

beneath the deep blue sea, we will continue to push that unprecedented level of destruction even further, continue to see our gulf shores littered with amorphous lumps of oil, continue to see the gulf coast crowded with sick animals, continue to see the gulf fishing industry suffer.

Lost in the discussion of Sunday's World Refugee Day was the group of internally displaced individuals from Ike, Rita, and especially Katrina.

For example, our latest hurricane, Hurricane Ike, wreaked havoc on Texas, particularly in Galveston and Houston. As we moved forward with recovery efforts, it was clear that the impact of this storm had been widespread and many people were still in need of assistance.

Hurricane Ike pummeled the Texas Gulf Coast, resulting in at least 38 deaths in Texas, evacuation of over 1 million residents, hundreds more are either missing or remain unaccounted for, over 2,000 residents were rescued from harrowing conditions, and more than \$11 billion worth of damage according to preliminary estimates, making this the most costly storm in Texas history.

In the weeks that followed Hurricane Ike, over 2.5 million families struggled to survive with no electricity, including no air conditioning in the sweltering heat, which had a particularly severe impact on the elderly, disabled, impoverished and other vulnerable populations. Clearly, we need to invest substantial funds to improve our electric grids to ensure that the disparate impact on vulnerable populations is corrected and never allowed to reoccur.

Just as we saw in the Ninth Ward of New Orleans, Louisiana Post-Hurricane Katrina, internally displaced individuals from hurricanes do not receive the proper access to government aid to rebuild and recover. In fact, there is still a desperate need of housing and much more rebuilding that needs to be done to restore previous hurricane disaster victims and assist the residents who remain there.

We cannot allow the hurricane victims to be forgotten. Throughout our Post-Hurricane recovery efforts, many individuals have had difficulties and challenges getting the government aid that they need to rebuild after the storm. Many lost their jobs or are at risk of losing their employment due to damages incurred by the hurricane.

There are men, women, and children who have lost so much due to flood waters and storm winds. I have been proud to stand up repeatedly in Congress to fight on their behalf by securing the necessary federal funds. We must work together to ensure that our nation does its part to help hurricane victims fully recover by ensuring the delivery of funds that we worked so hard to appropriate. As a senior Member of the House Homeland Security Committee, which has oversight over the Federal Emergency Management Administration, FEMA, I am working to ensure that our communities respond expeditiously to natural disasters. The protection of our homeland and the security of our neighborhoods are at the forefront of my agenda.

While Hurricane Ike has left an enormous amount of devastation, it has demonstrated yet again the amazing unity, strength and resilience that Texans possess. Whether rich or poor, black or white, young or old, Democrat or Republican, everyone has been working together to respond, recover, rebuild and move forward.

We must work together to improve access to housing and the critical infrastructure necessary to ensure that the residents of North Galveston and their communities are safe. Where unacceptable vulnerabilities remain, swift action must be taken to eliminate them. I am committed to ensuring the implementation of such action.

My friends, this oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico threatens the livelihood of the citizens of the south central region of these United States, and deprives all Americans of the beauty and reasonable use of the seas and its inhabitants. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. BECKY
PISCITELLA

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Becky Piscitella, an outstanding teacher who was awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) by President Barack Obama earlier this month.

Ms. Piscitella teaches eleventh grade mathematics at Richland High School, located in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. She is the only teacher in Pennsylvania to receive this prestigious award this year.

The PAEMST award is given annually to the country's top pre-college level science and mathematics teachers. Ms. Piscitella's award is well deserved as her work promotes science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education. The opportunity for students to receive STEM education is crucial for our nation's competitiveness and future economic welfare. I am delighted that students in the 12th Congressional District of Pennsylvania are able to become the next generation of innovators and leaders because of educators like Ms. Piscitella.

Madam Speaker, I conclude my remarks by congratulating her on this exceptional recognition of her talents, her dedication, and her passion for helping our students succeed. I wish her well as she continues to inspire our young scholars.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I submit the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on June 22, 2010. Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present.

