

Interior Tribal Self-Governance Act, as well as related legislation to restore the integrity of government-to-government relationships and promote opportunities for tribal self-determination. I believe that we should support tribal governments to find ways to best serve their communities and protect their heritage.

CONGRATULATING FRENCH ROAD  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2011*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate French Road Elementary School in Brighton, New York for recently earning its designation as a 2011 National Blue Ribbon School. The United States Department of Education grants this prestigious award to schools demonstrating a high level of academic excellence or where the achievement gap is shrinking. Secretary Arne Duncan describes National Blue Ribbon Schools as those, "committed to accelerating student achievement and preparing students for success in college and careers."

As one of only 315 schools across the nation to earn this honor, French Road Elementary School embodies the standard of excellence this award celebrates and is an example for others to emulate.

While nothing should diminish the hard work and talents of French Road Elementary School's individual teachers and students, Superintendent Dr. Kevin McGowan accurately stated that this honor reflects, "the support of an incredible school community."

Community is a central component of French Road Elementary School. Its students are not only encouraged to succeed academically but to be constructive members of their communities. In an era where school bullying is far too prevalent, French Road students start their day by reciting the school's Purple Hand Pledge. It reads, "I will not use my hands or my words for hurting myself or others." It is a simple message that should be emphasized more throughout school communities around the country.

Articulating the school's underlying values, this pledge has helped to foster the strong sense of community found among these third, fourth and fifth graders.

For instance, when entering French Road's courtyard you will find students working side by side in the school's community garden to grow healthy, pesticide-free vegetables for each other's enjoyment and to supplement the cafeteria menu.

However, their sense of community extends beyond their school yard, classmates and immediate neighbors. Over the past 30 years, French Road students have raised \$1,265,000 through the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart Event, to benefit children across the country with cardiac abnormalities. During the 2010 to 2011 school year, these young philanthropists raised \$75,489.29; \$20,000 more than any other school nationwide. They have been the event's number one fundraiser for the past 12 years.

The administrators, teachers, parents and students of French Road Elementary School form a truly remarkable community deserving

of this Blue Ribbon recognition. Its students move on with the necessary foundation to accomplish many great things, as well as the desire to leave their communities better than they found them.

Mr. Speaker, I could not be more proud to recognize this school in the United States House of Representatives and hope to help others follow in its footsteps.

REMEMBERING HAL BRUNO

**HON. PETER T. KING**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2011*

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor Hal Bruno, who recently passed on November 8th. Hal Bruno will be remembered as a man of service to his country. Having served as an Army intelligence officer, a volunteer firefighter and the director of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), he put service to others first and foremost. For over 60 years Hal was an active member of the fire service community, whether it was on the ground as a first responder, in the halls of Congress working to improve resources for families of fallen firefighters, or on the public stage advocating for ways to improve fire safety to reduce line of duty deaths and injuries.

Appointed as chairman of the NFFF in 1999, he received numerous awards and recognition for his dedication and commitment. This fall, he was awarded the National Fire & Emergency Services Hall of Legends, Legacies and Leaders Award. In 2008, the Congressional Fire Services Institute selected him as the recipient of the CFSI / Motorola Mason Lankford Fire Service Leadership Award and in 1999 he received the "President's Award" from the International Association of Fire Chiefs. He was also named "Fire Service Person of the Year" by the Congressional Fire Services Institute in 1995.

Hal also had a prestigious career as the longtime ABC News Political Director. Known for his journalistic integrity and pioneering spirit, he represented the reason the news media is sometimes referred to as the 'fourth branch of government.'

As a Co-Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I know Hal Bruno will be greatly missed by the fire service community and by the many others he touched.

EDEN PRAIRIE EAGLES WIN 7TH  
STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. ERIK PAULSEN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2011*

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, in my hometown of Eden Prairie, we take high school football seriously, which is why I am so honored to congratulate the Eden Prairie Boys Football Team on winning their seventh Minnesota State Championship title on Friday evening.

The Eden Prairie Eagles faced their conference rivals, the Wayzata Trojans, at the Metrodome in Minneapolis. It was a game that

was dominated not by either side's offensive line, but by both team's disciplined defense as both sides found it difficult to rack up points throughout a majority of the game.

Late in the fourth quarter, with Eden Prairie up 6-3, the Eagles scored the game's only touchdown. At fourth and fourteen, the Eagles used a reverse flea flicker to make a 25 yard gain, bringing them within five yards of a touchdown. With three minutes left in the game, running back Andrew Larson fought his way into the end zone.

To all the student athletes on the Eden Prairie football team, and to Coach Grant and his coaching staff, I want to say "job well done."

2011 EMISSARIES OF MEMPHIS  
MUSIC

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2011*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, Tennessee is the home to country music and the blues. Music is in the very fiber of our being, and we are proud to continually showcase the thousands of singers, songwriters, performers, producers, and music industry professionals that call Tennessee "home." I rise today to honor eight such professionals whose talents have made Memphis' musical heritage the soundtrack of America.

Barbara Blue, Dani, Lil Rounds, Dawn Hopkins, Valerie June, Amy LaVere, Sheri Jones Moffett, and JoJo Jefferies were named recently as the 2011 Emissaries of Memphis Music. Honored for their contributions to the culture of music that is uniquely Tennessean and uniquely American, these eight women are deserving of praise. I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring the Emissaries of Memphis Music and thank all of those who add their distinct notes to the musical history of Tennessee.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2011*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 860, due to family health issues, I was unable to make the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

A TRIBUTE TO BERNARD "C.B." KIMMINS

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2011*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true hero, Bernard "C.B." Kimmins. For over 44 years, Mr. Kimmins has been a committed volunteer, leader, and teacher throughout Philadelphia. He is a man of great courage and a true friend of mine.

Born in Atlantic City, New Jersey on February 13, 1944, Mr. Kimmins lived most of his

life in Philadelphia wherein he graduated from Cardinal Dougherty H.S., St. Joseph's University and Temple University, Graduate School.

Under the leadership of Zachary Clayton, Mr. Kimmins began his volunteer commitment in 1967 as a gang control worker in Philadelphia. Following that he served at the House of Umojah under Sister Falaka Fattah, mother of U.S. Congressman CHAKA FATTAH. Mr. Kimmins has been addressing youth groups with a message of respect for law enforcement, parents, clergy, teachers, adults, and fellow young people. Under the direction of Dr. Herman Wrice and Dr. Constance Clayton, Superintendent of Philadelphia Schools, Mr. Kimmins taught for over 30 years on the subjects of anti drugs, anti violence, anti guns, anti bullying, and tolerance.

Mr. Kimmins became a skilled anti crime activist and community organizer. He also studied under Dr. Russell Ackoff of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. Currently, Mr. Kimmins is a full time volunteer, and Executive Director, for Mantua Against Drugs.

Mr. Kimmins is the proud recipient of numerous awards including honors from Time Magazine, the MLK Center, and the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to these accolades, Mr. Kimmins' greatest accomplishment has been the many lives he has positively impacted.

Mr. Kimmins' 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 Bernard Kimmins for his work and congratulate him on a job well done.

HONORING THE HONORABLE  
FRANK C. DAMRELL, JR.

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2011*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Judge Frank C. Damrell, Jr., as he retires from the United States District Court,

Eastern District of California. A federal judge since 1997, Judge Damrell has served on the bench with distinction and integrity. As his family, colleagues, and community leaders all gather to honor his remarkable career, I ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to Judge Damrell's service to the federal judiciary and his unwavering commitment to increasing civic involvement amongst our nation's youth.

A native of California's Central Valley and graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, and Yale Law School, Judge Damrell enjoyed an exceptional law career in both the private and public sectors prior to his 1997 appointment to the federal bench by President William Jefferson Clinton. He has been an active member of the federal judiciary and served on the 9th Circuit Education Committee, the Federal Judicial Branch Committee of the United States Judicial Conference, the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, and a number of other important committees and commissions.

Since being appointed to the United States District Court of the Eastern District of California, Judge Damrell has remained steadfast in his advocacy for civic education. In May of 2002, he led a national summit in our nation's capital that brought together all major civic education organizations, to restore civic engagement in public schools. These organizations led a nation-wide effort to encourage public schools to educate students about each of our civic duties, responsibilities, and privileges. To help advance this crucial mission, Judge Damrell founded Operation Protect and Defend, a program that has connected high school students to the Constitution and helped them explore the responsibilities of citizenship.

Beyond encouraging students to learn about their civic responsibilities, Judge Damrell has been a strong proponent of higher education and served on the boards of various universities. He was a member of the Board of Regents of Santa Clara University, Board of Overseers for University of San Francisco, and the Board of Trustees for University of California, Merced. Judge Damrell has spoken in front of a wide variety of organizations to promote civic education and given insightful

commencement addresses at the Santa Clara University School of Law and McGeorge School of Law.

Mr. Speaker, as Judge Damrell, his wife Ludy, their children Frank, Lia, Anne, and James, their grandchildren, friends, and colleagues celebrate his retirement, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking and recognizing him for his many years of service. Judge Damrell has contributed immensely to the federal bench and our community.

RECOGNIZING SIMRUN BAL OF  
SPRINGFIELD, VA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2011*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Simrun Bal, a 2011 Critical Language Scholarship Program Recipient. Simrun has been identified by her educators for her academic excellence, leadership potential and exemplary citizenship to participate in the Critical Language Scholarship Program in Chandigarh, India.

This Critical Language Scholarship Program allows students to participate in daily educational activities in Chandigarh, India, as well as the surrounding areas. The program allows participants to make friends with young leaders from all over the world with an intensive focus on the Punjabi language, one of the thirteen critical need foreign languages determined by the Department of State, for summer 2012. At the end of the program, participants receive a certificate of completion.

Simrun is a student at the University of Richmond. It is inspiring to see young people who are interested in educational and developmental experiences such as these.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable achievement by Simrun Bal and wishing her continued success in her further pursuits.