

This year's Health Services Award winner is Barbara Tofani of Hillsborough, where she currently works as a registered nurse.

Since 2005, Barbara has been the director of the Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center in Raritan Township.

As director of The Center for Nursing and Health Careers from 2001–05, she was responsible for developing and implementing a strategic plan to address the health care workforce shortage in New Jersey.

I am pleased to congratulate Barbara Tofani for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

SUPPORTING ARKANSAS
FIREFIGHTERS

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of America's firefighters.

Not a day goes by that I don't read or hear a story of the dangers and sacrifices our firefighters face to protect us. We are so blessed to have such great men and women who are dedicated to ensuring our safety.

The work that they do in our communities is an important job that requires our commitment to help provide funds for resources and training that enables them to perform their jobs as best as they can. I have been proud to support Arkansas's firefighters in the past by helping to secure grant funding and that work will continue.

Last year when the barracks at Fort Chaffee caught fire, our firefighters braved high winds to contain the fire and protect our communities. That blaze required the help of numerous firefighters including men and women who volunteer their time to help keep us out of harm's way.

According to the National Volunteer Fire Council, the biggest challenges facing volunteer fire departments and emergency services are retention and recruitment. We can help ease those hurdles with new legislation that offers incentives to those who are at the forefront of fires. The Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Act and the Volunteer Firefighter/EMS Gas Price Relief Act show our appreciation for the work that is imperative to protecting our rural communities.

Firefighters put their lives on the line for their fellow citizens, and my appreciation for these Americans who help protect us is immeasurable. I urge the House Committee on Ways and Means to consider these bills, and for Congress to offer more support to all of the men and women who serve our communities with such valor.

RECOGNIZING NEW SOURCE
BROADBAND COMPANY ON THEIR
GRAND OPENING AND RIBBON
CUTTING

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize New Source

Broadband for their far-sighted provision of high speed Internet services to rural areas.

New Source Broadband Company is a pioneer in the high speed Internet industry as they are reaching customers that larger companies have deemed unprofitable. This company has earned my respect for remembering that rural communities should not be left behind in the Information Age. Farmers, ranchers, lake-area inhabitants, and other country dwellers now have immediate access to online communities and knowledge databases thanks to the innovation and concern of this company. New Source Broadband Company will be opening their third office and continues to expand their service capacity to rural areas.

Madam Speaker, I commend the management and employees of New Source Broadband Company for the positive professional contribution they have made to rural communities, notably constituents within the Twenty-Sixth District of Texas. I warmly congratulate New Source Broadband Company upon the opening of their third store and wish them continued business growth.

HONORING CELE PETERSON ON
HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to pay tribute today to Cele Peterson, a resident of Tucson, Arizona who on March 14, 2009, celebrates her 100 birthday.

Ms. Peterson is the founder and owner of a dress store that has been an integral part of the Tucson business community for generations. But to call Ms. Peterson a dressmaker or even a businesswoman fails to capture how important this woman is to countless Southern Arizonans who have been touched by her kindness and good works.

It is impossible to imagine what Tucson would be like without Ms. Peterson's presence over these many years. Through her hard work and generosity, she helped define and shape our city. Her caring spirit and actions are an inspiration to all of us.

Our world today is very different from the one Ms. Peterson entered 100 years ago, on March 14, 1909. Then, much of Europe was still ruled by kings and queens. A czar presided over Russia, a sultan based in Constantinople dominated the Middle East, and William Howard Taft occupied the White House. In 1909 the first Lincoln-head penny went into circulation, the Wright Brothers delivered the first military plane to the army, and two American explorers, Robert Peary and Matthew Hansen, declared they were the first to reach the North Pole.

The year Ms. Peterson was born saw the U.S. Navy open a new base at Pearl Harbor, a Ford Model T win the first transcontinental motorcar race, Sir Thomas Lipton begin packaging tea in New York, and the White Star Line start construction of the *Titanic*. It was the year Barry Goldwater, Errol Flynn and Douglas Fairbanks were born and the year the artist Frederic Remington and the Apache leader Geronimo died.

