

his country throughout the years, whether as a consultant or as the head of the Intensive Care Unit on base, led to him being awarded a total of 18 medals of commendation. Following his retirement, Colonel Sekhon continued serving the nation as he ran for the United States Congress, aspiring for political office. As a reminder of the multicultural foundation of our great country, Dr. Sekhon's story rings true to the basic principles of this nation: regardless of race or religion, any citizen may dedicate his or her life to safeguarding the liberties of our shared home.—Jaywin Singh Malhi

RECOGNITION FOR THE INTERCULTURAL CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF DESERTS AND OCEANS

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Intercultural Center for the Study of Deserts and Oceans, also known as CEDO—El Centro de Estudios de Desiertos y Océanos.

On May 1 2010, CEDO celebrates 30 years of exploring and helping to protect the creatures, habitats and cultures of the Sonoran Desert and the Sea of Cortez. Its educational and research facility is located on the Sea of Cortez in Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, México, where students and visitors alike are exposed to its essential work to preserve this fragile ecosystem.

CEDO was envisioned in 1975 when Peggy Turk Boyer, CEDO's executive director, first visited Puerto Peñasco with professors John Hendrickson and Don Thomson of the University of Arizona's Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department, as part of the University of Arizona's marine biology program.

CEDO opened its doors in 1980. Since then, thousands of people have participated in CEDO's research, education and conservation programs. CEDO's biological field station annually provides hands-on marine studies to hundreds of university students and researchers. CEDO also has expanded its outreach by offering school field trips, eco adventures, summer camps for young marine biologists and community education programs.

Gus, a 13 year old who spent time at CEDO, spoke for many others who have enjoyed the incredible opportunities that are available there. Gus wrote "in one small trip, I experienced a colossal adventure. It's not every day that you get to do something as magical as I was able to do, but luckily, CEDO is dedicated to bringing people closer to nature and all of its creatures. I have gained a new determination to protect the beauty of Puerto Peñasco and its unique environment. I believe that ordinary people, such as you and me, are the key to conserving the Sea of Cortez's irreplaceable natural wonder. Together, we can save the Sea. Thank you CEDO for your wonderful contributions to conservation."

The CEDO vision is that all residents and visitors to the Northern Gulf understand, appreciate and participate in sustainable activities and actions that support a healthy, thriving and productive ecosystem. CEDO seeks to learn about the region through research, share

the fruits of that research through educational activities and then use this knowledge to bring people together to help protect this unique and irreplaceable ecosystem.

Today, CEDO is working with researchers and fishermen in the Sea of Cortez to protect the Vaquita porpoise—the world's smallest and most endangered marine mammal species. Only about 200 Vaquitas remain—down two-thirds from a decade ago. CEDO is helping design a new type of net that will protect the Vaquitas and works with fishermen so they understand how they can ply their trade without harming the few remaining Vaquitas.

The research and educational efforts of the Intercultural Center for the Study of Deserts and Oceans have substantially improved the biological health and the sustainability of the Sea of Cortez. CEDO also understands the importance of collaboration with other entities. More than forty funding and program partners are part of the diverse CEDO network.

CEDO is doing critical conservation work for all of us and we look forward to everything that it will accomplish in the next 30 years. I commend the dedicated staff, board members and volunteers whose dedication sustains this essential environmental organization.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, on Monday, April 26, 2010, I was absent for three votes for medical reasons. I rise today to enter into the RECORD how I would have voted had I been able to vote.

House rollcall vote 221. I would have voted "yes."

House rollcall vote 222. I would have voted "yes."

House rollcall vote 223. I would have voted "yes."

HONORING JACOB'S LIGHT FOUNDATION, INC. FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a nonprofit organization that serves my district, Jacob's Light Foundation.

Jacob's Light Foundation has demonstrated an overwhelming amount of commitment to serving the Long Island community. My constituents rely on our nonprofits for the vital services they offer. The continuous selfless efforts of those involved with Jacob's Light Foundation are admirable.

I am proud to honor Jacob's Light Foundation, Inc. for their extraordinary work in the community.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JACOB BRODMAN ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Mr. LATTI. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Jacob Brodman of Tiffin, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Jacob's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet Class of 2014. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Jacob brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Calvert High School in Tiffin, Ohio, Jacob attained an impressive grade point average. Jacob was a member of the School's Spanish Club and Quiz Bowl team, and he earned academic letters throughout his high school career.

Outside the classroom, Jacob was a member of the football, wrestling, and track teams. Jacob utilized his leadership skills by participating in Calvert High School's National Honor Society and Student Council. I am confident that Jacob will carry the lessons of his student leadership to West Point.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jacob Brodman on his acceptance of appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Jacob will excel during his career at West Point and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

HONORING LONG ISLAND COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a nonprofit organization that serves my district, Long Island Coalition for the Homeless.

