

New permanent Home Affordable Modification Program modifications have averaged around 29,000 per month over the last six months of 2010.

This program saves homeowners on average 527 dollars per month.

If this bill is passed it would deny modification loans to more than a half million homeowners at risk of foreclosure.

I encourage my colleagues to stand up for homeownership in your districts and vote against this irresponsible bill.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. SUSAN C. PARKS, 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 pay tribute to Dr. Susan C. Parks. As an educator and current Superintendent of the San Gabriel Unified School District, Susan has assisted in educating hundreds of students in the 29th Congressional District. A native Angelino, she spent her early years in Los Angeles City schools, where she proved herself to be a quick learner. Early on, Susan realized that many people held inherent beliefs that girls could not accomplish certain feats simply because they were girls. Determined to prove them wrong, Susan applied herself throughout high school and, as a result, received numerous scholarship offers. Thereafter, Dr. Parks decided to attend the University of Southern California (USC), where she was named a Trustee Scholar.

At USC, Susan Parks witnessed the struggle of the civil rights movement, encouraging her desire to promote peace throughout the world. After the Watts riots, Susan volunteered to help a pre-school recover and found that she had the potential to change the world by teaching young children. After graduating from USC Magna Cum Laude, she began teaching in Los Angeles where she strived to one day become a principal and eventually superintendent. She became the principal at Walnut Grove Elementary School and, after the passage of Proposition 13, she provided leadership to begin Hollow Hills Elementary School, a magnet school that achieved tremendous success. Her experience proved invaluable as she went on to hold positions as a Deputy Superintendent in Simi Valley, the Superintendent of Schools in the Baldwin Park Unified School District, and, in 2006, as the Superintendent of the San Gabriel Unified School District.

Today, Dr. Parks continues to work tirelessly for the students in San Gabriel schools and has taken large steps to give students in the 29th Congressional District the same opportunities for a superb education that she has enjoyed. She and her husband, Gary Parks, have three children and six grandchildren.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Dr. Susan C. Parks, for her service to the community and to our nation's children.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PRINCE WILLIAM MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION'S COMMUNITY APPRECIATION AWARDS

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 recipients of the Prince William Ministerial Association's Community Appreciation Awards.

The Prince William Ministerial Association brings together church communities across ethnic, social and sectarian boundaries to celebrate their common faith and promote fellowship and action in the Prince William community. In keeping with that mission, the Association is awarding the First Annual Community Appreciation Awards to individuals who have made significant contributions to the areas of education, public safety and community activism in Prince William County.

It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names and accomplishments of the recipients of the Prince William Ministerial Association's Community Appreciation Awards.

Police Officer of the Year: Master Police Officer John Lavelly (Ret.) served 24 years in the Prince William County Police Department, including 13 years as a School Resource Officer.

Edward Kelly Teacher of the Year: Paulette Jones has taught at Gar-Field High School for 20 years and has dedicated her time to creating and sustaining a program that helps students perform community-based service projects and engage in self esteem-building activities.

Sheriff's Deputy of the Year: Deputy Thomas C. "T.C." Williams is being recognized for his service to the citizens of Prince William County and his ability to set a positive example for the community's troubled youth.

Firefighter of the Year: Deputy David Wood has served as a volunteer firefighter in Prince William County since April 26, 1976, and is an active member of the Coles District Volunteer Fire Department in his current capacity as Deputy Fire Chief.

Community Volunteer of the Year: Ernestine S. Jenkins is a dedicated community activist. She serves as the 1st Vice President of the Dale City Civic Association, Chairman of the Dale City 4th of July Parade Committee, Education Co-Chairman of the Bel Air Woman's Club; life member and Past President of VFW Post 1503 Ladies Auxiliary; charter member of Disabled American Veterans Chapter 48; Sun Shine Chairman of the Dale City Volunteer Fire Department; life member of American Legion Post 364 Ladies Auxiliary; Vice Chairman for Project Mend-A-House; and a member of the Finance Committee for Bethel United Methodist Church.

