

Rest now, as thy will be done!
 As your fine soul, as up to heaven has so
 flown . . .
 As up to our Lord, as an Angel . . . as now
 where you so belong!
 All In The Army of Our Lord, who has now
 come home!
 To fight the darkness, as over our world you
 so watch . . . so roam . . .
 To watch over us, as thy will be done . . .
 And as we lay your most sacred body down
 to rest . . .
 You Nic, are but one of America's very best!
 Her Blessed Son!
 Your loving parents' and family's, divine
 one!
 As a brave heart who once stood!
 All in his most magnificent shades of green,
 turning evil into good!
 As a United States Marine, all in your most
 golden sheen with all you could!
 Of selfless sacrifice, you most brilliant . . .
 most brilliant of all lights!
 As an American Treasure, who but gave That
 Last Full Measure!
 All for what is true and what is right, all for
 that old Red, White, and Blue . . .
 As now our tears roll down our trembling
 cheeks, when thinking of you we so
 weep . . .
 Our Most Blessed Son, this most beautiful of
 all ones . . . as for you our heart's ache
 so deep!
 Hooo . . . rah! You United States Marine, as
 up in Heaven you are now so seen!
 All for your loss, all in our pain we now so
 weep . . . at but the cost to freedom to
 so keep!
 And at night, as you lay your head down to
 sleep . . .
 Across North Carolina, but comes a gentle
 rain so very deep . . .
 Are but our Lord's tears, from up in Heaven
 . . . for all of your souls to so keep . . .
 To ease your pain, now so carried within you
 so very deep . . .
 Until, up in Heaven once again you all shall
 meet . . .
 As our Lord weeps, knowing of your fine
 son's life . . . as for what he did so for-
 sake!
 But, for the greater good . . . in all that he
 so could, take this with you as you
 wake!
 Moments, are all we have!
 To grab hearts! To turn the good into the
 bad!
 To make a difference with in all! As your
 fine Son had!
 To Heaven to seek!
 Rest my Son!
 You most beautiful Irish one, Lance Corporal
 O'Brien!
 As when we think of you, Irish eyes are smil-
 ing!
 For we will hear you on the wind . . . your
 footsteps up in Heaven time and
 again . . .
 And feel you next to us as we sleep . . .
 Until, one fine day . . . all up in Heaven,
 once again we shall all so meet!
 And we won't have to cry anymore . . .
 You, Our Most Blessed of All Son's!
 Your Family's, and America's Most Heroic of
 All Ones!
 As we lay your fine body down to rest!
 Lord, take America's son . . . her very Best
 . . . he's your's!
 Amen!

THE LINKS INCORPORATED'S
 DADE COUNTY CHAPTER 25TH
 ANNIVERSARY

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of The Links Incorporated's Dade County Chapter. On June 18, 2011, The Links Incorporated will celebrate its 25th anniversary at the InterContinental Hotel in Miami, Florida.

A group of trailblazers seeking to better their community came together on a beautiful Sunday on June 1, 1986, at Miami's Pavilion Hotel, now the Intercontinental Hotel, to launch their beloved Chapter, officially. The Dade County Chapter has continued to fulfill its mission and has grown tremendously.

The Links, Incorporated is an organization of accomplished, dedicated women who are active in the community. The Links members are newsmakers, role models, mentors, activists and volunteers who work toward the realization of making the name "Links" not only a chain of friendship, but also a chain of purposeful service.

Among its many accomplishments, the Dade County Chapter has established many programs accessible to all the members in its community. In addition, it has managed to serve and empower Miami-Dade's most underserved, women and children, with unprecedented dedication. Impressively, The Dade County Chapter of Links Inc. has amassed over 100,000 hours of community service.

Spanning the last 25 years, The Links of Miami-Dade has provided educational assistance to students at middle school, high school, and collegiate levels in all areas of study including the arts.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me as I honor The Dade County Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. Today I pay tribute to The Link's History and applaud their current undertaking to secure a bright and prosperous future for African-Americans of Miami-Dade county, the nation, and the world.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING
 THE LIFE OF VINCENT LEO
 DIANA, SR.

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Vincent Leo Diana, Sr., an accomplished attorney, loving husband, veteran, and dear friend. Vincent, a resident of Manchester, Connecticut, passed away on May 27 at the age of 81.

Vinny was a proud Connecticut resident with deep roots in the community. Born in Manchester in 1930, he went to the Nathan Hale School, graduated from Manchester High in 1948, and from Hartford's Trinity College in 1952. After Trinity, he went on to attend law school and was admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 1955. For the next two years, Vinny was on active duty in the U.S. Air Force, entering as a Second Lieutenant. He served his

country and as a Judge Advocate, spending most of his time in Tokyo, Japan. When Vinny left the Air Force as a Captain, he returned to practicing law.

