

globe to preserve democracy and promote freedom. But in our country, where every voice counts, our Nation's active duty leadership excludes the voice of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Congress must ensure the National Guard has appropriate input during the planning and budgetary process within the Department of Defense, and end the challenge to live with "after-the-fact" process, as is now the case.

As a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau would have responsibility and authority to advocate and coordinate the Guard's warfighting support and force provider mission with its homeland security and support missions to ensure the Guard has the resources to perform its multiple missions and fulfill its Constitutional role to our states.

Creating a Veterans' preference in the Transportation sector is very simple. It seeks to give America's veterans an opportunity advantage in the contracting process for their service to our country—a means to attach importance and to acknowledge our fellow Americans who have put their life on the line to preserve our way of life.

Madam Speaker, from the battlefield to the home fields, our National Guard—America's patriots—exemplifies sacrifice and commitment to duty.

I urge my colleagues to vote for Guardians for Freedom Act of 2010—so that we may respectfully and gratefully fulfill our duty to support the original intent of our Constitution for each state to maintain an organized militia with integrity—and, effectively support and acknowledge the great sacrifice so many willingly make for all of us.

TRIBUTE TO ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GA AND THE NAVY SUPPLY CORPS SCHOOL

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the exceptional partnership that has thrived for 57 years between the community of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, and the Navy Supply Corps School (NSCS).

For more than half a century, America's Supply Corps officers have viewed Athens as the birthplace of their careers. Before the school cast anchor in the southern college town of Athens, the institution resided in numerous locations, including Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and Harvard University.

On June 4, 1953, the United States Navy purchased 58 acres of land in the Oglethorpe Historic District of Athens. The beautiful property held a rich history of education. Dating back to the 1860's, the property served as campus to Georgia University High School, the Confederate Military School, the School for Disabled Confederate Veterans, the University of Georgia's College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts, the State Normal School, and Coordinate College. Its legacy of education continued with the commissioning of the Navy Supply Corps School on January 15, 1954.

The Athens community had established a rapport with the U.S. Navy prior to the

school's arrival. During World War II, Athens was home to one of only five naval preflight schools in the nation. For the past 57 years, the residents of Athens-Clarke County have enjoyed a wonderful relationship with NSCS. They have also benefitted from the quality of students who studied there and retired officers who have settled in the Athens area. Since 1954, NSCS has launched more than 89,000 officers into successful careers, and on October 29, 2010, approximately 81 more officers will graduate, the final class to complete their studies in Athens. This storied institution has remained in "The Classic City" longer than any other location, making Athens truly the "Cradle of the Supply Corps."

As the Navy Supply Corps School prepares to set sail for a new facility in Newport, Rhode Island, the Athens campus will continue in its heritage of higher learning by serving as home to the University of Georgia and Georgia Health Sciences University's new medical school.

Madam Speaker, I honor the Navy Supply Corps School for the tremendous service it has provided, not only to the community, but for the entire nation. I applaud the exceptional partnership that has existed over the last 57 years among the Navy school and Athens-Clarke County, Georgia.

CONGRATULATING LEO P. VERGNETTI ON BEING RECOGNIZED BY THE COLUMBUS DAY ASSOCIATION OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY AS MAN OF THE YEAR

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Leo P. Vergnetti, this year's recipient of the Columbus Day Association of Lackawanna County's "Man of the Year" award.

Mr. Vergnetti will be honored at the Columbus Day Association of Lackawanna County's 102nd annual banquet in Dickson City, Pennsylvania on October 10, 2010.

Mr. Vergnetti is a native of Scranton, Pennsylvania. He is the son of Anthony and Angeline Vergnetti.

Since 1972 he has owned and operated LPV Enterprises, Inc., the sole food and beverage vendor in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport.

Since 1994, Mr. Vergnetti has been President of Vergnetti Consulting, Inc. He is also an agent with Northeast Insurance and Financial Consultants.

Throughout this career, Mr. Vergnetti has been dedicated to helping individuals suffering from drug and alcohol abuse and addiction. Since 1994 he has served as an Aftercare Coordinator and Counselor at Clear Brook, Inc., helping to organize intervention services and support groups with schools, churches and other community organizations.

He also serves as a liaison with the Lackawanna County Treatment Court, and has served on the Medical and Legal Advisory Board of the Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Commission for the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office.

In addition to his dedicated work with drug and alcohol addiction support services, Mr. Vergnetti has generously donated his time to numerous community and public service organizations throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania.

He has served on the Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society Ball of Hope, the Northeast Theater Group, the Arts and Cultural Commission of Lackawanna County, the Lackawanna County Council on Transportation, and the Lackawanna County Council on Economic Development.

Mr. Vergnetti currently resides in Scranton. He has nine children, fifteen grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Leo P. Vergnetti as the Columbus Day Association of Lackawanna County's Man of the Year. Throughout his career he has been dedicated to improving the quality of life in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

HONORING MRS. MARIE BOUCHER

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Marie Boucher and to celebrate her 101st birthday.

Marie moved to Greenville, Maine with her husband Auguste Boucher in 1951, and she has been the oldest citizen of Greenville since 2006. She is a proud mother and grandmother with eight children, twenty-eight grandchildren, fifty-one great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren.

Marie is well known throughout Greenville for her gracious hospitality and prowess in the kitchen. She not only cooked for her large family, but also made sure the woodsmen who worked with her husband were well fed after their long days in the Maine woods. For several years, she took her cooking skills to the kitchen at the Log Cabin Restaurant, and Marie has remained active in her community throughout her life as a long time parishioner of Holy Family Church.

As an exemplary member of the Greenville community, Marie is an asset not only for her town but also her state, and she celebrates her birthday surrounded by family and friends.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Marie Boucher for her contributions and in celebrating her birthday.

BIRTH DEFECT PREVENTION, RISK REDUCTION, AND AWARENESS ACT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, one out of every 33 babies born in our country suffers from a birth defect, and one out of every five infant deaths in America is the result of a defect. Even those children who survive a defect grow up with a greater chance of illness and long-term disability. Perhaps most tragic of all, there are many times when these defects could be readily prevented.

That is why I rise in support today of H.R. 5462, the Birth Defect Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act of 2010. This legislation establishes a grant program to revitalize the Nation's network of pregnancy risk information services.

These services offer pregnant women and their health care providers information and consultation regarding exposures to medications, chemicals, infections, and illnesses that may pose a risk of birth defects, a risk to the pregnancy, or a risk to the mother while pregnant. They also provide similar information on exposures during breastfeeding.

Fifteen years ago, there were over 30 such services across the country. Today, there are fewer than 15. State and private funding has provided inadequate support, and even those that remain open have sustained budget cuts of as much as 60 percent. And there are currently no Federal programs to provide support for these counseling services.

This bill remedies that oversight. It gives mothers the information they need to protect their children. And it will help reduce the frequency of birth defects in our Nation. I urge my colleagues to support it.

HONORING MR. BILL KLING FOR
HIS SERVICE TO AMERICA'S VET-
ERANS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. William "Bill" Kling for his continued service to America's veterans. Mr. Kling's unwavering patriotism and continued dedication to America's heroes are to be highly commended.

Bill Kling served in the Navy during the Second World War. It was during his time in the Navy that Mr. Kling developed an unceasing devotion to his fellow servicemen. For over 35 years since, Mr. Kling has served his fellow veterans living in south Florida through community service and political activism.

Mr. Kling currently serves as the chair of the Broward County Veterans Council (BCVC), a coalition of 57 organizations in Broward and Palm Beach Counties that operates under a common plan to protect and implement benefits for veterans.

Uniting behind its mission "To Serve and Unite our Veterans," the BCVC has achieved substantial benefits for our veterans under Mr. Kling's leadership. As an advocate for better health care for veterans, Mr. Kling led the drive to build the new state-of-the-art Broward County VA Outpatient Clinic in Sunrise, FL. In addition to a successful campaign for a veterans state nursing home located in Pembroke Pines—a crucial service for veterans living in south Florida—Mr. Kling and the BCVC were also instrumental in delivering a VA hospital to Palm Beach, FL.

Mr. Kling's leadership has even had a national impact. Mr. Kling and the BCVC are responsible for the implementation of the handicapped parking signs that are now ubiquitous in shopping malls and public areas across America.

