

organizations. Moreover, Skip is truly a great guy—dedicated to his wife, Linda, and to his church. Today, I commend Mr. Marvin N. Schoenhals for the service which he has rendered our state as not only Chairman of WSFS, but as a caring and devoted member of our society. In recognition of his tireless dedication and immeasurable contributions, I thank Skip and offer my best wishes on this momentous occasion.

CAPTAIN BOB BERNAZAL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, in July of 2008, a courageous mission was undertaken to rescue 15 hostages who were being held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known as FARC. Three of these hostages were American civilians. The operation was code named, Operation Willing Spirit, a perfect description of the valor demonstrated by all of the rescuers involved. Captain Bob Bernazal, a Kingwood, Texas native, was especially vital to the success of the operation in his role as the Information Operations Integration Strategy Division chief of the 612th Air Operations Center.

Captain Bernazal's ability and dedication was clearly shown through his comprehensive planning of Operation Willing Spirit. The nine-year Air Force veteran has proved a fine example of the aptitude of our Armed Forces by ensuring mission success.

He is praised by his superiors as an outstanding Information Operations expert, and is recognized for the development and implementation of a plan for utilizing IO duty officers. We are fortunate to have great men like Capt. Bob Bernazal at our side to outwit our enemies and protect our nation.

It is with great pride and admiration that the Second District of Texas is able to commend Captain Bernazal as the Air Force-level Outstanding Information Operations Active Duty Company Grade Officer of the Year. This Kingwood, Texas native is truly deserving of this award as well as the respect of our nation. We thank him for his service. He is a great Texan and a true hero.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE CHARLES FOLEY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge Charles Foley on the occasion of his retirement from the bench of the General District Court. Since 1986, Judge Foley has faithfully served the 20th Judicial District which includes the counties of Fauquier, Rappahannock and Loudoun in Virginia.

Judge Foley was born in Richmond, Virginia and in 1968 he married Ms. Janice Foley, with whom he has two children, Page and James. Judge Foley graduated from the University of Richmond in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

In 1971, Judge Foley received his Juris Doctor from the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond where he was the President of Phi Delta Theta legal fraternity. From there he moved into private practice until 1974 when he was elected Commonwealth's Attorney for Fauquier County Virginia.

Judge Foley served as a Commonwealth Attorney for 12 years until 1986 when he was appointed to the General District Court for the 20th Judicial District where he has served for the past 23 years.

All of his life, Judge Foley has been a positive influence on his community and his profession. In addition to being a founding member of the Young Lawyers Conference of the Virginia State Bar, he coached Youth baseball, basketball and soccer for 15 years. He also served as a board member, and later, as President of the Board of Directors of Fauquier Hospital, Inc. He has been a member of the American Judges Association as well as the Warrenton Fauquier Jaycees.

I continue to be impressed by Judge Foley's selfless contributions to his community in an effort to enrich those lives around him. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Judge Charles Foley on his retirement from 36 years of public service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I request that for rollcall vote #963, the Marshall Amendment to H.R. 4173, I inadvertently voted "no" but I intended to vote "aye."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VILLAGE OF TINLEY PARK, IL

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Village of Tinley Park in Illinois, which was recently named "America's Best Place to Raise Your Kids" by Business Week Magazine. The village was recognized primarily for its top-rated schools, low crime, beautiful parks, affordable housing, and easy access to jobs.

Founded in 1892, Tinley Park rests just a Metra ride from the city of Chicago, and a short drive from Illinois' vast farmlands. Established on the Rock Island Railroad, Tinley Park grew over the years through both agricultural industries, including a grain elevator and a windmill, and manufacturing plants, including a soft-drink bottling plant. The population grew slowly prior to World War II; however, it grew rapidly after the war, doubling every decade from 1950 to 1980.

In recent years Tinley Park has grown in recognition, with all three main high schools ranking among the top 100 in the state. Students of Andrew High School help at neighborhood shelters, libraries, and nursing homes through a requirement they complete 24 hours of community service. This requirement keeps

the students closely tied to their community and, as a result, only three percent of the student body of 2,400 move away during high school, compared with the state average of 14 percent. Tinley Park is also home to many exceptional citizens, including Olympic swimmer Christine Magnuson and former Major League Baseball player Kevin Sefcik.

IRAN REFINED PETROLEUM
SANCTIONS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Madam Speaker, yesterday, the U.S. House of Representatives voted and passed H.R. 2491, the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act. While Iran has been noncompliant with both United States and United Nations demands that it stop nuclear enrichment efforts, I could not, in good faith, support this initiative. My vote of "present" on this measure should not be interpreted nor misunderstood about a lack of concern regarding the prospect of a nuclear armed Iran. It does not.

Like many of my colleagues, I have significant reservations regarding Iran's violations of its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The recent rejection by Iran of international organizations to inspect their nuclear capabilities and the threat of expanded nuclear enrichment programs continuing unchecked practically mandate that Congress and President Obama continue to work together. This combined effort must be toward increasing pressure on Iran if multilateral diplomacy reaches no reward. Congress must support President Obama's diplomatic efforts to help curb Iran's activities relating to their nuclear program. Congress must also support this administration's efforts to guarantee human rights and democracy for all people, especially women, in Iran. Congress must continue to forge with the President an all-out effort for diplomacy that is often difficult, but necessary.

H.R. 2491, as enacted, could very well threaten the diplomacy sought by the President. If enacted, the bill could punish the people of Iran who are suffering from its denial of democracy. Over the past few months, we have seen firsthand the discontent amongst Iranians with their government. As a nation, we have a responsibility to ensure that our policy decisions, particularly sanctions, are implemented in a manner which does not detrimentally impact those not at fault. Broad, wide-reaching sanctions on gasoline will not only hit the people of Iran the hardest, but are unlikely to directly impact the government at all. I am not against sanctions. In fact, I think sanctions in light of Iran's dissonance are not only appropriate but needed. However, targeted sanctions that impact those with whom we are at odds versus those that target an entire country are the best way to approach such an important decision.

While it is essential to curtail nuclear threats world-wide, sanctions must be seen as an option only after diplomacy has failed. In his letter to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last week, Deputy Secretary of State James

Steinberg stated that the Obama Administration was "entering a critical period of intense diplomacy to impose significant international pressure on Iran," and that sanctions, "might weaken rather than strengthen international unity and support for our efforts." As we proceed in these important times, we must do so carefully, and in a manner that achieves the desired short-termed effect while remaining in accord with our long-term goals.

The decision whether to levy sanctions, particularly in the face of potential threat to peace, is of the utmost importance. Today, H.R. 2194 was brought to the floor under expedited procedures that limit debate and bar amendments reserved for non-controversial legislation. While the bill received overwhelming support, it does not make the subject matter any less controversial.

Iran has had decades of unilateral measures with practically no effect. In order for any sanctions to fully take effect, it must be multilateral. The unilateral approach of this legislation, combined with the potential unintended consequence it may have for the people, and the legislation's curtailing the waiver authority of President Obama so as to undermine the President's flexibility and pursuit of a dual track of diplomacy and unified multilateral pressure, are my reasons for my vote of present on this measure.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to improve this legislation. My goal is to ensure that any sanction bill, signed into law, protects the interests of the United States, ensures that the President can negotiate from a position of strength along our international partners, ensures that human rights and democracy grow for the people of Iran, and prevents another nation from being armed with nuclear weapons.

TRIBUTE TO THE CINCINNATI URSULINE ACADEMY GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cincinnati Ursuline Academy Girls Volleyball Team on winning the Division I Ohio High School Athletic Association State Championship. This is Ursuline's fourth state championship in volleyball. Ursuline Academy also won state titles in 1975, 1993, and 2002.

After a heartbreaking loss in last year's state championship game the young women of Ursuline entered the new season determined as ever to make the sacrifices needed to win this year's title.

