

Parsippany Christian School: Jessica Carducci, "Love Is All Around;" Troy Costa, "A Mother's Love;" Austin Dimare, "Dream in Color;" Mariah Urban, "Mademoiselle."

Parsippany High School: Ashley Del Rio, "Untitled."

Pequannock Township High School: Stephanie Baryla, "Angry Man;" Rachel Ciavarella, "Red Peppers;" Jacob De Boer, "Venison Stew;" Emily Grimaldi, "Love is Just Another Weapon."

Pope John XXIII High School: Meredith Cahill, "Will you play with me?" Michelle Puglio, "Maura."

Ridge High School: Benjamin Callahan, "Survive;" Grace Cheung, "Journey Through Equus;" Andrea Ibarra, "Max;" Mike Sommer, "Not Today."

Roxbury High School: Jimmy Le, "Details in Lines;" Jonathan Melicharek, "One word spoken, one decision made, one life taken;" Ariel Mizrahi, "I'm Shattered;" Ashley Wolff, "C.C. Self Portrait."

Sparta High School: Jessica Ciona, "Blue Shoe;" Sydney Liebman, "Missy's Stare;" Meghan Salmeri, "Spring in Washington;" Stephen Vocaturo, "Montego."

Veritas Christian Academy: Ionela Corforte, "Complex Simplicity."

Watchung Hills Regional High School: Sophie Armenante, "Orchid;" Sofia Lizza, "Organic;" Lauren Merrill, "Great Swamp 2011;" Carolyn Thornton, "Avonlea."

West Morris Mendham High School: Carolyn Aluotto, "Crystal Cantata;" Genevieve Asselin, "Applause;" Dana Barlock, "Cradel Us;" Hannah Lang, "Ocean Treasures."

Whippany Park High School: Run Wang, "Secret Letters."

Each year the winner of the competition has their art work displayed with other winners from across the country in a special corridor here at the U.S. Capitol. Thousands of our fellow Americans walk through the exhibition and are reminded of the vast talents of our young men and women. Indeed, all of these young artists are winners, and we should be proud of their achievements so early in life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating these talented young people from New Jersey's 11th Congressional District.

NATIONAL TRAIN DAY RESOLUTION

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation supporting the goals and ideals of National Train Day. National Train Day is on May 7th and celebrates the long history and critical importance of rail in the United States.

In May 1869 the "golden spike" was driven into the final tie at Promontory Summit, Utah, ceremonially completing the first transcontinental railroad and therefore connecting both coasts of the United States. Suddenly, the country was united in a way it never had been and the sound of a train whistle was the soundtrack of happy reunions and tearful farewells. It heralded the arrival of mail, supplies and change. The train station became a focal

point of every community, from New York City's Pennsylvania Station to the tiny stations that dotted rural America.

Today, passenger and freight service are increasing dramatically, making this a perfect time to celebrate the strength of the railroad industry and passenger rail service in the United States. For many rural Americans, Amtrak represents the only major intercity transportation link to the rest of the country.

Indeed, Amtrak ridership and revenue have never been stronger. During 2010 Amtrak welcomed aboard more than 28.7 million passengers, the largest annual total in Amtrak's history. An average of more than 78,000 passengers rides more than 300 Amtrak trains per day.

We are experiencing a renaissance in passenger rail in this country, and if we want to keep up with our international competitors, we need to make a significant investment in passenger and high-speed rail. I've advocated for and support a dedicated source of funding for rail and would encourage the committee to include a minimum of \$50 billion dollars for high-speed and intercity passenger rail over the life of the bill. Compared to the funding levels in the overall bill and the money being spent in other countries on rail, \$50 billion is a drop in the bucket.

Although we have some very small thinking Governors, support for high-speed rail is still high. The FRA received more than 90 applications from 24 states, the District of Columbia, and Amtrak for the \$2.4 billion that Florida just gave up. The requests total nearly \$10 billion dollars.

Finally, I want to thank the hard working men and women who work at Amtrak and make it possible for millions of Americans to get to work, travel for business, and visit friends and relatives.

A TRIBUTE TO LILLIAN JOST ON THE OCCASION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor my constituent, Lillian Mohr Jost, who will be 100 years old on May 8th. She is a remarkable woman and a proud American who has lived through, and participated in, many of our nation's most important events over the last century. Ms. Jost grew up in New York City, where her father and grandfather built pipe organs, including the one for the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876. Thomas Edison recruited her uncle to refine the lead composition for his new invention, the phonograph. Ms. Jost remembers the glorious night in her childhood when electricity replaced the gas lamps on the streets of New York City.

