

where she now serves as secretary. Additionally, she has served as president of the Todd's Inheritance Historic Site, helping to raise over \$500,000 for the renovation of the Todd House on North Point Road in Edgemere.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mrs. Carolyn Mroz on this memorable occasion. Her dedication to the community of Dundalk is apparent in every aspect of her life despite her not residing there, and the community is truly a better place because of her.

INTRODUCING A BILL HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TAKAMIYAMA DAIGORO TO THE SPORT OF SUMO AND TO UNITED STATES-JAPAN RELATIONS

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that recognizes the contributions of Jesse Kuhaulua, known professionally as Takamiyama Daigoro, a trailblazer in the sport of sumo wrestling.

Maui-born and a graduate of Baldwin High School in Wailuku, Jesse made his debut as an aspirant in Japan's national sport in the winter of 1964 in Osaka. At the time, he knew little of the Japanese language and the subtleties of the sport itself. In this initial test, he wondered if his stay in Japan would be counted in weeks or months.

On June 15, 2009, Takamiyama Daigoro will retire from a 45-year long sumo career filled with historic milestones. This day marks the day before his 65th birthday by which senior members of the sport must retire.

Takamiyama Daigoro was the first United States born wrestler to enter the sport of sumo. In 1972, he became the first foreigner to win the Emperor's Cup, a top division championship in the sport. He was also the first foreign-born wrestler to climb to the sumo's third highest rank of *sekiwake*. Takamiyama also stands as the only foreigner to open his own stable, to train future generations in the sport, after he stopped actively competing himself.

Takamiyama opened the door for others from Hawaii to join him in this most ancient of sports. This group includes Saleva'a Atisano'e, also known as Konishiki, who became the first foreigner to reach the second-highest rank of *ozeki*; as well as Chad Rowen, also known as Akebono, who became the first foreigner to hold the highest rank of sumo, that of *yokozuna*; and Fiamalu Penitani, also known as Musashimaru, who became the second foreigner to hold the title of *yokozuna*.

I urge my colleagues to support this recognition of Jesse Kuhaulua, a true ambassador of aloha spirit.

MOREEN BLUM

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my good friend, Moreen

Blum, who was recently honored by the Sherman Oaks Democratic Club for her outstanding contributions to democratic politics in the San Fernando Valley. I have known Moreen for over two decades and have had the pleasure of working with her on many important issues in our community.

A long time volunteer in local politics, Moreen was born in Cleveland, Ohio. She joined the Navy when she was 20 years old and was a member of the Waves until 1952. Shortly after moving to Los Angeles in 1959, she formed the West Hollywood Democratic Club and was a Golden Girl at the John F. Kennedy nominating convention. Currently, she is President Emeritus of the Sherman Oaks Democratic Club, and is very active as the president and founder of the Summerville Democratic Club. Her noteworthy achievements were recognized by the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley, as she was presented with the Dorothy Mayer Award. She serves as a worthy example to all political activists.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in saluting Moreen Blum for her impressive career and dedication to the people of the San Fernando Valley.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LARRY KISSELL**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 18, 2009, I was unable to vote as I was participating in an Armed Services Congressional Delegation meeting at Ft. Bragg and missed three rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 267 to pass H. Res. 300, Congratulating Camp Dudley YMCA of Westport, New York, on the occasion of its 125th anniversary; "yea" on rollcall No. 268 to pass S. 386, the "Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009"; and "yea" on rollcall No. 269 to pass H. Res. 442, "Recognizing the Importance of the Child and Adult Care Food Program and its Positive Effect on the Lives of Low Income Children and Families."

RECOGNIZING MAYOR VIC BURGESS

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Vic Burgess who will be retiring from the City of Corinth this month after many years serving his community.

Since 2003, Mayor Burgess served selflessly in the non-paying position and also served for over five years as a City Council Member before being elected as Mayor. Mayor Burgess also held the position of County Judge for four years. His commitment to his community is further illustrated by his service as a volunteer police reserve officer for the City of Lewisville for six years and as a reserve officer for the Denton County Sheriff's Department for two and a half years.

