

mud on them yet. We lost a lot of men there."

"Then as soon as the war ended in Okinawa, they loaded us on LST's and they took us to Korea. We went in on the west side at a place called Inchon. They loaded us on a narrow-gauge railway train, and every little hill that we'd go up, we'd have to get out and help push the train," Harrison said.

His unit, now the 42nd Engineering Construction Battalion, was deployed near Seoul, Korea, in late August, 1945, to help build the Temple Airfield.

"I remember the first time I went up the streets of Seoul, you could go across the Han river and look straight ahead to the capitol and it looked like a beautiful city, and from the front side of the street it did, but you'd go around the back to the alleys and maybe a cow or a pig would be sticking its head out the window," Harrison said.

He was in Korea until July, 1946. He earned a bronze battle star, three overseas service bars, an Asiatic/Pacific Theater ribbon, a victory medal, an army of occupation medal and a good conduct medal.

"When I came home from the service, first I worked [to] help building Quonset huts for the veterans over at Iowa State College," Harrison said. "Then I went to work for Otis lumber yard, doing carpentry work. I did that until 1956, and then I went on the fire department."

Harrison would spend 28 years with the fire department, and in 1985 he began working at the county courthouse as Director of Veteran's Affairs for 20 years. When working as a carpenter, Harrison helped build 16 new homes in Boone.

"Growing up, everyone worked, so I always did work. If I were younger I'd still work today. That was drilled into me when I was a young kid, that if you wanted something out of life you had to work for it and I still feel that way today," Harrison said.

Harrison has undergone knee replacement surgery, but stays active and walks each day. He has a daughter living in Boone, two sons, seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Harrison said he has no significant regrets from his time in the Army, and he appreciates accoutrements for veterans such as VA hospitals.

"Back in those days, you knew when it came your time to go into the service and you were old enough, you went. You just didn't make a fuss about it," he said.

Harrison said he feels remorse for soldiers from the current conflict, facing a war that is so different from the one he participated in.

"I wish all the young men and women in the service the best," Harrison said.

People today are fairly savvy to modern wars, he said, and modern soldiers thankfully have the option to remain in contact with family and friends without relying on censored mail, as was the case in World War II.

Harrison will board an Honor Flight next month on August 19, and will visit the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

I commend John Harrison for his many years of loyalty and service to our great nation. It is an immense honor to represent him in the United States Congress, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, on September 14, 2010 I was absent for two rollcall votes. If I had been here, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall vote 519 and "yea" on rollcall vote 520.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Tuesday, September 14, 2010, I was unable to cast votes on rollcall votes 519 and 520. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 519 and 520.

## COMMENDING BRANDON ACADEMY'S DESIGNATION AS A 2010 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

### HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Brandon Academy of Brandon, Florida, for winning the prestigious 2010 National Blue Ribbon Schools award. This recognition of incredible accomplishment was bestowed on the Academy by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

Brandon Academy is a private school in Hillsborough County that provides for the intellectual development of 227 pre-kindergarten through 8th grade students. It boasts one of the most well-balanced curriculums in the nation, offering exceptional instruction in math, science, writing, and the arts. Thus, the Academy equips its students with the skills they need to become upstanding, productive, and well-informed citizens. The high achievement of the Academy's student body is in no small part due to the involvement of parents in their children's education.

The Blue Ribbon Schools award is considered the highest honor an American school can obtain. Schools singled out for this national honor reflect the goals of our nation's education reforms for high standards and accountability. Specifically, the Blue Ribbon Schools program is designed to honor public and private schools that are either academically superior in their states or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

I applaud Head of School Robert Rudolph and Principal Sondra Cliggitt, as well as the teachers and students of Brandon Academy for their hard work and commitment to excellence. A good education is essential to ensuring that future generations lead more successful, fulfilling lives. They are making a true difference in the lives of so many, and building communities that improve students' learning.

IN HONOR OF FIRE CHIEF  
TIMOTHY A. POTTS

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Fire Chief Timothy A. Potts on the occasion of his retirement from the Olmsted Falls Fire Department. He honorably served the people of Olmsted Falls with unwavering dedication for 35 years as a paramedic, firefighter and fire chief.

Chief Potts joined the Olmsted Falls Fire Department on April 14, 1975, and two years later he graduated as a paramedic. Throughout his tenure as a firefighter and paramedic, Chief Potts' motivation to study, and then later teach, never diminished. In 1981, Chief Potts became a river rescue instructor and his expertise in this area of rescue became sought after by numerous departments across the state of Ohio. Throughout the 1980s, he travelled throughout the state to teach courses on river rescue and rope rescue.

