

Jennifer Roberts, generalist/early childhood, West Gate Elementary School;

Connie Schumacher, social studies-history/early adolescence, Stonewall Middle School;

Judy Swank, library media/early childhood through young adulthood, Swans Creek Elementary School;

Laura Whitman, English as a second language/early adolescence through young adulthood, Potomac High School.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending these teachers for their commitment to education and professional development. Prince William County Public Schools delivers a world class education with the help of teachers like these who make excellence a system-wide standard.

MARINE CORPORAL NICHOLAS
UZENSKI

HON. SCOTT MURPHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. MURPHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today with the solemn duty to report the tragic passing of Marine Cpl Nicholas Uzenski. Corporal Uzenski was taken from us on January 11, 2010, in an ambush by insurgents in Southern Afghanistan.

Corporal Uzenski was a member of the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, Bravo Company, based in Okinawa, Japan. A beloved son, grandson, brother, friend, and soldier, Corporal Uzenski will be sorely missed by the entire Franklin community, and a grateful nation whose freedom he fought to protect.

Just 21 years old, Corporal Uzenski followed in the footsteps of his father and uncle in joining the Marines. It was his lifelong dream to serve the nation he loved and defend the ideals for which he gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Corporal Uzenski is survived by his mother Lisa, his father William, stepmother Rebakah, and six siblings. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Uzenski family during this difficult time.

As we stand on this floor and debate the important issues of our time, let us never forget the true cost of the freedoms that we so often take for granted.

HONORING WILLIE BRANDON ON A
LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Willie Brandon, an admired and respected citizen of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, who lived and worked up until the age of 103. My hometown was saddened by Willie's passing on January 5, 2010.

He was known for his kind heart, his wealth of knowledge, and his optimistic outlook on life. People said he would brighten their day just by talking with him for a few minutes. He expressed his admiration of Murfreesboro by knowing its history backward and forward, and

his wisdom was conveyed through his past experiences and stories. Willie was considered a role model and friend to many.

He began his life in Readyville, Tennessee, with his parents, Charles and Jimmie Brandon, and his sister, Lizzie. His parents were sharecroppers, but his father became a janitor when they moved to Illinois. At the age of 12, Willie dropped out of school to work and help support the family.

For the next 91 years, Willie never quit working. He worked as a cook at the James K. Polk Hotel, City Café, Sewart Air Force Base, Lamb's Grill, and Po Folks Restaurant. He also picked blackberries, cut timber, and mowed grass. Willie took pride in his work, and his dedication was an inspiration to his coworkers.

Over the last 30 years of his life, Willie was the keeper of the Rutherford County courthouse, a historical place many people pass through for business or sight-seeing. Willie could tell very personal stories about the courthouse and his family's history—150 years ago, his own grandfather, a slave, helped to build the courthouse and was later sold there.

Willie's legacy lives on through his daughter, stepson, three granddaughters, two great-granddaughters and one great-great granddaughter. Supporting them through his continued employment is a testament to how much he loved them.

Willie Brandon's life had a significant impact on everyone he met. He lifted their spirits, shared his wisdom, and gave them hope. He will always be remembered as an institution in Rutherford County and a luminary to all of his friends and family.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF DAWN PHILLIPS-HERTZ, GEN-
ERAL COUNSEL TO THE MICHIGAN
PRESS ASSOCIATION

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to recognize the retirement of Dawn Phillips-Hertz.

Dawn has served as General Counsel to the Michigan Press Association for nearly 30 years, offering free legal advice to anybody from the more than 300 newspapers in Michigan, including those located within Michigan's Second Congressional District.

Journalists throughout the state admired her for gracefully offering a hotline to answer tough questions with thoughtful and accurate answers to any number of open government questions.

She was committed to the cause of freedom of the press, and was a staunch advocate and aggressive defender of it.

Her knowledge of the Freedom of Information Act and all laws pertaining to open government meetings helped countless reporters, editors and publishers to fulfill their duty of providing citizens with information necessary for them to know the activities of their elected representatives and other government officials.

She helped countless editors and reporters from committing troublesome mistakes whenever it was necessary, fully understanding at times intense deadline pressure.

She also helped elected officials understand potential pitfalls in introducing or voting upon legislation that would impact the public's right to know.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Phillips-Hertz on her retirement following a successful career in supporting journalism endeavors in Michigan.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF
NOVATO

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with pleasure today to congratulate the City of Novato, California, on the fiftieth anniversary of its incorporation.

Novatans are rightfully proud of their community, which has tripled in size since its founding without losing the warm, small-town atmosphere that makes it a charming place to live. As the city has grown from an agricultural settlement to a destination in its own right, residents have kept their focus on the qualities that make Novato unique—strong sense of community, attachment to the natural surroundings, and an appreciation of the region's vibrant and diverse history.

Indeed, the history of Novato long predates its formal establishment half a century ago. Hundreds of years before the arrival of the Spanish, the Coast Miwok inhabited the area around Novato, valuing it for many of the same reasons that Novatans do today. The city's warm summers, tranquil hills, and fertile soil make it a unique corner of Marin County.

Early European settlers realized this as well, and Novato quickly became the site of some of Alta California's early Mexican land grants, including the 1839 Rancho Novato grant that later gave the city its name. It was also during this time that another Novato rancho became one of the first in the region to experiment with growing wine grapes, an industry that has since contributed so much to the identity and economy of our region. After California joined the United States, Novato grew into a more diverse agricultural hub, attracting Portuguese and Swiss-Italian pioneers to farm the land.

Since the 1930's, however, Novato has had to adapt to dramatic changes. During the Great Depression, as local farms struggled to survive, construction began on what would become Hamilton Air Force Base. The Base served as a critical center for defense and pilot training on the Pacific Coast, both during and after the Second World War. The city subsequently began a process of rapid development, attracting tens of thousands of new residents.

In face of this change, Novatans chose to incorporate in 1960 (with 72 percent of voters in favor) in order to take control over their collective future. They adopted their first General Plan in 1966 and have worked together ever since to maintain what matters to them. For instance, many of the structures that arose in the late 19th and early 20th centuries are preserved in modern Novato as a treasured part of the community's heritage. The downtown area, first subdivided in 1888, still recalls its original spirit as a rural outpost far removed from the cares of urban life.

The story of Novato is one of reinvention and perseverance. From its rural beginnings, the city has grown into a home for innovators in industries from biotechnology to winemaking and from insurance to artisanal tea. From a small settlement of Mexican ranchos, Novato has become a thriving city and only the second in California governed by an all-woman city council.

Hamilton Air Force Base, one of the most successful base closure efforts in the Nation, has been reclaimed as a vibrant, mixed-use community with one of the largest wetlands restoration projects in the State. I am especially proud to have worked in partnership with residents, city leaders, and government agencies in the ongoing efforts to achieve this transformation.

This is also a community committed to a healthy and sustainable future. Novato offers recreational facilities and support programs for people of all ages, including one of the country's premier research institutes on aging. The city boasts 27 parks and over 3,600 acres of open space protected by urban growth boundaries. Even now, Novato residents are setting a leading example on promoting sustainable practices and adopting green building standards.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the City of Novato. I ask that you join me in celebrating its achievements and in wishing all its residents the best for the future. Congratulations, Novato, on your 50th birthday!

RECOGNIZING THE NOMINEES FOR
THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY
TEACHER OF THE YEAR/AGNES
MEYER OUTSTANDING TEACHER
AWARD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the nominees for the Prince William County Teacher of the Year/Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award.

The Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award program was established by the Washington Post to "recognize excellence in teaching, to encourage creative and quality instruction, and to contribute in a substantive way to the improvement of education in the Washington metropolitan area."

The annual recipients represent each of the 19 public school systems in the metropolitan region and a single representative from the region's private schools. The educator selected from Prince William County Public Schools also is recognized as the Prince William County Teacher of the Year. Teachers who meet the criteria for the award are those who instill a desire to learn and achieve, understand the individual needs of students, and demonstrate a thorough knowledge of subject matter and have the ability to share it effectively with students.

