

I extend my deepest congratulations to Juan Gonzalez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OPPORTUNITY  
AND RESULTS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 30, 2011*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the so-called "Scholarship for Opportunity and Results Act" H.R. 471. Private school vouchers are not an effective way to improve student achievement.

I do not support private school voucher programs. Not only do these programs sometimes blur the line between church and state, but there is also little evidence that this type of reform actually helps students. In fact, I am very concerned that vouchers do nothing more than drain money out of our public school system, especially from the schools that need the most financial assistance from the federal government.

In 2004, I opposed the creation District of Columbia's private school voucher program and I have repeatedly voted against proposals to use federal funds to support voucher programs. H.R. 471 seeks to bring back to life a failed voucher program that Congress has already voted to end.

The bill before us today would spend another \$100 million on a program that the evidence tells us does not work. Four separate U.S. Department of Education reports found that that the DC voucher program had no statistically significant effect on reading or math achievement. So why are we spending more today when the evidence is clear? We must not put ideology ahead of evidence. We must make decisions after weighing the evidence. If you do that, then you will oppose new funding for private school vouchers.

Further, this bill does nothing to help American students in the other 50 states. Parents, teachers, students, and school officials across New Jersey want to know what we are doing to address their needs. Why are we only talking about students in the District of Columbia?

I will continue to voice my opposition to this and other voucher programs that divert needed resources from our public schools and urge rejection of this measure.

IN SUPPORT OF THE COLORADO  
HUMANITIES

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 31, 2011*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Colorado Humanities. The Colorado Humanities and State Humanities councils offer programs in every congressional district in this country. These programs strengthen individuals, families and communities. Councils support K-12 education, family

reading programs, local heritage initiatives, veterans programs, public discussion forums, online state encyclopedias, book festivals, documentaries, lectures, library and museum exhibits, professional development and more. Without these programs many schools and small museums would go without essential educational programs.

The funding for these programs is possible through the National Endowment for the Humanities. Some have suggested the termination of the National Endowment for the Humanities. All of the participating councils stretch federal dollars by diligent fiscal management, strategic collaborations and leveraging of resources at the local level. Some of the programs including the online state encyclopedias can help generate revenue by providing an important resource for state tourism. Without federal funding councils could potentially lose the matching and in kind donations they use to double the federal funding they receive. The lack of federal support affects the future donation by private companies and donors. In 2010, the state councils used their funding to leverage \$5.15 for every federal dollar awarded in grants, worked with 9,600 partner organizations and conducted programs in 5,700 communities nationwide.

The Colorado Humanities is an innovative leader, community resource and important partner for humanities programs. The Colorado Humanities is the only statewide organization exclusively dedicated to support humanities education for adults and children. They developed 57 unique programs and awarded 1504 grants in its 36-year history to support humanities education for adults and children. There are three annual community Chautauqua festivals, the Young Chautauqua history curriculum for K-12 students and the distribution of Colorado history documentaries to school and public libraries statewide. The Colorado humanities also provide schools with student writing competitions, the Colorado Book Awards, traveling exhibitions and numerous institutes for teachers.

The termination of NEA funding would impact numerous schools and museums in Colorado and the 7th Congressional District would lose multiple educational programs. Our nation's schools and museums already face budgetary cuts on the state level. Colorado Humanities demands little funding, practices diligent fiscal management and is staffed almost entirely by volunteers. The cuts proposed would eliminate an important program for all Colorado residents.

HONORING THE MARIN  
INDEPENDENT JOURNAL

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 31, 2011*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the sesquicentennial of the newspaper now known as the Marin Independent Journal. The publication's predecessor was first published on March 23, 1861, as a weekly chronicle of life in our unique corner of California. Marin County has changed a great deal in the 150 years since, but the enterprising and independent spirit of our people remains, and we are privileged that the IJ has been with us to capture it.

The IJ traces its roots back to our first local newspaper, the Marin County Journal, which in 1861 served a population of only a few thousand residents. It was a time when bears and mountain lions were still hunted in Marin hills, when the recipients of Mexican land grants still ran their own properties, and when the United States was just beginning its Civil War. The local paper covered it all with a particular taste for local news, culture, and opinion. In our sparse and isolated county, the newspaper was the voice for a community. In 1948, the Marin County Journal merged with the San Rafael Independent to form the Marin County Independent Journal, the county's premier daily ever since.

The story of the IJ is in many ways the story of Marin itself. The newspaper was there to report on Marin's iconic landmarks as they were first being built, from the celebrated Point Reyes and Point Bonita Lighthouses in the 1870s to Sausalito's Casa Madrona in the 1880s, the Golden Gate Bridge in the 1930s, and Frank Lloyd Wright's Civic Center building in the 1960s. The newspaper was there to capture local reactions to the crises our county has weathered, from the great earthquake of 1906 to the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989, from the Mt. Tamalpais fires of 1913 and 1929 to the New Year's floods of 2005.

The IJ also reminds us of how little has changed over the decades. A community defined by its independent farmers and ranchers in the 19th century has been largely urbanized, but its soul still resides in the small-scale, environmentally conscious family farming that Marin County champions today. A community that was once literally cut off from the rest of the world has become one that is now passionately engaged, but with a perspective that remains fiercely independent.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Marin Independent Journal. It is an advocate for our county, a forum for our people, and a reflection of everything that has made Marin the place we treasure.

