

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KEWEENAW PENINSULA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Keweenaw Peninsula Chamber of Commerce on the organization's 50th anniversary serving Copper Country. Over the course of five decades the Chamber has fostered a vision of bringing communities on the peninsula together to promote the economic development of the entire region.

The Keweenaw Peninsula, the northernmost point in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, is surrounded by the majestic Lake Superior on three sides, and whether driving, biking, kayaking or snowmobiling the area provides some of the most scenic trails and waterways in the entire Nation. It served as the center of the Upper Peninsula's and the Nation's copper mining industry for generations, earning the region's nickname Copper Country. It is also home to Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan, which has been named one of the "Best Buys in Education" by U.S. News and World Report.

The Keweenaw Peninsula Chamber of Commerce was formed in 1959 when the Houghton Association of Commerce and the Hancock Chamber of Commerce were combined to form the Houghton-Hancock Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of this merger was to advance the civic, educational, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, and tourist interests in the areas of Houghton, Hancock, and Portage Lake.

In 1978 the Houghton-Hancock Chamber of Commerce changed its name to the Copper Country Chamber of Commerce. The organization officially took the name of Keweenaw Peninsula Chamber of Commerce on December 12, 1985. At this time Chambers from Lake Linden, Painesdale, South Range, and Copper Harbor, among others, fused into this single entity. This regional Chamber works to advance the general welfare of Houghton and Keweenaw Counties to ensure its citizens and businesses prosper.

The Chamber is continuing its work to serve the region with an effort to unite with the Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance and the Keweenaw Convention and Visitor Bureau to lead Houghton and Keweenaw Counties in the development and enhancement of tourism, economic development, and business related activities.

Madam Speaker, the Keweenaw Peninsula Chamber of Commerce has served as a leader in improving civic life and economic development in the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The Chamber's commitment to both the traditions and to the future of Copper Country serves to benefit all who live in and enjoy the resources and beauty Keweenaw Peninsula has to offer. Therefore Madam Speaker, I ask that you, and all of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, join me in recognizing the Keweenaw Peninsula Chamber of Commerce on its 50th anniversary.

HONORING DELRAN BOYS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM

**HON. JOHN H. ADLER**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to report that the tradition of soccer excellence continues at a high school in the Third District of New Jersey. For the fourth time in six years, the Delran Boys Varsity Soccer Team has captured the NJSIAA State Group 2 Championship. I am also pleased to note that Delran finished their season with an outstanding record of 21-2-2, ranking them as the fifth best team in the state by the New Jersey Star Ledger. Three members of the team, Garrett Erny, Dominic Nocito, and Ali Gocmez were named to the Star Ledger's South Jersey All Star Team.

The coaches who have led the state championship team to victory are head coach Mike Otto and assistant coaches Joe Griffith, Joe Chaccio, Kevin Romanik, and Mati Reinfeldt. They were aided by managers Stephanie Schmidt, Allyson Arroyo, Alyssa Kelly, and Athletic Director Andrew Estrada. These talented young athletes include the following Delran High school students: Captain Garrett Erny, Captain Brad Schmidt, Captain Dominic Nocito, Vincent Carollo, Ali Gocmez, Joseph Hackimer, Donald Irons, Michael Perreira, R.J. Ruff, Steven Smith, Cem Yilmaz, Mark Denny, Justin Dobrin, Richard Evans, Machado Jackson, Kevin Meldrum, Daniel Pak, Michael Reyes, Jared Ruff, Douglas Rocha, Laris Brkic, John Hansberry, Bryan Lodge, Dante Nocito, Bret Sanson, Kevin Sousa, Tyler Wiseman, Dylan Kitley, and Jordan Gale.

I commend the Delran High School Boys Varsity Soccer team on their 2009 State Championship and hope you will join me in wishing each of its members great success.

**HONORING WILL QUARLES**

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Will Quarles, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Will has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Will has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Will Quarles for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DANNY AND MILLY MITCHELL OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK

**HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dan and Milly Mitchell of Plattsburgh, New York on the celebration of their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Dan and Milly each have been a strong presence in our community, and nearly all of us in Clinton County have learned from them and benefited from their experience at one time or another. Milly has always been a strong presence in Clinton County, and Dan is well known to all of us through his work as a judge and an election commissioner. But, perhaps more than anything else, it is their commitment to one another that is so well known in our community. Dan and Milly's fifty years of marriage are a shining example of what a bond as strong as theirs can achieve, and I commend them on all those special years together.

I know I speak for all of Clinton County in wishing them a happy anniversary on this momentous occasion, and all the best of luck to them and their family in the many years ahead.

**HONORING ITASCA ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF GREG McDONALD**

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in recognition of the long and distinguished service of Itasca Fire Protection District Assistant Chief Greg McDonald on the occasion of his retirement. Assistant Chief McDonald recently concluded his loyal service to the community he has been faithfully serving since 1972.

Assistant Chief McDonald first volunteered for the Itasca FPD for 13 years and rose to the rank of captain. Following this period of service he was promoted to Assistant Chief in 1991.

Day in and day out Assistant Chief McDonald led the men and women of the Itasca Fire Protection District as they risked their lives to protect Itasca. His leadership is reflected in their bravery and courage.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in celebrating this special occasion and the long years of service and commitment that it represents.

**HONORING KINSEY KIRIAKOS FOR HIS SERVICE TO TENNESSEE'S SIXTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Kinsey Kiriakos,

who has served as my Communications Director and has helped me to be a better congressman as I represent the people of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

While Kinsey grew up in southern California and far from the rolling hills of Tennessee, he quickly proved himself to be an ambitious and creative addition to the staff, with a clear passion for politics that rivals only his passion for the Los Angeles Dodgers. One of Kinsey's first tasks in the office was revamping my congressional Web site, and he put in long hours to get the job done well. His hard work and dedication on that project has made my Web site a more effective tool for communicating with my constituents.

