

Fifty years later, in the Civil War, 200,000 Black men took up arms and manned military vessels, one out of ten of the entire Union army. Among the most famous was the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, which gained its modern-day fame in "Glory," a movie depiction of their heroic attack in the first wave of the assault on the beaches of Charleston. The regiment was wiped out.

Black soldiers not only had fought well, they provided the margin for victory when finally called upon as reinforcements by President Lincoln to bolster the devastated Union army. But even following this victory in the Civil War, when they fought not just to preserve the Union but to end slavery in the existing states, the nation went back on its promises. While Emancipation had ended the evil practice of legal slavery and allowed a short breathing space of freedom and political participation, less than two decades later Black Americans were bound by the new set of legal shackles of Reconstruction and Jim Crow.

Regardless of these negative circumstances, Black troops broke the societal constraints. One such group, the 369th Harlem Hellfighters, was the first African American Regiment during World War I. Faced with surmounting discrimination and rabid racism in the U.S., they were sent to fight with the French troops against the Germans. Not only did these Black troops serve the longest stretch in battle without replacement, 191 days, they did not lose ground or men to enemy capture. This all Black unit earned the Croix de Guerre, France's highest military honor, yet upon returning to their homes in the U.S., they were vilified and discriminated against as they had been before the war.

Again, during World War II, our Black soldiers proved their loyalty and commitment to the United States. The Tuskegee Airmen, America's first Black military airmen, helped break through the constraints of a segregated military when, inspired by their bravery and achievements, President Truman promulgated Executive Order Number 9981 in 1948. Many of these Black veterans fueled the Civil Rights movement through their courage and strength to change the status quo and fight for equality.

Black Veterans have time and time again proven their loyalty and patriotism to a country they were instrumental in building. They have led the charge in breaking the shackles of slavery and discrimination. We must stand in support of our brave men and women in the Armed Forces as they return in increasing numbers to find that their employment prospects are limited. Others are suffering the detrimental effect of multiple deployments and PTSD.

It is our duty as a nation to assist those who have so valiantly fought for our freedoms by providing the tools necessary for them to fairly compete in the job market whether it is psychological counseling for trauma experienced while in combat or job training to bolster the unique skill sets they have acquired during their time in the service.

HONORING JAMES CARELLO

HON. ERIC J.J. MASSA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Mr. MASSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to a fine Amer-

ican, James Carello, on an occasion when he and his business have received a prestigious honor: the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009.

The Circle of Excellence, which is awarded by the International dealer organization of Navistar, Inc., honors International truck dealerships that achieve the highest level of dealer performance with respect to operating and financial standards, market representation, and most importantly, customer satisfaction. It is the highest honor a dealer principal can receive from the company.

Mr. Carello's business, Regional International Corporation, is headquartered in Henrietta, New York. Under his leadership, it has grown into one of the preeminent truck dealerships in western New York, with 160 employees and two secondary locations in Buffalo and Geneva. Jim is a recognized leader in the industry, as Regional spent six years on the Rochester Top 100, a listing of privately-owned companies recognized in the area. With this most recent award, Regional International has now received the Circle of Excellence Award a total of seven times.

An International dealer since 1989, Jim is a member of International's Dealer Development and Systems Advisory Board. Jim has achieved this level of accomplishment and recognition through years of hard work and service to his industry and community. An avid sports fan, Jim can frequently be found cheering for his favorite NASCAR driver or the Buffalo Bills. He also has a keen interest in a variety of other vehicles, including a 1934 Ford roadster, a customized motorcycle and two show trucks called Mayhem and Bad Habit. Both of his children, Jason and Gina, are now active in running the business, becoming the next generation of participants. Jim and his wife Lyn dote on their two grandchildren.

Through his dedication, hard work and outstanding customer service, he has built an economically vital business of which he can be justly proud. On behalf of the 111th United States Congress, I congratulate Mr. James Carello for his record of accomplishment.

THE TEJANO MUSIC INDUSTRY

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of 30 years of honors by the Texas Talent Musician's Association. This San Antonio-based non-profit organization promotes excellence in the Tejano Music Industry.

Tejano music is known for its modern sound with influences from cumbia, rock and blues. This type of music originated along the Mexico-Texas border during the time of the Mexican-American Revolution in the 1840s. Not only is it a combination of different sounds, but also a fusion of Mexican, Texan, and even Eastern European cultures. Songs within Tejano music are known to be passed down from generation to generation, making sure those epic stories about political leaders, history, and current times are consistently being told through song. Tejano Music is truly an original American art form.

It is impossible to talk about Tejano music without mentioning Selena Quintanilla Perez,

the "Queen of Tejano Music." Selena was a proud Mexican-American woman who was born and raised in Texas. Although she did not speak Spanish, most of her music was in Spanish. She performed from the age of 8 until her death at the age of 23. In 1987 she won Female Vocalist of the Year at the Tejano Music Awards. Selena's contributions to the music industry are legendary and are commendable.

The Texas Talent Musicians Association has hosted the Tejano Music Awards every year since 1980. This year the 30th annual Tejano Music Awards will take place on July 11th in San Antonio, Texas, proudly known as the "Tejano Music Capital of the World".

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Tejano Music as truly an original American art form, Selena Quintanilla Perez as a legend of Tejano Music, and the Texas Talent Musician's Association for their international promotion of Tejano Music.

TRIBUTE TO DEMERY ORMROD OF ORANGE, CONNECTICUT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Demery Ormrod of Orange, Connecticut, a young woman from my district who, by virtue of her strong commitment to volunteer service, has been named a winner of a 2010 Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

An eighth grader at Amity Middle School, Demery raised more than \$20,000 to help provide cleft palate and lip surgeries for 86 children through the charitable organization Smile Train. She began these efforts while still in elementary school, making bookmarks, lollipops, cookies, and jewelry with her friends, which she then sold at her family's restaurant.

When news of Demery's good works spread throughout the community, other schools got involved, local businesses offered matching funds, and strangers sent along checks, all to help the cause. The playwright Henrik Ibsen once said that "A community is like a ship—Everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm." And that is exactly what Demery has accomplished here. Because she was moved to help children less fortunate than herself, and because she took the extra step to get involved on their behalf, Demery took the helm of her community, and ignited the whole State of Connecticut behind her efforts.

Demery is a perfect candidate for this Spirit of Community Award, and a great representative for the importance of volunteers. Created by Prudential Financial, in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, in 1995, to reward youths who give their time and talents back to their community, this award has honored nearly 100,000 young volunteers at the local, state, and national levels over the past 15 years.

I applaud Demery's good works and Prudential's commitment to recognizing her and other students like her. I congratulate her on this award, and I very much hope she continues to give back to the community in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall votes on February 25, 2010 and February 26, 2010; and I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 67, "no"; rollcall No. 68, "yes"; rollcall No. 69, "yes"; rollcall No. 70, "yes"; rollcall No. 71, "yes"; rollcall No. 72, "no"; rollcall No. 73, "yes"; rollcall No. 74, "yes."

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN
IRAQ

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 944, which recognizes the persecution and displacement of ethnic and religious minorities in Iraq. This resolution calls on the Iraqi and United States governments to better protect the rights of persons of all ethnicities and religions.

This resolution comes as the Chaldean community mourns the two-year anniversary of the murder of Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho. Archbishop Rahho dedicated his life to the Chaldean Church in Mosul and sought to build interfaith relationships while advocating for the inclusion of Chaldeans and other vulnerable populations in the new Iraqi state.

These vulnerable populations include Chaldeans, Assyrians, Turkmen, Sabean Mandeans, Yazidis, and Syriacs. Their unique languages and histories are among the oldest of the Mesopotamian region. Together, they represent the richly diverse heritage of Iraq.

Since 2003, however, members of their communities have suffered marginalization, harassment, and violence. Many have been forced to seek safety away from their homes, often outside the country's borders. Ethno-religious minorities formerly comprised approximately five percent of Iraq's population; today, they comprise almost twenty percent of all Iraqi refugees registered with the United Nations Refugee Agency.

Minorities fear such rates of displacement threaten the very future of their communities. Continued sectarian violence prevents the free exercise of religion, cultural expression, and political participation that are fundamental to democracy. This resolution underscores the importance that Iraq's upcoming elections be free, fair, and safe, and that the rights of its minority populations be protected.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 944 and in urging meaningful support for Iraq's ethnic and religious minorities.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "ACTIVE
COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION
ACT OF 2010"

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Active Community Transportation Act, legislation that will provide concentrated, long term funding for communities to implement active transportation systems. Communities across the country are realizing the importance of encouraging active lifestyles, for the health of their citizens, the environment, and the economic strength of the community itself. As only 68 percent of Americans are licensed drivers, we should provide transportation options for those who don't have access to a car, generally the elderly and the young. Since half of the trips taken in the United States today are within a 20-minute bicycle ride, and a quarter of all trips are within a 20-minute walk, there are plenty of opportunities to incorporate walking and biking into Americans' daily lives.

