

Vietnamese descent form a key, politically active group of Americans. They truly know the meaning of the term "American," and they value freedom, democracy, and liberty.

My constituents, as part of the Vietnamese Community in Virginia, Washington DC, and Maryland, will commemorate the 34th Anniversary of the Fall of Saigon on Saturday. And so, Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a statement of recognition of this historic day.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the significance of this day.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL
GILL P. BECK

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brigadier General (BG) Gill P. Beck, who has been selected by Appalachian State University's (ASU) Alumni Association to be the sole recipient of its 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Award in a ceremony to be held this Saturday, April 25, 2009, at the Broyhill Inn in Boone, North Carolina.

General Beck was selected for this honor due to his remarkable record of leadership and service to the public in both his professional and military careers, and for his many contributions to civic and charitable causes in his community.

A third-generation Mountaineer and third-generation North Carolina attorney, Gill Beck attended Appalachian State from 1974 to 1978 on a football and academic scholarship. Describing himself as "the slowest quarterback in the state" in high school, he showed his "coachability" by switching positions and playing center in college. Three years later, he was named team captain and distinguished himself as the team's best blocker. A three time All-Southern Conference first-team selection, he was selected as ASU's athlete of the year during his senior year.

While at ASU, he distinguished himself academically as well, making the Chancellor's List all eight semesters, twice being named an Academic All-American, graduating second in his class with a 3.98 grade-point average and earning an Army ROTC scholarship to study law at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. After graduating with High Honors from law school, he entered the Army JAG Corps, where he spent the next six years on active duty and represented the Army in a wide variety of litigation matters.

A resident of Greensboro, Beck has served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Middle District of North Carolina since 1992. He currently serves as the Chief of the Civil Division, United States Attorney's Office, where he is responsible for directing all civil litigation against or for the United States within the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina, as well as prosecuting criminal forfeitures that involve drug or money laundering offenses. As a federal prosecutor, he has spearheaded a number of high-profile civil actions, including several that involve the fight against fraud and whose resolution protected the rights and interests of taxpayers. In 1997, the U.S. Department of Jus-

tice presented Gill Beck with its highest award, the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award, for his initiative and success in one such action that recovered more than \$180 million for taxpayers.

Since completing his initial active duty tour in the Army, Gill Beck has continued his military service as an Officer and Judge Advocate in the U.S. Army Reserve. In a promotion ceremony at Fort Myer, Virginia, in December 2008 that was presided over by the Judge Advocate General of the Army, Lieutenant General Scott C. Black, Beck "pinned on" the rank of Brigadier General after being nominated by President Bush and being confirmed by the United States Senate. In an investiture ceremony that day, BG Beck was also installed as the Chief Judge, U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals (IMA), U.S. Army Legal Services Agency (USALSA).

BG Beck's previous military assignments include Commander, 12th Legal Support Organization, Staff Judge Advocate Task Force 134 (Operation Iraqi Freedom), Staff Judge Advocate, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, and Brigade Judge Advocate, 108th Division (Institutional Training), and a total of thirteen years on active duty with tours in the 1st Infantry Division, 3d Armored Division, 82nd Airborne Division, and Litigation Division (USALSA).

Madam Speaker, during his 2005 tour of duty in Iraq, then-Colonel Beck and his family provided an illustration of just how important the initiative and contributions of individual members of our armed forces and their military spouses "back home" are to the success of our military operations and humanitarian endeavors abroad. What began as a simple personal request to his wife, Mary Jo, to send toys, trinkets and candy to present to the Iraqi children turned quickly into a community-wide effort. "Operation Toy Drive," which was co-ordinated by Mary Jo and her friend, Hillary Bouknight, resulted in the collection of tens of thousands of items that were transported by a U.S. based charity, Operation Give, and shipped by FedEx (without charge I might add) to the U.S. military for distribution by our U.S. service men and women to the children of Iraq. Indeed, not only did Mary Jo orchestrate the effort but the entire Beck family, including his sons, Gill Jr. and Jon, got into the act. In addition to collecting toys from others, Jon even donated a bear he had received for his birthday.

