

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize Mary Shirah for her service to Northwest Florida. Mary has worked tirelessly on behalf of the women of Santa Rosa County for the last 15 years. My wife Vicki and I wish all the best for her and her family, including sons Henry, Richard, and John, and her six grandchildren, as they embark on this next journey in their lives.

IN MEMORY OF MR. MICHAEL J.  
BONASERA

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 26, 2009*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Mr. Michael J. Bonasera of Warren, Ohio.

Michael J. Bonasera Sr. was born April 13, 1915 in Buffington, Pa., the son of Pasquale and Ninfa Danca Bonasera.

Michael was a 1934 graduate of Hickory High School and came to Warren in 1942 from Sharon, Pa., where he had lived since 1920.

He was a veteran of WWII, having served in the Army Transportation Corps., and attaining the rank of Sergeant. His military service included tours of duty in England and the Philippines.

Michael retired in 1980 from American Welding, where he was a machine operator for 32 years. He was an award-winning machinist, and was one of the first machinists to machine parts for jet and rocket engines. He was a great teacher and was able to pass on his vast knowledge to future generations of machinists.

He was a member of St. Mary's Church, and enjoyed traveling, golf, tending to his garden, and music, and had taught accordion lessons for 45 years. Most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Lena R. Maggiano Bonasera, whom he married Oct. 10, 1942; a daughter, Janet M. (Charles) Richards of Warren; two sons, Michael J. (Susan) Bonasera Jr. of Seattle and Atty. Thomas J. (Julie) Bonasera of Columbus; 14 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and a son-in-law, Dan Matthews of Coos Bay, Ore.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Mary Lee Matthews; a brother, Charles Bonasera; and his sisters, Constance LaMagro, Grace Ciolfi, Sunda Sebastian, Josephine Roman, Rose Russo and Mary Welch.

Calling hours were yesterday from 4 to 7 p.m. and this morning from 9 to 9:30 a.m. at the Peter Rossi & Son Memorial Chapel.

Burial will be at All Souls Cemetery.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, 26210 Emery Road, Suite 307, Cleveland, OH 44128.

EFFINGHAM ST. ANTHONY STATE  
GOLF CHAMPIONS

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 26, 2009*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of a talented group of student-athletes from Effingham, Illinois.

The Effingham St. Anthony boys golf team took state championship honors this month at the Illinois High School Association's finals at Prairie Vista Golf Course in Bloomington. The squad entered the final day tied with a competitive Mt. Carmel team, but St. Anthony's jumped out to an early lead in the final round and held on to clinch the title.

I want to congratulate Coach Phil Zaccari for his work with the team. But most of all, I want to congratulate the 2009 state champion boys golf squad from Effingham St. Anthony: Michael McHugh, Michael Koester, Derek Rohlfing, Kit Koerner, Lewis Martin and James Jansen. They have represented themselves, their school and their community in an exemplary fashion and I want to join with all the members of this House in wishing them continued success in their athletic and academic endeavors.

CONGREGATION BEIT KODESH

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 26, 2009*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Congregation Beit Kodesh, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

In 1958, a small number of intuitive individuals started hosting Shabbat services at the Clarenceville Central Elementary School. This same year, over 200 people attended High Holiday services at the Botsford Inn in Farmington. The following year, the Livonia Jewish Congregation was formally organized. Over the next few years, the Congregation met at several different locations until negotiation with the Jewish Welfare Foundation allowed them to move into the May and Samuel Cohn Building.

Importantly, the Congregation has been served by three Rabbis over the years: Rabbi Nathaniel Steinberg (one year), Rabbi Martin Gordon (twenty-two years) and Rabbi Craig Allen (seven years). When no Rabbi is available, the lay people of the congregation carry out services. Currently, Rabbi Jason Miller, the associate director of the University of Michigan Hillel Foundation in Ann Arbor, is the Rabbinic Advisor.

In 1990, the congregation officially changed its name to Congregation Beit Kodesh in order to recognize members who live throughout the Tri-County area. Two years ago, they combined efforts with Bet Chaverim and began to hold Sunday School classes and activities together at Congregation Beit Kodesh. Notably, students play an important role in these congregations. For example, students attend regular Bar and Bat Mitzvah classes and volunteer at Yad Ezra. In addition, they contribute actively in the community by participating in

the Matzos Factory at the Junior Community College, the annual Penny Harvest, and assisting the elderly with various projects. Finally, the synagogue also has an active Sisterhood, which sends relief packages to our soldiers and seeks to advance tolerance in the community.

In addition to being the only conservative synagogue in Western Wayne County, this distinguished congregation was the first in Metropolitan Detroit to elect a woman as president. While receiving very little financial assistance or recognition from the Jewish community, they remain very active and play an important role in the community.

Madam Speaker, for fifty years, Congregation Beit Kodesh has stood as a tribute to the strong efforts of Metropolitan Detroit's Jewish community. As their members commemorate this tremendous milestone, they embody a legacy of distinction and determination. While observing their Jewish customs, this small but significant family synagogue will continue to contribute to the community. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating Congregation Beit Kodesh and recognizing their contributions to our community and country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 26, 2009*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent Friday morning, October 23, on very urgent business. Had I been present for the eleven votes which occurred Friday, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3619, rollcall vote No. 812; and I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3619, rollcall vote No. 813.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DON  
WEEKS

**HON. PAUL TONKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 26, 2009*

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, residents of New York's Capital Region have been blessed to wake up each morning to the voice of long-time radio host Don Weeks. Since 1980, Don has hosted the WGY morning radio show, entertaining listeners with a mix of comedy and insightful interviews, all delivered with a friendly, neighborly charm.

Throughout the years Don has always put the community first, lending his talent to local fund drives and other special events, from restocking food pantries to emceeding the annual Red Cross Hometown Heroes Awards breakfast. He has been honored with several New York State Broadcaster of the Year awards, and a Marconi Award from the National Association of Broadcasters.

We'd like to congratulate Don on the recent announcement that he will be inducted into the New York State Broadcasting Hall of Fame. It is a fitting honor for a lifelong Capital Region resident who has dedicated his life to informing and entertaining others, and making our community a better place in which to live.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR CHRIS WILLIAMSON ON THE OCCASION OF SERVING AS HONORARY CHAPLAIN

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 26, 2009*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Pastor Chris Williamson of Franklin, Tennessee, as he serves as the House of Representatives Honorary Chaplain today.

The music industry brought Pastor Williamson to Middle Tennessee as a member of the Christian rap group, Transformation Crusade. As his music performance career concluded, however, he felt a calling to the pulpit.

In 1995, he founded the Strong Tower Bible Church and has built Strong Tower into one of Franklin's most dynamic and well-known churches. His commitment to racial reconciliation is evident through his work as an author, his mission work, as well as the intentional multi-ethnic and diverse background of his congregation. He is a devoted family man, and I appreciate the opportunity to represent his fine family in the Congress.

Please join me in honoring Pastor Williamson on his service to the House of Representatives today, and I wish him only the best in the years to come.

**LABOR HISTORY MONTH  
RESOLUTION**

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 26, 2009*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support a Resolution expressing the sense of the House that a "National Labor History Month" should be established.

Today, most Americans work in clean, well-lit, well-ventilated, air-conditioned workplaces. So it is all too easy to forget the desperate conditions in which our grandparents and their grandparents often toiled. Child labor was commonplace. Workers were subjected to dangerous work environments, and were often forced to put themselves at risk of death or serious injury in order to put food on the table for their families. Women were especially attractive employees—because you could pay them less for the exact same work. The labor movement played a leading role in ending these inhumane and unfair practices. And for this, all modern Americans owe a debt of gratitude.

In addition to fighting against the exploitation of workers, labor leaders also played a significant role in the civil rights movement, fighting to end racial discrimination in the workplace. As early as World War II, labor leaders fought to end racial discrimination against African-Americans working in the defense industry. And Cesar Chávez's United Farmworkers Union fought not only for labor rights, but for equal rights for Latinos in countless walks of life. This resolution will help us pay tribute to those who put themselves on

the line for all of America's working men and women.

What they fought for represents the best of the American character. I urge all my colleagues to support this bi-partisan effort to recognize the importance of the labor movement to America's history.

**MASSAC COUNTY STATE GOLF  
CHAMPIONS**

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 26, 2009*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of a talented group of student-athletes from Massac County, Illinois.

The Massac County High School girls golf team took state championship honors this month at the Illinois High School Association's finals at the Crab Orchard Golf Club in Carterville. The Lady Patriots put on an impressive showing at the state finals, finishing 39 strokes ahead of the runner-up. Tala Mumford, of Massac County, shot a 163 for the tournament and was honored as top individual performer.

I want to congratulate Coach Kim Hille for her work with the team. But most of all, I want to congratulate the 2009 state champion girls golf squad from Massac County: Tala Mumford, Sammi Weber, Taylor King, Kristen Faulkner, Laura Bremer and Peyton Helm. They have represented themselves, their school and their community in an exemplary fashion and I want to join with all the members of this House in wishing them continued success in their athletic and academic endeavors.

**HONORING MARYBELL BRAZILE  
BAKEWELL**

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 26, 2009*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ms. Marybell Brazile Bakewell for her dedication to her family and community. Earlier this month, Ms. Bakewell passed away at Arcadia Methodist Hospital, at the age of eighty four.

Ms. Bakewell was born on April 10, 1925 and was the daughter of Edward and Camille Brazile. She spent over forty years in a loving relationship with her husband, Eddie Trepagnier. Ms. Bakewell graduated from Straights Business School where she received her secretarial certificate. As a result of hard work and determination, she was hired full time at the National Maritime Union. She committed herself wholeheartedly to her job and remained working there for over forty years until she retired.

Ms. Bakewell was a native of New Orleans until she recently had to relocate to Los Angeles, California after her beloved city was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. While living in New Orleans she was a life member of St. Peter Claver Catholic Church and the Sisters of The Holy Family. Ms. Bakewell spent her entire life staying connected to family, school,

work, and her neighbors throughout the City of New Orleans. Her witiness, charming personality, and uplifting spirit shall remain a legacy in the hearts of many.

Even though she can no longer be with us physically, I know that Ms. Bakewell is very proud of her family, including her two children, Danny J. Bakewell, Sr. and Pamela A. Bakewell, both of whom are prominent in Los Angeles civic affairs. She is also survived by eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Family was always the highlight of her life and she will forever be remembered as the Matriarch of the Bakewell Family.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to her remarkable life and extending our condolences to her family.

**EXTENSION OF COMMERCIAL  
SPACE TRANSPORTATION LI-  
ABILITY REGIME**

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in support of House Resolution 3819 "to extend the commercial space transportation liability regime." Extending this liability regime will ensure that commercial launches can continue to take place.

This indemnification regime has been in place since 1988 and has been renewed four times. It is an important element in maintaining the economic competitiveness of the domestic U.S. commercial launch services industry. The regime helps protect against catastrophic third-party liability claims when conducting Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-licensed launch activities.

We are aware of the importance of the technological advances and services provided to the citizens of our nation as a result of the commercial launch industry—many of these services we all utilize on a daily basis. Allowing for these types of technologies to grow, prosper, and become more efficient and effective is an initiative that we want to continue. Ensuring progress in the commercial space industry by extending the current insurance indemnification regime will directly improve those initiatives.

As the Member of Congress representing Texas' 18th Congressional District in Houston, near NASA's Johnson Space Center, laws related to space programs and the commercial space industry are near and dear to me and my constituents. Laws relating to commercial space transportation provide tools to further the goals that were outlined in the Augustine Commission to chart our next steps into space. This industry provides jobs and keeps U.S.-based companies and technologies competitive in a global market. It is extremely important that we support the furtherance of this industry and the technological services it provides.

With soaring deficits facing our states and the looming costs of health care reform and energy reform before the nation, tough choices have been made. Surely, some argue that we cannot afford to gamble further money in space based initiatives.

Yet others, like me and my constituents realize the benefits of ensuring the continuance