

After speaking with someone who has seen so many traumatic experiences, the war really does become real to me. I also can really feel the pain of having to be so far away from your loved ones for so long. I can't even imagine having to be newly married, then deployed to a foreign country in danger, away from your new spouse, not being able to contact them every day. Or even having children and not being able to see them grow up. This would be extremely hard to do, and it really takes a special type of person to do that. This assignment has given me a new appreciation of everything that our soldiers do for us. When you are just living your normal daily life, there are soldiers out in danger, fighting to let you keep that freedom that you just take advantage of. I believe that more people should get to know about the war veterans, so that they can appreciate everything soldiers do for us.—Abby Callison

A TRIBUTE TO EARTH DAY AND
NORTHWEST HALIFAX HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to mark Earth Day's 40th anniversary. The brainchild of Senator Gaylord Nelson, Earth Day has done more than simply raise awareness of environmental issues; it has helped shape policy to build a more sustainable country.

This occasion should remind everyone of the opportunity to swiftly take steps toward addressing our most dire environmental threat—global climate change. Last June, the House approved the American Clean Energy and Security Act, which would establish a process to curb greenhouse gas emissions. If signed into law, our children will celebrate the 80th annual Earth Day in 2050 with 83 percent less domestic greenhouse gas emissions.

It is critical that the U.S. Senate take immediate steps to provide meaningful, science-based legislation to limit greenhouse gas emissions. We must do our part to leave a legacy of conservation and sustainability for future generations. And, as Congress slowly labors to provide direction, millions of Americans are taking their own steps to live greener and more sustainable lives.

Northwest Halifax High School, located in Littleton, North Carolina in the First Congressional District, has installed a 2.0k/W solar panel system that will use a third less energy and reduce carbon emissions by 117,840 pounds over the lifespan of the system. On average, the school will save enough money to hire two full time teachers.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Earth Day, I urge Congress to meet the mandate of the American people and pass meaningful legislation to confront climate change. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Earth Day, and commending Northwest Halifax High School on setting an example for all Americans.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES FOR
VICTIMS OF TESORO REFINERY
FIRE IN ANACORTES, WASH-
INGTON

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1262, which honors the victims of the fire at the Tesoro Refinery in Anacortes, Washington and expresses condolences to their families, friends, and loved ones in the wake of this tragic incident.

On April 2, 2010, as a team of seven employees worked in the refinery's naphtha hydro-treater, a devastating fire broke out. While the fire was quickly brought under control by Tesoro's fire control team and local first responders, three of the employees died immediately in the fire, three more died of their injuries, and another remains in intensive care after suffering severe burns.

I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to the community of Anacortes and the entire state of Washington, including to Representative RICK LARSEN who represents the affected community. Our district has five refineries that employ many of our constituents and we share in their unfortunate loss.

As we continue to deal with the devastating consequences of this episode, we must also direct our attention to preventing losses of life like this in the future. Ensuring the safety of our refineries must be a top priority to protect the security and wellbeing of our workers, their families, and communities.

Again, I would like to express my condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of those killed in the fire and also offer my support and hope for a full recovery to the Anacortes community.

HONORING ISRAELI
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 62nd anniversary of one of our country's most steadfast and supportive allies: Israel.

Since Israel's declaration of independence in 1948, Jews from all over the world have moved there to put down roots, flourish, and participate in a Jewish state and society. Israel has grown from a country that provided a refuge for Jews who survived unprecedented horrors and anti-Semitic persecution to a nation with a strong and enduring tradition of democracy and liberal governance.

Israel was born out of war and conflict, and has weathered constant threats from beyond its borders since its creation. The history of Israel is one of a nation small in size but large in its dedication to the enduring principles of democratic governance, liberal democracy, and national unity. It is a testament to the character and inner strength of the Israeli peo-

ple that their country continues to develop and flourish even as it is surrounded by so many who unjustly wish to see it dissolved and destroyed.

