

as a change-agent as evidenced through her highly-navigated role as liaison to various local, state, and federal governing jurisdictions.

Ms. Pegues was a compassionate person with a never-ceasing love for the Fort Worth community in which she grew up and then chose to give back to by becoming a public administrator. Yet for all her public accomplishments, her private persona as a devoted wife to Calvin, and mother to three young sons Cortlin, Colin and Carrington, who together were her focal point and source of pride, served as the most important and dedicated role in which she attributed her joy, admiration and love.

Madam Speaker, today I rise and join the Fort Worth community in honoring the exemplary life, legacy and achievements of Monique Pegues as an affirmation to the many contributions she bestowed upon all who knew her.

JACOB R. WILSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 26, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob R. Wilson. Jacob is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob has earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Jacob has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jacob led 20 scouts in the construction of a new 4x8 sign for Weston Christian Church, at the corner of Washington and Spring Streets in Weston, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob R. Wilson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF  
THE MEXICAN AMERICAN BAR  
ASSOCIATION OF LOS ANGELES  
COUNTY (MABA) ON THE OCCA-  
SION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 26, 2010*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Mexican American Bar Association of Los Angeles County (MABA) on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary. Headquartered in the South Park community of Downtown Los Angeles in the 34th Congressional District, I am proud to represent this non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the careers of Latinos in the legal profession and empowering Latino communities.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of working with MABA members in various ways to assist Latino families in my congressional district. MABA members have had profound impacts on our community, including in advocating for immigrant rights, providing legal counsel at my annual citizenship workshops, and generously providing pro bono consultation to the residents of the City of Commerce whose homes were damaged by the derailment of a Union Pacific train.

In 2005, I was particularly touched to become the organization's first-ever recipient of the Edward R. Roybal Public Service Award. Named in honor of my late father, the annual award recognizes individuals for their extraordinary public service to the Latino community. On behalf of my father and the Roybal family, I remain deeply grateful to MABA for honoring my father's legacy of public service in this very special way.

I am sure my father would be very proud that this year's Edward R. Roybal Public Service Award will go to Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa for his outstanding contributions to our city. MABA's other outstanding honorees at this year's February 6 anniversary gala at the Biltmore Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles are: Thomas Saenz; Herman Sillas; Eddie "Piolin" Sotelo; Mario Trujillo; Carlos Moyado; and The Law Firm of Moreno, Becerra and Casillas. They are all to be commended for their steadfast advocacy on behalf of Latino families.

In celebrating MABA's 50th Anniversary, it is appropriate to take a look back to this fine organization's humble beginnings. The organization's roots actually trace back to 1956 when Manuel Martinez was sworn in as an attorney in Los Angeles. Although there were few Mexican American attorneys at the time, Manuel Martinez quickly realized that attorneys of Mexican descent needed a support group to help guide their careers and ultimately succeed in the legal profession. Three years later, in 1959, he joined with another local attorney named Antonio Bueno to form the Mexican Lawyers' Club, which met regularly at El Farolito Restaurant in East Los Angeles.

In 1971, the Mexican Lawyers' Club evolved into the Mexican American Bar Association. Today, MABA of Los Angeles County boasts more than 800 members from various ethnic, racial and political backgrounds. Through the years, MABA of Los Angeles County is credited with helping numerous generations of attorneys develop their careers while staying true to its core mission of empowering and giving back to the Latino community. Considered the voice and heart of the Latino legal community, MABA members have ascended to the highest levels of the legal community: in private practice, non-profit, and governmental positions, including three appointments to the California State Supreme Court.

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of MABA of Los Angeles County's 50th Anniversary, I ask my colleagues to please join me in celebrating the growth and outstanding achievements of this distinguished and influential organization and in congratulating all of its members for making this visionary bar association the success that it is today.

IN HONOR OF THE FEDERATION  
OF ITALIAN AMERICAN ORGANI-  
ZATIONS OF QUEENS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 26, 2010*

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to the Federation of Italian American Organizations of Queens for its tremendous contributions to the civic, social and cultural life of our nation's greatest city. This month the Federation is installing its slate of 2010 officers at a ceremony presided over by State Senator George Onorato at the Istria Sport Club in Astoria.

The Federation of Italian American Organization of Queens was founded in 1971 to represent and unify the diverse Italian American community in Queens. Currently the Federation is comprised of thirty-four member groups, which each serve the community in a unique and substantial manner. By providing an umbrella organization for these dozens of institutions, the Federation has enhanced the ability of all its member organizations to accomplish their goals and advance their interests.

The Federation not only offers assistance to its member organizations, it directly offers a variety of services to individuals of all nationalities. It assists senior citizens with health, housing and insurance issues. Youths are served through the Federation's Drug Awareness Run and Soccer programs. It helps meet the wider community's diverse needs through the Federation's voter registration drives, as well as by offering classes in Defensive Driving and English as a Second Language.

I am pleased to join you in honoring the men and women the Federation of Italian American Organizations of Queens is installing as its new officers. I congratulate the Federation's President Joseph DiPietro, First Vice President Joseph Gaeta, Second Vice President Caterina Curatoio, Third Vice President Jerry Iannece, Treasurer Gino Macari, Assistant Treasurer Angelo Capone, Public Relations officer Maria Fosco, Recording Secretary Vincenza Russo, Assistant Recording Secretary Sandro Iannece, Correspondence Secretary John Ciafone, Parliamentarian Carlo Bucich, Historian Joseph Chiarappa, and Sergeant at Arms Anthony Barrata. Under their leadership, this important organization will surely continue to be a valuable resource to the community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in saluting the great work of the Federation of Italian American Organizations of Queens, and in recognizing the extraordinary men and women of the Federation and their contributions to the quality of life in New York City.

HONORING MR. FRED AJOOTIAN  
OF LANCASTER COUNTY, VIRGINIA

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 26, 2010*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Fred Ajootian. Fred

Ajootian was a proud Lancaster County resident and a strong supporter of the Virginia Department of Game and Wildlife, and he honored this nation through a lifetime of service to the community. Fred was a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Marguerite, and a dedicated father to their two children, Aileen and Caroline.

Fred began his life of service in the United States Navy during World War II on the USS SIERRA off the coast of Shanghai, China. His passion for the Navy endured and he chose a career in shipbuilding where he continued his life's interest. As an avid outdoorsman, Fred also served on the Wetlands Board in Lancaster County where he volunteered his time for many years.

Fred also was active after his retirement from shipbuilding, continuing his service through volunteering his time at the Rappahannock Pistol and Rifle Club. He also managed the Ocran Boat shop in White Stone, Virginia.

Fred Ajootian will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He touched many people's lives and the work that he did for his community will never be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

IN HONOR OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARMA COMMUNITY GENERAL HOSPITAL'S ELDER DAY CENTER

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 26, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Parma Community General Hospital's ElderCenter, as it celebrates twenty years of providing a haven of recreation, socialization, medical care and exercise for adults with mild to moderate impairments.

Recognizing the need for adult day services, Parma Hospital, an independent, community hospital located in the heart of Parma, Ohio, created the ElderCenter. It provides resources and comfort for adults transitioning through mental and physical challenges of impairment, illness and aging. The ElderCenter also provides an incalculable source of support, peace of mind and respite for caregivers, most of whom are family members.

The programs and services of the ElderCenter are designed to accommodate adults of all ages and diagnoses. ElderCenter offers regular medical checks, nutritious meals and snacks, opportunities for socialization and physical and mental stimulation. The services and support provided by ElderCenter allows clients to remain in their homes for many years. In 2006, the ElderCenter Day Program was honored with the "Service to Seniors Award" by the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging. In addition, the Day Program has sparked the interest of researchers at Case Western Reserve University, whose initial findings revealed that ElderCenter participants are fifty percent less likely to be readmitted to the hospital than those who did not participate. These results show that the true power of wellbeing is in direct relationship to the partnership between home and community.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor of the founders, staff, volun-

teers, participants and families of Parma Community General Hospital's ElderCenter, as they celebrate twenty years of providing meaningful activities, programs, and quality health care services for adults throughout our community.

