

The local and federal authorities responding to this crisis situation in a dense urban environment are to be commended for their courage and professionalism. Responders included the Montgomery County Police Department, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service, the Maryland State Police, the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. I want to especially recognize the Special Operations Division SWAT team of the Montgomery County Police Department for its leadership throughout this intense and uncertain situation. The Discovery Communications building security officers and administrative staff also are to be commended for their quick and effective implementation of their crisis plan. The seamless communication and co-ordination between these agencies was a demonstration of their outstanding training and preparedness to handle crisis situations.

I would also like to commend Discovery Communications for implementing effective emergency plans that resulted in the safe evacuation of their employees and children in the building's day care center. The level-headed approach of Discovery's management and employees towards the situation prevented the crisis from escalating into a far worse scenario. Discovery's actions were essential in ensuring the safety of its employees during this crisis.

Outstanding preparedness training and seamless inter-agency communication, combined with the effective implementation of emergency plans by calm and cooperative Discovery management and employees, brought this harrowing situation to a safe conclusion. Although there was a loss of life, the first responders' courage, swift response, and professionalism helped prevent a bad situation from becoming worse and even more deadly.

CONGRATULATING MRS. MARTHA TWISSELMAN ON RECEIVING THE 2010 AGRICULTURIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Martha Twisselman of McKittrick, California on receiving the 2010 Agriculturist of the Year Award from the Kern County Fair. Mrs. Twisselman's dedication to fostering youth interest in agriculture through her work on the Kern County Fair Junior Livestock Auction Committee and her many years of community service make her most deserving of this award. It should also be noted with special recognition that Mrs. Twisselman is the first woman to be recognized with this honor.

Mrs. Twisselman was born in Paso Robles, California, to Ellsworth and Mary Muttnay. Martha attended Olig Elementary, McKittrick Elementary, and graduated from Taft High School. After graduation, she married Carl F. Twisselman II and moved to the Temblor Ranch where she began her life in the cattle business.

Mrs. Twisselman is an active community volunteer, having held several posts in the past years including President of the McKittrick Elementary School Parent Teachers Association and President of the Taft High and

McKittrick Elementary Parent's Support Organizations. Martha has also supported local youth groups, acting as a girls' softball coach for eight years and serving as a 4-H leader for 14 years.

Mrs. Twisselman's service to the agricultural community includes many years of involvement with the Kern County Cattlewomen's Association. She served as a director of the association, held the offices of secretary, treasurer, vice-president, and served as President of the association from 1997 to 1998. In 1996, Martha was also named Kern County Cattlewomen's Association Cattlewoman of the Year.

In addition to her volunteer service to youth and agriculture groups, Mrs. Twisselman has worked side-by-side for more than five decades with her husband, Carl, in the family's livestock grazing business. Martha was also a staff member of the Kern County Fair Junior Livestock Auction Committee for five years, working with families involved in showing livestock at the Kern County Fair. Last year, the Kern County Fair Auction Committee dedicated its catalogue to Martha and Carl Twisselman in honor of the couple's service to the agricultural community.

Martha and her husband Carl have four children, Mary Ann Hagstrom and husband Chuck; Carl F. Twisselman III and his wife Stacey; Julie M. VanSickel and her husband Jim; and Kathy Tracy and her husband Rob. Martha and Carl are also the proud grandparents of 13 grandchildren.

The leadership, commitment and dedication Mrs. Twisselman has shown to the Kern County Fair and to Kern County youth has not wavered during the many years she has served her community. Martha Twisselman is a role model for community spirit and it is with great pride that I congratulate her again on receiving the distinguished 2010 Kern County Fair Agriculturist of the Year Award and thank her for the great work she does for the residents of Kern County.

HONORING PASTOR SCOTT MANGANELLA AND PRECIOUS LIFE INCORPORATED

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the work of Pastor Scott Manganella and Precious Life Incorporated of Altoona, Pennsylvania. Precious Life has been involved in helping young women between the ages of 16 to 22 through the challenges of unplanned pregnancies for over 20 years.

Precious Life began its mission in 1985 when Pastor Manganella began operating a non-profit 24-hour hotline to give pregnant women counseling and an alternative to abortion. 80 women were helped in the hotline's first year of operation.

In 1988 after seeing a need for expanded services, Precious Life bought a house on Allegheny Street in Hollidaysburg and converted it into a temporary home for pregnant women with nowhere else to turn.

