

out thousands of surveys to patients who have received care in an emergency room. These surveys are then collected, and the information in each is used to rank the hospitals according to the level of satisfaction its patients reported. In each consecutive quarter for the last three years, VMH has scored in the top five percent of hospitals nationwide and patient visits have increased by 15 percent.

I commend the staff of Veterans Memorial Hospital for their hard work in promoting superb care and a positive patient experience. It is this dedication to serving patients that we hope to see in hospitals around the country. I urge my colleagues in the United States Congress to join me in congratulating Veterans Memorial Hospital for their achievement. I wish them the best of luck in the future.

HONORING CITY OF HOPE

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to City of Hope for reaching a milestone achievement, as its doctors performed their 10,000th bone marrow transplant, on January 13, 2011. City of Hope is one of the first biomedical research institutions in the world to reach this milestone. They give people battling diseases like leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma with a second chance at life.

City of Hope is a biomedical research, treatment and education center located in my district, the 32nd California Congressional district. Since its founding in 1913, City of Hope has achieved numerous scientific breakthroughs and pioneered many lifesaving procedures that benefit patients worldwide. It is one of only 40 comprehensive cancer centers, the highest designation bestowed by the National Cancer Institute.

This institution is a pioneer in the field of bone marrow transplantation. In the nearly 35 years since City of Hope physicians performed one of the nation's first successful bone marrow transplants, the institution has helped transplantation evolve into a gold standard treatment for several diseases.

Bone marrow or stem cell transplants typically include intensive high-dose chemotherapy and radiation, followed by weeks or even months of recovery in the hospital. The return on these hundreds of hours of treatment is the possibility of a renewed life cured of the disease.

City of Hope scientists continue to make transplants safer and more effective, and help extend the length and quality of patients' lives. New transplant procedures are improving cure rates, extending the procedure to older patients and expanding the use of transplants to diseases beyond leukemia, lymphoma and multiple myeloma. As an example, researchers at City of Hope are developing a transplant based gene therapy for AIDS-related cancers that may be able to treat both the cancer and the HIV infection.

Today, City of Hope has one of the largest and most successful bone marrow transplant programs in the country. It is because of their dedicated physicians, nurses, and researchers who have helped transplantation evolve from an investigational procedure into a lifesaving

treatment for people here and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing City of Hope for reaching their 10,000th bone marrow transplant and providing hope to so many cancer patients—and their loved ones—worldwide.

IN RECOGNITION OF TROY D. FREEMAN

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Police Corporal Troy D. Freeman, who is retiring after 28 years of law enforcement service—26 years of service to the City of Fairfield and three years with the San Francisco State University Department of Public Safety. As his colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of his life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding public servant and defender of peace and safety.

Troy began his law enforcement career as a Police Officer with the San Francisco State University Department of Public Safety. He was then hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department on March 5, 1984. As an officer, he worked in various capacities including Patrol, K-9, Firearms Instruction, and Field Training. He joined the Special Activity Felon Enforcement (SAFE) Team in 1991, earned the Police Officer of the Year award in 2005, and was promoted to Police Corporal on August 19, 2005.

One of Troy's most significant contributions to the Police Department was his involvement with the K-9 Unit. He was a K-9 handler from 1989–2001 with two very special dogs, Cito and Brend, and continued to train and lead the K-9 program even after his dogs retired. He was responsible for developing, coordinating, conducting, and documenting all of the training for the K-9 Unit. He also managed the asset seizure records and researched updates in law and training methods. Troy was instrumental to the success of the Police Department's K-9 program.

Troy was a valued employee and leader of the Fairfield Police Department. His commitment to the community was unwavering. He was a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired amongst his peers for his hard work, dedication and positive work ethic.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to pay tribute to this dedicated public servant. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Troy D. Freeman continued success and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BRANDON BATES

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievement of Brandon Bates, a Boy Scout from Winterset, Iowa, who recently received the Eagle Scout Award. I commend

Brandon on his perseverance and dedication to improving his community.

