

build the church, and he gave the church a new name, Mount Fern Church.

By 1880 Mount Fern was a hilltop community of about 25 homes, a dozen or so farms, and the mining families. The successes of the local mines attracted still more miners to Randolph. After moving to an old stone farmhouse, John Spargo held Methodist class meetings in his home. The old stone house served as both an early church and Sunday school. Its two small rooms were soon filled to capacity. Eventually the community decided it was time to build a new church.

The Rev. Robert Jenkins served as the first pastor of Mount Fern Church from 1883–1884 and returned for a second year in 1894. Many of the Mount Fern early pastors were laymen, people who lived in the community, often with a farm of their own, and volunteered to lead the church for a year or two.

Mount Fern was well attended in its earliest years. However, membership declined when the local mines closed. By 1914 the church listed only 30 members.

The first Mount Fern Church Fair was held on July 4, 1914. Booths surrounding the church sold food, gifts, and souvenirs. A baked goods booth featured fresh-baked cookies and Anne Spargo's apple pies. Chicken suppers were served from a tent erected on the grounds. Fireworks at the first fair, by accident or mischievous design, ignited prematurely. Mount Fern never attempted fireworks again, but the church fair became a popular annual event for over 50 years.

By 1948 there were about 100 houses in the community. New families moved into the area and the church began to grow. In 1952 construction of a new fellowship hall began.

Growth continued and membership swelled to 350 after the arrival of Rev. Diane Gilbert in 1996.

Although over the years the building has changed, the church has not. Mount Fern Church remains a congregation of people united in their faith.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House recognize this remarkable church and parishioners who have contributed so much toward the preservation and appreciation of American history through their place of worship at Mount Fern United Methodist Church in Randolph, New Jersey.

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing and honoring those who make a difference in the lives of our young people across the United States.

I am honored to be joined by Congressman MIKE ROGERS of Michigan and Congresswoman BETTY MCCOLLUM of Minnesota in introducing a resolution marking January of 2009 as National Mentoring Month as proclaimed by the President of the United States. National Mentoring Month celebrates and honors those who are mentors and draws attention to the great need for more mentors.

Mentors make a tremendous difference in the lives of our children. When a responsible

and reliable adult becomes a mentor, the benefits to the mentee can last a lifetime. Countless stories show the positive outcomes of a good role model.

Quality mentoring relationships between reliable adults and our young people are invaluable. Millions of adults nationwide are acting as excellent role models while providing guidance and advice to our young people—many of whom face problems at home or difficulties at school. Without a good, solid role model, our kids are more likely to drop out of high school or to become involved with drugs or alcohol.

Unfortunately, research shows that about 15 million children across the United States are in need of a mentor and a good role model. It is crucial that we begin to reach these children to give them a better future and hope. We are calling on more adults to rise to the occasion and to act as a role model to our children.

Madam Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity to offer a resolution honoring America's mentors on the occasion of National Mentoring Month, 2009. I urge its quick passage.

IN HONOR OF DANIEL M. ORTEGA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of a great public servant on the occasion of his retirement. Daniel M. Ortega has served the City of Salinas as Chief of Police for nearly a decade, working hard to provide its citizens with a sense of peace, safety, and security. He retired this week after an exemplary 42-year public safety career.

Chief Ortega began his career in his hometown of Stockton, California, as a patrol officer. He then moved to San Jose, where he spent 28 years ascending the ranks of the San Jose Police Department. His assignments included 12 years as a hostage negotiator, 3 years as the Executive Director of the Police Activities League, and as the Captain of the Special Operations Division. In June 1999, Chief Ortega left the San Jose Police Department as a Deputy Chief of Police and Chief of Detectives.

In Salinas, Chief Ortega championed community-oriented policing. He created a police substation on Salinas' east side to ensure increased community access to the police. Moreover, he coordinated with business leaders to develop strategies to increase the safety of local businesses. Chief Ortega was also instrumental in creating a Community Services Coordinator position within City Hall. Additionally, he revitalized the School Resource Officer program to polish the image of police amongst the city's youth. Seeking to staff the department with "homegrown" police officers, Chief Ortega established a cadet program, which mentored youth from ages 16 to 21. Furthermore, in conjunction with the County of Monterey, he was integral in developing the highly successful Joint Gang Task Force.

