

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Saint Benedict Parochial School as it celebrates its anniversary and wishing the students and staff the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING HENRY J. "CHIP"
SCHIRESON

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Henry J. "Chip" Schireson who is completing his 25th year of dedicated public service as a Magisterial District Judge in Lower Merion, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

While efficiently administering a court that averages 1,000 filings each month, Judge Schireson has made a tremendous commitment to positively impacting the youth in the community. His efforts include establishing an innovative and award-winning public service program at Bryn Mawr Hospital, which allows juvenile offenders to serve others to avoid a criminal record. That is just one example of how Judge Schireson utilizes creative sanctions to change the attitudes of offenders and, in some cases, help turn around lives.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the Honorable Henry J. "Chip" Schireson as he celebrates this memorable milestone and honor his extraordinary dedication to making Lower Merion a great place to live, work and raise a family.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CROCKER MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, this year marks the 50th Anniversary of William H. Crocker Middle School in Hillsborough, California.

Crocker Middle School has been recognized as a California Distinguished School seven times, most recently in 2007, and is one of only three schools in the entire nation to be awarded a National Blue Ribbon for Secondary Schools on four occasions. Among the school's many other rewards, in 1993, Crocker was named to the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Science's "Top Five World Class Schools."

Crocker Middle School has served the community by constantly reviewing and improving its curriculum and continually striving for academic excellence. The newest addition to the Crocker campus is a building housing a state-of-the-art studio for Hillsborough Television (HTV), band and music instruction rooms, a lecture hall modeled after facilities at Harvard University, and much needed classrooms. This completed a ten year Hillsborough School District renovation project.

Madam Speaker, William H. Crocker Middle School has educated my own children, Jackson and Stephanie, so I can vouch first-hand

to its excellence and the caring and passion of its incredible staff. In addition to strong academic programs in English, mathematics, science, social studies, foreign language, and physical education, Crocker offers electives in the arts and personal development skills such as leadership and public speaking.

The entire Crocker School family believes strongly that its role is to help each child build a foundation that will serve her or him for their entire life. Every aspect of its educational curriculum is designed to build a close, caring community in which every child and every adult is recognized and respected.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a William H. Crocker Middle School parent and I salute Crocker's longtime principal, Janet Chun, who has been a beacon of expanded learning that includes a strong community service component. She follows in the impressive footsteps of her predecessors, Fred Schwartz, Carl Zon, Marilyn Loushin Miller, Dan Kreuzer and Larry Raffo, all of whom deserve our recognition and our gratitude. I congratulate everyone in the Crocker community for half a century of academic and community achievement.

A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF
THE CITY OF COMMERCE'S 50
YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Commerce and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating its residents on the city's 50th Birthday. I am proud to represent this unique city—aptly characterized by its motto, the "Model City"—as part of my 34th Congressional District of California.

While we honor the city's 50 years of official incorporation, the exciting story of the founding and growth of one of Southern California's leading industrial cities dates back to 1810 when a humble Spanish soldier acquired a Spanish land grant that included the present-day City of Commerce.

The city's industrial roots began to take hold from 1871 to 1912 when the land's then-owner, Arcadia Bandini, leased the property to the railroads and other developers—a move that would make the landowner one of the wealthiest women in California.

One of the first industrial manufacturing plants established in the area was a brickyard, the 350 acre Simons Company Plant No. 3. The bricks were used to construct Royce Hall at UCLA, Disney Studios in Burbank and to rebuild San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake.

During the Roaring 20s, Commerce grew from a region of rural farms crisscrossed with a few roads and rail lines into a rail and transportation center and a promising location for heavy industry close to Downtown Los Angeles. During the following decades, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, B.F. Goodrich, U.S. Rubber, the East Los Angeles Rail Station, Chrysler Corporation, Ford and U.S. Steel located manufacturing plants in Commerce and solidified the city's reputation as an industrial center.

