

develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Spencer Stapp for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO SANDRA R. MARTIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Sandra R. Martin.

Born to Rita and Theodore P. Martin, Ms. Martin is one of seven children. She grew up in a very loving and nurturing environment and was spiritually fortified at St. Charles Borromeo R.C. Church. Ms. Martin was born and raised in Harlem and attended New York City Public Schools throughout her formative educational years. She spent her high school years working as a Senior Counselor at St. Ambrose Community Center, a Unit Clerk Assistant at Cabrini Health Care Center and a teacher's assistant at Chama Child Development Center, where she worked with special needs children.

Upon graduation from Mabel Dean Bacon Vocational High School, Ms. Martin enrolled at Long Island University, C.W. Post College. She majored in Criminal Justice and minored in Sociology; she was also a charter member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Zeta Kappa Chapter. Due to her academic success, she earned placement on the Dean's List, received the Presidential Merit Award, and garnered multiple graduate studies scholarships. Upon completion of her studies at LIU, Ms. Martin was employed at Downstate Medical Center as the Night Administrator then as the Assistant Director of Operations.

Ms. Martin had a long career in Criminal Justice. She started as a Case Manager, preparing cases for alternatives to incarceration. She later served as an investigator for the Department of Buildings, conducting surveillances to monitor City employees and contractors. For the next 20 years, Ms. Martin served as a member of the New York City Department of Correction. During her academy training, she was one of two officers selected as company leader for her squad. While the inmate population proved to be difficult and unyielding, she was able to work effectively with inmates by utilizing her problem solving and human relations skills to subjugate potentially violent situations. Her diligence, professionalism and interpersonal skills earned recognition from the department's institutional division and gang intelligence unit. Ms. Martin was promoted to Captain in 2001, and provided supervision to a staff of 25 officers; she eventually empowered five officers to take promotional exams and become captains themselves. Ms. Martin was respected by her peers, higher ranking officers and the inmate population, who often sought her advice.

Ms. Martin recently retired from the New York City Department of Correction. Now she likes to work behind the scenes without fanfare. Ms. Martin is tireless in her efforts to assist those in need. She thanks God for all

blessings bestowed upon her and looks forward to continued service to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Sandra R. Martin.

HONORING JOHN VAN GELS

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Van Gels of Boeing Defense, Space & Security. John will be retiring this month after nearly 50 years serving in various positions in the aerospace and defense industry in St. Louis and southern California.

John Van Gels is the quintessential American story. In 1963, when he first joined the McDonnell Aircraft Company in St. Louis he took a job as an hourly employee making \$2.13. Over the years he did his job, worked hard and was rewarded with increased responsibility on the shop floor—holding positions as assistant foreman, foreman, and general foreman on numerous programs.

In 1981, John exchanged his blue collar for a white one and was named Production Manager for McDonnell's Tomahawk cruise missile program. Five years later he was named the Director of Production for the Tomahawk and in 1989 was named vice president of Production Centers—Missile Company.

Most folks would consider nearly 30 years with one company a great career, but not John Van Gels. In 1990, John accepted the position of vice president of Product Center Operations at Douglas Aircraft Company in Long Beach, California. There he oversaw production of the MD-80, MD-90, MD-11 and Trunkliner programs.

In 1997, he returned to St. Louis to assume the position of VP/GM Production Operations and General Services for McDonnell Douglas Aerospace. He will finish his career as Senior Site Executive for Boeing Defense, Space & Security—responsible for the day-to-day St. Louis operations.

While his career took him from the floor to the executive office building, John never forgot his time on the floor or the value of the men and women who produce the world's most capable military and commercial aircraft. Throughout his career, John was actively involved in labor negotiations, helping more than once to bridge the gap between blue collar and white.

I've had the pleasure of meeting John on more than one occasion during my time in Congress. His knowledge and dedication to "team" have been a help to both myself and my staff. You don't "replace" a man with the knowledge, experience and character of John Van Gels, you simply adapt, move on and hope to honor his commitment to the industry he poured his professional life into.

Thank you, John. I wish you God's speed and blessing in your retirement.

**RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF BISHOP JOHN RICARD**

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Bishop John Ricard after 14 years of serving as Bishop of the Roman-Catholic Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

Bishop Ricard entered the priesthood in 1968. He served in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. until 1984, when he was named auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. In 1997, Bishop Ricard was named Bishop of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, holding that post until his recent retirement. The Pensacola-Tallahassee Diocese is home to 64,000 Catholics in 18 North Florida counties. As head of the Pensacola-Tallahassee diocese, Bishop Ricard led an impressive expansion of services, including a \$2.8 million Pastoral Center. These expansions increased the ability of the Catholic Church to provide outreach and charitable work throughout North Florida.

Increasing the accessibility of the Catholic Church in North Florida is a lasting achievement; however, Bishop Ricard's lasting legacy as a servant of the Lord is a result of his tireless work fighting poverty around the globe. Bishop Ricard encouraged his local parishes to increase their efforts combating hunger and poverty. Bishop Ricard, however, is not simply a man of words. He practiced what he preached. After Hurricane Ivan devastated the Northwest Florida area in 2004, Bishop Ricard helped to rebuild homes destroyed during the hurricane. Bishop Ricard also worked to ensure that working class families had the support necessary to avoid becoming victims of homelessness. He led the effort to create the Interfaith Housing Coalition, which provided affordable homes for working class families.

