

Michael started his law enforcement career as a Police Officer with the City of South San Francisco for six years. On September 5, 1988, he was hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department. As an officer, Michael worked in various capacities that included Patrol, Traffic, and Investigations. In 1998, he completed the distinctive Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)—Robert Presley's Institute of Criminal Investigation (ICI) certification course with a specialty in homicide investigation.

Michael was promoted to Police Corporal on September 8, 2000, and served in Patrol, Youth Services, and earned a City Manager's Commendation in 2003 for his contribution and dedication to the City of Fairfield Driver's Training Program. On January 5, 2007 Michael was promoted to Police Sergeant and supervised teams on Patrol and then the Traffic Unit beginning in 2008. As the Police Department experienced changes in leadership and command staff, he stepped in and assisted city management by filling the gaps and acting as a Police Lieutenant and managing Patrol Operations when needed. In 2009, he earned the California Office of Traffic Safety's Award of Excellence for his outstanding motivational and leadership skills. His guidance and efforts dramatically increased the successful implementation and completion of traffic safety activities in the City of Fairfield.

Michael has been a valued employee and his commitment to the community was evidenced on a daily basis. He was a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired for his hard work, dedication, and positive work ethic.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to pay tribute to this dedicated public servant. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Michael B. Mitchell continued success and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BOB NICKELSEN

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60 years of outstanding public and volunteer service of my fellow Oregonian and friend, Mr. Bob Nickelsen. I would like to celebrate and pay tribute to Bob's loyal service to my hometown of Hood River, Oregon and to pay tribute to a man who embodies the selfless spirit of service to others.

In 1951, Bob first joined the West Side Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter. In 1961, Bob was appointed fire chief of the department, a position that he held until 1980. During his tenure as fire chief, the West Side Fire Department expanded its services by erecting a second firehouse, which now bears his name. Under Bob's guidance, the fire department also began dispatching first responder personnel to aid emergency medical calls with the Hood River Ambulance Service.

For the past 30 years, he has also served as an elected member of the West Side Fire District Board of Directors. To this day, Bob continues to put himself in harm's way as a volunteer fire fighter. His leadership allowed this small rural volunteer fire district to stay in step with current developments in the fire

sciences and provide the professional level of support that the community so richly deserves.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Nickelsen's civic responsibilities do not end at the firehouse doors. He was a commissioner for the Port of Hood River for over 15 years and has served on numerous local agricultural boards and committees. He was previously recognized as the Hood River Valley's "Orchardist of the Year." As a leader within the local farming community, Bob has contributed much of his time and effort to the economic development of Hood River and the Columbia Gorge.

On December 10, the West Side Fire Department will once again honor Bob with a banquet on his behalf I invite my colleagues to join me in praising Bob Nickelsen for 60 remarkable years of dedicated public service, his numerous contributions to his community, and for his outstanding character as a citizen of Hood River.

Theodore Roosevelt once said that "the first requisite for a good citizen is that he should be willing and able to pull his own weight." Bob continues to far surpass this noble standard.

SYNTHETIC DRUG CONTROL ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to H.R. 1254, the Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2011.

While I support sensible restrictions on dangerous substances, I am concerned about the unintended consequences this bill could have on medical research. This bill has the potential to make these kinds of substances extremely difficult for researchers to obtain. In fact, many researchers have expressed concern that the list in this bill is too broad and would restrict their ability to conduct important experiments.

Additionally, this legislation would bypass the scientific and medical review process that is in place for adding substances to Schedule I. Making decisions without scientific review is problematic.

It is important to note that states are free to make decisions regarding these kinds of substances. I supported the reasonable step New Jersey took when it banned the synthetic drugs known as "bath salts" this summer.

