

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

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICIOS  
LATINOS OF BURLINGTON COUNTY**HON. JOHN H. ADLER**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2010*

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor "Servicios Latinos de Burlington County" as they commemorate their 10th anniversary.

The people of our great nation share a common spirit and heritage. We believe in the American dream, and the promise that through our labors we can achieve educational and economic success. Throughout the past decade, Servicios Latinos has helped more than 2,500 Burlington County families in achieving this dream.

Servicios Latinos is a social services agency that provides those in need with the resources they need to become informed, educated, and independently able to utilize vital services to become productive and healthy citizens.

In addition to providing critical services in the areas of health, education, housing, and employment, they have also sponsored the bilingual health and higher education fairs and a Hispanic heritage festival. For the organization's inspiring work in the community, they have been honored by several national and state institutions and community partners.

During their 10th anniversary celebration, Servicios Latinos will acknowledge and honor Dr. Robert C. Messina, Jr., President of Burlington County College, and State Senator Diane Allen, with the "Champion of Diversity Award" for being cornerstones in the Servicios Latinos' establishment.

I would also like to commend Ms. Angela Mateo Gonzalez, the Founder and Executive Director of Servicios Latinos for her commendable work with Servicios Latinos, which has made a dramatic, positive impact on the lives of thousands of South Jersey families. I thank her for her dedication and commitment to the community.

Madam Speaker, I hope that you will join me in commending Ms. Gonzalez and the Servicios Latinos de Burlington County for helping so many in our community fulfill the American dream throughout the past ten years.

LAUREN ARCHER

**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 Lauren Archer who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Lauren Archer is a 12th grader at Pamona High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Lauren Archer 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 Lauren Archer for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

HONORING MR. JOHN ALEXANDER

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2010*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the service of John Alexander for his remarkable dedication as a volunteer at the Loch Raven VA Community Living and Rehabilitation Center. To salute his service, Mr. Alexander was awarded the 2009 Congressional Volunteer Recognition Award by the Veterans Advisory Council for Maryland's Second District.

Veterans of the United States Armed Forces have dedicated themselves to protecting the 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.

As the Disabled American Veterans Representative for the Loch Raven VA Community Living and Rehabilitation Center, Mr. Alexander is an active fundraiser and friend. Mr. Alexander makes certain he is aware of all patient needs and makes requests to the DAV to purchase items not routinely supplied by the VA. His fundraising efforts have enabled Loch Raven VA residents to receive televisions and body pillows for hospice patients. It also enables residents to travel out-of-state to participate in the Golden Age Games, a recreational "Olympics" style event.

Twice per month, Mr. Alexander visits the residents and spends time talking with them. Annually, he coordinates Veterans Day at the Golden Corral, advertising, greeting guests and raffling a television. It is an event that community veterans thoroughly enjoy. Sometimes working 10-hours straight, Mr. Alexander is always kind and compassionate, upbeat and pleasant. His colleagues describe him as an "awesome human being."

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

LEVI LOCKLING

**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 Levi Lockling who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Levi Lockling is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge Middle School and received this award because

his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Levi Lockling 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 Levi Lockling for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

HONORING WILBURN BROWN OF  
MENDOCINO COUNTY**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2010*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the civic accomplishments of Wilburn "Webb" Brown, on the occasion of his 100th birthday. As an exemplary citizen his service has benefited the ruggedly beautiful Mendocino County in northern California where he has lived his entire life. His contributions are long lasting and statewide.

Born in Ukiah on May 7, 1910, he grew up on ranches leased by his parents in Hopland and Talmage. He moved to Potter Valley in 1943 and began raising dairy cattle when there were 14 dairies in this picturesque community where he still resides.

A retired rancher, Webb Brown was a long-time Mendocino County Assessor, an elected position he held from 1955 through 1977. He was President of the California Assessors Association in 1963. As head of its legislative program, Webb Brown was responsible for 12 major bills dealing with tax assessment and passed by the State legislature. He is renowned for creation of property-tax practices favoring the preservation of farmland and open space.

He was a leader on passing a timber yield tax that required owners of woodlands to pay taxes only on trees they harvested. In 1965 he played a statewide leadership role in the passage of the Williamson Act of 1965, which greatly limited what farmers and ranchers had to pay in property taxes as long as they kept their land undeveloped.

Upon his retirement from the Assessor's office he was honored as "one of the State of California's highest respected assessors." He is known for his willingness to meet problems head on and his courage in making unpopular decisions as well as his fair application of state tax laws to everyone.

He also served on the Mendocino Air Management District Hearing Board, the Potter Valley Board of Education, the Ukiah Unified School Board and he was the Chair of the Save the College Committee for Mendocino College. He is committed to improving the quality of education and the hiring of capable teachers as well as seeking competitive salaries for teachers. In 1980 he was awarded the Distinguished Citizen Award by Mendocino College for helping establish the college.

In addition to his community service and ranching skill, Webb Brown is known for being