

Military Intelligence Service. In recognition of their extraordinary service, they are being honored with the Congressional Gold Medal.

I am especially proud to join 26 veterans, six widows of veterans, and more than 320 family members who are here today to attend the award ceremony on behalf of Washington State's Nisei Veterans Committee. We come together to acknowledge and to thank the Nisei veterans and their families for their sacrifice and their patriotism.

As an Honorary Nisei Veteran, I have had the opportunity to talk to many of these veterans, their children, and their grandchildren as we remember the soldiers and their proud, fearless service to our country, which is all the more exemplary given that some of their families were held in U.S. internment camps solely because of their race.

Mr. Speaker, the Nisei Veterans have helped to enrich the Seattle community and strengthen our country. Their service and legacy are an inspiration to us all. I am privileged to be a part of the ceremony in Emancipation Hall at the Capitol Visitor Center.

HONORING WORTHINGTON WHITTREDGE AND THE HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL OF PAINTING

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw my colleagues' attention to a recent change nearby at the Capitol Visitors Center. Two paintings by Albert Bierstadt, "Discovery of the Hudson River" and "Entrance into Montenegro," are now on public display in the CVC. These paintings capture the beauty of the American landscape, and, as part of the Hudson River School of Painting, symbolize an important time period in our country's history that impacted culture, recreation, and conservation in the United States.

The Hudson River School was comprised of painters who created detailed landscapes of the American wilderness. One of these men, Worthington Whittredge, is connected to my district. His work "Sakonnet Point, Rhode Island" captures the calm and color of our country's smallest state. His paintings of my district's coastline reflect his studies with other American artists and European influences. This vibrant landscape is very emblematic of many of the School's ideals.

Whittredge, like many Hudson River School painters, garnered acclaim and traveled widely both abroad and throughout the United States. However, his works of the American West are not of mountainous scenes, but of the plains. One of these works, "Crossing the River Platte," resides in the White House Art Collection and has been displayed in the Roosevelt Room.

As part of the first indigenous American schools of painting, the School's painters used small brush strokes to create highly detailed paintings that accurately portrayed the landscapes around them. This technique contributed to one of the School's most important legacies.

Another way the Hudson River School influenced American history and culture is through the creation of several National Parks. Many

of Whittredge's contemporaries, like Bierstadt, helped support environmental conservation. Primarily through the artists' travels to the American West, and also to other parts of the United States, we can still see the dramatic landscapes they captured on canvas of Yellowstone, Yosemite, Zion, and Acadia National Parks, among others. These landscapes were also later used to help our predecessors create the National Park Service in 1916.

Another legacy of the Hudson River School of Painting is the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Many of the School's painters, like Whittredge, spent considerable time traveling in the grand capitals of Europe and were inspired by the cultural and artistic scenes. Together with local businessmen, lawyers, and educators, they formed the Met in 1870. Several of the School's painters served as trustees or as members of the executive committee. Today, many of their works, including some by Whittredge, hang in the Met.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Worthington Whittredge and the Hudson River School of Painting made significant contributions to American art, culture, and conservation that have spanned three centuries.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Restoration Advisory Board in Colorado, who are dissolving as a board this month after more than 17 years of service to the nation.

As the primary community advisory board for the U.S. Army at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, the members have ensured that the community was informed and involved during each phase of the design, remediation and transformation of this environmental cleanup site into a premier urban national wildlife refuge. Given the importance of the task and the many years of work it required, their dedication deserves our recognition and thanks.

Their work is particularly remarkable because of the unique role the site has played in the history and defense of our nation. The U.S. Army built the Rocky Mountain Arsenal following the attacks on Pearl Harbor to manufacture chemical weapons as a deterrent against the Axis Powers. After the war, the U.S. Army leased some of the facilities to Shell Chemical Co., which manufactured agricultural chemicals at the site. As the decades unfolded, the Rocky Mountain Arsenal played critical roles in allowing our nation to win the Cold War, put men into space and complete a historic demilitarization program.

These achievements came at a price, however. Although the U.S. Army and Shell used accepted waste disposal methods of the time, some contamination of the structures, soil and groundwater occurred. The communities of Brighton, Commerce City and Denver, which surround the Rocky Mountain Arsenal and are represented on the Restoration Advisory Board, help forged consensus around the environmental restoration and future use of the site.

Together with representatives from the U.S. Army, Shell Oil Co., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Tri-County Health Department, these citizens held more than 130 public meetings. They reviewed countless technical documents, shared community questions and perspectives and served as liaisons with the larger community to ensure public concerns were addressed throughout the environmental restoration program.

They also provided critical support for the future use of the site as a national wildlife refuge once remedial actions were complete. Today, the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge encompasses more than 15,000 acres and offers habitat to more than 330 wildlife species, including American bald eagles and wild bison. Just as importantly, the refuge offers exhibits to educate visitors about the historic use and legacy of the site.

Now that the environmental restoration and transformation of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal is complete and the board has completed its oversight role, the Restoration Advisory Board has decided to dissolve. Please join me in thanking the members for their service and in congratulating them on a job well done.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHILOH COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP UNITED HOLY CHURCH OF AMERICA'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Shiloh Community Fellowship United Holy Church of America (UHCA) as members of the congregation gather to celebrate its 75th Anniversary. Since its humble beginnings in 1920, the organization has grown structurally and in membership, while continuing to provide outstanding spiritual leadership to members of the community. This organization's service and dedication is highly deserving of this body's recognition.

Shiloh Community Fellowship began hosting church services at the home of the late Reverend Henry Jeffers in 1920. The steady increase in membership later encouraged and supported the decision to relocate the organization to Dewitt Avenue in Asbury Park, New Jersey. In 1938, the late Bishop H.L. Fisher brought the church into fellowship with United Holy Church of America (UHCA), a title which the organization retains today. Throughout its tenure, Shiloh Community Fellowship UHCA was governed by various administrations. In 1976, Reverend Sarah Wright assumed leadership on behalf of her ill husband, Rev. Thomas Wright, and became the first female to serve at Shiloh Community Fellowship. In 1987, the Board of Trustees unanimously agreed to build a new church at 142 Dewitt Avenue in Asbury Park to better serve constituents and members of the congregation. The dedication service of the new building was held on May 22, 2004 under the direction of Elder Felton Miller. In October 2008, Reverend Mark E. White, Sr. was appointed to minister various services at Shiloh Community Fellowship and was later installed as the new

Pastor on February 13, 2010. To this day, he continues to provide insightful leadership and spiritual guidance to the members of the community.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the Shiloh Community Fellowship United Holy Church of America's 75th Anniversary. The organization continues to provide outstanding spiritual guidance and solace for members of the Asbury Park community.

IMMIGRATION AND LOCAL LEGISLATIVE REFORM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my growing concern on the current state of our Nation's immigration reform. On October 2nd, I had the privilege of attending a press conference at the Church of the Ascension. I was joined by many of my constituents, my colleague Congressman LUIS GUTIERREZ of Illinois, State Senator Adriano Espaillat, members of New York City Council, local city officials, and numerous immigration rights advocates to discuss immigration reform and a landmark bill that will change the way the City of New York Department of Corrections works with the federal immigration authorities and to reduce unnecessary immigrant deportations in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, we all live in a nation built by immigrants. When our great grandparents first arrived, they had hope to escape from religious persecution or perhaps economic and political repression; they had hope to work hard so they can build strong families and make a decent living with respect and dignity. The United States of America is known to be a country where anyone with good moral standing, courage, endurance and the desire to do the right thing can achieve and live the American Dream. The least we can all do for one another is to pave way, not to inflict pain.

Upon their arrival, those newcomers had never been given legitimacy to help grow this Nation. They were very well welcomed, simply because this vast Nation desperately needed builders. Those people worked hard, sacrificed to strengthen the agriculture, infrastructures and all other things our generation relies on. Present day immigrants are still important to our national economy. In a time when our national economy is in peril, losing this part of our community would cause industries to collapse.