Ms. Peterson's life-long connection to Arizona began when the State of Arizona was

born, in 1912. As a three-year old girl she moved with her family to Bisbee, then a thriving mining town. The population of the entire state in 1912 was around 200,000. Tucson had 14,000 residents and Phoenix—now the fifth largest city in the United States—had a population of 11,000. The Mexican Revolution had begun two years earlier and Ms. Peterson recalls climbing the hills around Bisbee to watch the revolution take place on the other side of the border.

When Ms. Peterson launched her business in 1930, our country was at the threshold of the Great Depression and it was not long before her two business partners backed out of the venture. Ms. Peterson, however, did not give up. She stuck to it and not only survived, but thrived.

For nearly 80 years, Ms. Peterson's merchandise and designs have been at the forefront of the fashion world. Her business has endured decades of ever-changing trends and economic ups and downs.

Today, Cele Peterson's retail store is still going strong in Tucson. Her daughters are managing the business but Cele still comes to the store to greet customers and make sure that her tradition of great service is maintained. Over the years, Ms. Peterson has dressed an untold number of women from all walks of life. Among them are a host of well-known celebrities, such as Elizabeth Taylor and Lady Astor.

Ms. Peterson's accomplishments go far beyond the realm of hems, pleats and necklines. She is a greatly admired and dynamic civic leader who has had a hand in the establishment of some Tucson's finest community organizations. She helped found the Arizona Theatre Company, the Arizona Opera Company, the Tucson Children's Museum and, perhaps most significantly, Casa de los Niños. Casa de los Niños' mission is to support children and families to both prevent child abuse and treat children who are victims of abuse. When the unmet needs of abused children were brought to her attention, Ms. Peterson offered up a three-bedroom house so that the new organization could begin its work. When it opened in 1973, it was the first shelter of its kind in the country.

As Tucson celebrates the 100th birthday of Cele Peterson, it is worth noting that 2009 also marks the centennial of the birth of Wallace Stegner. This great writer of the American West once noted that "creation is a knack which is empowered by practice, and like almost any skill, it is lost if you don't practice it."

Cele Peterson never stopped practicing her knack for creation and in the process she helped build a caring community. For all that she has done we owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude.

Thank you Cele for setting such a fine example of citizenship for all of us to follow.

Happy Birthday to you!

SENDING THE WRONG MESSAGE
ON HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with our colleagues an editorial from

yesterday's Washington Post highlighting Secretary of State Clinton's disappointing start on human rights. In referencing some of her recent comments, the editorial rightly notes, "Ms. Clinton is doing a disservice to her own department—and sending a message to rulers around the world that their abuses won't be taken seriously by this U.S. administration." Secretary Clinton is sending the wrong message on human rights.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 10, 2009]
SOME FRIENDS

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton continues to devalue and undermine the U.S. diplomatic tradition of human rights advocacy. On her first foreign trip, to Asia, she was dismissive about raising human rights concerns with China's communist government, saying "those issues can't interfere" with economic, security or environmental matters. In last week's visit to the Middle East and Europe, she undercut the State Department's own reporting regarding two problematic American allies: Egypt and Turkey.

According to State's latest report on Egypt, issued Feb. 25, "the government's respect for human rights remained poor" during 2008 "and serious abuses continued in many areas." It cited torture by security forces and a decline in freedom of the press, association and religion. Ms. Clinton was asked about those conclusions during an interview she gave to the al-Arabiya satellite network in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. Her reply contained no expression of concern about the deteriorating situation. "We issue these reports on every country," she said. "We hope that it will be taken in the spirit in which it is offered, that we all have room for improvement."

Ms. Clinton was then asked whether there would be any connection between the report and a prospective invitation to President Hosni Mubarak to visit Washington. "It is not in any way connected," she replied, adding: "I really consider President and Mrs. Mubarak to be friends of my family. So I hope to see him often here in Egypt and in the United States." Ms. Clinton's words will be treasured by al-Qaeda recruiters and anti-American propagandists throughout the Middle East. She appears oblivious to how offensive such statements are to the millions of Egyptians who loathe Mr. Mubarak's oppressive government and blame the United States for propping it up.

