

the Highland Park School District, where she worked with at-risk youth and adults to ensure they were able to complete their primary education via alternative programs. In her time with the School District, Ms. Comiskey demonstrated strong leadership skills, developing the Job Club program, which aided high-risk students in their professional development. As part of this work, Ms. Comiskey developed an in-depth knowledge of substance abuse treatment and prevention programs, which has greatly aided in her work with the Troy Community Coalition, when she joined in 2002 as its Executive Director.

As a Troy resident, Ms. Comiskey's service to her community began long before she joined the Coalition. Her volunteer work includes involvement in the Troy Chamber of Commerce and the Troy Women's Association, of which she is a Lifetime Member. In recognition and appreciation of her volunteer advocacy within the community, she was selected as Troy's Distinguished Citizen in 2000. Additionally, she also serves on the advisory board for the Michigan Nonprofit Association and is Co-Chair of the Prevention Coalition of Southeast Michigan.

In her role as Executive Director of the Troy Community Coalition for nearly the last decade, Ms. Comiskey has continued to build on the Coalition's nationally recognized track record of substance abuse prevention in the community. Under her leadership, the Coalition has continued to bring all sectors of the Troy community together to promote positive social norms and implement programs to advocate for changes which create a stronger and healthier substance free community. With her strong stewardship of the Coalition, Ms. Comiskey has become nationally recognized within the substance abuse prevention community and in 2006 she was designated Advocate of the Year by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the invaluable contributions Ms. Comiskey has made to both the residents of Troy and the greater community of southeast Michigan. While I know she will be sorely missed by all who work with her, she will undoubtedly have many years of productive volunteer service to our community to come.

#### RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY OF REASON

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thursday, May 5, 2011 as the 2011 National Day of Reason.

The National Day of Reason, observed by millions of people in this country and around the world since 2003, celebrates the application of reason and the positive impacts it has had on humanity. Reason and rational discourse have the power to improve living conditions around the world and cultivate intelligent, moral, and ethical interactions among people.

Reason and rational thinking have made our country great. The Constitution of the United States of America is based upon the philosophies developed during the historical Age of Reason and the idea that citizens engaging in

rational discourse and decision-making can govern themselves. The Constitution also contains a strong separation of church and state, making it clear that government should continue to be built on reason.

Our nation faces many problems—ending two wars, creating jobs, educating our children, tackling our budget, and protecting our safety net. Although the gravity of these issues may drive many to prayer, the way we will solve them is through the application of reason.

The National Day of Reason is also about taking time to improve our communities—whether that means holding a blood drive or collecting items for the local food bank. It is also about ensuring that our government represents citizens of all beliefs and backgrounds.

I encourage everyone to join in observing this day and focusing upon the employment of reason, critical thinking, the scientific method, and free inquiry to the resolution of human problems and for the welfare of human kind. It is the duty and responsibility of every American to promote the development and application of reason.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. ROBERT FOULKROD

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mr. Robert M. Foulkrod, a writer, life coach, and spiritual awakening researcher who passed away on May 2, 2011.

Mr. Foulkrod was born on May 8, 1924 in State College, Pennsylvania. He eventually moved to Dover, New Hampshire where he attended high school. After high school, Robert served with the U.S. Army, climbing the ranks from private to sergeant. He later earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at University of New Hampshire in 1961. Upon completing his education, Robert again joined the armed forces and served with the U.S. Air Force as a lieutenant performing research on aircraft armament systems.

Robert had very successful careers in electronic engineering and career counseling. As a mechanical engineering section manager with Sanders Associates, Inc., Mr. Foulkrod researched, designed and produced several new technologies and systems. During his tenure as an electronic engineer Robert was a member of the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. After years as an electronic engineer, Robert changed careers and began working for Honeywell Computer Company as their hospital systems marketing manager. As marketing manager, he developed and performed inspirational training to hospital computer systems salespeople.

Later, Mr. Foulkrod would work as a career change counselor with Bernard Haldane Associates. He served as a personal coach to people aspiring to change career paths. In addition to his influence as a counselor, Mr. Foulkrod was a revered researcher in spiritual awakening. He dedicated years of his life to research and published several articles with the United States Psychotronics Association. He also authored a number of books on the

subject including Visit Boosting Friends and The Game of Awakening.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Mr. Robert M. Foulkrod, who served the country bravely and inspired many throughout his life. I offer my condolences to his life partner, Barbara Hero, three children, family, and friends.

#### HONORING MR. TOM BRIAN'S DISTINGUISHED CAREER

#### HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Tom Brian, former Chair of the Washington County Board of Commissioners. Chair Brian retired after 12 years with Washington County, Oregon, and more than 30 years of service to our community.

