

With St. Mary's on solid footing, Jim turned his attention towards increasing care and services in the region. From 2000 to 2010, he oversaw the opening of the Women's Health Pavilion, the Center for Joint Replacement, St. Mary's d'Youville Pavilion Rehab Center, a new St. Mary's Campus in Auburn and the modernization of the Emergency Center at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center. This extraordinary feat was mirrored by St. Mary's outreach in downtown Lewiston. St. Mary's Food Pantry, Lots to Gardens and St. Mary's Nutrition Center of Maine not only provide emergency food assistance to the residents of the greater Androscoggin County but also promote healthy nutrition and eating habits. Other programs, such as the Neighborhood Housing Initiative and B Street Health Center, have expanded affordable access to shelters and healthcare for Lewiston's low income residents. Each of these programs owes a piece of their success to Jim's leadership.

For these works and for other charity programs he established, Jim was honored by the American Hospital Association and by the Catholic Health Association. The remarkable positive impact Jim has had on the community is commendable and has inspired countless others. With his retirement on June 17, 2010, St. Mary's Health System will lose one of its finest leaders in its 125 year history. His legacy of community outreach will surely be continued for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Jim Cassidy on his retirement and thanking him for his dedicated service to his community.

FHA REFORM ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, as we work to turn the economy around it is imperative that we continue to support the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) which has played a critical role in stabilizing the nation's housing market.

It was not too long ago that we saw unscrupulous mortgage lending practices that caused hundreds of thousands of Americans to lose their homes. Thankfully, we're beginning to see a decline in foreclosures rates. In May, we saw a 3 percent decrease in rates and in April we saw a 9 percent decrease. We must ensure this declining foreclosure rate trend continues and reforming the FHA is essential in doing so.

The legislation, H.R. 5072, the FHA Reform Act, strengthens the FHA while allowing access to safe, affordable financing by responsible borrowers. The bill provides the FHA with the authority to manage annual mortgage insurance premiums. It also provides significant safeguards against dishonest lending practices that are hidden from homebuyers.

As the economy recovers, our nation's consumers are beginning to regain confidence in the housing market. We must demonstrate to these consumers that they can once again trust lenders. Providing the FHA with more authority over mortgages and lending is necessary for the recovery of not only the real estate market, but for the economy as a whole.

I regret that an obligation in my District kept me from voting for this legislation, but had I been present, I would have been proud to vote in support of the bill.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
ERIN K. EHRBAR AND ANDREW
J. EHRBAR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a brother and a sister who left this world far too soon. Erin and Andrew Ehrbar were both tragically taken away from us at the tender ages of 16 and 13, respectively. I stand with those in our community grieving for them and for their families.

Erin and Andrew both loved sports, music, and spending time with friends and family. They were extraordinary children who lived their lives with great energy, laughter, joy, kind hearts and a spirit of generosity. Today, we remember them, in the House and in the nation.

As we grieve, we also celebrate the joy and happiness that Erin and Andrew brought to their friends and family. Erin, a junior at Highland High School, played on the girl's varsity soccer team; Andrew, a seventh grader at Highland Middle School, played baseball, basketball, and sang in the school choir.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, I ask you to join me in honor and remembrance of Erin K. Ehrbar and Andrew J. Ehrbar, whose young lives were framed by the unwavering love of their family and friends. In addition to honoring the memory of their late father, James, we offer condolences to their mother, Laura; to their big sister, Melissa and their little brother, Sean; to their stepfather, Chris DePiero; their grandparents, Thomas and Barbara Donovan; James and Marilyn Ehrbar; Jerry and Roberta DePiero; and the many others who loved them. The legacies of Erin and Andrew will continue on in the lives of others, through organ and eye donation, and their gentle spirits will forever hold a sacred place in the hearts of those who loved them.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to the Commonwealth of Australia and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) for its quick and effective response to locating and rescuing Abby Sunderland, a 16-year-old sailor from Thousand Oaks, California, whose sailboat was severely damaged in the Indian Ocean.

Abby was attempting to sail solo around the world when rough seas tore the mast from her boat, Wild Eyes, rendering cell phone communication with her sail team impossible. Abby activated two distress beacons, whose signal was picked up by the AMSA's Rescue Coordination Centre.