Bill Kling's most recent service to America's veterans has focused on national legislation

and keeping the BCVC's member organizations informed so that they may act accordingly. Mr. Kling has been an outspoken critic of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and a leading voice in the fight for its repeal. Additionally, Mr. Kling has been actively working to ensure that military families receive the same benefits as private citizens under America's recent landmark health care reform. Mr. Kling's leadership will help 700,000 young adults whose families are members of TRICARE, which covers military families, become eligible for health insurance coverage.

I have always valued Mr. Kling's insights and advice, and I proudly salute his exceptional service to our nation's veterans and, indeed, to all Americans. Not only is Bill Kling an American hero, Madam Speaker, he is a living testimony to the spirit of national service and a true role model.

HONORING CRAIG ZIMPHER

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize a fellow Ohioan and diligent public servant. Craig Zimpher, a friend and native of Piqua, Ohio, is retiring from Nationwide Insurance, after a dignified career in which he served both his country and the State of Ohio.

Craig began to distinguish himself as a young man while pursuing his education at the Ohio State University. While earning a B.A. and M.A. in history, Craig served as a resident advisor in the dean of student's office, where he helped design the honors undergraduate residential program. To this day, he remains active in the Ohio State University alumni community. Upon his graduation, he served as a first lieutenant in the United States Army; and, in 1973, he continued his commitment to public service by going to work as the policy director for the minority leader in the Ohio House of Representatives. In this role, Craig advised legislative leaders on a broad range of public policy issues facing Ohio families and businesses. Subsequently, Craig served as the deputy assistant to former Ohio Governor James Rhodes, where he coordinated policy research, drafted legislative proposals for Ohio, and advised the Governor on state regulatory matters. In 1980, he became a member of the Governor's cabinet, serving as the chairman of the Ohio Industrial Commission, where he administered the State's insurance program.

At the end of this year, Craig, a Vice President of Nationwide Insurance, will retire after nearly 30 years with the company. Craig is well liked and respected by his colleagues. He is happily married to Park Zimpher, and they are the proud parents of three sons, Fletcher, Peter and Nate. Craig is an avid student of history and enjoys fishing and golf, pastimes he will hopefully have more time for in the months and years to come. I want to thank Craig Zimpher for his service to his country and Ohio, and I wish him good health and Godspeed in his retirement.

CELEBRATION OF THE REPUBLIC
OF CHINA'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of China as it celebrates its 99th National Day on October 10th, 2010. This festive holiday, known as Double Ten Day, celebrates the start of the Wuchang Uprising in 1911, which led to the collapse of the Qing Dynasty in China and the establishment of the Republic of China.

The Republic of China has become a model of economic and democratic success in Asia. Through the diligence and ingenuity of the Taiwanese people, their economy continues to flourish and has become one of the strongest in the region. In the last few decades, the Republic of China on Taiwan has held several democratic elections and peaceful transfers of power. The Republic of China continues to serve as a shining example of a free and democratic nation in Asia.

The United States and the Republic of China remain close friends and allies through their mutual commitment to democratic principles, freedom, and entrepreneurship. Madam Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Republic of China as it celebrates the 99th National Day.

HONORING MOLINA HEALTHCARE

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, I would like to bring attention to Molina Healthcare, a managed care organization that provides healthcare services to families and individuals eligible for government-sponsored programs.

Thirty years ago, Dr. C. Molina, an emergency room physician, saw a need to provide quality healthcare for patients regardless of their financial status. Consequently, Molina Healthcare was started.

Molina Healthcare is dedicated to addressing the disparities in healthcare in order to positively impact members' long term health and well-being. In addition, Molina Healthcare is devoted to serving the community and positively impacting the neighborhoods they serve.

The vision of Molina Healthcare is consistent during Hispanic Heritage Month. They understand the need to develop linguistically and culturally sensitive healthcare programs members. I applaud Molina Healthcare, for reaching out to low-income children and women in rural counties in Texas through the Children's Health Insurance and Prenatal Plan. Lastly, I congratulate Molina Healthcare, for being named the 2010 largest Hispanic-owned business in the United States by Hispanic Business Magazine.