

elected six times, and retired in 1983. During her tenure, she was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, and was an important advocate for women, children, and inner city residents.

Her distinguished career was marked by challenging barriers. Shirley said: "I want to be remembered as a woman who fought for change in the twentieth century." We remember her today as a powerful force for change, an advocate for the most vulnerable in society, and an inspiration for many. On January 25, 1972, she became the first major-party black candidate for President of the United States of America and the first woman to run for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Shirley Chisholm on the occasion of Women's History Month.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD TECHNICIAN EQUITY ACT

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce much-needed legislation to benefit one of the most deserving groups of workers in our nation. The National Guard Technician Equity Act will go a long way toward correcting many wrongs in several outdated laws that harm the men and women who serve our country.

National Guard dual-status technicians are a unique group of workers. They are civilian employees of the National Guard in all 50 states and each territory. However, as a condition of their civilian position, they also must serve in either the Air or Army National Guard. These men and women serve the National Guard in a variety of capacities, from helicopter, airplane, and tank mechanics to clerical and support workers. National Guard technicians also serve their country on the military side of their jobs—during deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, and on state active duty in events such as Hurricane Katrina, forest fires, and floods.

The primary law that covers National Guard dual-status technicians is the Technician Act of 1968. Because of many outdated and unfair provisions in this law, technicians receive the worst of both worlds—on the civilian and military side of their jobs. My legislation, the National Guard Technician Equity Act, will correct these injustices.

First, the Technician Act requires that if a technician is no longer fit for military duty, then that person must be fired from their technician position, even if they are fully capable of performing their civilian duties. In a time in our nation with record unemployment, we should not be losing experienced, expert employees like this. My legislation would allow technicians the option of remaining in their civilian position if they have 20 years of creditable service as a dual-status technician. This not only will retain some of our best and brightest, but also will clear the way for other National Guard members to advance in the military ranks.

Second, the Technician Act bars technicians from having the same appeal rights as most other federal employees—including their counterparts in other Defense Department posi-

tions. Federal employees covered by a collective bargaining agreement have the right to file a grievance in the event of an adverse action (typically a long suspension or termination of their employment), and then proceed to arbitration; otherwise, they have the right to file a case with the Merit Systems Protection Board, a neutral federal agency. While technicians can file a grievance, they can only appeal to the Adjutant General in their state, not to any neutral third-party. My legislation will allow National Guard technicians the same right to appeal their case to a neutral party that most other federal workers have.

Third, most National Guard members are able to enroll in the TRICARE Reserve Select program, a key health benefit. However, despite the requirement that National Guard dual-status technicians must join the Air or Army National Guard, they are ineligible for TRICARE or TRICARE Reserve Select. Instead, technicians can only participate in the FEHBP program. FEHBP plans are generally significantly more expensive than TRICARE Reserve Select. My legislation takes the common-sense step of studying the feasibility of including National Guard technicians in the TRICARE or TRICARE Reserve Select programs.

Fourth, National Guard technicians also receive the worst of both worlds—military and civilian—when it comes to retirement. The FY 2000 National Defense Authorization Act included a provision to provide technicians who started work after 1996 to have "special category" civilian retirement. This means that they can retire somewhat earlier than most other federal workers, due to the dangerous nature of their jobs. However, technicians who were already working for the National Guard on or before 1996 were exempted from this improved retirement. My legislation will ensure all National Guard technicians—regardless of when they started work—will have the same retirement. Further, although active duty members of the military can retire after 20 years of service at any age, National Guard members, including technicians, must wait to retire until they are 60 years old for full military retirement. A provision in the FY 08 NDAA allows National Guard members to retire 3 months early for every year of service, but that provision does not go far enough. Since technicians can be fired from their civilian position if they cannot meet their military requirements, many of them depend on their civilian and military retirement if this occurs. Therefore, my legislation will ensure technicians—and all other members of the National Guard—receive a fairer military retirement by reducing the age of normal military retirement from age 60 to age 55.

