

Professorship of Microbiology at Weill Cornell Medical College with a gift of \$1 million. In 1991, Robert and Renée Belfer and his two sisters and their husbands, Selma and Lawrence Ruben and Anita and Jack Saltz, donated \$1.5 million to endow the Rochelle Belfer Professorship in Medicine at the College, and seven years later, the families contributed \$4 million to endow the College's Arthur B. Belfer Professorship in Genetic Medicine and provide funding for its Arthur and Rochelle Belfer Gene Therapy Core Facility. With an \$8 million gift to the College of Medicine in 2005, Robert and Renée Belfer established The Arthur and Rochelle Belfer Institute of Hematology and Medical Oncology, named in honor of his parents. The Institute is advancing critical research in fields such as solid tumor biology, cancer genomics and proteomics. Renée and Robert Belfer have also devoted financial support to programs in women's health, and in 2003 donated \$1 million to create the Anti-Bioterrorism Project.

Renée and Robert Belfer have truly distinguished themselves on a multitude of fronts. A graduate of Vassar College, Mrs. Belfer is devoted to education and the arts, serving on the Board of Trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art; as a Director of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts; as an Overseer of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine; an Executive Board Member of the American Friends of the Israel Museum; and a Member of the Chairman's Circle of the Central Park Conservancy, among the numerous illustrious non-profit institutions she and her husband have supported vigorously over the years. A graduate of Columbia College and Harvard Law School, Robert Belfer is a titan in the world of business, enjoying a long career at the Belco Petroleum Corporation, where he rose to become Chairman, and currently serving as Chairman of Belfer Management LLC, a private firm specializing in the energy, real estate and financial services sectors. He has been an extraordinary supporter of a wide variety of renowned educational and non-profit institutions, serving as a Member of the Board of Overseers and the Executive Committee of the Weill Cornell Medical College; on the Visiting Committee of Harvard University's Kennedy School; a Trustee of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute; a Member of the Board of Governors of the American Jewish Committee and the Weizmann Institute of Science; and former Chair and current Member of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Together, he and his wife established the Robert and Renée Belfer Family Foundation, which has unstintingly bestowed generous support on worthwhile institutions like the Weill Cornell College of Medicine. They raised children, Rachelle (Malkin), Laurence, and Elizabeth, and have five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my esteemed colleagues join me in paying tribute to Renée and Robert Belfer for their significant and enduring contributions to the civic life of our nation.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2011*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 841 I was unable to make the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

IN HONOR OF THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY'S MARCHING BAND  
AND THE 75TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY  
OF "SCRIPT OHIO"

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2011*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize "The Best Damn Band in the Land!"

In my opinion, there are not many more electrifying and time-honored traditions in college sports than The Ohio State University Marching Band's presentation of "Script Ohio." Throughout the country, it would be hard to find a college football fan that has not personally witnessed or been told the tale of this truly remarkable exhibition of music in motion. This year marks the 75th anniversary since former band director Eugene Weigel developed this storied ritual, and today "Script Ohio" continues to bring immense pride to the university and Buckeyes all over the world.

To me, attending an Ohio State football game and observing the band's elegance and precision remains a breathtaking experience. Along with other lifelong supporters of the school, I consider watching "Script Ohio" a considerably moving event, one that warms the heart of any Buckeye. The flowing spelling of those four letters stands as a monument to our state and an appreciation that all Ohioans cherish. As the band takes the field, fans throughout The Horseshoe, whatever colors they wear, quickly realize the significance of the spectacle they are witnessing.

As a former member of the band I have had the honor of forming "Script Ohio" countless times. My time with the band remains one of the most memorable and thrilling experiences in my life. One of my fondest memories is personally watching the legendary Ohio State Football Coach Woody Hayes dotting the "i" before a game. Only a handful of non-band members have ever been given the opportunity to take part in such a prestigious event. Seeing Woody honored that way was a testament to his legacy and Ohio State's respect for tradition and honor.

It deeply pleases me to speak on behalf of something that continuously fills me with pride: The Ohio State University Marching Band. Congratulations on the 75th anniversary of Script Ohio. Go Bucks!