Commerce remained both a rural and industrial area until the late 1950s when the construction of the Long Beach and Santa Ana

freeways ushered in a post-war era of rapid suburbanization. As the community grew, residents determined to avoid higher property taxes and improve city services established the Citizens Committee for Incorporation with the help of local business leaders. On January 28, 1960, the community was granted a certificate of incorporation and became the 67th city in Los Angeles County.

Fifty years later, the City of Commerce is still flourishing. It is a diverse community of more than 13,000 people and 1,700 businesses.

To keep up with the changing times, the city successfully brought about the diversification and transformation of the city's industrial base throughout the 1970s and 80s. Today, the city maintains much of its manufacturing and goods-distribution base while successfully converting former industrial land to lucrative commercial uses like the Citadel outlet mall, which occupies the site of the U.S. Rubber tire factory.

The city, however, retains its small town appeal by providing an unmatched range of programs and services. The city operates an award-winning library system, four city parks, a fare-free public transit service and a camp in the San Bernardino Mountains.

Through the city's commitment to providing recreational opportunities to area youth, the city takes pride in producing numerous state and national champions, including two members of the 2008 Olympic Silver Medal United States Women's Water Polo Team and one member of the United States Boxing Olympic Team.

Commerce also remains committed to improving the environment and reducing emissions from trains, trucks and stationary sources of air pollution and is in the process of building a Liquid Natural Gas/Compressed Natural Gas fueling station for eco-friendly vehicles.

The City of Commerce will mark its 50th Birthday in 2010 with a series of community events throughout the year, including its annual Cake Cutting, July 4th Celebration, Miss Commerce Pageant, and Summer Safety Fair.

I am honored to recognize this historic milestone in this city's rich history.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Commerce's first 50 years as this vibrant community continues to live by its motto the "Model City" and work toward a prosperous future.

TESTIMONIAL ON SUSAN G.
KOMEN RACE FOR THE CURE
FOUNDATION AND BREAST CAN-
CER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I stand today as a proud cosponsor of a resolution honoring Nancy Goodman Brinker, founder of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation.

This October marks the 25th anniversary of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the 27th anniversary of Komen for the Cure.

In the Palmetto State, breast cancer occurs in over five thousand women a year and kills

over one thousand, but according to the American Cancer Society, these numbers have been falling since the 1990s.

However, there is always more to be done and we can all get involved in promoting breast cancer awareness.

This Sunday is the 16th Annual Komen Lowcountry Race for the Cure in Charleston, and I congratulate our local affiliate staff, Lindsay Wiltshire, Michelle Temple, Lucy Spears, Taffy Tamblin and Patricia Simon for their hard work organizing this event.

Their efforts bring us all closer to the ultimate goal of a world without breast cancer and we are very proud of them and all of their efforts in the First District.

A TRIBUTE TO GREEN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL LADY DRAGONS GOLF TEAM

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Green County High School Lady Dragons Golf Team on their outstanding performance this season.

On October 10, 2009, the team won Green County High School's first KHSAA Girls State Golf Championship, bringing statewide attention to their school.

Under the leadership of Coach Rick Davis, the Lady Dragons remained steadfast throughout the tournament weekend and shot an impressive two-day total of 113-over par to win the tournament by six shots.

To reach the state championship tournament, the Lady Dragons won the 4th Region Title on September 29, 2009, in a two-hole playoff, defeating Glasgow High School, the defending state champion.

The Lady Dragons' performance is a testament to their hard work and dedication. I want to congratulate team members Sydney Agee, Cassidy Scantland, Leah Rose Judd, Olivia Parrott, Sydney Smith, and Kate Larimore and Coach Rick Davis and wish them nothing but the best in their future endeavors.

MARITIME WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker I rise before you today in support of H.R. 2651, the "Maritime Workforce Development Act". I would like to thank my colleague, Rep. CUMMINGS, for introducing this act, as well as the co-sponsors.

This bill would amend Title 46 of the United States Code to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a student loan program to attract the next generation of workers to the good paying jobs available in the maritime industry. The loan program will also help those already in the industry obtain the certifications and training they need to move ahead in their careers.

