

At the outset of the Second World War, women were perceived as intellectually and physically inferior to their male counterparts. This stigma was well established throughout Air Force culture. Consequently, women were strictly prohibited from flying combat missions. Instead, women were limited to serving in non-combat roles. With this background, WASP was created to allow women to fly as service pilots. Unlike their uniformed sisters, WASP was created as a civilian division. In fact, WASP was the only women's military branch in WWII not to receive congressional approval.

Women service pilots were mainly used as auxiliary pilots. By serving in this capacity, the women pilots released qualified men to fly in combat. WASPs were limited to the North American front. Their duties also included ferrying airplanes, towing targets, and training men to be pilots, navigators, gunners and bombardiers. In a two-year period, the women of the Air Force service pilot's organization flew over sixty million miles and delivered 12,652 airplanes domestically. Thirty-eight of these brave women, who received no military benefits, sacrificed their lives serving our country.

Helen and the women of WASP defied the accepted belief that females should be relegated to remedial tasks. These civilian soldiers boasted higher admittance standards and a graduation percentage that surpassed their male counterparts. As the war continued, WASP played a pivotal role in our efforts to defeat the axis powers. More importantly, these brave women proved to their skeptics that women were fully capable of operating aircraft during wartime. They matched, if not exceeded, male performance. In his closing address to the last WASP graduating class General Henry "Hap" Arnold, a one-time cynic, offered his praise, "You and nine hundred of your sisters have shown that you can fly wingtip to wingtip with your brothers. If there ever was a doubt in anyone's mind that women can become skillful pilots, the WASP have dispelled that doubt."

Helen's service facilitated the transition of women into the Air Force and, ultimately, redefined the female role in the military. Her efforts allowed the military to fully appreciate a woman's capability and iron will. Like her champions Earhart and Cochran, Helen refused to allow the perpetuation of female mediocrity. Her service defied expectations and generated opportunities for generations of young women to follow. Her perseverance symbolizes the female spirit and the grit that is embodied in the Congressional Gold Medal.

Madam Speaker, Helen Snapp continues her lifetime of exceptional accomplishment. Helen continues to advocate on behalf of local women pilots and possesses a fond admiration for female astronauts. Helen continues to see her old flying companions when she can. It is only fitting that Helen Snapp now share this distinguished honor with the same pioneer that inspired her ambition, Charles Lindbergh.

#### TRIBUTE TO JUDITH SCHUMACHER-TILTON

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 2009*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention an outstanding

community member, Judith Schumacher-Tilton. She will be honored on September 11, 2009 as the John I. Crecco Foundation's Woman of the Year for her many achievements not only in business but also in the greater community.

It is only fitting that she be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for she has a long history of dedication and commitment to the New Jersey community and to the American dream.

Judith Schumacher-Tilton is a Dealer Principal of Tilton Automotive Group, Gearhart Chevrolet and Schumacher Chevrolet. She has been a part of the General Motors Women's Retail Network since its inception and was recently elected to represent the Northeast for the General Motors Women's Retail Network.

Judith attended the University of Vermont with her husband Stephen, majoring in education. While raising her children, she was actively involved in educational fundraising activities as well as many community organizations. Her path soon changed though. When faced with the responsibility of running the family business after the deaths of her father and brother, it was her greatest wish to create a wonderful legacy in their memory. She has accomplished that dream by keeping the business strong and growing over the last 10 years. In 2005, Judith was chosen Business Person of the Year by the local PBA and community. The following year, she was chosen to serve on the Chevrolet New York L.M.A. Board.

While accomplishing all of these professional goals, she has still made time to help her community in many other ways. She is a past board member of the Sussex County Red Cross. She currently serves as a board member for the Montclair State University Foundation, the Boys and Girls Club of Clifton, the Passionist Ministry, the Passaic County 200 Club Trustees, the Chilton Hospital Foundation and is an advisory board member for Lakeland Bank. Long before the issue of domestic violence was brought to the forefront, Judith had a deep concern for women who she felt suffered in silence. She was approached by the Little Falls Chief of Police to become a part of the Domestic Violence Response Team for the Passaic County Women's Shelter, and was accepted into an extensive training program where she became certified and soon spent any extra hours she had working to help with this important cause.

Recently, Judith has devoted her support and positive input to the automotive industry, especially General Motors, as our Nation passes through difficult economic times. She has offered her expertise in numerous television and radio interviews, and her comments have been quoted in both local and national newspapers.

