

Vietnam itself. Many of my constituents have family and friends still in Vietnam, and the reports about the human rights situation in that country are concerning.

Beginning in 1994, Congress has designated May 11th as Vietnam Human Rights Day—a day to reflect on the struggles of the thousands of innocent Vietnamese citizens that seek basic human rights and freedom.

Sadly, in the sixteen years since Congress first established this day calling for Hanoi to respect basic human rights, the situation has not improved. In fact, after the United States granted Vietnam Permanent Normal Trade Relations in 2006, conditions worsened as the Vietnamese government, having received the trade agreement it sought, returned to its violent and incursive methods of silencing free speech.

While the Vietnamese government presents a facade of democracy to the world, journalists, bloggers, and whistleblowers are imprisoned for merely raising questions about government policies or calling attention to corrupt behavior. Pro-democracy activists are arrested and jailed under arbitrary, expansive, and vague anti-propaganda laws, often without due process. Despite years of pressure from Congress and humanitarian organizations, the Vietnamese government continues to deny these charges, show a lack of a serious commitment to reform, and openly violate both its own constitution as well as its international human rights obligations.

Moreover, religious freedom remains an issue. Reports of harassment, discrimination, and repression related to religion continue. In its Annual Report for 2010, released this month, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has renewed its call for Vietnam to be designated as a Country of Particular Concern by the State Department. I wholeheartedly agree with this recommendation, and strongly urge the State Department to follow it.

On this May 11th, I ask my colleagues to honor the efforts of those who are fighting for freedom and democracy in Vietnam, and to consider how we might be of assistance in their difficult and courageous struggle for the basic human rights that we, as Americans, enjoy.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, (VBOB) OHIO NORTH COAST CHAPTER XXXVI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, (VBOB) Ohio North Coast Chapter XXXVI. Their individual and collective courage, sacrifice and service on behalf of our nation will be forever remembered.

The Battle of the Bulge was the largest land battle of World War II and one of the deadliest battles in American history. By the end of the battle, nearly 20,000 American soldiers were dead and more than 80,000 were wounded. The German surprise attack on American troops began on December 16, 1944 in the

snow-covered Ardennes Mountains of Belgium and Luxembourg. It ended with an Allied victory. This courageous stand by American troops proved to be a major turning point in the war; it contributed to the defeat of the Nazis and the liberation of Europe.

The VBOB Chapter XXXVI was chartered on July 16, 1994. Forever connected by their shared experience, Veterans from throughout northern Ohio gathered to meet on a regular basis. Though the Chapter is now disbanding, its members were active. They held annual commemoration dinners in honor of their friends who lost their lives and led the effort to construct a memorial in honor of the soldiers who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. That monument, located in The Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio, was dedicated on June 6th, 2002.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor of and gratitude to the soldiers who fought in the Battle of the Bulge, many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our nation. I also stand in honor of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, the Ohio North Coast Chapter XXXVI. The heart and grit that each young soldier exhibited in the midst of that battle will be honored forever.

TRIBUTE TO GENE A. VINCENTI ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to pay tribute to the wonderful accomplishments of Gene A. Vincenti as he retires from Rutgers Newark. It is indeed a pleasure for me to add my congratulations to that of his family, friends and colleagues of the Rutgers Newark community as they celebrate in honor of "Mr. Rutgers Newark." For all the contributions he has made over the years, Mr. Vincenti deserves to be feted on this marvelous although melancholy occasion.

Rarely has an individual been such an integral part of a university by having received both undergraduate and graduate degrees and going on to work at the same institution for over 38 years. However, that is exactly what Gene has done. His career at Rutgers Newark can only be described as mutually beneficial. Having worked with three provosts and three presidents, Gene has been instrumental in helping to develop the current landscape of Newark. In addition to his involvement with the Council for Higher Education in Newark, CHEN, alliance, Gene had a hand in determining the locations of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and the Prudential Arena. He also had input on redeveloping the Broad Street train station and the Broad and Halsey Street areas near the campus.

Gene's involvement in CHEN and his numerous years as a champion of Rutgers Newark helped to create some dynamic improvements and image boosting initiatives for the City of Newark. His sphere of influence in the community and the synergy he helped to create through CHEN will always be remembered by the many students, administrators and residents of the Greater Newark area.

Madam Speaker, I know my fellow members of the House of Representatives agree that Gene Vincenti has been a part of the fabric of Newark Rutgers and that his departure will leave a void that will not easily be filled. We wish him well in this new phase of his life.

HONORING MARK MADDEN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mark Madden as he retires as Superintendent of Atherton Community Schools in Burton, Michigan. A Mark Madden hour is planned at Atherton High School tomorrow to honor his work.

Mark Madden started working for Atherton Community Schools in 1969 as an English teacher. Over the years he taught English, French, and Drama at Atherton Middle School, Atherton Senior High School and in the Atherton Adult Education program. Outside the classroom, Mark worked as the Red Cross sponsor for the Freshman and Junior Classes, was the advisor for the Foreign Study League, the producer of the Atherton Senior High School plays, was an announcer, scorekeeper and crowd control technician for sporting events.

He initiated and coached the Varsity Tennis Team and the Junior Varsity Tennis Team. As a member of the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association, his commitment to the sport was recognized in 2002, when he was inducted into the High School Tennis Coaches Hall of Fame.

Mark spent 32 years as a teacher, 4 years as a principal and 5 years as superintendent. In addition to his work with Atherton Community Schools, he also found time to teach English and Education at Baker College. He also participated in the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program. He has been honored as Regional Tennis Coach of the Year, the Teacher of the Year and Northwood Institute Outstanding Influencer.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding the outstanding work and contributions of Mark Madden. He has been a committed educator both in and out of the classroom and I wish him the best as he enters the next phase of his life.

HONORING GERALDINE E. WOOD JOYNER

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Geraldine Wood Joyner, a devoted wife, mother and community activist and to mourn her upon her passing at the age of 89.

Geraldine Wood, the oldest of the three children of William and Hilda Wood, was born in Stockton, California on May 20, 1920. Although her life was adversely affected and forever changed by the polio epidemic of 1921, Jeri was never deterred from living life to the

fullest. At the tender age of 4, Jeri was accepted as a patient at San Francisco Shriners Hospital and endured multiple surgeries. Although she was home and hospital schooled through her eighth grade year, Jeri was healthy enough to attend high school, graduating in 1937. She then went on to attend Stockton College of Commerce. During World War II Miss Wood worked on a United States Army base in the state of Washington, meeting and eventually marrying Army Technical Sergeant Richard Joyner when the war ended.

Mr. and Mrs. Joyner and their young family moved to Livonia, Michigan in 1960 where Jeri quickly became involved in the local PTA thus beginning a storied career of service to the community she loved. Jeri served a combined 20 years with the Livonia School Board and the Wayne County Intermediate School District between 1964 and 1984. Perhaps because she was denied a normal educational experience, Jeri felt impassioned to guarantee other children ample opportunities through their school years.

Geraldine Joyner served her community with devotion, never waiting to be asked but stepping up to communicate and to identify important issues. Jeri was a longtime member of the League of Women Voters, spending many years as an election precinct chairperson. She was an active member of the Livonia Prayer Breakfast and the Livonia Town Hall speakers program. This truly was a woman who inspired those around her.

On May 2, 2010, Geraldine Joyner's driven heart failed and the Livonia community lost a champion. She will long be remembered as a mother devoted to her family, especially Richard, her husband of 62 years, and her sons Richard William "Bill" Joyner, a former Wayne County commissioner and Dr. Robert Wood Joyner. Jeri leaves a legacy in her grandchildren Richard Paul, Jonathan, Jason and Kimberly Ann Joyner. Jeri was a wonderful woman, kind to all she encountered. She will be truly and sorrowfully missed.

Madam Speaker, during her lifetime, Geraldine Wood Joyner enriched the lives of everyone around her. As we bid farewell to this wonderful woman, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning her passing and honoring her years of loyal service to our community and country.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
JAMES FRANCIS SULLIVAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of James Francis Sullivan, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend. Mr. Sullivan lived his life with energy, joy and a commitment to his community.

Mr. Sullivan was born on June 19, 1932. His mother, Sarah, was from Ireland, and his father, John, was from Pittsburgh. The youngest of eleven brothers and sisters, Mr. Sullivan was raised in Cleveland, Ohio, where he learned the value of hard work and the importance of family. He attended St. Coleman's Grade School and graduated from West High School.

Mr. Sullivan followed the path set by his father and joined the Asbestos Workers Local No. 3. He served as an Executive Board member and later was elected President, an office which he held for six years. In 1973, he was elected Business Manager of the Asbestos Workers union and he held the position for fifteen years. Mr. Sullivan was a tireless advocate on behalf of asbestos workers. He brought their concerns to national fora and represented the union at international conferences. Most significantly, under his leadership, pension and hospitalization plans were first established for asbestos workers.

Mr. Sullivan was also a dedicated husband and father. He married his high school sweetheart, Helen, in 1952. Together, they raised six children: James "Scott", Jeffrey, Brian, Danny, Bobby and Kelly. All five sons are members of the Heat & Frost Insulators Local No. 3 in Cleveland. Mr. Sullivan was also a devoted grandfather of twelve, and great-grandfather of two.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of James Francis Sullivan. I offer my condolences to his family and friends. Mr. Sullivan lived life with a generous heart and an unwavering love for his family. He will never be forgotten.

A TRIBUTE TO GRIFFITH
OBSERVATORY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles, California.

In 1896, Griffith J. Griffith donated 3,015 acres to the City of Los Angeles for Griffith Park and several years later in December of 1912, he offered funding for a public observatory to the Los Angeles City Council. When Mr. Griffith died in 1919, he left funds for construction of the Observatory and the Greek Theatre in his will. The groundbreaking for the new Observatory building occurred in June of 1920, and in 1934, the Astronomers Monument was dedicated.

The formal dedication of Griffith Observatory was on May 14, 1935, and it opened to the public the next day. Soon afterward, the Observatory began its school field trip program, which ran continuously until 2001 and brought millions of students to the Observatory.

The Observatory has played a crucial role in our nation's history—whether during the 1940s, when military pilots trained in the planetarium theater to learn to navigate by the stars and the 121st Coast Artillery members were garrisoned at the Observatory, or in the hundreds of motion pictures filmed at the Observatory, including *The Phantom Empire*, *Rebel Without a Cause*, and *Jurassic Park*.

The 75 years have brought many exciting additions and changes at the Observatory. 1958 saw the retirement of the first Observatory Director, Dr. Dinsmore Alter, after 23 years. In the 1960s, the original Zeiss Mark II planetarium projector was replaced with a Zeiss Mark IV projector, Apollo astronauts were trained to navigate by the stars in the planetarium theater, and Dr. Clarence Clemminshaw retired after 34 years of service

as the Assistant Director (1935–1958) and Director (1958–1969). In November of 1973, Laserium premiered—a program that continued until January 2002. After Dr. William Kaufman's resignation as Director (1970–1974), Dr. E.C. Krupp became the fourth Director of the Observatory, a position he currently holds after over 36 years, making him the longest-serving Director. The 1970s also saw Griffith Observatory designated as Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument No. 168 and the official incorporation of the Friends Of The Observatory by Dr. Krupp and Debra and Harold Griffith.

In 1985, the fiftieth anniversary was celebrated on May 14, Halley's Comet brought in unprecedented crowds, and on January 1, 1989, the Observatory was featured on a Rose Parade float in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade. In the 1990s, a master plan for the Observatory's future was approved, the Astronomers Monument restoration was completed, and huge crowds saw live telescopic viewing of Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 crashing into Jupiter. In 2002, the Observatory closed to the public after 67 years of service for renovation and expansion and on October 30, the groundbreaking for the project occurred. After a \$93 million makeover, the Observatory building and grounds reopened to the public on November 2, 2006. Since that time, the Observatory has continued serving the public with new educational school programs and events.

I consider it a great privilege to represent Griffith Observatory and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating this iconic, cultural landmark upon its seventy-fifth anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor the legislative week of Tuesday, May 4, 2010.

For Tuesday, May 4, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 243 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1307), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 244 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1213), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 245 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1132).

For Wednesday, May 5, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 246 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1320), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 247 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1272), "no" on Rollcall vote No. 248 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1301).

For Thursday, May 6, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "no" on Rollcall vote No. 249 (on agreeing to H. Res. 1329, providing for consideration of H.R. 5019), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 250 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1295), "no" on Rollcall vote No. 251 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 1722), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 252 (on agreeing to the Barton amendment to H.R. 5019), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 253 (on agreeing to the