

this capacity, Nick's priorities included improving roadways and rehabilitating the municipal buildings and public facilities. In 1996, Nick was elected as a Lower Swatara Township Commissioner, serving as the Chairman of the Lower Swatara Police Committee and as Secretary and Treasurer of the State Association of Township Commissioners. During this time Nick played an instrumental role in the formation of the Modern Transit Partnership.

Nick's service with the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners began with his election in November of 2003. He was overwhelmingly reelected to a second term four years later. As Vice-Chairman of the Board, Nick served as the oversight commissioner for many of the county's important functions. He successfully guided the complicated sale of the Spring Creek Health Care Rehabilitation Center, and directed the county's emergency response during numerous tragedies. During his tenure, Nick led the Wellness Committee, spearheaded the annual Ride to Work Day, and partnered with the Salvation Army to host their Red Kettle campaign during the holidays.

His leadership earned him and his fellow board members the "Government Leader of the Year" Award in 2006 from the Harrisburg Regional Chamber and CREDC. Nick also won the "People's Choice" for Public Servant of the Year by Harrisburg Magazine in 2008. I consider myself fortunate to have been able to collaborate with Nick on projects such as the Family Group Conferencing Center for the Dauphin County Social Services, modernizing the Harrisburg International Airport, and making improvements and upgrades to crucial roads and bridges throughout Dauphin County.

I would like to congratulate Nick DiFrancesco on his lifetime of public service and thank him for his outstanding citizenship in the community.

COMMEMORATING HUNGER ACTION MONTH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Hunger Action Month and to honor the Arlington Food Assistance Center, which is located in my Congressional District.

Hunger Action Month was established to help inform individuals, communities, corporations and policy makers that hunger is a severe domestic issue and deserves our critical attention. The Arlington Food Assistance Center's sole mission is to feed the hungry. This important action allows their clients to make other necessary purchases, such as paying for rent and utilities, without having to sacrifice their health and nutritional needs.

Despite the fact that Arlington County is one of the wealthiest areas in the country, many of our local residents do not have enough to eat. The Arlington Food Assistance Center seeks to remedy this problem by distributing bread, vegetables, meat, milk, eggs, and other food items to those in Arlington who are in need. AFAC obtains surplus food at no cost from local bakeries, supermarkets, farmer's markets, food drives and private donors. Each

week, families with one to three members receive one bag of food and families of four members or more receive two bags of food—amounts that are expected to supplement a week's meals.

I would like to commend the staff and volunteers of the Arlington Food Assistance Center who work hard to provide needy families in Arlington with groceries each week.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF IRVING'S SUCCESSFUL USE OF THE LEAN SIX SIGMA PROGRAM

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Irving for its successful use and implementation of the Lean Six Sigma Program.

Understanding the need for a more responsive and efficient government, the city of Irving became the first municipality in the State of Texas, and second in the country, to holistically utilize the Lean Six Sigma Program city-wide. Irving initiated this program in October 2007 and expanded it citywide in its efforts to streamline and improve the efficiencies of city operations and staffing structures. The city's emphasis to improve overall customer satisfaction underscores their attentiveness to the concerns of Irving residents and businesses and working diligently to address those issues, making the great city of Irving a better place to live and work.

I commend the city of Irving for its innovative thinking and actively seeking new ways to better serve the needs of residents, visitors, and businesses. Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in recognizing the city of Irving for its successful implementation of the Lean Six Sigma Program.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LT. VERNON J. BAKER, U.S. ARMY CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, it brings me sadness and honor to pay final tribute to LT Vernon J. Baker, United States Army. He passed away on Tuesday, July 13, 2010, at the age of 90, due to complications of brain cancer at his home near St. Manes, Idaho. He will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on September 24, 2010.

Vernon Baker, a black U.S. soldier, belatedly received the Medal of Honor for his World War II battlefield valor after historians concluded he had been wrongly denied the military's top award because of racial prejudice.

Baker, who was born in 1919 in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and orphaned as a small child, was raised by his grandparents in Cheyenne. While working as a railroad porter, he decided to join the U.S. Army in mid-1941, a few months before Pearl Harbor. At his first attempt to enlist, in April 1941, he was turned

away, the recruiter stating "We don't have any quotas for you people." Undaunted, he tried again weeks later with a different recruiter and was accepted. He requested to become a quartermaster but was instead assigned to the infantry.

In 1944, Second Lieutenant Baker was sent to Italy with a full platoon of 54 men, assigned to the all-black 92nd Infantry Division. Despite being wounded in the arm in October of that year and hospitalized near Pisa, he rejoined his unit in reserve along the Gothic Line in December.

On April 5, during his company's attack against a strongly entrenched enemy in mountainous terrain near Viareggio, Italy, his company was stopped by the concentration of fire from several machine gun emplacements. He crawled to one position and destroyed it, killing three Germans. Continuing forward, he attacked an enemy observation post and killed two occupants. With the aid of one of his men, Lieutenant Baker attacked two more machine gun nests, killing or wounding the four enemy soldiers occupying these positions. He then covered the evacuation of the wounded personnel of his company by occupying an exposed position and drawing the enemy's fire. In all, Baker and his platoon killed 26 Germans and destroyed six machine gun nests, two observer posts, and four dugouts.

After the end of the war, Baker remained in Europe with the Allied occupation forces until 1947. He later joined the Army Airborne forces and left the military in 1968 as a first lieutenant. It was after these years of service that Baker returned to his northern Idaho home.

President Bill Clinton presented the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for battlefield valor, to Baker in 1997. He was one of just seven black soldiers to receive it and the only living recipient. The other six soldiers received their awards posthumously.

Due to the racial and social strife prevalent in the 1940s, no black soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during World War II, although, Baker did receive the Purple Heart, a Bronze Star and Distinguished Service Cross. Reflecting on life in a segregated Army unit, Baker told The Washington Post, "I was an angry young man. We were all angry. But we had a job to do, and we did it." He added that he "knew things would get better, and I'm glad to say that I'm here to see it."

Baker's actions on the front line demonstrated better than words can describe why discrimination and segregation in the military was both unfair and absolutely inconsistent with an effective fighting force. He demonstrated a degree of courage few people have. "He was prepared to give his life for his country—a country in which he was considered a second-class citizen," said U.S. Representative WALT MINNICK.

Vernon J. Baker was a great American hero who will forever be remembered as someone who overcame unfair barriers and prejudice to change the course of history. He will be greatly missed; however, his legacy will live on as a source of inspiration for generations to come. I extend my sincere condolences to his family in the wake of this tremendous loss and share their enormous pride in all that he accomplished.

IN MEMORIAM: FIRST
LIEUTENANT MARK NOZISKA

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, last Friday, 24-year old Army First Lieutenant Mark Noziska was laid to rest at West Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Grand Island, Nebraska. He was killed on August 30 near Malajat, Afghanistan, following an IED attack on his patrol. His decorations include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Army Commendation Medal.

Lieutenant Noziska was born in Grand Island, and attended high school in Papillion. He enlisted in the Army National Guard in March 2004, before he graduated from high school that year. He was named Nebraska Soldier of the Year in 2005, and after graduating from the University of Nebraska-Omaha in 2008, earned his commission. His love of Husker football was well-known among his family and friends, many of whom wore "Husker Red" to his funeral. He also loved the Army. He planned a lifelong career of service to our nation, and hoped to one day become a General.

While Lieutenant Noziska's life was tragically cut short, it is clear that he touched and inspired so many of those around him, including the many people from the local community who lined the streets to honor his service and memory. May God bless Lieutenant Noziska and his family, and all our Nation's fallen soldiers.

HONORING RESIDENTS OF THE
CITY OF COUNTRYSIDE, ILLINOIS
ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY
AS A CITY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the residents of Countryside, Illinois, a city in my district that is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

The first settlers came to Countryside in the early 19th century. Joseph Vial and his family are credited with being some of the first to reach the area in 1833. The rich land provided for a rural farming community that remained quietly productive for decades. The Great Chicago Fire of 1871 resulted in the first population boom in Countryside, as city dwellers began to move outside of Chicago to less congested areas.

Despite the influx of new residents, Countryside maintained a quiet and peaceful community through the end of World War II, when the second population boom hit the city. Affordable land enticed urbanites to build new homes in many suburbs like Countryside. The area provided a tranquil community where families could raise and educate their children.

In 1960, the City of Countryside was officially incorporated with a population of about 2,000. The city has since grown to almost 6,000 residents, yet still maintains its charm and remains a close-knit community perfect for raising families.

