

Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee, Aligning Forces 4 Quality Care Leadership Team, and Timber Heritage Museum Advisory Council. She has also previously served on the North Coast Regional Land Trust Advisory Council, Humboldt Child Care Council, Women's Resources For Work Board, and the North Coast Pro-Choice Pac Board. In 1988, Liz was selected as Democrat of the Year by the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee.

Liz is fortunate to be surrounded by a large circle of loving family and lifelong friends. She shared 30 years with the great love of her life, her late husband Sef, with whom she shares four children, Todd, Dana, Adam, and Michael, and nine grandchildren. Liz has a deep appreciation for the arts and music, and is known for her warm and welcoming nature as a hostess of frequent dinner parties, as well as being a passionate gardener, how she spends much of her time.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge Elizabeth Okerstrom Murguia for her 35-plus years of dedicated service and extend our best wishes for a well-deserved retirement. She will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING THE 2010–2011 CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR 500 HOURS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY—SEAN WHITNEY

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2011*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and privilege to inform the Members of the United States House of Representatives that the students of the 2010–2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council, CYAC, from the Third District of Texas have completed a total of 500 community service hours, fulfilling and far-surpassing the requirements of their assigned CYAC in the Community service project.

This year 46 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 10 through 12 made their voices heard by joining CYAC. As the Third District's young ambassadors to Congress, these bright high school students met with me on a quarterly basis to discuss current events and public policy. These impressive young people recognize an important truth: the heart of public service is found when giving back to the community. CYAC students volunteered their time and talents with over 30 organizations including Adopt-A-Highway, Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Teen Court, and the USO, to name a few. As one student shared, "CYAC in the Community has allowed me to realize my calling to serve those in the U.S. Armed Forces." I am beyond thrilled that CYAC has helped students unleash their full potential and chase their dreams.

President George H.W. Bush once said, "A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens—citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization."

With this statement as a benchmark, I am proud to congratulate the members of the 2010–2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council for showing themselves to be outstanding young citizens of this nation. It is my privilege to submit summaries of their work to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to be preserved for posterity and antiquity. To these young public servants, thank you, and keep up the great work! I salute you!

A copy of each submitted student summary follows:

For my mandatory service project, "CYAC in the Community," I had the distinct privilege of serving my community both physically and intellectually. Specifically, I, on behalf of the Frisco Blackbird Squadron of The Civil Air Patrol, was a road guard for Frisco's annual Gary Burns Fun Run as well as a tutor for many of my fellow peers. My intellectual service presented itself in the form of tutoring. During what was, for many, the most stressful time academically of the whole year, I was repeatedly asked to help the struggling with certain tough concepts. I gladly agreed and spent time that I could have used to study for my tests in order to prepare them. My physical service was given in the name of the entire community in the form of the City of Frisco's 11th Annual Gary Burns Fun Run. By setting up barriers, managing the obstruction-free race route, and controlling the restless spectators, I was able to contribute to Frisco's biggest event and one of the nation's largest "fun runs." Additionally, I learned that the nature of servant leadership necessitates actively looking for needs in the community or in an individual.

—Sean Whitney

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAVID LOESACK**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2011*

Mr. LOESACK. Mr. Speaker, I mistakenly cast my vote on rollcall vote No. 209 on Representative DEFAZIO's Amendment No. 9 to H.R. 658 as a "no" vote. I intended to cast an "aye" vote on this measure.

RECOGNIZING ROGER KIRWIN

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2011*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Roger Kirwin of Everett for being named Bedford County's Historian of the Year for 2011 by the Bedford County Historical Society.

Mr. Kirwin is commended for his efforts in preserving, protecting, and documenting the history and heritage of Bedford County and its people.

The Historian of the Year Committee selected Roger in recognition of his contributions to the historical programs at Old Bedford Village. Throughout his term as Executive Director he enhanced many of the already existing programs and added many new programs to the Village's calendar.

Roger has helped provide resources for educational programs for use by local schools.

He also routinely takes educational materials to schools in the county to make presentations on various topics of interest in the county. Roger has often provided programs for senior citizens, civil groups, and organizations such as the Rotary Club, Lions, churches and Scouts.

These events have always been exceptional and well-received by locals and the many tourists who come to participate. Not only did he plan these events, but he has been a part of the many re-enactments and programs.

Roger's visits to the schools and youth organizations of Bedford County to educate young people on county history are greatly appreciated.

Mr. Kirwin's enthusiasm for the history and heritage of Bedford County is admirable and I commend him for his efforts.

HONORING FISHER/NIGHTINGALE HOUSES

**HON. STEVE AUSTRIA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2011*

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the constituents of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District to recognize and celebrate the grand opening of the new Fisher House located on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Ohio.

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is the birthplace, home, and future of aerospace, but most people are not aware that it is also the birthplace of compassionate care housing in the Department of Defense. The base opened the Nightingale house in May of 1990 by converting a base house, making it the first compassionate care house in all of DoD.

In 1991, Zach and Elizabeth Fisher were asked to build one Ronald McDonald type house at Bethesda Naval Medical Center, Maryland. What started as a request to build one house has blossomed into a network of 53 compassionate care locations world-wide. Although both Zach and Elizabeth have passed on, their legacy continues today through their nephews and grandnephews.

