

Madam Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Dr. Kimpel on the many accomplishments that he has achieved throughout his lifetime and I thank him for his life's commitment to weather, science, and severe-storm prediction. Additionally, I would like to thank Dr. Kimpel for the example he has set for future meteorologists and researchers to follow, and for the fine career in which he has dedicated his life's work to. Madam Speaker, I am genuinely pleased to be able to say that I represent Dr. Kimpel and his family, and the laboratory that he created and worked so diligently for. I wish him luck in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST JOSEPH JOHNSON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to Army SPC Joseph Dennis Johnson. Specialist Johnson was killed on June 16, 2010 in Kunduz, Afghanistan by a roadside bomb. Funeral services will be held on June 26 at Flint Central Nazarene Church.

After graduating from Carmen-Ainsworth High School in 2004, Specialist Johnson enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2006 and served as an Airborne Engineer disarming improvised devices. He had been stationed in Afghanistan since December 2009. Specialist Johnson considered it a privilege and honor to serve his country. I had the opportunity to meet and talk to Specialist Johnson when we flew from Washington, DC to Michigan together several years ago. I was attending the funeral of a friend, Jack Maxwell, and Jack was Specialist Johnson's great-grandfather. As I sat next to him on the airplane and again at the funeral, I was impressed by his deep love for our country, his passion for his work and his devotion to his family.

Specialist Johnson will be deeply missed by his parents, Dennis and Teri Johnson, his sister Jennifer Pollak, grandparents Eugene and Lois Johnson and Glenna Maxwell; his special friend Amanda Gauthier, many nieces, nephews and close friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to stand and take a moment of silence to remember SPC Joseph Johnson. He has made the ultimate sacrifice for the country he loved deeply and our nation is grateful for his steadfast duty. His enthusiasm for life is an inspiration to all that knew him and his integrity is a credit to his parents and family. I extend my condolences to his parents, family and friends and I mourn his passing.

CONGRATULATING GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Gastonia, NC—one of the recipients of the 2010 All-America City Award from the National Civic League. Gastonia, for

the third time, has achieved this honor, which highlights the innovation, inclusiveness, civic engagement, and cross sector collaboration of this unique town.

This year, representatives to the competition highlighted two of Gastonia's most important civic programs. The first is The Shelter of Gaston County, a transitional home for battered women. The second is "Run for the Money," an annual fundraiser that has raised more than \$9 million for non-profits in our area.

It was clear that Gastonia made quite an impression—they were one of only two in the entire competition to receive unanimous support from this year's judges.

Not only was Gastonia recognized with this honor, but Gastonia team member Luis Rios, president of the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council, won the inaugural All-America City Teen of the Year Award.

In addition to the hard work of the people of Gastonia, I would also like to extend special congratulations to Mayor Jennie Stultz. A native of Gastonia, Mayor Stultz provides the leadership necessary for the City of Gastonia and its citizens to live up to their fullest potential—with great gusto.

It is truly a privilege to represent Gastonia in Congress. Gastonia is well-deserving of being named an All-America City, and I commend the city for the commitment it shows to its citizens and the dedication it has to the traditions and values that make Gastonia so special.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD HUNSUCKER AND THE WALK ACROSS AMERICA TEAM

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard "Ric" Hunsucker, a United States Marine Corps veteran, and the Walk Across America Team for their selfless efforts to bring awareness to disabled veterans across the country.

Mr. Hunsucker, an ironworker from Green Bay, Wisconsin, has completed a challenging yet worthy undertaking that has achieved great success—all in the name of disabled veterans. On Veterans Day, November 11, 2009, Mr. Hunsucker set out to begin his 202 day walk across America to raise donations and awareness for the struggles faced by disabled veterans.

Starting at the Duval County War Memorial in Jacksonville, Florida, Mr. Hunsucker and his support teammate, Jack Dixon, visited countless veterans medical centers and outpatient clinics to meet with disabled veterans, doctors, nurses, family members and the public.

This 2,600-mile journey took them through four time zones and eight states, ending proudly at the Balboa Park War Memorial in San Diego, California on Memorial Day, May 31, 2010. He carried a 5-foot by 3-foot navy blue Disabled American Veterans flag the entire route. All donations raised went to the Disabled American Veterans organization, a non-profit that advocates and assists those injured while serving their country.

