

returned to the Boys' Club in 1971 to continue his work and improve the life skills and lives of young men in the community. He has served the Mount Vernon community in various capacities for over 45 years. Mr. Thomas's accomplishments are too many to site, but a few must be noted.

In 1993, Mr. Thomas was joined by Denzel Washington, as they received The Boys and Girls Club of America Connection Magazines Mentor Magic Award. In 1997 Mr. Thomas received the "Man of the Year Award" from the National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women's Club of New Rochelle, New York.

Mr. Thomas worked with countless young people in an effort to either turn their lives around, or continue their lives on a positive path. Over the years, Mr. Thomas mentored thousands of young people. Some are now doctors, lawyers, bus drivers, ministers, fathers and mothers as well as the current executive director of the Mount Vernon Club—Lowes Moore. Mr. Thomas also influenced several former NBA players: brothers Gus and Ray Williams, as well as Calvin "Scooter" and Rodney McCray. Mr. Thomas always went about his work without praise or formal recognition. He has taught all the young people that entered the club that each has a responsibility to lend a hand to those less fortunate. His actions speak volumes as he worked with special needs children in New Rochelle and White Plains, New York. He also volunteered his services in many areas that included teaching chess, reading, a Youth Commissioner for the City of New Rochelle and of course, a basketball coach.

Mr. Thomas sacrificed a great deal to give back to his community. It is only fitting that the community honor his deeds by renaming the street in front of the Boys Club William "Billy" Thomas Boulevard. This is testament that hard work and dedication are appreciated by the community and that the seeds sowed will blossom for many years to come. The renaming of South Sixth Avenue to "William Billy Thomas Boulevard" is an important testament to the hundreds of lives nurtured on this block at this Boys' and Girls' Club under his leadership and care.

We in Congress share the City of Mount Vernon's recognition of William "Billy" Thomas's outstanding life with the nation.

PAULE MARSHALL—HONORING A  
NEW YORK CITY LITERARY GREAT

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to acknowledge Paule Marshall, a renowned American author and poet who published her first novel, "Brown Girl, Brownstones", 50 years ago, and served as an influential trailblazer for emerging black female writers in the 60s and 70s.

I introduce into the RECORD an article from the New York Times of March 12, 2009 highlighting the career of Paule Marshall and her new publication titled "Triangular Road", a memoir that follows her early years as a writer.

Born in Brooklyn, NY to Caribbean parents and raised in a Bedford-Stuyvesant brown-

stone, Ms. Marshall brought a unique voice to the literary genre. She captured, in a fine balance, the stories of West Indian life emerged in American culture. It is no surprise that Langston Hughes selected her to accompany him on a tour of Europe in 1965.

Over the last 50 years, she has consistently remained relevant, publishing 2 collections of short stories and five novels, while simultaneously teaching at various universities, including Yale and New York University.

Ms. Marshall has received many awards and honors throughout her career, including an American Book Award and a John Dos Passos Award of Literature. She was a MacArthur Fellow and designated as a Literary Lion by the New York Public Library in 1994. In 2001, Marshall was inducted into the Celebrity Path at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

At this time, I would like to honor this distinguished New York City literary figure and offer recognition of the work she has contributed to American literature.

CELEBRATING COLONEL CHRISTOPHER O'CONNOR, COMMANDING OFFICER OF MIRAMAR MARINE CORPS AIR STATION

### HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2009*

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Christopher O'Connor, Commanding Officer of Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar (MCAS, Miramar) which I have the pleasure of representing. Colonel O'Connor has served his country with distinction for over twenty years and I wish him nothing but the best as a new chapter in his life begins.

Colonel O'Connor was born and raised in New York where he received his commission through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) at the University of Rochester in May of 1979. Since then, he has participated in humanitarian relief operations while deployed to the Republic of the Philippines, served as the Aviation Department's action officer for Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) issues and aviation training range systems and reported to the Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of Defense where he served as the Country Director for Australia and New Zealand.

In August 2006, Colonel O'Connor took over as Commanding Officer of MCAS, Miramar where he has excelled in working with local leaders while representing the Marine Corp with professionalism and distinction to communities surrounding the base and San Diego County as a whole. Colonel O'Connor's decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, and Navy Achievement Medal.

