

at Frost Middle School. She moved to Langley High School in 1975, where she has taught English, history, and art history. She earned bachelor's degrees in English and history from St. Louis University.

Brigitte runs a student-centered classroom. On any given day, students might run a Socratic seminar, give a presentation, run a student-led discussion, or participate in a writing workshop. She implores students to see the significances of history on their own, modern lives; to compare their contemporary world with the times they study, and to use the knowledge they gain to carry our culture and country forward. As the sponsor of the History Honor Society, she continues the learning process by having members adopt a human rights issue and learn how history affects life today.

She is usually first in line to volunteer for training to learn new technology and software. She also organizes an annual gift certificate for Langley custodians and food service employees and dedicates time outside classes to help students who may be struggling and she can frequently be found spending one-on-one time with students in the afternoons and on Saturdays.

Her sense of humor, a commitment to scholarship, learning, empathy, flexibility, and an ability to bring her infectious passion into the classroom are what makes Brigitte Lavey such a dedicated teacher. She has also received Langley's DeBusk Award and Human Relations Award and Fairfax County's History Teacher of the Year award. She was named a Fulbright Scholar for China and has twice been a National Endowment for the Humanities fellow.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Brigitte Lavey for her dedication to her students and wish her continued success as she mentors and teaches our next generations.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH
COTCHETT

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor of a remarkable American, Joseph Cotchett, of San Mateo, CA who is on everyone's list of the top 100 most influential lawyers in the nation, a distinction that I believe understates his achievements in the area of law and social justice.

Twenty years ago Joe was the lead trial lawyer for 23,000 plaintiffs defrauded in the Charles Keating/Lincoln Savings and Loan scandal, initially winning at that time one of the nation's largest jury verdicts, \$3.3 billion. Fast forward to 2009 and he is again representing consumers, this time investors victimized by Bernie Madoff's financial wrongdoings. During his 40-year legal career, he has tried more than 100 cases and settled hundreds more, but this is not the thrust of what I would like to say about him today. Throughout his career he has done extensive pro bono work for the disadvantaged, establishing himself as a true champion of social

justice. He lends his skills and talent when it is needed, not when it is convenient.

His giving is not restricted to legal work. At the local level, he has been on the board of directors for the San Mateo County Heart Association; the San Mateo Boys & Girls Clubs; the Peninsula Association of Retarded Children and Adults; the Bay Meadows Foundation and the Disability Rights Advocates. Joe and his family have been active in supporting organizations helping children, women, ethnic minorities and animals. The Cotchett Family Foundation was specifically created to aid individuals and groups in need of assistance. In 2004, Joe endowed a \$7 million fund to support science and mathematics teacher education at California State Polytechnic University, a program aimed at serving inner city and rural minority children.

He is an accomplished author, lecturer and keynote speaker. His titles include *The Ethics Gap* and *California Courtroom Evidence Foundations*. Although he has focused on legal matters, in 2002 he co-authored and published, *The Coast Time Forgot*, a historic guide to the San Mateo County coast.

Joe Cotchett truly loves the community in which he lives and works and it is only fitting, Madam Speaker, that on May 21, 2010, Notre Dame De Namur University presented him with the Community Spirit Award in honor of his work in promoting social justice through community engagement.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,987,796,841,336.51.

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 \$2,349,371,095,042.70 so far this Congress.

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

THE UNITED STATES POSTAL
SERVICE, POSTAL INSPECTORS
EQUITY ACT

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, the United States Postal Service, Postal Inspectors Equity Act, is intended to allow postal inspectors to receive full law enforcement availability pay (LEAP) comparable to criminal investigators of other executive branch agencies. Postal inspectors protect the U.S. Postal Service, its employees and its customers from criminal attack, and protect the nation's mail system from criminal misuse.

Under current law, compensation and benefits for postal inspectors are required to "be maintained on a standard of comparability to the compensation and benefits paid for comparable levels of work in the executive branch of the Government outside of the Postal Service." See Title 39, U.S.C. 1003(c). Currently, the Postal Service is paying postal inspectors LEAP, but such payments are not statutorily required.

