

the matter seriously moving quickly in aiding the region.

I heard that you have already flown out to Samoa, and I only wish I could come to the area and join you in person to help. I am personally committed to supporting you, pondering over how I could help you on the efforts for the recovery of Samoa and its people.

Once again, my heart and thoughts are with you and the people of Samoa wishing safety and hope for all those who have been affected.

Truly yours,

SEUNG YOUN KIM.

RECOGNIZING BETH SHOLOM
AHAVAS ACHIM SYNAGOGUE

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Beth Sholom Ahavas Achim Synagogue in Chicago. On October 25, 2009, the congregation will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a special dinner and ceremony. I commend the entire congregation for its dedicated service to the Hollywood Park neighborhood and the surrounding communities. I would also like to recognize the contributions of Beth Sholom's spiritual leader, Rabbi Moshe Soloveichik. Rabbi Soloveichik is one of the most respected rabbis in the country and has been instrumental in the growth of Beth Sholom.

The Beth Sholom synagogue is a wonderful example of an active faith community whose members work to better themselves and those around them. The Orthodox Jewish faith is rich with tradition and an important part of both our diversity in Chicago and across the country. The congregation of Beth Sholom continues to enrich that tradition and pass it along to future generations.

The 50th anniversary celebration also honors an outstanding member of the congregation who passed away two years ago. Sandor Kirsche, a Holocaust survivor, opened Hungarian Kosher Foods, the first full-service kosher supermarket in the Chicago area, and was a member of Beth Sholom until his death. His service to the congregation and all of Chicago is greatly appreciated. Although he is missed, he will always be remembered.

I am honored to recognize Beth Sholom Ahavas Achim and Rabbi Soloveichik, and I am proud to have such active, thoughtful, and faithful men and women in my district.

CONGRATULATING TIM HURLEY

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tim Hurley on his retirement as Mayor of the city of Waterloo. At the end of the year, Tim Hurley will be retiring after serving three terms as Mayor.

Over the past 6 years, Mayor Hurley has been a proven leader in moving the city of Waterloo forward and bringing the community together. With Mayor Hurley's command, the

city of Waterloo has seen successes from economic development to upgrading the city's recreational opportunities.

Mayor Hurley has been focused on four key initiatives: economic development, improved financial health of city government, improved delivery of government services and an improved city image. These are no small tasks, but Mayor Hurley has managed to turn them into a reality.

During Mayor Hurley's tenure, the city of Waterloo experienced the worst flooding the city had seen in decades. In June of 2008, the Cedar River reached a record high of 25.39 ft, 13.39 ft above flood stage and the city suffered millions of dollars in damages. With Mayor Hurley's leadership the city is rebuilding, putting in place future mitigation plans, and revitalizing the community one day at a time.

With Mayor Hurley's retirement we are losing a chief advocate for the needs of Waterloo residents. I am proud to represent Mayor Hurley and the city of Waterloo in Congress. I wish him the best in all his endeavors.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 3619) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Chair, I rise today to commend Chairman OBERSTAR and Subcommittee Chairman CUMMINGS for their hard work on this legislation. I believe H.R. 3619 will go far towards ensuring that the U.S. Coast Guard has the financial resources and management structure in place to do their job efficiently and effectively.

More importantly I want to thank both gentlemen for helping to address my concerns regarding the bridge permitting process for the Ambassador Bridge Enhancement Project led by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Ultimately the U.S. Coast Guard found that the owner of the Ambassador Bridge had not provided the relevant information necessary to make a decision on a permit at this time; an outcome I commend, as I believe that while the Ambassador Bridge Enhancement Project may ultimately be a worthy undertaking, the owner of the bridge must go through the proper channels of federal permitting, abiding by federal law and regulation, and including all relevant environmental, safety and structural information as requested and as all other public operators do.

However, at the same time the U.S. Coast Guard was conducting their process, Federal Highway Administration was conducting a separate permitting process for a new public span, the Detroit River International Crossing.

The differences in these two processes, as well as differences in the level of community engagement and state government engagement, is of concern to me and many in Southeast Michigan.

The report language makes clear that there is a requirement that the Commandant of the

USCG, with the Secretaries of Transportation and Homeland Security have to submit a report to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and other relevant committees regarding the existing coordination protocols for joint infrastructure responsibilities as well as recommended improvements to these protocols.

It is my hope that this will help to guide early coordination on the bridge permitting process and all other infrastructure projects, between the United States Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, as well as the relevant State agencies.

I have long believed that the end result of the legislative process, the NEPA process, or in this instance the bridge permitting process, is drastically improved by working with all relevant stakeholders. Such processes always benefit from thoughtful, careful, informed deliberation in compliance with all relative federal law and regulation.

Again, I thank Chairman OBERSTAR and Chairman CUMMINGS for their support and their work on this matter.

HONORING PAULA WELENC AND
THE TAMPA FISHER HOUSE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Paula Welenc and the Fisher House at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, Florida.

Military families are the first line of support for our servicemen and women. Some families are called on to support and encourage their loved ones long after they've returned from the battles of war. For them, the Fisher House often becomes their "home away from home." At the Fisher House in Tampa, Florida, Paula Welenc is there to welcome them with open arms.

Paula is the manager of the Fisher House at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa. She has been with the facility since it opened in July of 2007. A clinical social worker by profession, she spent twenty years on active duty in the United States Air Force. In 2004, after retiring from the Air Force, she and her family moved to Spring Hill, Florida where Paula was hired as the Department of Defense's Domestic Violence Victims Advocate at MacDill Air Force Base.

Paula's military and civilian backgrounds give her a unique understanding of the issues facing our military families who are dealing with the illness or injury of their loved one.

In a recent newspaper article about the Fisher House in Tampa, Paula remarked, "We strive so hard to have this calm, relaxing, very comfortable setting for them while they're going through what might well be one of the most traumatic things that has ever happened in their life."

Since it opened its doors, the Fisher House in Tampa has hosted more than 1,200 people. The 16,000-square-foot house can accommodate up to 21 families at a time, and averages 35 guests per night. The average length of stay is two months, but two families have been there since the house opened.

Nationwide, The Fisher House Program has made available nearly three million days of lodging since the program originated in 1990. They are operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs and rely on donations to the Fisher House Foundation so that no family has to pay to stay at any Fisher House. Madam Speaker, just as our military men and women believe it is their duty to serve our Nation; it is our duty to support them. Paula has truly answered the call. On behalf of this Congress and the families that have benefited from this program, I thank her for her unyielding commitment to this most important cause.