

not only to St. Mary's but to the city itself, have been numerous.

Monsignor Garrity grew up in Somerville, Massachusetts. He is a graduate of St. John's College. In 1973, he was ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of Boston. Prior to coming to St. Mary's, he served parishes in Billerica and Malden. He was also Director of the Catholic Center and was Campus Minister at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell.

In 1992, he was appointed pastor of St. Mary's in Lynn. Since then, he has transformed the parish into a vibrant, welcoming and diverse community. He has breathed new life into the St. Mary's community and engaged support from hundreds of volunteers.

During his tenure both a Haitian Community and a Congolese Community were established at St. Mary's parish. A strategic plan for St. Mary's High School was completed that led to a \$10 million capital campaign and the opening of the William F. Connell Center—a new state of the art academic building, the refurbishment of the school campus and the doubling of enrollment.

Monsignor Garrity's vision led to the conversion of a large, old convent building on the St. Mary's campus into 32 units of much-needed low income elderly housing with a service plan that is modeled like an assisted living arrangement. He was an advocate for the conversion of property located at the closed St. Jean Baptiste parish into low income housing to provide affordable home ownership opportunities.

At the request of Cardinal Sean O'Malley, he is currently serving on three Archdiocesan task forces: the Improved Financial Relationship Committee (IFRC), the Clergy Fund Review Committee and the Elementary School Task Force. Monsignor Garrity is a regular panelist on the RUACH Program, an inter-faith dialogue program on local cable TV and is active in ecumenical and interfaith activities in the Greater Lynn community. His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, named Monsignor a Prelate of Honor with the title of Very Reverend Monsignor in 1998, and Monsignor Garrity was made a Knight of the Holy Sepulcher in 1999.

Through his work, Monsignor Garrity has made a difference in the lives of so many in Lynn, and he will leave behind him an indelible imprint on the community.

I join my friends in the greater Lynn community and the St. Mary's parish family in extending my best wishes to Monsignor Garrity as he embarks upon his next assignment hoping that he understands that he will always be welcome "home" to St. Mary's and Lynn whenever he ventures this way.

COMMENDING KATHY DIXON AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF FOSTER CAREGIVERS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the heartfelt commitment of Kathy Dixon and foster caregivers for their tireless, selfless efforts to transform the lives of children who need another chance in life. Foster parents like Kathy wrap the necessities

of life in the warm heart of family, providing the opportunity for children and young adults to recover from their pasts and reclaim their lives. Foster caregivers remind us that the act of building a quality life for others is truly a remarkable and honorable achievement. All children deserve the best shot at life. Foster caregivers are those who have determined that the best shot does not end with heartbreak, but ends instead with the resolution to succeed.

I received letters from two of Kathy Dixon's foster children, Tynequa and Tony Wardlow. Kathy represents the very best in foster parenting, a courageous woman who has devoted her heart and soul to caring for young children who needed someone to care for and nurture them. As Tynequa writes, "She took me in when I had nowhere to go." Tony says that, "she is the one who picks me up when I fall." He writes that he prayed God would send him a mother who "would hold on to me like someone with a big heart." God, he said, sent him Kathy, "and so much more." Tynequa insists that Kathy has not only saved her life, but also has taught her "to stand up for what I believe in, have faith in myself, be responsible and respectful, get my education, don't be fake, don't have low self-esteem, don't buy friendship, and most importantly, don't give up on hope." I cannot imagine a greater gift in this world than what Kathy has given to her children.

I am pleased to work with many foster care organizations in my district in South Florida. Just recently I met with a group of foster youth—in their late teens and early twenties now—who came to Washington, DC as part of the Broward County Trip of a Lifetime, an annual effort to bring these young adults to our nation's capital to meet their congressional representatives and learn how our government works. I take enormous pride in the opportunity I had to sit down with these young men and women and hear their stories and hopes and dreams for the future. Several of these youth have children of their own now and are working hard to impart to their children the wisdom, love, and affection given to them by their foster families. And it is because of the support they had from their foster families that these youth now dream of becoming engineers, entrepreneurs, social workers, nurses, and much else. In South Florida, organizations like Forever Family have proved enormously successful at changing lives, finding stable homes for children and young adults in need, and setting hundreds of young people on the right path in life.

