

In 1978, he was appointed by then-Governor George C. Wallace as Baldwin County's coroner. He went on to win seven consecutive elections and remained in the post until his retirement in 2006. In addition to serving as county coroner and owning the funeral home, he ran a commercial real estate business and a small cattle operation.

Former Baldwin County District Attorney David Whetstone said "[Mr. Mack] was probably one of the best coroners in the history of Alabama . . . And he is one of the best friends you could have." Jim Small, who was elected county coroner following Mr. Mack's retirement said, "He was a person who worked hard and diligently."

Mr. Mack was a founding member of the Central Baldwin County Chamber of Commerce and had served as its president. He was also past president of the Alabama Funeral Director's Association, the Robertsdale Rotary Club, and past board member of the Selected Independent Funeral Homes. He was a devout member of Robertsdale United Methodist Church.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a beloved friend to many throughout southwest Alabama. Huey Alfred Mack Sr. will be dearly missed by his family—his wife, Jean Marie Mack; his daughter, Linda Lou Mack, his son, Huey A. "Hoss" Mack Jr.; his sister, Judy; his brother, Arnold; his five grandchildren; and his great grandchild—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

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

HONORING MRS. PATRICIA HECK

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Patricia Heck, an exemplary public servant who is retiring as a teacher at Red Mountain High School in Mesa.

In 1988, Pat launched a program at Red Mountain through Reading Is Fundamental that promotes a love of reading for all ability groups through fun and entertaining activities. Pat's commitment and deep passion for literacy encourages students of all reading levels to unlock the mystery that each book holds.

Fueled by Pat's drive and determination, the program flourished. The club currently consists of 1,800 teen members; representing more than half the student body. Members organize an annual carnival, and produce year-round reading displays, assemblies, and read-a-thons. Every year, they collect over 2,500 books to distribute to their own high school and in other areas of need. Since the school opened in 1988, the club has given away \$3 million in donated books. At the core of Club RIF are the one-on-one reading buddies that work directly with 150 second graders at the Salk Elementary School and the tutors who read to 1,375 children each week.

Pat's dedication has been recognized numerous times over the years including national recognition in 1991 as President Bush Sr.'s 432nd Point of Light and in 2000 as the recipients of President Clinton's Student Service Award.

After more than 20 years of service to Club RIF and 30 years in education, Pat is retiring. Through her leadership, vision and passion, she excelled as a charismatic advocate for literacy and provided a shining example of how students can positively influence children in their communities through education and reading. Her energy and enthusiasm for Club RIF and its mission will continue to inspire students to get excited about reading.

I take particular pride in Pat's contributions and accomplishments because she was one of my first students when I began my own 28-year teaching career.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Patricia Heck on her energetic contributions to Club RIF, her upcoming retirement, and the lasting legacy she will leave with the community.

RECOGNIZING BETTE MIDLER AND THE NEW YORK RESTORATION PROJECT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Bette Midler and the New York Restoration Project who for the last 14 years has been revitalizing underserved parkland and community gardens in my Congressional District and throughout the City of New York. Restoration of our beloved parks and gardens has promoted in my community a sense of ownership and civic pride leading residents to preserve their beloved recreational areas.

Bette Midler first got the attention of this Congress when she took to national syndicated television in 1994 and confessed that if she had not gone into entertainment she probably would have pursued a career as an urban planner, and she certainly has moved to the forefront in promoting livability with her personal advocacy and investment.

This was most apparent when she spearheaded the rescue of 112 parks and community gardens in New York City when then Mayor Rudolph Giuliani threatened to auction these small gardens to the highest bidder for redevelopment. Had Bette not stepped in, along with the Trust for Public Land and the New York Restoration Project (NYRP), a great number of New Yorkers would have lost their sprawling parks and adored gardens.

