

diagnosis. On June 5, 1981, the Centers for Disease Control published the first mention of what would later be determined to be HIV. Since that time, the disease has taken a heavy toll on populations both at home and around the world. We remember those who have lost their lives to AIDS and honor those who have dedicated their lives to fighting this terrible disease.

The United States has been a world leader in this fight, and there is reason to be optimistic. The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, has directly supported life-saving antiretroviral treatment for more than 3.2 million men, women and children worldwide. In fiscal year 2010 alone, PEPFAR programs treated more than 600,000 HIV-positive pregnant women allowing more than 114,000 infants to be born HIV-free. In addition, PEPFAR directly supported HIV counseling and testing for nearly 33 million people, providing a critical entry point to prevention, treatment, and care.

In recent years there have been real advances in the treatment and prevention of AIDS. A scientific trial of microbicide gel has shown it to reduce the risk of a woman becoming infected with HIV during sex by almost 40 percent. Another trial has revealed that drugs used to treat HIV may also be effective in preventing infection.

We must do more to ensure that scientific breakthroughs in HIV/AIDS reach the most vulnerable populations. Mother-to-child transmission of HIV has been virtually eliminated in the developed world; however, 1,000 babies are still infected with HIV around the world each day. This is deplorable when we have the tools and medicines to end pediatric AIDS. I commend UNAIDS and PEPFAR for their plan to virtually eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV by 2015.

U.S. contributions to multi-lateral organizations such as UNAIDS and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria are critical to ending the AIDS epidemic. To date, the Global Fund has provided support to treat three million HIV-positive people, and reached 150 million people with HIV counseling and testing.

We have come a long way since that June day 30 years ago. I am proud of the resources this body has dedicated over the years to fighting HIV and AIDS. Along with saving lives, this funding helps to free developing countries from the burden of disease, allowing economic growth and increased stability. I urge my colleagues to continue our commitment to fighting this disease.

A TRIBUTE TO ARCHBISHOP VATCHE HOVSEPIAN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor His Eminence Archbishop Vatché Hovsepien upon his 60th anniversary of consecration and ordination into the priesthood.

Archbishop Hovsepien was born in Beirut, Lebanon, where he received his elementary education at the Mesrobian Armenian National School, and later was accepted as a postulate at the Antelias Theological Seminary. Upon

successfully completing his studies, he was ordained Father Vatché Hovsepien, and served in the capacity of assistant dean and instructor of the Seminary.

In 1953, Father Vatché went to England to further his theological studies, and was simultaneously active in the World Council of Churches Youth Movement. After attending the College of the Resurrection near Manchester, he continued his studies at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. During his stay in Edinburgh, Father Vatché was a vibrant member of the Theological Commission. When Father Vatché was assigned to the Pastorate of the Holy Cross Armenian Church of Union City, New Jersey in 1956, he diligently continued to pursue his studies and obtained his Bachelor of Divinity Degree at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary at Rutgers University.

Father Vatché's journey continued to Canada during the influx of Armenian immigrants to the region. In 1967, he was designated as "Bishop of Canada," and he immediately organized a new Diocese. Through the efforts, dynamism, and perseverance of the Bishop, a cathedral with school facilities was purchased in Montreal, Quebec.

In 1971, Archbishop Vatché was elected as the Primate of the Armenian Church of North America Western Diocese. Upon attaining his new role, the Primate arrived at the Diocesan Headquarters, which at the time was a rented house in Los Angeles, California. Immediately, he began searching for a potential site for a cathedral, and a church was soon purchased in Hollywood, California. This church was later transformed into the St. John Armenian Cathedral, where the vast Armenian population living in Hollywood frequented every Sunday.