Judith is a member of the Metropolitan Golf Association, playing golf for the Upper Montclair Country Club. She and her husband Stephen have three grown children, two sons, Stephen Jr., who is married to Lisa, and Kenneth, who is married to Laura. Their daughter Margaret is married to Michael Magaldi. Judith and Stephen, Sr. are also the proud grandparents of Steven Tilton, III, Jake, Julia, William and Sienna.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the dedication and

service of people like Judith Schumacher-Tilton.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, everyone at the John I. Crecco Foundation, Judith's family and friends, and me in recognizing Judith Schumacher-Tilton's exceptional life and career.

#### HONORING ROBERT AND IRWIN GOODMAN

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 2009*

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifelong philanthropy of Robert and Irwin Goodman of Madison, Wisconsin. Irwin's death in August was mourned by his brother, Bob, their extended family, and an entire community touched in ways big and small by the Goodman brothers' generosity.

Astute businessmen, Bob and Irv saw their business not as an end in itself, but as a means to nurture the minds, bodies, and spirits of their neighbors. They lived frugally, spoke softly, and gave continually and in great measure, guided by the lessons and love of their parents, Harry and Belle.

Gifted athletes, Bob and Irv were health conscious long before fitness became fashionable. Their philanthropy helps kids learn to swim, seniors to exercise, families to eat healthfully, and women to compete on a level and luminous playing field.

From the University of Wisconsin to Edgewood College, the Red Cross to Rotary, HospiceCare to Meriter Hospital, the first community swimming pool to a new community center, the imprint of Bob and Irv's generosity is felt by in every corner of the greater Madison community. And while some bricks and mortar bear their name, vast numbers of beneficiaries will never know of their largesse. The Goodman brothers would rather bring light to the dark corners of society than stand in the spotlight themselves.

Steadfast members and supporters of Madison's Jewish Community, Bob and Irv's lifelong devotion to helping others of all backgrounds is grounded in the Jewish tradition of "tikkun olam," (repairing the world) inherited, they say, from their beloved mother.

Bob and Irv Goodman shared far more than a bloodline. They shared an abiding commitment to each other and to their adopted hometown. I join the greater Madison community in honoring their life's work and loving spirit.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE SCREEN ACT

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 2009*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Supporting Colorectal Examination and Education Now (SCREEN) Act. This legislation will remove barriers to one of the most effective preventive health screenings available, saving lives and reducing health care costs in the process. I

urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

#### BACKGROUND

The statistics surrounding colon cancer are startling. Colon cancer is the number two cancer killer in the United States. Nearly 50,000 people will die this year from this disease. According to the American Cancer Society (2009 Fact & Figures), of the nearly 50,000 people expected to die from colorectal cancer in 2009, early detection could save more than half. These statistics alone are a tragedy.

But the statistics become even more tragic when one considers that colorectal cancer is highly preventable with appropriate screening. And the disease is detectable, treatable, and curable if found early. According to the American Cancer Society (2009 Facts & Figures), the 5 year survival rate is 90 percent for those diagnosed at an early stage; however, only 40 percent of the cases are diagnosed at the stage.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recognizes the preventable nature of this disease and provides its only grade 'A' recommendation of cancer screenings for colorectal cancer screens.

Unfortunately, almost half of the Medicare population is not being screened, despite the availability of a Medicare colon cancer screening benefit. According to CMS, Medicare claims indicate that only 52 percent of beneficiaries have had a colorectal cancer test and there is "clearly an opportunity to improve colorectal cancer screening rates in the Medicare population." (CMS website "overview of colorectal cancer screening")

Numerous barriers account for this fact, including structural issues in the Medicare program, significant Medicare cuts to providers, and lack of knowledge and preparation among patients.

#### THE SCREEN ACT

The SCREEN Act is designed to address these barriers and increase the participation of patients in this preventive service. The bill accomplishes this in several main ways.

#### REDUCING PATIENT BARRIERS

First, the bill would reduce patient barriers to being screened. The legislation would waive Medicare co-insurance for diagnostic and screening colorectal cancer tests in order to increase utilization.

In addition, the bill would provide coverage for a pre-operative visit with a physician prior to a screening colonoscopy. This is the standard of care, but is not currently covered by Medicare.

