

Bob is in demand as a speaker at symposiums, conferences and community organizations, and more in demand by his community.

He serves on the Board of Directors for several professional, educational and charitable organizations, and is a member of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Preparedness Task Force. He is a past president of the Ventura County Council of Boy Scouts of America, and is a member of the Executive Boards of the California State Sheriffs' Association and the Major County Sheriffs' Association. Bob is also a trustee of Life Pacific College, and has served as an instructor at California State University, Northridge; California Lutheran University and Ventura County Community Colleges. Bob has been awarded the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal from the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. He is an honorary Rotarian, and serves on the Board of New Hope Christian Fellowship.

A Ventura County resident since 1961, he and Debbie have been married for 40 years. They have two grown sons, Jeff and Brian, and two grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join Janice and me in congratulating Bob Brooks on his retirement, in wishing him and Debbie good health in the years ahead, and in thanking him for 37 years of dedicated service.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. COLONEL  
GERALD P. ZIEMBA, RETIRED

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 2010*

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor retired U.S. Colonel Gerald P. Ziemba for his long and admirable service to the United States.

Colonel Ziemba started active duty in the Army in 1959 as a Second Lieutenant. In 1972, he became Commander of the U.S. Army Reserve's 578th Research & Development Unit in Midland, Michigan. Later, in 1983, the Senate approved his elevation to the rank of Colonel. After this last promotion, the Army appointed Colonel Ziemba to Deputy Commander of Sharpe Army Depot, where he eventually became chairman of a group tasked with developing a next-generation, supply-chain facility. Under his skillful leadership, a \$200 million state-of-the-art warehouse was built, for which the U.S. Army awarded him the Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding non-combat achievement.

Colonel Ziemba continued his service in 1994 when the Department of Commerce asked him to manage a newly formed Treaty Inspections Division of the Business, Industry, and Security Agency, BIS. BIS tasked him with implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention within the chemical industry. In this position, he drafted recommendations for implementing legislation and regulations. In addition, he represented the U.S. Government at numerous international forums.

Currently, Colonel Ziemba is involved in licensing activities for dual-use chemicals and equipment with the Department of Commerce. He is also the Commerce Department's representative in a multi-agency committee for

improving chemical defense in the United States.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to recognize Colonel Gerald P. Ziemba's service and dedication to his country. I hope the years to come will bring him health, happiness, and special times with family and friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 2010*

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in a series of votes on the floor of the House of Representatives today.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 566, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to S. 3689, I would have voted "aye" on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 567, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1713, I would have voted "aye" on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 568, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 328, I would have voted "aye" on the question.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
RONALD PIECHOWSKI

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker and Colleagues, I rise today in honor and recognition of Ronald Piechowski, upon the occasion of his 50th anniversary of service to the citizens of Cuyahoga County. His years of dedicated service in the Cashier's Department of the Cuyahoga County Clerk of Courts Division reflects integrity, professionalism and excellence.

Mr. Piechowski was born in Cleveland, Ohio, the oldest of three sons, to Walter and Cecilia Piechowski. His parents instilled within their boys a sense of pride in their Polish heritage, their family and their Roman Catholic faith. Following graduation from South High School in Cleveland, Mr. Piechowski began his career at the Clerk of Courts office during the summer of 1960. By October of that year, he became a full-time employee and quickly ascended in the Cuyahoga County Court. He joined the National Guard in 1963 and served with honor for four years. Back at the County Court, he started in the files department and worked his way up to dockets and then journal entries. He was soon promoted to the Cashier's Department, and in 1979, he was named Chief Cashier and Supervisor, overseeing a staff of 19. He was responsible for the collection, disbursement, and application of more than \$140 million annually. Remarkably, he balanced every ledger, every book, and every account to the penny.

Over the years, Mr. Piechowski has created friendships throughout our Greater Cleveland community. His expertise and work ethic is

balanced by his sense of humor, humble demeanor and kind heart. Though not a person to seek the limelight, Mr. Piechowski has been honored with many awards over the years, including recognition by the Cuyahoga County Bar Association for professional excellence.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honor of Ronald Piechowski, upon the occasion of his 50th anniversary of service to the citizens of Cuyahoga County. His public service reflects unwavering dedication, integrity, precision, excellence and heart. He is a vital force in protecting the public coffers and preserving the public trust. We are grateful for his wonderful and continued service.