In 1988, when the disastrous earthquake struck in Armenia, the Archbishop established the Orphan's Fund, through which the Diocese sends aid and medical supplies to the orphans in Armenia regularly. In addition, Archbishop Vatché was instrumental in the founding of the St. Gregory Alfred and Marguerite Hovsepien Armenian School in Pasadena, California, as well as numerous other Armenian Day Schools in the community. Under Archbishop Vatché's leadership and guidance, the Western Diocese purchased a multi-purpose complex in Burbank, California, where the present Diocesan Headquarters stands. Archbishop Vatché has also actively participated in civic issues, and has met with five Presidents of the United States and various religious leaders.

I ask all Members to join me in thanking Archbishop Vatché Hovsepien for his selfless dedication and commitment to the Armenian community and wish him well in all future endeavors.

HONORING MICHELLE MEIERHOFFER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michelle Meierhoffer of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Michelle is active in the community through her work and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Emerging Leader.

Michelle Meierhoffer is a recent addition to the Saint Joseph community, and in her three years here has already garnered awards and appreciation through civic and professional endeavors. Pfizer Pharmaceuticals has recognized her contributions as a Sales Representative with numerous awards, including the company's top honor. She has lent her considerable energy and imagination to the Junior League and the Albrecht Kemper Museum of Art. She embodies her own words to others to "do their best and think outside the box to obtain their goals using new and exciting means."

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Michelle Meierhoffer. She has already made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph Community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

HONORING JOAN BROWN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joan Brown and recognize her contribution to volunteerism and community involvement in Marin County, California. Ms. Brown is retiring as Manager of the Civic Center Volunteers, CCV, program after more than 32 years of fostering citizen participation in local government.

After graduating from Northwestern University, Joan continued a legacy of service begun by her family. Her initial work as an elementary school teacher greatly inspired her career path, and the professional standards she cultivated as a teacher carried over into the environment she created at CCV. A trip to the Soviet Union in 1973 focused her passion for service on participation in local government. Her official guide on the trip insisted that the Berlin Wall was nonexistent, just U.S. propaganda, reminding Joan that citizen involvement is essential for democracy.

The CCV was established in response to Proposition 13, which reduced tax revenue to the counties. Joan was hired temporarily and quickly became a permanent employee in the Personnel Department as she helped to create a place where women, retirees, and recession-impacted professionals could dedicate their skills through volunteerism. Through her leadership, the CCV grew from zero in 1979 to 8,400 in 2010.

Marin County would be a very different place were it not for Joan's success with citizen involvement in each county department, saving the Marin taxpayers millions in the process.

Joan's knack for volunteer management extended beyond the reach of the CCV. She took on the challenge of co-founding the National Association of Volunteer Programs in Local Government which included both national and international training. With Community Mental Health, she engineered volunteer development in her successful 10-year Job Coach program. And she also promoted employee effectiveness by creating a newsletter for employees by employees and establishing an employee recognition event.

For her accomplishments both within Marin County and beyond, she earned the First Acts

of Caring Award from the National Association of Counties and the Volunteer Administrator of the Year Award from the international Association for Volunteer Administrators.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Joan Brown's contributions of over 32 years to the people of Marin County. Joan leaves our county more enriched through her innovative vision of volunteerism and community service. I wish her an enjoyable retirement with her family and success in her continued service commitments.

**SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY
STUDENTS—KIOUMARS REZAIE**

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary group of young men and women who have been chosen as future leaders in our armed forces by the prestigious United States service academies. It is a privilege to send such a fine group from the third district of Texas to pursue a world-class education and serve our nation.

As we keep them and their families in our prayers, may we never forget the sacrifices they are preparing to make while defending our freedoms all across the globe. I am so proud of each one. God bless them and God bless America.

Today I salute Kioumars Rezaie, a United States Merchant Marine Academy appointee. Kioumars is a graduate of Plano West Senior High School where he played football, as well as soccer and served as the team captain. Simultaneously, Kioumars played select soccer and served as his team's captain. Kioumars was actively involved as a member of the Third District Congressional Youth Advisory Board, a JROTC commander, and the National Honor Society. He was also part of the American Legion Texas Boys State where he was a state delegate and was active at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in the Seven Loaves Food Pantry. Kioumars believes that the service academies require young men and women to have honor, courage, and commitment and looks forward to grooming those traits.

