

pygmy-owl and the endangered masked bobwhite quail. Additionally, 325 bird species, 53 species of reptiles and amphibians, 58 mammal species, including mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn, javelina, and mountain lions all call the Refuge home. Without the protection of the Refuge, many of these species would disappear and be lost to us forever. The Refuge is also a vital part of the community and offers guided tours, hiking, camping, horseback riding, mountain biking, excellent birding, and plenty of beautiful picnic areas. The Refuge even offers wonderful educational opportunities through volunteer projects and nature workshops.

The men and women employed at the Refuge work tirelessly to preserve this beautiful area. Through their efforts, the Refuge has successfully reintroduced the endangered bobwhite quail and the pronghorn deer into the wild and ensures their continued protection. These people are truly the guardians of an environmental treasure and view their task as a privilege, not just a job.

In addition to the wonderful staff at the Refuge, an exemplary group of volunteers known as the Friends of the Buenos Aires National Refuge dedicate their time to the community education conservation, and preservation of this wonderful land. This non-profit group gives selflessly to promote the goals of the Refuge and with the help of the Refuge staff; they recently held the 1st Annual Grasslands Fair to celebrate this beloved land.

The Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, its staff, and the volunteers who dedicate their time are all truly valued players in the protection of America's wild lands. Being 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 areas like the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. It gives me great joy to see such wonderful people giving of themselves to preserve and protect this spectacular region of Southern Arizona.

RECOGNITION OF STEFANIE SPIELMAN

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Stefanie Spielman, a dedicated activist who fought to increase funding for breast cancer research and raise awareness about the disease. Stefanie was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1998, survived four bouts of cancer and worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the vital role routine examinations play for women. Stefanie's death in November 2009 was a tragic loss for her family and the Columbus community, but her legacy will live on.

After her diagnosis, it became Stefanie's life mission to raise money for breast cancer awareness and research. Her initial efforts were focused locally. Her neighborhood grocery store asked shoppers to purchase paper footballs, the donations from which would be given to the Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital. The response was overwhelming. Within six months donations totaled \$1 million, far ex-

ceeding the initial goal of \$250,000. Inspired by this outpouring of support, Stefanie established the Stefanie Spielman Fund for Breast Cancer Research and Stefanie's Champions, an annual awards program recognizing those whose love, dedication and strength have had a powerful impact on the lives of cancer survivors. Stefanie's fundraising efforts continued over the next twelve years and at the time of her death, the Stefanie Spielman Fund for Breast Cancer Research had raised over \$6.5 million for breast cancer research, education, and patient assistance. Stefanie also helped establish the Stefanie Spielman Patient Assistance Fund, which provides financial support to breast cancer patients and their families who are experiencing financial hardships. Through these efforts, Stefanie has touched the lives of countless individuals and families who have struggled with breast cancer.

The Upper Arlington Historical Society and the city of Upper Arlington have chosen Stefanie Spielman as one of the 2010 inductees to the Upper Arlington Wall of Honor. Each year, the Historical Society and the city select members of the community who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and personal character, or provided valuable service to the community. The induction ceremony will be held on May 23, 2010, in honor of Stefanie, her contributions to Upper Arlington, Columbus, and the search for a cure for breast cancer. I am proud to honor Stefanie Spielman, whose leadership and courage in the fight against breast cancer in the Columbus and greater Ohio area has been and continues to be an inspiration.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR REPRESENTATIVE DALE KILDEE

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge one of our most devoted and respected colleagues, Representative DALE KILDEE, and congratulate him on the casting of his historic 20,000th vote in the U.S. House of Representatives. For those of us in this chamber who have been fortunate enough to work with the gentleman from Michigan, such a remarkable achievement comes as no surprise.

As my colleagues have justly pointed out, it is not only the quantity of votes that makes this feat remarkable, but it is the consistency with which he has cast them that proves to be especially noteworthy. Missing only 27 votes since 1977 is a reflection of the pride and seriousness he takes in representing the people of Michigan's Fifth District.

