

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Kayleen Lawton is an 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kayleen Lawton 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 Kayleen Lawton 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 CALIFORNIA STATE
SENATOR LONI HANCOCK

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of California State Senator Loni Hancock as we celebrate 40 years of her dedicated public service. Having served on local, state and federal levels of government throughout her career, she made history as the first woman elected to be Mayor of the City of Berkeley. Senator Hancock continues to be a celebrated, invaluable member of the California State Legislature, and we join together in praise of her remarkable contributions to the Bay Area, California, and beyond.

Raised on the East Coast, Loni Hancock received her B.A. from Ithaca College in 1963. After moving to Berkeley with her family upon graduation, she earned an M.A. in Social Psychology from the Wright Institute in 1978. Her four decades of advocacy for social justice, environmental protection, economic development and access to high-quality, affordable education and health care began with her involvement in the historical political movements of the 1960s and 1970s.

Like many involved in Berkeley's hotbed of political activism, Ms. Hancock's opposition to the war in Vietnam and her work championing racial justice and women's equality led her to community organizing. She was active in the Community for New Politics (which later became the Berkeley Coalition), Women for Peace, and Bay Area Women Against Rape.

In 1971, Loni Hancock began eight years of service as an elected member of Berkeley City Council. In that role, she had the opportunity to shape programs and policies that reflected the nation's burgeoning civic reforms, including affirmative action hiring of women and people of color, job and benefits restructuring for city workers, and the administration of parental leave, rent control, recycling programs and campaign finance reform. As a council member, she also successfully pushed to preserve the Berkeley marina and its surrounding wildlife from development.

From 1986 to 1994, she served two terms as the first elected woman Mayor of Berkeley, resulting in the city's urban renaissance and the revitalization of its downtown. During a tough economic climate, she balanced seven consecutive city budgets, forged innovative city partnerships with the school district and

led efforts to secure additional open space (including Ohlone Park and the East Shore State Park).

From there, she served President Clinton's administration as head of the Western Regional Office of the U.S. Department of Education, where she helped direct millions in federal funding to launch after-school, early reading preparation, college preparedness and career-to-school programs in California schools. She also oversaw a host of domestic volunteer programs as President Jimmy Carter's Regional Director for ACTION (the precursor of the Corporation for National Service).

In 2002, Loni Hancock began three terms representing the 14th District in the California State Assembly. She was elected to the California State Senate in 2008, and currently represents the 9th State Senate District. As a State Legislator, Loni Hancock has authored landmark legislation and provided leadership on important issues. Her work has led to policies that improve and preserve our public schools, invest in programs to prevent crime and reduce recidivism, provide multi-faceted protection of our environment and encourage increased efficiency and fair elections in state government.

On behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, State Senator Loni Hancock, I salute you. Your 40 years of public service have made an indelible mark in our community. Thank you for your continued work, and best wishes to you and your loved ones in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 2, 2011, I missed the rollcall vote No. 278 for unavoidable reasons.

Specifically, my direct flight from Little Rock, Arkansas, to the Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI) that was scheduled to depart at 10:40 a.m. (CDT) and to arrive at 2:05 p.m. (EDT) was delayed due to mechanical failure for approximately four hours and did not arrive until 6:15 p.m. (EDT) at BWI. Because of this delay I did not arrive at the Capitol until after rollcall vote No. 278 had concluded.

I would have voted as follows: Rollcall vote No. 278: "yea" (H.R. 1423, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 115 4th Avenue Southwest in Ardmore, Oklahoma, as the "Specialist Micheal E. Phillips Post Office").

MALOREY BOPP

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 Malorey Bopp for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Malorey Bopp 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 Malorey Bopp 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 Malorey Bopp 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.

HEMP HISTORY WEEK

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about Hemp History Week. To celebrate the American heritage of growing industrial hemp, the Hemp Industries Association, Vote Hemp, American manufacturers, and allied companies and organizations have declared May 2 to May 8, 2011 to be Hemp History Week. Throughout the week, people will recognize America's legacy of industrial hemp farming and call for reinstating respect for farmers' basic right to grow industrial hemp.

Industrial hemp was legally grown throughout our country for many years. In fact, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson grew industrial hemp and used it to make cloth. During World War II, the federal government encouraged American farmers to grow hemp to help the war effort.

Despite industrial hemp farming being an important part of American history, the federal government has banned cultivation of this crop. In every other industrialized country, industrial hemp, defined to contain less than 0.3 percent THC—the psychoactive chemical found in marijuana, may be legally grown. Nobody can be psychologically affected by consuming industrial hemp. Unfortunately, because of a federal policy that does not distinguish between growing industrial hemp and growing marijuana, all industrial hemp must be imported. The result is high prices, outsourced jobs, and lost opportunities for American manufacturing.

Reintroducing industrial hemp farming in the United States would bring jobs to communities struggling in today's economy, provide American farmers with another crop alternative, and encourage the development of hemp processing factories near American hemp farming.

Industrial hemp is used in many products. For example, industrial hemp is used in protein supplements, non-dairy milk, and frozen desserts. Hemp flour is in breads, crackers, chips, dips, and dressings. Hemp seeds may be eaten plain or added to prepared foods. Additionally, hemp oil is used in a number of cosmetic and body care products, and hemp fiber is used in cloths. Industrial hemp is also present in bio-composite materials used in buildings and automobiles.

I first introduced the Industrial Hemp Farming Act six years ago to end the federal government's ban on American farmers growing industrial hemp. Since then, the industrial