New York Restoration Project was founded by Bette Midler in 1995 as the "conservancy of forgotten places." NYRP reclaims, restores and revitalizes neglected parks, community gardens and waterfronts throughout New York City—focusing especially on underserved neighborhoods. NYRP is also the lead non-profit partner of Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC MillionTreesNYC, the most ambitious public-private initiative in the country, dedicated to planting one million new trees in New York City by 2017.

For 14 years, NYRP has recognized that the challenges facing New York City's natural environment are significant. Dramatic increases in population, shortage of green spaces, insufficient tree canopy, and unsatisfactory environmental education are some of the compelling obstacles facing our great city, especially in low-income neighborhoods. As a result of

these pressing issues, the City is facing dangerously high rates of obesity and diabetes; dramatic climate changes with rising temperatures and sea levels; devastatingly poor air quality and growing asthma rates; and lack of knowledge of, and respect for, the natural environment among younger generations. NYRP is able to combat the negative effects of these concerns through five core initiatives: Park Reclamation and Beautification, Community Garden Design Excellence Program, Community Outreach, Environmental Education Programming, and MillionTreesNYC Tree Planting and Stewardship.

As a permanent operational partner with local communities and city agencies, NYRP supplies labor, materials, project design and management, and environmental educational programs throughout the city's green spaces. NYRP has removed more than 1,900 tons of garbage and debris from New York City parks and public spaces; created Swindler Cove Park on the Harlem River, on the site of what was once an illegal dumping ground; planted more than 200,000 trees as part of MillionTreesNYC, a public-private partnership between the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and NYRP; undertaken the care of Fort Washington Park, Fort Tryon Park, Highbridge Park, Bridge Park, and Roberto Clemente State Park; saved 114 community gardens from commercial development; and served thousands of youth and families with after-school and school-day outdoor learning and public programs.

So Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing my good friend Bette Midler for all her contributions to our parks and such a remarkable and impressive organization like the New York Restoration Project who, under the leadership of Executive Director Drew Becher, has transformed and beautified the parks and community gardens of my district and the city of New York.

PRESIDENT MA OF TAIWAN

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, President Ma of Taiwan will celebrate the one-year anniversary of his taking office on May 20th, 2009. In just one year, the Harvard-educated President has accomplished so much to improve Taiwan's standing on the world stage.

The latest of these accomplishments is Taiwan's acceptance 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 finally give Taiwan's 23 million citizens a voice at this forum. This is possible because of President Ma's blossoming relationship with mainland China.

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.

Among other successes, President Ma's administration was able to have Taiwan removed from the Special 301 Watch List which is maintained by the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). The removal shows Taiwan's commitment to preventing the importing and exporting of illegally pirated materials such as DVD's and CD's.

Madam Speaker, I would like to call these accomplishments and the successful first year of President Ma's administration to my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS REALIGNMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1089, the Veterans Employment Rights Realignment Act of 2009. I thank Representative HERSETH SANDLIN of South Dakota for her leadership on the issues of veteran employment and education, and I commend her for bringing this bill to the Floor today.

Members of the Armed Forces—including the National Guard and Reserves—serve our nation with selflessness and courage. They deserve our gratitude, and in these difficult economic times, I believe that means we must redouble our efforts to ensure they have full and fair access to employment after their service.

H.R. 1089 will remove bureaucratic hurdles for veterans in search of redress for discriminatory employment practices, and it will allocate new resources to the Office of Special Counsel—the federal investigative and prosecutorial agency tasked with protecting federal employees from prohibited personnel practices.

In 1994, Congress put in place a strong set of employment protections for service members and veterans in the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. We need to enforce this law quickly and efficiently, and the Veterans Employment Rights Realignment Act of 2009 will help the Office of Special Counsel to do just that.

I was proud to support H.R. 1089 when it was considered by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and I am pleased to support this bill on the House floor today. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this important legislation to protect service members and veterans from inappropriate employment practices.