In addition to his community-oriented approach, Chief Ortega improved the Salinas Police Department in other ways. He increased the force from a strength of 150 to 187 and expanded the Hostage Negotiation

Team. He also established a horse-mounted unit, added a ballistic identification system, and acquired command and crime scene investigation vehicles.

Chief Ortega has served on the Board of Directors of various organizations, including the California Police Chiefs Association and the United Way of Monterey County. He is also a past president of the Monterey County Chief Law Enforcement Officers Association. His memberships include the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Latino Police Officers Association.

Madam Speaker, Chief Daniel M. Ortega leaves an indelible legacy and a shining example to his officers, peers, and successors. On behalf of the House, I wish Chief Ortega, his wife Donna, and their family continual happiness and prosperity as he progresses on to well-deserved retirement.

HONORING BOB PICKARD

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bob Pickard upon his retirement as Mariposa County Supervisor, District V. Supervisor Pickard was honored by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, December 16, 2008.

Bob Pickard was originally appointed on September 4, 1996, by Governor Wilson to fill an unexpired term on the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, District V. He was elected in 1996 and re-elected in 2000 and 2004. Over the past decade, Supervisor Pickard has been involved in numerous projects, committees, and organizations. He served as chair in 1999, 2003, and 2005. Under his role of supervisor he served on the Disaster Advisory Council, Fish Camp Community Planning Advisory Council, Wawona Appeals Board, Wawona Town Planning Advisory Committee, and Mariposa Solid Waste AB939 Local Task Force. Over the years, he also served on the board of directors for over 10 different agencies including: Area 12 Agency of Aging Joint Powers Authority Governing Board, California State Association of Counties Government Finance and Operations Committee, and California State Association of Resource Conservation and Development Council. Supervisor Pickard worked tirelessly on dozens of projects to revamp the county, community planning and development, recreation facilities, landfill, wastewater treatment facilities, airport improvement, road and fire station improvements. During his tenure, he was regularly involved in the resolving of natural disasters including the floods of 2005, the Ferguson rock slide disaster of 2006 and the recent wildfires of 2008.

Supervisor Pickard has worked with the State government for assistance in resolving issues that affect small rural counties. He was successful with legislation to bring \$400,000 to Mariposa County, \$80,000 per year for counties with no incorporated cities, for their fair share of the gasoline tax and vehicle license fees; \$900,000 for local road rehabilitations; \$240,000 to provide equity funding for rural counties and their hazardous waste inspections on local businesses; \$120,000 and an

additional \$64,000 for 1 year and ongoing funding for continuing noxious and invasive weed eradication; and \$180,000 were secured for the Mariposa Creek Parkway and other improvements. Supervisor Pickard has been an integral member of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, his impact on the county will be displayed for years to come.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Supervisor Bob Pickard upon his retirement from the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Supervisor Pickard many years of continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING INTEGRATION ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have reintroduced legislation to provide a framework for an integrated ocean and coastal mapping program within the Federal government. The bill, entitled the "Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act," specifically requires the President to establish a program for the development of a coordinated and comprehensive federal ocean and coastal mapping plan for the Great Lakes and coastal state waters, the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone, and the continental shelf of the United States.

The program is meant to enhance ecosystem-based approaches in decision-making for conservation and management of marine resources and habitats, establish research and mapping priorities for federal-state-local government partnership, support the sound siting of research and other platforms off our coastlines, and advance ocean and coastal science. The President shall coordinate with affected coastal states and territories and an Interagency Committee on Ocean and Coastal Mapping to be convened by the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, in establishing this program. The program is also meant to facilitate the adoption of uniform mapping standards and the utilization of the latest technology for mapping activities. Such an approach will allow for the sharing of maps among stakeholders.

