

viral hepatitis working group to improve the public health response to the disease, and for working with outside partners to increase access to quality health care and reduce the health effects from viral hepatitis.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the goals and ideals of World Hepatitis Awareness Month and to support H.R. 3974. Through comprehensive education, research, and coordination, we can highlight the global nature of chronic viral hepatitis epidemics, work to improve the quality of life for those diagnosed, and prevent further spread of the disease.

RECOGNIZING THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF WEATHERFORD, TEXAS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the First National Bank of Weatherford, Texas, which has been serving the banking needs of the families and businesses of Weatherford and Parker County for 130 years.

The First National Bank has operated in the City of Weatherford, Texas, continuously since May 15, 1880, and is the oldest national bank charter in the state. Given the trouble the banking industry has faced in the last several years we can all appreciate this enormous accomplishment, which speaks to the strong leadership that has steered the bank over the course of its impressive history.

First National Bank is a true community bank with directors, officers, and employees who are committed to serving the needs of its customers. As with so many community banks the employees are so engaged in the Weatherford community because they are from the community.

The bank has a strong record as a good neighbor, contributing to the growth of the City of Weatherford and Parker County by supporting commerce, local charities and community events.

I congratulate the First National Bank on this significant milestone and wish them continued success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE PATTERSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joyce Patterson on the occasion of her retirement after 22 years of dedicated service as 4-H youth coordinator with the Iowa State University Extension of Boone County, Iowa.

Joyce has not only been a dedicated employee but she has touched every aspect of the 4-H Community. She has been actively involved in 4-H for the past 25 years as a member, club leader, employee, and pioneer in this organization.

Joyce's service to the youth of Boone County is truly something to be admired. The 4-H mission is to empower youth to reach their full

potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults, and Joyce is a shining example of 4-H at its best. She is an exemplary citizen who has instilled the Iowa values of hard work, self-reliance, and community service in many of Iowa's youth.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in recognizing Joyce Patterson's service to the youth of Boone County. I consider it an honor to represent Joyce in Congress, and I wish her much happiness during her retirement.

HONORING GLORIA GUARD, RETIRING AS PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY CENTER OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, one of Philadelphia's most forceful and effective advocates for homeless women and children is moving into well earned retirement at the end of this month.

Gloria Guard has been President of the People's Emergency Center since 1983—when she started by overseeing rented space in an old church that was only open weekends. On July 1 she bequeaths to her still-to-be-chosen successor a nationally respected \$6 million agency that serves 400 women and children a year while developing almost 200 affordable and special needs housing units in the Powelton neighborhood of West Philadelphia in the 2nd Congressional District. Not only that, she has led PEC to establish 25 small businesses, eliminate 110 vacant lots, and repair houses and storefronts seemingly everywhere in Powelton.

It is a large footprint, and it is a visionary approach to the changing face of homelessness. It is Gloria Guard's approach. John Kromer, former director of Philadelphia's Office of Housing and Community Development, put it best in a newspaper interview about Gloria's retirement announcement: "PEC is not just about homelessness. It's about bringing up the entire neighborhood."

Gloria Guard has brought \$80 million into the People's Emergency Center and to her causes, much of it in federal affordable housing resources. I have been an admirer and a willing target of Gloria's smiling determination to get what she and her clients need. That has made me a frequent visitor at the joyous ribbon cutting ceremonies and hopeful house tours she has arranged that have pointed the way toward a better life for thousands of Philadelphians.

One of the statistics Gloria Guard showcases is that over 90 percent of PEC's shelter and transitional housing residents remain self-sufficient after graduating from the Center's programs. While she directs the hands-on work of PEC, she has stepped up as a compelling advocate for changes in local and national policy that reflect the community of the homeless that she knows so well. She has pushed hard to change federal priorities and funding to deal with the women and children who increasingly face long-term homelessness for a complexity of reasons, not just concentrating on the predominantly male homeless population that is most visible on city streets.

