

members who share mutual labors sponsoring just over fifty ministries for congregants and the community. In addition to his role as an ordained minister, Dr. Simmons has played an important continuous role as a father, husband, and grandfather. Dr. Simmons continues to serve as an advocate for his community by committing to serving his members within the church as well as the wider St. Albans community, which encompasses a variety of Queens' diverse population.

Dr. Simmons began his public service as an ordained minister of the gospel as Associate Minister with the Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ in Washington, DC, from 1973–1977. In August 1977 he was called to serve as Senior Minister of the Mayflower Congregational Church in Detroit, Michigan. After six years of leading that congregations' renewal as a vital urban church, Dr. Simmons was elected in 1983 as Secretary for Racial, Ethnic, and Minority Church Development for the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries in New York City. For eight years he assumed primary staff leadership for the denomination's evangelism efforts in new and urban church renewal for African American, Latino, American Indian, and Pacific Islander-Asian American churches before moving to Queens, NY.

Dr. Simmons has served as Chair of the Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries; Chair of the United Church of Christ Search Committee for General Minister and President; and President of the Southeast Queens Clergy for Community. Empowerment, Inc, now known as Clergy United for Community Empowerment. Among the awards and honors Dr. Simmons has received are citations for outstanding ministerial leadership from the Michigan State Legislature, the Detroit city Council, the New York City Council, and honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees for contributions to racial and social justice from the Ursinus College and Huston-Tillotson College.

Through his leadership, Dr. Simmons continues to represent wisdom and strength for the entire congregation of St. Albans Congregational Church. I am sure Dr. Simmons has faced many joys and challenges during his twenty year tenure at St. Albans Congregational Church, and I wish him continued success throughout the remainder of his time there. I applaud Dr. Simmons for all he has accomplished and for his unrelenting commitment to God, his family, public service, and the community of St. Albans.

HONORING CESAR CHAVEZ'S BIRTHDAY

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true American hero and a remarkable public servant, Cesar Chavez. Chavez is revered by people across our nation as a humble activist who led a monumental fight to improve labor conditions for migrant farm workers. His nonviolent crusade for social change was inspired by the hardship and injustices that he witnessed growing up as a farm worker. As a result of that upbringing, he

led a movement to achieve fair wages, worker protections, human rights and human dignity among the most underrepresented in our society. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for those efforts, and today, almost two decades after his passing, he continues to inspire young people to dedicate their own lives in service to others. In his words, "the end of all education should surely be service to others." His impact is timeless and cannot be understated. On behalf of my constituents in New Mexico's First Congressional District, I am proud to honor him before my colleagues in Congress.

CELEBRATING NOWRUZ

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Nowruz, the traditional Iranian New Year, and take the opportunity to celebrate Iranian Americans' contributions to America. I wish Iranian Americans and the people of Iran a prosperous new year.

Nowruz originated in ancient Persia, and dates back more than 3,000 years. Nowruz means a "New Day" which occurs on the vernal equinox and celebrates the arrival of spring. It symbolizes a time of renewal and community, and it harkens the departure from the trials and tribulations of the previous year and brings hope for the New Year.

Nowruz is celebrated by nearly 300 million Iranians and other peoples all over the world, including in the United States, Iran, and other countries in Central Asia, South Asia, Caucasus, Crimea, and Balkan Regions. It is also celebrated by more than 1 million Iranian Americans of all backgrounds, including those with Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Baha'i, Zoroastrian, and non-religious backgrounds.

Nowruz embodies the tradition that each individual's thinking, speaking, and conduct should always be virtuous, and the ideal of compassion for our fellow human beings regardless of ethnicity or religion, and symbolizes a time of renewal and community.

In 539 B.C., Cyrus the Great established one of the earliest charters on human rights, which abolished slavery and allowed for freedom of religion, and this marker in Iranian history has had significant impact on the respect for human rights that Iranian Americans carry today.

Iranian Americans continue to make contributions in all sectors of American public life, including government, military, and law enforcement officials, who proudly serve to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to protect all people in the United States.

The United States is a melting pot of ethnicities and religion and Nowruz contributes to the richness of American culture and is consistent with our founding principles of peace and prosperity for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I missed roll-call vote No. 181 on H. Res. 170. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this vote.