Madam Speaker, American society is forever indebted to the hard work, deep commitment, determined sacrifice, and unconditional love demonstrated by people like Kathy Dixon. She is an inspirational role model, not just to myself or any one of us here in Congress but, more importantly, to her own children, who recognize the transformation she brought about in their lives. As Tony writes, "God has blessed me with so many gifts that I will never forget."

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. BEVERLY TERRY'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MSU EXTENSION IN OAKLAND COUNTY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Beverly Terry, Executive Director of the Oakland County Michigan State University Extension Office, on her retirement from the MSU Extension service. As a Member of Congress it is both my privilege and honor to recognize Ms. Terry for her many years of service and her contributions which have enriched and strengthened our community.

Ms. Terry's career began over 30 years ago when she joined the MSU Extension as the Presque Isle 4-H program assistant. She put her bachelors degree in community development from Central Michigan University and a masters degree in community services from Michigan State University to good use during her tenure with MSU Extension. Through her hard work, ingenuity, and dedication Ms. Terry eventually rose to the position of Executive Director of the Oakland County MSU Extension Office, serving the second largest county in the State of Michigan. As Executive Director, she has worked with her staff to develop and enhance critically important lifestyle and skill development programming.

Michigan State University Extension's mission is to help people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs, and opportunities. Ms. Terry has been a tireless advocate and coordinator of this mission. She has overseen and advanced a variety of critical human services programs in Oakland County including 4-H youth development, the master gardener program, the family nutrition program, and the citizen planner program, just to name a few. Under Ms. Terry's leadership, these programs have prospered in the face of a challenging economy with uncertain funding.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Ms. Beverly Terry for her many contributions to our community and her leadership at the MSU Extension. I wish her many more years of health and happiness.

HONORING DIVISION I STATE CHAMPION GIRLS' SOCCER NOVI HIGH SCHOOL

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the Division 1 State Champion Girls' Soccer Novi High School. On June 19, 2010, the Novi Lady Wildcats sealed a 2-1 victory over Plymouth, marking the 4th Division 1 State Championship under the Head Coach Brian O'Leary since 2005.

After having amassed a division record of 8-1-1 and sharing the Kensington Lake Athletic Association's Central Division title with the Northville Mustangs, the Lady Wildcats

headed in to district play with overall regular season tally of 14–2–2. Novi dimmed the Knights of Walled Lake Northern 1–0 before crushing the Farmington Falcons 5–0 in the district semifinal. The 'Cats eliminated the North Farmington Raiders to win the District 9 crown.

Moving on to regional match-ups, Novi got past Fraser's Ramblers by a score of 2–1. The Lady Wildcats defense would prove impenetrable against both Troy and Rochester Adams as the Green and White eked out identical 1–0 scores against the opposition in regional final and state semifinal matches, setting the stage for a Wildcat showdown.

Facing their KLAA rival Plymouth Wildcats in the final match of the season, the Novi Wildcats buried a 12 yard penalty kick midway through overtime giving Novi the right to raise high the Division 1 State Championship trophy.

Madam Speaker, with a season record of 21–2–2 and having earned an astounding 4th state title in the last 6 years, the 2010 Novi Lady Wildcats deserve to be recognized for their determination, achievement, spirit and effort. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Wildcats for obtaining this spectacular title and in honoring their devotion to our community and country.

GRANTING SUBPOENA POWER TO COMMISSION INVESTIGATING BP DEEPWATER OIL SPILL

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5481, granting Subpoena Power to the Commission Investigating the BP Oil Spill. Last month, President Obama established the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling, a panel that will be vital to investigating the disaster and assuring this does not happen again. However, this Commission does not have subpoena power—something critical to ensuring the full disclosure of evidence and witnesses.

In the aftermath of 9/11, I supported similar legislation that gave subpoena power to those investigating the terrorist attacks. Now we face a different kind of attack from the oil gushing out of the Gulf of Mexico. Similar to the work done post 9/11, the clean up workers are getting sick from this toxic waste.

The Commission must have the ability to investigate the shortcuts, cost-cutting and lack of oversight by BP and other responsible entities. Such unprincipled actions cost the lives of 11 men, injured 17, and continue to destroy an ecosystem and change a way of life for those along the Gulf. In order for the task force to mitigate the risks of future oil spills, the Commission must have full understanding of what led to the explosion on the Deepwater Oil Rig.