Coalition for the Homeless has demonstrated an overwhelming amount of commitment to serving the Long Island community. My constituents rely on our nonprofits for the vital services they offer. The continuous selfless efforts of those involved with the Coalition are admirable.

I am proud to honor the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless for their extraordinary work in the community.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 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. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.”

To ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting the experience for the “Preserving History Project.” Today I’m proud to submit the brief summaries provided so the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans and the thoughtful work of the CYAC may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. It is not a coincidence that this congressional tribute celebrates two generations of service. Each of you is trusted with the precious gift of freedom.

You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

The summary follows:

I interviewed retired Captain John Michael Hayes, a former Air Force pilot during the Vietnam War from 1968 to 1972. Mr. Hayes is an exceptional veteran who was a vital contributor during our war efforts. He flew 166 successful combat missions and gained over 24,000 flying hours in the military and in commercial flight. In Vietnam he was given a rare opportunity to wear the mantle of senior-officer-hood while being a junior officer. He taught and trained many men in the delicate art of flight while being stationed near northern Vietnam and the brunt of the warfare. Not only was Mr. Hayes an outstanding military officer, he also is an incredible asset to our community. As Veterans Affairs/Military Liaison he deals with numerous cases daily spanning from post-war medal bestowment, to veterans/widows benefits, to youth involvement with our retired servicemen. Mr. Hayes also conducts veterans interviews to keep the stories of WWII veterans and others alive. Mr. Hayes further solidified my yearning to make a difference in America by joining the armed forces. His unique take on leadership and patriotism opened my eyes to new possibilities

in America. I may now rest assured that great men are on the front lines, whether it be in the military or in public service, who are truly working for the betterment of our community and the progress of America as a whole.—Adrianne Mikes

HONORING LONG ISLAND LATINO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a nonprofit organization that serves my district, Long Island Latino Teachers Association.

LILTA has demonstrated an overwhelming amount of commitment to serving the Long Island community. My constituents rely on our nonprofits for the vital services they offer. The continuous selfless efforts of those involved with LILTA are admirable.

I am proud to honor Long Island Latino Teachers Association for their extraordinary work in the community.

CONGRATULATING THE LINCOLN UNIVERSITY TRACK AND FIELD TEAM

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate the men and women of the Lincoln University Track and Field team for their outstanding performance at this year’s NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships.

The women’s team finished the season by bringing home their second national title in as many years and the Blue Tigers’ tenth overall national championship. This accomplishment is even more impressive given the strong performance by the men’s Track and Field team. Led by junior Kimour Bruce, himself a national champion in the 60-meter dash, the men’s team finished in fourth place.

Madam Speaker, I wish to extend my congratulations to the student-athletes of the Lincoln University Track and Field team for these remarkable achievements.

COMMENDING HIS EXCELLENCY PHIANE PHILAKONE, AMBASSADOR OF THE LAO PEOPLE’S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the distinguished service of His Excellency Phiane Philakone, the Ambassador of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (PDR) to the United States. Ambassador Philakone will soon be returning to Laos

and, for historical purposes, I want to publicly acknowledge the good work he has done on behalf of his country.

For more than three years, Ambassador Philakone has honorably carried out his responsibilities as Laos’ Ambassador to the United States. During his service, he has worked with the House Foreign Affairs’ Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, which I chair, to bring greater attention to the issue of Unexploded Ordnance in Laos.

Because of him, I was able to visit Laos on two occasions and gain a firsthand understanding of the catastrophic and lasting effects of U.S. Air Force bombing operations in Laos during the Vietnam War. To this very day, these deadly, unexploded ordnances continue to claim the lives of a people who are not and never were at war with us, and unless we rectify this now, the loss of life will go on and on, tomorrow, the next day, and every day thereafter. I thank Ambassador Philakone for his leadership on this issue.

Before Ambassador Philakone accepted his assignment to come to the U.S. in February 2007, he devoted six years as Ambassador of the Lao PDR to the Republic of the Philippines. From 1996–1999, he was the Deputy Governor of the Lao Central Bank. Prior to that position, he served as President of a joint venture commercial bank in the Lao PDR.

Ambassador Philakone has held other distinguished banking posts, including Managing Director of a state commercial bank and Director of Administration of the Lao Development Bank. Additionally, from 1976–1989, he was the Director of Research of the Bank of the Lao PDR.

In addition to his extensive practical experience, Ambassador Philakone has academic training in policy and diplomatic matters. He received a Bachelor’s Degree in Law and Administration from Institut Royal de Droit et d’Administration in Laos and an advanced degree from Institut International d’Administration Publique (IIAP) in France. He is fluent in English, French, and Thai.

Ambassador Philakone and his wife, Mrs. Somchit Philakone, have three children, and I extend to them my highest regards and best wishes.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF SEAN MURRAY ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio’s Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Sean Murray of Defiance, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Sean’s offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet Class of 2014. Attending one of our Nation’s military academies is an invaluable experience that offers