees of Genesys Regional Medical Center for their quick action during a fire at the hospital on March 22, 2009.

On that morning a fire started in a patient room at the Medical Center. A nurse sounded the alarm and escorted the patient from the room. The nursing staff mobilized and moved 36 patients from the area of the fire. The patients ranged from the wheelchair-bound to the non-ambulatory and many were on oxygen. Security staff, other employees and physicians moved in with fire extinguishers. The oxygen supply to the area was cut off, the sprinkler system activated and the fire was contained to one room.

The Grand Blanc Fire Department noted that not one patient or employee was injured during the entire incident. Due to the quick response by the Genesys staff, patient care was not compromised during the evacuation. Fire Chief James Harnes has complimented the Genesys team for their great work during the crisis.

Madam Speaker, the Genesys Regional Medical Center staff put the well-being of their patients first and they worked together to ensure each and every patient was moved to safety, the fire was extinguished expeditiously, and the security of the Medical Center was not compromised. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in commending the employees for their unwavering dedication and quick action.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICANVIEW GEOSPATIAL IMAGERY MAPPING PROGRAM ACT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the AmericaView Geospatial Imagery Mapping Program Act.

AmericaView is a nationwide program that focuses on satellite remote sensing data and technologies in support of applied research, K-16 education, workforce development, and technology transfer. AmericaView is administered through a partnership between the U.S. Geological Survey and the AmericaView Consortium, which is comprised of over 30 "StateViews." The Consortium is the federal government's primary partner in achieving the program's vision and goals. Specifically, applied researchers at universities in each member state collaborate with each other and with government agencies to develop and share information and techniques for using remote sensing data.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the AmericaView Geospatial Imagery Mapping Program. By authorizing this program, Con-

gress recognizes the important work conducted by the AmericaView Consortium in collaboration with U.S.G.S. Since the 1970s, the federal government has invested in earth-observing satellites that provide remote sensing imagery. When federal geospatial imagery is available in a cost-effective and timely manner, state, local, and tribal governments as well as educational institutions are able to develop new scientific, educational, and practical applications for the data and to adopt new tools for applied research, education, and training.

The AmericaView program is uniquely positioned to help each state develop applications and skills necessary to effectively apply geospatial imagery for multiple state-focused mapping purposes, and to expand the use and benefits of geospatial imagery for research and operational purposes within each state.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I look forward to working with all my colleagues to promptly pass the AmericaView Geospatial Imagery Mapping Program Act.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTY KURIATNYK

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Christy Kuriatnyk, named the 2009 Navy Spouse of the Year by Military Spouse Magazine and USAA.

We often praise our men and women in uniform who put their lives on the line every day for our freedom and our security. We're aware of the debt we owe to them but perhaps neglect the unsung heroes they leave behind on the home front: the spouses and children of our troops.

From among these great Americans, Kuriatnyk has gained singular acclaim for her outstanding contributions to her community above and beyond her duties as a military spouse, mother of three and employee of the Columbus Health Department.

Kuriatnyk holds down the fort in Ellerslie, GA, while her husband, Lt. Cmdr. Alex Kuriatnyk, is stationed at the Gulfport, MS, Construction Battalion Center. He is the operations officer there.

Though married to a Navy man, Kuriatnyk often works on behalf of Army families stationed at nearby Fort Benning. She's an active volunteer for Operation Homefront and she's helped organize baby showers for Army spouses and "My Mommy/Daddy's Deployment Party" for the children of Fort Benning soldiers who have gone overseas. As the daughter of a Korean War vet, she has a special bond with these children and she knows the anxiety they feel when their parents are deployed.

Kuriatnyk's work on behalf of children has benefited all of Georgia, not just her fellow military families. She's created programs that have advanced the causes of booster seat use, lead-free toys and skateboard safety.

I'm proud to have this great patriot as a constituent in Georgia's 3rd Congressional District. I call on my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Christy Kuriatnyk on attaining this honor and in thanking her for all of the time and energy she devotes to our

beloved military families. She'll represent military families with distinction as the 2009 Navy Spouse of the Year.

THE WOUNDED VETERAN JOB SECURITY ACT

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 466 the Wounded Veteran Job Security Act.

It is more important than ever that we support this bill because of the difficult economic times facing our nation.

American servicemen and women put their lives on the line every day to ensure our freedoms.

Across the globe, U.S. troops are engaging in combat and humanitarian missions that place them in harms way.

Regardless of the danger, generations of Americans continue to answer the call of duty.

My father was an Army Staff Sergeant during World War II.

My brother and I served in the Army during the Vietnam era.

Most recently, my son's Army National Guard unit was activated after the September 11th attacks.

As a former member of the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs, I worked with my colleagues to ensure that Veterans had opportunities to find a job once they returned home.

It is important that veterans not only find a job, but they are not penalized by their employer for injuries or illnesses they received in the service of their nation.

A stable career path is essential to ensuring a seamless transition into civilian life.

It is unacceptable to merely provide equipment to protect our troops in combat without also having policies in place to protect them once they return home.

I hope to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to create policy that helps our veterans and their families prosper and enjoy the freedoms they helped to ensure.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Week was first established in 1978 through a joint congressional resolution. The first 10 days of May were chosen to coincide with two key anniversaries—the arrival in the U.S. of the first Japanese immigrants on May 7, 1843 and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. Fourteen years later, Congress expanded the week to a month-long celebration.

Today, I am proud to join with all Americans in celebrating the tremendous contributions of the Asian American and Pacific Islander,