Vernon Williams, Jr. Young Person of the Year: Steven Blakely is a senior at Osbourn Park High School and captain of his school's swim team. Mr. Blakely created the "Foster Care Children's Gift Fund" to help the Department of Social Services purchase Christmas presents for foster children. During the past four years, the program has raised \$55,000 to help children in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the recipients of the Prince William Ministerial Association's Community Appreciation Awards. I extend my personal appreciation to the recipients for their contributions to effect positive change in our community.

INTRODUCTION OF BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION TO GRANT HOLOCAUST RAIL VICTIMS JUSTICE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing bipartisan legislation along with my colleagues Representatives ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, JERROLD NADLER, TED DEUTCH, LUIS GUTIERREZ, MAURICE HINCHEY, ALLEN WEST, GARY ACKERMAN, ELIJAH CUMMINGS, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, and DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ that will finally grant holocaust rail victims justice in their lifetimes.

During World War II, more than 75,000 Jews and other "undesirables" were transported from France to Nazi death camps aboard trains operated by the Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français ("SNCF"). Among those transported to death camps on SNCF trains were American airmen shot down over France. SNCF operated the trains as a commercial venture and were paid per head, per kilometer to deliver thousands to their ultimate deaths.

In the 66 years since the end of World War II, SNCF has never made restitution or reparations to its victims, and recently went so far as to tell a member of the California Assembly that "SNCF will never pay the survivors anything" and that the company "would rather not do business in California" than pay reparations.

Hundreds of known survivors and family members of those who have perished live in the United States today—although the number of living survivors is rapidly growing smaller—and litigation seeking to hold SNCF accountable for its actions during World War II has been ongoing for over ten years. SNCF has unfortunately thus far succeeded in cloaking itself in the veil of foreign sovereign immunity and thus evaded jurisdiction in United States courts.

This legislation would simply preclude, in this one limited instance, the defense of foreign sovereign immunity from being raised. As the facts make clear, this is not the type of situation foreign sovereign immunity was intended to cover.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation that would finally hold SNCF accountable for its wartime actions and provide survivors with what is likely their last opportunity for justice in their lifetimes.

TO HONOR JOHN M. GILLIS, RECIPIENT OF THE HENRY W. BOSWORTH, JR. MEMORIAL CITIZENSHIP AWARD

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished and revered public servant of Quincy, Massachusetts, Mr. John M. Gillis. John has served as a Norfolk County commissioner since 1992, but has been an active member of the Massachusetts community for many decades.

A lifelong resident of the Quincy area, John attended Adams Elementary School, Quincy Point Junior High School, and Quincy High School. Motivated by service to his country, he enlisted in the Marines during World War II and fought bravely in the Battle of Saipan. John then enrolled at Northeastern University and received his accounting degree in 1953.

John's exemplary background in public service spans from his dedication as a Quincy firefighter stationed at Central Headquarters following World War II to his post as City Clerk in Quincy. Of his nearly four decades as clerk, John asserts they were his best in city government because he was able to champion the "little guy."

In recognition of his commitment to the common good, John will be the honored recipient of the Henry W. Bosworth Jr. Memorial Citizenship Award—aptly named in memory of Quincy Sun founder Henry Bosworth, John's long-time friend—on March 27th. I extend to John my most heartfelt congratulations, and I urge my constituents and all Americans to follow his example of service and leadership.

HONORING TOM BRYSON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Tom Bryson upon his retirement as President and CEO of WJRT-TV. Tom retired on February 28th with over 25 years of service.

After graduating from the University of Missouri's School of Journalism, Tom worked with Group W Radio in Washington, DC covering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. Over the years he has worked for various stations throughout the United States before accepting a position at WJRT-TV and has called it home for the past 25 years. Tom has accepted several leadership roles within the Michigan broadcasting industry including President of the MAB Board of Directors, and Chairman of the MAB Foundation. He was inducted into the Michigan Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2007 and received the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters.

