

blazed the trail in providing emergency services for residents across Delta County. Venetia was instrumental in upgrading Rampart's ambulance services to advanced life support services which enabled Rampart to provide vital life-saving care including defibrillation, airway management and medication. In a rural area like Delta County these life support services often make the difference between life and death in emergency situations.

Emergency medical service was more than just a business for Venetia, it was her passion. She was always eager to learn more and to advance the field farther. She was the director for Rampart, but was also a paramedic for the company. She was an assistant to the Delta County medical examiner and taught emergency medical technician and paramedic courses throughout the Upper Peninsula.

Venetia's hard work can be found throughout the community. She implemented code alert teams in area schools—one of the first communities in the state to do so—and taught CPR training and emergency response tactics. She was a founding member of the Delta County Emergency Preparedness Committee and served on the Upper Peninsula EMS Board of Directors. She initiated and financially supported the Save-a-Heart Foundation, which put automated external defibrillators, AED, in every fire truck, police car and school in Escanaba.

Given all her work it is only fitting that Venetia was the first recipient of the Extraordinary People/Extraordinary Service EMS Leadership Award from the Michigan Emergency Medical Services System and Trauma System.

Venetia's involvement in the community extended well beyond her EMS work. She supported the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign, participated in the Rotary Club and the Public Health of Delta and Menominee Counties and was an active member of All Saints Catholic Church.

Madam Speaker, Venetia has touched the lives of countless people around her and her absence will be felt by many. She built Rampart EMS into a successful business all while creating a close family atmosphere. She dedicated her life to improving emergency services and saving lives in Delta County, across Michigan and our Nation. I have seen first hand her warmth, her generous spirit and her enthusiasm for her work. Madam Speaker, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring the work and the life of my friend Venetia Bryers.

**NEWARK BETH ISRAEL MEDICAL  
CENTER RECEIVES THE GOLD  
PERFORMANCE ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD**

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center for being recognized by the American Heart Association (AHA) with the Gold Performance Achievement Award.

Recipients of the Get with the Guidelines Gold Performance Achievement Award from

the American Heart Association (AHA) must demonstrate a minimum of 85 percent compliance with the Coronary Artery Disease treatment guidelines for heart failure. Newark Beth Israel has exceeded the minimum and is receiving a Performance Award for the second consecutive year.

Newark Beth Israel was the first hospital in New Jersey to perform a heart transplant. Since then, the Heart Failure Treatment and Transplant Program has evolved into one of the nation's most active and respected centers. Newark Beth Israel is also the only Medicare-certified medical center in the state performing heart transplants. The center provides the most technologically advanced medical services, equipment, and research, protecting and improving the health of the region.

Newark Beth Israel also responds to the needs of the community. In addition to an annual health fair for community members, Newark Beth Israel sponsors health screenings free of cost for members of the Newark community throughout the year.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great honor to acknowledge such an outstanding hospital. The administration and staff members of Newark Beth Israel go beyond the call of duty to provide quality service to the citizens of New Jersey and beyond.

**REMEMBERING A LIFE OF HEROIC  
SERVICE**

**HON. MAC THORNBERRY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Seaman Garlen Eslick and his service to our nation.

Mr. Eslick lived in Amarillo, Texas. As an 18 year old farm boy, he joined the Navy. Just months later, on December 7, 1941, Seaman Eslick was aboard the USS Oklahoma as it was attacked in Pearl Harbor. In the galley at the time of the attack, he was a powder handler for the ship's 14-inch guns. Making his way to his battle station four decks below, Seaman Eslick and a few others helped a wounded soldier through a hatch. After the Oklahoma took heavy machine-gun fire and five torpedoes, the ship rolled; knocking Seaman Eslick unconscious in his compartment. He awoke in total darkness to rising water as the only survivor in that compartment. Hours later another sailor carrying a light told him of other survivors several compartments over. The two dove from compartment to compartment, searching for a way out for themselves and the 12 others they found. After 28 hours in the oil-soaked compartment, Seaman Eslick was one of the 31 sailors rescued and returned to active duty after a four-day stay on a hospital ship.

