

lives of every American. Their service to our Nation deserves the highest level of gratitude. It is important that we take the time to recognize the individuals who give of their time and talents to support veterans and ensure their comfort, care, and well-being.

For the past 5 years, Mr. Cianelli has made sure patients at the Glen Burnie VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic are picked up for their appointment on time and safely returned to their home. To date, he has logged 1,300 driving hours and more than 20,000 miles. Mr. Cianelli's experience as a computer scientist has significantly improved the efficiency and effectiveness of the transportation network, providing a program to maintain driver statistics, automating vehicle expense reports and developing a route sheet to expedite driver pick-up times. Robert's colleagues say that it would be hard to find an individual that contributes more than he does to guarantee the success of the Disabled American Veterans Transportation program.

In addition to his service at the Glen Burnie VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic, Mr. Cianelli volunteers with Operation Welcome Home at BWI Airport, welcoming thousands of troops home and providing them with care packages to hold them over while they wait for connecting flights. Mr. Cianelli raised funds to get the program off the ground and continues to do so.

As a member of the Baltimore Marine Corps League, Mr. Cianelli helped raise \$27,000 for the "Wounded Marine Program" at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda and the Walter Reed Army Hospital. The program fed hundreds of meals to family members at the hospital during the height of the fighting in the Iraqi city of Fallujah when there were significant casualties arriving. It paid for Christmas baskets, lodging and taxi coupons for families, as well as televisions and video games for wounded soldiers.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me today to honor Mr. Robert T. Cianelli. His compassion and dedication to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces are an inspiration to us all, and are deserving of the utmost gratitude. It is with great pride that I congratulate Mr. Robert T. Cianelli on his exemplary service as an advocate and a volunteer for American servicemen and women everywhere.

MARINA MODECKER

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2010*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Marina Modecker who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Marina Modecker is an 11th grader at Warren Tech North and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Marina Modecker is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Marina Modecker for winning the Ar-

vada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF HOMES  
AND SERVICES FOR THE AGING  
2010 PHILANTHROPIST OF THE  
YEAR

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I'd like to honor my constituent, Mr. Glenn Biggs, a great American and Texan, who has been selected by the Texas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging as the 2010 Philanthropist of the Year.

Mr. Biggs, born in a small West Texas town in the depths of the Great Depression, has used his knowledge and experience as a banker and business leader to guide Morningside Ministries in San Antonio in establishing an innovative, progressive program, mmLearn.org. It delivers high quality training through online videos to caregivers not only in San Antonio, but also to communities as large as New York City and as small as Homer, Alaska.

Through online training, geriatric physicians can be in the homes and offices of health professionals, family caregivers, pastoral care providers and older adults who have internet connectivity. In a recent webcast, Dr. Thomas Weiss, a geriatric psychiatrist with a specialty in addiction, had a presentation about alcoholism and the elderly.

Most would never have an opportunity to benefit from Dr. Weiss' expertise, but 382 viewers joined the webcast and interacted by providing online comments and questions. The webcast is now available on demand and will continue to be a training resource. Mr. Biggs' vision, commitment and dedication have made this level of service possible.

Mr. Biggs' philanthropy and leadership are not only recognized in the field of aging, but benefit many other worthy causes. The San Antonio Business Journal has written of Mr. Biggs: "... (This) gentle giant with a booming voice spends countless hours trying to get wealthy South Texans to give to causes which he believes are important. Time after time, he is called upon to advise college presidents and board chairmen who are seeking access to the network of former politicians and business millionaires who are willing to part with their fortunes for the right cause."

Numerous organizations and countless individuals have benefitted from the philanthropic leadership of Glenn Biggs. He is preparing and inspiring generations to step forward and become the philanthropists for decades to come. Glenn Biggs sets an example for all of us to follow. And I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this great man.

MARQUIS SKINNER

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2010*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Marquis Skinner who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Marquis Skinner is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Marquis Skinner is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Marquis Skinner for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character to all his future accomplishments.

RECOGNITION OF THE 85TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE COMMEMORA-  
TION OF MENLO PARK

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2010*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 85th Anniversary of the 1925 Commemoration of Menlo Park. On May 16, 1925, Thomas Alva Edison and 600 guests came to Menlo Park to celebrate the inventor's historic accomplishments by commemorating Menlo Park. Eighty-five years later the Township of Edison, New Jersey and the non-profit Edison Memorial Tower Corporation will host a special celebration at the Thomas Edison Center at Menlo Park to honor both the inventor and the community named in his honor.

The event will take place at 2 p.m. on Sunday May 16, 2010. This is a great opportunity to learn about Thomas Edison's life, his work, and his legacy of invention. A great-grandson of the inventor will share stories about his famous relative, and community leaders will exhibit plans to restore Menlo Tower, build a new museum, and redevelop the parkland in Edison State Park. The Edison Community and the Edison Memorial Tower Corporation encourage contributions and attendance at the event in order to help honor the memory of Thomas Edison and support the spirit of innovation that defines Menlo Park.

The Edison Memorial Tower Corporation is a nonprofit organization that works to preserve, promote, and manage the Edison Memorial Tower and Museum in the Menlo Park section of Edison Township. The Corporation strives to honor Edison's memory and educate the public about Edison, his significant accomplishments at this site, and his impact on modern research and development.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the Edison community's continued efforts to improve Menlo Park and honor the enduring legacy of

Thomas Alva Edison, and wish them the best on this historic anniversary.

