

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

deploy on short notice to support more than 10,000 guardsmen, reservists, and civilians at the world's largest joint air reserve base.

With our military engaged in two wars, this chamber must take the opportunity to express thanks to all of our military aviators and other troops abroad who have defended our homeland and the values and ideals we espouse as a nation. I believe that the brave men and women who sacrifice for our present freedoms deserve our fullest support. Our nation's service men and women represent the best our country has to offer, and they must be treated with the respect and honor they deserve. As we ask these courageous soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines—and their families—to do more and more, it's only right we continue doing all we can for them. Recognizing 100 years of military aviation is just one reminder of the superior job our troops perform for America at home and abroad, and it is my hope that we will continue to do all we can and more for the members of our Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING THE OFFICE OF PARKS
AND RECREATION, CITY OF OAK-
LAND

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th Year Anniversary of the City of Oakland's Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR). On July 25th, at an Old Fashion Community Celebration at deFremery Park, local families, sports enthusiasts and nature lovers celebrated what has been accomplished in one century: 100 parks, 2,500 acres of open space, 26 recreation and community centers, and the innumerable rewarding activities Oakland residents enjoy because of them.

In 1909 both the Playground and Park Commissions were formed. During the Playground Commission's first meeting, they allocated \$600 for a vacation program at two school grounds and established a Playground Division under the Department of Public Works. One year later, the first municipal playgrounds opened at the deFremery, Bushrod and Bayview sites. The City also issued a million-dollar bond to purchase lands around Lake Merritt.

Today, we recognize the true worth of those initial investments. In addition to offering recreation services in athletics, science, art, aquatics, boating, gardening, music, and culture, Oakland's parks help foster a sense of community ownership. One OPR motto, "Play with a Purpose," illustrates an important point. It reminds us that healthy, outdoor play is an essential part of our wellbeing and personal growth.

Over the last 100 years, Oakland Parks have transformed, mirroring the rich culture and history of the surrounding community: In 1932, Oakland's first Municipal Rose Garden opened its doors; the deFremery recreation center housed servicemen in December of 1941, nine days after the Pearl Harbor attacks; a camp for children with disabilities and

a Senior Citizen program were created in 1948, and ten years later, the award-winning Arroyo Viejo Children's Theater opened, but succumbed to fire in 1970.

There have been Japanese Gardens, golf courses, children's folk dance festivals and choruses. Children's Fairyland, visited by Walt Disney while he developed his Disneyland concept, was the first theme park in the nation designed for small children. But, during inevitable change, one constant has remained: Oakland Parks' steadfast accessibility to people of all ages, abilities and interests.

The variety and scope of Oakland Parks' community participation is vast. For example, OPR recreation centers host Radical Roving Recreation programs that provide social, health and life skills development for underserved young people. The Golden State Warriors basketball team Makin' Hoops Program helps to renovate basketball courts and provides athletic services. On a national scale, the U.S. Olympic Trials for canoe and kayak flatwater sprint were held at Lake Merritt in 2004.

This year, Lakeside Gardens also celebrates its 50th anniversary and OPC intends to return the gardens to their original splendor. Oakland has much to look forward to as the Office of Parks and Recreation continues its commitment to beautify the city and engage park visitors in a shared civic pride.

I am confident that exciting partnerships and programs such as these will continue to thrive under the guidance of OPR's excellent leadership. In the next 100 years, the City of Oakland, partnering with the Office of Parks and Recreation, will continue to encourage community values, physical activity and personal development through the beauty of its open spaces.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 775, 776, 777, 778, and 779, I was not present due to a family commitment in Pennsylvania. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on 775, "yea" on 776, "yea" on 777, "yea" on 778, and "yea" on 779.

A TRIBUTE TO JUDGE GARLAND
HOWARD

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor FORMER Daviess Circuit Judge Garland Howard, a true Kentuckian. Mr. Howard is well-known in the Owensboro community as a valued leader, visionary and hard-worker.

Mr. Howard, who had been Daviess County Master Commissioner since 1985, was appointed to the circuit judgeship by Governor Paul Patton in 1995.

His passion and love for the Ohio River was expressed through his development projects, which inspired and led the way for growth and expansion in Owensboro.

Even though Mr. Howard gave so much of himself to his community, the love he gave to his wife Mary Ann and to his children was unparalleled. Mr. Howard passed away on October 7, 2009. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Howard family.

Garland Howard will forever be remembered by the amazing legacy he leaves behind through the lives he touched, the projects he created and the children who he taught by example to be community leaders in their own right.

IN RECOGNITION OF VIETNAM
WAR VETERANS EVENT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, on September 12, 2009, the Honorable EMANUEL CLEAVER, Congressman from Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, sponsored a remarkable event at the Truman Library. This event was in honor of those who fought in the Vietnam War in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Well over 1,000 veterans attended. The Honorable DENNIS MOORE, Congressman from Kansas's Third Congressional District, spoke, and yours truly had an opportunity to deliver a message of gratitude to the Vietnam veterans present. The keynote speaker was Major General (Ret.) Robert H. Scales, former commandant of the U.S. Army War College. His address was very well received by the veterans in the audience. The address is as follows:

[Sept. 12, 2009]

TRUMAN LIBRARY SPEECH

(By MG (Ret.) Robert H. Scales)

Mr. Skelton, Mr. Cleaver, distinguished guests and, most importantly, fellow veterans. What a great thrill it is to see my comrades in arms assembled here so many years after we shared our experiences in war.

Let me give you the bottom line up front: I'm proud I served in Vietnam. Like you I didn't kill innocents, I killed the enemy; I didn't fight for big oil or for some lame conspiracy I fought for a country I believed in and for the buddies who kept me alive. Like you I was troubled that, unlike my father, I didn't come back to a grateful nation. It took a generation and another war, Desert Storm, for the nation to come back to me.

Also like you I remember the war being 99 percent boredom and one percent pure abject terror. But not all my memories of Vietnam are terrible. There were times when I enjoyed my service in combat. Such sentiment must seem strange to a society today that has, thanks to our superb volunteer military, been completely insulated from war. If they thought about Vietnam at all our fellow citizens would imagine that fifty years would have been sufficient to erase this unpleasant war from our consciousness. Looking over this assembly it's obvious that the memory lingers, and those of us who fought in that war remember.

The question is why? If this war was so terrible why are we here? It's my privilege today to try to answer that question not only for you, brother veterans, but maybe for a wider audience for whom, fifty years on, Vietnam is as strangely distant as World War One was to our generation.

Vietnam is seared in our memory for the same reason that wars have lingered in the