

find satisfaction and fulfillment in a job well done. On behalf of the City of Charlottesville and Virginia's Fifth District, I thank Mr. Tornello for his generosity and devotion in sharing his talent throughout the years and wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING PATTY CARLIS AS THIS  
YEAR'S WALLENBERG TRIBUTE  
HONOREE

**HON. CHARLES W. DENT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2009*

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Patty Carlis, as a community leader in the arts and interfaith understanding.

At the 25th annual Wallenberg Tribute Dinner on Sunday, April 19, 2009 Patty was recognized as this year's Wallenberg Tribute Honoree. The award, given by the Institute for Jewish Christian Understanding (IJCU) at Muhlenberg College, is named for Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat who saved tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazis during the Second World War. He was taken into Soviet custody just days after Budapest was liberated and was never again accounted for by Western sources. Each year since 1989, the Wallenberg Tribute has honored one or more local individuals who are recognized for their courageous moral action on behalf of others. Patty's lifetime of work makes her truly deserving of such an honor.

Patty served as the IJCU's Schools Program Coordinator from 2000–2006 and before that was responsible for creating the Youth and Prejudice Conference in 1995. The conference, held each spring on Muhlenberg College's Campus in Allentown, has reached over 15,000 students in the Lehigh Valley. Students are able to be a part of a live theatrical performance while learning valuable lessons about interfaith and cultural tolerance. By meeting with Holocaust survivors and relatives of survivors they learn firsthand about prejudice and bigotry. The conference teaches students valuable lessons about human rights and that their own dignity and that of others depends on the choices they make each day.

Throughout her career, Patty has been able to combine her commitment to tolerance and interfaith understanding with her passion for the arts and education. Since 2000 she has been part of the theatre faculty of Muhlenberg College and each year leads her students in the production of the play *The Library: the story of a Jewish girl in Nazi Germany*. This play, which puts a human face on the history of the Holocaust, is performed at elementary schools across the Lehigh Valley each spring.

Most recently, Patty has implemented after-school drama programs in the Allentown School District. Now students who attend Roosevelt Elementary, Central Elementary, and Trexler Middle School have had the opportunity to explore and express themselves through the arts under the guidance and supervision of Muhlenberg theatre, music and dance majors. Patty is passionate about the power of the arts to spark imaginations, motivate learning and develop life skills.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to Patty Carlis for all

her work to build bridges and connect communities through the arts in the Lehigh Valley, the United States, and the world. She has made our community extremely proud.

HONORING CHARLES ROSE

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Charles Rose for his dedication to his family and community. Mr. Rose passed away on Saturday, May 23, 2009 at his home in Fresno, California after a two and a half year battle with cancer.

Charles Rose was born on August 12, 1938 in Kansas City, Missouri. His family moved to the San Joaquin Valley in 1943. As a teenager Mr. Rose worked in the fields, canneries and the Port of Stockton. He graduated from Stockton College High School in 1956. Upon graduation he was recruited to play major league baseball as a pitcher; he did not take this opportunity, but instead chose to serve his country in the United States Marine Corps. Mr. Rose served in the Corps from 1958 through 1966.

Prior to his military service Mr. Rose met the love of his life, Bonnie Jean. He and Bonnie were married in August, 1964. After life in the military, they settled down in Fresno and Mr. Rose began working at Foster Farms Dairy. He worked there for many years as a distributor. He was well-known for his black 1927 Ford Model T that he drove to work every day and to the Fig Garden Golf Course on the weekends. Mr. Rose was a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Mr. Rose was preceded in death by his mother and father, Pearl and Harold Rose and his precious daughter, Felecia Ann. He is survived by his wife of forty-four years; his children, daughter Michelle and Wayne Ransier of Stockton, son Darren and Lisa Rose of Clovis, and daughter Linda Banks of Rocklin; his grandchildren, Brittany, Ashten, Sarah and Grace; and his sister Vermona Geigel of Stockton.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Charles Rose. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.

HONORING HEALTHSOUTH REHA-  
BILITATION HOSPITALS OF NEW  
JERSEY TINTON FALLS AND  
TOMS RIVER

**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 HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospitals of New Jersey Tinton Falls and Toms River. Throughout the years, employees within these hospitals have worked to rehabilitate those who are fighting heart disease and stroke. On May 30, 2009, their accomplishments earned them the American Heart Association Have A Heart Ball Community Leadership Award, presented by the

American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.