Mr. Hunsucker trained for six months for his 202-day walk and has since gone through

three pairs of sneakers and countless aches and pains. Walking an average of 17 miles a day, meeting the families of those killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan were among the most memorable moments.

Mr. Hunsucker's patriotism and desire to raise awareness for veterans was best explained when he recently stated, "You can build a memorial for those who have been killed, but how can you remember those who are disabled? You take care of them."

Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my personal accolades to the Walk Across America Team for such a remarkable and dedicated journey.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE ZATKIN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, my colleague HENRY WAXMAN and I join together to mark an important occasion for California's and the nation's health care policy community. After leading the public policy and government relations team at Kaiser Permanente for the past 20 years, Steve Zatkun has announced that he will retire at the end of this month. He reached this conclusion after having seen a long-awaited event—the enactment of comprehensive health care reform—finally come to pass.

Following his graduation from the University of California at Berkeley in 1969, Steve began his career in health policy, like many other national experts, as a staff person in the California legislature. After starting out as an Intern and Analyst in the California Assembly, Steve served throughout the middle and late 1970s as Senior Consultant to the Assembly Health Subcommittee on Health Personnel, the Joint Committee on Health Sciences Education and the Joint Committee on the Siting of Teaching Hospitals. During his senior staff tenure in Sacramento, he developed major legislation and budget policy on health care workforce and training issues, an area of abiding and continuing interest for him.

While working in the legislature, Steve earned his degree at the McGeorge School of Law and was admitted to the California Bar. In 1978, he joined Kaiser Permanente as a staff counsel focusing on government relations. In addition to leading Kaiser Permanente's government relations function since 1990, he has chaired its Health Policy Committee since its inception in 1996. Since 2004, he has also served as Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Kaiser Foundation Hospitals.

Steve has long been recognized as a leader in the health plan and integrated care delivery sector. He served on the Boards of Directors of the Alliance of Community Health Plans, the California Association of Health Plans and the American Association of Health Plans. In the late 1990s, Steve served on the California Governor's Managed Care Improvement Task Force. He has also served as a member of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' Health Care Insurance Access Advisory Committee.

In his role as a health plan leader, Steve has ably represented Kaiser Permanente as it has grown to serve over 8.6 million people, including over 6 million individuals in our home

state of California. Throughout his time as a senior leader at Kaiser Permanente, Steve has been a strong and consistent public voice within the industry for comprehensive health reform. An article he co-authored in the journal *Health Affairs* in 2006 with Kaiser Permanente leaders George Halvorson and Dr. Jay Crosson served as a model for the exciting, if ultimately unsuccessful effort to enact health reform in California during the legislative session in 2008. The efforts in California demonstrated the potential to bring together health care providers, health plans, businesses, labor unions and consumers in support of comprehensive health reform legislation that could improve both the functioning of health markets and the quality of care, and at the same time help subsidize coverage for those who cannot afford it. The progress made in California, along with the success of reform in Massachusetts and strong efforts in other states, no doubt contributed important momentum necessary to achieve health care reform in this Congress.

As the critical effort to implement national health reform moves forward, we will need industry leaders like Steve to help their organizations and policymakers focus on the tasks at hand—to continuously improve quality and to successfully extend affordable coverage to the millions who currently don't have access to it.

Madam Speaker, we would like to offer the heartfelt thanks of the health policy community for Steve Zarkin's key leadership over many years, and our warmest congratulations on his well-deserved retirement.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAREDO COCA-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Laredo Coca-Cola Bottling Company's 100th year in operation. The Coca-Cola Bottling Company has provided Coca-Cola bottled products to the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas and the Laredo community for 100 years. This bottling company has accomplished a century of service to our community throughout the years.

In 1899, Joseph B. Whitehead and Benjamin F. Thomas convinced The Coca-Cola Company that Coke should be sold in bottles, not just as a fountain drink. A few years later, in 1910, the Laredo Coca-Cola Bottling Company was established by Samuel N. "Silas" Johnson with an initial purchase of 51 gallons of syrup from The Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta, Georgia. The first address for the company was 2202 Montezuma Street. In the early years, bottling equipment was hand and foot-operated, and one hard-working employee could bottle 200 cases in 10 hours of work.