Prior to joining my staff, Kinsey worked for Rep. BRAD SHERMAN and Sen. EVAN BAYH. Now, he is moving on to the next phase of his career. Kinsey departed my office on Friday for a new job as the Communications Director for the Joint Economic Committee, and I know he looks forward to being involved in efforts to get our nation's economy back on track. His experience with both the House and Senate, and his easy rapport with reporters will serve him well in this new position.

Madam Speaker, my staff and I have enjoyed having Kinsey with us over the last year, and we wish him all the best in his new position. He is young and talented, and I look forward to watching his professional skills continue to grow.

**HONORING MRS. SUZANNE M. PILON FOR BEING AWARDED THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING AWARD**

**HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mrs. Suzanne M. Pilon of Hilton, New York for being awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th-grade mathematics or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States.

A first and second grade science and mathematics teacher at Quest Elementary School in Hilton, Suzanne has been teaching at the Hilton Central School District for the past 14 years.

Known for her strong motivational skills, Suzanne also serves as a Teacher Leader for the Investigating Science program, is a Child Study Team Grade Level Leader, a Technology Committee Representative, an Administrative Team member, and a Parent-Teacher-Student Organization Team Representative.

Suzanne offers a daily science workshop to her students and tries to weave science into as many other subjects as she can. She continues to pursue many professional development activities and has previously been recognized as the District Teacher of the Year for Quest School of Choice.

Suzanne is an exceptional educator and Western New York is fortunate to have her teaching in our community. I'd like to once again congratulate Suzanne on this wonderful

accomplishment and thank her for her dedication to our nation's youth.

**HONORING THE NEBRASKA FIREFIGHTERS MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER**

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. I rise to honor the Nebraska Firefighters Museum and Education Center in Kearney, Nebraska. In addition, I also want to thank Lindsay Schluntz and Wayne Olson for their energy, dedication and hard work in making the museum a reality.

The museum covers Nebraska's firefighting history from 1856 to the present and its exhibits feature restored fire trucks, uniforms, breathing equipment, fire extinguishers and other various firefighting implements.

Additionally, I'm proud to note a portion of the museum is dedicated to fire prevention education and features interactive exhibits targeted to school-age children.

Opened on August 14, 2009, the museum has seen more than 3000 visitors with many more expected to tour the facilities in the coming months. Later this year, construction will begin on a memorial garden featuring several granite tablets with the engraved names of Nebraska firefighters who have dedicated their lives and safety to protecting their communities.

It has been a great honor of mine to work with Nebraska's firefighters and other emergency personnel. The Nebraska Firefighters Museum is a reminder of the sacrifices and dedication these brave men and women make to our state.

**HONORING DAVID M. BISSENETTE, EMERGENCY COORDINATOR FOR THE TOWN OF CLARENCE, NEW YORK**

**HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great appreciation that I recognize Mr. David M. Bissonette, Emergency Coordinator for the town of Clarence, New York, for his dedicated service to the community, specifically his efforts on the evening of February 12, 2009.

On the evening of February 12, 2009, Continental Connection Flight 3407 crashed into a home in the town of Clarence. Under the coordination of David, emergency personnel from throughout Western New York responded quickly to the scene of the accident and immediately went into action.

A fulltime safety professional for more than 30 years, David's experience and professionalism in handling incident coordination allowed emergency personnel to arrive on scene in a matter of minutes, as well as enabling residents living in homes near the crash site the ability to quickly move to safety.

A 27-year member of the Clarence Volunteer Fire Department, David served in various

leadership positions including Chief and Assistant Chief. Over his 17 years as Emergency Coordinator for the town of Clarence, David has been responsible for providing emergency support and guidance on a number of large emergencies including chemical releases, extremely heavy snow storms, a chemical plant explosion and fire, long term power outages and sadly, because of the events on February 12, 2009, a tragic plane crash.

Madam Speaker, I'd like to extend my appreciation to David Bissonette for his dedication to the town of Clarence, and for his actions on the evening of February 12, 2009, and the days following.

**BANKRUPTCY NOT BAILOUTS**

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, Americans have one word for Congress when it comes to more bailouts: "No!" Taxpayers want to hold accountable those who wrecked American companies and our economy—not give them new, federal checking accounts.

The Obama administration does not get the message. What was its Christmas "present" for taxpayers? A Christmas Eve gift of unlimited bailout billions to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

House Democrats don't get the message either. Just before Christmas, they rammed through a partisan financial "reform" bill to institutionalize bailouts—not bury them.

There is a common thread in the Democratic gift-giving. It is Chicago-style patronage politics, rung up by the billions. Fannie and Freddie's patrons gladly drain taxpayer coffers to preserve these tools of liberal social policy. Meanwhile, as the latest academic study shows, politically connected banks get the most bailouts. Little does it matter that these were the institutions that brought us to the edge of ruin.

Republicans and the American people have a better solution. Send the institutions that have failed us to bankruptcy. There, accountability will carry the day—not patronage politics.

**REPORTED WALL STREET BANK BONUSES**

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I come from Missouri—the Show-Me State—where people conduct their lives with a sensible skepticism and a great devotion to common sense and patriotism.

Missourians pride themselves in being straight shooters. They work hard and play by the rules. They look at issues with a pragmatism that more Americans should possess. They, like I, have been angered by the greedy behavior of Wall Street tycoons who helped get our country into its current economic mess.

Their anger is amplified when they hear news stories, as all Americans have in the