According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, in 2006, there were more than 38,000 on-the-water jobs in sea, coastal, and Great Lakes transportation, and nearly 23,000 in the inland water transportation industry. Many of those who currently work in the industry are nearing retirement age. Thus, the Maritime Administration indicated that at the time of our hearing, the average age of a mariner with a Master's license was 51 while the average age of a Chief Engineer was 50.

Additionally, significant new standards for training and continuing education have been applied to mariners through the 1995 amendments to the Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping. These standards have rightly been set to improve safety in the maritime industry by reducing human factors as the causes of maritime accidents but they have also imposed expensive and time-consuming training requirements on mariners—particularly on those who are looking to upgrade a document or license to move up the career ladder.

While there are many facilities in the United States that provide outstanding training programs for those seeking to enter or advance in the maritime field, tuition can be very expensive. Further, the types of training programs in which mariners enroll are unique—and are not easily served by existing loan programs. Mariners who have already begun their careers rarely enroll in 2- or 4-year educational programs. Instead, they typically enroll in multi-week courses to obtain a specific new certification—and they enroll in such courses several times a year.

This bill provides a loan program to individuals in the maritime industry that is tailored to their specific needs and to the types of training programs that serve them. Using the model of existing student loan programs, it creates a maritime-focused student loan program through which individuals can receive up to \$60,000 in loans over the course of a lifetime. This grant program would support the growing number of maritime-themed educational institutions—including high schools—throughout the country as they work to expand maritime education opportunities and attract new individuals to a field critical to the success of our national economy.

The bill also authorizes the appropriation of \$10 million in each of fiscal years 2010 through 2015 to support loans. Additionally, this legislation authorizes the appropriation of \$10 million in each of fiscal years 2010 through 2015 to enable the Department of Transportation to award grants to maritime training institutions to support their efforts to develop and implement programs to address mariner recruitment, training, and retention issues.

HONORING THOMAS AND THELMA ZEKOS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my good friends the late Thomas and Thelma Zekos of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. Mr. and Mrs. Zekos inspired those that knew them, dedicating their service

to the advancement of the local community. In acknowledgement of their devotion and commitment to the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee, the annual Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Awards are being dedicated in their memory.

Tom and Thelma were proud to make Shrewsbury their home knowing it was an excellent place to raise a family. They wanted the best for their children and instilled in them strong values and believed a quality education was absolutely essential. Their formula for a bright and successful future was to work hard and play by the rules.

Mr. and Mrs. Zekos were inspiring and impassioned Democrats. They believed their family would be best served by supporting candidates who espoused Democratic principles. Throughout their 50 years of marriage, they worked tirelessly for an array of Democratic candidates. They always went the extra mile. I will be forever grateful to them for their support and friendship over the years.

Tom and Thelma Zekos's dedication and commitment to a strong work ethic and moral values made an impact on our community. In tribute to their outstanding service to the community of Shrewsbury and to the Democratic Party, I am proud to honor the memory of Tom and Thelma with the dedication of the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Awards to them. I know all my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to them both today.

RECOGNIZING 100 YEARS OF MILITARY AVIATION

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H. Res. 445, a resolution recognizing 100 years of military aviation and expressing continued support for the military aviators of the United States Armed Forces.

Military aviators have had a long history of defending our nation at home and abroad, as well as supplying humanitarian assistance throughout the world. From the very first military purchase of the Wright Military Flyer in 1909, we have been privileged as a nation for the service of the world's best aviators, as well as the finest platforms in which they fly. In fact, the most technologically advanced fighter jet in the world is the F-22A Raptor—proudly manufactured in the 11th District of Georgia which is my honor to represent. Throughout both World Wars, the Vietnam War, and Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, aviators have been a critical component to successful combat from establishing air superiority to providing invaluable logistical and intelligence support to the Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, we must take a moment to recognize the communities around the nation that lend support to these aviators and their families. Again, I am proud to mention Marietta, Georgia, which is in my district and is home to Dobbins Air Reserve Base. The 94th Airlift Wing at Dobbins is part of the Air Force Reserve Command and provides the Department of Defense with exceptional C-130 Hercules training and combat-ready units ready to