

in my district resulting from the unprecedented snow storm that hit Connecticut this past weekend. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 816, reaffirming "In God We Trust" as the official motto of the United States, and "yea" on rollcall vote 817, on passage of the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011.

HONORING JAMES CHARLES ROBBINS OF LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the tremendous public service of Mr. James Charles Robbins, who served honorably and admirably for 44 years as a fireman, 37 of which were as a fire chief of the Lucerne Volunteer Fire Department in Clearlake Oaks, California.

In addition to his duties with the Fire Department, Chief Robbins worked with the Lucerne Business Association and held the title of the "Moose" of Clearlake Oaks. Chief Robbins coached football and baseball for youth and high school teams, mentoring several generations of athletes and teaching them the values of team sports and leadership.

His professional activities were always dedicated to the betterment of the fire department and the protection of his district. He was instrumental in maintaining the special fire tax, which keeps the doors open at Lucerne Volunteer Fire Department. Perhaps, Chief Robbins' greatest accomplishment of his career was the reorganization and consolidation of four fire districts into one, known now as the Northshore Fire Protection District. This district is one of the largest in California, covering more than 350 square miles.

Chief Robbins was born in San Francisco and went to high school in Upper Lake, California. He pursued his degree at Santa Rosa Junior College, taking many classes related to fire science and management of personnel.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I believe it is appropriate at this time that we recognize and honor James Charles Robbins for his career of fire protection and community leadership. We congratulate him on his retirement, and extend our best wishes for many years of health and happiness. His dedication to the safety and protection of Northern California is truly commendable, and his leadership will be missed.

HONORING KENNETH P. DOYLE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kenneth P. Doyle. For 36 years, Mr. Doyle has served as a Tipstaff for the First Judicial District, and in November he will celebrate his retirement after decades of service to his community.

Mr. Doyle's celebrated career began thirty-six years ago when on February 17, 1976, Ken was sworn in as a Tipstaff by then Administrative Judge Ethan Allen Doty. Mr. Doyle was first assigned to the Family Court Division at 1801 Vine Street, under the direction of Judge Gregory Lagakos before moving on to the Criminal and Civil Trial Division in first City Hall and for the last 15 plus years the Criminal Justice Center.

Mr. Doyle's knowledge of the court system has been an invaluable asset to both Courtroom Operations and the Judiciary as evidenced by his long successful stints with Judges' Paul Ribner, Theodore Smith, Ned Hirsch, Joyce Keane and most notably our current Administrative Judge D. Webster Keogh. The last seven plus years of Mr. Doyle's service have been as a supervisor for Courtroom Operations under Chief of Courtroom Operations, Michael P. Spaziano. Ken's knowledge and work ethic will be missed by the Courtroom Operations family, but his legacy will live on forever.

Mr. Doyle's long and impressive career showcases his commitment and service to his community. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in thanking Mr. Doyle for his work and congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLNWOOD

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Lincolnwood.

Not many cities can boast a more colorful start than Lincolnwood. A hundred years ago, the city came to be known as Tessville after a band of tavern owners incorporated the area to take advantage of a loophole during Prohibition that allowed organized municipalities to grant liquor licenses.

It was an unconventional way for a city to begin. Though not as infamous as its Midwestern counterpart Dodge City, Kansas a few decades prior, Tessville was also known for its speakeasies, saloons and gambling halls.

In the 1920s, under the helm of long-serving Mayor Henry Proesel, came an electric rail. With the electric rail came new ideas and prosperity.

Stricter liquor control laws were passed, and Tessville would become Lincolnwood—an ethnically diverse, popular community that offered fast access to and from Chicago, and good fortune for its residents.

Since then, Lincolnwood has had many proud moments—from the construction of a 1.5 million-gallon water tower to the election of Peter Moy, the first Asian American to serve any municipality in Illinois as its President.

Over the years, city efforts—including the Vision 2020 plan—have yielded improvement in repairing infrastructure, renovating city parks, and construction of new parkways.