Brandon, who is the son of Jerry and Roxanne Bates, first joined the Boy Scout organization as a Tiger Scout at age 7. He went on to become a Cub Scout and then a Boy Scout. Throughout his years in scouting, Brandon has worked hard to earn many merit badges and awards, all of which involve personal betterment and community service. As a Cub Scout, he earned the "Arrow of Light," which is the highest award that a Cub Scout can earn. As a Boy Scout, Brandon has earned the World Conservation Award, the Leave No Trace patch, and now the Eagle Scout Award.

The Eagle Scout Award is the highest award that a Boy Scout can receive. In order to be eligible for this award, a Boy Scout must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges. Brandon has currently earned 40. Only 2% of Boy Scouts nationwide receive this honorable reward, and it is looked upon with distinction in the military, in many colleges and in the business world.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in commending Brandon Bates for his achievement. It is an honor to serve as his representative, and I wish him luck in the future.

HONORING MCKAY HATCH'S NO CUSSING EFFORTS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor McKay Hatch, founder of The No Cussing Club.

During middle school, McKay grew tired of the constant stream of obscene and cruel language from his peers that lowered their self-esteem. He courageously asked his classmates to not cuss around him. His peers accepted the challenge and stopped cussing and thanked him for his leadership efforts.

Encouraged by his peers' support for his efforts, McKay founded the No Cussing Club at South Pasadena Middle School. Club members take the No Cussing Challenge, which is a commitment to use better language. The commitment not only improves their lives but also the world around them by using empowering, instead of deflating, language. Through the club motto of "Leave People Better Than You Found Them," members seek out opportunities to lift people up through their words and actions.

In high school, McKay formed a No Cussing Club during his freshman year and it soon had over 100 active members. The club dedicated itself to spreading its message and adding members in all 50 states. Today the No Cussing Club has over 50,000 members, in all 50 states and 30 different countries.

McKay and the No Cussing Club have also worked with local and state leaders to designate local and state cuss free weeks. In 2008, the city of South Pasadena declared the first week of March and all subsequent first weeks of March as No Cussing Week. In 2009, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted a similar proclamation and in 2010 the California legislature adopted a

resolution declaring the first week of March to be No Cussing Week. The local and state-wide No Cussing Weeks serve as a reminder to both public officials and private citizens to be more civil toward one another and to elevate the level of discourse in both public and private life.

McKay now travels regularly to spread his message of using clean and respectful language that is uplifting, encouraging, and motivating to students all over the country. He has recently expanded his efforts to encourage an end to bullying, which includes reducing the use of negative and discouraging language.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring the inspiring work of McKay Hatch.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM LEADER: I agree to take a leave of absence from the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) with the understanding that I can be re-appointed in the 113th Congress.

Serving on the HPSCI has been a privilege, and I have appreciated the opportunity it has afforded me to ensure that appropriate oversight is conducted over our intelligence and national security programs. Like you, I believe rigorous congressional oversight is critical to the successful implementation of such programs and helps reassure our constituents that their hard-earned tax dollars are being well-spent.

As you know, I am currently serving as a member of the House Committees on Education and the Workforce and Oversight and Government Reform. As such, and in light of the new Republican Majority's decision to reduce the number of members on standing committees in the House, I agree that it is appropriate at this time to take a leave of absence from the HPSCI with the understanding that I can be re-appointed in the next Congress.

I thank you for the courtesy you have extended to me, and I look forward to continuing our work together on addressing the important challenges confronting the American people.

Sincerely,

JOHN F. TIERNEY,
Member of Congress.

TRIBUTE TO JORDANNE BLAIR

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of Jordanne Blair of Lake City, Iowa. Jordanne, who was crowned Miss Rodeo Iowa 2010, recently represented Iowa in the Miss Rodeo America pageant in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Jordanne is the daughter of Lee and Joanne Blair and is a 2009 graduate of South Dakota State University. She has been passionate

about competing in rodeos for many years, and has inspired that same passion in others as Miss Rodeo Iowa 2010. In that role, she was successful in establishing the annual Exceptional Rodeo in Lake City for handicapped individuals.