When she was nine, she walked her mother (who was blind) to the polls for the first time—women having just that year gained the right to vote. Three years later, visiting Washington, D.C., with her parents, she read a small sign in a shop window that said, "The President has died of apoplexy." In the next few days, she witnessed the arrival at Union Station of the already-sworn-in President Calvin Co-

lidge and the solemn pomp of Warren Harding's presidential funeral.

Ms. Jost graduated from Vassar College in 1932 and went on to Columbia University to become a librarian—this service would become her life's work. A passionate American, she took up flying lessons when World War II broke out, with the goal of joining the Women's Army Air Corp. Although the War, and the need for women pilots, ended before she achieved her desire, she was inducted into the Ninety Nines, that illustrious group of female pilots founded by Amelia Earhart.

As a member of the Civil Air Patrol, Ms. Jost drove the Military Brass when they arrived in New York from the battle front to be debriefed. She met her beloved husband Elmer at a military ball of the Old Guard of the City of New York, where he, too, appeared in Civil Air Patrol uniform. Their love brought forth four daughters, 16 grandchildren, 26 great grandchildren and a growing number of great-great-grandchildren.

As she turns 100, Ms. Jost remains devoted to her country, her church, to America's parks and wilderness, and to animal causes everywhere. She continues to be optimistic about the future, and is always vigilant for new things to learn and new adventures on which to embark. She recently took up the practice of yoga; she is an avid solver of crossword puzzles; and she keeps vigilant watch over the deer and other wildlife that frequent the yard of her Fair Oaks, California, home. She truly embodies the best of the American spirit. Congratulations, Lillian Jost!

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF DARLENE JENSEN

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and work of Darlene Jensen, who passed away on April 13, 2011. Darlene was a legendary Tulare community leader. In fact, she was named Tulare Woman of the Year in 1993. For many people, Darlene was Tulare Woman of the Year, every year.

Darlene lived in Tulare her entire life. She was born on January 20, 1948, and attended Tulare Western High School and the College of the Sequoias before beginning a career in banking. She started at Security Pacific National Bank and worked for almost 20 years at the downtown Tulare branch of Wells Fargo, becoming a "Star Manager."

Many people will remember Darlene as the manager of Wells Fargo. But many more will remember her lasting contribution to the community of Tulare. At the time of her death, Darlene was president of the Tulare Improvement Board and vice-president of the Board of Utilities. For her public service, she was named Legislative Woman of the Year in 2001. She was also active in the St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Our Lady of Fatima Celebration, and past-president of the Lions Club.

This only begins to tell part of the story of Darlene's commitment to the people of Tulare. Her energy was prodigious. There were few groups, clubs, or events in Tulare in which Darlene was not in some way involved. They

all benefited from what has been called the "Darlene touch." For example, one of her favorite events was the downtown Tulare Christmas Tree Lighting, where she and her mother, Agnes, would cook upwards of 5,000 cookies to give away.

For 63 years Darlene Jensen represented the best of Tulare. Everyone she knew was affected by her commitment to public service and passion for Tulare. She leaves behind a legacy that will be hard to equal. The people of Tulare will miss Darlene for years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN FREE ADMISSION ACT OF 2011

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Smithsonian Free Admission Act, to reinforce 170 years of consistent Smithsonian policy of admitting the public to all permanent exhibits without charge. This policy has served the nation well. Families come to Washington to learn about their country through its public monuments and sites. While the private amenities here can be costly for the average family, Americans have looked forward to the free museums and other official offerings for generations. The Smithsonian's free admission policy reflects the intent of its founder, John Smithson, whose gift to the Federal Government carried the condition that the Smithsonian be established to increase the knowledge of the public, free of charge. The bill establishing the Smithsonian, introduced by Senator William C. Preston on February 17, 1841, stated explicitly that the Smithsonian would "preserve and exhibit with no fee" all works of art and science. This intent and tradition was interrupted without notice to Congress by the Smithsonian's Board of Regents with its casual comment that the Smithsonian would charge an admission fee for a permanent exhibit for the first time in its history, and on February 14, 2008, the Smithsonian opened the National Museum of Natural History's Butterfly Pavilion, a permanent exhibit, and instituted a fee for admission. Congress, of course, not the Board of Regents, should decide so basic a policy, especially when it departs from long-standing public policy. The admission fee for the Butterfly Pavilion sets a harmful precedent for future permanent exhibits, making it difficult to deny other Smithsonian entities from charging a fee and possibly encouraging other Smithsonian entities to structure their exhibits to fit the Butterfly Pavilion model.

