

to serve in the United States House of Representatives. As the Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Hellenic Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I can say with certainty that this outstanding ambassador will be sorely missed. Ambassador Mallias, we wish you "Ke Sta Annoterar," or great success, in all your future endeavors!

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Ambassador Alexandros P. Mallias, a great statesman and diplomat whose life's work has contributed immeasurably to cross-cultural understanding and international cooperation.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS AND SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK "STAMP OUT HUNGER" FOOD DRIVE

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Association of Letter Carriers and the Second Harvest Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania for their continued efforts in the battle against hunger.

On May 9th, letter carriers and postal customers across the country joined forces to "stamp out hunger" in the nation's largest single-day food drive for the 17th consecutive year. This also marked the 16th year that Second Harvest of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast PA took part in this extremely important event. Last year this food drive collected over 143,000 pounds of food to help struggling families in Lehigh, Northampton, Pike, Wayne, Monroe and Carbon counties. The local effort helped the National Association of Letter Carriers set a new record of 73.1 million pounds of food collected in 2008 in the "Stamp it out" drive.

Food banks like Second Harvest of the Lehigh Valley are even more important during economic downturns like the one we are currently facing. Second Harvest of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania has seen the demand for assistance rise dramatically in the past year and has been able to help 64,000 people so far in 2009, up from 50,000 in 2008. Thankfully, the generosity and compassion of their neighbors in the Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania bring us closer to achieving the goal of eradicating hunger in our communities. Once again, I would like to thank these organizations for their continued efforts.

ALEXANDER HILLMAN

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 Alexander

Hillman who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alexander Hillman is a senior at Pomona High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alexander Hillman 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 Alexander Hillman for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF BILL KYSOR'S 40 YEARS OF TEACHING EXCELLENCE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Bill Kysor's 40 years of teaching at St. Mark's School of Texas. I am proud to represent St. Mark's in the 32nd Congressional District of Texas.

For forty years, Mr. Kysor has inspired young men and fostered their artistic capabilities and appreciation. During his tenure, Mr. Kysor has taught Middle School art and Upper School Art Elements, Painting, and Sculpture, but he is best known for his Ceramics class.

In addition to his work in the studio, Mr. Kysor has introduced scores of boys to the wonders of the outdoors during Middle School campouts and the annual Pecos Wilderness Trip. Playing his beloved drums, he co-sponsors the Blues Club. Mr. Kysor also has the distinction of being the only "Honorary Member of the Science Department," an honor awarded to him as thanks for creating the ceramic Periodic Table of the Elements that graces the Cecil and Ida Green Science Building.

In 2006, Mr. Kysor escorted his student, Jason Sanford as he received a Presidential Scholar in the Arts award for his command of the art of ceramics.

Mr. Kysor was appointed to the St. Mark's faculty on August 28, 1969, after receiving his M.A. from Southern Methodist University. He is an icon at St. Mark's, and I admire him for continuing to teach even after reaching his forty-year milestone. I wish Mr. Kysor all the best.

FRIENDS OF THE ARAVA INSTITUTE HONORING HERSEL J. RICHMAN

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend a constituent, Hershel J. Richman, who is being honored on June 7, 2009 with the "Peace Building and Environ-

mental Stewardship Award" of the Friends of the Arava Institute.

The Friends of the Arava Institute is a Pennsylvania-based non-profit organization that supports the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies in the south of Israel. This institute, which has the particularly timely philosophy that "Nature Has No Borders," brings together students from Israel, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority and beyond to study common environmental concerns and to forge mutual understanding among tomorrow's leaders in that conflicted region.

Given the special and forward-thinking mission of the Arava Institute, it is no wonder that a special and forward-thinking man such as Mr. Richman became involved with it. For decades now, Mr. Richman has been one of Pennsylvania's foremost leaders on environmental issues. A graduate of the Pennsylvania State University and the Villanova University School of Law, Mr. Richman has devoted countless hours to environmental issues, in government, in private practice, in academia, and as a volunteer.

Mr. Richman and his wife Dr. Elizabeth Richman have been involved with the Arava Institute since they participated in a five-day, 300-mile bike ride through Israel sponsored by Arava in 2007.

Madam Speaker, I have no doubt that Mr. Richman deserves this and many other honors in recognition of his commitment both to the environment and to the cause of Middle East peace. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Richman on this honor.

HONORING KEVIN DUNCAN

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 hard work of Kevin Duncan, a devoted member of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Administration (BAC). On May 3, 2009 Mr. Duncan was recognized by the Middlesex County AFL-CIO as this year's Labor Person of the Year. This recognition is bestowed upon a committed labor leader who has worked tirelessly on behalf of his fellow laborers.

The BAC is an organization dedicated to providing fair wages, good benefits, and safe working conditions. Mr. Duncan joined the former BAC Local #8 in 1980. As the International Union merged local unions to create three larger statewide organizations in New Jersey, Mr. Duncan continued to take on a more prominent role in the new Local #5. Mr. Duncan has been a valuable and faithful member of the BAC for over 29 years.