Since this bill would bypass scientific review and could hinder much-needed research, I urge my colleagues to vote no.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH AN- NIVERSARY OF THE ETHEL MACLEOD HART SENIOR CENTER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Ethel MacLeod Hart Senior Center, a popular gathering location for Sacramento's seniors. It is a great pleasure to recognize the center's 50th Anniversary, as it

has provided a positive environment that enhances and affirms older adults' dignity and promotes their independence. As the Hart Center's supporters and patrons gather to celebrate this milestone, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the center's leadership and service to the Sacramento community.

The Sacramento Senior Center was formed in 1961, and was later renamed the Ethel MacLeod Hart Senior Center in honor of Hart's generous legacy to the city's senior community. From its earliest beginnings, the center has helped to foster a welcoming environment that supports older citizens' interests and needs, a place in which senior citizens feel a connection to each other and receive validation from the wider community.

Over the last fifty years, the Hart Center has provided a wide variety of recreational and health services. The center's programs include flu clinics, legal workshops, the Friendship Café, computer classes, and a hearing impaired club. In addition, the Center's staff publish a monthly newsletter called the Hart Cornerstone that announces community events, and provide fitness classes that promote physical exercise and encourage healthy aging. The Hart Center has also partnered with a number of organizations to meet the needs of local seniors, including the Gray Panthers, Older Women's League, Sacramento Senior Legal Hotline, California Health Advocates, Social Security, the Franchise Tax Board, and many others.

As a member of Congress, I have had the privilege of visiting the Hart Senior Center on numerous occasions. Earlier this year I had the opportunity to speak at an Older Women's League monthly meeting at the Center, and talk about legislative proposals that affect Sacramento's senior community. Additionally, last summer the Hart Senior Center hosted a Social Security 75th anniversary party where we celebrated the program and reflected on its importance.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Ethel MacLeod Hart Senior Center on its 50th anniversary. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Hart Center's role of providing the community with much needed services.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132 the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,046,397,725,405.16. We've added \$10,244,992,550,110.88 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. S.
THOMAS GAGLIANO

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Thomas Gagliano, founder of the Jersey Shore Partnership. On December 14, 2011, members of this organization will gather to celebrate Mr. Gagliano's 80th birthday. Throughout his professional career, Tom Gagliano has demonstrated outstanding dedication to his community and trade. His services are truly worthy of this body's recognition.

Tom Gagliano is founder and former President of the Jersey Shore Partnership, Inc., a nonprofit coastal advocacy organization, active in Monmouth, Ocean, Atlantic and Cape May Counties. Jersey Shore Partnership has been instrumental on a national, state and local level for funding beach replenishment projects along the 127 miles of the New Jersey coastline. Mr. Gagliano's leadership has remained a catalyst in the organization's ability to maintain an active role in initiatives unique and important to the Jersey Shore community. Mr. Gagliano is also the Chairman of the Jersey Shore Partnership Foundation and remains a key figure in the organization's success. The Foundation was instrumental in creating the \$25 million per year "Shore Protection Fund", allowing the federal government to proceed with multiple beach replenishment projects throughout the state. Mr. Gagliano and the Jersey Shore Partnership remain an integral part to maintaining the health and beauty of New Jersey's shore region.

Mr. Gagliano is a lifelong resident of Jersey Shore, currently residing in Red Bank, New Jersey. He is a proud alumni of Brown University and earned his law degree from Georgetown University. Mr. Gagliano has also admirably served in the United States Navy from 1954 to 1956. He is a member of the New Jersey Bar and served as senior partner of his own law firm, located in West Long Branch, New Jersey until 1989. Mr. Gagliano was elected to the Oceanport Council in 1967. He also served as Monmouth County Surrogate from 1971 through 1976. Mr. Gagliano was first elected to the New Jersey Senate in 1977 and was re-elected three times, serving as Minority Leader and Ranking Member of the Transportation and Communications Committee. Governor Tom Kean appointed him Executive Director of New Jersey's NJTRANSIT Agency. In 1990, Mr. Gagliano was appointed by President George H.W. Bush to serve as commuter rail representative to the Commission on Railroad Retirement Reform, which he humbly accepted. In 2001, Mr. Gagliano ac-

cepted a position as Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs at EPS corporate headquarters, the position he currently holds to this day.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Mr. Thomas Gagliano as members of the Jersey Shore Partnership gather to celebrate his 80th birthday. His outstanding service as an elected official and founder of the organization exemplifies his whole-hearted dedication and commitment to serving the resident of the Jersey Shore and New Jersey.