Finally, my legislation corrects other injustices that harm technicians and treat them differently than their civilian and/or military counterparts. They include: requiring the federal government to pay FEHBP premiums during Emergency State Active Duty; doubling the amount of military leave for all federal employees in the National Guard; giving technicians the same right during a reduction in force that other federal workers have; giving technicians the same access to enlistment and re-enlistment bonuses and student loan repayment benefits that other National Guard members receive; and the right to receive overtime pay for overtime worked.

National Guard dual-status technicians have waited 43 years for Congress to correct these

inequities and injustices. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important legislation that benefits the brave men and women who so proudly serve our nation.

TO CONGRATULATE STEVE P. CHOI ON BEING NAMED THE 36TH PRESIDENT OF THE KOREAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, as the incoming co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Korea, it is my great honor to congratulate Steve P. Choi on being named the 36th President of the Korean American Association of the Washington Metropolitan Area.

My community, the 11th Congressional District of Virginia, is enriched by its great diversity. More than 1 in 4 residents are foreign born and 40% are minorities. Asian-Americans, particularly Korean-Americans, comprise the largest ethnic population. The National Capital Region is home to more than 80,000 Korean-Americans making this area the third largest Korean community in the United States. Fairfax County, which I represent, has a sister-city relationship with the Songpa-gu district of Seoul, Korea.

The Korean American community contributes immeasurably to the Northern Virginia region. A large percent of businesses in the area are owned and operated by Korean-Americans, who provide a robust variety of jobs, goods, and services to local residents. The strong character and work ethic displayed in the Korean-American community are consistent with that of so many immigrant groups who have come before. Education is highly regarded and sought after, and honesty, integrity and dignity are values that are instilled at a young age and continue to develop throughout life.

The Korean American Association of the Washington Metropolitan Area plays a critical role in providing information, opportunities, and services to local Korean-Americans. Throughout my career, first as a district Supervisor, then as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and now as the U.S. Congressman representing this district, I have worked closely with the Korean American Association of the Washington Metropolitan Area as well as other Korean-American groups to ensure that the needs of the community are addressed and that its voices are heard. I look forward to working with Mr. Choi as he begins his term as president of this esteemed organization so that together we can continue the progress toward achieving of our common goals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Steve P. Choi on being named the 36th President of the Korean American Association of the Washington Metropolitan Area and in wishing him continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO JOAN FAUVRE,
29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2011

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joan Favre of Pasadena, California. Every year in March, in recognition of Women's History Month, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women.

Joan grew up in Louisiana and received her B.A. from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette and her M.A. from Pacific Oaks College. Her commitment to children and education became evident early, when she taught third grade in the Los Angeles Unified School District in 1976, prior to beginning a family.

In the 1980's, Joan joined the Pasadena Educational Foundation (PEF). Established in 1971, PEF is a nonprofit organization that is committed to developing partnerships and resources to enhance educational programs in the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD). The Foundation has been incredibly successful, especially due to Joan's professional leadership and skills as a fundraiser and community builder. In 1985, Joan served on the Board of Directors, where she proved to be a valuable asset to the Foundation. In 1990, she co-chaired a planning committee, which aimed at expanding PEF's fundraising efforts. In 1994, she completed her tenure as a board member, and accepted the position of Executive Director. As a testament to the Foundation's success and Joan's able guidance, PEF has taken on some of the critically important district-wide activities that had been cut from the PUSD budget. For instance, the Foundation now runs a Summer Enrichment Program at five PUSD campuses that provides learning opportunities for over 1000 students. Furthermore, thanks to Joan's efforts and the community support that she built, all PUSD middle schools have a Robotics Program.

Joan is also a dedicated volunteer, who has committed endless hours of service to a variety of organizations, including the Pasadena-Foothill Valley YWCA, the Junior League of Pasadena, and Polytechnic Parents Group, among others. She was also an active participant on the Partners in Education Advisory Board, and was on the Board of Trustees of Pacific Oaks College and Children's School for eight years.

Upon her retirement from PEF in 2010, Joan remains a vibrant member of the community. Currently, she serves on the Board of Trustees of the Pasadena Child Health Foundation and on the Board of Directors of the California Consortium of Education Foundations. She and her husband John have three children and two grandchildren.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring a remarkable woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Joan Favre, for her exceptional service to the community.