The United States would not be the same without our ancestors, who were, in fact, the product of immigrants. They have contributed enormously to the standing of our economy and will continue to do the same in the future. I believe that it only is fair to treat them with justice and fairness. We certainly do not want to look back in 20 or 30 years and have our grandchildren ask: how could we be so cruel? America can not be known as a place where Federal agencies simply disregard local people and laws in order to detain, deport immigrants, separate families and loved ones.

Folks, who are in the custody of local New York authorities, have been, in the last two or three years, subjected to be detained, questioned and can potentially be deported by ICE.

Mr. Speaker, some of these folks had no prior conviction. They pose no threat to our society. Thus, deserve a second chance. Ultimately, we may have an honest and extensive debate on whether or not we would like to use amnesty or banishment as a method to fix our own problem, but it is imperative that the procedure is done with respect to the law and basic human rights.

I would like to praise my colleague, Congressman LUIS GUTIERREZ, New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito, Council Member Danny Dromm, Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez and Make the Road NY Organization for their enormous efforts to bring to the attention this issue. I would also like to praise the New York City Council for taking a bold action to limit the Immigration and Custom Enforcement's authority over New York City Department of Correction. We certainly can not allow agency such as ICE to detain and deport people without the appropriate legal basis. The introduction of Int.656-2011 certainly is a stepping stone to a true, effective reform.

I would like to take this moment to show my sincere appreciation for Pastor John P. Duffell for allowing the use of the site to advocate the reform. This is truly a humanitarian concern and Churches throughout the country should not shy away from helping those who are in need. I encourage more mosques, synagogues, churches throughout this country to teach and advocate local people about immigration reforms. People incline to think that religion and politics should not mix and that religious institutions should stay away from this matter. Though this isn't so. This matter is not about politics; it's not about winning or losing; it's about people who just want to work hard and live well. We want to treat and praise them like we have to our ancestors.

Finally, I encourage all my colleagues to consider immigration reform as a serious concern and that we can no longer neglect to establish a legislative reform that is fair, effective and serve the best of the whole. Deporting people, tearing families apart, build a wall to keep people out is not real reform; it is a temporary solution to a problem. We need a sensible immigration policy which will allow the best, the brightest and those who are willing to work hard to continue the great chapter of our Nation's history. Mr. Speaker, America is strong because people come from all over the world with the intent to achieve the American Dream. The will of the people, as history have shown, have strive our nation to success from every corner.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the importance of school libraries, which are changing to better address the needs of students in the 21st century. School libraries are an important part of our educational system and help prepare students for college and a good career.

Teacher librarians teach students how to conduct good research, how to be critical

users of the information they find, and how to avoid plagiarism. They also play an important role teaching online research skills and raising awareness of cyber safety issues.

Mr. Speaker, I know how important school libraries are to the students in my district and across the nation. Please join me in recognizing the invaluable contributions that teacher librarians and school libraries make to our education system.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL, THE VET SUCCESS ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2011

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill the Vet Success Enhancement Act of 2011.

This bill renews and extends the solemn promise we have made to our veterans. It will allow our wounded warriors a greater chance to prepare for, find and keep suitable jobs through apprenticeships, vocational counseling and general career services.

Currently, many veterans miss their window of opportunity to enroll in the VetSuccess program. Many veteran service organizations have come before the Committee on Veterans Affairs and testified that the current cut-off period does not adequately provide disabled veterans sufficient time to enroll in the program.

Therefore, I am introducing this legislation to extend the eligibility period by 3 years. It is my hope that this additional time will allow our disabled veterans the time they need to complete training that allows them to reenter the workforce.

Disabled veterans have paid a steep price in their service to our country. The least we can do is fix a legislative technicality which would ensure that our service men and women are able to benefit from this important program that allows them to return to productive civilian life.

Mr. Speaker, it is our duty to ensure that our wounded warriors are given the opportunity to succeed here at home. I strongly believe that participation in the VetSuccess program can help put veterans on a meaningful path to success. I urge our colleagues to join me in supporting our veterans.

DESTINY BEAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Destiny Bean for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Destiny Bean is a 8th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Destiny Bean is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels