

the position of Chief, Fuels Management Flight, 43rd Logistics Readiness Squadron at Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina.

By focusing his career on the critical logistical tasks required in maintaining the Air Force's ability to launch aircraft, Chief Sledz's efforts have contributed mightily to the safety and well being of the citizens of this country and the stability of the world. We owe him a debt of gratitude that is impossible to repay. He has set a high example of service, leadership, caring, and commitment that all would do well to follow.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Chief Sledz and his family on his well-deserved retirement, and ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating his accomplishments.

HONORING DR. VINCENT J. VIVONA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Dr. Vincent J. Vivona, who has dedicated his time to fighting cardiovascular disease and stroke. Throughout his many years of service, Dr. Vivona has worked to make the community of Ocean County a healthier place to live. On May 30, 2009 his accomplishments earned him the Ronald Rubinstein, M.D. Hearts-In-Action Award, presented by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association at the annual Have A Heart Ball.

Once a year, this prestigious award is given to a health care professional who embodies the spirit and commitment of Dr. Ronald Rubinstein. As a former regional president of the American Heart Association Board in Central-South Jersey, Dr. Rubinstein devoted himself to his community. Dr. Vivona has inherited this passion by also using his skills for the benefit of those around him.

Dr. Vivona has become a valuable member of the state of New Jersey, and this is largely due to his distinguished past. He is the founding member of Brick Cardiovascular Specialists P.A., a group that strives to provide its patients with the highest quality medical care. Additionally, Dr. Vivona has served as Chief of Staff at Ocean Medical Center and Chief of Cardiology at Community Medical Center. Currently, he is an active member of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Cardiology, two institutions that relentlessly strive for a healthier America.

Rarely do you find someone who has such a deeply rooted interest in the well-being of his community. Dr. Vivona has practiced in Ocean County for the past 30 years. Moreover, he has resided within Toms River for 29 years. Dr. Vivona's place in the New Jersey community has allowed the citizens of my great state to receive the best care in dealing with cardiovascular disease and stroke. I am certain that Dr. Vivona will continue to serve his community with the same dedication he has shown in the past.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Dr. Vivona on this achievement and thanking him for his service to the community. His accomplishments will continue to benefit and inspire my constituents and future generations.

MISTY HOCKMAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Misty Hockman who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Misty Hockman is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Misty Hockman is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Misty Hockman for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

HONORING NI INDUSTRIES, INC.

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate NI Industries, Inc. for over fifty-five years of business in Stanislaus County. Although the company is relocating, I would like to recognize NI Industries for its success while in California.

NI Industries, formally known as Norris Industries, Inc., was founded in 1930. The company manufactures over four hundred high quality munitions products including cartridge cases, mortars, projectile bodies, grenade bodies, rocket motors, warheads and rocket launchers. Headquartered in Vernon, California, NI is the United States Army's Industrial Mobilization Base Supplier with over one million square feet in manufacturing space. Their unique capabilities are unrivalled anywhere in the world, with over fifteen hundred pieces of equipment and many thousand tons of press capacity.

NI has been the operating contractor at the Riverbank Army Ammunitions Plant in Riverbank, California since 1951. Since the reactivation of the cartridge case facility at the Riverbank plant ten years ago, the company has produced over half a million cases of the Navy's 5"/54 gun and the Army's 105mm gun on the Stryker. NI Industries has also been an innovative leader in the development of the steel cartridge case for the Navy's 155mm-Advanced Gun Systems (AGS) for the DD (1000) Program.

The metal manufacturing technology that NI uses employs a deep draw process and a unique technology, to produce a single, unwelded piece of alloyed metal with high precision to fit a complex configuration. The company has management, technical and manufacturing teams with hundreds of years of experience in the defense industry. They take

great pride in their engineers and researchers, as well as their production artisans and machinists. With the registration of the ISO 9001 and the ISO 14001, NI has taken appropriate steps to further ensure both products and processes meet the highest quality and environmental standards. Their attention to detail and technical capabilities has earned NI the reputation for being the only munitions manufacturer capable of deep drawing a combination of steel, brass and aluminum.

Due to the outcome of the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission Law, the highly successful cartridge case facility at the Riverbank Army Ammunitions Plant will be beginning the relocation process in June 2009. The plant is being relocated to Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois, and the relocation project will be completed in 2012. NI will operate the new facility and continue its production of cartridge cases and other products with the same care of quality.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to wish NI Industries the best of luck with the relocation. I encourage my colleagues to join me in wishing NI Industries, Inc. continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOSEPH M. ARTHUR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize the retirement of Joseph Arthur, Special Assistant to the Commander 919th Special Operations Wing, Eglin AFB, Duke Field, Florida.

Lieutenant Colonel Arthur was commissioned through the Air Force Officer Training School in 1981 and entered Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) in 1982. Upon graduation from UPT, he was assigned to the 711th Special Operations Squadron as an AC-130A Spectre Gunship Pilot. In 1997, he joined the 5th Special Operations Squadron (SOS) flying the MC-130P. During his service with the 5th SOS, Lieutenant Colonel Arthur served as Aircraft Commander, Instructor Pilot, Chief Pilot, Chief of Training, Director of Operations and Combat Mission Commander.

Lieutenant Colonel Arthur has deployed and supported combat operations in the air and on the ground in support of Operations Just Cause, Restore Democracy, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. His command experience in support of the Global War on Terrorism includes serving as Mission Commander, Air Force Special Operations Detachment-South, Jacobabad Air Base, Pakistan, Deputy Commander, Joint Special Operations Air Component, Masirah Air Base, Oman. His other deployments include peacetime aerial reconnaissance missions in Central America and participation in military operations over Haiti.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Lieutenant Colonel John M. Arthur for his excellent leadership and selfless service in the United States Air Force and wish him well in his retirement.

HONORING MR. MARTIN J.
MARASCO

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Mr. Martin J. Marasco. As this year's recipient of the Penn's Woods Council Boy Scouts of America's Distinguished Citizen Award, Marty has shown exemplary performance as a businessman, a community leader, a philanthropist, and a role model.

Through his 39 years affiliation with the Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation, Marty has worked at developing and delivering purposeful and creative programs and services involving all aspects of the economic development process to his community. He is responsible for much of the industrial and commercial economic expansion that has been crucial to Blair County's growth and development.

Marty's experiences in all facets of economic development have enabled him to be successful in his dealings with local, state, and federal agencies as well as commercial and industrial clients. His ability to capitalize on both public and private financing vehicles has led to the creation and preservation of 17,580 jobs, and serves to demonstrate how good business sense and strong work ethic can benefit the individual as well as the community.

The diverse background and numerous accomplishments Marty has spent a lifetime working toward have allowed him to be extremely active in his community. He is Past Chair and Member of the Pastoral Council at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, as well as a Member and Vice Chairman of the Executive Roundtable of Blair County. Always supportive of community sports activities, Marty coached instructional level through elementary basketball for 25 years. He also served, for 8 years, as the treasurer and coach for the Altoona Little League baseball program.

As a family man, Marty has been a husband to his wife Carol for nearly 42 years; he is a father to eight children, and a grandfather to thirteen grandchildren. Marty's efforts and accomplishments serve to exemplify great service to self, family, and community. For these reasons I commend those who have seen fit to honor Marty with this year's Distinguished Citizen Award, and I too recognize and congratulate Marty Marasco for all he has done.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT D. WEXLER,
PH.D

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my friend, Robert D. Wexler, on the occasion of his thirty years of service to the American Jewish University (AJU), and particularly his service as president for the past seventeen years.