Communities served by WJRT are better because of his dedicated service. He has provided guidance and direction to several organizations including: United Way of Genesee County, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan,

the School of Health Professions and Studies for the University of Michigan-Flint, Goodwill Industries of Mid-Michigan, Genesys Charity Classic, Kiwanis Club of Flint, the Flint Salvation Army, the Flint Area Chamber of Commerce, the Genesee Focus Council, and the Genesee County Convention and Visitors Bureau. Tom and his wife, Mary, have three daughters and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Tom Bryson and wish him a happy retirement. He has been a great influence on Flint and on me personally. I am a better person because of Tom Bryson. I wish him the best in the future and thank him for his service to our community.

HONORING WES LEONARD

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Wes Leonard, the Fennville Blackhawks Basketball Team, and the entire community who came together in the aftermath of tragedy that has been followed by our entire nation.

The Blackhawks finished their season this Monday, capturing a Class C District Championship trophy before their season ended with a 23-1 record.

But theirs was no ordinary run for a high school state basketball title.

Their star player, Wes Leonard, collapsed and tragically passed away after scoring the game-winning basket for his team on March 3, the final game of the regular season.

With that basket, Wes Leonard led his team to a perfect winning record during his junior year. According to all who knew him, this 16-year-old student exhibited the character, discipline, and affability that made him both respected and loved within the Fennville Community. His school superintendent described him as "the quintessential all-American kid." While attending Wes's family visitation, I was struck by how many members of rival school teams in their letter jackets came to pay their respects to Wes, the team he led, and his family. More than 1,500 people attended his funeral service at Christ Memorial Church in Holland. These facts are sure testaments to what this young man meant to the Fennville community.

In a massive outpouring of support from his community and even people across the nation and world, fans came out in record numbers to cheer on the Blackhawks, who played their first District playoff game on March 7, just three days after Wes's death. Even in this chamber, as I wore this orange ribbon in Wes's memory and in support of the team, colleagues and strangers who asked about its meaning knew the story of Wes and the Blackhawks and asked me to pass along condolences and encouragement.

Sellout crowds packed the Hope College DeVos Fieldhouse to witness the team's playoff games in person, and scores more followed along online and saw highlights on such programs as SportsCenter on ESPN.

The Blackhawks played on honorably through it all, and I want to congratulate them on an outstanding, admirable, and courageous

finish to their season. The true mark of character is how one responds to adversity. These young men have shown unbelievable character.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this House to join me in honoring this team and commending all who rallied around them. I would like to express condolences on behalf of myself and the people of the 2nd District to the family, friends and teammates of Wes Leonard. And I would like to honor this young man for his leadership that was an inspiration to all who knew him.

A TRIBUTE TO CAROL NAOMI TANITA, 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 stand to laud the tireless efforts of Carol Naomi Tanita of Monterey Park. Born in the Boyle Heights region of Los Angeles, Carol grew up committed to her education. Upon graduating high school with honors, she attended the University of Southern California, where she attained her bachelor's and master's degrees in the field of education, and earned her specialist credential in bilingual cross-cultural education in Japanese.

Carol has maintained an active spirit for all her passions in life, and continues to be involved with the community as a tireless volunteer and parent. She served as a member of the PTA of Brightwood and Repetto Elementary Schools for 12 years, and received numerous awards, including the title of Parent of the Year at Repetto Elementary School for her exemplary service.

In 2007, Ms. Tanita was presented with the Community Service Award by the Alhambra Educational Foundation. Her continuous efforts were always appreciated, as she repeatedly received the Honorary Service Award and Continuing Service Award at Mark Keppel High School. Upon the graduation of her children, Carol continued to be active with the PTSA and the Mark Keppel Alliance. As a result of her unwavering commitment, she was awarded the Golden Oak—the highest award the California PTA gives for outstanding service to schools and communities. During 20 years of committed service, Carol has surpassed 9,000 volunteer hours.

Ms. Tanita also serves the community beyond the realm of education. For two years, she served on the F.A.C.E.S.'s Board at Pacific Clinics and the Family Advisory Council at the Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center, which serves individuals with developmental disabilities. Currently, Carol dedicates her time to Parents In Community Inclusion (PIC), a group which mentors families and educators in creating an inclusive community for special needs individuals.

Carol served as a parent volunteer for the Boy Scouts of America as well, when her son Nicholas enrolled as a Cub Scout. Over the years, she served as the Parent Committee