

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

minutes, 146 lives were lost, including sixty-two people who died by jumping or falling from the ninth floor.

The International Ladies Garments Workers, the National Women's Trade Union League, and other unions didn't just mourn the victims—they organized. The day after the fire, 15,000 shirtwaist workers demonstrated in support for a 52-hour week and a 20 percent pay raise. On Sunday, thousands gathered at the Metropolitan Opera House and passed a resolution calling for a Bureau of Fire Prevention and a permanent citizens' committee to push for labor reforms. Soon after, Governor Al Smith acted to create the Factory Investigating Commission, chaired by Robert Wagner, who would become a U.S. Senator and the sponsor of the National Labor Relations Act. One of its key investigator staffers was Frances Perkins, who became Secretary of Labor.

The impetus for reform came from the workers themselves. Their activism resulted in the passage of major worker protections not just new fire safety laws but laws against 7-day work weeks and child labor. The Triangle tragedy resulted in more workers having the right to union representation, collective bargaining rights, and a voice at work.

In 1961, on the 50th anniversary of the Triangle fire, ILGWU President David Dubinsky attended the memorial service and said, "We want a fitting memorial to the martyrs we honor today. No better one can be found than to increase the respect for and the safety of workers."

100 years later, those words continue to ring true. Today, we confront a coordinated effort to roll back the hard fought gains that were won not just because of the horrific nature of the tragedy that occurred but because of the organizing power of unions, workers and their supporters. Just as the Triangle Fire spurred people into action, the anti-working family agenda of Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker has mobilized millions. The message is clear: we will not go back to the days when workers had no voice, no dignity and no safety. We will not go back.

TO RECOGNIZE THE 21ST ANNUAL FAIRFAX COUNTY FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME HONOREES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fairfax County Youth Football League and to celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame.

The importance of youth sports cannot be overstated. Participation in organized sports teaches our youth many lessons that will serve them well throughout life. These invaluable lessons include sportsmanship, teamwork, honesty, a sense of belonging, and maybe most importantly, the work ethic instilled by striving for success and working to achieve a common goal. Organized youth sports also contributes to our society, studies have shown a correlation between participation in sporting activities and doing well in school. Some studies indicate that reduction in

gang activity can be partially attributed to refocusing at-risk youth into organized, supervised activities such as youth sports.

I applaud the Fairfax County Youth Football League for the opportunities that they provide to all of our children to succeed and be a part of a team. I also congratulate the following students, coaches and community leaders who are being recognized at the 21st Annual Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame:

Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame 2011 Inductees: Will Montgomery (NFL Washington Redskins, Virginia Polytechnic University, Centreville High School, Southwestern Youth Association), Bill Yoast (Hammond High School, T. C. Williams High School), George Casey (Vienna Youth Incorporated).

Football Official of the Year—Youth Sports: Arnold Palmer (Fairfax County Football Officials Association).

Karl Davey Community Achievement Award: Betty Powell (Fairfax County Youth Football League).

Tom Davis Meritorious Service Award: Lee Ann Pender (Director, Office of Administrative Services, Fairfax County Public Schools).

Gene Nelson Commissioner of the Year Award: William Barry Thompson, III (Fairfax Police Youth Club).

FCFHF Awards—\$1,500 Scholarships: Lisa Kinston (West Potomac High School—Cheerleading), Andrew Weidinger (Lake Braddock High School—Football), Scotty Nicoll (Westfield High School—Football), John "JP" Theodorakos (Herndon High School—Football).

High School Players of the Year: Marcus Harris (Stone Bridge High School), Anthony Taylor (Washington-Lee High School), Michael Nebriach (Lake Braddock High School), Jared Velasquez (Robinson High School), Kevin Hogan (Gonzaga High School), Dominique Terrell (At Large—Osborn High School).

High School Coaches of the Year: Mickey Thompson (Division V—Stone Bridge High School), Mark Cox (Division VI—Battlefield High School).

Youth Players of the Year—Youth Sports: Kyle Hamrock (Braddock Road Youth Club), Jelani Shakir (Ft. Belvoir Youth Football), Zachary Braskamp (Reston Youth Football), Kyle Phox (Springfield Youth Club), Guy Myers (Manassas Youth Football), Brandon Lessard (McLean Youth Football), Garrett Snedeker (Chantilly Youth Association), Benjamin Davenport (Lee-Franconia Football), Devon Patterson (Gainesville/Haymarket Football), Jack Caldwell (Braddock Road Youth Club), David Im (Herndon Optimist Club), Glenn Rushing (Ft. Hunt Youth Football), Sean Fitzgerald (Vienna Youth Inc.), Christian Abenes (Ft. Belvoir Youth Football), Nick Donlon (Southwestern Youth Association), Hayden Burke (South County Athletic Association).

Coaches of the Year—Youth Sports: David Curtis (Alexandria Youth Football), Todd Casey (Vienna Youth Inc.), James Passmore (Herndon Optimist Club), Mike Anderson (Fairfax Police Youth Club).

Cheerleaders of the Year: KC Buckley (Vienna Youth Inc.), Annie Cowman (Vienna Youth Inc.), Tristen Davenport (Gainesville/Haymarket Football), Meghan Henry (Herndon Optimist Club), Kathleen Winkert (Dulles South Youth Sports).

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Fairfax County Youth Football League as well as those students,

coaches and community leaders who are being honored at this 2011 Hall of Fame celebration.

A TRIBUTE TO MARO KECHICHIAN 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 in Honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women during the month of March.

Today, I rise to commend Maro Kechichian of Burbank, whose tireless efforts have benefited her community and beyond. Ms. Kechichian was born and raised in Lebanon, where she received her early education and simultaneously became an active member of the Zavarian Student Association. With a passion for learning, Maro pursued a higher education, and received a Bachelor's Degree in Armenian Literature from St. Joseph University in Beirut, Lebanon. Prior to moving to the United States, Maro taught at Aksor Kassardjian, an Armenian school in a predominantly Armenian suburb of Beirut. She proved to be a valuable asset to the school, and was promoted to Director—a position she held for eight years.

Maro immigrated to the United States in 1984 and joined Homenetmen's Los Angeles Chapter, where she is an active member. She has served as a board member of Homenetmen Western Regional Executive Committee as a secretary for six terms. As a professional, she is a trusted team member who helps organize regional and international events, including the renowned annual Navasartian Games of Southern California.

Ms. Kechichian is a dedicated participant in all her endeavors and she brings a dynamic energy to all her activities. Maro has been elected as a Regional Executive member for Homenetmen numerous times. Her expertise with issues related to Homenetmen leads her to take frequent part in its Central meetings. These meetings take place every four years, and allow Homenetmen leaders from around the world to gather and plan upcoming nationwide activities. It is also noteworthy that Maro was a reporter for Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper for 20 years, and covered news from Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

In 1990, Maro was appointed to a special project aimed at establishing a Homenetmen region in Armenia. She stayed in Armenia for three months and was solely committed to this effort. Ever since then, Maro not only continues supporting the region she visited, but also extends a helping hand to Nagorno-Karabakh.

Currently, Maro serves as an Executive Secretary at the Armenian Relief Society, ARS, of the Western Region, and is an advisor for Homenetmen's Los Angeles Chapter. She is also an active volunteer, and spends numerous hours helping Armenian Relief Society's Araz chapter and various fundraising committees.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring a remarkable woman of the 29th Congressional