At the annual Have A Heart Ball, the Community Leadership Award is given in recognition of outstanding and consistent dedication to the well-being of Ocean and Monmouth County Communities. The American Heart Association is in need of allies in its attempt to combat cardiovascular disease and stroke, and I can safely say that it has found two in the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospitals of New Jersey Tinton Falls and Toms River.

The services of these two hospitals have been invaluable to their local communities. Serving 4,000 inpatients and 28,000 outpatients annually, the hospitals of Tinton Falls and Toms River are committed in their care for the community. This commitment begins at the top with Linda A. Savino, Chief Executive Officer of the Tinton Falls hospital, and Patty Ostaszewski, Chief Executive Officer of the Toms River hospital. Their devotion to this honorable cause shows that they are truly deserving of this award.

The areas of Tinton Falls and Toms River are undoubtedly better off with the presence of these hospitals. HealthSouth has become part of these communities through charitable support, community education programs, and support on local and state-wide initiatives. Moreover, HealthSouth has contributed to various initiatives such as the Shoreline Start! NJ Heart Walk, Go Red For Women movement, and the Have a Heart Ball. I am sure that this commitment will continue as time goes on.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospitals of New Jersey Tinton Falls and Toms River on this achievement and thanking their employees for their service to the community. Their accomplishments will continue to benefit and inspire my constituents and future generations.

RECOGNIZING GERALD O.  
GUSTAFSON

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2009*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Gerald "Jerry" Gustafson, a member of my staff. Next Friday, May 29th, is Jerry's last day as a Congressional Aide in our office. Jerry has been serving the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois for many years.

Jerry was born on the North West Side of the City of Chicago. His working experience spans from working in private industry as a personnel manager; a union representative at Central States Joint Board; and State of Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs. He has been working in the Fifth Congressional District Office having joined my predecessor Rahm Emanuel's staff in 2006.

Jerry worked hard to develop close relationships with the many congressional liaisons and always knew the right person to contact for a constituent in need. Jerry always went above and beyond to provide assistance to those who were unable to access alternate means of assistance. He calmly dealt with many difficult circumstances.

Jerry has been an extraordinary asset to my office as we've managed the transition process. It has been a lot of hard work, but that

is nothing new to Jerry. Whether it was raising his two sons, Glenn and Kevin, with his wife, Barbara, working long hours, or volunteering in the community and the 32nd Ward Regular Democratic Organization, he has given his all every step of the way.

Jerry's family has always been a priority in his life and the love and support they provide is the most important thing to him.

I wish Jerry all the happiness in the future and thank him for his service to the people of Illinois' Fifth Congressional District.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF MERIT STUDENTS

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2009*

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of 26 distinguished high school students from Florida's Fifteenth District. I was proud to award the Congressional Medal of Merit to these students during a ceremony at the Brevard County Government Complex on June 1, 2009.

These graduating seniors were nominated by their schools for the Congressional Medal of Merit. To be nominated, each student demonstrated exemplary citizenship and academic excellence throughout their high school careers.

These young men and women have demonstrated an outstanding sense of service to their peers, schools and communities. Honoring their achievements with the Congressional Medal of Merit is a privilege and I congratulate each of them along with their parents, family, teachers and community. Together, this group of students represents the best and brightest America has to offer:

Brevard County: James Brandenburg, Cocoa High School; Lance Freeberg, Viera High School; Charlene Gracia, Florida Air Academy; Michelle Grubka, Melbourne High School; George Holstein III, Community Christian School; Ashley Lipscomb, Rockledge High School; Bryan Maxwell, Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy; Aaron Mayer, Merritt Island High School; Lindsay Miller, Palm Bay High School; Jared Mushell, Eau Gallie High School; Bao-Uyen Nguyen, Edgewood Jr./Sr. High School; Katherine Nickerson, West Shore Jr./Sr. High School; Erica Robes, Merritt Island Christian High School; Trever Steele, Brevard Christian School; Harry Tuazon, Bayside High School; Noel Turner, Satellite High School.

Indian River County: Margaret Cancelosi, Saint Edward's School; Kyrie Carlson, Indian River Charter High School; Tim Martinelli, Sebastian River High School; Sarah Sarnoski, Vero Beach High School.

Osceola County: Jarrett Lane, Osceola High School; Priscila Quito, Gateway High School; Antinia Taylor, New Dimensions High School; Roy Tyson, Harmony High School; Joseph Williams, St. Cloud High School.

Polk County: Nichole Periquito, Ridge Community High School.

THE PRESERVATION OF ERDENHEIM FARM

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2009*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to mark a significant victory in my district for open space preservation in Pennsylvania and the United States. Yesterday, an agreement was finalized to permanently protect 426 acres of the 450-acre Erdenheim Farm in Whitemarsh and Springfield Townships.

The conservation of this property will become the centerpiece of 2,000 acres of open space between Fairmount Park in Philadelphia and Fort Washington State Park in Whitemarsh, Pennsylvania. It will also ensure the completion of a regional trail network between Fort Washington Park and the Morris Arboretum that has been envisioned since 1899.

Erdenheim Farm has been working agricultural land since the days of William Penn. It was purchased in 1912 by George D. Widener Jr, son of the streetcar magnate. In 1971, Widener bequeathed the property to his nephew, Fitz Eugene Dixon Jr. Mr. Dixon maintained the property as a working farm raising cattle, sheep, and thoroughbred horses until his death in 2006.

The preservation of Erdenheim Farm is a remarkable example of the excellent work that can be accomplished through public-private partnerships leveraging local and state funds.

There are many organizations that deserve recognition: the descendants of the Dixon Estate for their willingness to work with conservationists to protect the farm; Peter and Bonnie McCausland, for purchasing 259 acres of the estate and placing all but 23 of those acres under conservation easements; the Whitemarsh Foundation led by Hugh Moulton for its efforts to acquire 189 acres using \$26 million in state and local grants, tax revenue, and private donations; the Natural Lands Trust led by Molly Morrison, for its expertise in putting this deal together and enforcing the easements on the land; and state, county, and local officials who also deserve immense credit for their willingness to secure the necessary funding to make this happen.

I ask that the full House of Representatives join me in congratulating everyone that made this historic accomplishment possible. On behalf of the residents of Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties, I acknowledge and appreciate this important work and the opportunity it provides for future generations to enjoy this national treasure.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RALPH BLANTON

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2009*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of firefighter Ralph Blanton of Tempe and to recognize the significant contributions he made to our community.

On May 11, 2009 Ralph passed away of natural causes at the age of 79.

Ralph will be remembered for his active involvement in the development and growth of Tempe's first professional fire department. He gained valuable experience in the 1950s as a volunteer Tempe fireman, long before the formation of a paid fire department. In 1961, he, along with 10 others, established the Tempe Fire Department. Ralph earned the first ever Fireman of the Year award in 1963 for his dedication and work ethic. Finally, after 20 years of service, he was the last member of the original force to retire.

In addition to Ralph's extensive career achievements, he was also known for his role as a mentor. Many young firefighters looked up to him and learned priceless lessons, chief among them to take pride in one's work. Together, he and his wife Shirley helped establish an annual picnic for retired Tempe firefighters, which the union plans to rename the Ralph Blanton Retirees Picnic for Tempe firefighters in his honor.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commemorating the life of Ralph Blanton and remembering the strong and positive impact he left on his community and the many people who knew and loved him.

HONORING MARY CRISALLI SANSONE AND ZACHARY SANSONE

**HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2009*

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge, congratulate and celebrate the 93rd Birthday of a prominent Brooklyn community activist and civil rights trailblazer, Mary Crisalli Sansone and the 93rd Birthday of her beloved and devoted husband of 60 years, Zachary Sansone.

Since her early days of union organizing with her father, to her involvement with the late Bayard Rustin of the civil rights movement, Mary has fought for social justice and human rights throughout her life.

Mary is the founder of three very influential New York City organizations. Mary organized the first coalition of African Americans, Latinos and Italians in New York City in the 1960s to promote racial harmony, which resulted in the formation of an organization comprised of community leaders known as CURE, Community Understanding for Racial and Ethnic Equality. CURE builds bridges between all racial, ethnic and religious groups to promote tolerance through education and cooperation.

In the 1970s, Mary founded CIAO, the Congress of Italian Americans Organization, which has developed and continues to run many social service programs to help the poor and needy. Mary is and has been a political godmother and angel to those in need.

Mary also is the founder of New Era Democrats (NED), an independent political association. NED is a good government group that promotes and assists government leaders and candidates for elected office who espouse the utmost integrity and independence, regardless of party affiliation.

Zachary Sansone was born in Brooklyn, New York and grew up in Naples, Italy. After law school, he was inducted into the Italian Army as a First Lieutenant. Zachary served as the Mayor of the town of San Antonio in