I applaud the good service that Colonel O'Connor has provided this country. He has been an absolute pleasure to work with throughout his tenure and I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating this great American.

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS  
OF CHAD LINDSEY

### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2009*

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery of Chad Lindsey, a constituent of mine who jumped onto the New York subway tracks to rescue a fellow passenger that had fallen.

On March 16, 2009, Mr. Lindsey was waiting for the subway at Penn Station in New York City when he saw a man fall onto the track and hit his head.

Knowing that a train was coming shortly, Mr. Lindsey courageously jumped onto the subway track. The man who fell was unconscious, and despite repeated attempts did not wake up. Yet, with the lights of the train coming toward them, Mr. Lindsey knew he had to act and used all his strength to pull the man to the platform edge and, with the help of others, lifted him to safety.

Thanks to Mr. Lindsey's quick thinking and selfless actions, the injured man was taken to the hospital and later released. Mr. Lindsey, having done his part, got on the next train, ready to go back to his everyday life as a working New York City actor.

In the days since the incident, Mr. Lindsey has tried to resist the attempts of the media to label him a "hero". But this is exactly what he is.

He did not hesitate before rushing to help someone else in need, even though his actions put himself at risk. For Mr. Lindsey, this act of bravery came naturally.

His courageous act reminded us that there are people willing to put themselves in danger for the sake of others. He sets an example that we all should strive toward.

I applaud Chad Lindsey for his brave actions, and I am so proud to call him both a constituent and hero.

COMMENDING PATRICIA MURPHY  
OF UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2009*

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month and to congratulate Patricia Murphy of Springfield, New Jersey who will be honored on Friday, March 27, 2009 at the 17th Annual Women of Excellence Dinner held in Union County, New Jersey.

This special annual event is hosted by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women in the Seventh Congressional District and highlights the amazing work of individuals who are making our communities better places to live. The Commission on the Status of Women recognizes the contributions of women in the fields of education, health care, the arts, government, business, law, community service, technology, public service and women's advocacy and lifetime achievement.

This year's Lifetime Achievement Award will be given to Patricia Murphy because of her extensive lifetime achievements. Presently,

Patricia is a professor at the Muhlenberg Snyder School of Nursing. She is also involved in various professional nursing organizations, social and civic groups, and church activities in Springfield. Patricia is certified as a teacher of practical nursing and a school nurse in the state of New Jersey.

During her extensive career, Patricia Murphy has been an adjunct professor at Kean University and Felician College, staff nurse at Overlook Hospital, Obstetrics and Community Health Instructor, Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist, full time Medical/Surgical Nursing III Instructor and as such has been honored with a distinguished Nursing Alumni Award, American Cancer Society Certificate of Appreciation, outstanding alumna award of Seton Hall University School of Nursing, and New Jersey State Nurses Association Medical-Surgical Nurse of the Year.

In addition to her nursing career, Patricia Murphy has written several articles for professional journals and presented a number of lectures and programs throughout Central New Jersey, focusing on the well-being of cancer patients, their families and the nursing care they receive. She has also developed, planned, and implemented the first on-line nursing course offered through Muhlenburg in conjunction with Union County College. Patricia is also the Parish Nurse Ministry coordinator at St. James Church in Springfield. She has also served as the past president of the Summit Area AARP.

Patricia Murphy of Springfield, New Jersey has made significant contributions to her community and led a long distinguished career. I am pleased to congratulate her and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

#### THE 60 TO 55 RESERVE COMPONENT RETIREMENT ACT

**HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2009*

Mr. LOBIONDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the 60 to 55 Reserve Component Retirement Act.

Given the increasing demands placed on the brave men and women who serve as citizen soldiers in the Reserve Component, it is time to recognize and reward them in a more timely fashion. The current age requirement for Reserve Component to begin receiving retirement pay is 60 years old, whereas the Active Duty may begin receiving retirement pay as soon as they serve their 20 years, which in some cases, may be as early as age 38. The age limitation placed on the Reserve Component was set in 1948, when the Reserve Component was a much different force. Since 9/11, the National Guard and Reserves have expanded beyond their traditional bounds into a fully functional, combat-ready, and deployable partner to the Active Duty Armed Forces. This shift in use to a full partner has placed tremendous strains on the men and women of the Guard and Reserves.