Finally, under the legislation all Medicare beneficiaries will be notified about the Medicare colorectal cancer screening benefit and reminded of the benefits periodically.

These common sense steps will ensure that more patients are screened and more lives are saved.

#### PROVIDER QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

We must also ensure that there are adequate numbers of high-quality physicians performing colonoscopies. The legislation reverses years of provider reimbursement cuts by creating a preventive services payment modifier for colorectal cancer screens that is adequate to incentivize physicians to perform colorectal cancer screens. It would base this incentive on a national colorectal cancer

screening goal established by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The bill would also require the Secretary to establish a national minimum standard for basic knowledge, training, continuing education and documentation for physicians and facilities. A physician would not be permitted to receive the preventive services modifier if he or she did not meet this standard.

#### STATE INTERVENTIONS TO INCREASE SCREENING

The legislation would also support state-level interventions to increase colorectal cancer screening. The legislation authorizes grants to states for colorectal cancer programs that include: screening to high risk individuals; case management and referrals for treatment; follow up and care for individuals screened; health professional education, training, and skills; and public information and education programs.

#### INFORMATION ON WHAT WORKS

Finally, the legislation gathers information on best practices in incentivizing colorectal cancer screening. The bill requires reporting on screening rates and interventions in Medicare Advantage and commissions a study by the Secretary of HHS on levels of coinsurance for screening tests under private plans.

#### CONCLUSION

More than 50,000 Americans will die from colon cancer this year alone. Ninety percent of these cases might have been prevented. We cannot afford to wait another moment before doing something to eliminate these and other barriers that are standing in the way of preventing colon cancer.

Therefore, I urge all of my colleagues to co-sponsor the Supporting Colorectal Examination and Education Now (SCREEN) Act and support its passage this year.

#### TRIBUTE TO MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 2009*

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) for its extraordinary record of athletic achievement.

Under the direction of head coach Gary Parker, the Women's Outdoor Track and Field team finished the 2008–09 season with a 25–0 record against two-year college competition and earned first place at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III National Championship, marking the program's fourth national title.

The Women's Cross Country team, also under head coach Gary Parker, finished its season with an undefeated 25–0 record against two-year college competition, and rounded out the year by winning the NJCAA Division III National Championship, the program's ninth national title. Coupled with the Men's team's second place finish, MVCC's cross country program earned the coveted Pepsi Cup, an award given to the college with the best combined finish at the National Championships.

Looking more broadly at college's 20 competitive intercollegiate athletics programs, MVCC won last year's second place trophy at the National Alliance of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators Cup competitions for its overall performance in the non-scholarship division's national championships. In the last six years this competition has been held, MVCC has never taken anything less than fourth place.

The aforementioned achievements represent the continuation of decades of success for MVCC's athletic programs. With one of the largest and most diverse two-year college intercollegiate athletic programs in the country, MVCC is home to 17 national championships, 107 individual national champions and 330 NJCAA All-Americans. Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent such talented and dedicated athletes in my district. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the MVCC Hawks and wishing them the best of luck in their future athletic and scholarly endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO MS. GRETCHEN WILSON

#### HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 2009*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Grammy Award winner and country music recording artist, Ms. Gretchen Wilson, as she receives the 2009 National Coalition for Literacy Leadership Award at The Library of Congress. Gretchen is being recognized by the National Coalition for Literacy and the Center for the Book for her contributions to the advancement of adult education and literacy.

Until recently, the multi-platinum acclaimed singer/songwriter was one of millions of Americans who had not finished their high school education. Ms. Wilson left high school to pursue her music career; she has since had three #1 albums. Last year at the age of 34, Gretchen earned her G.E.D. Her friend and mentor, Charlie Daniels, was guest speaker at her graduation ceremony at the First Baptist Church in Lebanon, TN.

As a mother, it was important for Gretchen to lead by example and demonstrate to her eight-year-old daughter, Grace, just how important it is to have an education. Gretchen is currently teaming up with the Dollar General Literacy Foundation to honor GED students and organizations dedicated to the advancement of literacy.

Ms. Wilson has won Female Vocalist of the Year from both the Country Music Association and the Academy of Country Music and a Grammy Award for Best Female Country Vocal Performance. She also had her first book and autobiography, "Redneck Woman: Stories from My Life," appear on the New York Times Best Seller List.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Gretchen on her hard work, resilience, and many notable achievements and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing her dedication and contributions to adult education and literacy awareness.