Guard has stated: "I am most proud of the hundreds of homeless families that we helped at PEC who today are independent, working, solid parents and engaged citizens—totally invisible and immersed in the mainstream. Formerly homeless children are succeeding in high school, and a number have gone on to college. I have been truly blessed to encounter so many good people who have overcome such extraordinarily difficult circumstances. They are an inspiration to all of us."

Gloria Guard is not only a winner, she's an award winner. Her work earned her the 2004 Philadelphia Award, an honor reserved for the city's most notable philanthropists, artists, political visionaries, and social activists. She has also received the Sower's Seed Award from Trinity Washington University (2009), the Gold Coin Award from Inglis Foundation (2008), and was named one of the 75 Greatest Living Philadelphians by the Philadelphia Eagles and Dunkin Donuts (2007) and Citizen Volunteer of the Year by the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania (2001). Other honors include the Community Champion Award of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (2005), the Philadelphia Bar Foundation's Louis D. Apothaker Award (2000), and the Professional Women's Roundtable award for 2009.

Now she can add yet another honor: Tonight, on Tuesday June 8, 2010, Gloria Guard is being feted by the People's Emergency Center and awarded PEC's own 2010 Imprint Award for "Nurturing Families, Strengthening Families, Driving Change." The venue is one of Philadelphia's most glittering, the Crystal Tea Room at the Wanamaker Building, across from City Hall. The invitation beckons Gloria's friends, supporters, admirers, staff, volunteers, PEC alumni and alumnae to salute this "passionate voice of homeless families in Philadelphia, the power behind neighborhood revitalization, and nationally recognized public policy leader who gets results. Join us to thank Gloria for devoting her life to social justice and the public interest."

Amen to that. Philadelphia is a better place, a more nurturing and supportive community, a place where women and children can find safety, security and vital services, because for 27 years Gloria Guard has worked relentlessly, passionately through the People's Emergency Center to end family homelessness. Gloria Guard's legacy is secure, and it is magnificent.

RECOGNIZING THE BEACON GROUP AND THE ABILITYONE GROUP

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the AbilityOne program, which over the past several years has offered skills and jobs training to more than 42,000 Americans who are blind or have significant disabilities.

The AbilityOne Program harnesses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. This program affords Americans with disabilities the opportunity to receive

good wages and benefits and gain greater independence and quality of life.

Employment opportunities through the AbilityOne Program have significantly contributed to bringing people who are blind or have significant disabilities into the wider working society.

It is with great pride that I also acknowledge the Beacon Group Inc., one of the many social enterprises dedicated to enriching the lives of people with disabilities.

Since its beginning in 1952, the Beacon Group has been committed to providing employment-related opportunities to people with disabilities. It provides access to real work for a segment of the community that traditionally bears an unacceptably high unemployment rate. The Beacon Group now serves over 1,600 people with disabilities annually by providing a variety of employment opportunities and educational and social rehabilitation programs, all of which help lead to more meaningful and productive lives.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I offer my support to the AbilityOne Program and commend the dedication and commitment of the Beacon Group's President, Mr. Steven King, and his staff, for helping individuals who are blind or have significant disabilities find employment. Their work helps people live fuller lives and become more active members of society. I also commend the many AbilityOne employees who work every day to improve the lives of others and make our country a better place to live.

TRIBUTE TO LUCY CHEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lucy Chen, of Ames, Iowa, who is among the outstanding U.S. high school students selected to attend the annual Research Science Institute sponsored by the Center for Excellence of Technology and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

The mission of the Center for Excellence of Technology is to nurture young scholars to careers of excellence and leadership in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The Research Science Institute is a highly competitive six-week program which emphasizes advanced theory and research in mathematics, the sciences, and engineering. Lucy was selected for this program upon scoring in the upper one-percent of U.S. student PSAT exam scores. From June to July 2010, Lucy will learn from distinguished professors and conduct a research project at MIT.

I commend Lucy for her commitment to academic achievement and leadership in science and technology. She is a future leader of this country of whom Iowa is very proud. I am honored to represent Lucy and her family in the United States Congress and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL
RICHARD L. SIMCOCK, UNITED
STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brigadier General Richard L. Simcock, United States Marine Corps.

From August 2009 to June 2010, Brigadier General Simcock distinguished himself through meritorious service while serving as the Legislative Assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Utilizing his leadership, communication skills, and dedication to duty, Brigadier General Simcock contributed to numerous successes of the overall Marine Corps mission. His knowledge of and experience in Congressional affairs, combined with an emphasis on Congressional relationships advanced the Commandant's strategy and vision. His leadership during this period has enabled the Marine Corps to continue to succeed despite high operational tempo and unprecedented interest in Marine Corps activities.

Brigadier General Simcock has developed an exceptional relationship with Members of Congress and staff members. We benefitted from his counsel and tireless work to provide answers to our questions about the Marine Corps, Marines and their families. This strong professional relationship is a direct reflection on Brigadier General Simcock's dedication, foresight, and proactive approach during his time as the Commandant's Legislative Assistant.

Working in concert, Brigadier General Simcock, the Armed Services Committees and numerous other Members of Congress, have helped to ensure the health of the Marine Corps. In the past year, Brigadier General Simcock's input and experience were paramount in the continued development, support, acquisition, and championing of Marine Corps initiatives and programs such as the Joint Strike Fighter. During this period, excluding hearings and official travel, General Simcock has responded to 3,886 Congressional Inquiries, 779 official requests-for-information from Members and Professional Staff, and connected Members with Marine General Officers on 425 occasions. His understanding of the legislative processes, his responsiveness and accurate, forthright communication with the Congress has furthered comprehensive support for the Marine Corps.

Brigadier General Simcock's leadership has set a new standard for the Office of Legislative Affairs and his genuine devotion to Corps and Country will ensure the Marine Corps is "most ready when the Nation is least ready" for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE HEIDERSHEIT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Charlie Heidersheit, a

native of Osage, Iowa who is stepping down after 33 years as the Executive County Farm Service Agency Director of Mitchell County, Iowa.

After studying at Loras College in Dubuque, Charlie came to Osage to begin his job as County FSA Director. This agency is in charge of delivering federal farm programs directly to Iowa Farmers. His dedicated service has helped countless Iowa farmers and contributed to Iowa's strong agricultural economy.

Although Charlie is retiring from his position as County FSA Director, he plans to continue to be an active member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Osage and spend more time volunteering in the community through many of the local organizations he has been active in including the Osage Knights of Columbus, Osage Lions Club, Osage Kiwanis, and Osage Cub Scouts.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in recognizing Charlie Heidersheit and thanking him for his service to the State of Iowa. I consider it an honor to represent Charlie in Congress, and I wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

SHAWNEETOWN BICENTENNIAL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Shawneetown, Illinois, upon its bicentennial. Shawneetown was established as a city by the Federal Government in 1810 and is the oldest chartered city in the State of Illinois.

Shawneetown was home to the first bank in the Illinois Territory, chartered in 1816 and located in the John Marshall residence near the Ohio River Bridge. The first State bank in Illinois was built in 1839–1840 in Shawneetown.

General Marquis de LaFayette, of France, visited Shawneetown in 1825, as part of his famous tour of America after he had served so valiantly during the American Revolution.

Shawneetown was flooded by great flood of 1937. The gauge read 66 feet, which was five feet higher than the top of the levee. Following the 1937 flood, Shawneetown moved three miles west and was surveyed by the Federal Government.

Today, Shawneetown is the home of Bunge Grain Corporation, Power Inc., Shawneetown Harbor Service, Inc., a Peabody Coal Company River Dock and several other small businesses.

I would like to congratulate the citizens of Shawneetown as they celebrate 200 years of success. May God bless Shawneetown for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING DONALD DYE—WINNER OF THE TOP TEACHER AWARD

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Donald Dye, an English teacher