TRIBUTE TO THE 203RD MILITARY POLICE BATTALION

HON. PARKER GRIFFITH

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 203rd Military Police Battalion of Athens, Alabama. On June 21st, the 203rd

Battalion will depart for Fort Bliss to train before leaving for Iraq.

The 203rd Military Police Battalion has provided community service support to the Athens Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) for more than a decade, specifically with the annual RSVP Picnic in the Park. Without their assistance, this special event for RSVP volunteers would not be possible. The Picnic in the Park will be especially meaningful this year as the 203rd prepares to deploy.

We enjoy our way of life and the freedoms we have because of groups like the 203rd Military Police Battalion. Their years of sacrifice on both local and national levels serve as an extraordinary example of leadership for us all.

Madam Speaker, I wish to express my extreme gratitude for the 203rd Military Police Battalion's service to my district and to honor them as they leave home in defense of our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH INTILE

HON. BILL PASCRELL JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding individual, Chief Joseph Intile, who is being recognized May 20, 2009 on the occasion of his retirement as Chief of the Bloomfield, NJ Fire Department, after thirty years of dedicated service.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, because he is the embodiment of the patriotism and community spirit that make our nation so great.

Chief Intile joined the Bloomfield Fire Department on March 27, 1979 and since then has brought much distinction to the department and to his position. Most notably, he guided the Bloomfield Fire Department in becoming the first Fire Department in the northeastern United States to achieve international accreditation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Commission of Fire Accreditation.

Chief Intile is one of the most decorated and honored Fire Chiefs in the State of New Jersey. He holds a Masters of Administrative Science from Fairleigh Dickinson University and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

He is a member of several highly respected professional organizations, such as the National Fire Protection Association,

International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Society of Executive Fire Officers, National Fire Academy Alumni Association, New Jersey Career Fire Chiefs Association, and the New Jersey State Fire Chiefs Association as well as many others including my own Congressional Public Safety Advisory Committee.

During his tenure in the Bloomfield Fire Department, Chief Intile achieved Executive Fire Officer status from the National Fire Academy and Chief Fire Officer Designation from the Commission on Fire Officer Designation. He has attained Fire Official, Fire Inspector, and Incident Management Level 3 ranks from the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice. He has received five Live Saving Awards from the Township of Bloomfield, three Public Safety

Awards from the John I. Crecco Foundation, as well as recognition from the New Jersey General Assembly, the Essex County Board of Freeholders, and the New Jersey State Senate.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to being able to acknowledge great Americans like Chief Joseph Intile.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Joseph's family and friends, the members of the Bloomfield Fire Department, all those who have been touched by him, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of Chief Joseph Intile to his profession and his community.

HONORING DOS PUEBLOS HIGH SCHOOL ENGINEERING ACADEMY AND THEIR ROBOTICS TEAM, THE D'PENGUINEERS

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commend my constituents at the Dos Pueblos High School Engineering Academy in Goleta, CA.

After rigorous study of engineering, science, math and other subjects, thirty-two high school seniors in this program came together to form a Robotics team called the D'Penguineers.

This group of talented students won two regional competitions and competed last month in the International For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Challenge in Atlanta, Georgia and won the coveted Motorola Quality Award which is given to the best-designed robot in the competition.

In only six weeks, these impressive high school students built a robot with the ability to remove 40-inch diameter balls from a 6½-foot tall overpass, drive along a prescribed path, and maneuver the balls into position with each pass under or over the underpass on each lap.

Madam Speaker, the Dos Pueblos Engineering Academy and the success of the D'Penguineers exemplifies what motivated students can do with support from their families, teachers and community.

To build on the success of these students, we must continue to prioritize science education and funding, not only throughout the South and Central Coasts but across the country as well.

With research performed by these students and others equally committed to the scientific community, our country will lead the world with new solutions for clean energy and more efficient technology.

I am proud to represent these gifted high school seniors, their dedicated instructors, and the entire Dos Pueblos High School community in Congress.

I am sure this esteemed achievement is indicative of many further successes for these intelligent young people.