CONGRATULATING TIFFANY FLYNN ON HER 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of my District Chief of Staff, Tiffany Flynn. Twenty five years ago today, I hired Tiffany as a receptionist in my Flint office. Tiffany, who grew up in Lapeer, Michigan and graduated from Lapeer West High School, worked her way up in my district office to eventually become my District Chief of Staff. She now oversees my district staff and manages my offices in Flint, Saginaw, and Bay City.

Tiffany is a reliable and focused manager. She has been instrumental in helping foster growth and revitalization throughout my district. Tiffany played a critical role in ensuring that the Flint Main Post Office Processing and Distribution Center and the Social Security Administration office remained downtown. She also played a leading role in the redevelopment of downtown Flint. Tiffany has not only been a great asset to my office, but also to the people of mid-Michigan.

Even after her workday is done, Tiffany continues to give back to her community by participating in a number of local activities and charities. Tiffany has been a member of the Rotary Board of Directors and is now president-elect of the Rotary Club of Flint. She works with the United Way and Muscular Dystrophy Association and supports the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Flint and the YWCA. Tiffany is also active in Women in Leadership, the League of Women Voters and in 2008 she received the ATHENA award by the Women's Business Council of the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce for mentoring and inspiring young women.

Today, I want to thank Tiffany for her years of service, hard work and dedication to my office and to the people of mid-Michigan. Throughout the years, she has made a significant impact on my office and the lives of my constituents. I have been very fortunate to have had Tiffany on my staff for the last 25 years.

CELEBRATING OUR LOCAL HEROES

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to salute the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce and the fine people being recognized at

its annual awards gala, So Proudly We Hail—Celebrating Our Local Heroes.

The Dulles Regional Chamber is located in one of the top technology corridors in the nation and is the largest chamber in Fairfax County. Each year it recognizes first responders in the region who have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

This year's honorees are Capt. Kathleen Stanley with Fairfax County's International Urban Search and Rescue and the late Sgt. Phillip Farley with the Herndon Police Department.

Capt. Stanley has served the citizens of Fairfax County for nearly 20 years, most recently in Battalion 401 which serves the Reston/Herndon area of Fairfax County. In 2010, she deployed with the county's Urban Search and Rescue team to Haiti, where she served for the entire deployment as a medical specialist, often administering care to patients critically injured in the earthquake.

Sgt. Farley is being recognized for his contributions from 2001 to 2010 to the Herndon Police Department. Because of his efforts, the Herndon Police Department is one of the first law enforcement agencies in northern Virginia to implement a seamless transition in its electronic records management, computer aided dispatch and mobile computer terminals to enable effective communication and records management solutions. Sgt. Farley also was instrumental in the research and testing of the department's transition from revolvers to automatic weapons. In addition, he introduced scenario-based training to coincide with annual range training.

In addition to recognizing local first responders, the chamber invited and saluted seven service men for their contributions to our country. They are: Chief Warrant Officer 5 Bradley Garfield, U.S. Marine Corps; 1st Sgt Michael Barrett, U.S. Marine Corps; Gunnery Sgt. Alain Frederique, U.S. Marine Corps; Gunnery Sgt. Josue Magana, U.S. Marine Corps; Staff Sgt. Hugh Davis, U.S. Army Reserve, retired; Technical Sgt. Christopher Frost, U.S. Air Force, and Sgt. John Eubanks, U.S. Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the accomplishments of these honorees. We owe them all our thanks.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT DAN CALDARALE

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Master Sergeant Dan Caldarale and recognize his safe return home on Sunday, March 20, 2011 from his tour in the Middle East.

Dan began his career in the Army National Guard in the summer of 1981 at basic training in Ft. Benning, Georgia. During his 30 years of service to our country, he served as both active duty and Army Reserve. Currently, Dan is an Inspector General Investigator with the Army National Guard.

In addition to his career as a Master Sergeant, Dan has served as a local patrolman and crash investigator for over 16 years. He graduated from the Police Academy in 1995

and has served as a member of the North Hanover Township Police Department since May of 2007. Through both his national and local positions, it is clear that public service is a top priority in Dan's life and one that he values deeply.