HONORING JAN VERHAGE

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2010*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jan Verhage for her outstanding service as Executive Director of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital for the past 25 years. For a quarter century, Jan has dedicated her life to building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. Many of our daughters and granddaughters who live here in the Washington area benefit directly from the amazing, innovative and outstanding programs organized under Jan's purview.

Under her guidance and leadership, the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital has experienced unprecedented growth, including a membership that has tripled in size. Today, the council serves 90,000 members in the District of Columbia and 25 surrounding counties in Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. During Ms. Verhage's tenure as Executive Director, more than 2,700 girls earned the Gold Award, the Girl Scouts' highest honor, earned for developing a sustainable community service project.

Jan has also been instrumental in reaching out to underserved communities, by targeting girls of different racial, ethnic, or language backgrounds and by providing financial assistance to girls from low-income families, in order to deliver Girl Scouting to all girls. Her innovative initiatives include training college students to lead troops in at-risk communities; a road safety program for teen girls; and programs that address critical issues such as self-esteem, healthy living, financial literacy and peer pressure.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Jan Verhage for 25 years of dedicated service to girls in the Greater Washington Region. I wish her the best in her future as Chief Operating Officer of Girl Scouts of the USA.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL  
PATRICK FINNEGAN

**HON. JIM MARSHALL**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2010*

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today not only as the Representative of the 8th District of Georgia, but also as the Chairman of the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy at West Point, to honor the service and accomplishments of Brigadier General Patrick Finnegan.

General Finnegan distinguished himself through exceptionally meritorious service to the Nation during more than thirty-nine years of active military service in peace and war, culminating in six years as a professor at

West Point, and serving the last five years as the Dean of the Academic Board. During General Finnegan's tenure, Forbes Magazine rated West Point as the best college in America.

As Dean, General Finnegan envisioned and fostered an Academic Program relevant to the needs of the Army that contributes to the intellectual and professional development of cadets. His visionary leadership led to the transition and expansion of the Academy's foreign language program, which places a greater emphasis on global and cultural awareness and includes a robust Study Abroad Program.

Madam Speaker, the Academic Program at the United States Military Academy has never been stronger, more connected to the Army, or more revered by our Nation. During his tenure, General Finnegan sponsored several successful accreditation visits from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, ABET, and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, MSCHE. West Point was also named the #1 Public College in the Nation by Forbes Magazine and best Public Liberal Arts College by the Princeton Review. Moreover, USMA cadets have won 84 international scholarships during this period, and West Point leads the nation in terms of Rotary International Scholarship winners.

Fondly referred to by cadets as the "People's Dean," General Finnegan's focus on cadets and enrichment opportunities was never limited to the Academic Program. He was an avid and faithful supporter of cadet sports programs and the Dean's teams, and his personal participation in community and post-level events was unprecedented.

Madam Speaker, General Finnegan's record of achievement and manner of service in positions of enormous responsibility epitomize the type of soldier for whom an award such as the Distinguished Service Medal is intended. He has discharged his duty with immeasurable skill, diplomacy, and humility, while his dedication to excellence and devotion to duty, honor, and country is unparalleled.

On behalf of the Board of Visitors, I thank General Finnegan for his service to West Point.

TRIBUTE TO THE LEOMINSTER COLONIAL BAND ON THE OCCASION OF ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOHN W. OLVER**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2010*

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Leominster Colonial Band for its 100 years of active involvement in the Leominster community.

The Leominster Colonial Band started as a group of Italian immigrant musicians gathering together and soon became an institution in Leominster. The band was founded by Gaspare Bisceglia, a 16-year-old apprentice bandmaster, who immigrated to Leominster from San Giovanni, Italy. The band gave its first concert on the Leominster common on August 16, 1910.

Known originally as the "Banda Regione d'Italia," the band has undergone several name changes as its role in the city evolved and its membership diversified. It became the "Italian Colonial Band," and later the "Leominster Colonial Band."

The history of the Leominster Colonial Band is interwoven with the history of Leominster. Over the years, the band has played at numerous civic events and parades. The band performed in celebrations at the end of World War I and led Leominster's welcoming parade when American troops returned from World War II. The band also played at the dedication of Leominster's Spanish-American War monument.

During the Great Depression, Gaspare Bisceglia established a free summer concert series on the downtown common. This tradition has continued over the years and the band now performs five free concerts every year at Leominster's historic Carter Park. The band plays an annual Christmas concert and regularly plays at Italian feasts in Leominster, Boston and throughout Massachusetts. It frequently participates in church celebrations in the Worcester and Greater Boston areas and plays in processions for weddings and funerals.

In 2006, the Leominster Colonial Band received the "Citizen of the Year" award from the Center for Italian Culture at Fitchburg State College, in recognition of its contributions and dedication to Italian culture. In the spring of 2010, the band will be honored with the City of Leominster's "Citizen of the Year" award.

I am very proud to represent the town of Leominster, which is rich in history and public spirit. The members of the Leominster Colonial Band demonstrate a spirit of community involvement, a dedication to upholding Italian cultural traditions, and a commitment to performing quality band music. Please join me in congratulating the Leominster Colonial Band as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

MATTHEW DEANDA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2010*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Matthew Deanda who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Matthew Deanda is a 12th grader at Pamona High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Matthew Deanda is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Matthew Deanda for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character to all his future accomplishments.