As written, the bill will require the Postal Service to pay postal inspectors LEAP pursuant to statute. The United States Postal Service, Postal Inspectors Equity Act will amend Title 5, U.S.C. 5545a to define postal inspectors as law enforcement officers eligible to receive LEAP. The bill will preserve and protect postal inspectors' law enforcement availability pay and ensure that the Postal Inspection Service will be able to recruit and retain highly qualified postal inspectors.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL JOHN
L. FUGH

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of MG John L. Fugh, who suddenly passed away on May 11th of this year. General Fugh was the first Chinese American general officer in the United States Army and became Judge Advocate General of the Army in the period following the Persian Gulf War. His distinguished service in the U.S. Army and career with the Judge Advocate General's Corps. spanned 33 years. Today, I honor his contributions to our country.

John L. Fugh was born in Beijing and after the Communist Revolution in 1949, moved with his family to Washington, DC. As the son of a public servant, he graduated from Georgetown's School of Foreign Service and attained a law degree from George Washington before entering the JAG Corps. He has served America overseas during the Cold War, doing a tour of duty through wartime Vietnam, and as a staff judge advocate for the 3rd Armored Division in Frankfurt, Germany.

Returning home, he rose up the JAG leadership and was promoted to brigadier general, undertaking non-criminal legal matters, and created the Army's first environmental law practice. Achieving the position of Judge Advocate General, the Army's top legal official, he provided strong leadership in navigating the Army's complex legal matters in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War, such as the reconstruction of Kuwait.

After retirement from the army, General Fugh continued to serve his country with respect to Sino-American relations by acting as liaison to China for several manufacturing and aerospace firms like Boeing. He also served as chairman of the Committee of 100, a non-partisan membership organization of over 150 prominent Chinese Americans.

A recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, and two awards of the Legion of Merit, it is my honor, Madam Speaker, to recognize the life achievements and contributions to our country of the distinguished General John L. Fugh.

CONGRATULATING THE SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL ECONOMICS TEAM ON WINNING THE NATIONAL FED CHALLENGE

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I wish to highlight the accomplishments of the Saint Joseph High School Economics Team. On May 18, 2010, this team outscored other excellent teams from across the country in the National Fed Challenge and went on to represent Indiana as one of only four teams nationwide that qualified for the final competition at the Federal Reserve Building in Washington, DC.

The Economics Team then faced tough competition from Boston, New York, and Richmond, Virginia. Following their 15 minute presentation about the economy they were asked questions by a panel of judges consisting of Federal Reserve staff members, professional economists, and educators. After the judges weighed in, the St. Joseph High School economics team of South Bend, Indiana, captured the national championship. These St. Joseph students demonstrated their unmatched knowledge of federal monetary policy and the economy, and for the first time in their school's history, after three previous trips to the national tournament, they triumphed. The team consisted of five students: Elizabeth Everett, Theodora Hannan, Donny MacDonell, Angela Watkins, and Joe Watkins. These outstanding students were coached by their teachers, Julie Chismar and Phil DePauw.

I offer my congratulations to the St. Joseph High School Economics Team and all those affiliated with their success in the National Fed Challenge. These students serve as a model of commitment and dedication to educational excellence, and I am certain that their winning tradition will continue.

HONORING MRS. IVALITA JACKSON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, CBC, to offer our deepest condolences as we pay tribute to the extraordinary life of Mrs. Ivalita Jackson, beloved mother of our friend and CBC colleague, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE and her brother, Michael. With Mrs. Jackson's passing on May 18, 2010, at the age of 84, we are reminded of her life's journey, the joyful legacy she inspired, and her bold commitment to selflessly care for others.

Ivalita Jackson, affectionately known as "Ivy," was born on January 15, 1926, in St. Petersburg, Florida, to Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd and Vannie Bennett. Mr. Bennett worked as a Pullman porter and Mrs. Bennett was both a homemaker and businesswoman. When Ivalita was 16, she and her sister Valerie moved to Queens, New York, to seek greater opportunities and to help their family back in Florida.

The two set a course marked by self-reliance, strong work ethic and personal respon-

sibility that continues to inspire their loved ones to this day. It was in New York that Ivalita began a life of service by seeking training in vocational nursing. And, she soon met the love of her life, New York native and comic book artist, Ezra Clyde Jackson, to whom she was married for 47 years.

Known for her expertise in the care of infants and premature babies, Ivalita Jackson was one of the first African American nurses to work at the Salvation Army Booth Memorial Hospital (now the New York Hospital Queens) and was a pioneer for other African American women in her field. "Jackie," as her colleagues called her, was loved and respected by patients and coworkers alike.

Mrs. Jackson cared for others' children during the graveyard shift so that in the morning she could walk her own small children to school. Her role as a mother was one of the guiding principles in her life and she made every effort to be involved in her children's school activities.

She also took great joy in her active leadership roles at Linden Seventh-day Adventist Church, where she was a dedicated charter member and part of the gospel choir. In addition, Mrs. Jackson made sure that her children were involved in church activities and instilled with a sense of spiritual and public service.

A dedicated wife, sister, mother and grandmother, Mrs. Jackson was known by many as a true "renaissance woman." She was a talented flower arranger, a wise mentor, a compassionate spirit and a woman who commanded an enormous amount of respect. With wit and wisdom, she reminded others to show love in spite of hardship and to love themselves so that they might love others that much more.

Though preceded in death by her husband, Mrs. Jackson is survived by son, Mr. Michael Jackson, daughter, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, grandchildren, Jason Lee and Erika Lee, and a sister, Mrs. Vivian Smith.

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus join family and friends in mourning the loss and celebrating the life of Mrs. Ivalita "Ivy" Jackson. On behalf of those whose lives she touched in magnificent ways, we honor and salute her. Ivalita was truly a great woman and she will be deeply missed. The contributions she made to others throughout her life are countless and precious. Our thoughts and prayers are with Congresswoman JACKSON LEE, the entire family and Mrs. Jackson's extended group of loved ones and friends. May her soul rest in peace.

CONGRATULATING CHIHUAHUA
DESERT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, which I am excited to announce is in the 23rd district of Texas, on its recent nomination to participate in the Museum Assessment Program, MAP. The program has served over 5,800 museums since 1981 and is administered through the American Association of Museums in a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Mu-

seum and Library Services, IMIS. The program will help the museum, beyond its current success, identify through peer review, how to improve programming and operations to address current and future challenges.

The Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute is located within the scenic Davis Mountain range near Fort Davis. Through research and education, including its proximity to Sul Ross State University, the non-profit institute promotes public appreciation and awareness for the natural diversity of the Chihuahuan Desert. Highlights include a 1400-sq.-ft. cactus and succulent greenhouse, a desert botanical garden, over 3 miles of hiking trails, and interpretive exhibits.

The institute offers opportunities for visitors of all ages to learn through the Life-Long Learning Program. This program features workshops, fieldtrips, and lectures on a variety of topics related to the natural history of the desert region. Other programs for school and youth groups help parents and teachers reinforce scientific concepts by offering exciting, interactive activities. Teachers can continue their professional education with interesting classes that emphasize outdoor learning and hands-on activities to use as demonstrations for their students.

Exhibits include "Our Dynamic Landscape: Geology, Culture, History," the "Chihuahuan Desert Mining Heritage Exhibit," a "Geological Timeline," and constant changing interactive "Atrium Exhibits."

Again I would like to extend my sincere congratulations on the recognition of the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute by the Museum Assessment Program for its outstanding efforts on educating the community about regional and ecological awareness. This continuous hard work has a positive impact on visitors and students alike who in turn will appreciate preservation of the earth's natural history, regional habitats, and more importantly, the importance of preservation for future generations.

FAITH AND FOREIGN POLICY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a piece by Tom Farr, former American diplomat and senior fellow at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs which recently ran in The Washington Post.

Farr highlights several of the more alarming findings outlined in the recently released annual report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

Whether it is the persecution endured by Tibetan Buddhist monks or the violence perpetrated against the ancient Christian community in Iraq—religious freedom is under assault around the world.

Farr points out that the commission makes a host of policy recommendations which should prove invaluable to the U.S. State Department as it seeks to advocate for those whose voices have been silenced around the world.

However, Farr also rightly notes that "one could easily conclude that Obama Administration officials have no intention of giving priority