In 1988, Chief Potts was sworn in as lieutenant and, in 1990, he began teaching all areas of pre-hospital emergency medical care to firefighters and paramedics at Southwest General Hospital. Throughout his career, Chief Potts sought to strengthen and enhance the Olmsted Falls Fire Department. He wrote grants for his department totaling nearly \$1 million, and helped other fire departments secure more than \$4 million in funding. In addition, Chief Potts was instrumental in designing the new Olmsted Falls Fire Department building and firehouse. He was sworn in as fire chief in June of 2004.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Fire Chief Timothy A. Potts for his focus and dedication to keeping the people who live and work in Olmsted Falls safe and secure. His work and accomplishments as chief, firefighter, paramedic and instructor reflect integrity, excellence, expertise and heart. His efforts will continue to enhance the foundation of safety and well being throughout Olmsted Falls and will provide a shining example for all who will follow in his path.

## A TRIBUTE TO THE 2010 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2010 recipients of the coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Presented annually by the National Ethnic Coalition (NECO), the Ellis Island Medal of Honor pays tribute to our Nation's immigrant heritage, as well as individual achievement. The medals are awarded to U.S. citizens from various ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage. Since NECO's founding in 1986, more than 2,000 American citizens have received Ellis Island Medals of Honor, including six American

Presidents, several United States Senators, Congressmen, Nobel Laureates, outstanding athletes, artists, clergy, and military leaders.

As we all know, citizens of the United States can trace their ancestry to many nations. The richness and diversity of American life makes us unique among the Nations of the world and is in many ways the key to why America is the most innovative country in the world. The Ellis Island Medals of Honor not only celebrate select individuals but also the pluralism and democracy that enabled our ancestors to celebrate their cultural identities while still embracing the American way of life. This medal is not about money, but about people who really seized the opportunities this great country has to offer and who used those opportunities to not only better their own lives but make a difference in the lives of those around them. By honoring these outstanding individuals, we honor all who share their origins and we acknowledge the contributions they and other groups have made to America. I commend NECO and its Board of Directors headed by my good friend, Nasser J. Kazeminy, for honoring these truly outstanding individuals for their tireless efforts to foster dialogue and build bridges between different ethnic groups, as well as promotes unity and a sense of common purpose in our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good works of NECO, and congratulating all of the 2010 recipients of the Ellis Island Medals of Honor. I also ask unanimous consent that the names of this year's recipients be placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

2010 ELLIS ISLAND MEDALS OF HONOR  
RECIPIENTS

Ichak K. Adizes, PhD, Adrienne G. Alexanian, Richard F. Ambinder, MD, Cyrus Amir-Mokri, Anousheh Ansari, Rao S. Anumolu, Robert S. Atallah, Mohamed A. Atassi, MD, FACC, Kevork D. Atiniazian, Nancy H. Bailey, Hon. Rosemary Barkett, Samira Kanaan Beckwith, Sarkis Bedevian, Dorothy L. Beeve, RN, Jerold E. Beeve, MD, Suraj P. Bhatia, Carole Black, Chief George F. Brown (Ret.), Richard R. Buery, Jr., Michael Capasso, Dominic Chianese, Hank Hyunho Choi, Yen S. Chou, Jim Lin-Chi Chu, Carl J. Clause, Eugene P. Conese, Sr., John F. Conley, Thomas J. Cook, Edward Cruz, Paul R. Davies, Chief Raymond Diaz, Edward B. Diethrich, MD, Andre C. Dimitriadis, PhD, Borko B. Djordjevic, MD, Thomas J. Donohue, David Du, David B. Falk, Lina Fang, Eric Friedberg, Col. Arnald D. Gabriel, USAF (Ret.), Rod G. Gilbert, Col. David G. Goulet, USMC, E. Bulkeley Griswold, Col. Gina M. Grosso, USAF, S. K. Gupta, Wolf Hengst, Gregory M. Hodge, PhD, Maj. Gen. Karl R. Horst, USA, Hon. Jerry MacArthur Hultin, Chief James Jephthah, Ted Johnson, James Keach, Alan Krutchkoff, Tak W. Kwan, MD, William K. Lee, MD, Robert J. Loggia, Wing K. Ma, Vahid Majidi, Fouad Malouf, James V. Malpeso, MD, MSgt. Chester L. Marcus, Jr., USA, Chief Denis McGowan, Shekhar Mitra, PhD, Mohsen Moazami, Curtis E. Moll, Yasmin Motamedi, Jeremiah A. Mullins, Agneta E. Nilsson, RADM Joseph L. Nimmich, Sr., USCG, Irene M. O'Neill, Bedros S. Oruncakci, Hemant Patel, MD, Francis J. Pearn, Richard R. Pergolis, Timothy A. Phillips, Michael J. Piazza, Hon. Rosemonde Pierre-Louis, Kappana Ramanandan, Maj. Gen. Michael S. Repass, USA, Hon. Edward J. Rollins, Stanley E. Rumbough, Jr., William J. Ryan, Kenan M. Sahin, PhD, Joseph M. Saponaro, John F. Scarpa, Jane Seymour, Faryar Shirzad, John Shu, Esq., Dr. Ruth J. Simmons, Prasad