On Saturday, September 25th, I will be joining Mayor Robert Conrad and hundreds of families in Countryside for the city's 50th Anniversary Party in the Park. Today, I ask you to join me in honoring the residents of Countryside, Illinois on their 50th anniversary as a city. May they continue to thrive and be a welcoming community for families and visitors.

OBSERVING THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE KATRINA—
H. RES. 1577

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for H. Res. 1577, a bill observing the fifth anniversary of the date on which Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast. I thank Congressman ANH JOSEPH CAO for introducing this bill to give us the opportunity to honor and remember the 1,822 lives lost on that fateful day. We also salute the dedicated volunteers who assisted those affected by the storm and aided efforts to rebuild the affected Gulf region.

We celebrate and commemorate the progress made by New Orleans as rebuilding continues and recovery moves forward. The New Orleans Metropolitan area has recovered more than 90 percent of its population and 85 percent of its jobs since the flooding occurred, moving unemployment in the area below the national average.

However, we must not forget that despite these successes, the Gulf Coast still faces challenges that must be addressed. Thousands of residents of the Gulf Coast remain displaced; some are homeless. We will overcome these challenges if we remain strong and unified. President Obama appropriately has reminded us that the legacy of Katrina must be "not one of neglect, but of action; not one of indifference, but of empathy; not of abandonment, but of a community working together to meet shared challenges." Indeed, as we observe this fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, we are encouraged to persevere and remain strong.

HONORING COLMAN MCCARTHY
FOR HIS LEGACY OF PEACE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a courageous and inspirational peace educator and writer, Colman McCarthy.

For over nearly 30 years, I read his columns in the Washington Post constantly pushing for the nonviolent resolution of conflicts, focusing on human security rather than national security. He left the Op-Ed page of the Washington Post in 1997 but he is still sorely missed.

Colman is a man motivated by his focus on the underserved, the forgotten, and the poor. He is guided by a commitment to the justice and equality of all of God's children and the blessed natural environment that too often our modern society forgets.

He has stood up against senseless wars, echoing Dr. King's approaches to conflict and the tremendous devastation it causes from the lives lost, countless wounded, millions of families broken, refugees created, communities destroyed, and unfathomable sums of money wasted.

Colman continues to be a clarion voice against many kinds of violence, including violence and the inhumane treatment of animals.

Three decades ago, Colman was writing regularly about the mistreatment of animals. In 2008, the Humane Society of the United States published his writings in a book entitled: *At Rest with the Animals*. Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States had this to say: "The book showcases the extraordinary breadth of Colman's examination of animal questions. As we revisit his assembled writings, we can see it was not uncommon for him to provide an original moral framing of issues we've now come to debate in society in a serious way."

Some of the advances that we have made in recent years on these issues, from banning puppy mills to outlawing animal crush videos, have stood on the shoulders of Colman writings and advocacy.

We are blessed to have Colman McCarthy and his leadership pointing the way to a peaceful future. As a man of unquestioned integrity, he has taught thousands of youth about nonviolence in many of our local schools.

Madam Speaker, Colman deserves our praise and respect for his decades of service. He recently received the El-Hibri Peace Education Prize, established by Fuad and Nancy El-Hibri, which is given each year to an outstanding individual or organization who has demonstrated successful and innovative approaches to promoting peace and social justice globally.

I'm proud to honor Colman today and will continue giving voice to his message of peace and cooperation through my role as a Member of Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF LEUKEMIA
AND LYMPHOMA SOCIETY MICHIGAN
CHAPTER'S TENTH ANNUAL
LIGHT THE NIGHT WALK

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Leukemia and Lymphoma, LLS, Society Michigan Chapter on the eve of its tenth annual "Light the Night" walk in Michigan. As a Member of Congress, it is my honor to recognize the Michigan Chapter of LLS for its decades of work to help find a cure for these devastating illnesses.

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is a leading organization in the fight to find a cure for blood cancer diseases. Since its inception in 1949, LLS has been a significant resource by supporting blood cancer research with almost \$600 million in finding, providing counseling and informational services to over 100,000 patients and family members who have been confronted with these diseases and providing the resources necessary for blood cancer patients to seek treatment for their illnesses. In addition to these services, LLS has