

D. Sillers, the founder of St. Margaret's Episcopal School and two other Episcopal schools in Orange County. Orange County, California has been blessed by dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Reverend Sillers dedicated his life and purpose to both God and education; he will be dearly missed.

Ernest Sillers was born October 2, 1910, in River John, Nova Scotia. When he was 18 years old, he answered his personal calling and decided to attend Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts. It was there he met the love of his life, Aldine, and they were married. Rev. Sillers graduated with a degree in theology and entered the ministry at First Baptist Church in Seabrook, New Hampshire. He studied for a master's degree and attended the Episcopal Seminary at Cambridge Seminary as a part-time student. His efforts led him to become an ordained Episcopal Priest. After serving in New England, Rev. Sillers moved to Pico Rivera where he was Vicar of the mission parish of St. Bartholomew. Because of his long time interest in education, Rev. Sillers obtained a teaching credential. In 1960, Rev. Sillers was called to be Rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Downey, California. There, he was inspired to start his first school.

Fifteen years later, Ernest Sillers and Aldine were retired and living in Laguna Beach. The Bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles had heard that people in the growing community of San Juan Capistrano would be served by an Episcopal church. He asked Rev. Sillers if he would be a temporary priest-in-chart to start the church and Sillers accepted. In October 1979, St. Margaret's Episcopal School was founded with 79 students and was located in temporary structures. The following year, the student population doubled and by 1986, a 12th grade class had graduated. Aldine, served as the school's founding librarian.

After the successful founding and growth of St. Margaret's, Rev. Sillers was ready for a new challenge. He went on to found St. John's Episcopal Church and School in Rancho Santa Margarita and, a few years later, St. Mary and All Angels Episcopal School in Aliso Viejo.

On October 15, 2009, Reverend Canon Ernest D. Sillers passed away. On behalf of all those who knew him, it is my honor to offer these remarks as a tribute to the life and legacy of Reverend Sillers. His life and presence will be sorely missed and I extend my condolences to his dear family and friends. His legacy of service and his vision of education live on.

#### CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 28, 2009*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as the sixth annual National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. The theme for 2009, "Our Shared Responsibility," emphasizes the need for government agencies, businesses and especially private users to each take responsibility for their own online safety and not fall victim to cyber attacks that can spread to other users.

It is vital that the public is engaged and aware of how to properly utilize security software in order to protect their Social Security numbers, financial information, health information, and other personal data. We must all work together and take responsibility for securing our own networks and computers to ensure that government systems, personal data and even critical infrastructure remain safe from attack.

Improving public awareness of threats to home or office computer networks is a crucial step in working to make the Internet, and our critical data, more safe and secure. Due to the massive scope and scale of the Internet, fraud and malicious attacks will always persist in some form. However, educating the public about small steps, such as keeping up-to-date with the latest security patches or installing basic anti-virus software, can easily strengthen our economic and national security.

I applaud the Department of Homeland Security for sponsoring this month of outreach. As a Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of the House Cybersecurity Caucus, I will continue to fight to deliver the latest tools and training to support both our national security infrastructure, and the personal data of all Americans.

#### CONGRATULATING SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY AND CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF THE ARTS SOLAR DECATHLON TEAM

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 28, 2009*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Team California, a partnership between Santa Clara University and California College of the Arts, for placing third in the Department of Energy's 2009 International Solar Decathlon. I congratulate the students, faculty, administration, and sponsors for their tremendous accomplishments.

The Solar Decathlon competition challenged university teams from around the globe to design, build, and operate a solar energy powered home that incorporates energy efficiency, architectural creativity, and an applicable living style in order to illustrate the benefits and practical application of green living.

The team of Santa Clara University and the California College of the Arts was one of only 20 teams from around the world selected to compete in the 2009 Solar Decathlon, the only schools from California and from the entire West Coast involved in the competition. SCU and CCA were among the smallest schools in the Decathlon, but they excelled in the competition and received top scores for their remarkable "Refract House."

En route to placing 3rd overall, Team California placed first in the Architecture and Communications contests and earned second place for Appliances, Home Entertainment, and Engineering in the design and structure of their home. Their efforts and outstanding achievements at the 2009 Solar Decathlon are to be highly commended, and their work will contribute significantly to the future designs of solar powered homes.

The "Refract House" offered a wide array of eco-friendly features, including aesthetically-pleasing solar photovoltaic arrays, radiant

heating and cooling, double-paned windows and doors and top-of-the line energy-efficient appliances. Moreover, the house was largely composed from recycled waste, illustrated by their walls composed of used billboards and salvaged redwood.

Through their work in the Solar Decathlon, Santa Clara University and the California College of the Arts have shown that it is within our grasp to reduce carbon emissions and live off renewable energy. Santa Clara University is demonstrating this even beyond the Solar Decathlon as well, recently earning recognition from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership as one of the Nation's Top 20 Colleges and Universities using green power and qualifying for EPA's Green Power Leadership Club.

During the Decathlon competition, I had the pleasure of hosting a briefing in the U.S. Capitol during which the Team California members talked about their solar house, the technologies they used, and policy issues surrounding renewable energy. I was honored to have my California colleagues Representative ZOE LOFGREN and SAM FARR attend the briefing, and was proud of the work the students, faculty, and administrators did to educate Members of Congress and the public about the promise of renewable energy, which does not produce greenhouse gases and can reduce global warming.

Global warming threatens our economy, our coastal cities, and possibly the very existence of humanity. Expanding the use of renewable energy is a key development for improving American livelihoods and the livelihoods of individuals all over the world, who will gain greater control over their own lives as they gain control over the means of generating their energy, and the work of Team California will help to make that a reality.

The "Refract House" highlights the strengths and technological innovation of Silicon Valley, and I once again extend my congratulations and my thanks to Santa Clara University and the California College of the Arts for their strong representation of California and outstanding performance in the 2009 Solar Decathlon.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 28, 2009*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I want to state that yesterday I missed the final three rollcall votes of the day. Unfortunately I missed these votes because I had to return to my district.

Had I been present I would have voted "Nay" on rollcall vote No. 816 On Motion to Instruct Conferees—H.R. 2996—Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations, 2010.

Had I been present I would have voted "Yea" on rollcall vote No. 817 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended—H.R. 2489—National Land Remote Sensing Outreach Act.

Lastly, had I been present I would have voted "Yea" on rollcall vote No. 818 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree—H. Res. 854—Recognizing Weber State University for the 120th anniversary of its founding as an institution of higher education.

HONORING DR. MARCO A. MASON

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 28, 2009*

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and recognize Dr. Marco A. Mason, a distinguished medical sociologist and activist from the great state of New York. Dr. Mason is a living legend in Brooklyn, NY, not only is a professor at Medgar Evers College Department of Social and Behavior Sciences but he is a founding member of the Caribbean Women's Health Association, the Chairman/CEO of the Panamanian Council of New York Inc and the President of the Institute for Pan-American Affairs.

Additionally, Dr. Mason serves on the advisory boards for SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center, the Caribbean Research Center and the Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Services. He is recognized in the Global Directory of "Who's Who in the World" and the Vice-Chairman of New York City Community Board No. 9.

Dr. Mason is widely acknowledged as a technical expert on U.S. immigration policy and he is an accredited practitioner in immigration law before the Immigration and Naturalization Court and the Board of Immigration Appeals. His principal scholarly interests include the United States' immigration policy impact on ethnic communities and patterns of Caribbean immigration in the Western Hemisphere. He was cited by the U.S. Department of Justice for his "Outstanding services in assisting immigrants with status adjustments."

He is a seasoned global traveler with extensive professional-related international tours throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. He serves as a United Nations Social and Economic Council delegate and in this capacity has hosted numerous international conferences and field tours to study public health systems.

Dr. Mason is the recipient of more than 150 awards for his "Dedicated service rendered to the Caribbean-American Community" and was recognized in the Medical Herald in a special feature entitled "Marco Mason: A Champion of Ethnicity."

Dr. Mason's story is a quintessential American Immigrant story. A proud Panamanian-American of Caribbean decent whose life's work is a testament to the virtues of courage and integrity.

Again, I rise to express the heartfelt appreciation and gratitude of all New Yorkers and the untold numbers of Brooklynites who are the beneficiaries of his outstanding life's work.

HONORING MIKE MILLS, OF FREEPORT, MINNESOTA AS A TRUE AMERICAN PATRIOT

**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 28, 2009*

Mrs. BACHMANN. I rise today, Madam Speaker, to honor Staff Sergeant Mike Mills of Freeport, Minnesota, who is the first Minnesota recipient of The American Patriot

Award. He joins an exclusive group of only 8 American heroes who have been recognized by the American Patriot Project, comprised of nine volunteer organizations united by love of our national pastime, baseball, and a desire to honor those who have served in uniform.

Mike was wounded in 2005 in Iraq while serving with the Minnesota Army National Guard. On June 15, 2005 an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) exploded near Mike's vehicle. In the explosion he suffered a cracked clavicle and scapula bones, a dislocated shoulder and burns on more than 30 percent of his body. With extraordinary inner strength and the love and faith of his family and friends, he walked the long road of recovery. There are few awards that could properly acknowledge his service.

Given Mike's incredible experience, it would be understandable if he had turned to bitterness, sadness and anger. But, Mike turned around what he had gone through to help other veterans discharged or retired with injuries. He helps them turn their feelings of guilt, shame and failure into hope, pride and joy through his Web site, [www.forthetveteran.com](http://www.forthetveteran.com). By sharing his own powerful story through words and pictures, Mike has said to every veteran you are not alone and you will never be alone. It is a lesson that far too many veterans never hear, leaving them with feelings of isolation and guilt and depression. His Web site should be required reading for any returning citizen-soldier.

Like many veterans, Mike is the definition of a hero. But Mike stands out for his bravery and his sacrifice for our freedoms in a land thousands of miles away. I pray that Mike, his wife, Suki, and their children will continue to be a blessing to one another and to other veterans facing difficult times. I am so humbled to honor him today to this Congress, Madam Speaker.

## REGARDING HEALTH CARE REFORM

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 28, 2009*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to show you the headlines from my community: "It's Official: It's a Stinker." And what's a stinker? According to the U.S. Census and the American Community Survey, in Los Angeles County 22.3 percent of the people do not have health insurance. In Long Beach, 18.8 percent have no insurance; in Compton, 25.5 percent. In other words, one out of four people are without health insurance. And that should matter to all of us.

Why are we the only industrialized nation that doesn't provide health care? Why is it that my friends on the other side of the aisle can support spending billions for a war, but we can't spend the same for health care? Something is wrong.

Today, the rising number of uninsured, along with the increasing costs of healthcare, has adversely affected our economy. The rising cost of health care burdens American businesses as they weigh health benefit costs against other business investments. It is estimated that by 2015, the share of the national economy devoted to health care will increase

from 14 to 20 percent. Growing health care expenses make our businesses much less competitive in the global marketplace, and restrict job creation here at home. In addition, every percentage increase in the unemployment rate results in 1 million more people becoming uninsured. Providing health care for the uninsured costs insured American families an extra \$100 billion every year.

I applaud Congress and the Senate for stepping up and tackling this problem. We need to do this, and we need to do it now. The hour is late, the need is great, we cannot wait. Congress must pass comprehensive legislation this year.

## 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VETERAN OF THE MONTH PROGRAM

**HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 28, 2009*

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th anniversary of the "Veteran of the Month" program. I am honored to represent the patriotic citizens of Bantam, Connecticut, home of American Legion Post 44, where the "Veteran of the Month" program was founded to honor deceased honorably discharged veterans, soldiers that died while in the service, soldiers that remain missing in action, and special civilian employees of the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines or Merchant Marines during World War II.

On the first Saturday of the month for the past 240 months, Post 44 conducts a flag raising ceremony in Bantam to celebrate the life and service of a new honoree. The list of honored veterans includes men and women who have served in seven different branches during eleven separate wars. They have all made unique and important contributions to their communities.

The "Veteran of the Month" program officially began with a flag raising on October 25, 1989. As with many great ideas, this program was born out of necessity. The American flag at the All Wars Memorial in Bantam was damaged, but the delivery of a new flag was delayed. In the meantime, Arthur Shaw offered his late father's burial flag to be flown until the new flag arrived. Post 44 Commander Francis Fabbri gladly accepted the use of the burial flag as a temporary solution until the replacement was received. When word that a burial flag was being flown began to spread around the community, local families of deceased veterans wanted to honor their loved ones by flying their flags as well. Mr. Shaw and Mr. Fabbri recognized that this would represent a fantastic opportunity to pay tribute to soldiers' lives, both during and after their military service.

In early 1990, Commander Arthur St. John developed the ceremony format that has been followed ever since. Mr. St. John has worked tirelessly to grow the "Veteran of the Month" program into a nationwide effort. It was adopted as an American Legion Americanism Program in 1993 as a model of how to pay tribute to local veterans for their service to our nation.

For their efforts, American Legion Post 44 has been awarded the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge's highest honor, the George