

annual holiday fund drive. Her dedication to the people of the Second District of Texas is truly heartfelt.

Madam Speaker, the Second District of Texas is proud to have such a wonderful individual in its community. We have no doubt that the newspaper will miss Marie Richard and her dedication to the people of Beaumont, Texas.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM D.  
MONTAGUE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of William D. Montague, Director of the Cleveland, Ohio Veterans Administration Medical Center (Cleveland VAMC), and in celebration of his retirement. For nearly twenty years he provided excellence, leadership and expertise in support of United States Veterans from northeast Ohio.

Thanks in part to his hard work and dedication, the Cleveland VAMC has consistently provided superior and innovative clinical care, outreach services and numerous programs for veterans and their families. Throughout his tenure at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Mr. Montague has served as CEO or acting CEO at six VA facilities, and has been actively involved in 13 major construction projects which enhanced and expanded services and programs for veterans.

Mr. Montague's effective leadership and professional accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. He has been recognized numerous times with local, state and national awards and honors, including the 2009 American College of Healthcare Executives Federal Excellence in Healthcare Leadership Award; the Presidential Meritorious Award (twice); and the AMVETS Civil Servant Award. Mr. Montague was a key contact in working with my Congressional staff to assist veterans who reside in the 10th Congressional District. His response and support was consistently timely and thorough.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of William D. Montague, retiring Director of the Cleveland VAMC, who served with integrity, dedication, diligence, compassion and expertise. I thank Mr. Montague for all of his assistance to United States Veterans of the 10th Congressional District and the region. I wish him and his family peace, health and happiness as he journeys onward.

NATIONAL DISCOVERY TRAILS  
ACT OF 2010

**HON. JOHN P. SARBANES**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2010*

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan National Discovery Trails Act of 2010. This legislation seeks to connect existing trails, greenways, and country roads to form the American Discovery Trail a unique coast-to-coast, non-motorized, multi-use trail accessible to urban and rural areas alike all across the country.

Americans have utilized our nation's trail system for more than 40 years for outdoor recreation, exercise, historic study, and general enjoyment of the natural beauty this country has to offer. The American Discovery Trail will connect people to small towns, historic sites and natural wonders along a coast-to-coast route. It will provide millions of people greater access to a trail system that can be utilized for two hours, two days, two weeks, two months or longer giving users the flexibility to explore the trail for as much or as little time as they want. Numerous studies have shown that the presence of trails and greenway corridors positively impact quality of life, but also real estate property values, small businesses, tourism, and even some corporate relocations.

The National Trails System currently has two categories of significant long-distance trails. The first category is the National Historic Trail, which are famous historic routes, such as the Santa Fe Trail, Pony Express Trail, and the Lewis & Clark Trail. The second category is the National Scenic Trail, which are classic wilderness-only routes meant for hiking far from civilization, such as the Appalachian Trail, Pacific Crest Trail, and Continental Divide Trail.

The National Discovery Trails Act of 2010 would add a third long-distance national trails category called National Discovery Trails. National Discovery Trails would tie together historic and scenic trails and connect them with population centers from small towns to big cities in a way that will increase access to and awareness of our national trail system.

The legislation would also designate the American Discovery Trail as the first National Discovery Trail. The American Discovery Trail route—the first non-motorized way to cross the entire country—would utilize already existing right-of-ways on public land. It would be a patchwork quilt of the country's east-west pathways, including National Park hiking trails, National Forest logging roads, sections of historic routes, historic canal towpaths, rails-to-trails conversions, state and county park trails, country roads, small town sidewalks, and big city greenways—all stitched together to form one trail from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The National Park Service supported creation of the National Discovery Trail designation in a comprehensive feasibility study in 1996.

Madam Speaker, it is time to expand the national trails system and establish American Discovery Trails, linking community to community and providing trail users the opportunity to journey into the heart of all that is uniquely American—its culture, heritage, landscape, and spirit. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting of this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE J.  
AUGUSTUS ACCURSO

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2010*

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest respect and admiration that I rise today to honor the late Judge J. Augustus "Augie" Accurso. Augie was not only an engaged member of our community in Stanislaus County, California, but he was a beloved fa-

ther and grandfather. He was a very special and well respected man to many people, known for his gift of conversation, sense of humor and positive approach to life. At the age of 79, Augie Accurso passed away on Sunday, February 7, 2010.

The Queens Village, N.Y., native had several other jobs before settling into law. He went to barber school and worked as a pharmacist, which his colleagues said ensured he would carefully scrutinize chemical evidence. Judge Accurso started out in the Stanislaus County district attorney's office in 1969, then after a little more than a year went into private practice. He was then selected by the county Board of Supervisors to become a Justice Court judge in Turlock. In 1977, the Board of Supervisors abolished the Justice Court, the board appointed him to the Municipal Court bench.

Judge Accurso served on the bench for two decades, and during his 20-year career as a judge, he served at every judicial level in the state shy of the Supreme Court. He served on the Justice Court, the Municipal Court, the Superior Court and the Court of Appeal. During his tenure, he also served as dean of the Judges College, an ongoing curriculum to help judges keep abreast of judicial procedures and rules.

Judge Accurso was also an active alumnus of the Theta Chi Fraternity. Judge Accurso pledged, and was initiated, Theta Chi while attending San Jose State. This was a relationship that he held proudly throughout his life as he encouraged and nurtured the chapter that formed at CSU Stanislaus in the late 70s. Judge Accurso was very influential in the lives of the members of the Eta Tau Chapter of Theta Chi at California State University Stanislaus, and was like a father to many of them.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor and privilege to join my community in honoring the memory of Augie Accurso. He will be greatly missed by all.

RECOGNIZING WEST VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD AND LOCAL RESPONDERS FOR HEROIC WORK

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2010*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic efforts of my fellow West Virginians, who safely and successfully rescued 17 individuals from a downed military helicopter in Pocahontas County, WV, last week. The Navy helicopter was participating in the Operation Southbound Trooper X annual military exercise, when it went down in a deep snow-covered and rugged site, which lies in northwestern Pocahontas County.

A West Virginia Army National Guard HH-60 Blackhawk helicopter—piloted by Bluefield, WV, native Major Kevin Hazuka—located the downed aircraft. Two medics were lowered to the landing site to assess the situation and provide assistance to the injured. A C-130 Hercules aircraft from the 130th Airlift Wing in Charleston was dispatched and orbited the site to maintain communications with the downed aircraft, while emergency response and rescue teams worked through the night

and into the next morning to make their way to the survivors.

A February 20th editorial in the Beckley, WV, Register-Herald newspaper titled, "Our Nature," perhaps tells this story best:

When a crisis strikes, West Virginia responds. Time and time again. We've seen it this winter during all the snowstorms that have paralyzed different regions of the state. We've seen it during all the major floods. We've seen it in the aftermath of major accidents. We've seen it beyond our borders, like helping with the relief effort following Hurricane Katrina, like battling western forest fires.

West Virginians are ready to help in a moment's notice, often without being asked. Paid responders. Volunteer responders. Neighbors. Even those who may not be physically able to provide aid will show up with food, drink and supplies for those who are.

And now we've seen it again with what are being described as "heroic" efforts on the part of many who rescued 17 military personnel aboard a Virginia-based Navy helicopter that crashed during a training exercise Thursday on a rugged, snow-covered mountain on the Pocahontas-Randolph county line.

"I'd like to thank the West Virginia National Guard and the local responders for their heroic work," Navy Capt. Steve Schreiber said. "Their efforts were extraordinary and took place under the most difficult of situations. The rescuers had to traverse more than three miles from the nearest road through heavily wooded and mountainous terrain to reach the crash site."

"A special thanks to the Snowshoe Mountain Ski Resort for providing Snowcats that enabled first responders to reach the site."

The West Virginia National Guard and first responders around the state have a way of turning the extraordinary into the ordinary. In other words, we've seen it enough times to still marvel but not be surprised by what they do, even as they take rescue efforts to another level.

And this one reached another level, literally and figuratively. "... we've never had anything quite this big," said Shannon Boehmer, chief of the Shavers Fork Volunteer Fire Department.

After rescuers went as far as they could with special equipment along a railroad grade, Boehmer said, "it was still about a 45-minute hike in five feet of snow, straight up the side of a mountain. . . . It was probably a 50-degree pitch or so. The guys described it as like climbing a 'snow ladder.'"

Have you ever tried to walk in 5 feet of snow? Even on flat ground, just a few steps can wear you out.

Sometimes we may not realize what we have here in West Virginia. We have the finest National Guard unit in the country, first responders to match and a general willingness by everyone to help.

One thing is for sure: The US. Navy now knows.

And, now Madam Speaker, as I share this with our colleagues, the world now knows the courage, ability, incredible determination, and willingness to lend a neighborly hand of West Virginians—from those who serve in and lead our West Virginia National Guard, to our local fire, rescue and first responder units, and the countless volunteers, families and neighbors nearby.

MELANIE SHOUSE

## HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2010*

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere condolences to the family and friends of an individual I was just beginning to get to know last year during the height of the intense debate over health insurance reform—Melanie Shouse. It is with sadness that I inform you that we have lost Melanie earlier this month entirely too soon.

Melanie was diagnosed with breast cancer years ago and was unable to afford a doctor. After being diagnosed she became one of the St. Louis area's strongest advocates for health care reform, but sadly wasn't able to see her hard work come to fruition.

Last year, she was kind enough to share her story with those for and against health insurance reform at one of my town hall meetings. Melanie handled herself with great poise and distinction as she had throughout her time advocating for reform and I could not thank her enough. She so successfully made the case for reform. Despite our loss, she continues to give us hope that health insurance reform can become a reality.

My thoughts are with Melanie's partner Steve, her parents, sisters and grandmother. Melanie served as an inspiration for so many and will be sorely missed.

## RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF ROBERT BOWMAN

## HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2010*

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and public service of Mr. Robert F. Bowman, a life-long farmer and agricultural leader, well known throughout the San Joaquin Valley, California and the nation.

Robert served in the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant, stationed in Okinawa, Japan during WWII. He later graduated from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in 1950 with a B.S. in Animal Sciences.

From very meager beginnings, at age 15, Robert and his parents formed a farming partnership that would grow from Kern to Tulare County. With a legacy that began in the depths of the Great Depression, Robert ran a successful farming operation for nearly 70 years.

While Robert's impact on the agricultural industry is immeasurable, perhaps his greatest contribution was to the student-leadership organization, Future Farmers of America, FFA, where he was elected as the first national president from California in 1941. His dedication to vocational agriculture was exemplified by his continual support of the organization through his help in establishing the first California FFA center in 2005 in Galt, California.

First and foremost, Robert was a husband and father; patriarch to a family devoted to serving the agricultural industry. He believed in family and education and was known to tell people; "that his six girls were his greatest in-

vestments". Today, Robert's wife Gloria Bowman, his six daughters, sixteen grandchildren, and ten great grandchildren, continue to live out his legacy.

Robert Bowman was someone whom I knew personally. I valued his judgment and guidance. At heart, he was always a farmer, with an undeniable belief in the agricultural industry, inspiring all those who knew him. Robert's impact will not end today. His life's values, devotion to the agricultural industry, and commitment to education will live on through his family, friends, and community.

IN HONOR OF MRS. MINNIE L. JONES

## HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mrs. Minnie L. Jones in celebration of her 90th birthday.

Mrs. Jones has been blessed over her lifetime with faith, family and friends. She is known for her positive outlook and for seeing the good in others. She lives every day with a grateful heart and warm smile.

Mrs. Jones' abiding faith continues to be a source of strength and joy. She is a life-long member of and missionary with the African Methodist Episcopal Church of Cleveland, Ohio, where she volunteers her time. Aside from her time at the church, Mrs. Jones' greatest joy in life is spending time with her family and friends. She remains close with her grown children—Billy, Patricia, Mabel, Kenneth, Stafford, Sandra, Larry and Cindy. She is also a doting grandmother and great-grandmother. Mrs. Jones loves to cook and share memorable holiday and Sunday meals with family and friends, and welcomes everyone with hospitality and friendship.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Mrs. Minnie L. Jones upon the joyous occasion of her 90th birthday. Her love of family, love of life, service to others and youthful spirit have all served as an inspirational example for all of us to follow. I wish Mrs. Jones abundance of peace, health and happiness today, and throughout the years to come.

## HONORING BILLY DILWORTH FOR HIS FIFTY YEAR CAREER IN BROADCASTING AND JOURNALISM

## HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2010*

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Billy Dilworth, a legend in Georgia broadcasting, and an award winning journalist who is known by thousands in northeast Georgia for his newspaper articles as well as his television and radio shows.

Just after graduating from the University of Georgia, his career got off to a great start. His first interview was with a rising star in the music world named Elvis. His second interview was with a well-known politician, Harry