

was inducted into the San Diego Women's Hall of Fame the year after. In 2004, she received the Jesse de la Cruz Award from the California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc., a venerable legal advocacy and economic justice organization.

Gracia continues to work for equality for those who are underrepresented and underserved, particularly in the areas of service and education. For many years, she served as a professor at Mesa College and a lecturer at the University of California, San Diego, where she helped found the University's Thurgood Marshall College. She served as the Commissioner of the California Post-Secondary Education Commission, and recently initiated the Gracia Molina de Pick Endowed Fund for Chicano/a Studies at the University of California, San Diego. Currently, Gracia is a member of San Diego's Human Relations Commission, where she works to ensure that the city upholds the protections of basic human and civil rights that she herself has worked so hard to establish.

In keeping with her selfless spirit, Gracia is commemorating her birthday with a benefit celebration to raise financial support for the Logan Heights Library in San Diego. On this happy occasion, please join me in honoring Gracia Molina de Pick and her years of hard work making a difference in our community.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF A NEW BB&T BRANCH IN HAYMARKET, VA.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the opening of a new BB&T branch location in Haymarket, Va.

The branch location at the corner of Heathcote Boulevard and Route 15 serves Western Prince William County and creates six new jobs for the region. The staff of the BB&T Haymarket branch are responsible stewards of their community with affiliations to the Dominion Valley Woman's Club, Gainesville Haymarket Rotary Club, Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross, Prince William County Greater Manassas Chamber of Commerce, Haymarket Gainesville Business Association, Girl Scouts of America, George G. Tyler Elementary Parent Teacher Association and Haymarket Regional Food Bank.

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the staff of the new Haymarket branch on the occasion of their ribbon cutting and commend them for their culture of robust civic participation.

BRANCH STAFF

Amelia J. Stansell, Assistant Vice President & Financial Center Leader; Liliana Grassa, Teller Supervisor; LaKeta McSellers, Relationship Banker; Shadia Shaikh, Relationship Teller; Erick Cabrera, Teller; Sherry Bobbitt, Area Operations Officer.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Donald Strehle, Northern Virginia Regional President; Karen Wallis, Regional Banking Manager; Sherri Hagenbuch, Sales & Service Leader for Prince William County; Michael Pybus, City Executive for Prince William County.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the opening of the new

BB&T branch in Haymarket, Va. A business that encourages its employees to take an active role in civic life makes an investment far beyond that of bricks and mortar. It strengthens civic bonds and leaves an indelible mark on the character a community. I look forward to having a lasting community partner in BB&T's Haymarket branch.

HONORING BRYANE HEABERLIN AND ALEXANDER COSBY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to tell a heartwarming story of two young soccer players united in their common humanity.

Bryane Heaberlin is a sixteen-year-old goalkeeper from St. Petersburg, Florida playing on the U.S. under-17 soccer team. Alexandra Cosby is the goalkeeper on Haiti's under-17 team. Last week, after the U.S. defeated Haiti at the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football Cup in Costa Rica, the young women embraced in an emotional moment replayed around the world.

When Alexandra started crying at the end of the game, Bryane immediately understood. Still recovering from the effects of a devastating earthquake in her homeland, Alexandra and her teammates suffered through unspeakable tragedy. Bryane, understanding her team's victory was bittersweet, gave Alexandra a hug. They cried together. Soon after, both teams embraced in an emotional display of solidarity and friendship.

The story of Bryane and Alexandra is a testament to the enduring union and the generosity of spirit between the United States and Haiti. Our nations are neighbors and partners in an increasingly interdependent world. As young Bryane said after the game, "I did not think about the game at that moment . . . I simply thought about the hard times she had faced and everything she had lost. I thought that when the game was over, she had to come back to reality, that the game was her way of forgetting about everything for 90 minutes." Furthermore, Bryane's parents, Bryan and Gretchen along with the Clearwater Soccer Club and their daughter's school, delivered a 70-pound care package to the Haitian women's team.

Madam Speaker, as the representative of more Haitian Americans than any other member of Congress, I am compelled to share this story with my constituents and the broader public. Our community is hurting, but reading this story by John Cotey in the St. Petersburg Times gave me hope that brighter days are ahead for Haiti. These two young women are living examples of how sports bring us together in our common humanity. I applaud their compassion and grace in the face of adversity. Let us not forget their example as our nations move forward together.

CELEBRATING SWEENY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL'S FORTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on March 30, 2010 Sweeny Community Hospital will commemorate its forty-fifth anniversary. Located west of the Brazos River in the city of Sweeny in Brazoria County, which is in my Congressional District, Sweeny Community Hospital is a cornerstone of Brazoria County's health care system.