Since entering Congress, I have had the honor of serving with Mr. KILDEE on the Education and Labor Committee. He brings the same work ethic to the committee as he has on the floor of the House.

Representative KILDEE has set a standard here in Congress that most will not replicate, but it will indeed continue to inspire and serve as an example for me and his other colleagues in the House. Once again, I send my congratulations on this historic achievement and thank Representative KILDEE for his service to his district in Michigan and to this institution.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL LARRY DODGEN

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my condolences to the family of LTG Larry Dodgen, former head of the Army's Aviation and Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal.

On February 20, 2010, I along with many others across the State and Nation were saddened to hear of the passing of Retired LTG Larry Dodgen.

Dodgen served in the U.S. Army from 1972 to 2006. He was awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

Lieutenant General Dodgen served as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, near Huntsville, Alabama, from September 10, 2001, to December 16, 2003.

After retiring from the Army in 2006, Lieutenant General Dodgen worked as sector vice president and deputy general manager of the Missile Defense Division within Northrop Grumman's Mission Systems sector.

Lieutenant General Dodgen will be remembered for his outstanding leadership, effective communication, and for making safety and security the top priority for both his troops and their families. It was an honor to work with him, and I know he was well-liked and respected throughout Congress.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Leslie and her family and friends.

RECOGNIZING AND THANKING AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURS

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women who are striving to realize the American dream and who will be integral in our economy's recovery. This week we are recognizing and thanking American small businesses and the entrepreneurs behind them.

Entrepreneurs are a key component to our Nation's economy now more than ever. They are responsible for the creation of two-thirds of all new jobs each year, and their small businesses comprise more than 97 percent of all employers in the United States—nearly 30 million businesses in all.

Entrepreneurs are important for the entire nation, but in Nebraska they are vital. In the most recent report from the Small Business Administration, Nebraska has an estimated 163,077 small businesses which employed more than 50 percent of the non-farm private labor force, bringing in \$6.7 billion in income. Quite simply, we need small businesses and entrepreneurs. They deserve our support and recognition as they work to rebuild our economy.

All too often there is a tendency to rely on the government to create wealth and prosperity when, in reality, these are created in the private sector by risk-taking entrepreneurial Americans with ideas, innovation, and their own hard work.

RECOGNITION OF CINDY DYAS

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cindy Dyas, a strong, inspirational woman who fought to raise awareness for breast cancer as well as the care of patients suffering from the illness. Cindy, diagnosed with breast cancer in 1991, was instrumental in bringing both issues to the forefront in the Columbus community.

Cindy Dyas played an integral role in bringing the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure to Columbus. Since the inaugural race in 1993, the number of participants has grown from 800 to 47,000 and has raised \$13 million in support of Ohio cancer research. Currently the Columbus Race for the Cure ranks in the top 10 for participation among Race for the Cure events nationwide. Each year her contribution to breast cancer awareness and research in Columbus lives on through thousands of central Ohioans who take part in and support the annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

After bringing the Race for the Cure to the Columbus area, Ms. Dyas walked in every race but one and was an active member of the Columbus Komen Board. In 2003 she received the Komen Cameo Award, the highest award given to a volunteer by the foundation. Upon her death in 2005, Susan G. Komen for the Cure established the Cindy Dyas Award of Heroism. The award is presented annually to a long-term breast cancer survivor whose dedication to the cure has given strength to others in the same way that Cindy Dyas has inspired countless cancer survivors.

The Upper Arlington Historical Society and the City of Upper Arlington have chosen Cindy Dyas as one of the 2010 inductee for the Upper Arlington Wall of Honor. Each year the Historical Society and the city select members of the community who have demonstrated an outstanding achievement and personal character, or provided valuable service to the community. The induction ceremony will be held on May 23, 2010, in honor of Cindy Dyas, her contribution to Upper Arlington, Columbus, and the search for a cure of breast cancer. I am proud to honor Cindy Dyas, whose leadership and courage in the fight against breast cancer in the Columbus and central Ohio area has been and continues to be an inspiration.

IN HONOR OF THE PRESCOTT FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and rec-

ognize the Prescott Fire Department in Prescott, Arizona. On March 6th, the City of Prescott will celebrate the 125th Anniversary of their Fire Department's founding. Over the past 125 years, the brave men and women to be honored next Saturday fought some of the most tenacious fires in one of the toughest fire districts in our Nation. Growing up in Arizona, I heard stories about the Prescott Fire Department fighting the fire that destroyed one block of historic "Whiskey Row" in the summer of 1900 and I remember the Indian Fire—a wild-fire that nearly burned through town in the Spring of 2002. Events like these, gave me a deep respect for firefighters, especially those in Prescott. Since 1885 the citizens of Prescott have benefitted from the expert services provided by Arizona's oldest fire department and I look forward to joining the Prescott Fire Department for many future celebrations.

HONORING ALEC ROBINOVITZ, A TOP YOUTH VOLUNTEER IN SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alec Robinovitz, who was named one of two top youth volunteers in South Carolina for 2010 by the 15th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Alec, a fifth-grade student at East Cooper Montessori Charter School in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., collected more than 3,000 books over the past two years for patients at the Medical University of South Carolina Children's Hospital. He is a remarkable and inspirational young man who has chosen to make a positive impact on his community by reaching out to those in need.

I am proud of my constituent, Alec Robinovitz, who has displayed an incredible sense of kindness and commitment to the children at MUSC. Thank you, Alec, for your exemplary volunteer service in South Carolina's First District, and congratulations on receiving such a noble honor.

IN TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. MURTHA OF PENNSYLVANIA

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Representative KANJORSKI for organizing this afternoon's special order to honor the memory of our friend and colleague Jack Murtha.

Over the course of the hour many members of our delegation and the House will add their own personalized sentiments to memorialize Jack Murtha and I appreciate the opportunity to add my own remarks today.

Jack Murtha will always be remembered for his extraordinary service to his country, both in and out of uniform. He always put the inter-

ests of his country, his state, and his constituents first and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Outside of Pennsylvania, Jack Murtha will be remembered—and rightly so—for his skills in navigating the ins and outs of House rules and procedures. He will be remembered as someone who could get things done in Washington.

As a former colonel in the Marine Corps, Jack never forgot Congress' primary responsibility to provide for our common defense. His unceasing commitment to our national security will go down as legend in Washington, as will the work he did on behalf of our men and women in the military through his chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations.

For those of us from Pennsylvania, especially the western part of the state, Jack will always be remembered and greatly missed for the dogged determination he showed over his career to make sure the needs of the people he represented were met.

There is little doubt that Jack left an indelible mark on this House and his impact will still be felt long after he is gone.

Personally, I will always remember Jack as a friend to both my father and me over the 36 years he served the people of the 12th district of Pennsylvania.

Jack was an extraordinary person—a tireless advocate for his constituents, and a champion for our national security. We have lost a true patriot. I send my condolences to Jack's wife Joyce and their children. My thoughts and prayers continue to be with them and the people of the 12th District.

HONORING MEHDI MORSHED

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Mehdi Morshed, who has been one of California's leading transportation policy experts and innovators for over 40 years.

Mr. Morshed served as a member of the California High Speed Rail Commission from 1994 to 1996 and was the first person to be appointed to the board of the newly created California High Speed Rail Authority in 1997. He was appointed by the board to be the first Executive Director of the Authority in 1998 and has served in that position since.

Mr. Morshed has been instrumental in guiding the development of the California High Speed Rail Project from its inception and has been an advocate nationwide. The project has evolved from a planning concept to a fully developed project with an 800-mile system that has won political, community, and finally voter support and is poised for implementation in the near future.

Prior to becoming the Executive Director, Mr. Morshed served as the principal policy person on transportation issues for the California State Senate for more than 20 years. Prior to that, he worked for the California Department of Transportation in various capacities, including planning, design and construction of bridges. He was a member of the design engineering team for San Diego's Coronado Bridge.