

women, many of whom I have the privilege to represent, are a backbone of our nation's economy. They work each day in an industry that has been dramatically altered by the larger economic and security crises facing our nation. Yet through it all, these dedicated men and women remain focused on public service and doing their jobs to their utmost ability.

As I and my colleagues can attest, TTD has helped policymakers understand the needs and concerns of those on the front lines of this important part of our daily life and our economy. We sadly don't invest enough on our infrastructure, and I am heartened to hear TTD call for greater investment in transportation infrastructure. They understand how it can both rebuild our nation and put Americans back to work. In my travels through Northeast Ohio, I see firsthand how our infrastructure is crumbling and families are struggling to get by. Our quality of life and the strength and efficiency of our economy will not fully improve unless we make critical infrastructure investments.

I again commend TTD on their anniversary, and I look forward to continuing to work with them on these issues facing our nation.

HONORING HARRY L. BEGLE,
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero, Harry L. Begle of Brooksville, Florida. A decorated war veteran, Lieutenant Begle's service to our nation will forever be remembered by this Congress.

Born in Lexington, Virginia, Lt. Begle graduated from Fork Union Military Academy in 1943 and entered WW II soon thereafter.

He served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 101st Airborne Division and an Assistant Platoon Leader with the H Company 3rd Battalion in the 506th Parachute Division. While deployed outside of Bastogne, Belgium, Lt. Begle's platoon came under attack by a German Infantry. To describe that moment, Lt. Begle said, it was then that "all hell broke loose". During the battle, Lt. Begle's hand was struck by a bullet, and his upper body was struck by shrapnel from an artillery shell explosion. The blast caused wounds in his neck and left him in a British Military hospital for several months. Lt. Begle received a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for his courageous actions in battle.

Despite his wounds and time spent away from the front lines, Lt. Begle returned to serve his country abroad once again in 1945. This time in Austria. He was later transferred to the 82nd Airborne Division when the Pacific ended.

In 1946, he returned home. He marched in the WW II victory parade in New York where he was greeted with a heroes welcome. He served as a reservist until 1949 when he was honorably discharged.

Long after his military days had passed, he continued to protect his fellow Americans, serving as a Washington D.C. Police Officer for 23 years; he retired in 1972.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Harry L. Begle; a beloved and decorated American hero. On behalf of a grateful nation,

this Congress, his family and friends, I thank him for his service and sacrifice to our country.

HONORING MODESTO CHRISTIAN
HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY FOOT-
BALL TEAM

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Modesto Christian High School Varsity Football Team upon winning the California Interscholastic Federation Small Schools State Football Championship on Friday, December 18, 2009. The team will be honored on Thursday, January 7, 2010.

The Modesto Christian High School Varsity Football Team consists of 31 players including: Isaiah Burse, Jose Oseguera, Keaton Engel, Kevin Roy, Damien Bell-White, Nate Sudfeld, Aaron Brown, Dominic Dami, Alec Pearson, David Sielin, Dustin Hayes, Ryn Megee, Raymond Nelson, Nathan Straubinger, Johnny Juvera, Nick Carson, Brandon Baker, Danie Hague, Tyke Andrew, Vince Rovedatti, Cody Daniel, Matt Heinrich, Michael Fahlgren, Steve Rubalcava, Evan Schwartz, Vinny Warda, Jacob Alameda, Josh Lane, Tyler Jamison, Thomas Deshields and Colin Lane. The team was led by Head Coach, Mike Parsons and the rest of the coaching staff: Ron Megee, Andy Strickland, P. Jay Thirault, Darin Higgins, Steve Gleason, Adam Foster, Mark Dobbins and Noel Alfaro.

The hard work and dedication of the entire team led the Modesto Christian Crusaders to an undefeated season; winning eleven regular season games, three section playoff games and the final championship game with a final 15-0 record. The team not only won all of the games they played, but they dominated their opponents, averaging 45 points per game.

With Modesto Christian Principal Cynthia Jewel and Athletic Director Greg Pearce cheering the team on, the team made their way to the championship game. The game was held at the Home Depot Field in Carson, California against Parker High School of San Diego, California. Parker's football team entered the game with an 11-2 record, and a 45-point scoring average per game.

With Isaiah Burse as quarterback, the Crusaders were able to move the ball quickly throughout the game. However, Parker was able to move the ball equally as well, leading to a nail biter. In the final minutes of the game, the Crusaders were holding on to a 44-40 lead, but Parker was moving the ball quickly down the field. With fourth-and-goal at the two, and 1 minute 40 seconds to play, the Crusaders defense dug deep to hold the Parker offense. The Crusaders were able to pick up a first down, triggering a celebration on their sideline and a final score of 44-40, with Modesto Christian on top.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the 2009 Modesto Christian High School Football Team upon its achievements and upon becoming the California Interscholastic Federation Small Schools State Football Champions. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the entire team and coach-

ing staff congratulations on its many accomplishments this season.

RECOGNITION OF MERLE J. PRATT

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Merle J. Pratt, a great American who has worked for decades to protect our nation, advocate for our veterans, and strengthen the State of Ohio. Currently a resident of Powell, Ohio, Merle has loyally served our nation as a member of the United States Navy, an employee for the State of Ohio, and a leader in numerous community organizations.

Merle served in the U.S. Navy for 26 years, including five years of active duty and over two decades in the U.S. Naval Reserve until his retirement in 1994 as a chief petty officer. Merle also served the Buckeye State in the Ohio Secretary of State's office and the Ohio Attorney General's office. After 26 years of service, Merle retired from his position as the Director of Constituent Services and Veteran Liaison for the Ohio Attorney General's office in 2009. His devotion to helping Ohio citizens and veterans inspired Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro to award Merle with the Innovation and Excellence Award in 2003.

In addition to his career as a public servant in the State of Ohio, Merle has served as a trustee, chairman, or president for many organizations and chapters dedicated to helping our nation's veterans, including the Military/Veterans Educational Foundation, Vietnam Veterans of America, the Columbus Veterans Day Parade Committee, the American Legion, the Franklin County Veteran's Memorial Board of Trustees, the Ohio Governor's Veterans Advisory Committee, and the Ohio Attorney General's Veterans Advisory Council. He has also been a longtime member of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Executive Committee, the Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee, the Ohio Veterans Employment and Training Council, and the Ohio Military Activation Task Force. Merle has been a Life Member of AMVETS Post 89 and served as the Chairman of the AMVETS State Legislative Committee from 1999 to 2009, during which he was awarded the prestigious AMVETS Silver Helmet Civil Servant of the Year award in 2004 for his passion and continued service to veterans in central Ohio. As a true public servant, Merle is continuing to actively participate in veterans services, and is currently serving as Commander for the AMVETS Department of Ohio.

Throughout his life, Merle has inspired those around him with his continued dedication to helping veterans and military families. On February 20, 2010, Merle will be recognized by the AMVETS Department of Ohio for his decades of invaluable service. I am proud to join this group in honoring Merle Pratt, whose leadership and commitment to our veterans, both in the Columbus community as well as around the nation, has been an inspiration and a blessing in the lives of countless Americans.

RECOGNIZING JANICE GOULD

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extensive and distinguished career of Janice Gould. She has been a teacher and a vital part of the Chicago community for 35 years.

Ms. Gould teaches art at Lawrence Hall Youth Services, a school that treats, educates and provides a home to at-risk youth. Using the power of art, she shows her students that great accomplishments are possible. Her former students have participated in and won national art competitions and the Chicago City Clerk vehicle sticker contests.

Ms. Gould herself has a long list of special honors and awards. She received the Kohl International Teaching Award, the Golden Apple Teaching Award and the Exceptional Teachers Award, as well as being a member of the National Teachers Hall of Fame. She and her students also started the "Permanent Children's Art Collection" for the Illinois State Board of Education, an exhibit designed as a reminder of what special-needs children can accomplish and create when given the ability to blossom.

Under Ms. Gould's guidance, troubled youth can transform into self-confident, competent young men and women. When most aspects of their lives have shrouded them in darkness, her art classes provide them the environment to develop their artistic talents and shine.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Janice Gould and her extraordinary career, and thank her for her many outstanding contributions to the City of Chicago and its youth. Her passion and dedication serve as an example for us all.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF PHYLLIS WHITE**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to pay tribute to the life of one of my dearest friends and an outstanding member of our community, Phyllis White. Phyllis lived her life in the best and most rewarding way possible—dedicated to the service of others and to her community.

I knew Phyllis for over forty years—a friendship that began when we were both organizers together for the Community Action Institute. She was always a vibrant presence back then, and she lived each and every day I knew her with compassion and humanity, grace and conviction. As an organizer, a counselor, and later as an academic advisor, Phyllis was always there to lend a hand, an ear, or a shoulder to those in need around her.

