

members remain a vibrant part of parish life to this day. The parish relocated to the existing church 40 years ago in 1971. Currently there are 230 families that make their spiritual home at St. George Orthodox Church. Despite the diversity of cultures among the parishioners, the Church members are united in their Orthodox Faith rooted in Apostolic Succession.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Father Joseph Abud, the parishioners, clergy, staff, and friends of St. George Orthodox Church for 75 years of worship, fellowship, and inspiration. May God continue to bless the parish with enthusiasm and spiritual growth for many, many years to come.

VIVIAN FIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL  
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF EDUCATION

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2011*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Vivian Field Middle School. As a former student of Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD, it gives me great satisfaction to recognize Vivian Field Middle School for its five decades of educational excellence.

In 1960, Tom Field, a former county commissioner and staunch supporter of public education, donated 7.5 acres of land to Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD for a new school. Mr. Field, however, had one requirement of the school district: the new school had to be named after his wife, Vivian. The school district honored his wish and constructed Vivian Field Junior High School.

Vivian Field Junior High School opened in the fall of 1961. The school consisted of the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. The main building was structured with three wings which were connected by a gymnasium on the southeast side and a cafeteria on the west side. In 1969, to accommodate its growing student body, Vivian Field Junior High School constructed an additional wing, providing a formal entrance and additional classrooms. Since opening, the school has changed its name to Vivian Field Middle School to better reflect the grades and programs.

Today, Vivian Field Middle School has approximately 900 students across three grades. The middle school has been honored by the Texas Education Agency as a "Recognized" school from 2005 to 2010, and has been commended on the State and National level for continually providing an outstanding education for its students.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the administrators, teachers, and students of Vivian Field Middle School for its five decades of exemplary education in our community.

LYDIA AGEDE

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2011*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lydia Agede for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Lydia Agede is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Lydia Agede 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 Lydia Agede 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.

TRIBUTE TO USMC MASTER  
SERGEANT FRANK MASON

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2011*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, every so often, the heroism of America's greatest generation is relived through personal accounts, ceremony and celebration. It was these Americans who lead our nation to victory in Europe and the Pacific during World War II, and then returned home to build an economy and set the gold standard for future generations to not only admire, but to follow.

One of these great Americans, Marine Corps Master Sergeant Frank Mason, is celebrating his 90th birthday, a significant milestone that encompasses a lifetime of service and sacrifice. Frank's story, starting with his childhood and carrying through his career in the Marine Corps, is truly inspiring. And his courage as a prisoner of war following the fall of the Philippines is an example of the same American selflessness and fighting spirit that continues to motivate the men and women of the Marine Corps, and every other American who understands that freedom comes at a cost.

Seeing both an obligation of duty and opportunity in the Marine Corps, Frank enlisted in the Marines in 1937 at 17 years of age. Frank was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment and, after a year in Hawaii, he joined the Battalion in Shanghai, China—Oa part of the world that, outside of books and maps, was unfamiliar to most Americans—until the threat of a Japanese attack forced the evacuation of all American troops on November 28, 1941—days before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Frank's next stop was the Philippines, where the Marines would soon put up a valiant fight against a determined and relentless Japanese enemy committed to fighting until the last man.

The Philippines was a strategic asset for both the U.S. and the Japanese during World

War II. And the Island of Corregidor was the culmination of the Japanese campaign for the Philippines. It was on Corregidor that Frank and others, cornered and outnumbered, endured multiple waves of attacks. They held their ground. The fighting intensified until Japanese tanks went into action and stacked the odds against the Marines on the Island.

Many were wounded, and under fear that Japanese landings would continue overnight, General Jonathan Wainright made the decision to surrender.

General Wainright's famous words to President Roosevelt provide a clear window into the conditions facing Marines on Corregidor, saying "There is a limit of human endurance, and that point has long passed." On May 6, 1942, the Corregidor garrison, with two officers sent forward with a white flag, surrendered to the Japanese.

Frank's account of these events aptly reflects the attitude of a Marine rifleman. An attitude, in fact, that reflects the tradition and honor of the Marine Corps to this day. Franks asserts that, "we never surrendered. We were ordered to stop fighting."

Frank was put on a "hell ship" and transported to Japan with other Prisoners of War, where he was starved and nearly worked to death in a nickel and lead mine for over three years. Still, Frank did not lose his spirit or his desire to live. With some incredible fortune and personal resourcefulness, Frank survived. And when most people might say they've done their part and try restoring some normalcy to their lives, Frank made the conscious decision to stay in the Marine Corps. His extraordinary levels of experience, fortitude and resilience, would be needed yet again, this time in Korea.

Less than a decade after the World War II victory parades rolled through America, Frank's next test would come during the Korean War and the historic battle of the Chosin Reservoir—a badge of pride for the Marine Corps, which, once again, faced insurmountable odds against a formidable enemy. Frank showed that the right leadership and experience is invaluable, under even the most difficult and dangerous conditions.

It's impossible to quantify Frank's contribution to the nation, but what's certain is that there are only a few Americans whose experience and sacrifice compare to his. Frank is part of an elite class of Americans who deserve our unending appreciation.

It was Ronald Reagan who famously said, "Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have made a difference in the world. Marines don't have that problem." Mr. Speaker, I believe Frank is an example of the type of Marine President Reagan had in mind. Frank made a difference and we are all thankful for his service.

On the occasion of his 90th birthday, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Master Sergeant Frank Mason—a true American hero.

