

had previously committed to events in the district that forced me to miss my first three votes of the second session last night. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each of the following rollcall votes:

Rollcall vote No. 75, on H. Res. 1072, Recognizing Louisiana State University for 150 years of service and excellence in higher education; rollcall vote No. 76, on H.R. 3820, the Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2009; and rollcall vote No. 77, on H. Res. 1097, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week.

# IN TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. MURTHA OF PENNSYLVANIA

SPEECH OF

## HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of my friend, John Murtha.

John was an extraordinary man, patriot and Congressman. He served with distinction as the Chairman of the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee where his knowledge and expertise on military issues was unparalleled. Our troops and veterans had no greater advocate than John Murtha and the country that he loved so dearly is better for his years of service.

His personal commitment to our troops was extraordinary. He visited our war zones to learn firsthand about the need on the ground and always made time to visit with our soldiers. No matter how busy he was, he would always ask me about my two sons who served as captains in the U.S. Army, and I knew that he genuinely cared, from the bottom of his heart.

We all know that Jack was a proud marine, and their motto 'Semper Fidelis,' was indeed the motto of his life.

Madam Speaker, I am a better Member of Congress for knowing John Murtha and Congress as a whole is richer for his many years of service. I am honored to call him colleague and friend, and I will dearly miss his strength, dedication and friendship. God bless you John and Godspeed.

# PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2010*

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, on Friday, February 26, 2010, I missed the last vote in a series of six votes. I missed rollcall vote No. 74.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall vote No. 74: "yea" (On agreeing to H. Con. Res. 238).

# RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN RESPONSE TO THE DISASTER IN HAITI

## HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2010*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to join my colleagues today in recognizing the extraordinary American response to the earthquake that devastated Haiti on January 12, 2010. I am proud to support H. Res. 1048, H. Res. 1059, and H. Res. 1066. Each of these resolutions honors the courage and sacrifice of the Americans who rushed to aid the people of Haiti in their time of need.

The United States, with its swift and steadfast response, has once again demonstrated the common decency and compassion of its citizens. When the lives of our neighbors are at stake, Americans do not hesitate. In the first 10 days after the catastrophic earthquake—the worst to strike Haiti in 200 years—over 14,000 members of the Armed Forces, thousands of U.S. Army Reserve rescue workers, and hundreds of government and volunteer personnel were on the ground to provide immediate assistance to the Haitian people. While American search and rescue teams pulled survivors from the rubble, and Federal employees raced to distribute water, food, and medical supplies, the American public donated hundreds of millions of dollars to support relief efforts. Remarkably, a recent poll found that nearly half of American families had donated, even in the midst of this difficult economic recession.

As I express my gratitude today to every American that has taken part in the disaster response, it is not without a heavy heart. Haitians and the Haitian-American community have endured unspeakable loss, and the road to recovery will be long and difficult. America must continue to stand by Haiti and lead the international effort toward its recovery.

# HONORING THE MARISCOTTI FAMILY

## HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mariscotti family upon being honored by the Fresno Chapter of the California Restaurant Association with the Best of the Valley "Lifetime Achievement Award." The Mariscotti family will be honored on Monday, March 1, 2010 at the 2009 Best of the Valley Restaurant Awards at the Saroyan Theatre in Fresno, California.

Rasmeo Mariscotti came to America in 1905 with his parents, Angelo and Caroline, and his sister, Louisa. Entering the United States through Ellis Island, the Mariscotti family made their way to Louisiana and worked on a sugar plantation. Once the family satisfied their debt to the sugar company, they boarded a train and settled in Madera, California where they had family and friends waiting for them.

Upon arriving in Madera, Rasmeo began working at the Madera Sugar Pine Lumber Company. Later, he went to work on the Rob-

erts Ranch, where he met and married Pearl Pistoresi. Eventually, Rasmeo went into business with his cousin, opening a butchering business in Berenda; they butchered the meat and peddled it to the surrounding ranches. The butcher business grew from a meat market, into a grocery store and eventually to a gas station with an open-air soda stand. Once Prohibition ended, the open-air soda stand was transformed into a restaurant and the Mariscottis obtained a beer and wine sales license.

Rasmeo and Pearl had four children: Maybelle, Ethalae, Robert and Dino. With a growing family and a growing business, the Mariscottis were doing well. In 1947, the family hit a bump in the road when the State of California decided to develop Route 99 into a four-lane highway that cut directly through the town of Berenda. With the completion of the new highway, the city was gone. The Mariscottis decided to stay and build their next business, the Berenda Café.

After their son Robert returned from serving in the military, he began to work for his sister, Maybelle, and her husband at the Chowchilla Market. In 1953, Robert married Helen Hodina and they returned to the Berenda Café. The Berenda Café was operated by Rasmeo and Pearl until 1970 when Rasmeo passed away. After that, Robert and Helen continued operating the restaurant. Robert and Helen added a gift shop and renamed it the Berenda Ranch Restaurant.

In 1976, Highway 99 was expanded once again. With this alteration to the highway, the Berenda Restaurant gave way to progress. Robert and Helen continued the legacy of adaptation within the Mariscotti family and established the Vineyard Restaurant in Madera. In 1977 the Vineyard Restaurant opened its doors as a twenty-four hour diner, a comfort-food place that depended on traffic passing by on Highway 99. In 1985, Mr. and Mrs. Mariscotti added a bar and began to focus on lunch and dinner, with a priority of serving high-quality local food from local farms. The Vineyard Restaurant continues to operate by these principles.

Today, their son, Chris, carries on the family legacy in foodservice, running the family restaurant and continuing local philanthropic efforts with various organizations. The family hosted the "Giving Tree" program through the Madera Christmas Basket. They are also involved in the Kampus Kettle program, the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Chris Mariscotti has co-founded the local chapter of Slow Food International, Slow Food Madera. The Mariscotti family has been awarded the Crystal Tower Award from the Madera Compact, and the Vineyard Restaurant has been recognized by Spectator Magazine as one of the top restaurants in the Central Valley's wine-growing region and was featured by Via Magazine as one of the highlights of a trip down Highway 99.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Mariscotti family for their hard work, commitment to community, leadership, and their tradition of success in business. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the Mariscotti family many years of continued success.

IN TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE  
JOHN P. MURTHA OF PENNSYLVANIA

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and loyal public servant, the Honorable John Murtha. He was a strong voice for the constituents in the 12th District of Pennsylvania and honorably served as the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense.

I, like so many of my colleagues, am blessed to have known Mr. Murtha on a professional and personal level. It is no surprise that Mr. Murtha will be remembered as such an effective legislator. Given his proud service in the Marine Corps and passionate devotion for the greater good of our nation, Mr. Murtha consistently served as a moral compass for the U.S. Congress.

About a year and a half after the Iraq War started, many wounded soldiers were transferred to Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Mr. Murtha visited these soldiers and witnessed the horrific wounds they were suffering with, such as losing a limb or losing complete eyesight. Mr. Murtha invited the veterans staying at Walter Reed, their families and members of Congress to a restaurant meal where he wanted the members to hear the stories of these courageous veterans. He wanted the veterans to express how they became wounded and what they believed Congress could do to help make sure our American soldiers were safe. Through legislation and appropriations funding, the stories from our veterans helped Congress push the military to improve their equipment. Humvee's and protective vests were improved to keep our soldiers safe from roadside bombs and other forms of hostility.

In all his years as an appropriator and legislator, he has always advocated for the safety of our military and has fought to improve the quality of life for American soldiers and their families. It was typical of Mr. Murtha to be modest about all of the care he showed the soldiers and veterans in times of war. After learning of the unacceptable conditions veterans were subjected to at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Mr. Murtha immediately reached out to Members of Congress. He knew it was our country's responsibility to bring justice to our nation's wounded soldiers by ensuring that they received the proper medical care they deserved.

I extend my deepest condolences to his family, loved ones and friends. Mr. Murtha will be remembered as a man of honor, generosity and strength. His unfaltering dedication and care is what made him such an extraordinary person. It is with great sadness that I say goodbye to a great man and friend. I will miss him dearly. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the gratitude of the U.S. Congress for his longtime service and leadership as a U.S. Representative.

HONORING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
FIRE RESCUE

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2010*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and offer my sincerest thanks to the Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue team, specifically the Urban Search and Rescue branch, for their heroic efforts in aiding the relief work in Haiti.

Within hours of learning that a magnitude 7.0 earthquake had struck, Division Chief Dave Downey had organized a task force of 80 strong to respond. With minimal preliminary information, Chief Downey's task force began to mobilize immediately after the earthquake struck on January 12. Having responded to domestic disasters in the past including Hurricane Opal, the World Trade Center and Hurricane Katrina, Chief Downey's Florida Task Force 1 was well equipped to help the devastated town of Port-au-Prince.