RECOGNIZING MINNIE'S FOOD PANTRY  
4TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING  
DINNER GIVEAWAY

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2011*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Minnie's Food Pantry, a 501(c)(3) agency in the Third Congressional District of Texas that provides nutritious food, free of charge, to families in underserved communities. With the community's outpouring of financial donations and food collections, Minnie's Food Pantry is one of the largest pantries in Collin County.

Founded in 2008 by Cheryl "Action" Jackson to honor her mother Minnie Hawthorne-Ewing, the organization has partnered with individuals, businesses and farmers to alleviate hunger and build community relationships. This year, Minnie's Food Pantry is hosting the 4th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Giveaway "From Our Table to Yours."

Just this year alone, Minnie's Food Pantry has fed over 23,000 people. This Thanksgiving, Minnie's Food Pantry will provide a complete meal for more than 1,200 local families.

I am pleased to recognize Minnie's Food Pantry, along with its Board of Directors, for its invaluable contribution to combat hunger in Collin County. It is an honor and a privilege to represent this fine organization. It is organizations like Minnie's that make North Texas a great place to call home.

To Minnie Ewing and the great folks of Minnie's Food Pantry, God bless you, best wishes for wonderful things to come, and Happy Thanksgiving!

HONORING THE LIFE AND  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF ROBERT LEE  
MATHIS

**HON. LARRY KISSELL**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2011*

Mr. KISSELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert Lee Mathis, who recently passed away at the age of 77. Robert was the first African American to be elected to public office in Concord, North Carolina, and led a life of service dedicated to his community and his country.

A native of Cabarrus County, Robert Mathis joined the U.S. Navy after school where he served our nation honorably. Robert volunteered to put his life on the line in order to protect the American people and American values. He continued to live his life with this same kind of selflessness even after his military service came to an end.

Upon returning to Cabarrus County, Robert Mathis was elected to the Concord Board of Alderman, where he served for more than 15 years. Robert was the first African American to be elected to public office in Concord, making his election a landmark achievement for African Americans in my district. Even as Robert was holding local office and making history, this was still not enough. Robert was additionally a board chairman for the nonprofit Logan

Daycare Center and an active member of the First Christian Church in Concord. He wrote a book about his life that was published in 2010 titled *I Made the Best of It*.

Such an upstanding, dedicated local leader will be missed by his friends, family, and community. Robert is survived by his wife, four children, nineteen grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren. My thoughts and prayers go out to them in this time of deep loss; I hope the memories and principles that Robert Mathis lived his life by bring them comfort. Robert will be missed by his community and his country. I am honored to be able to recognize the life of such a selfless, upstanding individual as Robert Lee Mathis today before Congress and our great nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE NORA  
CRONIN PRESENTATION ACADEMY

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2011*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and salute the Nora Cronin Presentation Academy in the City of Newburgh, New York as this Catholic school for low-income girls prepares to dedicate its permanent home on November 21, 2011.

I am delighted to add my voice to those recognizing the Nora Cronin Presentation Academy on this important and wonderful milestone. The Academy was organized in 2003 and officially founded in 2004 by the Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary to offer a high quality educational alternative to young girls in the struggling City of Newburgh, which remains one of the most economically distressed communities in the State of New York. With strong support from the local community, the Academy was established through the vision and dedicated efforts of Sisters Nora Cronin, Joan Mary Gleason, Yliana Hernández, Ann Marie McMahon, Carol Melsopp, and Helen Marie Raynor, and Associate Jackie Martinez. The Academy was renamed in honor of Sister Nora following her passing in 2004.

Under the diligent leadership of its Principal, Sister Yliana, the Academy accepted its first class of fifth grade students in 2006–2007 and has grown steadily as the first class advanced and new classes entered the school. Originally housed in temporary locations in New Windsor and at another location in the City of Newburgh, the Academy purchased and redeveloped a long-neglected historic property at 69 Bay View Terrace in the City of Newburgh. The Dedication of the Academy's new permanent home is a testament to the commitment and leadership of the Presentation Sisters as well as the generosity and hard work of the Academy's Board of Directors and many local supporters.

As a result of this inspiring effort, dozens of underprivileged young girls in the City of Newburgh will have the opportunity to receive an incredible education in a supportive and safe environment. I congratulate and offer my gratitude to all those who make the Academy and the Dedication possible, and I wish the students and faculty of the Nora Cronin Presentation Academy the very best in the coming years.