The Wright-Patterson AFB Fisher and Nightingale Houses provide an opportunity for wounded, injured, and ill military men and women and their families to stay together and support each other while undergoing medical treatment. Guests do not pay for their stay in one of the homes. Furthermore, each house has a wonderful staff and volunteers who provide loving support and ensure all of their needs are met. In 2010, the two Wright-Patterson AFB houses assisted more than 600 families from all branches and components of our Armed Forces, and more than 10,000 families since the opening of the first home nearly 22 years ago.

The new Fisher home opening today is a 10,000 square foot single story home, with 12 bedrooms, 12 handicapped accessible bathrooms, formal living room, large family room, large kitchen and dining room, and expanded laundry facilities. This new home will give Wright-Patterson an additional 1,460 bed nights a year, bringing the entire capacity to 7,665 bed nights a year.

Thus, today I ask my colleagues to join me and the constituents of the Ohio's Seventh Congressional District in celebrating the grand

opening of Wright-Patterson AFB's new Fisher House and Compassionate Care Facility.

**RECOGNIZING THE 2010-2011 CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR 500 HOURS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY—JILL WALLER**

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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A copy of each submitted student summary follows:

For my volunteer work, I went to Truett Elementary School on three occasions. During my time there, I got to work with underprivileged kids in their after-school program, because many of the children have working parents who cannot pick them up from school until 2 hours after the school day ends. Depending on the day and time, I would help with homework for the day, do arts and crafts, and play with the kids on the playground. Each time, I made friends with the kids and helped them in some way or another, whether it was walking with them to the bathroom or teaching them how to do their math homework. Much of the after-

school program is run by volunteers, and without all of us the teachers would not be able to have as many activities for the children or be able to control all of them. This experience showed me how well I had it as a child, as well as how young children in our community need people to look up to and help them. I plan on going back to Truett at least once a week if I can, and continuing to help all of the children with their work.

—*Jill Waller*

**RESTORING GI BILL FAIRNESS ACT OF 2011**

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2011*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, I have introduced the Restoring GI Bill Fairness Act of 2011.

This bill will temporarily authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, to pay tuition and fees on behalf of eligible veterans attending non-public education and training institutions in an amount that is the greater of \$17,500, or the maximum in-state rate for undergraduate tuition and fees in effect on October 27, 2010.

Mr. Speaker, this temporary change would prevent students who have already enrolled in non-public schools from experiencing a reduction in tuition and fees paid by VA on their behalf due to changes made under Public Law 111-377, the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010.

Under the original Post 9/11 GI Bill passed in 2008, the maximum tuition and fees paid to any school—public or private—was equal to the highest in-state rate for undergraduate tuition and fees. Most students attending private institutions in a few states with high public school tuition and fees like New York, Michigan, and Texas receive more assistance under the state-based formula than they will beginning next August under the \$17,500 per year cap required by Public Law 111-377. Such was the expectation of those who enrolled in private schools before the changes were made. I believe it is only fair to "grandfather" those veterans who, through no fault of their own, were adversely affected.

I am pleased to note that this bill is fully paid for in compliance with House rules. The offsets required by this bill are preliminarily estimated to be about \$105 million and will be covered by a temporary, short-term freeze in the monthly Post 9/11 GI Bill housing stipend amounts at the current level for a period of 30 months beginning August 1, 2011. After that period, the monthly housing stipend will be restored to the full rate in effect at that time.

Mr. Speaker this is a temporary, but important fix to the GI Bill that will benefit hundreds of veterans in several states and I encourage all Members to cosponsor the bill.

**IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM**

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2011*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the threat posed by a nuclear armed

Iran poses an unacceptable risk to the United States and our close ally Israel.

It is clear that Iran is not pursuing a purely civilian nuclear program, but rather one that is designed to further their ability to access and utilize nuclear weapons. This is supported by our country's military and intelligence leaders. Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Michael Mullen said he doesn't believe "for a second" that Iran's nuclear program is for civilian use. While Director of Intelligence James Clapper testified to Congress that Iran is developing "various nuclear capabilities that better position it to produce such weapons."

Yet, Iran's nuclear program continues unabated.

With enough low-enriched nuclear material to produce three nuclear bombs, Iran could be at most two or three years away from a nuclear weapon. They are also developing the capacity to stockpile highly enriched nuclear material.

Quite simply, United States policy must remain focused on preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. I believe that sanctions remain the best tool at our disposal to peacefully persuade Iran to abandon its reckless defiance of international law.

While existing sanctions from the U.S. and the international community had achieved a crippling effect on the Iranian economy, I believe that our sanctions should be tougher to keep pressure on the Iranian leadership. This includes sanctioning foreign banks and energy companies.

The choice is ours: we must continue to engage the international community and do everything in our power to protect our vital ally Israel.

**RECOGNIZING REV. CHARLES L. CURRIE, S.J.**

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2011*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to a dear friend, Rev. Charles L. Currie, S.J., on his retirement from the presidency of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU).

For over four decades, Father Currie has served as a tireless advocate of independent higher education. His passion and dedication have had a tremendous influence on the lives of countless students through his multiple roles as an educator, spiritual leader, and humanitarian. A true renaissance man, Father Currie has personified the AJCU mission of leading a meaningful life of leadership and service.

A product of the Jesuit system, Father Currie earned degrees from Fordham University, Boston College, and Woodstock College, as well as a doctorate in physical chemistry from the Catholic University of America. Following his post-doctoral studies at Cambridge University, Father Currie went on to serve as a noted faculty member at Georgetown University before serving as president of Wheeling College (1972-1982) and Xavier University (1982-1986). At Wheeling and Xavier, his vision and leadership placed an emphasis on the importance of academic quality, effective