

HONORING SHIRLEY COELHO AND  
CHERYL NIMIROSKI

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2009*

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate New Hope Board Members Shirley Coelho and Cheryl Nimiroski for their many years of dedicated service to this inspiring organization. New Hope is a non-profit agency serving communities in Central and Southeastern Massachusetts that is committed to ending domestic violence by helping people live safer lives.

Ms. Coelho and Ms. Nimiroski have worked tirelessly over the past 20 and 15 years respectively to provide individuals and families with the resources they need to identify, overcome and prevent domestic violence. Not only have their efforts improved the lives of those they have worked with directly, but they have also made the lives of countless individuals in their greater communities safer.

At New Hope's annual meeting on October 29, 2009, Shirley and Cheryl were specially honored with the creation of the "Coelho-Nimiroski Volunteer of the Year Award" which will be awarded to an outstanding volunteer who embodies the values of and shows dedication to the mission of New Hope. The creation of this award ensures that Shirley and Cheryl's work will continue to inspire future volunteers for years to come.

Madam Speaker, domestic violence affects us all and sadly, it still exists in communities across the United States. The care, compassion and commitment to ending domestic violence shown by devoted individuals like Shirley Coelho and Cheryl Nimiroski is truly exemplary. We should all be inspired by their invaluable work.

I respectfully ask the entire U.S. House of Representatives to join me in commending Shirley Coelho and Cheryl Nimiroski for their years of service to New Hope and for their dedication to ending domestic violence.

HONORING MEL AUST OF LAKE  
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2009*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend Mel Aust, General Manager of the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District in Lake County, California. Mel is being honored this evening on the occasion of his 20th anniversary with the district.

Mel's contributions to the people of Lake County and California over the years are immeasurable. Mel was the driving force behind the water reclamation treatment plant and wastewater treatment plant to sustain build-out of the Hidden Valley Lake community. In 2001, his Community Services District helped build a ballpark at Coyote Valley Elementary School. He also secured \$250,000 in labor grants to clean up Coyote Creek, Gallagher Creek and drainage ditches throughout the Hidden Valley Lake subdivision. He played a

key role in crafting a letter that secured essential federal funding for the training and technical assistance HVLCD offers to water and wastewater systems all over California.

The list of boards and commissions on which Mel has served is equally impressive. Locally, he serves on the Lake County Business Outreach Team, the Board of Directors of the South Lake County Fire District and the Board of Directors of the Toys for Kids program. Statewide, he served on the Association of California Water Agencies Federal Affairs committee and the California Department of Water Resources Drought Preparedness Committee. Mel also serves as California's representative at the National Rural Water Association and is on NRWA's Asset Development, Legislative and Conference Committees.

Mel is known across the state for his immense knowledge of complex water issues and his public speaking ability. He frequently lobbies in Sacramento and on Capitol Hill for the Association of California Water Agencies, American Water Works Association, California Rural Water Association and National Rural Water Association. He is the go-to speaker for these organizations when needed, often speaking to audiences of thousands with ease.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to recognize Mel Aust for his many years of service to the people of California and to thank him for his many contributions on behalf of our country and our community. I am proud to call him a friend. I join his wife, Connie, and all of our colleagues in congratulating him on this milestone.

CONGRATULATING KATHLEEN  
HODGES OF GARLAND'S WALNUT  
GLEN ACADEMY

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2009*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, last week I visited Garland's Walnut Glen Academy to congratulate Kathleen Hodges for winning the Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award 2008–2009. The Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Awards recognize eleven exemplary K–12 humanities teachers in the Lone Star State. The exceptional Rowlett resident stands head and shoulders above her peers for her role as a terrific humanities teacher making a difference in the lives of young Texans.

Humanities Texas, formerly the Texas Council for the Humanities, is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Humanities Texas conducts and supports public programs in history, literature, philosophy, and other humanities disciplines.

I wish my colleagues could have seen the heartwarming patriotic celebration that coincided with this wonderful announcement heralding Kathleen's accolade. On Veterans' Day, Walnut Glen Academy rolled out the red carpet for patriots young and old. The faculty and students at Walnut Glen Academy went to great lengths to stress the importance of service before self—and pointed a shining example of that—Kathleen's tireless work on behalf of young people. It was truly inspiring. Most important, Kathleen received the special recognition

and her time in the sun for her tremendous achievement she so truly deserves.