A TRIBUTE TO JIM AND MEGAN  
WHITE

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2011*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize two outstanding Pennsylvanians, Jim and Megan White, who are being presented the Barry Award by the American Catholic Historical Society. The Barry Award is named after Commodore John Barry, the "Father of the American Navy." John Barry was a Philadelphia Irish mariner who served as a Captain in the Navy during the Revolutionary War and subsequently received 'Commission Number One' in the Navy from President George Washington on June 4th, 1794. His military service to a young nation was instrumental in establishing the legacy of a strong Navy that we still enjoy today. The Barry Award is awarded to an American who, by their character and their contributions to church, community and professional accomplishments, has distinguished themselves. By all accounts, Jim and Megan White have exceeded these expectations, serving church and community with distinction. As a Member of Congress representing Pennsylvania, I am proud to join you in honoring them.

Jim and Megan White are an example of servant leaders who are committed to serving their local community. A devoted couple, they are loving parents to five children; whom they have taught to never back down in the face of popular opinion; and to always do what their heart and soul directs them. Megan has devoted countless hours at parish food and clothing drives and is also a member of the Woman's Auxiliary of St. Edmond's Home for Children. She provides constant support for her children and husband in all their endeavors.

Jim is a member of Legatus, the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, Knights of Malta, Pennsylvanians for Human Life, and the Catholic Philopatrian Literary Institute. He is the President of J. J. White Inc., a family business founded by his great-grandfather in 1920. His business is the largest contracting employer in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

I am privileged to recognize Jim and Megan's commitment and selfless dedication to others. The Whites exemplify the values that make Pennsylvania a great place to live and raise a family. I congratulate them on this honor and commend the American Catholic Historical Society for selecting Jim and Megan White for the Barry Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEIL ARM-  
STRONG UPON RECEIVING THE  
CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

**HON. JEAN SCHMIDT**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2011*

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, in 1900, Orville and Wilbur Wright left Dayton, Ohio for Kitty Hawk, North Carolina to begin testing the first manned aircraft. Little did they know in less than 70 years, another individual from Ohio would be making aviation history yet again.

Mr. Speaker, we will gather today in the Rotunda to recognize the historic accomplishments of Neil Armstrong—along with three other extraordinary men: Buzz Aldrin, Michael Collins, and John Glenn.

I, like most Americans, remember watching television in awe that July evening as Neil Armstrong took "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" onto the moon.

While the accomplishments of the Apollo program would not have been possible had it not been for those that came before it—including the Mercury and Gemini programs—we must recognize those pioneers, like Neil, who selflessly volunteered their lives for the pursuit of knowledge to go where no one had gone before.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in joining me in congratulating my constituent, Neil Armstrong, as well as Buzz Aldrin, Michael Collins, and John Glenn upon receiving the Congressional Gold Medal.

HONORING TECHNICAL SERGEANT  
LUIGGE ROMANILLO UPON RE-  
CEIPT OF THE DISTINGUISHED  
FLYING CROSS WITH VALOR

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2011*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Technical Sergeant Luigge Romanillo upon his award of the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor.

The Distinguished Flying Cross is America's oldest military aviation award. In 1926, the 69th Congress established the Distinguished Flying Cross to honor any person serving in the Armed Forces who distinguishes him or herself "by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight."

On May 4, 2010, Sergeant Romanillo flew a high-risk Medical Evacuation mission to extract wounded coalition forces engaged by over one-hundred insurgents near Baghran Airfield in Afghanistan. The confined landing area left the cargo door nearly five feet off the ground as hostile insurgents fired from less than 200 meters away. The aircraft received small arms damage to several control surfaces as Sergeant Romanillo and his teammate stepped off the aircraft toward the patients amid the firefight.

Under a storm of enemy bullets, Sergeant Romanillo led his team in recovering the patients. Once in the aircraft, he administered life saving treatment to his patient who had suffered a gunshot wound. The actions of Sergeant Romanillo and his team led to the successful evacuation of two wounded coalition soldiers and repatriation of two killed in action.

It was my honor and privilege to recognize Sergeant Romanillo at a ceremony while I was home in my district. The outstanding heroism displayed deserves great recognition by the entire United States, the nation he has so selflessly served. Sergeant Romanillo has the respect and gratitude of all Americans.