On December 4, 2010, Jordanne attended the Miss Rodeo America pageant in Las Vegas as the candidate from Iowa. Competing in the pageant were 28 women from around the country, and Jordanne was selected to be one of the ten semi-finalists. Although it was her close friend Haley McKenzie of South Dakota who took the title of Miss Rodeo America 2011, Jordanne had an exciting experience at the competition.

On January 1, 2011, Jordanne was succeeded by Heidi Gansen of Zwingle, Iowa, who is currently Miss Rodeo Iowa 2011. However, Jordanne has no plans to retire from the rodeo scene. She will advise Heidi in her new role, continue to promote the Exceptional Rodeo and the Lake City Rodeo, serve on the Miss Rodeo Iowa Board, and resume competitive barrel racing. Jordanne also plans to pursue a career in marketing or broadcast journalism.

I commend Jordanne for her devotion to her passion, her community and her state. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating and thanking her for the work she has done as Miss Rodeo Iowa 2010. It is an honor to represent her in Congress, and I wish her the best of luck in the future.

CENTER FOR AMERICAN VALUES TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Center for American Values (CAV) based in Pueblo, Colorado. They recently opened their doors with a mission to preserve fundamental American ideals including honor, integrity and patriotism. The organization is committed to ensuring that the values this nation was founded on are passed down to future generations.

The Center for American Values launch late last year was inspired by a few devoted individuals who seek to recognize citizens who have taken great risks in the name of protecting America's freedom. CAV's mission statement is concise: "A nonpartisan organization committed to recognizing the need to honor the extreme sacrifices made to help sustain America's values. We strive to ensure these extraordinary actions are preserved . . . forever." CAV emphasizes Medal of Honor recipients and other military heroes, and fittingly so—Pueblo is the home of four Medal of Honor recipients. Cofounders Drew Dix, a Vietnam veteran and Medal of Honor winner, and Dr. Adolph Padula, who produced a documentary on Medal of Honor recipients, saw CAV as an opportunity to ensure that American citizens do not forget what makes our nation unique and exceptional. Both men also note that CAV honors heroes from all segments of society. For instance, the organization stresses remembrance of those who have taken economic risks when starting a new

business. Regardless of their background, risk-takers continue to propel our country forward.

Currently, The Center for American Values is directed by Tom Allee, with support from its corporate officers Brad Padula and Drew Dix, and board members Sue Smith and Bob Root. CAV is lined with over 140 pictures of Medal of Honor recipients and the building that the organization occupies has been fully renovated from its previous crumbling state. Through community outreach, educational opportunities, and frequent conferences and partnerships with charitable organizations, the CAV will continue to carry out its mission statement for years to come. Ultimately, CAV hopes to influence societal values on a national stage.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand here today to recognize The Center for American Values. Their commitment to the public good and preservation of fundamental American ideals is a great service to the citizens of Pueblo and the nation at large.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measure. If I were present for roll call votes, I would have voted "aye" for the following vote: rollcall No. 12, January 18, 2011: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended: H.R. 292, Stop the Over Printing (STOP) Act.

MARY WATT TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Watt of Montrose, Colorado. She has an exemplary record of public service to her community and has given countless hours of service to her hometown.

Mary began her remarkable career in public service in 1973, starting as an executive assistant to the city manager of Montrose. In 1979, she was promoted to city clerk and treasurer, where she handled a variety of issues, including budget preparation, administration of municipal elections, and interpretation of municipal and city ordinances. In 1993, Mary was given the post of administrative services director and city clerk. In this capacity she was recognized as a top public administrator, receiving the Manager's Award for Excellence in 1996, which cited her ability to balance her professional duties while remaining intensely involved in community service. Mary has quickly climbed the professional ladder in the past decade, rising from administrative services director in 2004, to interim city manager in 2005. In August 2005, the Montrose City Council appointed her as full-time City Manager, where she currently serves as CEO of Montrose, Colorado.

Mary is capable of lending her managerial and organizational skills in to a variety of