

people with disabilities to remain functional and independent while giving them an opportunity to receive an education, maintain a job, or join a community group.

I also want to acknowledge the work of the National MS Society, which works tirelessly on behalf of persons living with MS. Just this past weekend I participated in the Columbus MS Walk with my many friends in the Ohio Buckeye Chapter. This walk was just one of many across the country to raise money for research into MS.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to the day when the world is free of MS. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in finding the causes, improving the treatments while lowering their costs, and fighting for a cure for MS and other diseases, so that all Americans can live fully active and healthy lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, yesterday I was unable to vote during rollcall No. 226 because of illness. If I would have been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING FAMILY SERVICE LEAGUE FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a nonprofit organization that serves my district, Family Service League.

Family Service League 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 Family Service League are admirable.

I am proud to honor Family Service League for their extraordinary work in the community.

TRIBUTE TO MS. PAM McCUE

HON. PARKER GRIFFITH

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Ms. Pam McCue. Ms. McCue is the Director of the Missile and Space Intelligence Center (MSIC), which is headquartered at Redstone Arsenal in my district.

Ms. McCue has spent her entire career in the field of intelligence analysis of foreign missile and air defense systems. She assumed her current position upon her appointment to the Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service in May of 2007. She is responsible for planning, organizing, and directing an organi-

zation of 400 people in analyzing intelligence information on foreign missile and space systems and related technology.

The work done at MSIC under Ms. McCue's direction delivers integrated, timely, and high confidence intelligence assessments to our warfighters, weapons system developers, and policy makers.

Madam Speaker, I wish to congratulate Ms. Pam McCue on a spectacular career and wish her continued success.

REMARKS RECOGNIZING THE YWCA OF BERGEN COUNTY RAPE CRISIS CENTER AND THEIR ADVOCACY OF DENIM DAY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New Jersey Legislature's declaration of April 28th as Denim Day and to thank advocates across the state for their tireless efforts to promote sexual assault awareness and provide assistance to victims of sexual assault. Recently, New Jersey became the newest state to adopt Denim Day as an annual event to raise awareness for acts of sexual assault. The establishment of Denim Day across the state of New Jersey is an important call to action reminding us that we must do everything possible as a community and as a nation of laws to stop rape and sexual assault and help survivors.

Denim Day originated in 1998, when a decision to overturn a case of sexual assault by the Italian Supreme Court caused outrage among Italian legislators and the public. A statement released by the Head Judge of the Court stated, "Because the victim wore very, very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them . . . and by removing the jeans . . . it was no longer assault but consensual sex." The women in the Italian Parliament protested by wearing jeans on the steps of the Parliament building and the protests that followed eventually spread to the United States.

The movement that originated in Italy reached New Jersey in 2008 and 2009 when several county-based Sexual Violence Programs in New Jersey launched Denim Day. I am proud to say that the YWCA of Bergen County Rape Crisis Center, located in my district, has been a champion of this cause. Today, they will be hosting the third annual "Denim Day in NJ" in Bergen County. This is also the first year that Denim Day will be observed officially throughout the state of New Jersey thanks to a New Jersey State Legislature resolution designating April 28 of each year as Denim Day to promote rape awareness throughout the state.

I commend the ongoing efforts of the YWCA of Bergen County Rape Crisis Center to provide free and confidential assistance, counseling, and medical and legal services to survivors of sexual assault. I stand united with the YWCA, survivors of sexual assault, and their loved ones in observing this important day.

HONORING HEALTH AND WELFARE COUNCIL OF LONG ISLAND FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a nonprofit organization that serves my district, Health and Welfare Council of Long Island.

Health and Welfare Council 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. Health and Welfare Council's continuous acts of selfless efforts are admirable.

I am proud to honor Health and Welfare Council of Long Island for their extraordinary work in the community.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING STUDENTS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of several students in Northern Virginia. These students have participated and excelled in programs administered by their local Parent Teacher Associations and Parent Teacher Student Associations.

Parent Teacher Associations, PTAs, and Parent Teacher Student Associations, PTSAs, serve a critical role in helping to provide the best possible educational environment for our students. The Northern Virginia District PTA consists of a region with more than 220 schools. Schools located throughout northern Virginia are consistently recognized as being among the very best schools in our country. I strongly believe one factor in the excellent education received by our students is the high level of involvement and encouragement provided by parents through the PTA and PTSAs.

I am pleased to congratulate the following students on being recognized by the National PTA and Virginia PTA for their outstanding achievements:

2010 District PTA Citizenship Essay Awards—High School Division: Trisha Hajela (10th Grade, Centerville High School), and Katherine DeFazio (12th Grade, James Madison High School).

2010 District PTA Citizenship Essay Awards—Middle School Division: Bennett Casciano (7th Grade, South County Secondary School), and Cali Willcockson (8th Grade, Liberty Middle School).

The 2010 PTA Reflections National PTA Nominees are:

Dance Choreography: Primary Division—Claire de la Paz (2nd Grade, Herndon Elementary School PTA) for her dance performance titled "Free Bird."

Literature: Middle/Junior Division—Eliza Malakoff, (7th Grade George Washington Middle School PTA) for her insightful essay titled "No Beauty?"

Music Composition: Intermediate Division—Kyle Gatesman, (4th Grade, Canterbury Woods Elementary School PTA) for his musical composition titled "Reflections in Color: Variations on a Theme."

Visual Art: Primary Division—Hannah Cadenazzi, (1st Grade, Great Falls Elementary School PTA) for her interpretative painting titled "Family."

Visual Art: Intermediate Division—Brittney Fogg, (5th Grade, Willow Springs Elementary School PTA) for her authentic drawing titled "Beauty is worth looking for."

Visual Art: Middle/Junior Division—Jiwhae Choi, (8th Grade, Rachel Carson Middle School) for the multifaceted vision of "Beauty is never giving up."

2009 National PTA Award of Excellence: William Park, (12th Grade, Langley High School) who was recognized at an awards reception at the Department of Energy on January 16.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today to recognize the outstanding achievements of these students. I also ask that we recognize the Northern Virginia District PTA, in partnership with the Virginia PTA, as they work diligently to develop the diversity of talents and skills of students attending schools throughout Northern Virginia. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the achievements of these students and the Parent Teacher Associations that support them.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT HIESTAND

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, March 30, an Atlanta icon passed away. Robert Hiestand sold roses and carnations on the corner of Northside Parkway and West Paces Ferry for 20 years and, in the process, became a ubiquitous fixture in the daily routine of Atlantans from all walks of life. He was 55 when he passed.

Over the years, Governors, state legislators and Members of Congress including myself have stopped for a few kind words and a few beautiful flowers from Robert. Yet it is the students who often saw him on their way back and forth from school that have most loudly opined his loss.

I have heard a few different versions of how Robert ended up in Atlanta but the version he told was that his motorcycle ran out of gas as he was passing through and he decided to stay. For two decades after that, come rain, come summer heat, come winter cold, come what may, Robert's only condition to go to work was whether the flowers could survive.

The vibrant remembrances of the Atlanta community reflect the tremendous impact of his character, of his hard work and of his staunch individualism that allowed him to carve out his own niche and leave a lasting impression on the lives of so many. He will be missed and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his contribution to Atlanta.

HONORING LONG ISLAND ADVOCACY CENTER FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

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

Long Island Advocacy Center 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. Long Island Advocacy Center's continuous acts of selfless efforts are admirable.

I am proud to honor Long Island Advocacy Center for their extraordinary work in the community.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,886,315,749,582.96.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,247,890,003,289.16 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FIFTH ANNUAL MICHIGAN EARTH DAY FESTIVAL ON THE OCCASION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the organizers and participants of the fifth annual Michigan Earth Day Festival on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. As a Member of Congress it is my privilege to support this forum as we work to develop Michigan's green and blue economies.

Much like the day it celebrates, the Michigan Earth Day Festival brings together Michiganders from all regions and sectors of community who recognize that the economic vitality of Michigan lies in the innovation and development of our of State's complementary green and blue economies. This festival provides an opportunity for local entrepreneurs, environmentalists, conservationists, civic officials and everyday citizens to build the network of human capital infrastructure so critical

to Michigan becoming a leader in these new industries. Last year the Festival attracted an estimated 50,000 Michiganders to its grounds in downtown Rochester, all of whom were focused on the "triple bottom line" of economic, environmental, and individual prosperity.

On its fifth anniversary, the Michigan Earth Day Festival is set to provide its largest platform yet in its effort to draw attention to the connection between our environment and our future economic prosperity. This year's Festival event will host over 200 participants including environmental and conservation groups, local governments, green business owners and others who will be promoting resource conservation, green technology development, and good stewardship of our environment which will brighten Michigan's economic future while securing our State's rich natural wonders.

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the work of the Michigan Earth Day Festival's organizers and participants towards creating a greener and stronger Michigan economy. I wish the Festival's organizers and participants many future years of success as we work together to develop a renewed, greener and more robust Michigan economy.

HONORING THE WORK OF THE REVEREND DR. WALTER THOMAS RICHARDSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM SWEET HOME MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and thank The Reverend Dr. Walter Thomas Richardson of South Florida for his 26 years of service to Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church.

Pastor Richardson's historic tenure at Sweet Home began in October of 1983, and for nearly three decades, he has dedicated his life to serving others. Under his leadership, the parish has achieved great things. Sweet Home transitioned from two-Sunday a month worship services to weekly Sunday worship services, as well as going from one-morning service to two-morning services. Sweet Home also grew from a small facility to a modern and up-to-date facility with classrooms, offices and seating capacity for 500 in 1991. In 2009, the facility grew yet again to house more than 1000 people and sits on 24 acres of land. The staff at Sweet Home also grew and now has full-time employees. During his tenure, Sweet Home has also been involved in advocating for social justice and multicultural integration, protesting against hate crimes, drugs and corruption, and taken part in building the first Habitat for Humanity housing project in Miami-Dade County.

Pastor Richardson has preached and ministered across our great nation and around the world, including places like Korea, South Africa, Haiti and the Caribbean. More than 51 associate ministers have served with him at Sweet Home, and at least 16 are now serving as senior pastors and chaplains throughout the country. He has counseled more than 200