Srinivasan, MD, George R. Stevenson, Bert R. Sugar, Hon. Eugene R. Sullivan (Ret.), Jordan P. Thomas, Annie S. Totah, Suzanne von Liebig, PhD, William D. Walsh, RADM Philip A. Whitacre, USN (Ret.), Morrill Worcester, Mohammad Yahyavi, Vartkes B. Yeghiayan, Esq., Matt H. Yildizlar, Chang Bin Yim.

HONORING TWO ROCK VALLEY  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON  
THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sesquicentennial of the Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church in Two Rock, a small community outside Petaluma, California, of which I am a member. This small church has a special history in our community for the past 150 years.

The Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church was founded in 1860, approximately 10 years after the first settlers arrived. Fire has destroyed the church sanctuary twice, only to be rebuilt by the community. The first building dedicated in March 1863 was destroyed in October 1895. The second building was dedicated in March 1896 and destroyed in July 1949 by a controlled burn that got out of control on the nearby United States Army property, now a Coast Guard Base. The third and current church sanctuary was dedicated on February 1, 1953.

The congregation owns and operates the Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church Cemetery located adjacent to the church structure. The first internments date back to 1861. Unfortunately, the fire of 1949 destroyed most of the records. A community project was organized in 1992 to identify plot locations and prepare a detailed plot map.

The members of Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church have a long history of community involvement as their mission states "a tradition of witness and service." In 1865, they helped found the Tomales Presbyterian Church which they now consider their sister church.

More recently, the church members are involved with the work of the Petaluma Food Pantry by working with a coalition of other churches to feed the hungry in our community. Their mission extends to regular contributions to the Cents-Ability Hunger Program of the Presbyterian Church (USA) which provides much needed funds both nationally and to Africa.

Congregants are also volunteers at the Two Rock Volunteer Fire Department and the Two Rock Elementary School. Many annual community events including the Abelskiver Breakfast on Mother's Day, the Harvest Festival in September, and the Turkey Dinner in November rely on the volunteers from the church to help bring people from the surrounding community together.

Churches are a place for community members to come together not just to worship but to build the community. Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church is that church to the residents of Two Rock.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the congregation of the Two Rock Valley Pres-

byterian Church in Congress, and I ask that you join me in congratulating them on their accomplishments of the past 150 years and wishing them the best for the future.

MONA DIXON BOYS AND GIRLS  
CLUB YOUTH OF THE YEAR

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Romonia Dixon of Tempe, the recipient of the 2010 Boys and Girls Club of America National Youth of the Year Award.

Mona's remarkable story begins with a difficult past. For much of her life, her family did not have a home of their own and she moved from shelter to shelter to find a place to sleep at night. Sometimes the family was even split up in order to find enough spaces to sleep. Mona did not let difficult circumstances get in the way of her success, however. She worked hard in all aspects of her life; she excelled in school, she financially contributed to her family by holding a part-time job, and she was active in Boys and Girls Clubs of the East Valley in Tempe, AZ.

Dixon went on to graduate with a 3.92 GPA, placing her third in her class of 280. She was also captain of the basketball team and participated in the National Honor Society, Peer Leadership, Student Council and the Math Team. Dixon is currently a freshman at the Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University, and is well on her way to a planned master's degree in international retail management.

We have something in common. She attended Tempe High School, my alma mater and a place I called home for 28 years as a Government teacher and, as I said, she is currently a freshman at ASU which is also my alma mater. With our similar academic paths, Congress may not be far behind for this young woman. This week, I had a chance to sit down and talk with her. I was very impressed with her commitment to her community and expect she will accomplish great things in the years to come.

With this award, she receives a number of scholarships, but the meaning of this award goes far beyond that. It would have been easy for her to take a different path, but she made decisions that would better her life and that has brought her here, today.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mona for her tremendous accomplishment and for setting an example for the young people of our nation.

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS WOLFGRAM

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Louis Wolfgram, a Vietnam War Army and National Guard veteran from Boone County, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his country.