As Mayor and former City Council Member, Vic Burgess demonstrated professionalism, integrity, enthusiasm and dedication to the city and citizens of Corinth. A fellow Council Member stated that, "Mayor Burgess had a steady guiding hand to lead in good and bad times. He put the city on a good path for the future."

It is with great honor that I recognize Mayor Vic Burgess for his years of hard work and dedication given to the citizens of Corinth and North Texas. I am proud to represent him in Washington and honor his service and devotion that demonstrates true leadership.

HONORING JAMES F. VESELY

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, today I pause to honor a man who spent more than 40 years using his exceptional journalistic skill, integrity and ethic to promote civic engagement and help educate his readership and many others in the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

James F. Vesely retired from The Seattle Times on Friday, May 15, 2009. He oversaw the editorial pages at The Times since 2001 after holding the position of associate editorial page editor for the previous 10 years. During his tenure at the largest newspaper in my home state of Washington, Mr. Vesely consistently pushed The Times editorial pages and its writers to think independently, write accurately and report fairly. And, with an outstanding journalist with a lifetime of experience under his belt in the lead, the editorial page and its writers did just that. During a tremendously difficult time for newspapers throughout our country the editorial pages at The Times spoke consistently, accurately and uncompromisingly.

Before joining The Times in 1991, Mr. Vesely spent much of his career in the Midwest, including ten years in Detroit with The Detroit News. He also worked as a consulting editor for the Anchorage Times and as a visiting editor at The People's Daily in Beijing. In the mid-seventies, he was a Journalism Fellow at Stanford University and was a member of the National Conference of Editorial Writers for the past 15 years.

Mr. Vesely's involvement in civic engagement was the true barometer of his positive effect on citizens looking to "get involved" in their communities and government. In 2005, Mr. Vesely took the time to moderate a forum I held in the 8th District on Social Security and he and The Times Editorial Board hosted, moderated and submitted questions at many political debates—races I was involved in and a variety of others. Mr. Vesely also offered his time to CityClub, a non-profit, non-partisan education organization dedicated to informing citizens and building community leadership, in order to facilitate healthy dialogue and educational opportunities for people in the greater Seattle area. He never rested in educating himself and others to make our corner of the country a more informed, vibrant place to live.

With the retirement of James F. Vesely from The Seattle Times, the Pacific Northwest is losing an informed voice of reason and the journalism profession is losing a wealth of experience, wisdom and generosity. I wish Mr.

Vesely the best in retirement. He told *The Times* on May 13 that he was “plan(ing) to do a lot of fly-fishing”; that sounds like a great start.

AMENDING THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A HEALTH SURVEY REGARDING NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDERS

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I introduced legislation to amend the Public Health Service Act for the purposes of providing the resources necessary for the Department of Health and Human Services to survey the health of Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders (NHOPI). Specifically, the bill I have introduced today would amend Part B of Title III of the Public Health Service Act to authorize the award of a contract or grant by the Secretary of Health and Human Services for the express purpose of developing a health survey targeting Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders residing in the United States and the Freely Associated States in the Pacific Region.

In 1997, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) revised federal data collection standards to recognize the significant demographic, historical, cultural, and ethnic differences that exist between Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders and Asian Americans. These important distinctions are not simply cultural or historical, but also encompass unique health and socio-economic challenges among the different populations. The standard requires that Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander data be collected, disaggregated and reported separately from Asian American data by all federal agencies no later than January 1, 2003.

As of 2007, however, not all federal agencies are in full compliance with OMB Revised Directive 15. In the places where limited agency data do exist, they are not made publicly available or it takes years to release. On a national level, the sample size of the NHOPI population in studies and reports is not represented because of a lack of data—resulting in meaningful information and statistics being unavailable to health organizations, federal, state, territorial and local agencies and policymakers.

Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander communities are eager to move forward with their efforts to improve public health. This scientific survey would establish baseline health information to inform health policy and interventions so that individual and community health can be properly tracked and evaluated. Additionally, it would provide critical information for both NHOPI communities' health care providers and organizations that work with these communities to develop appropriate health care strategies for public health education and resources.

I look forward on working with my colleagues in addressing this need and advancing the larger cause of eliminating health disparities.