I congratulate the 2010 Prince William County nominees for the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award:

Karen Bentall, library media specialist, Sudley Elementary School;

Margaret Bozzard, third-grade teacher, Enterprise Elementary School;

Toni Anne Cipriano, learning disabilities teacher, Buckland Mills Elementary School;

Colleen Crownhart, physical education teacher, Dale City Elementary School;

Elizabeth Genova, K-5 reading teacher, Swans Creek Elementary School;

Artise Gill, 11th- and 12th-grade English and photojournalism teacher, Brentsville District High School;

Tammy Hinkle, fifth-grade teacher, Buckland Mills Elementary School;

Megan Howland, fourth-grade teacher/reading specialist, Buckland Mills Elementary School;

Elizabeth Johnson, third-grade teacher, Buckland Mills Elementary School;

Leota Johnson, art teacher, Marshall Elementary School;

Mary Tate Kenneally, 11th- and 12th-grade algebra 2 and 11th-grade geometry teacher, Battlefield High School;

Joseph Kirrane, sixth-grade social studies teacher, Graham Park Middle School.

Terri Lawson, seventh-grade life sciences teacher, Saunders Middle School;

Erin Lips, 9th-12th-grade business teacher, Stonewall Jackson High School;

Donald Magee, band director, Forest Park High School;

Bobbie Mandro, family and consumer sciences teacher, Gar-Field High School;

Dory McAllister, 9th-12th-grade special education teacher, Hylton High School;

Heather Oberle, 9th-grade English teacher, Brentsville District High School;

Doreen Raymond, French and gifted education teacher, Bull Run Middle School;

Erin Steinebach, fourth-grade reading specialist, Buckland Mills Elementary School.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the nominees for the Prince William County Teacher of the Year/Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award. Their continued service will ensure that Prince William County students are provided with a world-class education in a more vibrant learning community.

THE REFUNDABLE CHILD TAX
CREDIT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICA-
TION REFORM ACT

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce along with my colleague from Florida, Representative Ginny Brown-Waite, the Refundable Child Tax Credit Eligibility Verification Reform Act, a bill to prevent those who are here illegally from claiming the refundable child tax credit due to a loophole in our tax code. According to the March 31, 2009 report by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration entitled "Actions Are Needed to Ensure Proper Use of Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers and to Verify or Limit Refundable Credit Claims," this tax credit "appears to provide an additional incentive for aliens to enter, reside, and work in the U.S. without authorization, which contradicts Federal law and policy to remove such incentives." Because this credit is refundable, parents who owe no taxes can receive cash back for their children through the tax code.

In other words illegal immigrants may not only be receiving this public benefit through the tax code but may also be tempted to come to the U.S. because of it. This is just plain wrong.

Unfortunately, this refundable tax credit can be provided to an illegal immigrant so long as the immigrant is able to obtain from the IRS an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). It is because of this very situation that I am introducing the Refundable Child Tax Credit Eligibility Verification Reform Act, a simple, commonsense bill to require tax filers to provide their Social Security numbers in order to claim the credit. This simple change can go a long way toward protecting taxpayers by helping to ensure that the refundable child tax credit is going to those who are here legally. This is the fair and right thing to do. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING BOB BURES ON BEING
NAMED WESTERN SPRINGS
"MAN OF THE YEAR"

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bob Bures on being named the 2009 Western Springs "Man of the Year." Mr. Bures was selected by the Citizen of the Year Committee from nominations sent in by community organizations and residents. He will be honored on January 30, 2010, at a dinner I will be attending with my wife, Judy.

Bob Bures, a resident of Western Springs since 1975, has dedicated his life to the service of others. Mr. Bures worked in the Chicago Public School system for 30 years, and has remained a fixture in the community through his many involvements. He has served as executive director of the Retired Teachers Association of Chicago and on the Western Springs Village Board. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Western Springs Masonic Lodge 1136, the Affairs Committee and Education Subcommittee for the Union Club of Chicago, and the Western Springs Business Association. Mr. Bures is also involved with the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry Foundation and helps to transition special education students into local jobs. Currently he is the auditor for the Czech & Slovak Genealogy Society of Illinois, and previously served as treasurer of the Thomas Ford Memorial Library Foundation. And in 2008, Mr. Bures was appointed to the Lyons Township Mental Health Commission.

Previously a recipient of the City of Chicago Superior Service Award and the Excellence of Service Award from the Aquin Guild of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Bob Bures is very deservedly being honored for his dedication to Western Springs.

I ask you to join me in honoring Bob Bures for his outstanding service to his community and his recognition as the 2009 Western Springs Man of the Year.