The nation of Israel is a friend of the poor and dispossessed around the world. It has sent humanitarian aid and emergency medical supplies to war zones in Rwanda; disaster areas in Turkey, the Indian Ocean, and along the Gulf Coast; and to fire-scorched areas in Greece. Most recently, Israel supplied much-needed support and relief to the people of Haiti, including deploying the Israel Defense Forces on aid missions and contributing millions of dollars to help the Haitian people rebuild their country.

It is clear that Israel's national mission is a higher calling than mere survival or self-perpetuation. It is an example to the world of the power of a determined national spirit, a citizenry dedicated to justice, and a set of founding principles that cannot be corrupted.

From the moment the United States recognized the State of Israel 11 minutes after its creation in 1948, Israel has proven to be a loyal partner with which the United States enjoys a mutually beneficial alliance. The advances made by our two countries in educational, scientific, and technological fields help to make the world a better place, and augment our intelligence and security partnerships in a crucial region of the world.

I join with many of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives in highlighting my admiration for what the nation of Israel has accomplished in the last sixty-two years. It is my hope that the people of Israel use this anniversary as an opportunity to set a path forward that will help bring peace and prosperity to themselves and to their region for the next several years.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL
ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAINT
PAUL HOTEL

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the staff and owners of The Saint Paul Hotel on the occasion of its Centennial Anniversary, which will be celebrated this weekend on April 17th.

Since its grand opening on April 18th, 1910, The Saint Paul Hotel has served as a geographic and cultural landmark for Minnesota's capital city, as well as a gathering place for Saint Paul's many visitors and residents.

In 1908 local businessman Lucius P. Ordway recognized the need for a major hotel in the growing commercial hub of Saint Paul. Mr. Ordway partnered with the city's Business League to purchase a parcel of land near downtown Saint Paul's Rice Park and finance the hotel's construction. Less than two years later, the Saint Paul Hotel was opened for business. It immediately was recognized as the premier hotel in the region, and less than one month after its grand opening celebration the hotel was named "Best in the West" by the National Hotelman's Association.

After falling into disrepair in the 1950s, civic and business leaders undertook an extensive renovation to return the hotel to its original

glory between 1981 and 1982. Since then, The Saint Paul Hotel has won dozens more awards for outstanding service and accommodations, and it has become, once again, one of the foremost luxury hotels in the Midwest.

Throughout its history, The Saint Paul Hotel has hosted a number of American Presidents, foreign dignitaries and heads of state, performing artists, writers, athletes, and numerous weddings. It has contributed a century's worth of memories to Saint Paul and the surrounding community.

Madam Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the Centennial Anniversary of The Saint Paul Hotel and its contributions to the rich history of the city of Saint Paul and the State of Minnesota.

HONORING ROY ISOM

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a man whose life and passions exemplified the well honored work ethic and spirit of fortitude, fairness, decency and citizenship that has made our nation great. Many things have contributed to the agriculture industry's prominence in our nation and the world, but one significant underlying factor in awareness of California's premier agricultural contributions to this great society has been the presence of individuals such as Roy Isom. On April 15th, 2010, agriculture and the entire Central Valley of California, lost a valuable friend and ally in Mr. Roy Isom, a radio icon in Fresno, California, the man colleagues called the hardest working person in broadcasting.

Roy Isom was a fixture in Central Valley California broadcasting for more than 40 years. Mr. Isom was known in the Central Valley by many as the "voice of agriculture" producing daily, an hour-long morning agricultural news show, reporting the concerns and activities of farming and agribusiness. Roy genuinely understood agriculture and its issues, talking regularly with farmers. Roy Isom was dedicated to agriculture.

Mr. Isom was a good hearted and good natured newsman who came to KMJ in Fresno in 1981 after a long stint in television news, including KFSN ch. 30. He started as farm news editor, but later added the title of news director to his resume. Colleagues marveled at his work ethic. He would come to work at 1 o'clock in the morning and then "maybe" leave at 3 in the afternoon, only to come back to work the next day seemingly unaffected by it. Though he arrived to work so early, he'd refuse to be pulled off a story until that story was told—and told well.

Roy Isom was known for his fair and balanced reporting. There was no one who didn't like or respect Roy. Though passionate about his craft, he was never pushy. Former KMJ general manager Al Smith reported, "He was never a gotcha news guy. He was a guy who just wanted to get the facts ma'am.", always done in a respectful way. Roy could masterfully paint a mental picture for listeners when on the scene of breaking news events.

Over the course of 45 years, Mr. Isom covered countless major breaking stories. Roy

covered some of the most important stories our Valley has ever seen, most notably the recent dire water crisis facing our Central Valley farmers and their communities. His collection of media badges and awards speak volumes. He was named the California Farm Bureau Agricultural Reporter of the Year in '94. In 2005, Roy received the "Heavy Puller Award" from the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

Cancer may have claimed Roy's life at 72, but longtime friend and broadcaster Dennis Hart reports Roy went out just the way he'd planned; working until the very end. He's one of those rare people that got to do just that.

Roy Isom is survived by his wife of 45 years Pat Isom; son, Richard Isom; daughters Jennifer Isom Schmidtke and Catherine Isom; and seven grandchildren; all of Fresno. Mr. Isom will be long remembered for his love and dedication to his family and to the broadcast industry, and for his tireless efforts in doing his job, especially on behalf of Valley agriculture. A memorial scholarship in Roy's name has been set up with the Ag One Foundation at California State University, Fresno. Roy Isom will truly be missed by family, friends and the entire Central Valley Region. I will greatly miss Roy. Here's to a truly honorable and great man!

COMMEMORATING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th annual Earth Day.

Each year Earth Day offers us an opportunity to reflect on the progress we have made toward protecting our environment and the work that we still need to do.

Now more than ever, we have an historic opportunity to take action to limit the harmful effects of climate change and create the clean energy economy of the future.

And there is no reason why America shouldn't be at the forefront of this new economy—and my hometown of Sacramento is helping to lead that effort.

To date, our area has among the highest federal funding levels through the Recovery Act and other grants to support investments in clean-tech and energy efficiency projects, including SmartGrid.

Madam Speaker, Sacramento's efforts are helping to lay the groundwork for renewed economic prosperity for our country, create good jobs, and will provide enormous benefits to our environment at the same time.

TRIBUTE TO GARY M. CHRISTMAS, CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual from my Congressional District for his nearly 30

years of outstanding achievements and accomplishments in public service. Gary M. Christmas has served as Riverside County's Chief Deputy County Executive Officer since October 2008, and has been employed with the county in Riverside, California since July 1997. After almost three decades of service, Gary is retiring and today I honor his years of public service.

Gary graduated from the University of New Orleans with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and from San Jose State University with a Master's in Library Science. Prior to attending college, Gary served four years in the United States Coast Guard stationed in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Gary was a librarian for 16 years where he held progressively more responsible library management positions. He was also a reference librarian at several colleges and universities, including University of California, Riverside, Cal-Poly Pomona, Riverside Community College and Mt. San Jacinto Community College.

Gary served as the county librarian from July 1997 to June 2004 where he managed the library services contract and the County Library System with over 30 branches and more than 300 contract employees.

As Deputy County Executive Officer, a position he held from June 2004 to October 2008, Gary oversaw analysts in the Executive Office on budget and policy items, managed the County Capital Improvement Program team and coordinated the court facility transfer to the State Administrative Office of the Courts.

During his tenure as Chief Deputy County Executive Officer, Gary worked directly with the CEO, Assistant CEO and the Board of Supervisors in developing county policies and strategies. Additionally, Gary managed the Program Division of the Executive Office and has served as the legislative coordinator for the county advocacy program in Sacramento and Washington, DC. Gary has also represented the county at various federal, state and local meetings, boards and committees.

Gary has been married to his wife Kathy since 1974 and has two children, Erin and Andrea. In retirement, Gary will continue to travel and spend time with his family.

Gary Christmas's tireless passion for community and public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. I am proud to call Gary a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2009–2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress.