

County, the Salvation Army, and the Merrillville Boys and Girls Club. In addition, this past year, Nick chaired the Chapter 78 Membership Committee, which focused on finding new members who wish to participate in AHPEA functions and commit to projects that adhere to AHEPA's goals.

Brother Gianikos's commitment to AHEPA and to serving others in the community of Northwest Indiana is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing family. He and his wonderful wife Maureen have two beloved children and five adoring grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating AHEPA and Brother Nick Gianikos as he is recognized as Ahepan of the Year for his excellent leadership, perseverance, and everlasting enthusiasm shown through his service to so many in need throughout Northwest Indiana and across the nation. For his outstanding contributions to Indiana's First Congressional District, Nick is worthy of the highest praise.

A TRIBUTE TO ZACH WEIGEL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Zach Weigel of Elma, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Zach's Eagle Scout project involved refinishing a historic monument in the Elma community. In addition to this project Zach also took it upon himself to improve the community's bike trail by landscaping and erecting signage for the Old Roundhouse Trail.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Zach and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on achieving an Eagle Scout ranking and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

CELEBRATING TAIWAN'S 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Republic of China (Taiwan) on its monumental 100-year anniversary celebrated on October 10, 2011.

Taiwan's strong commitment to democratic ideals has made it a beacon of democracy in

Southeast Asia. Its people enjoy the ability to decide their country's future with their right to full participation in the election of their representatives.

The democratic success of Taiwan has coincided with significant economic achievements. Today, Taiwan's economy is the seventeenth largest in the world, and the United States' ninth largest trading partner. Additionally, the nation is globally recognized as a major innovator of information technology products.

This is an exciting time for the Taiwanese people, and I am honored to help them celebrate their 100th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to recognize October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM). Sadly, every two minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer, making it the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women worldwide. I extend my prayers to the women and families affected by this disease, and my appreciation to the advocates at Susan G. Komen working tirelessly on their behalf.

The 2.5 million breast cancer survivors living in the United States today are a testament both to courage, and the necessity to promote awareness for breast cancer, following recommended screening guidelines, offering treatment to those affected, and continuing to fund ground-breaking research. Early detection affords women the best chance of fighting this disease and we must understand the importance of regular mammograms and following recommended screening guidelines.

This October, Susan G. Komen for the Cure has launched the Promise Action campaign to increase breast cancer screening rates. Today Komen is the largest source of nonprofit funds dedicated to the fight against breast cancer in the world, but the organization started with a sister's promise to end the disease her dying sister was fighting. Breast cancer touches far too many families in my community and across the nation. We are all indebted to the Komen affiliates fighting every minute of every day for a world without breast cancer.

As a husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather, I know it is essential to do all we can in Congress to ensure breast cancer research is adequately funded. This is why I have introduced legislation that would reauthorize the sale of a special-rate U.S. postage stamp, with proceeds from the stamp funding breast cancer research. In 2007, Senator DIANE FEINSTEIN and I introduced legislation that was signed into public law by the President which reauthorized the stamp through this year. The Breast Cancer stamp has been highly successful in both raising tens of millions of dollars for important research, and raising public awareness of the ongoing need to fight a disease that affects millions of American women and their families.

On behalf of my wife, Barbara, and my children, we bestow our thoughts and prayers to those women and their families suffering from

breast cancer. As we recognize October as NBCAM, we stand by all those affected by this disease. I will continue to work to raise greater awareness and promote new funding for research into breast cancer. I am hopeful that my colleagues, organizations like Komen, and families across the nation can come together to fight this disease. God bless the mothers, sisters, and daughters battling this disease, and their families for their love and support.

RECOGNIZING THE AIR COMMANDO ASSOCIATION AND THE AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMUNITY FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF JUNGLE JIM AND FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OPERATIONS DESERT STORM AND ENDURING FREEDOM

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Air Commando Association and the Air Force Special Operations Community as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of Jungle Jim, the 20th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm, and the 10th anniversary of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Fifty years ago, in response to Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev's call to spread communism via "wars of liberation," the United States Air Force founded the 4400th Combat Crew Training Squadron (CCTS) at Hurlbert Field, Florida. The squadron's Airmen—hand-picked and rigorously screened—formed the backbone of a counter-guerrilla force that would eventually grow into the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC). The 4400th CCTS, nicknamed "Jungle Jim," had a dual focus on training foreign air forces in counter-insurgency operations, and executing combat missions against guerrilla forces in Vietnam and other nations fighting communist insurgencies. Today, the Air Commandos based at Hurlbert Field remember Jungle Jim as the genesis of the missions they continue to execute.

By the time Operation Desert Storm began in August 1990, AFSOC had been formally established. Air Commandos from AFSOC performed direct action missions, combat search and rescue, infiltration, exfiltration, air base ground defense, air interdiction, special reconnaissance, close air support, psychological operations and helicopter air refueling. Each of these unique capabilities contributed to the stunning victory over Saddam Hussein's forces, as the coalition of nations drove the Iraqi military out of Kuwait. The dramatic successes of our Air Commandos helped further cement AFSOC's role as a premier special operations organization.

When the United States was attacked on September 11, 2001, special operations forces gained a new prominence in efforts to defend our nation. By the end of September 2001, AFSOC had deployed forces to pave the way for Operation Enduring Freedom, enabling the Northern Alliance to drive out Taliban and Al Qaeda forces who were responsible for the heinous attacks on our homeland. To this day, AFSOC maintains forces forward-deployed in defense of our nation.

Each of these landmark events represented a new point of maturation for our nation's Air Commandos. Their exploits over the years have solidified their place in our national security apparatus, and their sacrifices are remembered with solemn respect.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the Air Commando Association and the Air Force Special Operations Community for their service in defense of our freedom.

COMMEMORATING SHUTTLE
COMMANDER CHRIS FERGUSON

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia and the NASTAR Foundation will kick off World Space Week by welcoming Shuttle Commander Chris Ferguson, who led the final U.S. shuttle mission to the International Space Station. When the shuttle returned on July 20th, it marked the end of a 30-year NASA program. Ferguson's mission, the 33rd flight of *Atlantis*, was the 37th shuttle mission to the space station, and the 135th and final mission of NASA's Space Shuttle Program.

Commander Ferguson was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and his mother Mary Ann and stepfather Norman now reside in Langhorne, Bucks County. Ferguson graduated from Archbishop Ryan High School in Philadelphia, and received his Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Drexel University. Ferguson also received a master of science in aeronautical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1991.

In 1986, Ferguson earned his Navy Wings and was ordered to the F-14 Tomcat training squadron in Virginia Beach, VA. Later, he joined the "Red Rippers" of VF-11, deploying to the North Atlantic, Mediterranean and Indian oceans onboard the USS *Forrestal*. In 1995, he joined the "Checkmates" of VF-211, completing a deployment to the Western Pacific and Persian Gulf in defense of the Iraqi no-fly zone on board the USS *Nimitz*. Throughout his military career, Ferguson has earned many commendations, including the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, and Navy Strike-Flight Air Medal.

In 1998, Ferguson reported to the Johnson Space Center. He served as spacecraft communicator for the STS-118, 120, 128 and 129 missions. Ferguson was also the pilot of STS-115, and commanded STS-126 and 135. In September 2010, he began training with a crew of four for a rescue mission that evolved into STS-135, a station cargo delivery flight that carried the Multi-Purpose Logistics Module "Raffaello." Being the final flight of Space Shuttle *Atlantis*, Commander Chris Ferguson requested that a stainless steel star cut from an original panel of the Fels Planetarium dome at the Franklin Institute be flown into space aboard the STS-135. Today, the star returns with Commander Ferguson, and will be placed on display at the Franklin Institute, for all to see.

Commander Ferguson is a decorated military officer, and a distinguished son of Penn-

sylvania. The 8th District of Pennsylvania and I are proud to honor him this week.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF MAXIMUM AC-
CESSIBLE HOUSING OF OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 30th anniversary of Maximum Accessible Housing of Ohio, a non-profit organization that is committed to developing/facilitating options in housing for persons with physical disabilities.