The Butterfly Pavilion opened on February 14, 2008. Although the Smithsonian had previously charged fees for films and shows, the National Air and Space Museum's Planetarium, and the National Zoo's Christmas Lights special, the \$6 admission fee for the Butterfly Pavilion marked the first time an admission fee was charged for a permanent exhibit. My bill requires a report to Congress in advance of any proposed admission fees for permanent exhibits and requires the Secretary of the Smithsonian to submit a plan for funding the Butterfly Pavilion without an admission fee.

The Smithsonian Modernization Act, which I am also introducing today, addresses the Smithsonian's fundraising capacity by restructuring and expanding the Smithsonian's Board, from a board almost half of whose members are public officials to a board consisting solely of private citizens, who will have greater experience and fundraising capacity than public officials.

The Smithsonian Modernization Act and similar measures, not admission fees, provide the most realistic vehicles to raise funds for the Smithsonian without cost to the government or to the public. Admission fees can bring in only token amounts. According to CRS, the Smithsonian has long prided itself on "free access." Admission fees are not the answer for taxpayers, who have already paid through the Federal Government's 70 percent contribution to this public institution's annual budget. Federal taxpayers do not expect to pay again through an admission fee to a federally-financed institution.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF C.L. THOMAS, SR.'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY AS PASTOR OF ELIZABETH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to C.L. Thomas, Sr.'s 10th anniversary as pastor of Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church in Mathews, Alabama.

Calvin L. Thomas, Sr. is the youngest of nine children and is the fifth son of James and Anna Thomas. He had the privilege of growing up in a spiritual and loving home where discipline was taught, house rules derived from biblical lessons and mother-wit was put in place that required particular actions and reactions.

His employment began at Winn-Dixie Stores at the age of 16 and at age 21 he was promoted to Assistant Manager. At 22, he pursued a career as an insurance agent at North Carolina Mutual. At 25, he was promoted to District Sales Manager in charge of two large cities, Montgomery and Birmingham, and was one of the youngest to achieve this goal.

Calvin's desire was to have his own business, so in 2000 he started T & T Insurance Group. In 2007, he founded the Kingdom Investors where he serves as President and CEO.

He has served as Deacon and Chairman of the Deacon Board of the Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church. In 1999, God called him to the Ministry to preach at Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church in February 2001 and was installed as Pastor on May 6, 2001.

He attended Samford University from 2000–2003, receiving a certificate in Christian training and doctrine of the books of the Bible. He studied the Principles of Communication, Prayer and Righteousness and Sermon preparation and preaching at Fresh Anointing International School of Ministry.

I congratulate Mr. Thomas on his 10th year as the pastor of Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church and thank him for his service to the Mathews area.

ONGOING VIOLENCE IN SYRIA

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express deep concern about the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Syria. People all over the world have watched with awe as democratic movements in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya have risen up against autocratic and corrupt regimes. We have witnessed humanity at its best, as people have shown the courage and bravery to peacefully protest in the face of violence. We have also unfortunately witnessed humanity at its worst, as desperate governments have lashed out in an effort to preserve their rule.

The Syrian government has historically been one of the most repressive in the Middle East, so it should be no surprise that the Syrian people have protested the many abuses they are subjected to. Hundreds of those protesters have tragically been killed at the hands of Syrian government forces, and thousands more have been detained. The human rights violations of the Syrian government must be condemned and the Syrian people should be allowed to exercise their fundamental freedoms.

These recent violations, as well as the Syrian regime's longstanding record of infringing on human rights, should raise grave concerns that many nations have embraced Syria's candidacy to sit on the U.N. Human Rights Council. The Syrian regime lacks any moral authority to protect human rights and its election to the U.N. Human Rights Council would mock the rebuke it just received from the same institution. If the United States and other nations are serious about protecting human rights, we will block Syria from sitting on the U.N. Human Rights Council as long as the current government is in place.

BRETT STEARNS TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brett Stearns of Craig, Colorado. Mr. Stearns was an engine captain for the Bureau of Land Management and worked tirelessly to protect the natural beauty of Colorado.

It was while working in fire prevention at the Freeman Reservoir that he tragically passed away. He was, by all accounts, an excellent firefighter and his presence will be missed. Captain Stearns was an avid outdoor enthusiast from a young age and working for the BLM was a natural position for him. He worked hard to preserve the forests and open spaces of Colorado.

The Captain could often be seen running his favorite trail, which has since been renamed the Stearns Memorial Trail. It is a fitting tribute to someone so closely involved with his community and its outdoor recreation. The trail serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by those who protect our open land.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Captain Brett Stearns today. His impact on the