Overcoming logistical difficulties such as the transportation of nearly 100 search and rescue personnel as well as their 62,000-pound equipment, the efforts of Florida Task Force 1 resulted in the largest number of survivors ever rescued in history. Rescuing their first victim almost 24 hours before their equipment had even arrived, we should all be proud of Chief Downey's team and the devotion they showed in executing a successful rescue mission.

In Chief Downey's own words, "The breadth of this disaster was overwhelming." With a full view of the destruction, Florida Task Force 1 was forced to overcome countless challenges. With no Internet access or pre-established GPS formats, the task force had no other option but to plan their mission using old tourist maps for the first few—and most chaotic—days. Risking their own lives to save others, the courage and dedication of Florida Task Force 1 is truly an example to us all. Confronted with their greatest enemy—time—I commend the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue team for their quick and selfless response to the crisis in Haiti.

At this time, I would like to submit the names of each individual that made up the courageous Florida Task Force 1:

Alvarado, Patricio; Alvarez, Andres; Baker, Robert; Bell, Raymond; Borz, Ronald; Bramblett, Colette; Bustamante, Miguel; Caballero, Derrick; Canfield, Michael; Capote, Ernesto; Catapano, Kristian; Chung, Richard; Cooper, Rhaldal; Cuminale, Michael; Dombrowski, Lawrence; Downey, David; Driscoll, Stephen; Fernandez, Jorge; Fernandez, Louie; Ferraro, John.

Fregeolle, Gary; Garcia, Frank; Garcia-Menocal, Jose; Gelabert, Brian; Gelabert, Manuel; Gimenez, Carlos; Gonzalez, Mario; Gonzalez, Orlando; Gonzalez, Ralph; Hale, Marc; Hall, Richard; Herrera, Ernesto; Hook, Andrew; Hooten, Chad; Jacobs, Edan; Jenkins, Millard; Lefur, Rachelle; Licea, William; Machado, Andres; Major, Malcolm.

Mardice, Yves; Marks, Michael; Matos, Janice; Mclellan, Gregory; Moise, Rudolph; Mullin, Scott; Neetz, Jacqueline; Oldfield, Jeffrey; Oldfield, Monica; Parker, Pamela; Paternoster, Brandy; Paul-Noel, Karls; Pellon, Alejandro; Perez, Alberto; Perla, Marcelo; Perry, Alan; Post, Brandon; Pozo, Rafael; Ramos, Sergio; Richard, Stacy.

Rodriguez, Jairo; Rodriguez, Pedro; Rouse, Jeffrey; Santana, Luis; Seltz, Jack; Smithies, John; Steele, Michelle; Strickland, Gregory; Strickland, Jeffrey; Strull, Michael; Sullivan, Robert; Tonanez, Alvaro; Trim, Anthony; Vaughan, Ray; Wasilkowski, Justin; Webb, Brandon; Whu, Danny; Williams, Kenneth; Wood, Hilda; Yetter, Michael.

As a result of these individuals' inspiring work in Haiti, countless lives have been saved and many more have been assisted. Their selfless mission and sense of commitment is a testament to our Nation's highest principles. As Americans, we cannot thank them enough for the work they have done both at home and abroad.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2010*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on February 26, 2010, on rollcall No. 71 (Schauer of Michigan amendment), I inadvertently voted "no" when I had intended to vote "aye."

## RECOGNIZING CHRISTI MINISTER

**HON. ERIK PAULSEN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2010*

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Christi Minister of Eden Prairie. She received the national Catholic Charities USA "Keep the Dream Alive" award on Martin Luther King Day. Catholic Charities, which Christi had been a part of for more than 25 years, has worked to acknowledge those who give their time and energy to reducing poverty, supporting families and empowering communities. This award, created this year, honors those who have made community service an integral part of their lives. Christi believes focusing on education for all gives everyone an opportunity to experience the American dream. I would like to thank Christi Minister for her commitment to helping others, and for "keeping the dream alive."

HONORING PAUL MASIH DAS,  
INTEL SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH  
FINALIST

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 3, 2010*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent Paul Masih Das and congratulate him as a finalist in the Intel Science Talent Search 2010. The Intel Science Talent Search is America's most prestigious science competition for high school seniors. Paul is one of only 40 finalists nationwide.

Paul's project, "A Novel Chemical Synthesis for >1 MUM 2 Graphene Sheets," synthesized single-layer graphene (a sheet of carbon that's as thick as a single atom) using a relatively