Sweeny Community Hospital has always been committed to providing top-notch health care to all who walk through its doors. Sweeny Community Hospital has always worked to grow and improve in order to better meet the health care needs of the people of Brazoria County. Today Sweeny Community Hospital employs approximately 150 people and has locations throughout Brazoria County. Having begun my Ob/Gyn medical practice in Brazoria County shortly after Sweeny Community Hospital opened its doors, I am well aware of the quality of the medical services offered at Sweeny Community Hospital. It is therefore my pleasure to offer my congratulations to Sweeny Community Hospital on its forty-fifth anniversary.

COMMENDING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF NCIS SPECIAL AGENT RICHARD J. CLOONAN

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Special Agent (SA) Richard J. Cloonan, Deputy Assistant Director, Counterintelligence Program, for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). SA Cloonan retired from that organization on March 3, 2010 after 29 years of service, and following 33 years of Federal Service. I am pleased to say that SA Cloonan is one of my constituents from Manassas, VA.

SA Cloonan began his career with the then named Naval Investigative Service (NIS) in August 1981 at NIS Resident Agency (NISRA) Point Loma, CA. He subsequently transferred to the NISRA Naval Station in San Diego, CA. In August 1984, SA Cloonan transferred to the Washington Field Office (DCWA). During his time at DCWA, SA Cloonan participated in several landmark counterintelligence (CI) investigations including the Walker Family Spy Ring, the Jonathan Pollard Spy case, the Clayton Lonetree investigation and the subsequent BOBSLED Task Force. Also while at DCWA, SA Cloonan was appointed the "Mount Up" team leader. The "Mount Up" team formed the basis of what is now the Navy's Personal Security Operation (PSO).

In 1987, SA Cloonan transferred to NCIS Headquarters and was detailed to the Department of the Navy's Special Programs Office, and while there he provided comprehensive CI protection to the most sensitive Navy research and technology, to include the USS Sea Shadow, the Navy's STEALTH Ship prototype. In

1988, shortly before the Berlin Wall came down, SA Cloonan deployed to East Berlin in support of a sensitive Resource and Technology Protection (RTP) espionage investigation. SA Cloonan recalls most vividly those anxious minutes passing through "Check Point Charley." In December 1989, SA Cloonan transferred to NCIS Field Office (NCISFO) Norfolk and was detailed to US Atlantic Command as the Deputy CI Staff Officer. While in that position, SA Cloonan coordinated the force protection support to Operation Uphold Democracy, the US/UN Operation in Haiti.

SA Cloonan was promoted in 1995 and assigned as the Resident Agent in Charge (RAC) at NCISRA London, UK. Under his leadership, NCISRA London received wide recognition for its collection on terrorism in the UK. In coordination with Scotland Yard, SA Cloonan and the late SA Tom Marzilli provided significant high value information concerning Al Qaeda Networks operating within the UK and Europe to the Intelligence Community.

In July 1999, SA Cloonan transferred back to NCISFO Norfolk as the acting Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) for CI and was promoted in September 2001. At that time, SA Cloonan was the NCIS Senior Representative to FBI Headquarters and his first day was September 10, 2001. Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, SA Cloonan played a key role for the Department of Defense in the FBI's Special Information Operations Center (SIOC) and the follow on PENTTBOM investigation. SA Cloonan was a plank owner with the new National Joint Terrorism Task Force (NJTTF) and launched the NCIS' Joint Terrorism Task Force and Force Protection Detachment (FPD) programs.

In January 2004, SA Cloonan was promoted to GS-15 and assigned as the Counterintelligence Support Officer (CISO) to US Pacific Command in Hawaii. SA Cloonan orchestrated the CI/FP support to Joint Task Force Provide Promise, the US response to the devastating 2005 Tsunami in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

In August 2008, SA Cloonan returned to NCIS Headquarters as the Deputy Assistant Director (DAD), Counterintelligence Program Direction.

SA Cloonan plans to remain in the Washington, DC area with his family. After taking some well deserved time off from working, SA Cloonan will continue to serve his country working for the National Geospatial Agency (NGA) as a CI advisor.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking SA Cloonan for his 33 years of outstanding public service and to wish him fair winds and following seas as he begins the next chapter in his life.

HONORING NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today during National Peace Corps week to honor the immeasurable contributions of the 200,000 Americans who have volunteered to serve in 139 countries in the cause of peace since 1961. Through mutual respect and un-

derstanding, these men and women have committed themselves to improving our country's relationships with the rest of the world, and I applaud their dedication to communities around the globe.