During the first decade of his presidency at AJU, Dr. Wexler launched three major initia-

tives which promote education, understanding and peace: the Ziegler School for Rabbinic Studies, the Center for Israel Studies, and the Ziering Institute. Under his leadership, AJU started its Community Partners Initiative in which the university reaches out to the many ethnic and religious communities of Los Angeles. He has helped AJU's Whizin Center for Continuing Education become the largest Jewish adult education program in the United States with more than 15,000 participants each year.

In addition to his work at the American Jewish University, Dr. Wexler has served in many community leadership roles. He chaired the Los Angeles Federation's Commission on Israelis and the Committee on Jewish Education. He has also published several articles, including contributions to the Encyclopedia Judaica, the Etz Hayim commentary on the Torah, and a volume entitled Israel, the Diaspora and Jewish Identity.

Born in Los Angeles, Dr. Wexler received his B.A. in Sociology from UCLA, and was ordained as a rabbi at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York where he also earned a Master of Arts degree in Hebrew Literature. While enrolled in rabbinical school, Dr. Wexler also earned his M.B.A. from Baruch College in New York City. Following his ordination, he spent a year on the faculty of Princeton University, teaching in the Department of Middle East Studies. Dr. Wexler later earned both a Master of Arts degree and a Ph.D. from UCLA in the Department of Near Eastern Languages.

Dr. Wexler is included every year in Newsweek's list of America's 50 most influential rabbis, ranking number three in 2008. He has also been included on the Forward's list of the 50 most significant American Jewish leaders.

Dr. Wexler is married to Dr. Hana Wexler, the Director of the Wadsworth Anaerobe Laboratory at the Veteran's Administration in West Los Angeles. They have four children: Daniella, Elisheva, Zev and Nili.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in saluting Robert D. Wexler for his impressive career and dedication to the community and the American Jewish University, and to congratulate him on the occasion of his thirty years of service.

JESSICA KALIN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jessica Kalin who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jessica Kalin is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jessica Kalin is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Jessica Kalin for winning the Arvada

Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

HONORING ROBERT HAWKINS ON
BEING NAMED DEAN OF THE
CENTRAL TEXAS LABOR COUNCIL
AFTER 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a lifelong friend of working families from my hometown Waco, Texas, Robert Hawkins. This week, we celebrate Robert's 50th year of service, and congratulate him on being named Dean of the Central Texas Labor Council.

Prior to his appointment to the Council, he served on the State Job Training Coordinating Council and has held a number of appointments from six Texas Governors. After 30 years of service, Mr. Hawkins retired as the Director of Special Programs at Texas State Technical College in Waco. During his 30 years at the college, he was instrumental in pioneering work in the area of career education and economic development training. He is Chair Emeritus of the Central Texas Economic Development Council and is Chairman Emeritus of the Heart of Texas Economic Development District Board of Directors. He serves his community as a member of the Bellmead City Council and has served four terms as Mayor.

Mr. Hawkins is also a proud member of the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 529, Texas Academy of Science, and the Texas Technical Society. He has served as a member of an Advisory Committee for the Texas Department of Health, on a Senate Advisory Committee for Vocational-Technical Education, as Vice-Chair of the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, and on the President's Council of Youth Opportunity.

Robert is also a true friend to our troops, veterans, and their families. He served in the U.S. Army, the Army National Guard, the Texas State Guard, and the U.S. Army Reserves. He retired with 25 years of combined military service with the rank of Colonel. Robert was attached to the 5th Armored Division, D Battery at Camp Chafee, Arkansas, on September 24, 1957, and participated in the pre-dawn exercises to secure Central High School in Little Rock in preparation for integration of the school. He also taught military courses at the National Guard Professional Education Center and for the Department of Defense.

Robert has received numerous awards for military and public service and humanitarian activities. Among these are the Distinguished Service Award from the Secretary of the Army, the Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal and the Clara Barton Medal from the American Red Cross.

I want to personally thank Robert for his lifetime of service to our community. He is an example of someone who has truly made a positive difference in the lives of others.