A talented and accomplished attorney, Vinny was a man of character and one who used his skills for good outside of his law office at Diana, Conti, & Tunila. Vinny served as a Master and Trial Referee for the Superior Court and was a member of Hartford County's Legal Aid Board. He was also active in the Hartford Country Bar Association, where he was a Director for 25 years. In 2005, Vinny was honored by the Manchester and Hartford Bar Associations for his 50 years of service in the region. On this point I can personally attest to his finely honed legal skills, diligent representation of his clients, and his ethical standards. As a young attorney years ago, I watched Vinny in court handle his advocacy with skill and compassion. He was one of the giants of the Bar in Hartford and Tolland Counties in Connecticut.

Vinny cared very much about his friends and colleagues in Manchester, demonstrating this commitment through leadership of important causes and organizations in town. He was Chairman of the Board for Dyslexic Children, a director of the Girl Scout Committee, and an instrumental player in getting fluoride added to the Manchester water system. He helped young people learn practical management skills as President of the Manchester Jaycees, ensured opportunity for local students as a founding member of his town's Scholarship Foundation, and even chaired the reunion committee for Manchester High's Class of 1948. He was a lifelong Republican and member of Manchester's Republican Town Committee for 50 years.

Vinny was also a spiritual man who, as one might expect, put in many years of faithful service to his parish. In 2009, Hartford's Archbishop, Henry J. Mansell, awarded him the St. Joseph Archdiocesan Medal of Appreciation for his work.

With all the dedication and devotion Vinny put into each aspect of his life, he saved most of it for his loving wife Gloria, his seven children, and 22 grandchildren. I know of few men who gave as much to their country, profession, congregation, community and family as Vinny did. His lifetime of service will live on for generations in the countless people he helped along the way. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss and celebrating the life of Vincent Leo Diana, Sr.

A TRIBUTE TO NORMA BANG

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Norma Bang.

Norma is a native New Yorker, born and raised in Red Hook, Brooklyn. She graduated from John Jay High School in Park Slope Brooklyn, New York in 1978.

Norma has worked in various positions throughout her career including seven years working in New York's Garment center, two years working on Wall Street in Bank Operations, and twelve years as a Facilities Manager for a large non-profit organization, Homes for the Homeless.

Norma joined Related Companies in December 2002 as a Property Manager of Gateway Center in East New York, Brooklyn. Norma's successful operations of Gateway Center and her excellent relationship with the tenants and the local community is a valuable contribution to Related's development efforts in the New York area.

Norma currently resides in Queens, New York along with her husband of twenty years, Kenneth and three children Brian & Brandon ages seventeen and Nia age twenty.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mrs. Bang for her extraordinary accomplishments and her spirit which reflect the best our nation has to offer.

RECOGNIZING THE 450TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LATVIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration and recognition of the 450th Anniversary of the Latvian Jewish community. Since the late 1500s, the Jewish people of Latvia have demonstrated incredible perseverance and courage through inconceivable trials and persecutions. As we reflect on this milestone anniversary, let us remember their history and celebrate their future.

The first Jewish settlements in Latvia appeared in the late 16th century. Through steady immigration, expansion, and steadfast resilience, the community grew and spread across the country. As the Jewish population expanded, they contributed immeasurably to the economic, industrial, and cultural development of Latvia. These accomplishments came despite frequently being forced to cope with anti-Semitic laws and cultural prejudice. By the late 1930s, approximately 93,000 Latvian Jews were living and prospering in the country.

In the summer of 1941, Nazi troops occupied Latvia. Within days of the occupation, the Nazis issued special decrees restricting Jewish rights and establishing ghettos. Jews from surrounding countries were forcibly transported to Latvian camps. Tens of thousands were murdered.

By the conclusion of World War II, tragically, only 14,000 Latvian Jews remained. In the years after, Jews from surrounding regions relocated in Latvia—rebuilding their community to more than 36,000 people. In the aftermath of the greatest evil ever perpetrated against a people, the Latvian Jews marched on—restoring their culture and society, fighting against the oppression of Soviet rule. Latvia became one of the centers of Zionist dissidence and Jewish national movements in the Soviet Union. Jewish activists struggled for the right to immigrate to Israel and to openly honor the memory of Holocaust victims. Thousands emigrated to Israel, the United States and Western Europe.

