

participation in our community has made a difference to thousands of people, especially our youth.

HONORING SABRINA MORALES, PRISCILLA KING, LAKEITHA LYLES, AND DIANA EDOUARD FOR WINNING THE HONORING OUR FUTURE LEADERS COMPETITION

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge four students in my district, Sabrina Morales, Priscilla King, Lakeitha Lyles, and Diana Edouard, from Wyandanch Memorial High School.

These students will receive the Honoring Our Future Leaders Award on February 27, 2010. To win this award, they wrote their own rendition of the “I Have a Dream” speech delivered by Martin Luther King, Jr.

I am proud to honor Sabrina, Priscilla, Lakeitha, and Diana for their academic and personal achievements and congratulate them upon the receipt of this prestigious award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I was absent from votes on Monday, February 22, 2010. The House considered two bills under suspension of the rules. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” for rollcall 49 and “yea” for rollcall 50.

COMMEMORATION OF TAIWAN’S “2-28 MASSACRE”

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 63th commemoration of Taiwan’s “2-28 Massacre.” In the Fall of 1945, 50 years of Japanese occupation of Taiwan ended with World War II. The United Nations gave administrative control of Taiwan to the Chinese Nationalist Party. After more than a year, the Taiwanese people were frustrated by the corruption and economic mismanagement that seemed to plague the party.

On February 28, 1947, an elderly woman was arrested and beaten. A group of Taiwanese confronted the Chinese troops responsible. One of the Taiwanese was shot, riots raged, and Chinese soldiers gunned down thousands of unarmed civilians.

During the following days, government troops arrived from mainland China. The Chinese soldiers began capturing and executing leading Taiwanese lawyers, doctors, students, and other citizens. It is estimated more than

18,000 people lost their lives. During the following four decades, the Chinese Nationalists continued to rule Taiwan with an iron fist under Martial Law that was not lifted until 1987.

The Massacre had far reaching implications. Over the next half-century, these events helped galvanize Taiwan’s struggle for independence and for its transformation from a dictatorship to a thriving and pluralistic democracy.

I urge other Members to join me in commemorating this important historical event.

HONORING KELLY WEINSENSEL FOR WINNING THE HONORING OUR FUTURE LEADERS COMPETITION

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a student in my district, Kelly Weinsenseel, from West Babylon High School.

Kelly will receive the Honoring Our Future Leaders Award on February 27, 2010. To win this award, she wrote her own rendition of the “I Have a Dream” speech delivered by Martin Luther King, Jr.

I am proud to honor Kelly for her academic and personal achievements and congratulate her upon the receipt of this prestigious award.

CORPORAL JACOB HENRY TURBETT

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Corporal Jacob Henry Turbett, a courageous and noble Marine, who died on February 13 at the age of 21. Corporal Turbett lost his life while bravely supporting combat operations in the Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Corporal Turbett was a member of the Second Combat Engineer Battalion, Second Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force based in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He was a 2007 graduate of Canton High School and took part in Civil Air Patrol. He came from a celebrated military family. His grandfather, cousin and two of his uncles were in the Marines. His uncle was in the Navy and his sister, Jaime Turbett, started boot camp in the Navy only ten days before her brother was killed.

Corporal Turbett followed in these proud footsteps by completing tours of duty in Bangladesh and Iraq. Additionally, he was stationed in Okinawa, Japan. He was a hard worker, a proud and brave American, and a loving husband to his wife Crystal, whom he married in July 2008. Along with his wife and sister he is survived by his mother, Sheila, his father, Richard and his brother, Joe Marsh, who is a sheriff’s deputy in Humboldt County, California.

Corporal Turbett sacrificed everything for his country in Operation Enduring Freedom. To his fellow soldiers, his family and friends, and

to everyone who knew and loved him, he was a dedicated member of his community who answered the higher calling to serve his country.

Madam Speaker, during his lifetime, Corporal Turbett enriched the lives of everyone around him by employing energy, leadership, and courage in everything he set out to do. As we bid farewell to this exceptional individual, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring his contributions and years of devoted service to his community and our country.

HONORING THE ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT FOR BEING RECOGNIZED BY THE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION’S WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the employees of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. The staff of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument has been recognized by the Intermountain Region’s Wilderness Stewardship Awards Program with the top award for 2009 as true Wilderness Champions.

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument covers 330,689 acres and, of that acreage, 95 percent is designated wilderness. Founded in 1937, the employees of this National Monument have continuously monitored and evaluated the land use and local environment. President Franklin D. Roosevelt preserved this land for its scenic views but also for its ecological wonders. Having been occupied by American Indians, Mexicans and Europeans the diverse history of this land makes it valuable around the globe. In addition, in 1976 the United Nations bestowed the title of International Biosphere Reserve on Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument further confirming not only its local importance, but its value internationally. Twenty-six species of cactus flourish in the harsh conditions, as well as many species of birds, lizards, bats and rodents. They all delicately coexist in this wonderful ecosystem.

Until the 1970s, this land was used for ranching and mining, making the jobs of the current staff challenging. Catching up with the damage done during these times has proven to be the stimulus for all the wonderful projects taken on by the employees at Organ Pipe. Most notable is the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument Ecological Monitoring Program. This program has been diligently working since 1997 to monitor and evaluate critical aspects of the region. From reporting changes in the ecosystem, to documenting damage to the land by neighboring developers, this program has proven vital to the stability of the National Monument, as well as to the ecosystem of Southern Arizona.

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is also a vital part of the community and offers guided tours, hiking, camping, excellent birding and plenty of beautiful picnic areas. Organ Pipe also offers wonderful educational opportunities through student field trips and its

participation in the VIEWS program through the National Park Service.

The men and women employed at Organ Pipe monitor this delicate ecosystem while still preserving this beautiful area. The staff take bi-annual photos in eight different areas to monitor land use and development along the Mexico border, annually monitor spring and summer lizards and their habits in the Sonoran Desert, and have set up an annual climate monitoring system for which the data are all reported into their ORPI Ecological Monitoring Report. Through the staff's efforts, the stability of this wonderful, natural resource is protected.

The employees of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument who have been honored with this award truly deserve it. They are vital players in the protection of America's wild lands. As a member of the House Committee on Natural Resources and, having seen our community grow to over a million people during my lifetime, I know the importance of protecting these delicate areas. It gives me great joy to see such wonderful people giving of themselves to preserve and protect this spectacular region of Southern Arizona.

HONORING MS. DEBRA GABEL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Ms. Debra Gabel. Ms. Gabel served her constituency faithfully and justly during her tenure as the Cherry Creek tax collector.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Ms. Gabel served her term with her head held high and a smile on her face the entire way. I have no doubt that her kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Ms. Gabel is one of those people and that is why Madam Speaker I rise to pay tribute to her today.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN CUBA

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share my deep sadness over the loss of a Cuban prisoner of conscience, Orlando Zapata Tamayo, held by the Cuban regime.

Orlando Zapata Tamayo was first arrested in March 2003 for participating in a hunger strike to demand the release of Dr. Oscar Biscet and other prisoners of conscience. Since his initial arrest and unwarranted imprisonment, the regime consistently increased Zapata's prison term up to 47 years.

While in prison, Zapata endured frequent beatings and unimaginable living conditions.

On December 3, 2009, Mr. Zapata began a hunger strike to protest the human rights violations and the repeated beatings by the Cuban authorities. After an 83-day hunger strike, Orlando Zapata Tamayo passed away on Tuesday, February 23, 2010.

In mourning the death of Orlando Zapata Tamayo, I urge my colleagues to listen to his message of freedom and respect for human life. As the atrocities he fought against remain the reality of Cuba today, we must continue to fight for human rights and the release of all political prisoners.

In light of this tragic death, it is important to recognize the hundreds of activists and prisoners of conscience that continue to risk their freedoms and their lives in Cuba. One such man, Normando Hernandez Gonzalez, was also arrested in the massive crackdown on suspected dissidents in March of 2003. Mr. Hernandez was sentenced to 25 years in prison. While serving this term, his health has deteriorated significantly and he continues to suffer from several life-threatening ailments. I am very concerned for his well-being, and along with the international human rights community, I plead for his immediate release and the release of every wrongly imprisoned Cuban.

IN HONOR OF MAURICE GROSSMAN

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to honor Maurice Grossman, one of Tucson's true treasures, who passed away January 21st at the age of 82.

Maurice was beloved by many who knew him, not just for his art but for his dedication to human rights and the Democratic Party.

A retired art professor from the University of Arizona, Maurice Grossman spent his life as a ceramic artist, activist and a leader in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

Maurice served in the Navy during World War II, before attending Wayne State University in Detroit. After attending and teaching at other universities, he traveled to Japan as a Fulbright scholar, then finally to Tucson to teach.

The founder of the University of Arizona's ceramics program in 1955, Maurice received several prestigious awards during his career, including a National Endowment for the Arts grant in 1986 and the UA's Creative Teaching Award. Maurice's commitment to supporting other artists' was unflagging and genuine. He would invariably turn up at openings and contribute his works to galleries, both big and small.

Always the activist, Maurice single-handedly took it upon himself to register people to vote. He felt that it was his duty to make sure that everyone, regardless of background, had a voice. When he retired in 1989, he became more involved in the effort to help fight discrimination against the LGBT community.

Maurice was quoted in a 2004 article as saying, "It's not just about equal rights for us. It's about equal rights for everyone. Do we want to take a step forward or a step back?"

Maurice never stepped back. He was an extraordinary man and a true individual. His role

as an activist for equality and human rights will not soon be forgotten.

I was privileged to know Maurice personally. Always enthusiastic, I could count on not only his support but his passion. His dedication to the community was never-ending.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Maurice Grossman and thank him for being a role model for so many of us.

RETIREMENT OF MR. LEW STULTS

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. McKEON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Lew Stults, who graciously served as my District Director for the past 12 years, representing the needs of constituents in the 25th Congressional District of California. A 53-year resident of the Antelope Valley, Lew first began working for me in 1998 and was a direct liaison to residents, schools, businesses, city and county government officials, civic organizations, and the local aerospace industry.

Lew was an integral part of my most senior staff, forging relationships and addressing issues that significantly and positively impacted Southern California. He became such a beloved figure that he was oftentimes referred to as the "Congressman of Palmdale."

Lew arrived in the Antelope Valley at the age of 10 in 1957, when his family relocated from Portland, Maine. He attended elementary and middle schools in the Lancaster School District and graduated from Antelope Valley High School in 1965. He first attended Antelope Valley College in the fall of 1965, but interrupted his education to join the U.S. Navy in 1966. Lew is a Vietnam veteran who served in an airborne photographic reconnaissance squadron. After his 4-year service in the Navy, Lew returned to the Antelope Valley and again attended Antelope Valley College.

He has had a long and distinguished career in sales and marketing, and was elected twice to two 4-year terms on the Board of Trustees for the Lancaster School District. In 1993 Lew became the founding President of the Lancaster Education Foundation, a non-profit corporation raising money for children in the Lancaster School District. He is a long-time member of Lancaster West Rotary Club and is a Past President of the Antelope Valley Board of Trade.

It has been my absolute honor to have Lew Stults as a senior advisor and staff member for more than a decade. He is a tremendous man of warm humor, quick wit, and great integrity.

I congratulate Lew on his retirement and wish him and his wife of 42 years, Karen Stults, prosperity in all future endeavors.

THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, one of our greatest strengths as elected officials is the