After spending the day at her school, it is easy to see why Kathleen considers her proudest accomplishment the art program she has helped establish at Walnut Glen Academy. Congratulations are in order for Kathleen Hodges and the students and faculty at Walnut Glen Academy. God bless you and I salute you.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. LOUIE GOHMERT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2009*

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding funding received in my district as part of H.R. 2996, the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Lanana Creek Water Initiative. STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project, the City of Nacogdoches, P.O. Box 635030, Nacogdoches, Texas 75963, \$500,000 for regional detention ponds to complete a storm water mitigation initiative at Lanana Creek, Nacogdoches, Texas, which will prevent submergence of a number of bridges by keeping Lanana Creek at a low water level. This will allow for full access of emergency personnel to areas south of the North Loop 224 bridge at all times, and dealing with untenable wetland issues.

HONORING THE COAST GUARD  
AND MARINE CORPS AIRCRAFT  
PILOTS LOST IN CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 17, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 891, "Expressing the gratitude of the House of Representatives for the service to our Nation of the Coast Guard and Marine Corps aircraft pilots and crewmembers lost off the coast of California on October 29, 2009, and for other purposes." The safety of American citizens lies in the hands of our service men and women on a daily basis. With honor and respect our service men and women devote their lives to their duty and time and time again they prove to be faithful servants. We in the Gulf Coast region will never forget their bravery in saving 22,000+ lives during Hurricane Katrina.

On the evening of October 29, 2009, a Coast Guard C-130 aircraft with two pilots and five crewmembers on board was involved in a search and rescue mission off the coast of California. Unfortunately at the same time, a Marine Corps AH-1W Super Cobra carrying two pilots was involved in a military escort mission nearby. The two aircraft are suspected to have collided while traveling east of San Clemente Island, California. The following crew members of the Coast Guard C-130 are

missing and presumed to have lost their lives in the line of duty: Lt. Cmdr. Che J. Barnes of Capay, California; Lt. Adam W. Bryant, of Crewe, Virginia; Chief Petty Officer John F. Seidman of Stockton, California; Petty Officer 2nd Class Carl P. Grigonis of Mayfield Heights, Ohio; Petty Officer 2nd Class Monica L. Beacham of Decaturville, Tennessee; Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason S. Moletzsky of Norristown, Pennsylvania; and Petty Officer 3rd Class Danny R. Kreder II, of Elm Mott, Texas. The following crew members of the Marine Corps helicopter are missing and presumed to have lost their lives in the line of duty: Maj. Samuel Leigh of Kennebec, Maine, and 1st Lt. Thomas Claiborne of Douglas, Colorado.

The men and women of the Coast Guard are "Always Ready" to safeguard the United States against all hazards and threats at our ports, at sea, and around the world. As the men and women of the Marine Corps are "Always Faithful" to their mission of defending the United States on the ground, in the air, and by sea, in every corner of the globe. These individuals lost their lives in service to their country and I, as well as every other Member of Congress, should support this resolution in their honor.

CELEBRATING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER AS NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2009*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the month of November as Native American Indian Heritage Month, and to express my support for the Native American Business Development Enhancement Act of 2009.

Over 562 Native American tribes have made extraordinary professional, educational, and cultural contributions to our community. After centuries of gross mistreatment at the hands of the U.S. government and generations of unequal, exploitative policies that have worked to effectively rob Native Americans of their land, culture, and livelihood, it is a privilege to honor the many accomplishments that these groups are making today. Their rich ancestry and surviving traditions are a living testament of the strength and unyielding spirit shared by many great tribal nations across this land, and their legacy will continue to be a major part of the ethnic fabric of American society.

Since its inception in 1990, Native American Indian Heritage Month has sought to promote recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the United States, and increase awareness of the tragedies and discrimination these groups have experienced throughout history. This year's theme, Pride in Our Heritage, Honor to our Ancestors, reflects the importance of remembering the rich and diverse cultural legacy of our Native American communities.