TRIBUTE TO ALL VETERANS

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, President Abraham Lincoln said a Gettysburg, “The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.”

I rise today to honor those who have fallen in defense of our country, and I do so recognizing that history won't remember what a guy like me has to say.

But it's important for those who served, and those who serve, to know we will always take the time to remember, and say thank you.

I rise to recognize the sacrifices of the Soldier holding the line in Gettysburg, the Sailor defending the fleet in the South Pacific, the Marine landing at Inchon, South Korea, and the Airman patrolling the skies over Vietnam.

Madam Speaker, we mark this holiday at a time when our sons and daughters are keeping watch over the streets of Baghdad and the mountains of Afghanistan.

We mark this holiday as a reminder that in conflicts past, present, and future, a generation of Americans will answer the call and pay the price of freedom.

While there is never doubt that they will do their duty and serve their country, let there never be doubt that we will stand by them and remember their service and their sacrifice.

You may know that my hometown, Chicago, has one of the nation's largest Memorial Day parades.

But you probably don't know about another, smaller, commemoration.

Dan Wenserski is a gentleman from my district who knows about paying tribute to his brothers and sisters who wore the uniform.

For as long as many can remember, Dan has paid his respects to those who served this country since its inception.

Each year, Dan unpacks flags that had draped the caskets of the fallen to create an Avenue of Flags at Rosehill Cemetery.

He believes it is important to pay tribute to all who sacrificed and served.

As an 85-year-old veteran of World War II, Dan shuns the spotlight, preferring to honor his fallen colleagues than receive honor himself.

But this Memorial Day, I ask all to join me in honoring and thanking Mr. Daniel Wenserski.

Mr. Wenserski saw combat in the European theater and returned from World War II as a 21-year-old with three purple hearts.

He is commander of Amvets Post 243.

Dedicated veterans like him are a national treasure.

We must remember them not only with memorials but in how we dedicate ourselves to the unfinished work of our Republic.

We must remember Lincoln's pledge to, “care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan.”

That means we can't just use this day to pay homage to those who are lost.

We need to remember those who remain behind.

We need to remember the mother or father who has to raise a family alone, and the children who are left with only a photo.

We have, and must continue to make great strides during this Congress to help that mother and that father.

We must not allow the lessons learned during this day go unheeded during every other.

We must dedicate every day to taking care of our veterans and their families, as they have taken every one of their days to dedicate to us.

I'd like to thank all of our veterans for the freedoms we all take for granted, and wish you and your families all the very best on this Memorial Day.

CLOUD AND LAKEVIEW HOSPITALS BEING NAMED AMONGST THE TOP 100 HOSPITALS BY THOMSON REUTERS

**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I congratulate and honor St. Cloud Hospital and Lakeview Hospital in Stillwater, Minnesota for being named to the Top 100 Hospitals list by Thomson Reuters. The people of St. Cloud and Stillwater know how great their hospitals are and I'm thrilled to see the staff members and administrations receive this recognition.

The Top 100 Hospitals evaluates short-term, acute care and non-federal hospitals on the overall care of a patient, including rate of medical complications and adherence to clinical standards, fiscal responsibility and patient satisfaction. We are fortunate to have high medical standards in this country and St. Cloud and Lakeview Hospitals demonstrate day in and day out that they take the Hippocratic oath to “do no harm” very seriously.

Lakeview Hospital was listed as a Small Community category winner. St. Cloud Hospital was recognized for its work in the Teaching Hospitals category, which only makes this hospital's achievements that much more important as it is a place where future doctors and administrators can learn how to create the best patient experience. St. Cloud Hospital was also one of 23 hospitals to receive the Everest Award, which recognizes the hospitals with the most improvement over a five-year period.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor these two institutions, St. Cloud and Lakeview Hospitals, as some of the top hospitals in the nation. Their recognition by Thomson Reuters as Top 100 Hospitals validates the pride Minnesota takes in their hospitals and other care facilities. As a small business owner working closely with the medical community, I am pleased to see that the people of St. Cloud and Stillwater have some of the best hospital care available to them in the country. Congratulations to everyone who works with these hospitals and to the communities that support them as their own.