

Lawrence Toperoff, Stan Turek, Jermaine Venable, James Ventre, Quoc-An Vo, Cheraise Ward, Kenya Watkins, Sarah Watkins, Dan Weiser, Kenneth Wenzel, Andrea Williamson, Katherine Wyatt, James Young, Shin Yun, Eric Zabel and Jordana Zubkoff.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to today's recipients for their unwavering efforts and outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives. I wish them continued success in their endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently cast a "no" vote on rollcall No. 393, as part of the consideration of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill. I would like to change my vote on the amendment to "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 330, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1627, Arlington National Cemetery Monuments, I was unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

DANIEL PERLA AND VALERIE
ALTMANN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, the Bayit, is a cornerstone of the Riverdale community. Today it is honoring Daniel Perla and his wife Valerie Altmann for their involvement in the HIR since they moved to the community in 2000.

Danny was elected President of Hebrew Institute of Riverdale in June 2004, shortly after he completed the prestigious Wexner Heritage leadership training program. Under his leadership, the HIR embarked on a major capital campaign and has completed a building expansion and renovation. The campaign has already raised over \$5 million, half way to its goal with the rebuilt Bayit now accommodating nine separate Shabbat groups, and six different Shabbat tefillot.

The Bayit also houses Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, the preeminent Open Orthodox rabbinical school where Danny is currently studying full-time. Before beginning his Rabbinic studies, Danny worked as an analyst and portfolio manager for a variety of firms, most recently working as a Managing Director of Indian Asset Management, a major institutional money management firm. In addition to his in-

volvement at HIR, Danny serves as a board member of SAR Academy, Yeshivat Chovevei Torah and Yeshivat Hadar.

Valerie is a full-time faculty member at Long Island Jewish Medical Center where she oversees residents and practices Obstetrics and Gynecology. She is also an assistant professor at the Albert Einstein School of Medicine. Valerie is a frequent lecturer on medical issues related to health and halakha and recently played an important role in the kallah conference co-sponsored by YCT, JOFA and Yeshivat Maharat. Canadian-born, she is a graduate of McGill University and McGill Medical School.

Danny and Valerie are the proud parents of four children: Benjamin, 14, Rebecca, 12, Yoni, 9, and Gabriel 6. They all attend the SAR Academy in Riverdale. I happily join with the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale in congratulating my good friend of many years Danny and his wife for their contributions to the HIR and to the community at large.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast the recorded votes for rollcall No. 377. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" for this measure.

JORDAN LESTINA TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jordan Lestina of Julesburg, Colorado. Mr. Lestina was recently awarded the prestigious Boettcher Scholarship for his efforts both in and out of the classroom.

Mr. Lestina already has substantial leadership experience as the national FFA Organization president, the Future Business Leaders of America president and student body president at Dove Creek High School. They are positions that require an enormous amount of attention, but ones he is able to balance with his duties as captain of the school wrestling team. In the classroom, he helps instruct FFA and agriculture classes, competed in the International Science Fair, and still manages to allot time for his responsibilities as a ranch hand.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Jordan Lestina today. The excellence he has shown in academia, athletics and through community service is admirable. There is no doubt that he will continue his success at the collegiate level, with the help of the Boettcher Foundation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote Number 395 on H.R. 2017 (GOSAR), I

mistakenly recorded my vote as "yea," when I should have voted "nay."

HONORING ANDREAS D.
COMODROMOS

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, Andreas Comodromos, for his exemplary involvement in many community, business, and political endeavors, both locally and at the national level. While his dedication to serving others extends to numerous causes, today I would like to recognize his unwavering commitment to the nation of Cyprus, the Cypriot-American community, and the Hellenic-American community at large.

Andreas "Andy" Comodromos was born in Vatili, in the Famagusta District of Cyprus, on March 27, 1949. The oldest of six children, Andy married Cyprus native Anna Zachariades in 1973. They made their home in Cyprus and, after having their first child, moved to the United States in 1974 so that Andy could pursue a college degree. He graduated magna cum laude from Saint Peter's College in Jersey City, New Jersey with a B.S. in Accounting, and soon joined the international accounting firm of Ernst & Ernst. Andy earned his CPA certification in 1982 and, the following year, co-founded the accounting firm of Comodromos Associates, P.A. with his late brother, Michael. Andy has served as president and managing partner of the Paramus-based firm ever since.

Despite leaving Cyprus nearly four decades ago, Andy's dedication to his homeland and to Cypriot-Americans is unwavering, and the well-deserved accolades he has received are numerous. He is the founding president of the Federation of Hellenic-American Organizations of New Jersey, a group which is proudly honoring him at their annual gala on June 5, 2011. He has served in several capacities on the Executive Committee of the Cyprus Federation of America, CFA, including two consecutive terms as the CFA's Supreme President, from 1991 to 1995. The CFA honored Andy with the 2001 "Justice for Cyprus Award" in recognition of his untiring services and dedication to the Cypriot-American community. He was honored with the Offikion Archon Dikaiophylax by his Eminence Archbishop Iakovos in March 1996, and was subsequently elected to the National Council of the Order of Saint Andrew, for which he serves as Assistant Treasurer. He is a member of the Metropolitan Council for the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey, of Evangelismos Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox community, and of Saint Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church in Paramus. In 2000, Andy was honored as "Man of the Year" by Evangelismos Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church in Jersey City. He received the 1996 Ellis Island Medal of Honor for outstanding contributions to America and distinguished community service, and in 2009, was appointed by Governor Jon Corzine to the New Jersey Hellenic-American Heritage Commission.

Andy is the Founding President and current Chairman of the Cyprus-U.S. Chamber of

Commerce, serves on the board of the Cyprus Children's Fund, and has served as Treasurer of the World Federation for Overseas Cypriots (POMAK). He is a member of the Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE) of the North and South American Region, as well as the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, AHEPA. And, while his involvement in these and many other organizations is as extensive as the plethora of honors he has received, Andy's family is his proudest accomplishment. He and his lovely wife Anna have been blessed with two children and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate my dear friend, Andy Comodromos, and thank him for his devotion to the Cypriot-American community, both in the great State of New Jersey and across the Nation.

HONORING LINDA JACKSON-WHITMORE ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Linda Jackson-Whitmore, an extraordinary teacher who will soon retire. Her students refer to her affectionately as Ms. J. Ms. J started teaching at Washington High School in Fremont, California in 1975 as a drama instructor, director, choreographer and Performing Arts Club advisor. She transferred to Irvington High School in Fremont, California in 1978, performing the same duties.

Ms. J has been on the staff of Irvington High School as the Artistic Director for 31 years and Artistic Director of the Irvington Conservatory Theatre since 1990 where she has directed two major productions each year and over 70 shows during her professional career.

Adding to her extra-curricular duties, she volunteers as Advisor for the Black Student Union Club, Advanced Dance Club, Hip Hop Dance Club and the Step Club.

In 1986 she was accepted as a Fulbright Exchange Teacher and taught in London for a year. Another acknowledgement of her teaching excellence was her selection as Mentor Teacher in Theatre Arts for the Fremont Unified School District in 1984–1986 and 1997–98.

Ms. J has also served as a part-time instructor in the Theatre Arts Department at San Francisco State University, San Francisco Community College and serves as a high school outreach instructor for Ohlone Community College, a position she has held since 1999.

She received her Bachelor of Arts and Secondary Teaching Credential in 1973 from San Francisco State University. In 1980 she received her Masters of Arts and Community College Credential from the University of San Francisco. She is a member of the California Teachers Association, Educational Theatre Association, International Thespian Society, National Education Association, Fremont Unified School District Teachers Association, Na-

tional Forum of Black Administrators, Black Women Organized for Political Action and a Life Member of the NAACP.

Ms. J is the recipient of many honors and awards that include the International Thespian Society Most Inspirational Theatre Educator Award and the California Congress of Parent/Student/Teacher Association of Outstanding Service Award, in addition to recognition of her community service.

Ms. Linda Jackson-Whitmore has given many students, through the years, guidance in the theatre arts and will leave a lasting legacy as the instructor who gave a thespian voice to our youth. I join her colleagues in wishing her well in her well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN HARDWICK

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and legacy of John Hardwick. John Hardwick was the personification of a community servant. Born in Miami on March 27, 1970, Hardwick grew up in Hallandale, Florida. It is in the City of Hallandale that he touched the lives of so many with his hands and his heart.

Hardwick served as president of the Class of 1988 of Hallandale High. By the age of 19 he started his own business as a barber and three years later he chose to reinvest and renovate his business rather than relocate. He would go on to serve on the Hallandale Beach Chamber of Commerce board of directors, he was instrumental in founding Top Shops, a consortium of mostly minority owned beauty salons in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, and he also served on the committee that gave his often forgotten community a name, "The Palms of Hallandale."

Hardwick's community service efforts sent young children to see live theatre, he was instrumental in organizing the city's Martin Luther King Day parade, and he fought to remove a sanitation transfer station thereby keeping his community beautiful. In general, Hardwick was the type of individual who could give you a haircut while simultaneously educating you about the events in your community. He was the cornerstone for personal grooming and civic awareness. Hardwick's life was cut short last week by complications he suffered from a stroke at the young age of 41.

Mr. Speaker, John Hardwick kept his community looking good and feeling good because he was a good person. It is with privilege and sadness that I honor his life today.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. KAREN BOUNDS

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Mrs. Karen Bounds of

Hermiston, Oregon. Today millions of young people across the country are graduating and looking forward with hope and confidence to the next step in their lives. Whether it is college, service in our armed forces, or civilian employment, young adults are prepared for success by the caring and invested teachers they encountered throughout their education. Karen was one such teacher.

It is with a note of sadness that I honor Karen today, because I do so on the occasion of her retirement. For more than 20 years, she has taught essential courses including English, history, and government at Hermiston High School, which is located in my district. Future students at HHS will, regrettably, miss the opportunity to learn from Karen's knowledge and enthusiasm as well as her manifest passion for teaching and compassion toward her students.

Karen has never been one to call it a day after putting in the minimum number of hours; she has consistently volunteered her time and resources to enhance the educational opportunities available to her students. Many times over the years, for instance, Karen brought groups of exemplary students to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Close Up program, which gives high school students firsthand exposure to their nation's capital. She also dedicated much of her time to training Hermiston's successful Mock Trial team and escorting it to district and state competitions.

Karen never missed an opportunity to expose her civics and government students to the real work of government. I myself enjoyed the opportunity to address her class as a guest speaker. It will come as no surprise that the questions I faced from her students were pointed and informed. It was a pleasure to meet those students and witness their interest and curiosity about our system of government. It is more important than ever that Americans take an active and informed interest in their government, and Karen equipped her students with the foundation essential for doing so.

A California native, Karen met her husband of 45 years, Roger Bounds, while attending their alma mater, Stanford University. Karen and Roger raised four children and, as you might imagine, Karen's efforts on behalf of her students represent just a fraction of the commitments she has assumed over her years as a teacher, a mother, and an involved citizen. Between the kids' sporting and scholastic events, Karen found the time to participate in many community-service organizations, including as a founding director of the Desert Arts Council, which has brought live performances to Hermiston for almost three decades, and as a member of the vestry of Saint John's Episcopal Church.

Mr. Speaker, I acknowledged a trace of sadness in marking Karen's retirement from Hermiston High School, but it is just a trace. I am delighted that she will have even more time in retirement to dedicate to her family, her friends, and her community in Hermiston, Oregon.

On behalf of that community, which I am pleased to represent, I thank Karen Bounds for her years of service and dedication to the students at Hermiston High School. While she will be missed, we wish her a long, productive, and enjoyable retirement.