Since the Precious Life Maternity Home opened 22 years ago, it has offered shelter, comfort and support to over 150 displaced young pregnant women in the Altoona area.

Pastor Manganella and the staff at Precious Life provide an open door for comfort and support to young women who have been kicked out of their homes, abused or simply have no other place to turn.

Equally important, the staff act as a surrogate family for many of these young women, giving them structure and direction that was absent in their lives.

Pastor Manganella's work has expanded throughout central Pennsylvania, with a sister office in Bedford as well as a ministry in Johnstown. In addition, Pastor Manganella recently partnered with My Brother's Keeper, a Pennsylvania non-profit international Christian charity to open a center for education on abortion and family issues in Romania.

Pastor Manganella will be honored for his leadership on October 19, 2010 at the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation's 2010 Celebrate Life Banquet in Harrisburg and I congratulate him for his noble service.

HONORING THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF MORRISTOWN

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Woman's Club of Morristown located in Morris County, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year.

Since its inception in 1920 as the Woman's Town Improvement Committee, the Woman's Club of Morristown has played a significant role in the community. Part of the New Jersey State Federation of Woman's Clubs and the General Federation of Woman's Clubs, the Woman's Club of Morristown has a long history of helping improve the lives of others.

Over the past century, the scope and impact of the efforts made by the members of the Woman's Club of Morristown have been far-reaching; from raising funds to volunteering their time for a variety of causes. They have shown a strong commitment to assisting the needs of cancer patients, newborns, nursing home residents, and residents at Greystone Psychiatric Hospital. In addition, they have shown their support for education by providing assistance to The Lake Drive School for the Hearing Impaired, awarding scholarships to graduates of Morristown High School and donating books to the Morristown Library. The Woman's Club of Morristown has also shown their support for organizations that help battered women and abused children. They are continuously looking to help those less fortunate, exemplified by their donations of clothing to Seaman's Institute and their co-sponsoring of "Operation Holiday," which provides gifts to those who cannot afford them.

In addition to assisting organizations in the community, the Woman's Club of Morristown has noted the historical importance of the area by preserving and maintaining the historic house of Dr. Lewis Condict, which serves as their club house. The house was built in 1797 and has been maintained by the organization for over 50 years.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of the Woman's Club of Morristown as

they celebrate 100 incredible years of community service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, I was not present for votes on Wednesday, September 22, 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote 532 and “yes” on rollcall vote 533.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOHNNIE AYCOCK

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the contributions of Johnnie Aycock, the President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, for his dedicated and tireless work to bring greater opportunity to the people of our region and State. Johnnie has announced plans to retire from the Chamber effective March 21, 2011 after 28 years of exemplary service.

During Johnnie’s tenure, the West Alabama Chamber of Commerce has earned statewide recognition and respect for economic and workforce development, education initiatives and innovation in community development programming. West Alabama has enjoyed significant economic achievements, from the recruitment of large manufacturing plants to the development of many new small businesses. Johnnie’s ability to build partnerships among the private sector, educational institutions, and government has been an integral part of this success.

Johnnie has stressed the importance of business leaders being active in public affairs and in their communities. He founded Leadership Tuscaloosa, which has trained more than 900 citizens in leadership. He has served on the Alabama Governor’s Commission on Existing Industries and as Co-Chair of the Committee on Tax, Incentives & Fiscal Policy and has freely given of his time and talents to numerous civic organizations including the Alabama Jaycees, the Literacy Council of West Alabama, Junior Achievement, and the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa. Johnnie has been recognized for his outstanding work with honors that include the Phi Delta Kappa’s Outstanding Citizen For Education in Tuscaloosa County, the Tuscaloosa Advertising Federation’s Bronze Oak Wreath Award for Community Service, the Outstanding Commitment to Public Service Award from the University of Alabama, and induction into the Tuscaloosa County Civic Hall of Fame.

A skilled communicator, Johnnie is the author of “Tuscaloosa: The Tradition, The Spirit, The Vision” and a contributor to the book, “Tuscaloosa: Centennial Progress, Millennial Hopes.” He has been a columnist for the Tuscaloosa Business Ink Magazine, Planet Weekly, and Tuscaloosa Christian Family Magazine and for 7 years wrote a weekly column for the Tuscaloosa News.

