

said to have been grown here. The garden is a popular retreat and is open to the public from dusk to dawn.

Through the efforts of its Trustees, staff, members and volunteers, Macculloch Hall Historical Museum continues to serve thousands of annual visitors from the greater Morristown, New Jersey community and throughout the United States, who come to the site to enjoy the beauty and history portrayed by its collections, engage with compelling political history in the works of Thomas Nast, and experience the tranquility of the historic gardens.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Macculloch Hall as they celebrate these milestones.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VERNON J. EHLDERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. EHLDERS. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 480, 481, and 482, I was absent due to a commitment to speak to a large group in the Cannon Caucus Room, and could not leave them in mid-meeting.

Had I been present, I would have voted 480: "yes"; 481: "no"; 482: "yes."

SUPPORTING OF JUNIPERO SERRA HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of Junipero Serra High School which is located in Gardena, California in my district. Serra High has become the first in California state history to win a state football championship and a state basketball championship in the same school year. Even more remarkable and more important is the fact that for three years running, 100% of Serra High School's graduating seniors were accepted to college.

Junipero Serra High School is operated by the Department of Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Serra High School was founded in 1950 and graduated its first class in 1953. Over the years, the school has played a very important role in the life of the community, graduating over six thousand students in the South Bay area.

Serra's recent achievements add immensely to its already strong legacy. In December, the Cavaliers became the California Interscholastic Federation's Division III state champions in football with a victory that was "as much a triumph of athletic skill as one of perseverance from year to year and play to play," as local newspaper the Daily Breeze stated. Against Marin Catholic High School, the Cavaliers won 24–20, establishing themselves as a dominant force in the very competitive California high school football climate.

In March, Serra High School captured the Division III basketball championship with a 63–59 overtime victory over Oakland's Bishop O'Dowd completing the historic double victory.

Not Santa Ana's Mater Dei, not Concord's De La Salle, not Los Angeles' Crenshaw High, not Long Beach Poly—no athletic powerhouse, private or public in California, had completed such a feat until Serra High did it. At the end of the 2009–10 school year, Serra's athletic program was rated by ESPN as the fourth best all-around high school athletic program in the USA and the number one program in California. I also understand the Cavalier Track team came within two points of being state champions and that the Girls Basketball and Track teams have also excelled.

I congratulate President Erick Rubalcava, Principal Michael Wagner, Athletic Director Ted Dunlap, Head Football Coach Scott Altenberg, Head Basketball Coach Dwan Hurt, their assistant coaches, the entire school staff and all of the amazing faculty and students at Serra for their excellence both in academics and athletics.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I was detained from votes due to a meeting on July 28, 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: rollcall 477, "nay" rollcall 478; "yea" rollcall 479, "yea."

HONORING MR. RICARDO TRIBIN

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, this week Colombia celebrates 200 years as a sovereign nation. As we congratulate our democratic ally and friend on its Bicentennial, it is fitting that we also honor some of Colombia's finest, and among them is Ricardo Tribin.

As former President of the Colombian American Chamber of Commerce and current Board Member, Ricardo continues to be a leader for small businesses in South Florida. He has created opportunities for Colombian Americans to become successful business men and women, immerse themselves in the world of trade and commerce, and expand their businesses. As a consultant and businessman himself, Ricardo has been able to use his knowledge and experience to help others, and does so with humility and professionalism. He has successfully authored and published a number of self-help books in the United States and Colombia, encouraging others to move past life's most difficult challenges and find strength to achieve success in both personal and professional settings.

Ricardo is also fully engaged in ensuring that the needs of his community are met and actively participates in the democratic process. He understands the need for a Free Trade Agreement between the United States and Colombia and the positive impact it would have on the South Florida economy by creating jobs. As such, he has been a leading voice in urging passage of the deal. Ricardo is

also a firm believer in the principles of liberty and freedom and works to ensure that his native Colombia continues to be Latin America's leading democracy.

I ask that you join me in honoring and thanking my good friend Ricardo Tribin for his hard work, service and dedication to free enterprise, empowering others, and seeing his community flourish.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS G. DENOMME

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Thomas Denomme, the 2010 recipient of the Community Service Award given by the Birmingham Community House, located in Birmingham, Michigan. Since it was established in 1923, the Birmingham Community House has been a community institution and hub of civic life in our area.

Mr. Denomme's recognition is well-deserved. His personal and professional accomplishments and contributions have made the Birmingham community, and indeed, Southeast Michigan, a better place to live, raise our children and do business.

Mr. Denomme's career began in southeast Michigan after obtaining his marketing degree from the University of Detroit in 1961. He embarked on a career in the automotive world at Ford Motor Company and spent 20 years there before moving to the Chrysler Corporation in 1980. He was a leader at Chrysler, serving as a Vice-Chairman and the Chief Administrative Officer during the 1990s.

While working in a key industry in Michigan, Tom remained committed to civic activism in a variety of arenas. He served his alma mater, the University of Detroit, as a tireless advocate and by serving on its Board of Trustees for a number of years. He lent his time, energy and expertise to a number of major community efforts and organizations including the Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation, the Michigan Gaming Commission, the Detroit Investment Fund, and the Congressional Economic Leadership Initiative.

Currently, Mr. Denomme serves as Chairman of the Board for William Beaumont Hospital, a nationally renowned and respected health institution that is centered in my Congressional District. His service to that institution and the surrounding community was recognized recently when he received the Michigan Health and Hospital Association Keystone Center for Patient Safety and Quality Leadership Award.

Madam Speaker, I am honored today to recognize Thomas Denomme for his years of service to the people and institutions of Birmingham, Michigan and all of Southeast Michigan. We live in a better community due to his selfless commitment to civic service and he serves as an example to us all. I thank the Birmingham Community House for honoring Mr. Tom Denomme this year with its 2010 Community Service Award.

HONORING DR. JOYCE HEDLUND,
PhD

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD
OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Joyce Hedlund.

The former president of Eastern Maine Community College in Bangor, Joyce is now the president of Washington County Community College in Calais.

A native of Fort Kent, Joyce has dedicated herself to education for the past 36 years, having started her career in higher education administration at the University of Maine at Fort Kent, then at the University of Maine, Husson University, and finally at Eastern Maine Community College in 1987 as president for sixteen years. Joyce has been credited as a visionary leader and an integral member of her community. She is a member of the Maine Higher Education Council, the state committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Secretary/Treasurer for the Maine Compact for Higher Education, a member of the College Board's New England Community College Advisory Committee, a Commissioner on the ACE Commission on Lifelong Learning and board member for Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems and the Eastern Maine Development Corporation.

An accomplished academic, Joyce holds a PhD from the University of Maine, where she also received her master's and bachelor's degrees in personnel services and counselor education. She is a graduate of the Delta Class of Leadership Maine and is the recipient of the 1998 Kenneth M. Curtis Leadership Award, granted by the Alumni of Leadership Maine.

Joyce is recognized as one of New England's most outstanding college leaders; I am confident she will continue her track record of excellence in her new role with the Washington County community college system. Joyce has left a lasting mark on Eastern Maine Community College and surrounding areas. On behalf of the people of Maine, it is with pride that I congratulate Joyce for her excellent work; I would also like to offer my continued support and best wishes.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Joyce Hedlund for her continued commitment to the education of Maine's students.

STRIDE, STRIDE BY STRIDE: SGT KENDRA COLEMAN, 173RD SPECIAL TROOPS BATTALION, AIRBORNE, THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Georgia's finest! On May 11, 2010 in Charkh Afghanistan, an American Hero named Seargent Kendra Coleman of The 173rd Special Troops Battalion Airborne, United States Army almost lost her life in an IED explosion. Clinging to life, and

losing her leg she had a choice to make, give up or get up! She chose to get up and begin her run to recovery! In just a few short months she traveled so far and so fast in her recovery. The strides she has made, have taught us all so much, and will continue to bless us all. She is a shining example of the type of women and men who serve our Nation in The United States Armed Forces, and their families quiet courage who help them to recover. Kendra and her husband Brandon, are rebuilding their life at record pace, and they make us all proud to be Americans. I ask that this poem penned in honor of them by Albert Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

STRIDE, STRIDE BY STRIDE

Stride,
Stride by Stride!
Step, Step by Step!
All within a fine heart resides. . . .
All in what, a heart of honor so excepts. . . .
So excepts, so deep down inside!
This gift from God!
That which so brings tears, to even the Angel's eyes.
Our Nation blesses, with all of your most selfless sacrifice so yes this. . . .
As yes you Kendra, are but where courage lies. . . . where Courage Crest's!
A Hero who goes off to war. . . .
All for our God and Country Tis of Thee, as was your burden bore!
When, all in the midst of most evil war. . . .
A hero lies bleeding, clinging to life. . . . As Such Strength In Honor. . . .
Faith In Heart's, she is so needing!
As when you looked down, and saw what this war had found!
As when, your most courageous heart began to pound. . . .
With only one leg now!
As you hit the ground running, for nothing was going to hold you down!
Wiping those tears from your most beautiful eyes, and as you began to stride!
Step by Step! Stride by Stride, as defeat you would not except! RISE!
Going The Distance, When Courage Crests!
To Teach Us! To So Beseech Us! To All Hearts, To So Reach Us!
Running To Recovery, upon wings of courage you now so glide!
Because, your Army Strong! Because, The Title Hero. . . . upon you so belongs!
Mothers! Fathers! Teach your daughters about this great American Love Song!
And The Steps We Take, The Strides We Must Make! All to live a great life!
Kendra, at such a great pace. . . . your fine heart so runs this night!
Oh how you Shine, 'Oh how you bring your light!
In life, What Steps do take?
What strides must we so make?
To Heaven rise!
Hooah! Kendra. . . .
Oh how you touch our hearts inside!
With each new Stride!
Stride By Stride!

HERO DAJA WANGCHUK MESTON

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to share with our colleagues the untimely passing of a brave and heroic man who made the cause of fighting for the people of Tibet his life's calling.

Daja Wangchuk Meston served as my guide when I traveled to Tibet in 1997. Accompanied

only by my late chief of staff Charlie White and Daja, I was at the time just the second sitting member of the U. S. House of Representatives to visit Tibet since the Chinese occupation began in 1959. We traveled with U.S. passports and on tourist visas issued by the government of China. At no time did anyone ask nor did I make known that I was a member of Congress. Had I done so, I am sure that my visit would not have been approved, just as other members of Congress requesting permission to visit Tibet have been turned down.

I couldn't have made the trip without Daja. He knew the Tibetan people and their struggles against iron-fisted Chinese rule. He opened the doors for my meetings with persecuted monks, men and women on the street and others who risked their personal safety and well-being to steal a few moments alone with me to reveal the unspeakably conditions in Tibet and to petition help and support from the West. He later paid the price for his heroism when he returned to Tibet to investigate the Chinese government's population resettlement program underwritten by the World Bank. He was subsequently captured, tortured and imprisoned by Chinese authorities, and badly injured when he tried to escape by jumping from a window. He endured a harrowing experience before his release.

In our search for modern-day heroes, Daja Wangchuk Meston is a true hero. I am thankful that I had the opportunity to know him. I submit for the RECORD a moving account of Daja's life written by Linda Anna Mancini, coordinator of the Boston Tibet Network, who worked closely with Daja. The Boston Tibet Network links various Tibetan support groups, local individuals, national and international organizations, and the Tibetan Association of Boston.

Daja Wangchuk Meston was beautiful in his modesty, strength and honesty. Powerful in his choices. This hero would not be called by that title when he was with us, but now that he has left us, I feel compelled to name him the hero that he was. Brave in the face of danger, with strength above tragedy, Wangchuk was a hero. It was my honor to know him. Such a beautiful man.

With so much sadness at his death, I look at his brave life for comfort. While remembering his work, I can treasure his dignity and all that he achieved. May the memory of his beauty and achievements sustain his family and all who loved him and cherish him still.

Certainly His Holiness the Dalai Lama is the most significant treasure to Tibetans and Tibet supporters. He is a great leader. And, as he knows, the actions of many others also shed a light—Wangchuk was one, a bright light. We are all indebted to him. The moment of his capture in Amdo in 1999 galvanized the Tibetan struggle into the unified grass roots movement that has held strong since that time.

The Tibetan issue in itself is truly an ocean of suffering. Each person's story is distinctive, whether born in Tibet, or India, or the states—or, in Wangchuk's case, an American raised as a Tibetan. Wangchuk was born in Switzerland, child of Americans who traveled to Nepal where his mother placed him with a Tibetan family and later, when he was 6, into the monastery. His mother lived as a nun in India, while his father returned to California burdened with great personal challenges. At 17 Wangchuk left the monastery and came to the states. After a few years, he attended Brandeis. How valiant he