Before concluding my remarks, I'd also like to make mention of BG Beck's outstanding commitment to his profession and voluntary service with the N.C. Bar Association (NCBA). He has served as a member of the Board of Governors of the NCBA, past Chair of the NCBA's Government and Public Sector Section, and while deployed to Iraq in 2005, was selected to receive the association's Government and Public Sector's Distinguished Attorney Award as North Carolina's top government and public sector attorney. In describing why he was chosen for the award, Linda Miles, the city attorney of Greensboro stated, "Gill Beck embodies all of the virtues of a public servant. He is a person of integrity, honesty and loyalty in his service to his country in every way."

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would just note that BG Beck and his family are among those who represent the best of America. His dedication to duty, reputation for integrity, and commitment to improving the well-being of

others, whether in his hometown and state or more than half a world removed, are exemplary. I am happy to convey my personal best wishes to General Beck and his family and ask that you and our colleagues in the House join me in recognizing BG Beck not only on the occasion of his fitting selection as Appalachian State University's Distinguished Alumnus of the Year for 2009, but also for his lifetime of service and commitment to others.

COMMENDING PAUL MCGILL OF
HUNTERDON COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Paul McGill of Hunterdon County for his outstanding efforts on behalf of the Shannon Daley Memorial Fund. The Shannon Daley Memorial Fund was established by approximately 70 Hunterdon County members of the Readington Men's Basketball League who came together to raise money and support for families of children suffering with catastrophic illnesses.

On Friday, April 24, 2009, Paul McGill will be recognized by the United Way of Hunterdon County as their Community Volunteer of the Year. The evening will celebrate Paul's volunteerism and recognize his achievements as the officer and chief operating officer for the Shannon Daley Memorial Fund.

Paul has devoted significant portions of his personal time to insure the continued success of the charity—which includes a significant amount of time devoted to fundraising. In addition to fundraising, Paul provides extensive leadership for the Shannon Daley Fund and has developed close personal relationships with Hunterdon County residents and businesses to support the cause. He has done and continues to do an outstanding job to help families in need.

For those who know Paul, he is a true inspiration, an exemplary volunteer and an outstanding community leader. Paul McGill has truly made a difference in the lives of so many families in Hunterdon County and I am proud of his efforts.

I am pleased to share the good deeds of Paul McGill with my colleagues in the United States Congress and with the American people.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARONESS
CAROLINE COX OF QUEENSBURY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize The Honorable Baroness Caroline Cox of Queensbury on the occasion of her visit to Michigan during the week of April 24, the day set to commemorate the 1915 commencement of the genocide of the Armenian peoples. During her visit, Baroness Cox continues her tireless mission to educate and promote awareness of the present-day status of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh and oppressed peoples around the world.

In particular, Baroness Cox will be visiting Oakland University in Michigan's 9th District where she will lecture and celebrate the University's Institute for Research, Education & Advocacy for Children's Health—R.E.A.C.H. The mission of R.E.A.C.H. furthers and embodies the life's work of Baroness Cox. Using her formal educational training in nursing, sociology and economics, Baroness Cox has been a prolific author and advocate of human rights around the globe. The Humanitarian Relief Trust which she established in 2005 provides resources, aid and training to peoples living in extreme poverty and under oppression. She is known for her personal and hands-on work targeting the "no-go" areas of the world to provide humanitarian aid and relief. Though she spends nearly half her time on international missions, she cherishes her role in the British Parliament as the "voice of the voiceless."

Baroness Cox, I welcome you to Michigan's 9th District and salute your untiring and steadfast commitment to improving the human condition in some of the most challenging areas of the world—Sudan, Burma, Nigeria and East Timor, among others. We are fortunate that you have so ardently acted on your "inherent tendency" to help others and made it your life's mission. Your wise admonition to us all rings as true today as ever, "We can't do everything . . . however, we can all do something."

HONORING THE LEAGUE OF
UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITI-
ZENS (LULAC) COUNCIL #10

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council #10 from Davenport, Iowa on their 50th anniversary.

LULAC Council #10 was established in 1959 to support the strong, multi-generational Latino community that has thrived in Davenport and broader Quad Cities area since the early 1900s. The Council #10 founders' goals were to advance the economic conditions, educational attainment, political participation, housing, health and civil rights of Latino families and workers. At that time it was not uncommon for local businesses to discriminate against Latino workers, and many Latino children were falling behind in school because their English skills were not adequate. Despite these challenges the Latino population made great strides in the Quad Cities community while preserving their culture and values.

Since its inception, LULAC Council #10 has worked with local school districts to create bilingual education opportunities and English as a Second Language programs. These programs have been so successful that they are now used to help the growing Vietnamese student population in Davenport. Council #10 maintains a local scholarship program to give Latino students opportunities to continue their education. The club hosts a senior meal program, organizes multiple festivals celebrating Latino cultures, and works tirelessly with local

unions and employers to avert discrimination in the workplace.

Madam Speaker, LULAC Council #10 has a proud history and its members have made great contributions to Davenport and our country. I congratulate Council #10 on their 50th anniversary.

HONORING THE TOWN OF
CULPEPER, VIRGINIA ON ITS
250TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Town of Culpeper as it celebrates its 250th anniversary this Friday, April 24th, 2009.

The Town of Culpeper is located at the eastern base of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Piedmont River Valley. It has a legendary history that dates clear back to the American Revolution when a group of local residents organized themselves as the Culpeper Minute Men Battalion in 1775 and were called upon to fight in the Revolution and throughout campaigns in the 19th and 20th Centuries. Both Confederate and Union troops occupied the Town during the Civil War. In fact, during the winter of 1863 and 1864, more than 100,000 Union troops occupied the town as its strategic railroad location made it an important supply station for both Confederate and Union troops. The town witnessed more than 100 battles during the war and many homes were used for military housing and hospitals.

After the Civil War, the Town of Culpeper grew to become a thriving regional marketing hub. Even today the town continues to evolve. With a population of approximately 15,000, it has rebuilt itself to become a Virginia Main Street Community with a lively historic downtown. It was even named once as one of "America's Top 10 Small Towns." While Culpeper was originally built as an agricultural economy, today it is an important crossroad for business.

Culpeper residents will celebrate and honor the town's heritage and 250 years of history with events and activities throughout the year, including a historic costume ball, picnics and parades.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the citizens of Culpeper as they celebrate the town's anniversary and wishing them the best for their continued growth and success.

RECOGNIZING PAOLA GRULLON

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate Paola Grullon for receiving the Charles J. Ping Award. This outstanding accomplishment is a result of Paola's hard work and dedication to serving her community.

This honor is awarded to undergraduate students who exemplify leadership in their communities and boast a record of outstanding achievements in service. This is the fifth consecutive year that a student from Ohio Wesleyan University has received the Ping Award. This is proof of the University's commitment to conveying the importance of service-learning to their students.

Paola Grullon is a member of Ohio Wesleyan University's Class of 2010. Paola recently completed an internship with Delaware's Woodward Family Resource Center, and organization that provides outreach opportunities for the city's Hispanic community members. As a pre-med major from the Dominican Republic, Ms. Grullon has created a strong support network for Delaware's Hispanic community by helping people with translations for numerous medical and utility services, government benefit services and child care assistance.

In addition to her work with the Woodward Family Resource Center, Ms. Grullon volunteers with Grace Free Clinic and St. Mary's Church. Paola has led fellow students from Ohio Wesleyan on spring break volunteer experiences, inspiring other students to follow her example of leadership and service.

I am pleased to commend Paola Grullon on this wonderful achievement as well as Ohio Wesleyan University for encouraging service-minded students to give back to Central Ohio communities.

COMCAST CARES DAY

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the more than 1,200 employees from Broward and Miami-Dade Counties who will volunteer to benefit Samuel Delevoe Park and Oleta River State Park on Saturday, April 25th for Comcast Cares Day.

Volunteers and their families will join together to landscape facility grounds, paint and enhance two of Florida's parks. This event will mark the eighth annual company-wide day of service.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to commend Comcast and its employees for their service to our community at a time when our nation faces enormous challenges.

Families are losing jobs, health care, and other key services. Our public needs are growing while our resources for meeting them are disappearing.

As a mother of three young children, I believe that service is the lifeblood of this country.

Volunteers can play many roles. They teach in our classrooms; clean up our waterways, roads and parks; care for the elderly; and feed the hungry. All the while, they learn valuable skills that will help them throughout their lives.

I hope that the selfless actions of the Comcast employees and their families will serve as an inspiration for other Americans to enrich their own lives by helping others and giving back to their communities.