Johnnie Aycock is a graduate of Auburn University and the Institute of Organization Management at the University of Notre Dame. He is also a graduate of the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, North Carolina. Johnnie is a former member of the faculty of the Kettering Foundation’s Public Policy Institute and has served as an adjunct professor at Stillman College’s Management Institute.

The sound economic base and high quality of life that distinguishes West Alabama can be traced in no small part to the energy and enthusiasm of Johnnie Aycock. It is has been my pleasure to work with Johnnie on many economic development, education, and service initiatives during my time in Congress. Though Johnnie is retiring from his leadership position at the West Alabama Chamber of Commerce, I have no doubt that he will continue to be a devoted servant to the community that he so dearly loves.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF TREE FRESNO IN FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tree Fresno on the occasion of their 25th anniversary celebration. Tree Fresno has made a significant impact on the community of Fresno by promoting environmental stewardship programs and educating the community on the importance of preserving the environment. During their quarter-century of work, Tree Fresno has been responsible for planting over 37,000 trees in the greater Fresno area.

Tree Fresno was founded in 1985 during the city of Fresno’s centennial anniversary by a group of concerned citizens dedicated to improving the local environment and preserving green spaces. Initial efforts from this group came to fruition in the form of a telethon raising \$27,000 which was used to purchase trees to be planted in the downtown and Tower District areas.

While Tree Fresno’s primary focus is on preserving green space in the community of Fresno, educational programs remain an important aspect of Tree Fresno’s mission. Educational and stewardship programs such as Trees for Campuses & Kids and the Junior Board of Directors help teach Valley children the value of green spaces and caring for the environment. The Trees for Campuses & Kids program, which has planted over 4,100 trees on Fresno County school campuses, is only one example of the great services Tree Fresno provides to the community.

Community support, including endowment and membership programs, has helped Tree Fresno accomplish a variety of projects in the Fresno community. Examples of these initiatives include the planting of 500 trees along the McKinley Avenue Canal Bank and 939 trees on Blackstone Avenue, as well as partnerships such the “A Shade Better” program with Pacific Gas & Electric which allowed for 400 trees to be provided to homeowners to reduce energy costs. Through their efforts, Tree Fresno has planted over an average of a thousand trees a year in Central California. Tree

Fresno also continues to make progress on the Friant Oak Loop-Scenic Highway Beautification and Reforestation Project and the Master Urban Parkway Plan which will create a network of over 200 miles of urban trails and connect schools, parks, and recreation areas.

In honor of Tree Fresno’s 25th anniversary, they are launching a new endeavor called the “Real Green” program which aims to plant 100,000 trees over the next 10 years in partnership with organizations in the Fresno area. Tree Fresno’s 25 years of advocacy for green spaces has contributed immensely to making the Central Valley a better place to live, work and raise a family. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Tree Fresno on the occasion of their 25th Anniversary and applaud their tireless work and enormous contributions as they continue their mission to preserve green space and provide environmental education for the community of Fresno.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 6222, THE NATIONAL OPPORTUNITY AND COMMUNITY RENEWAL ACT

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, hunger and poverty are scourges on our society, but they do not have to be enduring or debilitating. Over the last hundred years, we have created a safety net system in this Nation that ensures that low-income families do not go without food, shelter and healthcare. No longer do we see mass starvation in this country. Communities aren’t ravaged by disease and low-income families, for the most part, have access to doctors and medicine when they do face illnesses.

The sad fact, however, is that we are not winning the battle against poverty in this country. Recent Census data show that over 43 million Americans now live in poverty and, of those people, over 15 million are children.

If that weren’t bad enough, we are continuing to recover from the worst economic times this Nation has faced since the Great Depression. Federal and state funds are tight and private donations to non-profits and charities aren’t coming in at the same levels as before the recession.

It’s easy to talk the talk when it comes to poverty. There may be a press release or a quick statement for the local papers. Some may even give a policy speech talking about the travesty of poverty and professing the need to do something bold.

But actions speak louder than words. We need to renew our commitment to fighting poverty. We need to refresh our thinking about the way our communities target poverty. Frankly, it’s time we start addressing poverty in a new way, a way that reflects the challenges of low-income families while respecting these difficult economic times.

That’s why I introduced “The National Opportunity and Community Renewal Act” today. I’m pleased that Senator BOB CASEY from Pennsylvania introduced a companion version in the Senate and I look forward to working with him on this issue.

The idea is simple—reduce poverty by better utilizing federal and state resources in