

in 1967 adjacent to the café and in 2003 Andrew's son John opened up a pizza parlor in the location that formerly held his mother's beauty salon.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the legacy of Hotz Café. For over 90 years, this establishment provided the Tremont community with a welcoming and hospitable environment for the community's enjoyment.

HONORING MS. BRIDGETTE DIXON THURMAN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many individuals who are called to contribute to the needs of our community through leadership and service; and

Whereas, Ms. Bridgette Dixon Thurman has answered that call by giving of herself as an educator at Dunaire Elementary, and as a beloved daughter, mother and friend; and

Whereas, Ms. Thurman has been chosen as the 2011 Teacher of the Year, representing Dunaire Elementary school; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents for the betterment of our community and our nation through her tireless works, motivational speeches and words of wisdom; and

Whereas, Ms. Thurman is a virtuous woman, a courageous woman and a fearless leader who has shared her vision, talents and passion to help ensure that our children, receive an education that is relevant not only for today, but well into the future, as she truly understands that our children are the future; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Bridgette Dixon Thurman for her leadership and service for our District and in recognition of this singular honor as 2011 Teacher of the Year at Dunaire Elementary School;

Now therefore, I, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. do hereby proclaim March 23, 2011 as Ms. Bridgette Dixon Thurman Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 23rd day of March, 2011.

IN HONOR OF THE PARMA PARK REFORMED CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Parma Park Reformed Church, also known as the "Church in the Woods," which will be closing its doors following fifty years of ministry.

The congregation of Parma Park Reformed Church began in 1960. They met in a local grade school until the Church in the Woods was constructed in 1962. Since then, the congregation has been deeply involved in the

community. The church offered Bible studies, Alcoholics Anonymous groups, and grief support groups. Community outreach projects included a meal program called "Pay it Forward" and a program in which the congregation's children sent gifts and correspondence to military units in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Church in the Woods has also been a popular location for private, intimate wedding ceremonies.

At the end of March, Parma Park Reform Church will host its final service. The congregation intends to continue its services through other nearby churches.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Parma Park Reform Church. Its presence will be sorely missed; however, I have no doubt that its mission will live on. We need only look to the words written on every Sunday worship bulletin: "Our Service has ended; our Worship continues."

WISHING OLIVER (OLLIE) SPERAW A HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor an old friend, Oliver (Ollie) Speraw, who on March 26, 2011 turned 90 years of age. Ollie has lived a life full of notable accomplishments where he became a captain of industry and a humble public servant.

Ollie grew up in Long Beach after moving there at a young age with his family from Minnesota. As a young man Ollie worked in a number of different trades and contributed to the early war effort, riveting P-38s, before finally coming of age to enlist in the Army Air Corps and serve during WW2. After returning home he entered the Real Estate Business, starting Sparrow Realty, and became one of the original pioneers of Century 21 Real Estate. Throughout his life, Ollie has been actively involved in his home town of Long Beach and the surrounding region, participating in multiple organizations such as the Long Beach Jaycees, Oceanside Chamber of Commerce and the Oceanside Rotary. In 1954, he began his first position in civilian public service as a member of the Long Beach Water Board, and served there until 1969. Ollie was inspired by Ronald Reagan, California's Governor at the time, and his message of an efficient, cost-cutting government. He subsequently volunteered for one of the Governor's citizen committees. Out of this inspiration, Ollie became more active in politics, which led him to become a Board Member on the 31st Senate District Republican Central Committee, of which I was also a member at the time. Ollie moved on to win his first election in 1979, where he joined the California State Senate and served there until 1984. While in the Senate he gained a reputation as a protector of the taxpayer who sought to make government leaner, effective and more efficient. Californians who have a little red organ donor sticker on their Drivers Licenses can be reminded daily of just a small piece of his legislative legacy.

Ollie served his country with honor in World War II, helped pioneer one of the largest em-

ployers in the Real Estate industry and has honorably served the people of California as one of their elected officials. It has been my pleasure to know Ollie Speraw and more importantly, to call him my friend. Please join me in wishing him a happy 90th birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES J. GNEW

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of James J. Gnew, a praiseworthy individual who has devoted his life to upholding the law and defending the lives and wellbeing of the citizens of Cleveland.