While assigned to the USS Saratoga, he survived a torpedo attack from a submarine. Later, on the USS John Hancock he saw action in Leyte and Manila in the Philippine Islands, even weathering a typhoon and surviving a kamikaze attack, and taking part in operations at Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Seaman Eslick was awarded a Purple Heart for his heroic actions and the injuries he sustained on December 7, 1941 and the Honorable Service Lapel Pin for his four years of service.

Seaman Garlen Eslick never expected special attention for his service during WWII. At the unveiling of the USS Oklahoma Memorial in 2002, Seaman Eslick said "it's always important to remember the ones we've lost and those who are still with us."

On Monday, February 8, Garlen passed away, leaving his wife Betty of 65 years, their four children, 12 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren. It is with gratitude for his service and admiration of his heroism that I hope we all will remember Seaman Garlen Eslick, his comrades, and their service to protect our freedom.

**HONORING RENEE GALLIHER FOR  
BEING NAMED FIREFIGHTER OF  
THE YEAR**

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute Renee Galliher of Mocksville, North Carolina. Renee was recently named firefighter of the year at the Cornatzer-Dulin fire department in Mocksville.

She is the first woman in the fire department's almost 60-year history to be named firefighter of the year. This is no small accomplishment and I am proud to recognize Renee for her dedicated service to the public.

As this month is Women's History Month, I think it is also very appropriate to single out North Carolina women like Renee who are making a significant difference in their local communities.

Today millions of women across America like Renee are making positive contributions to their families, their communities and their country. It is a true honor to have countless women like Renee as constituents and to share their stories of success with my colleagues and the American people.

**ELIZABETH SMITH**

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the lifetime accomplishments of my good friend, Ms. Elizabeth (Liz) Smith, who retired last week from the American Federation of Teachers, AFT.

Bringing opportunity and respect to working men and women across America was the driving force in Liz's more than 4 decades of public service. And this commitment never waned. Workers fighting for fair wages, high-quality healthcare and a secure retirement always had a strong ally in Liz Smith. She fought for them every day.

Liz began her professional career working for two of my colleagues in the House of Representatives. She served as chief of staff to Representative James O'Hara of Michigan, and later as legislative director to Representative DALE KILDEE of Michigan; both benefited greatly from her energy and commitment. In those positions, Liz worked tirelessly to ensure that the voices of constituents were heard in

Washington and that the federal government responded to their needs.

Deciding to leave the Congress she loved was a tough choice for Liz. But it was a natural progression to join the labor movement. She knew that her next assignment as legislative and political director at the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union was in keeping with her values and unwavering commitment to the men and women of the American labor movement. In this position, Liz worked with passion and moved with dispatch to ensure that the interests of the country's clothing and textile workers were fully represented not only before the U.S. Congress and Executive Branch, but internationally as well.

In 1995, Liz accepted a position as political director at the American Federation of Teachers in what would become the final and perhaps most important stop in her accomplished career. During her 15 years there, Liz's work on behalf of the more than 1.4 million members of the AFT included many accomplishments and milestones. She carried with her an intimate knowledge of the important work performed by AFT members and an ability to advance with unmatched skill and grace the causes she cared about most.

Liz is a true leader, always doing the right thing in a manner that is respectful of others and in turn earning others' respect. She is a wonderful woman and will be missed dearly by all of us who have had the pleasure of working with her. I wish Liz all the best in the years to come.

#### HONORING ALYSON DUDEK

#### HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Alyson Dudek, a native of Hales Corners, Wisconsin, who along with her teammates—Lana Gehring, Katherine Reutter, and Allison Baver—won the bronze medal in the 3000-meter short track relay at the 2010 Winter Olympics.

This performance ended a sixteen-year medal drought for the United States in the event and Alyson's impressive effort was another memorable instance of Wisconsin athletes admirably representing our country at the Olympic Games in Vancouver. On behalf of all Wisconsinites, I want to congratulate Alyson on her accomplishments in the 3000-meter and 500-meter short track speed skating events.