Today, at least 15 Federal agencies, most coastal states and territories, and numerous local agencies, academic institutions, and private companies conduct mapping and charting activities for U.S. waters. No central repository or coordinating authority, however, exists under U.S. law to oversee and track these various mapping efforts. The absence of coordination in mapping has resulted in redundancy of efforts in certain areas. While some areas are "over mapped," there is a lack of data for other regions. The program authorized by this bill is meant to reduce such redundancy, and expand the availability of quality, up-to-date, accurate and comprehensive maps and charts for all U.S. waters.

I introduced this bill in the 110th Congress as H.R. 2400. The bill passed the House of Representatives on July 23, 2007, but did not receive the approval of the Senate despite it

having been considered in the other body as part of omnibus legislation. I have, therefore, reintroduced this bill today given the ongoing necessity and importance of improving and streamlining our ocean and coastal mapping capabilities. Ultimately, this bill, if enacted, will improve the conservation and management of marine resources and marine transportation safety.

LETTER TO SPEAKER PELOSI

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 6, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This letter is to advise you that, effective today, I am taking a leave of absence from the Homeland Security Committee until my tenure on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence is completed. I understand that I will retain my seniority on the Homeland Security Committee for the duration of my leave.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

JAMES R. LANGEVIN,
Member of Congress.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WOMEN AND WORKPLACE POLICY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, today, Representative CAROLYN MALONEY and I are reintroducing our bill to establish a Center for the Study of Women and Workplace Policy. The Center would compile and analyze data on the differences between the earning of men and women and to identify factors which affect those differences. The Center would also publish their results in the form of a "Best Practices Guide" for businesses containing guidelines to promote workplace equity, retaining women in the workplace and promoting a family friendly workplace.

I'm sorry to say that my home state of Michigan has one of the largest earning gaps between college educated men and college educated women. College-educated women in Michigan earn just 70 percent of what college-educated men earn, making the state 47th in the Nation in terms of pay equity—that according to the American Association of University Women. I know that Michigan is home to some of the most talented, skilled women on that planet. It is time that they get paid in a way that reflects those abilities. The establishment of such a center and the publication of its research findings will go a long way toward closing the pay gap in Michigan and throughout our Nation.

RECOGNIZING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO SELF DEFENSE

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. CHANDLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Israel's enduring friendship with the United States of America, as well as its right to self-defense in an appropriate and proportional manner from the threats posed to it by its neighbors who seek its demise.

As most Palestinians hunger for peace, the actions of Hamas, sponsored by Iran and often attempting to maximize Palestinian civilian casualties, make this road to peace much more difficult. Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005, hoping that this withdrawal would usher in peace between the two rivals. However, since 2005 Hamas has fired thousands of rockets into Israel. Over the past 6 weeks alone, Hamas, outside the confines of the ceasefire agreement, fired hundreds of rockets and mortars into Israel without warning, killing men, women and children. These continuous acts of terror have left Israel with no other choice but to defend its citizens.

An important and reliable ally in an unstable region, Israel is fundamental to our foreign policy in the Middle East. I am disappointed to see an end to the 6-month ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, as this ultimately leads to more civilian casualties on both sides. However, I think it is important to recognize that Israel faces great threats along its border from which it has every right to defend itself.

During the 6-month ceasefire, Israel's support of the people of Gaza—such as supplying food, medical and other supplies—was commendable. This assistance highlights the potential for a peaceful resolution to this enduring conflict, which I hope to see in my lifetime.

IN HONOR OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD W. SKOW

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished military career of United States Army LTC Richard W. Skow. On behalf of the whole House, I am honored to extend to Lieutenant Colonel Skow and his family the gratitude of the Congress and the American people for his service on the occasion of his retirement after 24 years in uniform.

During his long and decorated career Lieutenant Colonel Skow made enormous contributions to the success of the U.S. Army's worldwide mission. Most recently, he served for the last year and a half as the Defense Language Institute's, DLI's, Chief of Staff where he had previously studied Portuguese. He built a reputation for an outstanding work ethic, sound judgment, and proactive leadership—a true example for the junior officers under his command. As chief of staff, he played an instrumental role in helping his commander fulfill the DLI's complex mission. His duties included, but were not limited to, personnel and budget management, special