At the time, Wild Eyes was in the search and rescue region of the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre at La Reunion, which is operated by France. However, AMSA immediately offered assistance. La Reunion asked for air search assistance and an AMSA crew departed from Perth at first light in a QANTAS A-330 Airbus passenger aircraft.

Before the aircraft arrived on the scene, Abby's beacons indicated Wild Eyes had drifted into AMSA's search and rescue region. She was spotted at about 4 p.m. Australian time (11 p.m. PDT) about 2,000 nautical miles from western Australia. The AMSA crew made radio contact and found that Abby was alive and well, although with some scrapes and bruises.

AMSA then coordinated with La Reunion to have a ship retrieve her from Wild Eyes. About 40 hours after Abby activated her beacons, the French fishing vessel, Ile De La Reunion had Abby safely on board. AMSA had dispatched a Global Express aircraft to the scene, which provided top cover during Abby's transfer to the fishing vessel and served as a communications relay between Wild Eyes and Ile De La Reunion.

Media reports this morning stated that the crew of Ile De La Reunion delivered Abby to the remote Kerguelen Island yesterday afternoon, where she will catch a French patrol boat for the next leg of her journey home.

Madam Speaker, while we are grateful to the French fishermen and French authorities for their role in Abby's rescue, it is the Australian government that took lead in ensuring she was found and rescued. I personally called Australian ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Kim Beazley, AC, on Friday to thank him for Australia's role in locating and rescuing one of my constituents at considerable time and cost to them. I would also like to publicly thank the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, the QANTAS crew, and all the support personnel who made Abby's rescue possible. I know my colleagues join me in thanking our ally and friend for her quick response to one of our citizens in distress.

RECOGNIZING THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM GRADUATES OF WANDELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Today, the Saddle River Police Department will hold its Youth Leadership Program graduation ceremony for the students of Wandell Elementary School located in Saddle River, NJ. The participants of this important program have made a commitment to say "no" to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence. They have done this with the support of Chief of Police Timothy McWilliams and Detective Timothy Gerity.

Through opening the lines of communication between local law enforcement and youth, the Saddle River Youth Leadership Program empowers youth with the confidence and courage to say no to drugs and also defeats the negative cultural influences which they are challenged with on a daily basis.

I am immensely proud of my young constituents who participated in this program at

Wandell Elementary School; thus, I would like to recognize each of them for taking this vital step towards positive citizenship:

Jack Bush, James Butler, Natalie Formento, Alanna Fullerton, Grace Hinchin, Kaitlin Hofer, Maxx King, David LaManna, Lucy Pennell, Mary Pless, Aram Rashduni, Hannah Rogers, Michael Saks, Spencer Shih, Maya Silberman, Britni Strobeck, Richard Vincent, Emma Walsh, Taylor Wiener, Devin Bovino, Ryan Carr, Stephanie Devli, Kathleen Dorce, Zachary Dreznin, Elizabeth Dutko, Kristen Egan, Hana Friedman, Melissa Katsapis, Maeson Nolan, Alexander Rohrscheidt, Benjamin Saks, Katharin Spence, Mark Tseytin, Carl Villegas, Euan Walker, and Jaqueline Wiebye.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE
LEGENDARY OLLIE WOODSON

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

To Juanita and the Family,

Like most of his fans, I had always admired Ollie Woodson the performer, from afar, as one of the mainstays of "the temptin' Temptations." When I finally got to meet the person—your husband, father, and grandfather—at a birthday celebration in the home of my dear friend Glodean White, I was really impressed with how friendly, warm and down-to-earth he was. Since that time, whenever I had the good fortune to see him, Ollie would always go out of his way to say hello and make that personal connection. His close friends tell me that was the generous spirit of the man, forever responding to those he loved.

We all know about the incredible voices and intricate dance moves that made a Temptations concert a must-see. But I specifically remember a wonderful solo performance Ollie did for the National Newspaper Publishers' Association at the Democratic National Convention in Denver. I was not only knocked out by his sheer ability to entertain but I thought about how Ollie and the rest of the Motown family have really been cultural ambassadors for America, all over the world.

As successful as he undoubtedly was both as a performer and producer, I will also cherish some of those special times right here at City of Refuge, when Ollie would grace the church and Bishop Noel Jones with a wonderful gospel song. He certainly never forgot his roots.

So today, let us celebrate both the performer and the man, who with his God-given talent has earned a place in history and in our hearts—Ali Ollie Woodson. May he rest in peace.