H. RES. 364, NAMING HVC-215 THE
GABRIEL ZIMMERMAN ROOM

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 364, a bill designating room HVC-215 of the Capitol Visitor Center as the "Gabriel Zimmerman Room."

Almost one year ago, a gunman ruthlessly opened fire on a crowd attending one of Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS' "Congresswoman on the Corner" events at a local supermarket. That day is one of this body's greatest tragedies, and we will forever remember the 13 wounded, including Congresswoman GIFFORDS and the 6 individuals that lost their lives.

Today, we have the opportunity to remember one of those individuals who was taken from us, Gabriel Zimmerman, the Director of Community Outreach for Congresswoman GIFFORDS. Gabriel's position was to enable the Congresswoman to interact closely with constituents, organizations and citizens throughout southern Arizona. Indeed, he had devoted his life to public service.

By dedicating HVC-215 as the "Gabriel Zimmerman Room," we are not only commemorating the first congressional staffer in history to be killed in the performance of his official duties, but we also are memorializing the value of civic participation which Gabriel Zimmerman exemplified in his life.

Gabriel, at the age of thirty was engaged to be married. He was known to be a kind, hard-working person respected throughout Congresswoman GIFFORDS' Eighth Congressional District.

He graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz in 2002 with a degree in sociology and then went on to graduate from Arizona State University in 2006 with a Masters in social work. Gabriel continued his passion for civic service as a social worker assisting troubled youth prior to joining Congresswoman GIFFORDS' staff.

None of us in this body will forget Gabriel and all those who were brutally and senselessly murdered that day.

The naming of a room in the Capitol Visitor Center will forever memorialize this young man whose commitment to public service and idealism we should all hope to emulate each and every day. We must continue to fulfill our promise of improving and supporting our communities and our country, as Gabriel so honestly believed we, the Congress, should.

IN RECOGNITION OF U.S. MARSHAL
PETER J. ELLIOTT ON THE OC-
CASION OF RECEIVING THE 2011
OHIO STATE BAR FOUNDATION'S
OUTSTANDING PROGRAM AWARD

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio, I rise today to recognize U.S. Marshal Peter J. Elliott of the Northern District of Ohio, on receiving the Ohio State Bar Foundation's Outstanding Program Award on behalf of the Fugitive Safe Surrender Program. The Award is given annually to an organization and its leadership for programs that promote access to, and generate improvements in, the Ohio criminal justice system.

I am pleased to recognize Marshal Elliott's tireless efforts and commend him on the success of the Fugitive Safe Surrender Program, which he created after Cleveland police officer Wayne Leon, a family friend, was killed by an individual being served an arrest warrant.

Since 2005, Fugitive Safe Surrender has brought thousands of fugitives in over 25 cities across the nation to surrender. The idea of having fugitives surrender in a safe haven, such as a church, has been one key to the program's success.

In 2010, between September 22nd and 25th, Fugitive Safe Surrender brought in a national record of 7,431 fugitives at Mount Zion Church in Oakwood Village, Ohio. The Fugitive Safe Surrender program was authorized by Congress in July 2006 and signed into law in 2007, after being introduced by the late Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs-Jones and former Senator Mike DeWine. It is believed to be the first program of its kind in the nation. I am very proud that this program was created in the Northern District of Ohio by my friend, U.S. Marshal Peter Elliott, and congratulate him on receiving the well-deserved Ohio State Bar Foundation's Outstanding Program Award in recognition of the Fugitive Safe Surrender Program.