Americans will walk and bike if these modes are made safe and convenient. However, our nation has failed to invest adequately in pedestrian and bicycle networks to make active transportation a viable choice for routine travel. Too often we take for granted the value of being able to bike and walk to work. It is time for the federal government to support infrastructure investments to make walking and biking safe and convenient for all Americans. Investing federal dollars to create walkable and bikeable communities is also a cost-effective way to create jobs and transportation choices. In my hometown of Portland, Oregon, our investment of \$60 million created 274 miles of bike lanes, more than doubled the amount of people who commute by bike and provided between 850 and 1,150 jobs. This is just one of many stories I have heard about the impact that active transportation infrastructure has on people's health, their daily lives, and their pocketbooks.

The Active Community Transportation Act will help communities to implement comprehensive, strategic active transportation systems to make walking and bicycling safe, accessible and convenient for Americans, thereby increasing activity levels, lowering emissions and creating healthier, more vibrant communities.

RECOGNIZING THE AQUARIUM OF
THE PACIFIC

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute the Aquarium of the Pacific located in my community of Long Beach, California, for receiving the prestigious Super Nova Star of Energy Efficiency from the Alliance to Save Energy, a coalition of prominent business, government, environmental, and consumer leaders who promote the efficient and clean use of energy to benefit consumers, the environment, economy, and national secu-

ity. Each year the Alliance to Save Energy recognizes companies, learning institutions, state offices, and government programs for their efforts to promote energy efficiency domestically and globally. My constituents at the Aquarium of the Pacific received the Super Nova Star Award on September 17, 2009, at the Alliance to Save Energy Gala in Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker, the Aquarium was chosen for this globally recognized award because it is the most energy efficient business in the Nation with annual revenues under \$50 million. The Aquarium became the first among museums, zoos, and other aquariums in this country to certify its greenhouse gas emissions with a third-party, the California Climate Action Registry. This led to its being named as a Climate Action Leader with the Climate Action Registry in 2007. The Aquarium of the Pacific has used energy-efficient practices to maintain steady kilowatt-hour usage for the past 8 years despite rising visitor numbers.

It is no surprise to me that the Aquarium of the Pacific received such a prestigious award because it is a pioneer of marine education and energy efficiency in my district. In 2008, the Aquarium inaugurated a new environmental classroom that was recognized as Long Beach's first LEED-platinum certified building. The classroom achieved LEED-platinum certification because it uses solar power, a green roof, a rainwater capture system, and a highly efficient pool pump, among other energy and water efficiencies. The Aquarium is committed to achieving LEED platinum or gold certification for all future projects and is setting an excellent example for how other businesses and institutions in my district can prioritize and achieve energy efficiency.

Madam Speaker, the Aquarium of the Pacific is a vital part of my constituents' community environmental conservation efforts. The Aquarium's Green Team task force organizes environmentally friendly activities such as an annual street cleanup day, an Earth Day festival, a sustainable seafood initiative, and a watershed and ocean literacy program. As the Aquarium continues to grow, one of the underlying objectives of the master plan is to increase attendance by expanding the facility's capacity and conservation programs without increasing energy and potable water usage.

Madam Speaker, I also want to commemorate the Aquarium of the Pacific for its ongoing efforts to broaden the public's understanding of the Pacific Ocean and its complex ecosystem. The Aquarium's mission is to instill a sense of wonder, respect, and stewardship for the Pacific Ocean, its inhabitants, and ecosystems. It is the largest aquarium in Southern California and the fifth largest in the nation. With 200,000 school children visiting annually, the Aquarium of the Pacific provides a fun and educational experience for students of all ages and backgrounds through its interactive exhibits and daily presentations. The Aquarium hosts a variety of educational programs, cultural festivals, classes and courses, offsite field trips, and renowned guest speakers to connect Long Beach's diverse community with the Pacific Ocean's diverse ecosystem.

I applaud the Aquarium of the Pacific for its hard work and dedication both to educating the community of Long Beach about marine environments and to mitigating the effects of climate change. I ask my fellow colleagues to