In 1930, Samuel N. Johnson Jr. assumed ownership of the family bottling company and beer distributorship following the death of his father. Following the civic lead of his father, Samuel N. Johnson Jr. believed in the city of Laredo's potential to grow and prosper through innovation and team work.

Samuel N. Johnson Jr. ran the Laredo Coca-Cola Bottling Company until his death in

1962. Under the terms of his will, the Company was held in a trust for two years and subsequently purchased by siblings Betsy Johnson Gill and Samuel N. Johnson, III, in 1964. Lamar Gill, Betsy Johnson Gill's husband, who was from a Coca-Bottling family in Beeville, Texas, took charge of the Company as president and manager; Betsy Johnson Gill served as vice-president; and Sam Johnson III served as president and sole owner of the S.N. Johnson Distributor and secretary-treasurer of the Laredo Coca-Cola Bottling Company.

In 1973, plans were made to relocate the plant to North Laredo, moving the production end of the company in 1974 and the office in 1975 to the Del Mar Industrial Park—where the company still resides at 1402 Industrial Boulevard. On December 15, 1992, the company was sold to Coca-Cola Enterprises, and Tino Villarreal was appointed general manager, a position he still holds today.

Laredo Coca-Cola Bottling Company has a long history of giving back to the community by supporting a variety of organizations and events throughout the area. The Laredo Coca-Cola Bottling Company currently has 98 employees and delivers beverages to more than 2,700 customers in four counties, covering 5,206 square miles. Many of the details of how the bottling business is run have changed greatly over the last century. From one package and one brand to more than 200 brands and 500 packages, the company now offers a portfolio of products that promotes total hydration and an active lifestyle.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have the time to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Laredo Coca-Cola Bottling Company. The Laredo Coca-Cola Bottling Company is celebrating 100 years of service for our community and continuing its mission for South Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 376 on H. Con. Res. 288, rollcall No. 377 on H. Res. 546, and rollcall No. 378 on H. Res. 1407, I am not recorded because I was attending the funeral service of a fallen soldier in my district, Army SPC Brian M. Anderson, who was killed in action while serving his country in Afghanistan. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three resolutions.

ROBERT A. TAFT MIDDLE SCHOOL NAMED SCHOOL TO WATCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to the outstanding achievements of Robert A. Taft Middle School, located in Indiana's First Congressional District. After undergoing a very selective application and interview process, Robert A. Taft Middle School received the distinct

honor of being named one of the "Schools to Watch" by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. For accomplishing an extraordinary feat and exerting remarkable efforts, Robert A. Taft Middle School will receive recognition at a gala dinner during the Schools to Watch Annual Conference. This prestigious event will take place in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, June 24, 2010.

The "Schools to Watch" program honors middle schools that exemplify exceptional performance in education. This rigorous program was developed in 1999 by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. To date, there are eighteen States that participate in this national initiative. Candidates for the "Schools to Watch" program must demonstrate four main criteria: academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and organizational structure. The middle schools that are chosen for the "Schools to Watch" program exceed these standards.

Robert A. Taft Middle School provides education to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students in the Crown Point, Cedar Lake, and Winfield communities in Indiana. In recent years, Robert A. Taft Middle School implemented a program involving innovative educational techniques which made significant contributions to the school's success. Important factors of the new program include interdisciplinary teams that allow staff to create personalized environments, flexible schedules to ensure comprehension, and team planning and preparation periods that provide students with high-quality teachers and learning opportunities. Additionally, the implementation of the "Creating a Safe School" anti-bullying effort made Robert A. Taft Middle School an even stronger candidate for this prestigious honor.

Madam Speaker, I would like to once again extend my most heartfelt congratulations to Robert A. Taft Middle School faculty, staff, and students, as well as Principal Michael Hazen, on being named one of the "Schools to Watch" for 2010. The dedication exhibited by the school and the community serves to inspire us and to encourage other schools across the Nation. It is my honor to have been given this opportunity to recognize such a supreme middle school, and I am honored to have Robert A. Taft Middle School in my district.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 22, 2010, I was absent and thus I missed rollcall votes Nos. 376–378. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor during yesterday's three rollcall votes.