Maximum Independent Living (MIL) was created in 1981 by Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry and Services to address the needs of people with physical disabilities for accessible and affordable housing. During the organization's first seventeen years it focused on its Vistas Apartment Communities in Cleveland, Mentor-on-the-Lake, Avon Lake, Parma and Sheffield Township. Each of the communities is fully accessible and houses more than 150 residents.

After establishing their five living communities, MIL turned its attention to advocacy and education on accessible housing. In 1998, it launched the Accessible Housing Research Center initiative, which provides information and referrals on accessibility and housing, provides educational programs, and advocates with government and community groups to increase accessibility in housing. MIL also played a key role in creating housingcleveland.org, a searchable online database for affordable housing.

Maximum Independent Living changed its name to Maximum Accessible Housing of Ohio (MAHO) in 2007 to draw attention to its work on accessibility and housing. More recently, after securing federal funding, MAHO set its plan of building a new Vistas Apartment Community in Cleveland's University Circle neighborhood in motion. The new Circle Vistas will replace the current Vista community on Euclid Avenue.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Maximum Accessible Housing of Ohio as they celebrate 30 years of dedicated service to the Cleveland area's disabled community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDY
McLAUGHLIN OF ST. PAUL, MIN-
NESOTA

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the life and memory of Ms. Judy McLaughlin, a civic and political leader in St. Paul, Minnesota who passed away on September 5, 2011 at the age of sixty-six. Throughout her adult life Judy was an active and influential leader in the Minnesota Democratic Farmer Labor Party (DFL) and a force in the civic life of St. Paul. She and her late husband, Mike McLaughlin, were the owners of Summit Manor on Summit Avenue in St. Paul.

Their commitment to St. Paul helped transform Ramsey Hill from a historic neighborhood plagued with crime and at risk of decay into a national model for historic preservation.

Along with Mike, Judy was active in Fourth Congressional District and St. Paul DFL politics throughout her life. She knew all the players, all the issues, and had an informed opinion about where her city, state and Nation should be going. She was known to every DFL political leader for four decades, and Summit Manor was a well known venue for political gatherings.

When I got started in politics I knew Mike McLaughlin as a powerful political leader and Judy was most definitely his equal. She worked in the Minnesota State Legislature for the DFL Speaker of the House. She helped work on and guide campaigns for city council, mayor, the state legislature, Congress, and the U.S. Senate.

On a gray, rainy day in October 2002 Minnesota suffered the heartbreaking deaths of Senator Paul Wellstone and his wife, Sheila, along with their daughter and five campaign aides. Judy's son, Will, was one of those staff members who died that tragic morning. While all of Minnesota felt a loss, including many of us who lost dear friends that day, Judy's loss was profound.

Yet, the following day Judy attended a rally for peace on the steps of the Cathedral of St. Paul which was supposed to be attended by Senator Wellstone and her son, who traveled everywhere with the senator. Mayor Chris Coleman of St. Paul described the events of that day as he eulogized Judy saying, "She knew that no cause worth fighting for could die with the death of a few. She had to be there in spite of the immense agony she felt."

I knew Judy as a DFL leader, a local businesswoman, and as a neighbor who I would run into at the local coffee shop or out on a morning walk. She was an anchor in the community and a respected voice. Her passing is a loss for St. Paul and for all the friends and loved ones whom she shared her very full life with.

It was an honor to know Judy. I wish to extend my condolences to her four daughters and two sons. Judy McLaughlin gave so much of herself to family, community, and country. She was true to her beliefs and for that she will always be remembered with fondness, respect and deep appreciation.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF
JUDGE OLIVER W. WANGER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the outstanding service and dedication of the Honorable Oliver W. Wanger on the occasion of his retirement from the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California. For the past 20 years, Judge Wanger has served the people of California admirably—maintaining a commitment to justice, fairness, and the law. Moreover, he has been fair-minded and knowledgeable when hearing cases related to the San Joaquin Valley's water and environmental issues.

Judge Wanger received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Southern California