COMMEMORATION OF TURKEY'S  
FOUNDING

**HON. ED WHITFIELD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 2010*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of the Republic of Turkey in their celebration of their country's historic eighty-seventh anniversary and founding by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk on October 29.

The anniversary is cause for us to pause and reflect upon the many accomplishments of the people of Turkey, most notably Turkish Republic founder Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's vision of a secular, pluralistic democracy.

The United States and Turkey have invested a great deal of energy in cultivating a critical and robust bilateral relationship. Time and time again, Turkey has proven itself to be a strong ally in our fight against Islamic extremism, and a key supporter of our operations in Afghanistan.

As the people of Turkey enter their eighty-eighth year, Atatürk's vision continues to ring true. I know my colleagues and fellow Americans share my sentiments in wishing the people and Government of the Republic of Turkey all the prosperity and opportunity of a bright democratic future.

HONORING FRESNO EQUIPMENT  
CO.

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Fresno Equipment Co. for receiving the 2010 Baker, Peterson, and Franklin Ag Business Award. Fresno Equipment Co. has held a long and distinguished position in the California agriculture industry, adhering to extremely high standards of quality and integrity.

The family operation of Fresno Equipment Co. has been ongoing since 1960 when Mark Vucovich and Bill Hansen became partners. Vucovich purchased the business and became sole owner in 1968 after the passing of Hansen. Mark passed away in 1980, and the business was taken over by Mark's children, Steve and Marsha.

The company operates a Five Points and Fresno Store, the latter of which is an award

winning John Deere "Gold Star" full line residential and commercial grounds equipment dealership. The company is a tale of entrepreneurial success, as the business started with 15 employees and increased to 85 employees today.

Fresno Equipment Co. has been actively involved with the Nisei Farmers League in promoting improved air quality in the Valley. Additionally, the company has participated in various roles in the Big Fresno Fair, Fresno State football, Grizzlies baseball, Ag Boosters BBQ, Children's Hospital of Central California, California Agriculture Leadership, Fresno Chamber of Commerce, St. Jude Church, Armenian Congregational Church, California Grape and Tree Fruit League and the livestock sale at the Fresno Fair.

Fresno Equipment Co. is a recognized agricultural business-leader in our community and its prominence and reputation will contribute to the Valley economy for years to come. Madam Speaker, please join me in commending Steve and Marsha as well as their predecessors for a job well done.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE AVALON ACADEMY

#### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 2010*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the 5th anniversary of the Avalon Academy in Burlingame, California. This very special school was founded by Annie Noonan and Lynette Mullens, parents of children with cerebral palsy, and Kinga Czegeni, a special education teacher. The trio had a vision for a school that would teach academics and motor—skill development to children with movement disorders such as cerebral palsy. It should be noted that the students often have multiple disabilities, including cognitive impairment.

Avalon prides itself on its innovative intervention program inspired by the Anat Baniel Method, a cutting edge scientific approach to safely enhance movement and muscle coordination and to create new possibilities for children with cerebral palsy. This humanizing approach has created a non-competitive, vibrant and nurturing environment that benefits not only the students, but also their families and the staff at Avalon.

I would be remiss if I didn't praise Annie, Lynette, and Kinga for devoting their full energies to enhancing the lives of children with cerebral palsy. We can make donations, smile and understand, but it takes tireless effort to create a learning place that make a special life even better.

Madam Speaker, I can't take you inside Avalon today, but if I could, you would see a very special love that exists among the students and staff and a level of caring that has changed lives. So, I ask the Members to join me in celebrating a dream that thankfully has become a reality for dozens of children and families with special needs.