The legislation I am introducing with Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS of Arizona will lower the age at which Reserve Component servicemembers can begin receiving their retirement pay from age 60 to age 55. This

vital legislation will help close the gap between the Active Duty and Reserve Component retirement age, which will improve recruitment efforts and be more fair to the men and women serving in the National Guard and Reserve.

HONORING FORMER DELEGATE  
MICHAEL WEIR, SR.

**HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2009*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Michael Weir, Sr., a longtime Maryland legislator and public servant who is celebrating his 85th birthday.

Mike Weir, Sr. was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on March 24, 1924. He attended Baltimore County Public Schools and continued his education at Essex Community College and the University of Maryland. After he finished school he worked as a Masonry contractor through his company Mike Weir and Sons.

Mike served with the U.S. Army in the South Pacific during World War II, entering World War II in March of 1943 as a member of the U.S. Army with the 124th Infantry 31st Division. He was attached to the Reconnaissance Platoon as a medic and served in the South Pacific in New Guinea, Netherlands East Indies and the Philippines. Mike Weir, Sr. was honorably discharged in December of 1945.

Mike Weir Sr. served for 28 years in the Maryland House of Delegates representing communities from Essex in Baltimore County to Fallston in Harford County. He served in the House of Delegates from January 8, 1975 to January 8, 2003, representing first District 7 and then District 6 (Baltimore County & Harford County). He served as the House Chair of the Joint Committee on Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas from 1984–2003, and as a member of the Tort and Insurance Reform Oversight Committee in 1993. He served on the House Environmental Matters Committee from 1975–2003 and as Vice-Chair of the committee from 1995–2003. During his tenure he served on the agriculture, environment & natural resources, and health subcommittees. Mike also served as a member of the Rules and Executive Nominations Committee from 1995–2003.

Mike served as a member of the Chesapeake Bay Commission from 1984–2003, a member of the Migratory Waterfowl Advisory Committee since 1991, and the Maryland Recycling Advisory Group from 1995–1997. Mike is respected throughout the State of Maryland for his deep commitment to sportsman and environmental issues, especially those that relate to the Chesapeake Bay.

In honor of his years of service in the Maryland General Assembly, the Mike Weir, Sr. Scholarship Fund was established at the Community Colleges of Baltimore County to assist local college students.

Mike's enjoyment of the political world is evidenced by his memberships in the Fifth District, Fifteenth District, Riverside, Bird River, Norris, Deep Creek and East End Democratic Clubs. Mike is also a member of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Hawks and the Federation of Independent Business Men. Mike and his wife Clara have six children, many grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Mike Weir, Sr. has dedicated his life to the citizens and environment of the State of Maryland. Therefore, Madame Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Mike as he celebrates his 85th birthday.

IN HONOR OF NATALIE WOLFE

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2009*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Natalie Wolfe for her brilliant career as a child advocate. She has distinguished herself through her dedication to ensuring that all children are afforded the right to quality childcare services.

After losing her daughter due to the negligence of an unlicensed child-care provider, Natalie has committed herself as a driving force in the State of Indiana to increasing awareness about the need for child-care reform. As a result, she has helped establish the Indiana Association for Child Care Resource & Referral Better Baby Program. As a voice for thousands of parents who have suffered from similar circumstances, Natalie participated heavily in the passage of Reagan's Law.

Earlier this month, Natalie represented Hoosier families in Washington, D.C. at the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies' (NACCRRA) National Policy Symposium. This conference allowed Natalie to meet with other child-care advocates and policy makers on the importance of passing sound legislation that protects and safeguards young children.

I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Natalie Wolfe for her dedicated public service. Her efforts should inspire us all to recommit ourselves to ensuring that the growing child-care needs of our nation's children are effectively met.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2009*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding funding the House Appropriations Committee appropriated for the following national projects my colleagues and I requested as part of FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act, H.R. 1105:

Requesting Member: Congressman MICHAEL N. CASTLE

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Fund for the Improvement of Education, Innovation and Improvement

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Reach Out and Read

Address of Requesting Entity: 56 Roland Street, Suite 100D, Boston, MA 02129-1243

Description of Request: \$4,965,000 for the Reach Out and Read Program, authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to make literacy programs a standard part of pediatric primary care, trains doctors and nurses to train parents, and helps