As a Field Representative for BAC Local #5 in 2001, Mr. Duncan held an active position in the labor movement. Three years later he undertook the position of Secretary on the Middlesex County Building and Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO, where he now currently works. In the past, he has also served as vice-presidents and recording secretary to the Middlesex County AFL-CIO Labor Council. Today, he is one of their most committed members and serves as the council's treasurer.

Along with his dedicated work at the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied

Craftworkers, Mr. Duncan has been a valuable citizen of New Jersey. Mr. Duncan was born and raised in New Jersey, and now maintains a home and joyful family life in the Garden State. He and his wife Penny have been married for 26 years and they live in Fair Haven where they have raised three beautiful daughters.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the accomplishments and hard work of Kevin Duncan. Organized labor in New Jersey would not be the same without his determination and excellent service.

MAGGIE HURSEY

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 Maggie Hursey who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Maggie Hursey is a senior at Ralston Valley High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Maggie Hursey 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 Maggie Hursey 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.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 915) to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2009 through 2012, to improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes:

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Chair. We have one of the most efficient aviation systems in the world.

However, we still need a great deal of improvement to this system.

We need to modernize our air traffic control facilities to help make travel even more efficient and reduce unnecessary delays which cost our economy millions of dollars every year.

Our last FAA reauthorization bill expired in 2007. Since that time we have been operating on temporary extensions.

I am glad to see that the legislation before us today will continue these vital programs that are needed in our aviation system.

I believe that there is more good than bad in this bill, but I do have some concerns with some of the labor provisions contained in it.

In the 1996 FAA reauthorization bill, we made a technical correction that allowed Federal Express to operate under the Rail Labor Act, as it always has.

I think to change this provision now, without knowing the consequences in this economic climate, could end up hurting our economy.

I hope that we can revisit this matter in the future before this bill is in its final form.

I would also like to state that I am pleased that this bill includes provisions from legislation that I cosponsored which would restrict the use of cell phones on flights.

I believe every passenger should be able to enjoy a flight without having to listen to someone else's conversation.

Most people do not realize that they speak louder on a cell phone than they do during a normal conversation.

Cell phone conversations are often very loud, insensitive to other passengers, and disruptive to others in nearby seats.

This bill is far from a perfect one. In fact, there are other concerns that I have about some of the other sections, including the inspections of foreign repair stations.

This could cause the European Union to retaliate against repair stations located here and potentially cost us some good paying jobs.

However, I feel overall that we should move this legislation forward, and I hope we can address these other concerns as the process goes forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 288 through 291. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Nos. 288, 289 and 291, and "no" on No. 290.

HONORING TEMPLE PARKS AND RECREATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend Temple Parks and Recreation for their recent honor of being named one of the top four departments in the country for a city of its size. When the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration honors one city with its National Gold Medal Award for Excellence, I am proud to say that one of our own cities, in Texas District 31, will be among the elite finalists.

Congratulations to the residents, boards, committees, city council, city administration, and department staff, whose commitment to excellence over the past several years did not go unnoticed. I wish you all the best when the winner is named in October.

HONORING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF REAR ADMIRAL JOEL R. WHITEHEAD, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I take this occasion to honor Rear Admiral Joel Whitehead of the United States Coast Guard for his service to the United States Congress and for his 38 years of service to our country.

Admiral Whitehead presently serves as the Commander of the Eighth Coast Guard District in New Orleans where he is responsible for Coast Guard operations in 26 states, over 1,200 miles of Gulf of Mexico coastline and 10,300 miles of inland waterways including the entire lengths of the Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, and Tennessee River systems. As commander of the largest Coast Guard District, Admiral Whitehead leads over 9,000 active duty, reservists, civilian members and Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers. From 2003 to 2005, then Captain Whitehead served as Chief of Congressional Affairs and as Acting Assistant Commandant for Governmental and Public Affairs. I am proud to have had the opportunity to work closely with him during this time. My staff and I have often relied on Admiral Whitehead's knowledge and understanding of the missions, challenges and responsibilities of the United States Coast Guard to help me in my leadership roles on the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee and in numerous other venues where his great depth of experience was invaluable.

Admiral Whitehead comes from a distinguished military family that has served this nation since before the American Revolution. His oldest known ancestor, Isaac Whitehead, served in the militia of the New Haven Colony in Connecticut as early as 1643. The Whitehead family moved westward in 1666 to become founders of the Elizabethtown, New Jersey Colony and again to Morristown, New Jersey where Onesimus Whitehead was a member of the New Jersey militia when George Washington encamped in Morristown the winter of 1779–80 and endured a winter as severe as that at Valley Forge where thousands died. His family having been awarded land for their service in the Revolutionary War, Isaac Whitehead IV moved to the Finger Lakes of New York about 1700 where the Whitehead family remained until they again traveled westward in 1826 after the opening of the Erie Canal. The Whitehead family remained in Ohio until the outbreak of World War II when Admiral Whitehead's father James entered the Army and served over 20 years, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. In 1968 Admiral Whitehead's brother Scott also answered the call to serve his Nation, joining the United States Marine Corps while in college and recently retiring as a Colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve.

Admiral Whitehead has served at sea and ashore in a variety of operational and policy tours during his career. A native of Newport News, Virginia, he graduated from Walsingham Academy in Williamsburg, Virginia. He began his military career at the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut in 1971, where he was