Today, Lincolnwood is a vibrant community that still sports a strong business sector and a

diverse population. The city of Lincolnwood has much to be proud of and much to look forward to in the next 100 years. I am proud to serve as Congresswoman for Lincolnwood and wish its leaders, businesses and residents a happy 100th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SMC IN NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, in these tumultuous times, it is important to take the opportunity to highlight the successes of some businesses. One such business is SMC—a leader in industrial manufacturing whose U.S. headquarters is in my district in Noblesville, Indiana.

SMC's products have improved upon the ideas that have enabled manufacturers to operate efficiently for years. Recent innovations include a light-weight actuator that fits into older systems, allowing businesses to increase efficiency without a costly and complete system overhaul. A new SMC pump consumes less energy than its predecessor, but outlives it by 10 million pumps. Lastly, I believe their premium on face-time with customers enables their next innovation to be inspired by the very hard-working people that use them.

It is also worth noting that the company has partnered in some fashion with 38 countries across the globe. Their sales market connects them to almost 50 countries, affirming their stance that "products are not confined to the limits of conventional pneumatic control components, but are reaching out to cover peripheral markets as well."

These accomplishments have recently landed SMC on Forbes' list of the Top 100 Most Innovative Companies, sharing the list with industry leaders such as Apple, Google, and Amazon. Their core business policy of "Customer First and Quality First" has propelled the company forward. They should be applauded for such achievements and for their future. SMC, along with Mayor Ditslear and the people of Noblesville, no doubt are excited, as I certainly am.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,977,962,674,363.87.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$4,339,536,928,070.07 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

A TRIBUTE TO THE KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS—SAINT CABRINI
COUNCIL #3472

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Knights of Columbus Saint Cabrini Council #3472 upon its 60th anniversary.

On October 2, 1881, a group of men called together by their parish priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, formed a fraternal society and declared their devotion to be defenders of their families, their country and their faith. These men were interconnected by the principles of Christopher Columbus, who brought the Christian faith to the New World. The efforts of this dedicated group came to light with the establishment of the Knights of Columbus on March 29, 1882. Thanks to the superb leadership of Father McGivney, on that very day, the Knights of Columbus was formally approved as a fraternal benefit society.

Since its inception, the Knights of Columbus has devoted an enormous amount of energy and time to serve communities on a global scale. The goals and infinite accomplishments of the Knights have been guided by the four core principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism, which are reflected in their actions. The Order provides a life insurance program to support orphans and widows of deceased members of the Order, and has also been a champion in helping members and their families benefit from the financial aid provided if they become ill, disabled and needy. In addition, intellectual and social fellowship is encouraged among members and their families through charitable, educational, public relief and war relief works. Members of the Knights of Columbus are patriotic citizens and proud of their commitment to God and country.

Last year alone, the Knights of Columbus raised and donated over \$154 million to charitable projects and needs, in addition to volunteering over 70 million hours to benefit charitable causes. The Knights' yearly Survey of Fraternal Activity revealed that in 2010, the entirety of charitable donations reached a remarkable \$154,651,852—surpassing the previous year's sum by over \$3 million. In addition, the survey evidenced a remarkable increase in volunteer service hours as well.

The St. Cabrini Council in Burbank, Council #3472, was founded in 1951. For six decades, its members have made immense contributions to the community by hosting events, a golf outing, community fundraisers and Christmas luncheons to provide lunch and Santa With Gifts, to support intellectually disabled individuals. Furthermore, they organize programs and events geared towards drug treatment, individual and family counseling, emancipation services and educational services. Also, they donate books, volunteer to read for students and provide mentoring programs. Additional contributions to the members and community include supporting the Cabrini Sisters and seminarians at the Parishes of St. Roberts, St. Finbar and St. Francis, remodeling a kitchen for a brother serving in Iraq, remodeling their facilities and organizing a free throw competition amongst four parish schools.

I am proud to recognize the past and present members and supporters of the

Knights of Columbus Saint Cabrini Council #3472 for their selfless dedication to the community, and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating this exceptional organization for sixty years of dedicated service.

RECOGNITION OF THE 2011 BORDER
HEROES AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of three outstanding individuals, Jacob Heydemann, Kathleen Staudt, and Sister Phyllis Nolan, who will be honored this weekend with the 2011 Border Heroes Award for their dedication to academic, social and humanitarian service to communities on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Dr. Jacob Heydemann is an El Paso orthopedic surgeon who generously donates his services to clinics and hospitals in Ciudad Juárez and other parts of Mexico. Dr. Heydemann has been honored for his humanitarian work by the government of Mexico, and he is admired and respected by all of the borderland community. His efforts change lives for those in desperate need, provide critical health care access to the underserved, and inspire us all to give back to others.

I also rise to recognize Dr. Kathleen Staudt, a political science professor at the University of Texas at El Paso. She founded the Center for Civic Engagement, which aims to foster collaborative leadership, civility and deepen democracy in the region through action-oriented learning, civic education, and active citizenship. She is also a faculty advisor for a number of student organizations at UTEP and is co-founder of the Women's Fund of El Paso. She has written or co-authored more than a dozen scholarly books and published over 80 journal articles in women's studies, borderlands, and political science. Her dedication to civic engagement and human rights serves as an inspiration to the El Paso community.

I would also like to recognize the service of Sister Phyllis Nolan from the Daughters of Charity who will receive the 2011 "Extraordinary Volunteer" award. Sister Nolan is a volunteer intake specialist at Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center who visits the immigration detention center to interview detainees. She has touched countless lives by listening to their stories, and assisting immigrants in many ways as they go through the legal process. Sister Nolan's selfless service has given a voice for those who are seeking a better life.

Individuals such as these are a true asset to our community and it is my privilege to represent them, and others like them.

BIRTHDAY OF CALIFORNIA

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, one hundred and sixty-two years ago, over thirteen thousand citizens of the

United States of America met at the California Constitutional Convention on November 13, 1849. At this convention, Californians ratified their constitution in a proportion of twelve to one. The first order of business was to elect the State executives, and to set the borders of twenty-seven counties.

For the past twelve years, the Society of Hispanic Heritage and Ancestral Research (SHHAR), Los Amigos of Orange County, among other organizations, have been seeking to raise public awareness of the state's ratification day.

In the past, the University of California Irvine, the State University of Fullerton, and the Orange County Heritage Museum in Santa Ana, have all organized events to commemorate this historic occasion. These events have been encouraged, organized and run by volunteers on the local, state, and national levels, including public officials, friends, and neighbors.

This year, the birthday of California's original constitution, November 13, falls on a Sunday, a date which is most appropriate to reflect on the roles that community and sacrifice played in the establishment of the state of California.

I am proud to recognize the statehood of California, and proudly celebrate our state's admittance as the 31st State of the Union. At this moment, it is only appropriate to celebrate the accomplishments and historical contributions of the great state of California.

Happy Birthday California!

SUPPORT OF H.R. 1905, THE
IRANIAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the House Committee on Foreign Affairs for their work earlier this week in unanimously passing H.R. 1905, the Iran Threat Reduction Act out of committee. This bipartisan legislation is critical to the protection of the American people and our allies around the world.

I would like to thank Chairman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and Ranking Member BERMAN for their hard work in shepherding this bill through the Committee, and I am confident that House leadership will bring this bill to the floor without delay.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is imperative that the United States take the lead in opposing Iran's strong quest to produce nuclear weapons. Such a development would produce the greatest destabilizing element into that volatile region the world has ever known.

The recent discovery of a plot to assassinate the Saudi Ambassador to the United States on American soil is but the latest reminder of the urgent need for the United States to take forceful and effective action to ensure that Iran does not succeed in developing the capability to produce nuclear weapons.

Last year, Congress passed H.R. 2194, the Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act. This legislation marked the most comprehensive Iran sanctions legislation ever passed by Congress.