

I look forward to seeing what she will accomplish in the future.

RECOGNITION OF STEVE
BAERTSCHE BEING INDUCTED
INTO THE FARM SCIENCE RE-
VIEW HALL OF FAME

HON. MARY JO. KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Steve Baertsche on his induction into the Farm Science Review Hall of Fame on September 22, 2009. Mr. Baertsche was inducted as one of five members of the 20th Hall of Fame Class.

Mr. Baertsche recently retired as the Assistant Director for Ohio State University Extension. OSU Extension seeks to bring the knowledge of the university to those Ohioans who do not have regular access to campuses around the state. Extension fulfills the land-grant mission of the Ohio State University by interpreting research developed by the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Ohio State, and other land-grant universities, so that Ohioans can use scientifically-based information to improve their lives. OSU Extension serves a vital role by strengthening communities through research-based educational programming.

Mr. Baertsche led OSU Extension's leadership effort for more than 15 years and helped enhance the program's presence at the Farm Science Review, FSR. FSR manager Chuck Gamble stated that, "Steve Baertsche's leadership was much appreciated. His understanding of Extension and its mission definitely led to the success of Ohio State University research and educational efforts at Farm Science Review. He took Extension to a higher level."

I am privileged to say that Steve Baertsche is one of my constituents. I would like to congratulate Mr. Baertsche again, and I thank him for his service and his work to instruct Ohioans how to better their lives through education.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND
CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
JOHN O'QUINN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredibly gifted personal injury lawyer and dedicated philanthropist, Mr. John O'Quinn.

Mr. O'Quinn spent his career serving others by fighting to make sure the most vulnerable members of our society received justice. As a lawyer, his unwavering commitment to his clients was legendary, and throughout his legal career, he used his unique personality and staggering intellect as an advocate for the powerless. In his life, he was named one of the 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America by the National Law Journal, 100 Legal Legends of Texas by Texas Lawyer magazine,

Five Best Texas Trial Lawyers of the Past Century by the Houston Chronicle, and was recognized in Harvard Law's "Best Lawyers in America."

It is important to note, however, that Mr. O'Quinn's remarkable capacity in the courtroom was only one part of his dynamic personality. As a notable philanthropist, he handsomely endowed his alma mater, the University of Houston, by helping to fund the John O'Quinn Law Library and the John O'Quinn Field at Robertson Stadium. He served as a Regent for the university as well as a Trustee for the law school foundation. Additionally, he assisted numerous other charitable organizations including the Children's Assessment Center, the Women's Center, Baylor College of Medicine, the End Hunger Network, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, and the South Texas College of Law Advocacy Center.

Madam Speaker, the world truly lost a gracious soul with the untimely death of John O'Quinn. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in both honoring this brilliant attorney and celebrating his life and countless accomplishments. He will be truly missed.

HONORING CAPTAIN DANIEL C.
RHODES ON BEING NAMED "MA-
RINE OF THE YEAR"

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Daniel Rhodes of La Grange, Illinois on being named the 2009 Marine Corps Times Marine of the Year. All our service men and women make extraordinary sacrifices and are worthy of acclaim. But the Marine Corps Times has chosen a truly exemplary member of our Armed Forces for this incredible honor.

Growing up in La Grange and attending Lyons Township High School, Daniel Rhodes always knew he would be a Marine. His strong faith and passion for community service are a tribute to his parents, who have spent the last 10 years in Lima, Peru running an orphanage. With their selflessness as his guide, Daniel Rhodes enlisted in the Marines in May 2001 with an uncommon drive and certainty of purpose.

Then First Lieutenant Rhodes served as the commander of Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines in Karmah, Iraq starting in August 2008. With just two years of experience as an officer, he commanded 200 Marines and more than 500 Iraqi militia members, functioning as both a warrior and a mentor. Daniel Rhodes and his men used emergency relief funds to commence more than 30 service projects in the area in and around Karmah. The results included the refurbishment of 21 schools, four bridges, two water treatment plants, two roads, a community center, and two factories, as well as the development of an adult literacy program. These projects helped thousands of Iraqis and are examples of the kinds of critical but often unsung efforts that lie at the heart of our military's work in Iraq.

During his personal time while deployed, Daniel Rhodes authored a book on military ethics that is now used throughout his bat-

talion. He also incorporated discussion of ethics and leadership into his company's weekly routine. Truly, Daniel Rhodes is a man of uncommon ability and unimpeachable character.

Upon his return to Hawaii, Daniel Rhodes was promoted to Captain and named commander of Charlie Company, 1/3. There he developed a relationship with Aloha United Way, and continued to be involved in community service projects, helping to refurbish vacant public housing units and assisting with food drives along with his men.

After eight years, Captain Daniel Rhodes left the service this past July to continue his education and to spend more time with his wife, Marine Captain Elizabeth Jackson. I have no doubt that he will accomplish more great things in life. I ask you to join me in honoring Captain Daniel Rhodes for his outstanding service and recognition as the 2009 Marine of the Year.

FOREIGN STUDENTS SOCIAL SEC-
URITY NUMBERS REFORM ACT OF
2009

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Foreign Students Social Security Numbers Reform Act. Simply put, this bill would prohibit foreign students from receiving Social Security numbers. In no way however would this bill prohibit foreign students from getting jobs as they can do so now. As is currently the case, foreign students may receive Social Security numbers for work purposes even though they do not need to pay Social Security taxes on any of their earnings.

Given that the real purpose of a Social Security number is to track workers' earnings on which they have paid Social Security taxes, it makes no sense that we are giving out numbers to those who are here temporarily and do not pay Social Security taxes. Moreover, a 2007 Inspector General report found that some foreign students "may have obtained Social Security numbers for purposes other than on-campus employment or other authorized work". After all, these are highly prized numbers.

So rather than giving out numbers to those who don't really need them, we should instead work to better safeguard numbers to those who should have the numbers in the first place. Also this likely will prevent foreign students from overstaying their welcome.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF MAJ. L. EDUARDO CARAVEO
OF WOODBRIDGE, VA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and service of Maj. L. Eduardo Caraveo, who was among the 13

killed in the tragic shootings at Fort Hood, Texas, earlier this month.

Maj. Caraveo, a resident of Woodbridge, Va., was a Medical Service Corps Officer in the U.S. Army Reserves who had arrived at Fort Hood just one day prior to the shootings. He was preparing to deploy to Afghanistan, where he was to provide stress counseling to deployed service members.

He was active in his adopted home of Prince William County, where he spent time counseling prison inmates. He also offered his services for anger management training and couples therapy.

A native of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Maj. Caraveo came to the United States as a teenager and became the first in his family to graduate from college. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at El Paso and earned a doctorate in psychology from the University of Arizona.

According to local news accounts, he was a generous, giving friend and father who enjoyed spending time playing in the yard with his children.

Maj. Caraveo is survived by his wife, Angela Rivera; their son and her two daughters; three children from a previous marriage and six siblings.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the remarkable life and service of Maj. Caraveo and the lives of the twelve others killed on that tragic day at Fort Hood. Their brave service, and that of their families, will never be forgotten and we extend our sympathies to them.

DR. HANS R. WILHELMSSEN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Dr. Hans R. Wilhelmsen, 33 Degree Sovereign Grant Inspector General, for his distinguished service to the principals of the Masonry, Scottish Rite, and Grand Lodge.

Dr. Wilhelmsen was raised as a Master Mason in December 1982. He received the 32 degree in the Scottish Rite, Valley of Baltimore in the Spring Class of 1983. In 1991, he became an Honorary Past Master of Pythagoras Lodge and received the Knight Commander Court of Honor in 1995. Dr. Wilhelmsen was coroneted a 33 degree mason in 1997.

During the early years of his Masonic journey, Dr. Wilhelmsen's time was devoted mainly to plastic and reconstructive surgery. He is a 1959 Magna Cum Laude graduate of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. Inspired by the lectures of Dr. Milton Edgerton, Professor of Plastic Surgery, Wilhelmsen matriculated to the University School of Medicine. In 1963, Dr. Wilhelmsen obtained his medical degree in General Surgery. He completed Plastic Surgery training in 1965 at the University of Pittsburgh.

While much of his time was dedicated to plastic and reconstructive surgery, Dr. Wilhelmsen dedicated the spare time he had to Masonry. In 1995, he was appointed to the Scottish Rite Holding Company. Wilhelmsen progressed to assisting the Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Dr. Bernard E. Rothman. In

2003, he was coroneted Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Maryland and Active Member of the Supreme Council. Three years later, Dr. Wilhelmsen was awarded the highest honor that is given by the Grand Lodge of Maryland for his contribution to masonry in the State of Maryland. A portrait of him is now mounted in the Pillars of Charity Portrait Gallery at the House of Temple in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Wilhelmsen's medical and personal philosophy emphasizes treating all people with respect and dignity. He is a tireless worker for his patients, whose lives have been enriched by his professional manner and surgical ability. Though his profession left little time for extracurricular activities, Dr. Wilhelmsen has remained actively involved in Masonry.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Dr. Hans R. Wilhelmsen for his commitment to Masonry, Scottish Rite, and Grand Lodge. Dr. Wilhelmsen's enthusiasm and commitment is a remarkable asset to the Masonic organization.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BILL NICHOLS STATE VETERANS HOME

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully request the attention of the House to pay recognition to an important day for the Bill Nichols State Veterans Home in Alexander City, Alabama.

This important Veterans facility opened November 30, 1989, and was named after William "Bill" Nichols, who was instrumental in making Alabama's first state veterans home a reality. Congressman Nichols, a World War II Veteran and recipient of the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1966 and served until his passing in December of 1988.

The Bill Nichols State Veterans Home is a 150-bed skilled nursing home for our Veterans, and because of its excellent quality of care, has well over 100 Veterans awaiting admission. To date, over 1,500 of our heroes have resided there.

The Bill Nichols State Veterans Home was awarded the 2009 Quality Award from the American Health Care Association for its commitment to continuous quality improvement in long-term care. On November 30, 2009, the facility and its proud employees will host a 20th Anniversary Celebration program followed by a luncheon and open house.

I would like to congratulate this facility, its proud employees and the community for reaching this important milestone. These Alabamians are shining examples of dedication for the brave men and women who have served our country in uniform and I wish them all the best at this important occasion.

THE TAXPAYER INVESTMENT PROTECTION ACT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, with little more than the blink of an eye, the American taxpayers have lost \$25 billion—with no transparency, accountability or justification.

In December 2008, the Treasury Department loaned General Motors \$13 billion. In the spring, Treasury loaned GM another \$6 billion. Days before GM declared bankruptcy, the Obama administration poured in another \$30 billion—just in time to convert taxpayer loans to equity and take ownership of this American giant. All of these funds came from the Troubled Asset Relief Program—a bailout never intended for such purposes. As the Congressional Oversight Panel wrote last month, "the use of TARP funds for the automotive industry raises questions regarding both presidents' authority to use these funds under EESA legislation and, more broadly, under the U.S. Constitution."

Last month, the ex-"Car Czar" Steve Rattner, the Government Accountability Office and the TARP Congressional Oversight Panel independently estimated the taxpayers' \$49 billion investment in GM to be worth about \$25 billion. The government's "Bridge Loan to Nowhere" lost half of the taxpayers' money. This is only one company. The U.S. taxpayer owns debt and equity securities in other private corporations, including Chrysler (\$12.5 billion), Citigroup (\$45 billion) and AIG (\$41 billion). How much are taxpayers losing on nearly \$100 billion invested in these struggling firms?

Today, I introduce the "Taxpayer Investment Protection Act," which sets a December 2010 deadline for the Treasury Secretary to divest the federal government's ownership of private firms. These TARP-funded government investments add to the Treasury's \$12 trillion debt burden and put taxpayer funds at risk for greater loss. The time has come to protect the taxpayer from any more losses and set a timetable for withdrawal to get the government out of private business.

HONORING THE PANTRY OF BROWARD, INC.

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an organization that has helped countless individuals in my community. The Pantry of Broward, Inc., is a not for profit organization that provides food and support services to low-income seniors and to grandparents raising grandchildren.

In Florida alone, there are 147,893 grandparents raising grandchildren, yet 8 percent of grandparent caregivers live in poverty, as do nearly 10 percent of all seniors. For those who live in Broward County, and the children who rely on them, the Pantry of Broward is an indispensable resource.

Each month, the Pantry of Broward delivers a 60 pound box of food items to hundreds of