THE ISRAELI BLOCKADE AND THE
FLOTILLA

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in expressing support for the

State of Israel. Israel is a tiny country that has been under attack since its founding 62 years ago. Nonetheless, it has developed into a vigorous democracy. With a free and active press, freedom of religion, free elections and a free and independent judiciary, Israelis of all religions and nationalities enjoy rights and opportunities unimaginable elsewhere in the Middle East.

Israel is our strongest and most reliable friend in the Middle East. Israel is a strategic ally, helping to improve American anti-terrorism efforts, working with the US military to improve training, intelligence gathering, research and development, preparedness and protection of travel and trade.

Despite the threats against it, Israel's economy is thriving, in large part as a result of her agricultural, technological and medical innovations. Israel constitutes a fraction of 1 percent of the land mass and only 2 percent of the population of the Middle East. Nonetheless, Israel far outshines much of the world in terms of academic, scientific and technological achievement. Israel has the highest ratio of university degrees per capita in the world and produces more scientific papers and more books per capita than any other nation in the world. It is the only nation in the world that has had a net increase in the number of trees. Israel has transformed itself from an impoverished backwater to a gleaming modern nation, ranking among the very highly developed countries of the world.

The threat against Israel is growing. Hezbollah, along Israel's Northern border with Lebanon, is heavily armed with increasingly powerful weapons. Hamas, along the Gaza Strip, is vocal about its determination to destroy the Jewish State. And the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank is refusing to pursue direct talks with Israel, believing that they will get a better deal if the United States or other countries do the negotiating for them. Fatah leaders and the Abbas-controlled official media of the Palestinian authority continue to deny Israel's existence.

The recent Gaza flotilla in which armed thugs challenged Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip makes clear that Israel is facing a clear and present danger. If the blockade is broken, weapons will flow freely into Hamas's hands. In the years preceding the blockade, Hamas launched more than 8,000 missiles at civilian targets in Israel, killing and injuring thousands. If the blockade is lifted without a peace agreement, Israel's cities and towns can expect the bombardment to resume.

Israel has to be vigilant in defense of its borders. The stated desire of Hamas and many Fatah leaders is to wipe Israel off the face of the world. When the world condemns Israel for defending its population, they are currying favor with terrorists at the expense of a democratic nation. And condemning Israel makes peace much less probable. I hope the Obama Administration will continue to make clear that Israel has no obligation to lift the blockade, and that it is Hamas and its terrorist allies who are responsible for the situation in Gaza.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues in strongly expressing my support for Israel.

TRIBUTE TO LEWIS COUNTY VFW

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lewis County chapter of Veterans of Foreign Wars and to congratulate the group on their 50th anniversary. For over a half century, the VFW has served as the foundation for local veterans outreach and assistance, as well as a major supporter of our community in Lowville and surrounding areas.

Just as our soldiers pledge to leave no man or woman behind, the Lewis County VFW carries on that promise to our current and future veterans, helping all of us make good on the pledge to provide real opportunities to our troops upon their return from service.

The Lewis County VFW embodies what their national organization strives for—providing services that extend beyond the realm of veterans helping veterans. Their outreach and service in our region is invaluable and encourages community participation and volunteerism from both those in the armed forces and civilians alike.

From help in community food kitchens, work in blood drives, and assisting our veterans to receive their hard-earned benefits, the Lewis County VFW in New York's 23rd Congressional District truly knows how to accomplish their mission in making our area a better place.

Our local VFW in Lewis County increases civic pride and its 50 great years of serving our community is nothing short of remarkable. I would like to again thank them for their service and wish them the best moving forward.

IN HONOR OF ALBERT OLIZI, JR.

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Albert J. Olizi for his outstanding service as District Governor of District 16C of the Audubon Lions Club for 2009–2010.

Mr. Olizi is a graduate of LaSalle College and Temple University School of Law. He maintains a local law practice with offices in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. As an active member of the Lions club for many years, Mr. Olizi's outstanding contributions have not gone unnoticed. He has been named "Lion of the Year" multiple times, was honored with the International President's Recognition Award in 2007, and has held multiple positions within his local club, including President.

Throughout his term as District Governor, Mr. Albert Olizi has dedicated an enormous amount of time, energy, and dedication to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of the position.