At Wright State University's Nutter Center the Lions prevailed in the championship game over an undefeated Dublin Coffman in four sets. Impressively, Ursuline never trailed the match until the third set. The Lions were led by senior Jade Henderson of Loveland with 18 kills and by senior Dani Reinert of Symmes Township with 48 assists.

Under the direction of Head Coach Jeni Case, Ursuline finished the season with a perfect record of 29-0. Additionally, the Lions captured the Girls' Greater Cincinnati League Championship for the second straight season.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ursuline Academy on yet another State Championship. Go Lions.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 4173). This legislation will finally bring accountability to big banks and ensure families are protected from high-stakes Wall Street speculation. I thank Chairman FRANK, the House Leadership, and all of my colleagues who have worked to shape this important legislation.

It was one year ago that our country's financial system stood on the brink of collapse. The failure of large financial institutions such as Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers quickly led to sinking home prices, a collapse in retirement savings, and job losses on a scale not seen since the Great Depression. Today this Congress faces a choice. We can cling to the failed policies of lax regulation that nearly drove our economy off a cliff, or take decisive action to prevent another crisis of this proportion by passing H.R. 4173.

This legislation combines eight separate reform measures into one comprehensive package. H.R. 4173 establishes a new Consumer Financial Protection Agency to protect Americans from unfair and abusive financial practices and to bring needed transparency and accountability to the financial system. It regulates the exotic debt instruments that contributed to the unraveling of our financial markets. And this bill reigns in Wall Street excess by banning egregiously high executive bonuses and giving shareholders input on executive compensation.

In addition, H.R. 4173 will put an end to "too big to fail" financial firms. American taxpayers should never again be called upon to rescue large financial institutions because their failure threatens to bring down the entire financial system. This legislation creates a Dis-solution Fund, paid for by the industry, which would be used to dismantle failing financial institutions in an orderly manner and without taxpayer assistance.

The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act is vital to our economic security because it will restore confidence in our financial system—an essential step toward rebuilding our economy. Although this bill is not perfect, my constituents and all citizens across the nation should recognize H.R. 4173 as a tremendous step in the right direction.

Once again, I thank Chairman FRANK for his leadership and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

CONGRATULATING THE JOLIET ARSENAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR BEING NAMED THE 2009 BASE REDEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Joliet Arsenal Development Authority (JADA) for being named the 2009 Base Redevelopment Community of the Year by the Association of Defense Communities. I join the Association of Defense Communities in honoring JADA for bringing permanent jobs and revenue to the community in an environmentally friendly manner.

JADA was created in 1995, after Congress passed legislation allowing the former Army munitions facility in Joliet, IL, to be redeveloped with a transfer of ownership. The site has been developed into the largest intermodal facility in the Nation. An intermodal involves the transportation of freight in a container or vehicle, using multiple modes of transportation without any handling of the freight itself when changing modes. The development of the 3,000-acre site has already created 2,000 permanent jobs with approximately \$150 million in annual wages. A portion of the site will be devoted to a state-of-the-art facility engineering training facility for the development of a range of engineering skills. There remains enormous potential to create many additional high-paying manufacturing and engineering jobs at this site.

Throughout the process of this redevelopment, special attention has been devoted to mitigating the environmental impacts of munitions waste on the site. A dozen public and private agencies worked to clean up the site and provide quality groundwater and soil. They finished this important work last year, three years ahead of schedule.

Will County and the Joliet area have greatly benefited from the efforts of the Joliet Arsenal Development Authority. It comes as no surprise JADA is being recognized on the national stage as a leader in redevelopment.

HONORING PAMELA THOMPSON

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Pamela Thompson.

Pamela has been selected to receive the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics & Science Teaching. This prestigious award distinguishes Pamela as one of the best elementary school science teachers in the nation.

Pamela has been hailed for her enthusiasm, knowledge and ability to instill a love of learning in her students over her 27 dedicated years of teaching the students of Madison, as well as her contributions to Maine's overall education system.

An exceptional science teacher, Pamela constantly seeks methods to enrich her students' grasp of complex ideas. She is commended for deepening her own understanding