We need answers to the causes of this ecological man-made disaster. We need to be able to prevent this from happening again. The oversight inquiries Congress has already conducted into BP, Transocean and Halliburton have yielded crucial information. And

now, with subpoena power, the Commission can conduct its investigation to the fullest.

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ROBERT FIKE

HON. KATHLEEN A. DAHLKEMPER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of a fallen hero from Western Pennsylvania. Sergeant First Class Robert Fike of Conneautville, Pennsylvania was 38 years old when he made the ultimate sacrifice defending our nation in Afghanistan.

On June 11th, a suicide bomber detonated an explosive near the Bullard Bazaar in Zabul Province in southern Afghanistan where Sergeant First Class Robert Fike and his fellow soldier, Staff Sergeant Hoover, also of Western Pennsylvania, were on foot patrol. Both these brave men were killed in the explosion. They were members of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's Company C, 1st Battalion, 110th Infantry, based in Connellsville.

Robert Fike was passionate about his service to his country, and was the third generation of his family to be a member of the Armed Forces. He joined the Pennsylvania National Guard in 1993 after earning a degree in organic chemistry from Edinboro University in 1992. During his long military career, he served two tours overseas in Saudi Arabia from 2002 to 2003 and in Iraq from 2007 to 2008.

Protecting his community and his country was a way of life for Robert Fike. Every month, he drove the two hours from his home in Crawford County to Johnstown for specialized drills with the 20th Military Police Company. Robert also worked as a prison guard at the State Correctional Institute at Albion.

For his brave service and sacrifice, Sergeant First Class Robert Fike was awarded the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service medals and the Iraq Campaign Medal.

Robert is survived by his parents, James and Christine, and his 12 year old daughter, Mackenzie.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Sergeant First Class Robert Fike in the Record of the United States House of Representatives for service, sacrifice, commitment to his country and to our freedom.

While we struggle to express our sorrow over this loss, we can take pride in the example Robert set as a soldier. Today and always, he will be remembered by family and friends as a true American hero, and we cherish the legacy of his service and his life.

As I search for words to do justice to this valiant fallen soldier, I recall President Abraham Lincoln's words as he addressed the families of soldiers who died at Gettysburg:

"We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Robert.

CALLING FOR RELEASE OF ISRAELI SOLDIER BY HAMAS

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, earlier this year, the Jewish community celebrated the holiday of Passover, the Festival of Freedom. On that holy day, in thousands of synagogues and dining rooms, a somber yet determined prayer of hope was recited for Israeli soldiers held in captivity:

"Redeem them from amongst the kidnapped, and take them from slavery to freedom, from servitude to redemption, from darkness to light, and fully heal their wounds. Give them courage and spirit and strengthen their resilience."

Today, on the eve of a solemn anniversary, I would like to remind my colleagues of one Israeli who has remained in captivity for four years. On June 25th, 2006, Hamas and two other groups brutally and unjustifiably attacked an Israeli patrol, murdering two soldiers and kidnapping wounded Corporal Gilad Shalit, a member of the Israel Defense Forces' Armor Corps. Since then, Gilad Shalit has been denied medical attention, physical contact with his family, and visits from humanitarian groups like the International Committee of the Red Cross. This treatment constitutes clear violations of the Geneva Convention.

Moreover, Hamas has refused to negotiate the release of the abducted soldier despite the involvement of credible third parties and Israel's frequent acts of goodwill. For example, Israel proposed an exchange of hundreds of Palestinians being held in Israel for Shalit's freedom. Israel also takes a proactive stance in providing adequate humanitarian aid to Gaza's civilians. In fact, Israel recently eased the Gaza blockade. Yet Hamas continues to defy Israel's cooperative efforts and international pressure. By mocking diplomatic efforts to free Corporal Shalit peacefully, Hamas is exploiting the anguish of Shalit's family.

I am proud to have recently cosponsored bipartisan H. Res. 1359, which calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Gilad Shalit from Hamas captivity. This resolution sends the strong and undeniable message that the actions of Hamas are not only in violation of international custom and law, but they are also morally reprehensible and inhumane.

Corporal Shalit's release is not merely an Israeli goal; it should be the objective of the international community. Together, we should use available resources and strategies to obtain his immediate and safe release. I strongly call on President Obama, Secretary Clinton, and Ambassador Rice to advocate for Gilad Shalit's safe return and to stand beside Israel in its efforts to protect its soldiers and defend its citizens.