

## TRIBUTE TO MARY GILLEY

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 2010*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Mary Gilley, the long-time clerk of the Greene County district court, and to express my appreciation for her dedication and commitment to her community in Iowa.

For the past 26 years, Mary has worked with the clerk of court's office, providing dependable service to the community. Since 1985 she has been the clerk of the district court. Before her time with Greene County, Mary worked at a law firm in Fort Dodge, Iowa and was employed as a legal secretary in a private practice.

Mary Gilley has left a permanent mark on Greene County and will be truly missed at the district court, although she plans to continue serving the community through volunteer work. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Mary for her outstanding service to her community and congratulating her on her retirement. I consider it an honor to represent Mary in Congress, and I wish her a long, happy and healthy future.

# HONORING THE INAUGURATION OF THE IKARIA® DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP OF CRITICAL CARE

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 2010*

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today concerning a matter of great interest to me, which is the need for greater progress and support for children and infants who require critical care.

Each year, five million Americans are admitted to Intensive Care Units (ICUs), and it is estimated that as many as half a million of these are infants and children. Indeed, estimates show that nearly one-half of infants and one-third of older children who die each year received ICU care.

While medical technologies advance across the world, there unfortunately have been fewer true breakthroughs in critical care therapies in recent years, including those designed for children and infants. Babies and children are the most fragile of critically ill patients; their ability to thrive and survive should be among our highest priorities.

It is for these reasons that I am pleased to observe that today, the Children's National Medical Center (CNMC) in Washington, D.C. will hold an inauguration ceremony naming The Ikaria® Distinguished Professorship of Critical Care. This chair will be sustained by a donation of \$2.5 million by Ikaria, a bio-therapeutics company which provides acute care products that address significant unmet needs of ICU and neonatal ICU patients. Ikaria, which has manufacturing facilities in my hometown of Madison, Wisconsin, is providing an unconditional gift to endow and establish a distinguished professorship for an outstanding

physician-scientist who will provide leadership to advance the science of critical care medicine.

Madam Speaker, I hope you will join me in recognizing the tremendous potential value of this vital research professorship, and to applaud Ikaria and Children's National Medical Center for their vision and commitment to the health of our Nation's children.

## TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES L. MELIN

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 2010*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual from my Congressional District who has dedicated his life to defending the people of this country and preserving the basic freedoms and liberties that we hold dear. Brigadier General James L. Melin, of the United States Air Force Reserve, is a true American hero and today I thank him for his 39 years of service. On Saturday, March 27, 2010, General Melin will be honored at his retirement and Change of Command Ceremony at March Air Force Base in California.

General Melin was commissioned through the ROTC program at St. Louis University, Missouri, and graduated in 1971. After graduation, he began active duty and completed his flight training at Reese Air Force Base, Texas, in 1974.

During his career, General Melin's assignments included Administrative Officer, 1550th Aircrew Training Test Wing at Hill Air Force Base; KC-135 Pilot, 28th Bombardment Wing, Ellsworth Air Force Base; KC-135 Pilot and Mission Development Officer, 93rd Bombardment Wing, Castle Air Force Base; Instructor Pilot, 931st Air Refueling Group, Grissom Air Force Base; and Evaluator Pilot, Chief of Plans, Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, Director of Training, Operations Officer, and Operations Group Commander, 940th Air Refueling Wing, McClellan Air Force Base.

In 1997, General Melin commanded the 434th Operations Group, Grissom ARB, Indiana and later assumed command of the 434th Air Refueling Wing. Starting in 2006, General Melin took command of the 452nd Air Mobility Wing at March Air Force Base in California.

Throughout his exemplary career, General Melin has flown over 5,500 hours and participated in tanker operations in Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Joint Forge, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

General Melin's awards include the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with "V" device and four oak leaf clusters, Southwest Asia Service Medal with two bronze stars, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), and Kuwait Liberation Medal (Government of Kuwait).

General Melin will retire from the United States Air Force service with more than just his experience, decorated career and remarkable accomplishments; his enduring legacy will

serve as a shining example and constant reminder of what it means to be an American patriot and leader. I am grateful for his service and salute him as he retires from the Air Force.