When President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps 49 years ago, he set out to provide ordinary men and women with an opportunity to strengthen developing countries devastated by the effects of poverty, disease, and war. Volunteers have come from all walks of life, some with years of experience and some just out of college.

Peace Corps volunteers have mobilized to combat some of the world's most urgent humanitarian crises, including providing crucial assistance to communities in need of post-conflict relief and reconstruction as well as countries overwhelmed by natural disasters. These men and women have helped economically depressed communities develop new business plans, struggling farmers improve their crop production, and families devastated by HIV/AIDS receive the care they need.

Currently, volunteers are serving in 76 countries, providing development assistance while fostering new bonds of friendship and seeking common ways to address global challenges. Over 400 men and women have volunteered from California's Sixth District, including the following current volunteers: Chase Adam, Samantha Atkins, Gail Bachman, Ashley Baker, Elizabeth Bremner, Alicea Cock-Esteb, Rebecca Como, Lindsay Crawford, Douglas Cruickshank, Jed D'Abrevanel, Catherine Fabiano, Scott Fergus, David Gomez, Stevie Greenwell, Daniel Grinnell, James Gurney, Peter Hoge, David Hughes, Matthew Ingalls, Christina Long, Ryan Loughlin, Mary McQuilkin, Reid Miller, Courtenay Pinder, Ryan Reichert, Rickey Russell, Nur-Aliyya Shelley, Robin Smith, Jessica Wright, and Pat Wrobel-Dickens.

Madam Speaker, the 49th anniversary of the establishment of the Peace Corps is an achievement that we should all commemorate. I celebrate the leadership and accomplishments of these compassionate Americans who have committed themselves to promoting global peace, diplomacy, and understanding.

RECOGNIZING PERSECUTION OF FALUN GONG

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 605, a resolution recognizing the continued persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China on the 10th anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party campaign to suppress the Falun Gong spiritual movement. The resolution also calls for an immediate end to the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners.

The Chinese government's abuse of the Falun Gong is well-documented. The State Department's annual International Religious Freedom Report, found that the Government of China, "continued to restrict severely the activities of groups it designated as 'evil religions,' including several Christian groups and Falun Gong. . . . There are reports that dedicated government offices were responsible for coordinating operations against Falun Gong."

Just last week, the State Department released its annual Human Rights Report which included numerous examples of the Chinese government's persecution of the Falun Gong including the following: "Family members of activists, dissidents, Falun Gong practitioners, journalists, unregistered religious figures, and former political prisoners were targeted for arbitrary arrest, detention, and harassment." The report continued, "Police continued to detain current and former Falun Gong practitioners and used possession of Falun Gong material as a pretext for arresting political activists. The government continued its use of high-pressure tactics and mandatory anti-Falun Gong study sessions to force practitioners to renounce Falun Gong."

Among the most notorious human rights abuses of the Chinese government last year was the arrest and subsequent disappearance of top Christian human rights attorney, Gao Zhisheng. Gao had defended house church Christians and Falun Gong members which earned the ire of the government. According to the State Department, "At year's end his whereabouts remained unconfirmed . . ." Prior to his arrest Gao had published a letter in which he went into great detail about the torture he experienced during his previous detention. Gao has paid dearly for his defense of basic human rights including those of Falun Gong practitioners.

China has become increasingly brazen in its human rights abuses. In the face of this repression, America has a responsibility to continually affirm that we stand with the defenseless—with those whose voices have been silenced. President Reagan understood this well. He famously described the U.S. Constitution as a covenant we have made not only with ourselves but with all of mankind. This Congress and this administration must be unwavering in our support of all persecuted peoples, be they Coptic Christians in Egypt, Bahá'is in Iran or Falun Gong in China.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNUAL FAIRFAX COUNTY FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME HONOREES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fairfax County Youth Football League and to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame.

The importance of youth sports cannot be overstated. Participation in organized sports teaches our youth many lessons that will serve them well throughout life. These invaluable lessons include sportsmanship, teamwork, honesty, a sense of belonging, and maybe most importantly, the work ethic instilled by striving for success and working to achieve a common goal. Organized youth sports also contributes to our society; studies have shown a correlation between participation in sporting activities and doing well in school. Some studies indicate that reduction in gang activity can be partially attributed to refocusing at risk youth into organized, supervised activities such as youth sports.

I applaud the Fairfax County Youth Football League for the opportunities that they provide