Today, the Latvian Jewish community of 13,000 is experiencing a rebirth. On this, their 450th anniversary, the Jews of Latvia can look back on their history with a solemn pride. Having suffered through terrible hardship, the Latvian Jewry is rebuilding its religious and social

life—revitalizing the community's enduring spirit.

I would like to extend special recognition to the Latvian Council of Jewish Communities and the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad for organizing the extremely successful memorial project at Riga, Latvia's oldest Jewish cemetery. Under the leadership and guidance of Chairman Warren Miller and Commissioner Lee Seeman, the memorial at the Old Jewish Cemetery reminds the world of the tragedy of the Jews killed during World War II and asks us to strive for a better future. I am proud to celebrate the Latvian Jewish community's historic anniversary. I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing their past perseverance and achievements, and in extending our sincere best wishes for their future success and prosperity.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN JAMES R. KNAPP COMMANDING OFFICER, NAVAL AIR STATION, LEMOORE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Captain James R. Knapp upon his retirement from the United States Navy.

Captain Knapp is the Commanding Officer at Naval Air Station, Lemoore (NAS Lemoore). He has served the United States Navy with distinguished service during the 27 years of his naval career. His devotion to the Navy and the Nation is inspiring.

My initial experience with Captain Knapp began in 2008, when his service commenced as Commanding Officer for Naval Air Station Lemoore, which is located in my 20th Congressional District in Kings County, California. From our initial meeting, a great working relationship was formed. Whether we needed clarification on a question or a follow up on issues regarding the base, the Captain was always professional, knowledgeable, courteous and helpful.

Captain Knapp attended Texas A&M University and was a member of the Fighting Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets. He graduated in 1984 with a Bachelor of Arts in History. Captain Knapp was commissioned as an Ensign for the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) program and completed advance flight training in 1986, receiving his orders to the "Rough Raiders" of VFA-125 for F/A-18 FRS training. His naval career was commensurate with his education, earning his Master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. He has over 3,500 flight hours in the F/A-18A-E series and 1,258 arrested landings on 11 different flight decks, six of which remain in active service. Furthermore, Captain Knapp participated in the USS Nimitz (CVN-68) Operation "Iraqi Freedom" 2003 deployment. Prior to his serving as Commanding Officer at NAS Lemoore, Captain Knapp served as Chief of Staff of Strategy, Plans and Assessment Directorate of the Multi-National Force-Iraq in Baghdad, Iraq.

In his illustrious career, Captain Knapp received many awards which include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (3 awards),

Air Medal (2 awards), Navy Commendation Medal (4 awards), Navy Achievement Medal (2 awards), and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (8 awards).

It is fitting that the President of the United States has presented Captain James R. Knapp with the Legion of Merit for his outstanding leadership. I ask that excerpts from the Citation be printed in the RECORD:

For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service as Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Lemoore, California from September 2008 to June 2011. Captain Knapp's tenure as Commanding Officer of the world's largest Naval Air Station was exemplified by visionary leadership, mission accomplishment, and an unrelenting drive to improve the lives of Sailors and their families. Despite fiscal restraints and ever-changing requirements, his proactive engagement across the spectrum of strategic imperatives at Naval Air Station, Lemoore resulted in sustained five-star support to Commander Strike Fighter Wing Pacific, which has significantly contributed to the lethality of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. His tremendous foresight and business acumen prevented airfield encroachment and his direct involvement in water usage issues in the western San Joaquin Valley instilled new hope for local farmers and the regional economy. His personal involvement in the local community was highlighted by the establishment of a perennial Community Relations Program which contributed over 11,000 man-hours towards numerous noteworthy projects, further strengthening the relationship between the air station and the local community. Additionally, his overwhelming concern for his sailors was demonstrated by personally performing over 320 Career Development Boards, directly contributing to the professional, financial and personal growth of each Sailor in his command. Captain Knapp's superior performance of duties highlights the culmination of 27 years of honorable and dedicated service. By his dynamic direction, keen judgment and loyal devotion to duty, Captain Knapp reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Captain Knapp is a man of outstanding character and we will remain grateful for his unwavering dedication and exceptional insight during his career at NAS Lemoore and to our country. On behalf of the United States Congress, I wish to express my sincere gratitude for his hard work, selfless service, and dedication to the United States Navy. I want to personally wish Captain Knapp much continued success and my best wishes to his wife, Nancy and his children; daughter, Lauren, sons, Will and Ryan, as they embark on their new endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO PASTOR GRAYLING FERRAND

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Grayling Ferrand.

Pastor Ferrand serves on Friends of Recovery, a statewide grass root advocacy board because of his passion and firsthand knowledge of those impacted or affected by the disease of addiction. He is committed towards reducing the adverse effects of alcoholism and