## TRIBUTE TO DALI AND FELIX GONZALEZ

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 2010*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dali and Felix Gonzalez, students at Perry High School in Perry, Iowa, for their efforts in raising money to help those devastated by the recent earthquake in Haiti.

Dali and Felix are siblings who are originally from the Dominican Republic. Growing up in such close proximity to Haiti and having friends and acquaintances still living in Haiti, they felt a calling to help those in need. Felix, who is an avid artist, designed posters to demonstrate how close he used to live to the devastated region, and Dali made English and Spanish announcements about the fundraising effort over the school's PA system. Over several days they collected over \$150.00 at their donation setup in the lunch room. It is estimated that Dali and Felix's efforts will feed more than 750 people.

This collective effort at Perry High School is an example of what Iowa is all about—Iowans motivated and dedicated to personally helping people in need, and in this case those who have lost everything. I consider it an honor to represent Dali and Felix Gonzalez, all of those who donated money to Haiti, and ESL Instructor Julie Walstrom in the United States Congress. Again, I congratulate Dali and Felix for their great act of compassion and charity.

## NATIONAL GUARD EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 22, 2010*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1879, "National Guard Employment Protection Act," a bill that amends title 38, United States Code, to provide for employment and reemployment rights for certain individuals ordered to full-time National Guard duty.

In these challenging economic times, with returning veterans experiencing unemployment rates in the double digits, we must do more to provide for our veterans' basic needs. This legislation shows that the U.S. is grateful for our veterans' service. Just as the military pledges to leave no soldier behind on the battlefield, this nation will leave no veteran behind when they come home.

National Guard is America's oldest armed force—dating back to 1636—and the only branch that serves both the Federal and State governments. The Guard answers to both the president of the United States and the governors of their respective states and territories.

This means that the National Guard can be mobilized any time natural disasters or other emergencies occur within America's borders, and also serve alongside U.S. combat forces in other parts of the world.

The Guard's roots go back to North America's earliest colonial militias: farmers, shopkeepers and everyday citizens willing to put their lives on hold and pick up their weapons to defend their communities and their country. Today, Citizen-Soldiers live, work and go to school in cities and towns all across America and its territories. And just as they have for over 370 years, the men and women of the National Guard are trained, willing and proud to assist their neighbors during emergencies, and to protect their nation whenever they are called.

This bill allows us to show our appreciation and honor the service of veterans who have served in the National Guard. These veterans have given great contributions and made incredible personal sacrifices so that all of us in this country might live in a safe and secure nation and world.

Madam Speaker, whether it is the ultimate sacrifice of life or the loss of limb or the loss of time with family and friends, we owe our veterans an enormous outstanding debt of gratitude. The debt of gratitude we owe to the soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who answered their nation's call and made supreme sacrifices can never be repaid. But the nation can follow President Lincoln's admonition to 'care for him who has borne the battle, and for his [family].' Indeed, it is the least we can do.

It is out of my profound respect and gratitude for all who wear and have worn the uniform of the United States that I continue to work so to support legislation that will ensure that veterans receive the health care, job opportunities, housing assistance, and educational benefits they deserve. As their slogan says, "Always ready, always there. That is the National Guard." Now, it is time for us to be there for them.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to express my strong support for this bill and I urge my colleagues to join me in doing what is only right—taking care of and honoring our heroes who serve to protect us.

“BE ABOUT PEACE DAY”

### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 2010*

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend my constituents in South Mountain Peace Action of Maplewood and South Orange, NJ. These citizens work in their community on behalf of peace and they hold an annual all-day event called “Be About Peace Day” that attracts hundreds of children and parents. Currently, South Mountain Peace Action is organizing a public forum called “Israeli-Palestinian Peace: The Obama-Clinton Program for a Two-State Solution and How We Can Support It” that will be held on March 24, 2010, at Maplewood Memorial Library. The meeting will enable residents to increase their understanding of the issues and to learn how to get involved themselves in the peace process.

