

the summit. Founder Micah Clark, a fellow veteran, often accompanies the hikers on the climb and sees first-hand the effect his organization can have on disabled veterans.

The Greater Seattle community has been very supportive of Camp Patriot's mission in the area. Joint Base Lewis-McChord volunteers moved to help put up tents and prepare food for the participants. They also participate in fishing and hunting trips, assisting Camp Patriot veterans on the way. Additionally, Washington State organizations have helped provide services and materials to help the nonprofit and its participating veterans.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives please join me in honoring Camp Patriot for their commitment to provide for disabled veterans who have given so much for our safety.

RECOGNIZING THE PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD LIBRARY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Patchogue-Medford Library for earning the prestigious National Medal for Museum and Library Service. This award recognizes the Patchogue-Medford Library for its commitment to making a difference in the lives of individuals, families, and its community and serves as our Nation's highest honor for libraries and museums.

The Patchogue-Medford Library enjoys a long and colorful history, having served the people of Suffolk County for nearly 130 years. Originally housed in the back room of Floyd Overton's shoe store on East Main Street, the library was formed under the direction of the Patchogue Library Association in June, 1883. The library opened its doors just two months later in August, 1883, housing 635 volumes that included the likes of Mark Twain, Charles Dickens, Jules Verne, and Alexis De Tocqueville.

Following brief stints in a music store and the Lyceum Community Center, the library was adopted in 1899 by Sorosis, an all-purpose women's organization new to the Patchogue neighborhood, with the intention of transforming the private library into a public facility. Sorosis greatly enhanced the library, raising enough funds and community support for the construction of a permanent home in 1908.

Aided by the financial backing of philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, the library earned acclaim across New York State. Today, the Patchogue-Medford Library serves as the sole New York State-designated Central Library for Suffolk County, providing support and innovative services to the people of the First Congressional District of New York.

Throughout all of the changes, growth, and iterations of the Patchogue-Medford Library, the goal of universal literacy has remained at the forefront of the library's agenda. Serving a diverse community, of which nearly one-quarter of the population is Hispanic, the library has taken a non-traditional approach toward literacy in the community.

The library is committed to bringing quality programming to both English-speaking and

Spanish-speaking communities, often combining the two groups for mutually beneficial learning experiences. Children are often exposed to bilingual story times, teens engage with each other in the Language Café, and Spanish language computer instructions are offered to more than 2,100 adult students. The Patchogue-Medford Library demonstrates that literacy is important in all its forms, from reading books to reading one another.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Patchogue-Medford Library for receiving the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, and I commend the library for its continued commitment to providing vital services to the people of the First Congressional District of New York.

IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR ROBERT SUMMERS' RETIREMENT

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cornell Law School Professor Robert S. Summers, whose tireless dedication to his students and intense passion for the law are worthy of recognition.

Professor Summers grew up on his family's farm in rural Oregon. There, his parents imbued in him a strong work ethic, which he credits for his extensive career of publication and scholarship. He went from driving tractors and school buses to studies at the University of Oregon, and Harvard Law. He has spent the last 50 years as a law professor, 42 of them at Cornell Law School. December 1, 2010 was his final class.

Professor Summers has been an unwavering advocate for his students. He ardently supported increased minority enrollment within law schools, and saw this goal through to fruition, traveling the country holding recruiting and preparatory sessions.

Professor Summers demanded analytical excellence in the classroom. He taught using the traditional Socratic Method, forcing students to learn through argument and questioning, instead of simply providing them with the answers. I was a student in Professor Summers's Contract Law class for first year students, and the class was a formative experience for me. Being called upon to answer questions from Professor Summers was rewarding and challenging and it helped make me the person I am today.

In addition to his laudable career in education, Professor Summers has also made significant contributions to the field of law. He co-authored the Universal Commercial Code, outlining procedures for numerous commercial transactions, and was also called upon by the governments of Russia, Egypt, and Rwanda to help draft their civil codes. He is simply the type of lawyer that many law students aspire to be when they first enter school, but that very few become.

Madam Speaker, Professor Summers' commitment to the legal education of the nation's law students and service to the field of law merit recognition. I am sure Professor Summers will embody the same honor and morality in his retirement as he did throughout his distinguished career.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES L. OBERSTAR

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, this is a very sad day for the U.S. House of Representatives as we say goodbye to Washington's true transportation guru, Chairman JAMES OBERSTAR. Your expertise and long history in developing transportation policy for our nation will be sorely missed as we continue to fight for the type of infrastructure funding that will keep our nation going strong.

You've guided the committee with wisdom and fairness. Continued the committee's longstanding bipartisanship, and steered major pieces of legislation affecting every sector of our transportation system. Your leadership will long be felt on this committee and throughout the nation long after you depart the chairman's seat.

The trips we took to Haiti were some of my most memorable times serving in Congress. Traveling there with Chairman OBERSTAR was like spending time with a native.

It was an honor working with you on so many issues over the years and I look forward to continuing to work with you as you remain a major player in transportation policy. Thank you Mr. OBERSTAR for all you have done.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD BREITMEYER IN RECOGNITION OF HIS EXEMPLARY PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Richard Breitmeyer, who has provided exemplary public service for over 25 years.

Dr. Richard Breitmeyer has served as the California State Veterinarian at the California Department of Food and Agriculture since 1993—rising to this position through a series of senior appointments at CDFA since 1988. He has also served at the United States Department of Agriculture in Ames, Indiana and Plum Island, New York. Before joining the CDFA in 1984, Breitmeyer was in private veterinary practice.

Throughout his professional career, Dr. Breitmeyer has been a member of both the California and American Veterinary Medical Associations. He also served as president of the U.S. Animal Health Association since 2009 and was co-chair of the USDA Secretary's Advisory Committee for Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases.

In 2001, USDA Secretary Ann Veneman asked California to loan Dr. Breitmeyer to the USDA to provide leadership in addressing the very real possibility that Foot and Mouth Disease might migrate from the United Kingdom to the United States. It is a testament to Breitmeyer's leadership that this virulent and devastating livestock disease did not enter the

United States. Due to this work, the USDA presented Dr. Breitmeyer with the Honor Award in 2002.

Dr. Breitmeyer also led the effort in California to develop animal health emergency response planning with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services—an effort put to the test during the successful eradication of exotic Newcastle disease from Southern California in 2003.

Dr. Richard Breitmeyer is loved and respected by his wife and family, by the team that worked for him at CDFA, and by all those who have interacted with him during his professional life. I am grateful that since his retirement on September 30, 2010, Dr. Breitmeyer has joined the staff at the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory at the University of California, Davis, to continue his outreach activities for livestock and poultry health.

I am pleased to recognize and congratulate Dr. Richard Breitmeyer upon his retirement, and applaud him for his dedication to California.

HONORING REVEREND BRUCE
HENNING DAVIDSON

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Reverend Bruce Henning Davidson, Director of the Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry of New Jersey, who is retiring January 1, 2011. The Office of Governmental Ministry is an advocacy ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and communicates the official policies and actions of the church to leaders in state government, particularly on issues of hunger and poverty, and more recently, immigration reform, detention practices, refugee issues and marriage equality.

Reverend Davidson is recognized statewide as an inspiring pastor, an energetic community activist, and as an advocate for justice for all people. Since becoming Director of the Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry of New Jersey, Reverend Davidson has been a tireless laborer in the vineyard of social service. He founded the New Jersey Advocacy Network to End Homelessness and the Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey and a number of other community service organizations.

Heeding the biblical command to feed, clothe and shelter the poor and needy, Bruce Davidson made it his business to search out ways for people in need to have an opportunity for a better life. He recognized that the homeless are often people with bad luck—lack of a job, a sick child and no health insurance, a lack of education, or a traumatizing war experience can cause a person to become homeless and this can happen to any of us. He believes that no one should be homeless in America and inspires us to join in the fight against the poverty and indifference that allows this to happen.

Bruce Davidson was born on March 10, 1948 to David E. and Anne H. Davidson. He is a graduate of the Philadelphia school system and Temple University and was ordained following his graduation from the Lutheran

Theological Seminary in 1974. He has spent his entire career in New Jersey, ministering to congregations from Cape May in Southern New Jersey to Bergen County in the north.

Wherever he has lived and preached, Bruce Davidson has made an impact, as evidenced by the many organizations that have honored him for his leadership in the community. He received the Equal Justice Award from Legal Services of New Jersey and was recognized by New Jersey Citizen Action and the Bergen County Chapter of NAACP. He was chosen a Distinguished Alumnus by the Community College of Philadelphia.

I have known Bruce Davidson for many years and my admiration for his life's work has no bounds. He is an unselfish and humble man who inspires the best in all of us. He deserves a happy and healthy retirement, with much time to spend with his long-time partner, Donald Barb, and a bit of leisure. But it is hard to think that he will not continue his advocacy for the unfortunate. Please join with me in recognizing Pastor Bruce Davidson and thanking him for a life of service.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY
(DRA)

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Delta Regional Authority, DRA, on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. Ten years ago, President Clinton signed into law legislation establishing the DRA. He did so with the widespread bipartisan support of Members of Congress who were eager to give this region a strong foothold up the ladder to success.

The DRA has proven to be effective in leveling the playing field for the Delta region. The DRA helps connect opportunity with the sheer grit, intelligence, and willpower that already exists in the people of the region. For ten years, DRA has made great strides in bridging the gaps that have kept the region isolated from progress.

The DRA is a federal-state partnership that serves 252 counties and parishes in parts of Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Missouri. These counties and parishes hold great promise for access and trade in bordering the world's greatest transportation arterial—the Mississippi River.

It has been a privilege for me to work alongside DRA and the people of the Delta region over the years. The educators, healthcare providers, farmers, local officials, small business owners and workers in this part of the country have all made meaningful contributions to overcome unique challenges and make the Delta region a wonderful place to live and work.

The people of the Delta region are fortunate to have a reliable federal partner in the DRA. In its first ten years of work, the DRA has made significant progress tackling the region's unique challenges. For example, the DRA operates a highly successful grant program in each of the eight states it serves, allowing cities and counties to leverage money from other federal agencies and private investors.

An independent report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service found that per capita income grew more rapidly in counties where the DRA had the greatest investment. Anyone who knows what it is like to live and work in an area without the most basic infrastructure systems will understand how important the DRA work is to bring critical infrastructure such as new water and sewer services to more than 43,000 families.

I look forward to working with the DRA as it continues to expand its regional initiatives in the areas of health care, transportation, leadership training and information technology, small business development and entrepreneurship, and alternative energy jobs. I am proud to recognize the DRA's first ten years of achievements, and I look forward to working with the DRA to build an even stronger region for our future.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTING
GIRLS BY PREVENTING CHILD
MARRIAGE ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 987, the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act. I'd like to thank Congresswoman McCOLLUM and Senator DURBIN for introducing this legislation and for their longstanding leadership on this issue.

Child marriage is a true tragedy, as well as a serious human rights violation. Sixty million girls worldwide, some as young as eight years old, have been forced into early marriage. Child brides have little, if any, control over their lives, their bodies, and their futures. Not only do girls forced into early marriage lose the opportunity to attend school and develop as children, they also face serious health consequences and substantially higher rates of domestic violence.

Girls who are married at a young age are also typically forced into early sexual activity, but their bodies are not physically suited for giving birth. According to the International Center for Research on Women, pregnancy is the leading cause of death worldwide for girls aged 15–19.

Child marriage is often linked to a lack of education, opportunity, and resources. Girls from poor households are far more likely to be given away as child brides; some families view it as a way to guarantee their daughters' future, while others see girls as an economic liability. Either way, studies have shown that girls who are married before 18 are more likely to remain poor and less likely to receive education.

We need to do much more to prevent child marriage. I am an original cosponsor of the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act, which makes preventing child marriage an international priority for the U.S. Government. This legislation requires the State Department, as part of their annual Country Reports on Human Rights, to report on countries with high rates of child marriage in their annual, and the White House to create an action plan on combating child marriage.