HONORING ENSIGN-BICKFORD INDUSTRIES ON THEIR 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ensign-Bickford Industries on their 175th anniversary. Since 1836 Ensign-Bickford has called Simsbury, Connecticut home, where its employees have always strived for quality and innovation.

Before setting up shop in Connecticut, William Bickford invented a miner's safety fuse in 1831 that would later make Ensign-Bickford Industries a pioneer of the safety fuse for both mining and military applications.

As the years passed, the country and the company changed and adapted. Ensign-Bick-

ford transformed into a leader in the aerospace industry. In fact, since the beginning of the American space program, the company has provided the technology that allows rockets to separate, and satellites to be launched into orbit.

Ensign-Bickford has also served both our state and the nation by helping to protect our soldiers in battle. The company has developed important landmine clearing technology and strengthened armor for military vehicles. These innovations have undoubtedly saved lives, and taken together with the other industries they serve, Ensign-Bickford has provided thousands of jobs for American families through the years.

For nearly two centuries, Ensign-Bickford Industries has epitomized the American spirit of innovation, perseverance, and responsibility that I believe we need to restore in American manufacturing. So I wish to congratulate Ensign-Bickford on this special occasion, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ensign-Bickford Industries on their 175th anniversary.

HONORING MADELEINE MISEMER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Madeleine Misemer of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Madeleine is active in the community and in her school and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Future Leader Award.

Leadership is a hallmark of Madeleine's high school career. While earning high academic honors each semester, she remained involved in Student Council and was a delegate to the Missouri Association of Student Council Summer Leadership Workshop. Madeleine has been enrolled for three years in the Leadership Class and has also been a DECA leadership conference delegate. She is often seen at athletic events supporting her peers, and is a member of the varsity tennis team. Her lengthy list of service activities includes chairman of the blood drive and steering committee member for the Senior Citizen's Prom. She is also a natural tutor and mentor, leading activities for struggling students.

Madeleine's nominator states, "Her high morals and ethics are not to be questioned . . . others trust her judgment, and she sees the bright side to all situations."

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Madeleine Misemer. She is an amazing individual and a tremendous asset to our community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2112) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Chair, I am concerned about the underlying legislation's attempt to zero out funding for the USDA Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), in the Agriculture Appropriations bill for FY2012. BCAP is an important economic development program uniquely focused on advanced, next generation biofuels that can be grown, produced, and refined in Washington state. This biomass can be used for heat, power, bio-based products, and biofuels. In fact, it is the only program that helps farmers transition from growing traditional crops to growing energy crops.

BCAP is vitally important for the development of the clean domestic biomass energy industry. Authorized in Title IX of the 2008 Farm Bill, BCAP received \$552 million in FY 2010, but the final Continuing Resolution that passed into law for FY 2011 reduced BCAP funding to \$112 million. Today, the House Agriculture Appropriations bill goes further, proposing to eliminate funding for this program in its entirety. I believe that eliminating this program is the wrong direction, and will hinder job creation in the emerging biomass and biofuels industries.

It is widely agreed that developing a robust sustainable biomass and biofuels industry will produce significant jobs and generate revenues in rural areas. One national study has found that producing 475 million gallons of biofuel in 2009 resulted in 23,000 jobs across the economy, \$4.1 billion in added GDP growth, \$445 million in Federal tax revenues, and \$383 million for State and local governments. Feedstock production would likely represent half the direct jobs, boosting employment in rural areas and small communities.

For example, in the Pacific Northwest, a coalition of aviation and airline industries, universities, ports and international airports, recently released a report outlining how to commercialize aviation biofuels. Many of the coalition partners are working to bring these aviation biofuels to market and will rely on BCAP, as do countless other biofuel and biomass organizations around the Nation. Because of the prospects for widespread job creation and superb opportunities for positive rural development, I believe that rather than zero out this program, Congress should preserve funding at the Administration's proposed budget of \$201 million.