There is no greater cause than peace and there is no issue more important for achieving

peace than resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In February, I visited Israel and the Palestinian Territory as part of a congressional delegation and met with leaders of government and civil society to assess the state of American efforts to end the region's conflicts.

We learned much on the trip—seeing firsthand the urgency shared across the region to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a two-state solution. We met the Deputy Prime Minister of Israel, the Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah and civil society leaders across the region. In Israel, we heard from settlers and human rights activists. Over and over again, we heard about the importance of American leadership in efforts to end the conflict diplomatically. It is why I am encouraged by groups like South Mountain Peace Action, who are supporting the peace process at the grassroots level.

### TRIBUTE TO THE LIONS CLUB OF OGDEN, IOWA

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 2010*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lions Club of Ogden, Iowa on their 80th anniversary. The club has been active since November 29, 1929 in Ogden, which is located in Boone County in Central Iowa.

The International Lions Club is a volunteer organization which works together to answer the needs that challenge communities around the world, including an end to preventable blindness, cleaning local parks and providing essential supplies to victims of natural disasters.

In records that date back 40 years, the local organization has donated over \$88,000 to various organizations including: Ogden High School scholarships, eye exams and glasses for the needy, the food pantry, Boy Scouts, Relay for Life, and more. The group meets bi-monthly and has 36 active members who honorably live by their motto, “We serve.”

Again, I congratulate the Lions Club of Ogden and current club president, Harry Dannen, on this historic anniversary. The Lions Club of Ogden is an example of what Iowa is all about—citizens motivated and dedicated to improving their communities and helping their neighbors in need. It is an honor to represent each member of this remarkable group in the United States Congress, and I wish them an equally storied future.

### TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER FATORA

### HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 2010*

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Naval Officer, Commander Jeffrey Fatora, and to recognize his dedicated service to our Nation. It is a great honor for me to thank Commander Fatora for his distinguished service in the Submarine Force. Commander Fatora has proudly and selflessly served our Nation for 23 years,

and he will retire from the naval service on July 1 of this year.

It was during his last assignment to the Secretary of the Navy's Appropriations Matters office that I first came to know Commander Fatora. In this capacity, he has proved to be an invaluable link between the Navy and me, my staff, and the Appropriations Committee. For nearly four years Commander Fatora provided valuable assistance to me and to Members of the House Appropriations Committee. He often traveled with Members of the Committee—sometimes into combat zones—and always ensured that the Committee had direct access to Department of Defense facilities and combat units worldwide.

On every occasion, Commander Fatora performed his duties in an exacting and precise manner. But far more important to me and the members of the Appropriations Committee was the effectiveness by which he kept us informed of important developments within the Department of the Navy, allowing us to make important decisions on resource allocation based upon the facts.

Commander Fatora began his submarine service aboard USS *Indianapolis* (SSN 697) in Pearl Harbor, completing two Western Pacific Deployments. As a member of the commissioning crew of USS *Louisiana* (SSBN 743), he was the very first officer qualified as Officer of the Deck on the ship. But clearly, his most notable service was as the Weapons Officer aboard USS *Providence* (SSN 719), which was the first American warship to arrive off the coast of Pakistan following the attacks of September 11th, 2001. As the leader of the *Providence* strike team, he ensured that 25 Tomahawk Cruise Missiles found their targets in Afghanistan during the opening salvos of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Later, as a Staff Officer for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, he worked diligently with a multi-national task force to execute the anti-terrorist Operation Active Endeavour. Finally, serving as Executive Officer aboard USS *Pittsburgh* (SSN 720), he guided the crew through a very challenging Engineered Overhaul at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

In closing, on behalf of the House of Representatives and especially my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, I want to express my thanks and appreciation for the special contribution Commander Fatora has made during his naval service. We wish him and his family continued success and the traditional naval wish of “fair winds and following seas.”

### RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

### HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 21, 2010*

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in history, the House of Representatives will pass a life-changing measure without a single Republican vote in favor. That vote will impact one-sixth of our U.S. economy and affect every man, woman and child in the nation, now and for generations to come.

In almost every poll, the majority of Americans didn't like this bill or the manner in which it was placed before the Congress for a vote.