Roll No. 376—H. Con. Res. 288—supporting National Men's Health Week—"aye"; Roll No. 377—H. Res. 546—recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future—"aye"; Roll No. 378—H. Res. 1407—supporting the goals and ideals of High-Performance Building Week—"aye."

RECOGNITION OF CONNOR
ELLISON

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Connor Ellison.

This past Saturday, June 19, 2010, Connor's Hope-Team Donate Life successfully completed a 3,005 mile-long bike ride across the United States in 6 days, 20 hours, and 39 minutes in the Race Across America. The team started their journey in Oceanside, California and completed the crossing in Annapolis, Maryland. Team Donate Life is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting organ donation and transplantation.

Connor Ellison, a 12-year-old Folsom, California resident, became the youngest rider to ever compete and finish the Race Across America—the world's toughest bicycle race. Connor is an inspiration to all of us, as he accomplished this great feat while battling a serious liver disease called Congenital Hepatic Fibrosis.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Connor Ellison and Connor's Hope-Team Donate Life.

IN HONOR OF REPRESENTATIVE
PAMELA THORNBURG

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize today the career and accomplishments of The Honorable State Representative Pamela Thornburg. As a member of Delaware's General Assembly for 10 years, Representative Thornburg has given much to her community and state while faithfully serving her constituents of the 29th District. Representative Thornburg is retiring after an admirable career in the General Assembly, and her presence in the State House will be greatly missed.

First elected to the State Legislature in 2000, Pam has successfully sponsored a number of high-profile laws and initiatives. A cornerstone of her legislative career was a 2007 law to reduce the number of false alarms from automated alarm systems. This visionary legislation sought to streamline emergency response by cutting down on the 99-percent false alarm rate which diverted and distracted essential emergency personnel.

As a State Representative for the 29th District and a member of the House's Agriculture Committee, Pam has worked tirelessly to defend Delaware's environmental interests. She is an agricultural advocate and a champion of preservation; she has ensured that countless acres of forestland have been protected, and, as further testament to her commitment, she also assisted in a separate initiative that secured permanent funding to preserve Delaware farmland from development.

Over her career, Pam has resolutely served the constituents of the 29th District, fighting for

their interests while ensuring their voices were heard in the State House. Pam has had an excellent career in public service, and I wish her the best of luck in her new position as Executive Director of the Delaware Farm Bureau.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1369, which recognizes the significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month. Since June of 2006, the White House has issued an annual proclamation recognizing June as the national Caribbean-American Heritage Month. Caribbean's have made important contributions in all facets of American life from the arts to athletics, science and service.

Actors Sidney Poitier and Harry Belafonte and Journalist Malcolm Gladwell are Caribbean-Americans who have achieved greatness in their careers as well as in their communities as humanitarians and activists.

Mr. Poitier, Mr. Belafonte, and Mr. Gladwell have not only paved the way for their fellow Caribbean-Americans, but also for many other Americans who aspire to be musicians, journalists, actors and agents of change. For the past 50 years, Poitier has been an example to all Americans because of the work he did to help break down barriers in film and cinema. Poitier was recently awarded the 2009 Presidential Medal of Freedom because of his post-Hollywood activities. Belafonte has earned the title "King of Calypso" for popularizing Caribbean style music. Belafonte was also recently awarded the Hubert H. Humphrey Civil and Human Rights Award for his lifelong efforts for equality and justice. Malcolm Gladwell is a best-selling author who TIME magazine recognized in 2005 as one of the 100 most influential people in the world. His works have shown us the importance of looking at life with a critical eye and finding the small factors that have large consequences in our lives.

Because of their fame, Mr. Poitier, Mr. Belafonte and Mr. Gladwell have been properly recognized on multiple occasions; but it is imperative that we recognize the Caribbean-American Community as a whole because the diversity and talent they bring to the United States enriches and strengthens our country.

HONORING EDNA V. BAEHRE, PH.D., COLLEGE PRESIDENT OF HACC, CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. HOLDEN. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor Dr. Edna Victoria Baehre for service as College President for HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College. Dr. Baehre has been the longest serving President of HACC, having held the position for 13 years.

Dr. Baehre is a 1971 graduate of Paedagogische Hochschule in Heidelberg, Germany and holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Her dedication to education has been displayed throughout her life, having held executive positions at community colleges in Illinois and New York before accepting the position of President of HACC in 1997.

During her time at HACC, Dr. Baehre has led the institution through four successive strategic plans, and has laid the groundwork for a fifth. Her vision and leadership have aided the college in meeting the ever-changing and increasing demands for a trained and educated workforce within South-Central Pennsylvania. Dr. Baehre's contribution to the college is also displayed in the undergraduate student enrollment increase from 10,250 in 1997 to nearly 25,000 today. Additionally, 50,000 citizens are currently enrolled in non-credit programs, workforce training, and public safety training.

I congratulate Dr. Baehre on her achievements as President of HACC and for her contribution in aiding the college to expand both in numbers and in status. Her dedication and leadership are to be admired and celebrated, and I wish her the best of luck as she takes her new post as President of Napa Valley Community College.

HONORING ABIGAIL FRONICK AND NATASHA SANFORD

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and acknowledge Abigail Fronick and Natasha Sanford, two young people from the Third Congressional District who are truly a credit to both the State of Missouri and the nation as a whole.

Abigail and Natasha have been selected to receive the Congressional Award for their outstanding efforts in community service and personal development. Each devoted over four hundred hours of voluntary public service to St. Louis Irish Arts, where they taught and performed traditional Irish dance for the benefit of people of all ages.

As is required for the Congressional Award, each of these young women also completed an expedition of personal discovery, traveling to Ireland to become immersed in a different culture and study Irish music.

Natasha and Abigail have both demonstrated a passion for self-discovery through the examination of traditional Irish culture, and extended that passion to the education and betterment of others within their community.

Young people such as these show a promising future for the United States, and I am proud and honored to have such individuals in the Third Congressional District of the great state of Missouri. I find it fitting that we should recognize their achievements here today, and I look forward to how they will continue to apply themselves in the future.

CONGRATULATING CHELSEY HOFER AND ANGEL MILLENDER, WINNERS OF THE 2010 CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD MEDAL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two of my constituents, Chelsey Marie Hofer and Angel Millender, the recipients of the 2010 Congressional Award Gold Medal, the United States Congress' only award for American youth. Earning this award requires at least 400 hours of community service, including 200 hours of both personal development and physical fitness activities, and a four-night expedition or exploration. Since 1979, the Congressional Award has inspired our Nation's youth to set and achieve personally challenging goals that build character and foster community service, personal development, and citizenship.

I have done a lot during my lifetime, yet I was amazed to see how much these two have accomplished at such a young age. Having volunteered at organizations like the American Red Cross, Girl Scouts of the USA, and People to People International, Ms. Chelsie Marie Hofer has shown great humility and perseverance. As Ms. Hofer said: "I learned that by setting goals and working hard, I can achieve anything." Mr. Angel Millender is passionate and determined. He took the initiative to be of service at his local hospital's Intensive Care Unit to assist individuals dealing with traumatic experiences. Mr. Millender also surrounded himself with positive young men by joining the "Men of Tomorrow" youth group. Both award winners traveled internationally for their "Expedition Experience"—Ms. Hofer to Japan and Mr. Millender to Panama, where they embraced the local culture and history.

Madam Speaker, Martin Luther King, Jr., said: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" The recipients of the Gold Medal are shining examples of a sense of civic duty at an early age. I congratulate both Ms. Chelsey Hofer and Mr. Angel Millender of West Palm Beach, Florida, on this incredible achievement. I am inspired by their energy, passion and commitment to service their community.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the 23rd Congressional District of Florida's recipients of the 2010 Congressional Award Gold Medal for all they have done to serve the Palm Beach County community and I wish them much success in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Ms. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I missed 3 votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows.

Rollcall No. 376, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Con. Res. 288, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 377, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 546, I would have voted "yea."