Phyllis was no stranger to the rough-and-tumble of life. She lived to see both her sister, Natalie, and her lovely daughter, Linda, lose their battles with breast cancer. Yet, she never let these tragedies crush her spirit or diminish her vitality, her optimism, and her caring for others. She—and later her granddaughter

Dawn—took over the leadership of Sisters' Journey, a breast cancer survivors' advocacy organization her daughter Linda had founded, to keep up the fight against this deadly disease and help ensure that other families did not have to share in their grief. And to the end, and despite her long illness, Phyllis took comfort in the small things, and never stopped giving back to people when she could.

In short, Phyllis was a role model and an inspiration to me all those years ago, and will continue to serve as a source of inspiration to all of those fortunate enough to have been touched by her kind heart and compassion. I will keep her in my thoughts for the rest of my days. As we mourn the loss of Phyllis today, we can take solace that she is now with Natalie and Linda once more. And I know her legacy here in our world lives on—not only in her career and good works throughout Hamden and New Haven, but in the love of her children Ed Jr., Keith, Craig, Barry, and Anita, her fourteen grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren.

Mentor and friend, Phyllis was an extraordinary woman. The impact that she had on my life has much to do with the person I am today. I will always be grateful for her many years of special friendship and for the immeasurable good that she did for our community. Phyllis White is a reflection of all that we could hope to be and has left a legacy to which we should all strive. Though I mourn the friend I lost, I am proud to stand today to celebrate her life. She will be missed but never forgotten.

RECOGNITION OF MARINA DAVIS'
LIFELONG DEDICATION AS AN
EDUCATOR**HON. MARY JO KILROY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Marina Davis for 40 years of dedicated service to the young adults of central Ohio. Marina Davis devoted her life to improving our education system and inspiring students to strive for excellence. She passed away in December 2009, but will be remembered by everyone who knew her as a dedicated educator and a role model.

Marina Davis began her career in 1970 as a teacher at St. Anthony Grade School in Columbus, Ohio. She went on to teach English at St. Francis DeSales before becoming an assistant principal. While there, she chaired the St. Francis DeSales High School Committee, which received a Blue Ribbon Award for Excellence in Education from the U.S. Department of Education. In 1995 she became the first principal of Dublin Scioto High School, where she worked until her death this past December.

As an advocate for her students, staff, and faculty, Marina continually worked to improve the quality of education at each school she served. As an innovative administrator she instituted the Professional Learning Community Model at Dublin Scioto, which in 2009 received a Silver Award of Accomplishment from U.S. News and World Report. Marina's passion and commitment to education allowed her to make a difference in the lives of thousands

of Ohio students and families, and this tragic loss is being felt throughout the community.

In memory of this outstanding public servant, the Dublin City Schools Board of Education has adopted a resolution formally naming the Performing Arts Center at Scioto High School in her honor. The Marina Davis Performing Arts Center will be dedicated on May 18, 2010, and will honor Marina's lifelong commitment to advancing the performing arts among Dublin students. Her contributions to the central Ohio school system will never be forgotten, and I am proud to recognize and honor this accomplished and devoted educator for a lifetime of service.

A TRIBUTE TO MIKE WATERS

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to a fine American, Mike Waters, on an occasion when he and his business have received a prestigious honor: the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009.

The Circle of Excellence, which is awarded by the International dealer organization of Navistar, Inc., honors International truck dealerships that achieve the highest level of dealer performance with respect to operating and financial standards, market representation, and most importantly, customer satisfaction. It is the highest honor a dealer principal can receive from the company.

Mike's business, Waters Truck & Tractor Co., is headquartered in Columbus, Mississippi, where it was founded 72 years ago by his grandfather. Since Mike joined the company full-time in 1975, it has grown into one of the preeminent truck dealerships in the Southeast and the entire nation. In addition to five full-service truck locations, the Waters Companies include an IC Bus school bus dealership, a wrecker service, and remote facility and equipment maintenance. The Waters Companies employ 275 people in all. In 2002, Waters Truck & Tractor was named the International Dealer of the Year, an honor awarded to the one International dealer who exhibits the highest commitment to best-in-class customer service. With this most recent award, Waters Truck & Tractor has now received the Circle of Excellence Award a total of 29 times.

Mike has achieved this level of accomplishment and recognition through many years of hard work and service to his industry and community. He is active in his church and many civic groups and is a board member for numerous organizations, including the Cadence Bank, the Baptist Memorial Health Care System and the Mississippi University for Women Foundation. Mike has now welcomed the fourth generation into the business, with Michael, Vaughan and Josh Waters having joined the company.

Through his commitment to hard work and outstanding customer service, he has built an economically vital business of which he can be justly proud. Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Mike Waters for his record of accomplishment and for his many contributions to his community, state and nation.