RECOGNIZING THE HEROISM OF RANDALL "RANDY" NORMAN OF HOLLEY, NEW YORK

**HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 26, 2010*

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me in recognizing Mr. Randall "Randy" Norman of Holley, New York, for his selfless actions on February 14, 2009.

On that day, while Randy was on his way to work, he saw Mary Silliman being attacked outside of Lakeside Hospital in Brockport, New York. While trying to help Silliman, Randy was shot and killed.

Randy chose to protect others with little regard for his own safety. Had Randy not taken the actions he did, the community could have been subject to further terror.

Randy has posthumously received The Stand Up Guy award for his heroic efforts to prevent bodily harm to a woman. He has also earned praise from many members of the community including Sergeant Mark Cuzzupoli who offered these kind words: "I would definitely characterize him as a hero. As a person who tried to make a difference."

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me today in recognizing Randy Norman's selfless actions last February. We can all learn a lot from Randy's selflessness on that February day last year.

HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002 AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 20, 2010*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, as a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2611, which will amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Securing the Cities Initiative of the Department of Homeland Security. This legislation will implement a unified strategy and provide the technology for defending New York City, Long Island and surrounding areas against radiological and nuclear threats.

I would like to acknowledge Speaker PELOSI and Chairman THOMPSON for their leadership in bringing this important bill to the floor. I would also like to thank my colleague Congressman KING, who authored this important legislation.

H.R. 2611 amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize appropriations to the Director of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the Securing the Cities Initiative. The Initiative uses next generation radiation detection technology to detect the transport of

nuclear and radiological material in urban areas by terrorists or other unauthorized individuals. As the representative of one of the largest ports in the nation, Long Beach, I so pleased to support this initiative.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I support this bill because it is another step to making our cities and ports as safe as we possibly can. The Securing the Cities Initiative is a critical national capability to detect the dangerous introduction of nuclear and radiological material.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2611.

CELEBRATING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF SONG TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 20, 2010*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1010, "Celebrating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the 30th anniversary of the Stevie Wonder song tribute to Dr. King, "Happy Birthday," introduced by my distinguished colleague from Michigan, Representative CONYERS. The first Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday was officially observed on January 20, 1986, and was celebrated with a concert headlined by Stevie Wonder, who has, in the years since, continued his commitment to promoting peace and equality, for which he has been recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee.

Stevie Wonder encouraged the establishment of a federal holiday in recognition of Dr. King on his album sleeve for "Hotter Than July" by expressing that, "I and a growing number of people believe that it is time for our country to adopt legislation that will make January 15, Martin Luther King's birthday, a national holiday, both in recognition of what he achieved and as a reminder of the distance which still has to be traveled." The tribute song "Happy Birthday," became a rallying cry that led to 6,000,000 signatures supporting a federal holiday in honor of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Legislation designating the third Monday of January as a federal holiday in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. occurred on November 3, 1983, was signed into law. This campaign secured a federal holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which lasted for fifteen years, with the 1980 Stevie Wonder song that solidified the campaign's success.

The life and work of Dr. King, to advance justice, equality, and peace for an entire human race ended prematurely when he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968, while he was challenging the wages and treatment of Memphis sanitation workers. Four days after the assassination of Dr. King, on April 8, 1968, Representative JOHN CONYERS, Jr. introduced legislation to recognize civil rights leader Dr. King with a federal holiday coinciding with his birthday on January 15, 1929.

Stevie Wonder dedicated his album sleeve for "Hotter Than July," an album released on