In the spirit of recognizing the longstanding social and economic inequalities facing Native American tribes, it is crucial that we take steps to ensure that Native American communities achieve equal access to public services, government funding, employment, business and

educational opportunities. Individually and as distinct nations, Native Americans have made distinguished and significant achievements in the fields of agriculture, business, medicine, music, language, and art. I have every confidence that they will continue to distinguish themselves in those arenas as well as in government, as entrepreneurs, athletes, and scholars in the years and decades to come.

As we proceed to strengthen America's economic and social infrastructure, it is imperative that we target existing inequalities and discriminatory policies and make an active, nationwide effort to include Native Americans in future programs through forward-thinking legislation, such as the Native American Business Development Enhancement Act of 2009.

I strongly support H.R. 1834, the Native American Business Development Enhancement Act of 2009, which will be considered by the House today. This legislation, introduced by my colleague Rep. ANN KIRKPATRICK, will establish the Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration. This effort will increase Native American entrepreneurship and engage tribes in the small business arena.

In this vein, I have been working to further Native American business and economic development by supporting the elevation and funding of the Office of Native American Business Development, ONABD, at the Department of Commerce. I believe the ONABD should be more independent and receive an increase of funds in order to expand its activities, and fulfill its duties to expand business development, trade promotion and tourism opportunities for Native American tribes and their enterprises.

In closing, Madam Speaker, celebrating Native American Indian Heritage Month and supporting our Native American community is an important milestone to increase public awareness of their role in American history and recognize their cultural legacies that enrich our everyday lives.

DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 17, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res 841, which will designate November 29, 2009, as "Drive Safer Sunday". I strongly support the passage of this resolution because at some point in time, all of our lives have been or will be in the hands of a driver. Motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation for most of us here in the United States. Advocating safer driving methods will help save the lives of countless mothers, daughters, fathers and sons. Losing the people we love due to another drivers' lack of attention, carelessness or belligerent intoxication while driving is inexcusable.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, in 2005, Americans now spend more than 100 hours a year commuting to work. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA, estimates that in 2009, 37,313 people, an average of more than 100 drivers a day, were

killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes. Throughout the first half of this year, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA, has reported over 16,000 deaths. Throughout 2008 in Houston, my home district, the 18th District of Texas, there were an estimated 74 fatalities according to the Texas Department of Transportation, TxDOT.

Between driving to work, taking our kids to school, running to the grocery store and various other errands; for many of us, our highways and byways become a home away from home. Unfortunately, distracted drivers have endangered us all with careless antics. 'Distracted driving' includes anything that takes your eyes, hands, or mind away from driving, including food and beverages, traffic accidents, adjusting the radio, children, pets, objects moving in the vehicle, talking or texting on a cell phone, smoking, putting on or make-up, shaving, and reading.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA, conducted a study on driver distraction with respect to both behavioral and vehicle safety countermeasures in an effort to understand and mitigate crashes associated with distracted driving. In September of this year, the Department of Transportation, DOT, Secretary Ray LaHood announced research findings by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA, that showed nearly 6,000 people died in 2008 in crashes involving a distracted or inattentive driver, and more than half a million were injured. Distracted driving was reported to have been involved in 16 percent of all fatal crashes in 2008, according to data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System, FARS. The age group with the greatest proportion of distracted drivers was the under-20 age group, 16 percent of all under-20 drivers in fatal crashes were reported to have been distracted while driving. Crashes in which the critical reason for the crash was attributed to the driver, approximately 18 percent involved distraction, according to the National Motor Vehicle Crash Causation Survey, NMVCCS.

While traveling on our roads and highways, we all need to drive safer to reduce deaths and injuries resulting from motor vehicle accidents. Driver behavior can be effectively changed through education and awareness. The Sunday after Thanksgiving is the busiest highway traffic day of the year and would be appropriate to be designated as "Drive Safer Sunday."

HONORING THE LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL MEN'S SOCCER TEAM ON WINNING THE ILLINOIS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2009*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lyons Township men's soccer team on its victory in the Illinois 3A State Championship match on November 7 in Naperville, IL.

Lyons Township enjoyed immense success this season, posting a record of 26 wins and only three losses. This year marked LT's sixth appearance in the state tournament. But after five previous trips ended in early exits, this