Today I join Dan's friends and family, and most notably his wife Erica, a former Army National Guard Soldier of 13 years, and their sons, Matthew and Ryan, in welcoming home this great American hero. The United States of America is truly a safer place because of Dan's dedicated and honorable service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing Master Sergeant Dan Caldarale and offering our sincerest appreciation for his successful tour of duty and his safe return home.

TRIBUTE TO DIVISION 1 ICE HOCKEY COACH OF THE YEAR, TODD KRYGIER

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Division 1 Ice Hockey Coach of the Year, Todd Krygier. A native of Chicago Heights, Illinois and resident of Novi, Michigan, Coach Krygier led his Novi High School skaters to their first state championship in the team's 13 year history.

As a left winger with the University of Connecticut, Todd Krygier was selected to the 1987 NCAA East Second All-American Team after scoring 48 points in 28 games for the Huskies. He was drafted by Hartford in the 1988 Supplemental Draft and played parts of two seasons with the Whalers before being traded to the Washington Capitals in 1991 and then to the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim in 1994. Having been reacquired by the Capitals during the 1995–96 season, Coach Todd Krygier brings the unique perspective of having closed out his 543 game NHL career by playing in the 1998 Stanley Cup Finals. Krygier went on to play two seasons with the Orlando Solar Bears of the IHL before retiring in 2000.

This season Coach Krygier and the Wildcats reached the pinnacle by dethroning perennial contender Orchard Lake St. Mary's, 39–24, earning their first state championship. Todd Krygier led his team to a 30–5–1 record including a 6–0 playoff run that saw the Wildcats score 29 goals to their opponents' total of 4. Five of Coach Krygier's players were selected to All State teams, four First Team and one Second Team, while another player was selected for Honorable Mention.

It is worth mentioning Coach Todd Krygier also earned family honors this year by leading his Novi Wildcats to a 9–1 win over younger brother, Bryan Krygier's Clarkston Wolves in the state quarterfinals; also, Bryan Krygier's assistant coach is their father, Roman Krygier.

Mr. Speaker, after earning his first state championship and being selected as the Michigan High School Athletic Association's 2010 Division 1 Ice Hockey Coach of the Year, Todd Krygier deserves to be recognized for his dedication to the young men of Novi High School. In recognition of his effort and the honor bestowed upon him, I ask my col-

leagues to join me in congratulating Novi Hockey Coach Todd Krygier, his wife Kim and their children Brock, Natalie, Grace, Cole and Christian on Todd's accolades and in honoring his devotion to our community and country.

URGING TURKEY TO RESPECT THE RIGHTS AND RELIGIOUS FREE- DOMS OF THE ECUMENICAL PA- TRIARCHATE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation urging Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

In 1993 the European Union defined the membership criteria for accession to the European Union at the Copenhagen European Council, obligating candidate countries to have achieved certain levels of reform, including stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, and respect for and protection of minorities. Turkey, which began accession negotiations with the EU on October 3, 2005, has failed to recognize the Ecumenical Patriarchate's international status as the spiritual home of the world's oldest and second largest Christian Church including more than 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide. Moreover, the Government of Turkey has limited to Turkish nationals the candidates available to the Holy Synod of the Greek Orthodox Church for selection as the Ecumenical Patriarchate and reneged on its agreement to reopen the Theological School at Halki, thus impeding training for the Orthodox clergy in Turkey.

This resolution calls on Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate by granting it the right to train clergy of all nationalities, not just Turkish nationals, and respecting the human rights and property rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Additionally, the resolution encourages Turkey to continue the achievement of processes and programs to modernize and democratize its own society and prove that it is ready to meet the criteria set forth by the Copenhagen European Council prior to its accession into the EU.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAJOR GENERAL DAVID F. WHERLEY, JR., DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NA- TIONAL GUARD RETENTION AND COLLEGE ACCESS ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a bill, the Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Act, NGRCA, to permanently authorize funding for a program that provides grants for higher education tuition to members of the D.C. National Guard. The NGRCA authorizes an education incentive program, recommended by the late