LIZBETH BLANCO-RAMOS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2011*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lizbeth Blanco-Ramos for receiving the Arvada Wheat

Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Lizbeth Blanco-Ramos is a 12th grader at Warren Tech North and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Lizbeth Blanco-Ramos 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 Lizbeth Blanco-Ramos 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.

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HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT  
MAJOR ROBERT VAN PELT

**HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2011*

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people in New York's 20th District to express our sincere appreciation for the dedication and sacrifices of one of our own, Command Sergeant Major Robert Van Pelt.

CSM Van Pelt selflessly and courageously served in the United States Army between March 1969 and December 1971, after which he joined the New York National Guard. During his time in both the Army and National Guard, CSM Van Pelt served a vital role as a Fixed Station Autodin Technical Controller and NCO in other units related to Signal corps operations. He served with distinction and honor and achieved the impressive rank of Command Sergeant Major of the NY Army National Guard in 1991. During this period, CSM Van Pelt served in the Vietnam War, most notably in the First Signal Brigade in Phu Lam, Republic of Vietnam and earned numerous medals and commendations, including Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Vietnam Service Medal with one star, and the Humanitarian Service Medal, among many others.

Outside of this service, CSM Van Pelt also achieved many other milestones, including completing Advanced Signal NCO Course Phase 2 at Ft. Gordon, GA, and the USA Sergeants' Major Academy, Class #37 at Ft. Bliss, TX, as well as receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree at State University of New York. In addition, he has been happily married for almost 40 years to his wife, Deborah, with whom he has two daughters, Stephanie and Sandra. He continues his professional advancement through the electrical industry as an Instrumentation and Controls supervisor and his membership in IBEW Local Union #25.

It is an honor to know that such impressive and dedicated men and women like CSM Van Pelt are willing to sacrifice so much in the name of freedom. It is even more moving that my family and I have the privilege of their protection in our home state and district. I thank CSM Van Pelt and his family for their service.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT  
"BOB" FLETCHER, JR.

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2011*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Robert Fletcher, Jr. for his commendable service to Sacramento Japanese-American families during World War II and his work in the Sacramento community.

Bob Fletcher was born on July 26, 1911 in San Francisco, California to Robert Fletcher, Sr. and Olive Barkley. Following his upbringing in Redwood, Bob attended the University of California, Davis, where he received a degree in Agriculture Science in 1933.

Following his graduation from UC Davis, Bob worked as a state fruit and vegetable inspector at various locations, including the Florin Train Station, where he became friends with several local Japanese-American farm owners. In 1940, Bob became the director of the Sacramento County Farm Bureau.

After the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor and the subsequent internment of Japanese-Americans, Bob quit his job as a state agriculture inspector and took control of three Japanese-American family farms belonging to the Tsukamotos, Nittas and Okamotos. He farmed the 90 acres of land until they returned home in 1945, when he returned their land to them and split half the profits.

Bob's desire to improve his community continued, and, in 1953, he helped form the Florin Fire Protection District, a local volunteer fire department at which he served as a volunteer Assistant Chief for 20 years, then served as the Chief for an additional 12 years. He retired in November of 1974.

In October of 1959, Bob helped found the Florin County Water District, to protect the water rights of local farmers and provide clean water to the community. After more than 40 years, Bob continues to serve as a board member to this day.

In 1985, Bob helped form the Florin Historical Society, and donated five acres of his land to build the Florin Community History Center and adjacent park, to preserve the history of the Florin community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Robert Fletcher, Jr. for his meritorious work in the Sacramento community, his ability to look past racial barriers and help save the farms of three Japanese-American families, and his more than 80 years of outstanding civil service. I ask all my colleagues to join me in commending Bob Fletcher for his truly remarkable service.

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KAYLA TREJO

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2011*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kayla Trejo for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kayla Trejo is a 12th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kayla Trejo 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 Kayla Trejo 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.

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IN HONOR OF M. SHIRLEY AUSTIN,  
OF HOLBROOK, MA

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2011*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of M. Shirley Austin, in recognition of her outstanding civic contributions to Holbrook, Massachusetts, and to commend her for a lifetime of dedicated service to her community.

Shirley has dedicated over 45 years of loyal service to her town, beginning in 1966. For 39 of those years, she has tirelessly served Holbrook as Town Clerk. Shirley was first elected as Town Clerk in 1972, and has been elected in 13 consecutive elections over the 39 year time span.

During her distinct career, Shirley has been a continuous member of the New England Town Clerks Association, and served as the Association's Massachusetts representative. In addition, she was also a member of the Tri-County (Norfolk, Plymouth, Bristol) Town Clerks Association and continued her leadership as the organization's secretary.

An active participant in her community, Shirley has been a member of the Holbrook Town Democratic Committee for over 40 years. Her extensive and impressive resume also includes serving as a member of the Holbrook Rotary Club, a leader of the Holbrook Rotary Club's Student Government Day, and a Director for the Randolph Savings Bank.

Lastly and most importantly, Shirley has been a trusted advisor and mentor to the town of Holbrook, providing citizens with valuable and experienced advice for decades.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the Floor of the House today to join with Shirley's family, friends, and contemporaries to thank her for her remarkable civic service to her hometown of Holbrook, Massachusetts, and to the United States of America. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Shirley's distinguished career and in wishing her good health and success in all of her future endeavors.

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KAYLEEN LAWTON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2011*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kayleen Lawton for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.