The new secretary of state delivered a similar shock in Turkey to liberal supporters of press freedom, now under siege by the government of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. According to the State Department report, "senior government officials, including Prime Minister Erdogan, made statements during the year strongly criticizing the press and media business figures, particularly following the publishing of reports on alleged corruption . . . connected to the ruling party." That was an understatement: In fact, Mr. Erdogan's government has mounted an ugly campaign against one of Turkey's largest media conglomerates, presenting it with a \$500 million tax bill in a maneuver that has been compared to Russia's treatment of independent media.

Ms. Clinton was asked by a Turkish journalist what she told Mr. Erdogan when he complained about the State Department report. She answered: "Well, my reaction was that we put out this report every year, and I fully understand . . . no politician ever likes the press criticizing them." "Overall," she concluded, "we think that Turkey has made tremendous progress in freedom of speech and freedom of religion and human rights, and we're proud of that."

In fact, as the State Department has documented, Turkey is retreating on freedom of speech. In Egypt, the human rights situation also is getting worse rather than better. By minimizing those facts, Ms. Clinton is doing a disservice to her own department—and sending a message to rulers around the world that their abuses won't be taken seriously by this U.S. administration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 115, I was on the floor and voting, but due to mechanical error, my vote was not recorded. I would have voted "yes."

MARY ELLEN ROZZELL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Ellen Rozzell, former President of the National Association of Professional Surplus Lines Offices (NAPSLO), who passed away unexpectedly on March 3, 2009, while attending a NAPSLO conference in Palm Springs, California.

Mary Ellen was a respected, beloved leader. The President of Continental/Marmorstein & Malone Insurance Agency in Paramus, New Jersey, she began working in the insurance business with the Marmorstein Agency some forty years ago. Mary Ellen served as President of New Jersey Surplus Lines Association (NJSLA) from 1989–1990, and was named as NJSLA honoree of the year in 1992 due to her outstanding contribution to the New Jersey Surplus Lines Industry. She also served on the New Jersey Insurance Commissioner's Producer Advisory Council, and with the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

Her warmth, openness, honesty and good nature made everyone who met her feel immediately comfortable. These qualities served her very well in life, with family and friends, and in her remarkable career where she rose through the ranks with hard work and honesty. She was always prepared for the trials of life and business and the often difficult decisions required by both. She embraced responsibility, expected accountability and never failed those who depended on her.

All who knew her benefited by her example.

Her family has established the Mary Ellen Rozzell Foundation for AVM Research so that friends and colleagues might contribute to arteriovenous malformation research in Mary Ellen's name.

I extend my sympathy to her family and those close to her. She will be missed greatly by everyone she touched.

TRIBUTE TO LLOYD SMITH

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and thank my Chief of Staff, Lloyd Smith, for 28 years of service to the Emerson family and to the Eighth Congressional District. Since 1981, Lloyd has served the people of Southern Missouri and the institution of Congress. In the political landscape of our state, he is a fixture. His name is inseparable from the term of service first of my late husband Bill Emerson in Congress from 1981 to 1996 and then, from 1996 until now.

Lloyd has left the ranks of my staff from time to time in order to give others the benefit of his policy experience and political know-how. Those lucky to enlist him have never been the worse for it.

To my staff, Lloyd is their leader. He inspires them, rallies them, guides them and motivates them. He brings out the best in them, and though he shares in all of their successes he freely gives them all of the credit.

Though he is important to many people for many reasons, to me Lloyd is also a great and dear friend. I have long valued Lloyd's strategic mind, his intellect and his insight—which truly drive our congressional office. Lloyd thinks in terms of big ideas, but he never neglects the details. This combination of brave creativity and studious diligence is rare, and the easy smile and gentle charm of this man from East Prairie, Missouri, belies the depth of his dedication to the office.

And in thanking Lloyd for his years of service, I must also express my deepest gratitude to his wonderful wife, Marlys, and his three amazing children, Trista, Sam and Tiffany. They have made sacrifices, too, so their husband and father could work the long, stressful hours this job demands. They also share the credit for Lloyd's ability to stay positive and optimistic, week after week, year after year, decade after decade.

As he moves on to new challenges, I wish Lloyd the very best of luck. I cannot quantify the immense debt owed to him by Missouri's Eighth Congressional District, by this nation, and by me for his faithful service. I commend him to the U.S. House of Representatives today, and I thank him for his friendship always.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

The Commission presents awards annually in celebration of National Women's History Month in March. This year there are 17