JOSSIE FERRIS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 31, 2011*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jossie Ferris for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jossie Ferris is an 8th grader at Arvada K-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jossie Ferris is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jossie Ferris for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE ATHLETIC  
ACHIEVEMENT OF JAMES GREEN

**HON. JON RUNYAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 31, 2011*

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of James Green. A senior wrestler at Willingboro High School, James Green won the 145-pound division of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) Wrestling State Championship Meet on Sunday March 6, 2011 at Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall.

James Green is the first wrestler in Willingboro High School history to win a NJSIAA Wrestling State Championship. Only 30 seconds into the championship match, James had his first take-down. He went on to have five more take-downs and a reversal in the second period, which enabled him to achieve this historic victory.

I would like to extend my congratulations to James for his tremendous hard work and discipline. I would also like to congratulate James on finishing his senior year undefeated, with a record of 29–0. James finishes his impressive high school wrestling career with a record of 146–8.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the achievement of James Green in capturing the 2011 NJSIAA Wrestling State Championship and finishing the year undefeated. I ask you to join me in thanking James' coaches and teammates, as well as the teachers and student body of Willingboro High School, members of the Willingboro community and most especially James' family in lending their support to this incredible student-athlete. I wish James continued success in all his future endeavors.

JORDAN NICKS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 31, 2011*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jordan Nicks for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jordan Nicks is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jordan Nicks is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jordan Nicks for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GEN-  
ERAL WALLACE "CHIP"  
GREGSON

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 31, 2011*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Lieutenant General Wallace "Chip" Gregson, a retired Marine, for his more than forty years of public service. He most recently served as the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs since 2009, and will leave this post on April 1, 2011. His contributions to our military's posture in the Asia-Pacific region and leadership on a wide variety of issues will be missed by many.

Before he retired from active duty in 2005, General Gregson served as Commanding General of Marine Corps Forces Pacific and Marine Corps Forces Central Command, where he managed more than 70,000 Marines and Sailors in the Middle East, Afghanistan, East Africa, Asia, and the United States. Prior to his command of Marine Corps Forces in Japan, he was Director of Asia-Pacific Policy in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. He has also served as the Chief Operating Officer for the U.S. Olympics Committee.

General Gregson graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1968, and received his first assignment the following year as a reconnaissance battalion officer in the Vietnam conflict. He later earned master's degrees in strategic planning from the U.S. Naval War College and international relations from Salve Regina College. He has also served as a military fellow for the Council on Foreign Relations, and was awarded an honorary doctorate in public service from the University of Maryland.

Throughout his career, the general's exemplary service earned him numerous awards and military decorations—including the Purple Heart. In his recent position with the Department of Defense, General Gregson recognized the strategic importance of Guam, indeed the entire region to our nation's economic and political security. He was a vanguard in leading efforts within the Department of Defense to address the needs of Guam so that the realignment of Marines from the III Marine Expeditionary Force from Okinawa, Japan is successful. He also immediately worked within the Department of Defense to address glaring issues with the realignment roadmap that could have been detrimental to the readiness of U.S. Marines in the Asia-Pacific region.

Further, General Gregson was instrumental in the development of the "Green Guam" concept which aims to conduct the realignment of Marines in an environmental responsible manner. Further it seeks to develop long-term economic and environmental sustainability benefits from this action. I also appreciated his efforts to provide a responsible framework in the most recent Quadrennial Defense Review to address broader training issues for all servicemen and women in the Pacific. I look forward to working with his predecessor and U.S. Pacific Command to continue addressing these matters.

General Gregson distinguished himself as an exceptional leader during his career in the Marines and as an Assistant Secretary of De-

fense. His commitment and dedication will be remembered for many years to come. I trust my fellow members of the House will join me in wishing the very best to the good general, his wife Cindy, and their two sons, on their future endeavors.

TRINITY OXFORD CHURCH IN  
NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA, PA  
CELEBRATING ITS 300TH ANNI-  
VERSARY YEAR

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 31, 2011*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the momentous 300th anniversary of the Trinity Church Oxford, one of the oldest churches in the United States, constructed in 1711 in what is now the Lawncrest neighborhood of Northeast Philadelphia.

The church's congregation pre-dates the building. A marble stone in the west wall of Church states that Church of England services were first held on the site in 1698 in a log meeting house that belonged to the Oxford Society of Friends. The Church still has in its possession the original land conveyance deed dated January 30, 1700. Queen Anne of England presented a solid silver communion chalice to the Church in 1713.

While small in physical dimensions, Trinity Church Oxford carries a rich history of rectors related to some of the most beloved people and institutions in our local and national history, including:

Rev. Aneas Ross (rector 1742–1758), the father-in-law of Betsy Ross and the brother of George Ross, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Rev. Dr. William Smith (rector 1766–1779, 1791–1798), who helped found the University of Pennsylvania

Rev. John Hobart (rector 1798–1801), who became bishop of New York in the new Protestant Episcopal Church formed after Independence and founded Hobart College.

Rev. Edward Buchanan (rector 1854–1882) who was the brother of President James Buchanan. The church school is named in his honor.

Frank Furness, acclaimed American architect who designed additions to the church in the mid-19th Century, decorated with Tiffany windows and elaborate woodwork.

At first tied to the Church to England, after independence Trinity's rectors helped to organize the Diocese of Pennsylvania of the new Protestant Episcopal Church and the church was admitted to its Convention in 1786.

As our nation grew and became more industrialized, Trinity Church Oxford welcomed industrialists and working class families to its congregation. A neighborhood that began as farmland and homes for gentry developed into a residential community for working people. With a parish house added in 1928 and a community center in 1962, Trinity Church Oxford holds true to its religious precepts of service, today housing a childcare center and hosting the Philadelphia Police Athletic League.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the generation of rectors