

recognition as the recipient of the third annual Guiding Light Philanthropy Award. I am proud to call Jerry not only a constituent and fellow Tempe resident, but also a friend. The philanthropic efforts of individuals like Jerry help strengthen our communities and our Nation.

#### TRIBUTE TO SHAWN HATCH

#### HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 2010*

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shawn Hatch of Massena. Mr. Hatch deserves our congratulations and gratitude for his work to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project.

Beginning in May, Shawn spent his summer vacation rollerblading 3,107 miles from Massena to Los Angeles in an effort to support American troops wounded in combat, and raised more than \$16,000 through his efforts. Shawn's recent efforts remind us all that we must work to support our troops every day of the year.

Just as our soldiers pledge to leave no man or woman behind, Shawn has carried on that promise, inspiring many in New York's North Country communities to support the Wounded Warrior Project and give back to those who have sacrificed so much for our nation.

Shawn represents the drive and determination that America's veterans, military personnel and their families contribute to the security and progress of our country each and every day. Again, I congratulate and thank Mr. Hatch for his extraordinary journey in support of our veterans. His accomplishment is something truly remarkable and sets a wonderful example for the rest of us.

#### CONGRATULATING MARK T. BECKER FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF DUTY IN AERIAL FLIGHT AS AN AIRCREW MEMBER IN THE VIETNAMESE CONFLICT

#### HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 2010*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Corporal Mark T. Becker of the Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462. Mr. Becker dutifully served the United States while abroad in Vietnam and deserves such commendation.

Corporal Becker and his fellow members of the Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 set off aboard the USS *Okinawa* on April 29, 1975. Corporal Becker served as an aerial gunner on a UH1E Huey Helicopter that participated in Operation FREQUENT WIND. This mission was a humanitarian emergency evacuation of Americans, Vietnamese and Third Country Nationals from Saigon in the Republic of Vietnam.

Corporal Becker assisted pilots by maintaining a constant surveillance for other enemy aircraft and hostile fire. This was an exhausting and troublesome task due to reduced visibility caused by darkness and inclement

weather. Corporal Becker made several flights over hostile territory all the while displaying absolute discipline and rare professionalism in following the binding rules of engagement.

Operation FREQUENT WIND resulted in a huge success for United States forces. A total of 1,373 Americans and 5,595 Vietnamese and Third Country Nationals were evacuated by helicopter in a two day span. Corporal Becker's skill and steadfast devotion to duty while exposed to ground fire, anti-aircraft fire, and surface-to-air missiles contributed significantly and directly to the accomplishment of his unit's mission and the overall success of Operation FREQUENT WIND.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the impressive and courageous actions of Corporal Mark T. Becker. It is an honor for me to recognize his accomplishments and the impact he had on Operation FREQUENT WIND.

#### STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SENATE AMENDMENT 4587 TO H.R. 5283 "HELP HAITI ACT OF 2010"

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 2010*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 5283 and the Senate Amendment 4587 that is "to provide for adjustment of status for certain Haitian orphans paroled into the United States after the earthquake of January 12, 2010." I would like to begin by thanking Congressman FORTENBERRY for introducing this resolution, as it is so important for the United States to normalize the immigration process for the adopted Haitian orphans after the tragic January earthquake. The Haitian orphans that were adopted by American families after the earthquake should not have to wait in legal limbo to become permanent residents of the United States; there were obvious extenuating circumstances that prevented the adoptions from being finalized in Haitian courts.

Without the passing of the Help HAITI Act of 2010, Haitian orphans that have fortunately been adopted by welcoming American families face a two-year limbo with fewer legal protections, ineligibility for critical resources, and at the very worst, a forcible return to the ravaged country of Haiti if something unexpected were to happen to the adoptive parents. The Haitian orphans are currently awaiting crucial paperwork that will provide them with basic resources, such as allowing them to receive health care and to enroll in school. These children have already suffered the tragic loss of their families in Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake—we should assist in any way we can to expedite this adoption and immigration process. In doing so, we can help these families begin their new lives in the United States.

I am a strong proponent of this resolution, because it will allow the Haitian orphans to become legal permanent residents and eventually to gain U.S. citizenship. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this because it is an important resolution in which we can stand together and support the orphaned children in their adoption process. There are over one thousand children who are subject to this legal limbo—that is far too great of a number

of adopted children who must wait two years for permanent resident status. Additionally, this resolution will help minimize the staff, monetary, and other resources demands for the Department of Homeland Security's United States Citizenship and Immigration Service.

At this point in time, the people of Haiti are in desperate need of international assistance. We have a responsibility to prevent the evacuation of these orphaned children because of a legal technicality. The people of Haiti are suffering now, more than ever, with the devastating earthquake of January, Hurricane Tomas of October, and now the cholera outbreak that is threatening the lives of millions. The cholera outbreak that emerged within the Artibonite region on October 21 has now resulted in more than 14,000 hospitalizations and tragically more than 900 deaths. The children who were fortunately adopted in the wake of the January earthquake should not have to face such a dire humanitarian crisis. The Help HAITI Act will do exactly that; it will expedite and normalize these orphaned children's journey to a new family. In the same vein, the United States should be helping its neighbors in need with humanitarian assistance, and additionally working hard towards preventing any more unnecessary deaths.

With the passing of this resolution, the orphaned children from Haiti will be able to securely begin their lives in the United States. This bill will assure a normalization of the Haitian children, and will allow their status to be adjusted to permanent resident. Furthermore, the Help HAITI Act of 2010 will provide legal certainty and protections for these evacuated Haitian orphans, because it removes an obstacle for their adoptive families. This is an important bill for the families across America who have opened their homes and welcomed the children who were in special need of a family after the January earthquakes.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE GREATER OWENSBORO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

#### HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 2010*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce. In August of this year, the chamber was selected by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives, ACCE, as the 2010 Chamber of the Year.

This award is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of the employees, members and volunteers of the chamber as well as the Owensboro community.

The Chamber of the Year award recognizes up to four chambers of commerce each year for their dual roles in creating and leading both businesses and communities.

The chamber's advocacy role in creating the Chamber Leadership Initiatives for Northwestern Kentucky, C-LINK, alliance and the Owensboro Buys It! program are significant reasons the chamber was chosen for the award.

C-LINK includes 12 chambers in the region and has been a leading proponent of Interstate 69 in western Kentucky. Owensboro Buys It! was started in 2009 to spur local commerce and teach small business members

how to create an "elevator pitch" to grow and expand their businesses.

Owensboro is a historic and beautiful city and the chamber continues to work to make it an even better place to live for future generations. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce and congratulate them on this incredible achievement.

IN HONOR OF DAVID W. THOMAS

### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 2010*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize a great Delawarean, David W. Thomas, for his outstanding service to our great state. Dave was the United States Marshal for the District of Delaware from August 2002 until August 2010. As he moves on to future endeavors, I wish him the best of luck and pay tribute to his great accomplishments and steadfast service to our state.

Serving in the Delaware State Police from 1984 to 2002, Dave served as a road trooper before joining the Executive Protection Unit, responsible for the protection of the Governor and other dignitaries. During my time as Governor, I had the pleasure of getting to know Dave who proved himself to be a dedicated officer through his tireless dedication to the Executive Protection Unit and the state of Delaware. Dave quickly excelled throughout his career with the state police. His many other accomplishments include being elected Vice President of the National Governors Security Administration and serving as the Public Information Officer for the Delaware State Police. After an extraordinary career with the Delaware State Police, Dave was privileged to serve as the U.S. Marshal for the District of Delaware.

In his eight-year tenure as U.S. Marshal, Dave was tasked with many difficult duties including the transportation and housing of Federal prisoners, fugitive apprehension, and the security of Federal judges and U.S. Attorney's Office and staff. One of his more noteworthy accomplishments occurred in April 2009 when Dave led a Fugitive Safe Surrender initiative in which over a thousand individuals with outstanding warrants turned themselves in.

I am proud to represent a state where individuals like David W. Thomas reside. Delawareans will sorely miss his steadfast service to our great state. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE BOLEN FAMILY  
AS THE 2010 WALTON COUNTY  
OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY OF  
THE YEAR

### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 2010*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to rise today to extend congratulations to the Bolen family for being selected as the 2010 Walton County Outstanding Farm Family of the Year.