HONORING CAMDEN COUNTY
FREEHOLDER RILETTA CREAM,
RESPECTED EDUCATOR AND AD-
MIRSED CIVIC LEADER OF THE
SOUTH JERSEY COMMUNITY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Freeholder Riletta Cream for her contributions to New Jersey as an educator and as a Camden County Freeholder.

A native of Camden City, Freeholder Cream has devoted her life to improving Camden County. Freeholder Cream began her career in education, rising from teacher to principal during her 37 years in Camden County Schools. Since 1994 she has also worked as an adjunct professor at Rowan and Rutgers Universities instructing student teachers. On January 3, 1991, the Riletta Twyne Cream Family School opened its doors to the next generation of Camden's children.

In 1994, Riletta Cream was appointed to the Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and was re-elected three times. In her capacity as Freeholder, she served as a liaison to the Departments of Buildings and Operations and Education. She also worked to restore the Camden City Council Chambers, implement the construction of two new libraries, and install computers in every classroom in the city.

Working as an Educator and Freeholder of Camden County, Riletta was a steadfast public servant. After announcing her retirement, Riletta said that her time in service has been a joy. Speaking as a former Freeholder, I share in her joy and commend her for her accomplishments. Mr. Speaker, I am proud that Freeholder Cream has served Camden as a passionate civic leader and am confident that her service will continue to set an example for all citizens of New Jersey.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF ACCESS SAC-
RAMENTO

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Access Sacramento, Sacramento's public access station, as they celebrate the station's 25th anniversary. It is a great pleasure to recognize the station's dedication to giving a voice to individuals, events and opinions that are often not seen on television. As Access Sacramento's supporters gather to celebrate this milestone, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their leadership in community reporting.

The Sacramento area was one of the last urban areas to be wired for cable television, and it was not until December 1983 that public access television came to Sacramento. Known then as Sacramento Cable, the station developed a system that would provide funding, channel space, and equipment for a wide variety of local programming. These resources were divided among a number of organizations, one of which was Access Sacramento.

Over the last 25 years, Access Sacramento has overcome each challenge it has faced, and has adapted to meet the demand of a growing and ethnically diverse community. The station has earned an international reputation for success and has welcomed visitors from Europe, Africa, and Asia to see how the organization operates. Furthermore, Access Sacramento has been recognized for their quality programs, receiving many awards, including the prestigious "Best Public Access Television in the Nation", which it has won twice.

Access Sacramento's success, however, is not simply measured in awards, but in their ability to provide viewers with an opportunity to hear and see important ideas and thoughts that often cannot be found on television. The organization prides itself on the thousands of unique and locally produced programs that are seen and made available through the station each year. As of this year, their annual budget has grown to exceed \$650,000 with a staff of ten individuals and over 750 volunteers. The station reaches 265,000 Sacramento residents and distributes more than 5,000 videos annually. It is clear that Access Sacramento is making a difference one voice at a time.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Access Sacramento, and their continuous commitment to providing the Sacramento community with access to information that they would not have received from other media outlets. The past 25 years have been tremendously successful and I am sure they will continue to enjoy success in the future. While Access Sacramento's staff, supporters, and listeners gather together to celebrate the organization's 25th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their outstanding work in providing the community with local television and radio programming.

THE TRIANGLE SHIRTWAIST FIRE:
HIGHLIGHTING THE NEED FOR
WORKERS' RIGHTS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, Friday, March 25th, marks the 100th anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire.

The tragedy of the Triangle fire is not just the deaths of 146 workers—mostly young women in their teens and early twenties—but the fact that those deaths were avoidable. If the owners of the factory hadn't locked the doors to the stairwells and exits, if they had installed a stable fire escape or put in sprinklers, many of those lives would not have been painfully and tragically lost. If the owners of the factory hadn't fought long and hard against their employees' right to join a union of their choice, those workers might not have been locked in and prevented from fleeing the fire, as the owners were able to do themselves.

The depictions of the tragedy by eyewitnesses are difficult to read. The fire broke out on the Saturday afternoon, at the end of the workday. Survivor Yetta Lubitz said that the warning and the fire arrived at the same time. Within three minutes, the only unlocked exit was blocked and the fire escape soon twisted and collapsed from the heat. Within 30