Tom embarked on an exemplary term as Chair of the Washington County Commission in 1998. Over the next 12 years, Tom spearheaded numerous projects, including the establishment of L.L. "Stub" Stewart State Park and the opening of the Westside Express Service (WES) Commuter line. Tom was a noted listener and consensus builder who focused on the needs of his constituents and worked tirelessly to address their issues. He approached his work with integrity and a true sense of dedication.

Tom's foresight helped make Washington County an attractive place to live and do business. His leadership on projects like the Scoggins Dam raise will be missed. Tom has encouraged and empowered his community to continue the work he started and I know his spirit of service will continue to inspire all citizens of Washington County.

Former Oregon Governor Tom McCall said, "Heroes are not giant statues framed against a red sky. They are people who say, this is my community, and it is my responsibility to make it better." Tom Brian truly is an American hero, for he has devoted much of his life to making his community better.

It is an honor to recognize Chair Brian for his service and for providing a heroic example to us all.

#### REMEMBERING FIRE CHIEF MATT AKER

#### HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the tragic loss of Fire Chief Matt Aker of Portland, Indiana.

Chief Aker began his career in public service as a volunteer with the Portland Fire Department in July of 1997. He joined the force full time in 2002, was appointed Assistant Fire Chief in 2005, and then served as Fire Chief.

Chief Aker's list of accomplishments and certifications are extensive and include: EMS-First Responders, Fire Inspector I and II, Fire Investigator I, Technical Rescue Awareness, Fire Officer I, Ice Rescue, Rope Rescue, Hazardous Material Incident Command, Hazmat

1st Responder Awareness and Operations, ECI Fools, American Heart Association CPR and AED, Chairman of Membership of IFCA, Adhoc with ceremonies at Emergency Conferences, Portland's Representative for DPC, District 6 Co-Chair for Fire Task Force Element and Jay County's Representative to Region 6 Fire Training Council.

He was also the Captain of the Jay County Sheriff Reserves, a member of Emergency Response Team, the Portland Rotary Club, the Portland Morning Optimists and the American Red Cross.

In the midst of such tragedy, let us pray for God's comfort for the Aker family and cling to the words of the Good Book which says that "in all things God works for the good." I offer this comfort and my deepest condolences to Chief Aker's wife Brooke; parents, Mike and Linda Aker; Grandmothers, Maxine Aker and Rosie Hutchens; two brothers, Brad and Chad Aker; sister, Lori Ferguson; and his nine nieces and two nephews.

#### LINDSEY BUXMAN TRIBUTE

### HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise and pay tribute to a young lady who has exhibited a desire to improve her community and empower the arts for future generations. Lindsey Buxman, of Pueblo, Colorado was one of 100 young people in the United States to be honored by the Prudential Spirit of Community Program for community service.

Lindsey Buxman, a student at Pueblo Centennial High School and an avid dancer, took it upon herself to create a fundraiser to restore the stage at Memorial Hall Theater. Lindsey brought her plan before Pueblo City Hall, and found that the whole theater was in danger of being torn down if enough money could not be raised for a complete renovation. This is when Lindsey decided that she was going to take action to make sure the total restoration of the Memorial Hall Theater would become a ballot initiative. Lindsey, with the help of fellow students and dancers, gave speeches and obtained signatures to ensure that an initiative to restore the theater made it on the ballot.

Lindsey Buxman has fully given herself to her community and her love of the arts, and in doing so she has shown exceptional leadership qualities.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the efforts of young Lindsey Buxman to enhance her community, and I encourage all of America's youth to follow her lead and get involved in their communities.

#### HONORING BARBARA ANN KAZEN

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of the late Barbara Ann Kazen, former President of the Bethany House in Laredo, Inc., a settlement house for the homeless and indigent in Laredo, Texas.

Mrs. Kazen served the community by dedicating herself to charitable, cultural and civic organizations.

Mrs. Kazen was born on January 3, 1941 in Abilene, Texas to Virginia Lee Lively and James Lee Sanders, a humble family of ranchers. She lived much of her life in Albany and Texarkana, Texas. She passed away surrounded by her close family and friends on March 15, 2011 after a courageous fight with cancer. She graduated from Texas High School in 1959 and continued her education at Texas Christian University and the University of Texas at Austin as a Latin and Ancient History major. She continued to pursue her interests in communication by attending Laredo Junior College to study journalism, languages, and Food and Beverage Management. At UT Austin, Mrs. Kazen met her husband, U.S. District Judge George B. Kazen. She is survived by her husband, children and grandchildren.

Mrs. Kazen's career is both a multifaceted and praiseworthy one. Her professional career includes working as a hostess and producer of the shows High Noon, Profile, and Consumer Report. She also served as director of catering and sales at both La Posada Motor Hotel and the Laredo Country Club. Most importantly, Mrs. Kazen's devotion to community, church and charitable work is truly commendable. She led Bethany House of Laredo, Inc. as president from 1996 until 2011; and also served as vice-president of the American Cancer Society. Moreover, she contributed to cultural and civic organizations such as the Laredo Civic Ballet Association, the Laredo Little Theatre, and Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center by serving on the Board of Directors at each of these institutions. She was also an active member of the Society of Martha Washington, a debutante presentation in Laredo, serving as publicity chair, historian, and second vice-president. She further illustrated her commitment to charitable work as a founding Charter Member of the Laredo Homeless Coalition and her dedication to the Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Mrs. Kazen was recognized by many organizations for her many contributions to the community. These recognitions include the American Cancer Society's "Award for Outstanding Service" in 1971, the Laredo March of Dimes "Lady of the Year" in 1978, and the Laredo Seven Flags Rotary Club's, "Paul Harris Fellow" in 2000. Her commitment to the city of Laredo was invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the late Barbara Ann Kazen. She proved herself to be indispensable for her dedication to charitable work and the betterment of the state of Texas and Laredo. Her example is an inspiration for us all.

#### CONGRATULATING HIGH SCHOOL ARTISTS FROM THE 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers. I rise

today to congratulate and honor a number of outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented students participated in the 2011 Congressional Arts Competition, "An Artistic Discovery."

Their works of art are exceptional.

Seventy-six young men and women participated. That is a wonderful response, and I would very much like to build on that participation for future competitions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the three winners of our art competition. First place was awarded to Andrea Ibarra from Ridge High School for her work, "Max." Second place was awarded to Grace Cheung from Ridge High School for her work, "Journey Through Equus." Third place was awarded to Rachel Fico from Madison High School for her work, "Within Reach."

Honorable Mentions were awarded to: Alexi Corham from Montville Township High School for her work, "Alter Ego;" Jacob DeBoer from Pequannock High School for his work, "Venison Stew;" Kasia Kalembe from Boonton High School for her work, "Gone But Still Here;" Lillian Thomann from James Caldwell High School for her work "The Metro."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize each artist for their participation by indicating their high school, their name and the title of their contest entries for the official RECORD.

Boonton High School: Kasia Kalembe, "Gone But Still Here;" Zenab Khan, "The Dreams Within A Dream;" Samantha Kutnik, "Packanack Lake, NJ;" Rosalita Smith, "America Works."

Bridgewater-Raritan High School: Nicole Thomas, "Bella."

Chatham High School: Zakary Blake, "Weight;" Antonia Chan, "Carnival of Hearts;" Brittany Leonard, "Nirvana."

Dover High School: Christian Aroca, "My Culture;" Gissell Gonzalez, "My Heritage;" Angela Perkins, "Celebration;" Ying Jing Zheng, "Pride Before Destruction."

Hopatcong High School: Jara Werner, "The Faces of Money."

James Caldwell High School: Angela Filan, "The Rebel Within;" Lillian Thomann, "The Metro."

Livingston High School: Christina Furman, "Never Forget;" Joanne Horng, "And then they invented satellites;" Kiley Mannion, "Freedom;" Danielle Stecki, "Faded Glory."

Madison High School: Amanda Evans, "Zen;" Rachel Fico, "Within Reach;" Amy Lando, "Buddy;" Vendela Larsson, "Chloe."

Millburn High School: Monica Carty, "Up Close Gallery;" Annie Dolan, "Edith & John;" Emily Draper, "Tidal;" Chanthia Ma, "Winter Solstice."

Montville Township High School: Dillon Chen, "42nd Street;" Alexi Corham, "Alter Ego;" Victoria Eng, "Indonesian Still Life;" Minjoo Kim, "Abandoned Sisters."

Morris Catholic High School: Gianna Riccardi, "Alice;" Jana Marie Cariddi, "I'm Alive;" Carissa Kelly, "Joe Ufer Goes to Say Anything;" Alexander Kuchta, "Safe Sex;" Ciara Mesevage, "Stressed."

Mount Olive High School: Sarak Berek, "Untitled;" Felix Izquierdo, "Japanese Dream;" Dia Saito, "Skyliner;" Lauren Wisnewski, "Subconscious."

Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child: Maclain Riccardi, "Oak Leaves;" Tian Mauer, "Room With A View;" Abigail Rollenhagen, "Sunken Ship."