James' service to others began early in his life. In 1966, James joined the Army to serve his country in Vietnam. After leaving the Army, he joined the Cleveland Police Department, extending his service to the community at large. He was noted for his superb talents as an officer of the law and in 1978 he was chosen to be a part of a high risk tactical division which would eventually become the Cleveland SWAT team.

His tenure as a valued member of the SWAT team is filled with numerous achievements. Throughout his career he conducted over 400 high risk operations. One such incident occurred on January 4th, 1984. James led his team in successfully defusing a hostage scenario at Cleveland's Hopkins International Airport. James handled the situation exceptionally well. In recognition of his acts of heroism, he received numerous awards including a Silver Star, 3 Medals of Heroism, a Medal of Valor and the Ohio Tactical Officers Association Lifetime Achievement award.

James is also a caring husband and father. He loves his wife Cheryl dearly, and his three children are always in James' thoughts.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring James J. Gnew, whose life and legacy will always be cherished by the Cleveland community. James has been a diligent and vital asset to the Cleveland community and he will always be honored and remembered by those he serves.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. LANCE O. DIEHL

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mr. Lance O. Diehl of Millville being named the Columbia-Montour Council of the Boy Scouts of America's 2011 Distinguished Citizen.

Mr. Diehl is a longtime resident of Northeastern Pennsylvania. He graduated from Millville High School in 1984, and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Bloomsburg University in 1988. In 1990, he earned his Master's Degree in Business Administration from Lehigh University, and in 1993, he graduated from the Stonier Graduate School of Banking. In the past, Mr. Diehl has served on the

boards of the Bloomsburg Chapter of the American Red Cross, the United Way of Columbia County, and the Columbia-Montour Business & Educational Partnership. Currently, Mr. Diehl serves on the boards of the Millville Mutual Insurance Company, the Millville Community Alliance, and the Pennsylvania Bankers Association. He is vice chairman of the Columbia Alliance for Economic Growth, and the president and CEO of First Columbia Bank & Trust Co. and CCFNB Bancorp.

Mr. Diehl has always been dedicated to his community. In 1995, Mr. Diehl was the co-chair of the Little Fishing Creek Swimming Pool Renovations. In 1999, he was the co-chair of the Columbia County United Way Campaign. Mr. Diehl has always enjoyed coaching the youth of our community. He has held coaching positions with Millville Boys Varsity Basketball, Millville Boys & Girls Junior High Basketball, Millville Boys and Girls Elementary Basketball, Little League, and AYSO Soccer. Mr. Diehl is an active member of Millville United Methodist Church, serving on various committees and acting as a Sunday School teacher.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Diehl has been an active and dedicated member of our community. He has taken a role as a humanitarian and mentor. His service has helped many of his neighbors and guided many of our youth. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Lance O. Diehl on being named the Columbia-Montour Council of the Boy Scouts of America's 2011 Distinguished Citizen.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to call attention to a significant conflict of interest within the Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee (TPSAC)—a conflict that can and should cast doubt on its recent report to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding the effect of menthol cigarettes on the public health.

Last year, I submitted a statement for the Record referencing a Boston Globe article entitled “FDA Lax on Conflicts of Interest,” and I’m saddened to see that this problem continues to this day at the FDA. Since the FDA announced the nine voting members of TPSAC, questions have surfaced regarding financial and ethical conflicts of interest among several of the members. Rather than investigate the alleged conflicts and eliminate the shadow of doubt looming over the committee, the FDA has stood idly by as these conflicts have festered and threatened to undermine the very purpose TPSAC was formed to serve.

Several members appointed to TPSAC have substantial financial interests at stake in the decisions rendered by the Committee. One member is an active consultant to drug companies that manufacture smoking cessation products. Another member stands to make money on a patented new smoking cessation drug. Both of these members have also testified against tobacco companies in several legal proceedings. The conflicts could not be clearer.

Now, we find that TPSAC has, as many of the original skeptics predicted, released a recommendation that, short of an outright ban, nevertheless notes that “removal of menthol cigarettes from the marketplace would benefit the public health.” Rather than accept TPSAC’s report as an unbiased call to action, we are faced with the same controversy that should have been corrected more than a year ago.

The people deserve a government free from the appearance of impropriety. They have entrusted the members of this Chamber, as well as officials appointed within the Administration, to enforce the law even-handedly and to engage in policy decisions unencumbered by conflicts of interest, personal biases, or unethical predispositions.

The only solution is for FDA to reject the recommendation of TPSAC and appoint new, unbiased members to the committee in order to carry out the purpose of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. The FDA owes the people a fair and untarnished recommendation on this important issue and I call on the FDA to take appropriate measures to remedy TPSAC’s inane report and conclusions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GENERAL JAMES R. JOSEPH

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Major General James R. Joseph and congratulate him on his recent promotion to Assistant Adjutant General—Army, Pennsylvania, National Guard, Joint Force Headquarters, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Joseph, or “Jimmy Joe,” as I know him, enlisted as a soldier in 1971 to begin his military career. He graduated from basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and obtained his advanced individual training as a military policeman at Fort Gordon, Georgia. General Joseph completed a tour of duty in Vietnam, where he was assigned to the 716th Military Police Battalion. He finished his active duty tour at Fort Polk, Louisiana, with the 258th Military Police Company.

But General Joseph did not stop serving our country. He joined the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in 1974 and was assigned to be a combat engineer with Company C, 876th Engineer Battalion. Currently, General Joseph serves as the primary advisor to the Adjutant General for all joint logistics matters, including commodity and material management, property and personnel movement, storage and distribution, and defense movement coordination, including the acquisition and sustainment of unique equipment used by National Guard units in homeland defense, civil support, and counterdrug operations. He has oversight of the Eastern Army Aviation Training Site, 166th Regional Training Institute, and the Medical Battalion Training Site.

Mr. Speaker, General Joseph has dedicated his life to serving our country. His family has made sacrifices as he committed himself to protecting our freedom and keeping our citizens safe. His courage and commitment is something to be greatly respected and hon-

ored. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate my friend, “Jimmy Joe,” and I ask my colleagues to stand with me in honoring Major General James R. Joseph for his greatly deserved promotion to Assistant Adjutant General of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 804

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, in September 2010, Operation Iraqi Freedom was renamed Operation New Dawn.

To this effect, I introduced, H.R. 804, legislation that would ensure that military service in Operation New Dawn continues to be considered service in a theater of operations, for purposes of eligibility for veterans’ hospital and nursing home care and medical services through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Our nation’s brave men and women have fought together hand in hand in the war against terror, and many of them are experiencing multiple and extended deployments in support of Iraq and Afghanistan.

When they return home, we must make certain that veterans would not be denied access to certain programs because of the way the law is currently written.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

OVERREACHING ACTIONS OF FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, while being later to the effort than my good friend Congressman RON PAUL, many of you know that I have long expressed concerns about the sometimes overreaching actions of federal law enforcement, especially as they interact with American citizens.

Most law enforcement officials in this country are highly ethical with a strong desire to serve the effort to keep our country and our communities safe. Unfortunately, as in any profession, there are some people who do not uphold those standards.

Those concerns are a principal reason why the Bill of Rights was passed. Those concerns should also hold a primary place in our thinking as we vote on legislation.

This issue came closer to home for me as two constituents, one a U.S. citizen, were arrested by federal law enforcement officials this month, accused of violating a law that doesn’t exist. My office attempted to get information about their arrest. We were denied information about which agency had arrested them, where they were being held, and the charges against them.

All of the charges against them were dropped just eight days later after a federal judge reviewed the evidence and determined that no crime had been committed. The cost to my constituents was in the tens of thousands of dollars. They are still being threatened with the forfeiture of property.