

HONORING KAREN FONTENOT

**HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2009*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Karen Fontenot, of Duson, Louisiana, who has dedicated her life to helping veterans throughout Southwest Louisiana.

She answered her country's call during the Vietnam Conflict, serving as a nurse in the Philippines.

It was while trying to help move and carry male patients twice her size that Karen first injured her back. It was an injury which left her permanently disabled, unable to walk without the assistance of a cane, and in constant pain. Karen's caring and tender nature was injured, perhaps more severely than her physical being. She suffered with every young man she saw torn apart by the horrors of war.

Upon returning to her family and domestic life in Southwest Louisiana, Karen remained true to her fellow veterans. In an area which lacked Memorial Day and Veterans' Day ceremonies, Karen led a movement to establish those events. She was aided by some fellow veterans, but the brunt of the effort fell on her. For more than a decade, Karen has organized ceremonies to honor those she served alongside as well as those who came before and after her.

When the Iraq War led to the deaths of several local, young men, Karen added a special tribute to the Gold Star Mothers. These families led by the mothers who have lost their child gather with dozens of other veterans and their families to pay tribute to those who have died and those who live.

In addition to the beautiful ceremony, Karen invites all of those attending to a catered lunch at the local Armory. Each of the Gold Star Mothers receives special gifts, and those who have made special contributions are recognized and receive a tribute.

Karen Fontenot broke her back to care for young men injured and killed in the Vietnam conflict and returned home with the intent that all men and women who have sacrificed for their country will be remembered. If it is up to her, none of their sacrifices will be forgotten or overlooked. Karen Fontenot is a patron saint of veterans.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Karen for her achievements and dedication to our nation's veterans.

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**INTRODUCTION OF THE ABSENTEE BALLOT TRACK, RECEIVE, AND CONFIRM (TRAC) ACT**
**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2009*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Absentee Ballot Track, Receive and Confirm (TRAC) Act—a bill to assist states in establishing absentee ballot tracking systems.

Many voters worry that they cannot determine whether their absentee ballots were actually sent out, received and counted.

In most cases, the fears of one's mail-in ballot somehow being lost in the system are un-

founded—but we all know the concern is still there. Our nation's voters deserve electoral procedures that are transparent and which strengthen their faith in democracy.

Sometimes there is reason for concern. I have heard from people who simply did not receive a ballot they requested. There are various reasons for this from clerical errors to confusion over addresses.

Other times, a problem occurs when an absentee ballot is rejected because a voter's signature has changed over time and the voter never knows the difference.

The good news is that it is possible and practical to track mail ballots.

Many elections offices are already tracking ballots with great success. In fact, in California it is law that all counties establish absentee ballot tracking systems and the systems are quite popular with voters and elections officials.

In my home of San Diego County, CA, our registrar's online voter registration/absentee look-up feature received 98,000 hits before the 2008 November election.

Quite simply, the technology exists to allow voters to easily find out whether an elections office has sent out a ballot, whether a completed ballot has arrived back at the registrar's office, whether the registrar has counted the ballot, and if not, why not.

Implementing ballot tracking systems will bring voters peace of mind and reduce the burden on elections offices which are often barraged with phone calls from voters trying to determine the status of their ballots.

Moreover, the ability to check absentee status round the clock is a convenient service for voters, especially for military and overseas voters in various time zones.

Not only is mail ballot tracking feasible and helpful, but it is also affordable.

Setting up systems at an elections office can be as simple as redesigning a website and linking it to a back-up of a current database as San Mateo County, CA discovered when they created a tracking system for just \$2000.

Absentee tracking could even help elections offices save money in the long run as call volumes will likely go down and the strain on elections office staff declines.

Mail ballot tracking is a win-win for voters and elections officials.

We should follow the lead of the trailblazers who are already tracking mail ballots and encourage local jurisdictions to create tracking systems.

The TRAC Act would allow the federal government to reimburse states for establishing tracking systems. However, I want to be clear that it would not require any state to set up a tracking system.

I am proud to introduce this bill along with my fellow colleague from California, Mr. MCCARTHY and I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us in supporting this effort to strengthen the democratic process and give American voters the electoral certainty they deserve.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JAMES EDWARD ARRINGTON

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2009*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Jackson, Alabama, and all of southwest Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor James Edward Arrington and pay tribute to his memory.

A native of Greensboro, Mayor Arrington was a veteran of the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. In 1962, he moved to Jackson to build and operate Arrington Nursing Home, which later became Jackson Health Care. He was former auxiliary police chief in Jackson, former owner of A & B Trucking Company, and co-owner of Anderson Brothers Chrysler-Plymouth dealership.

For all of his achievements, James Arrington will perhaps be most remembered for serving as the mayor of Jackson for over two decades. Among the many accomplishments during his five-term administration include: funding of the new city hall building, locating Allied Paper (now Boise) to Jackson, construction of the Vanity Fair building, and construction of the northern Industrial Road bypass.

Just this past February, the Jackson City Council voted to rename City Hall the James E. Arrington City Hall Complex. Mayor Arrington was also named Jackson's Man of the Year for 1973 by the Jackson Civitan Club.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a beloved friend to many throughout southwest Alabama. James Edward Arrington will be dearly missed by his family—his wife, Betty; his two sons, Ed Arrington and Greg Cotton; his two daughters, Leah Trotter and Brenda Fondren; his brother, Johnnie Arrington; his sister, Maggie Nelson; his eight grandchildren; and great-grandchild—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

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**TRIBUTE TO THE PASSAIC COUNTY COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION, INC.**
**HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2009*

Mr. PASCHELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding organization, The Passaic County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Prevention, Inc., which will celebrate its 25th Anniversary on May 25, 2009. This milestone marks a quarter century of supporting those most in need of assistance to get their lives on track, and thereby become a productive part of the greater community.

It is only fitting that The Passaic County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Prevention, Inc. be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for all the assistance it has provided to individuals and families in the Passaic County area.

Passaic County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Prevention, Inc. was incorporated as a nonprofit prevention agency on May 25, 1984. Founded by Father Alan Savitt, a Catholic priest from the Paterson Diocese who still serves as executive director, the Council began working from a 200 square foot trailer in Clifton. After renovating an historic building on the City Hall property, the Council was granted a no cost lease from the city of Clifton and moved into its permanent home.

This facility serves the citizens of Passaic County as a Prevention Resource Center, providing prevention educational outreach services and assistance programs to those in need. Programs range from those like BABES (Beginning Alcohol and Addiction Basic Education Studies) and Forest Friends, serving elementary school children, to high school peer counseling programs, and from drug free workplace and counseling to WISE (Wellness Initiative and Senior Educators).

In addition to providing educational services and referral programs, the council also provides a focus for those interested in advocacy, public policy and prevention legislation.

When the group first began, the county government provided funding for operating expenses, but as the years have gone by, sources of funding have begun to run dry. Through the hard work of the staff and friends of the Council, grants and partnerships have been secured to help make ends meet. Over the years, the Council has received governmental, charitable and foundation grants to help fund its innovative programs and partnership efforts with numerous worldwide, national, statewide and regional programs. Father Savitt and long-term employee, Sister Pauline Kuntne, have shouldered the heavy burden of fundraising with enormous fortitude.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing the efforts of service-minded organizations like the Passaic County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Prevention, Inc.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Father Alan Savitt and the staff and volunteers of the Passaic County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Prevention, Inc., all those who have been touched by their caring professionalism, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of this group to the Passaic County community and beyond.

**URGING ALL AMERICANS AND  
PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONALITIES  
TO VISIT THE NATIONAL CEME-  
TERIES, MEMORIALS, AND  
MARKERS ON MEMORIAL DAY**

SPEECH OF

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2009*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as an original cosponsor, to voice my strong support for H. Res. 360, which urges Americans and people of every nationality to visit national cemeteries, memorials, and markers on this upcoming Memorial Day.

Today, we rightfully take time to recognize the men and women who have dedicated their lives to the service of our nation. We are

proud of all of our servicemen and women and are eternally grateful for their efforts in the Global War on Terror. Indeed, the democracy on display here today with our presence in this chamber is testament to the courage and valor of our Armed Services.

Memorial Day is a federal holiday to celebrate the lives of those that have died while defending our nation. The soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who have served in our Armed Services deserve the utmost respect from our nation, and those that have died have made the ultimate sacrifice for the liberties that we enjoy every day.

It is at their final resting place that there will forever be enshrined the spirit of American generosity, sacrifice, and courage that our brave men and women have so graciously provided in defense of our freedom.

Let us also honor and say a gracious thank you to each and every military family member for the encouragement, love, and kindness they exhibit in supporting their precious loved ones as they serve a nation that will forever be free because of their sacrifice. It is to the family members that we say thank you now.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it will be a worthwhile endeavor to spend time on this holiday remembering the sacrifice our heroes have made for America. I encourage every American to visit our national cemeteries and memorials so that they may take part in dedicating this holiday to the memory of the excellent men and women of our Armed Services who have spent a lifetime of service to America.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

**CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
BRUNO DEGOL**

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2009*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and celebrate the life of Bruno DeGol of Gallitzin, Pennsylvania who passed away on May 14th surrounded by his family and friends at the age of 86.

It is not an easy task to summarize a life so rich in accomplishment as the one lived by Bruno DeGol. For many of my constituents in Pennsylvania Bruno DeGol was best known as an amazingly successful entrepreneur, a noted philanthropist and as someone who never forgot his roots in the community where he grew up and prospered. I agree with that sentiment and I can say without question Bruno will be missed by all who knew him and knew of him.

You don't get to be as successful in life as Bruno DeGol by backing down to a challenge and Bruno never did. In World War II he took part in the D-Day Invasion as a soldier with the Army's 102nd Infantry Division. Bruno left the Army at the end of the war with an honorable service record that included the Bronze Star and numerous medals and commendations for his service.

Like so many other returning veterans looking for a start in post-war America, Bruno took a chance and opened his first of many business ventures in 1950. By 1972, his business, a construction materials company, had grown

and expanded to four locations in Blair and Cambria Counties in Pennsylvania. Today, through careful expansion by his sons, DeGol Brothers Lumber now serves consumers in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Florida.

Bruno was a consummate entrepreneur with razor sharp business acumen. However, he will be even more fondly remembered for the way he gave back to the people and the community he loved so much. Bruno's philanthropy is most evident in the good work that continues to be done by the Bruno & Lena DeGol Family Foundation as well as his longstanding support of St. Francis University.

Bruno built his version of the American Dream through hard work, determination and the support of his loving family. In fact, even though he was successful in so many things, building his family with his wife Lena was Bruno's most significant achievement. His five children; Don, Dave, Gloria, Bruno Jr., and Dennis and his 18 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren have been left a tremendous legacy to build upon.

Bruno DeGol will be remembered as a visionary and a humanitarian in business and community service. He will be missed by his family, his friends and by the countless people he touched throughout his long and wonderful life. I send my thoughts and my prayers to the DeGol family in their time of loss and ask the House to join me in honoring Bruno DeGol and celebrating his life.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOM-  
PLISHMENTS OF JUDGE  
MARILYN MORGAN UPON HER  
RETIREMENT**

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2009*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of a distinguished member of my community, the Honorable Marilyn Morgan, upon her retirement from the United States Bankruptcy Court for the San Jose Division of the Northern District of California.

Judge Morgan has served on the federal bench with honor and integrity for 21 years. She has been an exceptional jurist, committed to fairness in the decisions impacting those who have appeared before her. Throughout her life and career, Judge Morgan has sought to ensure that all parties, including those with limited access to services and legal representation, have justice and equality. However, her extraordinary dedication to public service extends far beyond her courtroom.

Prior to her legal career, Ms. Morgan worked in the civil rights movement in the area of voter registration. After receiving her J.D. from Emory University, Ms. Morgan returned to her native San Jose to start her own practice in bankruptcy law, representing both debtors and creditors. She also served as a bankruptcy trustee. In that capacity, she quickly identified a need for a communications clearinghouse for trustees to connect and share ideas and educational resources. Ms. Morgan was co-founder of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, an educational and advocacy organization for Chapter 7 Trustees that continues to thrive and boast a nationwide membership.