Bill and Melissa Bolen, along with their five sons, reside on a twenty-five acre farm fondly named "Welcome Home Farm." Raymond, Justin, Jesse, Timmy and Mike are home-schooled and contribute greatly to the daily workings on the farm. The family raises sheep, goats, cows, chickens and other fowl, free of hormone treatment and chemical products. Their chickens provide both eggs and meat for the dinner table, and their Gulf Coast sheep provide one of the highest quality wool fibers available.

The self-sufficient methods used on the "Welcome Home Farm" provide an idyllic example of a farm family promoting a healthy and sustainable life through their farm practices. The Bolen family is proof that a tight-knit family working together on a modest-sized tract can live a successful farming lifestyle.

Madam Speaker, our great nation was built by farmers and their families. The Bolen family serves as an excellent model to all our nation's farm families. On behalf of northwest Florida, I wish the Bolen family continued success.

HONORING MARVIN MEYERS

### 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 Marvin Meyer for receiving the 2010 Agriculturalist of the Year. Marvin Meyers has had a long and distinguished career in the California agriculture industry, adhering to extremely high standards of quality and integrity.

Mr. Meyers has owned and operated Meyers Farming I-IV, Oxford Farms, Inc. and Meyers Farm Family Trust, as well as the Meyers Agricultural Chemical Company. Additionally, Mr. Meyers was a member of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture.

Mr. Meyers has been an independent voice in the drought and water concerns that have plagued the valley for years. He built his own water bank to store water in wet years and withdraw resources in dry years. In 2002 he began pumping water from the Mendota Poo into the ponds next to the sugar plant. He was able to complete this project without drawing on taxpayer funding. This site has been helpful for wildlife habitats, and has been an educational outreach to the community, as over 2,000 students have visited the site on fieldtrips in the last two years.

Additionally, Governor Schwarzenegger announced that Meyers Farms would receive the 2007 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award for its Water Bank and Wildlife Project. This is California's most prestigious environmental honor.

Marvin Meyers has earned his reputation of being a hard worker, an intelligent and innovative agriculturalist. He is a recognized leader in our community and it is clear that his endeavors and advancements in California agriculture will continue to sustain our state's economy for generations to come. Madam Speaker, please join me in commending Marvin Meyers for a job well done.

COMMENDING USO FORT DRUM

### HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 2010*

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the continuing relationship between our men and women serving in our Armed Forces and the communities that support them in their mission. In northern New York, the soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division and their families have been a part of our community for nearly three decades. Throughout the Division's time in the North Country, residents in the surrounding area have gone out of their way to make the Fort Drum community a productive environment for the U.S. Army to grow and train, and a welcoming place for soldiers to live, serve and retire with their families.

The United Service Organization, or USO, has played a leading role in that effort. From providing high quality morale, welfare and recreation activities for our troops in the field to making sure they are adequately recognized for their service when they return, the USO is doing incredible work to support the men and women whose work preserves our way of life.

I rise today to commend the USO Fort Drum for their ongoing efforts to support our troops, and ask that my colleagues would join me in commending their work to improve the lives of our military and their families.

RECOGNIZING OF THE BIRMINGHAM OPTIMIST CLUB ON  
THE OCCASION ON ITS 50TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF SERVICE TO THE  
COMMUNITY

### HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 2010*

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Birmingham Optimist Club on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary of service to the community. As a Member of Congress, it is both my honor and privilege to recognize this outstanding community organization on achieving this most impressive milestone.

Since its inception in 1960, the Birmingham Optimist Club has operated with the mission of "Bringing Out the Best in Kids." To this end, the Club has focused on sponsoring activities which promote a philosophy of optimism in one's daily life, encourage the development of youth, highlight the importance of service to others as a key component of one's own well-being and promote the development of friendship through social and business networking. In keeping with these principles, the Club offers a strong array of multi-faceted programs which offer our youth the keys to developing the skills, passion and community-minded focus necessary to become our next generation of leaders.

Throughout the years, the Birmingham Optimist Club has sponsored a number of activities, programs, and events centered on promoting the future of our youth. For over 35 years, the Club has offered an annual oratorical contest, which prepares high school students for the professional world by providing