Bishop Ricard was also a leader in the global community. He served as president of Catholic Relief Services, an international charitable organization that delivers food, water and other essential items to the developing world. Additionally, Bishop Ricard served as head of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Office of International Justice and Peace. In these capacities, he traveled around the globe, frequently to famine and war-torn countries, to preach the gospel and help the local community build a better future.

Spiritual leaders impact their communities in numerous ways, providing spiritual and emotional guidance, as well as charitable work. Bishop Ricard's dedication to the Lord ensured that his outreach expanded far beyond the confines of his local parishes and diocese, and his legacy will endure far beyond the diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I congratulate Bishop Ricard on his retirement. My wife Vicki and I wish him all the best as he continues to walk in the light of the Lord.

VENISSA AUGUSTIN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

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

The dedication demonstrated by Venissa Augustin is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Venissa Augustin for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO LOUISA JOSEFINA MORRIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Louisa Josefina Morris on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Ms. Morris was born on January 17, 1911, in Colon, Panama. Her parents are Elmina Cox and Charles Watts; but, she was raised by her grandparents, Ella and Ernest Beury. Her grandparents were important role models, fostering her development and growth with a loving and caring home.

Ms. Morris married Irving Benjamin Morris. Together they had five children: Irene Walker, Davina Morris, Olivia Aikens, Leo Morris, and Elisa Morris.

In 1958, Ms. Morris relocated to the United States to work at a local hospital. After becoming a citizen five years later, her children and husband followed. Today, all of Ms. Morris' children are adults. She helped raise multiple generations of her family and is now a great grandmother.

Ms. Morris lived a full life in the past 100 years. She witnessed the events of World War I, World War II, Vietnam and the Civil Rights Movement. She experienced the lives of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, President John F. Kennedy, and President Barack Obama. Ms. Morris has seen it all and did what many are unable to.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Louisa Josefina Morris.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA VETERANS PARK

HON. LARRY KISSELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. KISSELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the millions of veterans who have served our country with honor. As the son of a WWII veteran, I understand the sacrifices these men and women have made for our country. We must all remember that we need to find ways to say thank you year round. I am always challenged to find an adequate way to show my appreciation to these modern-day heroes. No matter how heartfelt and sincere our "thank you" is, it can never be expressed enough. Today, I come to you Mr. Speaker, with a resolution that was passed unanimously by the North Carolina House and North Carolina Senate. This resolution honors the dedication of the new North Carolina Veterans Park in Fayetteville, NC, the most military friendly city in America, for its grand opening on July 4, 2011. The resolution reads:

[North Carolina Senate Resolution 85, Feb. 21, 2011]

A SENATE RESOLUTION HONORING THE DEDICATION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA VETERANS PARK.

Whereas, the citizens of North Carolina have a long and proud history, dating to this country's birth, of paying special honor and respect to its sons and daughters who protect our country's freedoms; and

Whereas, the lands of North Carolina and our country are enjoyed by all its citizens due to the unending efforts and sacrifices made by all of our veterans; and

Whereas, North Carolina is proud to be the home to Cherry Point Air Station, 8 Charlotte Air National Guard, Camp Lejeune, U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City, Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base, New River Air Station, and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base; and

Whereas, North Carolina is proud to call itself the most military friendly state in America and, as a state, North Carolina has one of the highest percentages of veterans in America; and

Whereas, July 4, 2011, will mark the dedication of the North Carolina Veterans Park; and

Whereas, the purpose of the North Carolina Veterans Park is to honor all North Carolina veterans and be a composition of objects, spaces, and images that symbolize gratitude, reflection, celebration, and education, and commemorate achievement, service, dedication, and sacrifice; and

Whereas, the North Carolina Veterans Park is located in Fayetteville, North Carolina, home of Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, and is adjacent to the Airborne and Special Operations Museum, which is a part of the United States Army Museum System, providing an exciting educational experience and preserving the legend of airborne and special operation forces; and

Whereas, the North Carolina Veterans Park will consist of seven water features and public art representing participation of individuals from across the State; and

Whereas, the hands of 100 veterans were cast to honor and represent every county in North Carolina and are displayed in this park's Wall of Oath; and

Whereas, soil from each of the State's 100 counties will be included in the construction of the columns in the park; and

Whereas, public art sculptures in the public plaza at the North Carolina Veterans Park signify our veterans' commitment, courage, dedication, heroism, sacrifice, service, and strength, as well as the incredible talents of our State's artist; and

Whereas, the city of Fayetteville has directed the design and construction of the North Carolina Veterans Park to meet or exceed all guidelines and guidance provided by a large segment of the veteran population, including Content Committee members from all five branches of the military service; Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate:

SECTION 1. The Senate joins the citizens of this State in expressing its pride and gratitude to the veterans of this State for their service, dedication, and sacrifice in protecting the freedoms of this country and designates July 4, 2011, as "North Carolina Veterans Park Day."

SECTION 2. This resolution is effective upon adoption.

Mr. Speaker, the storyline of the Veterans Park reads:

From the soils of North Carolina,
You left your families and homes
With purpose to serve your country.
In service, you made sacrifices.
You are our veterans.

This is your place to reflect on and
Share your experience.

To feel pride in your service,
Bond with fellow veterans, and heal.
Here, may you find support and inspiration
To live your lives today.

The people of North Carolina
Honor your service and welcome you home.

May all our veterans continue to be honored with the utmost regard, both those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country as well as those who are still with us who continue to carry the burdens and scars of war every day.

TANYA ESTRADA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Tanya Estrada for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Tanya Estrada is a 11th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Tanya Estrada is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Tanya Estrada for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.