The 2010 Winter Olympic Games showed yet again the inspiring skills and talents of Wisconsin natives who participated and medaled in a number of different disciplines. Alyson's exemplary performance in both the individual 500-meter event and 3000-meter relay in Vancouver capped off a tremendous skating season and it is my pleasure to congratulate Alyson, her family, coaches, and teammates on this achievement.

I am proud to recognize Alyson Dudek and all the members of the 2010 United States Olympic Team for their inspiring performance, breaking a record with 37 medals, and for their admirable representation of our country.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,508,944,297,560.56.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,870,518,551,266.70 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARY ANN FLUNDER

#### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the incomparable Mary Ann Flunder of Kansas City, Kansas.

A longtime elected member of the Kansas City, Kansas Community College Board of Trustees, Mary Ann has given a lifetime of service to the Kansas City community. A tireless community activist, she has long served as one of my most important advisors and sounding boards. I place this statement in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, however, in recognition of her upcoming receipt of an award from the Kansas City Business Magazine, which will recognize her at an event on March 11th as one of the most influential businesswomen in the Kansas City area in 2010.

The March 2010 issue of KC Business includes a brief profile of Mary Ann Flunder, which I include below. I thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to pay public tribute to unique, irreplaceable, longtime Kansas City, Kansas community leader Mary Ann Flunder.

#### MARY ANN FLUNDER: BUSINESS CONSULTANT

Mary Ann Flunder has spent her life empowering others to achieve their academic, career and life goals. She has done so by assisting more than 100 entrepreneurs with business startups, by helping existing businesses achieve licensing and government funding, and by lobbying for legislation that advances small businesses. A tireless worker and champion of others, Flunder takes it upon herself to connect those who need connecting. A well-known advocate in the community, the sage-like Flunder has a reputation for stepping up to the plate and making things happen by expending her own time, money and other resources. Flunder participates on several boards, maintains an interest in the education of youth and runs a side business that sells Watkins products primarily to senior citizens. Flunder received an Excellence Award at the 2009 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Freedom Fund banquet.

#### HONORING MILDRED THOMPSON

#### HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mildred Thompson, long-time Clerk of Courts for Scioto County. Sadly, Mildred passed away on February 28th. She was a life-long resident of Southern Ohio, and graduated from Minford High School. She married Judge Lowell Thompson. Mildred is survived by two daughters, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

First elected in November of 1968, Mildred Thompson continuously served the citizens of Scioto County as their Clerk of Courts until she retired in September of 2008. During her nearly 40 years as Clerk—Mildred was known for her tireless dedication to the citizens of Scioto County. She served on the boards of many state and local community organizations and, along with her husband, was a positive influence on the lives of many local children through her service as a 4-H advisor.

Mildred was loved and respected by those she came in contact with as Clerk of Courts for her hard work and the kind way she treated everyone she met. Outside of work, Mildred was known for her countless volunteer efforts. One of her favorite places to volunteer was the Southern Ohio Medical Center. Each year the Friends of Southern Ohio Medical Center present the Mildred E. Thompson Scholarship to a high-school senior from Scioto County who has placed service above self.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mildred Thompson, who led a life dedicated to public service. Mildred has forever left an imprint on her community. God bless Mildred and may she rest in eternal peace.

#### NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

#### HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2010*

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, this week is National Peace Corps Week, so I want to take a moment to recognize the tremendous work done by Peace Corps volunteers around the world. I myself served in the Peace Corps in Somalia in the mid-1960s and saw first hand the contribution that Peace Corps volunteers make to the communities in which they serve.

Since the founding of the Peace Corps in 1961, nearly 200,000 volunteers have served in 139 countries around the world. Over 7,000 volunteers are currently providing services in 76 countries, making contributions in agriculture, business development, information technology, education, health and HIV/AIDS, youth, and the environment. Twelve of my own constituents are serving around the world in such countries as Panama, Kenya, and Cambodia.

Next year the Peace Corps will celebrate its 50th anniversary. During this anniversary year, we will rightly recognize the achievements of the Peace Corps and its volunteers over the past five decades. However, I hope we also