#### HONORING ST. VINCENT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

#### HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 2010*

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Vincent Catholic High School in Perryville, MO, which was recently named to the list of the best 50 Catholic secondary schools in America. The list is compiled by the Catholic High School Honor Roll, an independent project of the Grand Rapids, Michigan-based Acton Institute, a research and education organization. Around one-half of all U.S. Catholic high schools go through the application process for the Honor Roll list, a group of approximately 1,300 schools. These schools are recognized based on their academic excellence, civic education and Catholic identity. Schools provide extensive data on standardized testing and other academic measures, and administrators answer surveys on academics, Catholic teaching and social studies.

St. Vincent High School is a part of the history of Perryville. The parish was first established in the 19th century. The Daughters of Charity began the school in 1907. Over more than a century the school has maintained its commitment to educating their students in a faith based way that helps them spiritually and to prepare for the future. The students, faculty, and families involved in St. Vincent High School provide a wonderful example to schools all across Southeast Missouri and the nation. This recognition encourages their hard work and continued excellence in Catholic education.

This is an outstanding achievement in which the St. Vincent High School and all of the surrounding community should take pride. One of the best Catholic schools in the nation is St. Vincent High School. Congratulations again to the St. Vincent High School community. We are all very proud of you!

#### IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF NEIL ZURCHER

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of award-winning journalist, Neil Zurcher, one of the most beloved and recognizable media personalities in northeast Ohio, upon the joyous occasion of his 75th birthday.

For more than fifty years, Mr. Zurcher's entertaining accounts of unique and out-of-the-way destinations across Ohio have been found on radio and television and travel sections of magazines and newspapers, including his regular column in the Cleveland Plain Dealer. He was the original host of the immensely popular travel segment: "One Tank Trips," which was broadcast for 25 years on FOX 8 TV in Cleveland.

Driving more than a million miles in 25 years as a travel reporter for FOX 8, Mr. Zurcher uncovered hidden treasures, oddities and beautiful get-away destinations along the

urban highways and country roads of Ohio. His accounts and insights into the diverse people, customs, culture and history of Ohio are recorded in the five books he's written, including "Tales from the Road," "Ohio Road Trips," and "Ohio Oddities." A kind, generous and down-to-earth man, Mr. Zurcher never sought accolades; yet he has been honored several times for his excellence in journalism and broadcasting. He is the recipient of an Emmy award, was honored with the Award for Excellence in Broadcasting from the Cleveland Assoc. of Broadcasters, and has been inducted into the Cleveland Press Club Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honor of Neil Zurcher—family man, journalist, TV reporter and author—upon the joyous occasion of this 75th birthday. His chronicles of his travels across Ohio inspire, entertain and educate, creating a sense of wonder, unity and community. We look forward to learning about his travels for the next million miles.

#### HONORING ALLAN W. PURDY

#### HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 2010*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Allan W. Purdy, the founding president of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). On October 13, 2010, this strong advocate for higher education passed away at 96. He dedicated his life to removing financial barriers to education and helping students access awards, scholarships, and financial aid.

Purdy's life experiences strongly influenced his passion for financial aid and serving students. He graduated from high school in the middle of the Great Depression and worked his way through college with the help of the National Youth Administration, a newly created national work program for students. He earned a mere \$15 a month, which paid for his graduate degree from the College of Agriculture at the University of Missouri.

After graduation, Purdy served his country in the U.S. Navy as a PT boat captain during World War II. After the war, he returned to the University of Missouri to work as an extension horticulturist. In this position, he toured the state helping farmers resolve problems with their crops. Here, he saw firsthand the number of qualified students who lacked the financial resources to attend college and vowed to advocate on their behalf for more grants and work aid. The University of Missouri's president promoted him to assistant to the dean of the College of Agriculture, which led to his role in creating a department in the president's office to coordinate scholarships, jobs, and loans for all the students on campus.

Under the direction of the University of Missouri's president, Purdy began meeting with other aid administrators in the Midwest and helped form the Midwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators in 1962. During this time, Congress was working on student aid issues and looked to the six regional, financial associations for suggestions. In hope of creating a more unified voice, Purdy strongly advocated for a national structure. In 1966, the regional representatives created the National Student Financial Aid Council, and Allan