

congratulate the Committee on reaching its 50th year in existence, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring its work on behalf of the free people of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, the American citizens of Baltic heritage, and democracy for all of those still yearning to be free.

RECOGNIZING TOM BRIAN

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contribution to Oregon by my good friend Tom Brian, and congratulate him on his retirement following 32 years of public service to our great state.

Tom's commitment to improving his community, state, and nation were readily apparent from his early days as a deputy sheriff, city councilor, and mayor of the city of Tigard, to his service as a state representative and 12 years on the Washington County Commission.

Tom has deep and enduring roots in Oregon that have grounded his personal and professional life in special ways. He treasures Oregon, where he and his wife, Joene, have raised their three children: Becky, Sarah, and Kevin.

Tom believes in making a difference—and he's backed up that belief with action. Over the last decade, Tom's vision as a commissioner deserves much credit for Washington County's robust job growth. His tireless collaborations with Intel, Solar World, and the many small businesses throughout Washington County have created a business-friendly climate that has made it a magnet for economic development.

Tom grew up in Monmouth, Oregon, where he attended Central High School and graduated from the Oregon College of Education in 1970, now Western Oregon University. After serving as a Polk County deputy sheriff from 1969 to 1973, an opportunity arose for Tom to join the Oregon Council on Crime and Delinquency, where he became its executive director until 1979.

In 1979, Tom started a career in real estate and also began his life in elected public office, earning election to the Tigard City Council. He later became the city's mayor.

Tom was recruited to run for the Oregon Legislature in 1988. Tom rose quickly through the legislative ranks and became the chairman of the Revenue Committee and served on the Ways and Means and Judiciary committees. Tom was an innovator and collaborative leader in the legislature. His hard work, steadfast dedication to Oregon, great wit, and solid character earned him respect from both sides of the aisle.

In 1999, Oregon's term limit law ushered Tom from the legislature after 10 years. Still committed to making a difference, Tom ran for and earned a position on the Washington County Commission. Tom served there for 12 years before retiring in January of this year as its chairman.

Mr. Speaker, Tom's leadership has been recognized with numerous awards and accolades, including the First Citizen of the City of Tigard, the Guardian of Small Business, Outstanding Service to Farm Families, and Transil Legislator of the Year, just to name a few.

Tom has served and continues to serve ably on a long list of boards, commissions, and philanthropic endeavors. As chairman of the Tigard Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration, a board member of the Clean Water Institute, and a board member of Willamette Valley Vineyards, Tom Brian stays busy working to make life better in his community.

Tom is a husband, father, leader, and friend. He set a tremendous example for the many Oregon leaders he mentored over the years, instilling in them the core values of commitment to others, self-sacrifice, and decisive leadership.

Max Williams, one of Tom's close friends and a former state representative, said of him, "You taught me not to be afraid of—or avoid—the difficult issues. Being out there 'on the limb' was necessary because that is 'where all the fruit is' when it comes to making meaningful and positive change."

Tom took risks and he pushed for progress; because of that, he made a real and positive difference.

Today I rise to recognize my friend Tom Brian for all that he has accomplished and for his invaluable contributions to his community. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Tom for his service and wishing him and his family many great and healthy years ahead.

A TRIBUTE TO THE JACOB POMEROY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jacob J. Pomeroy for the rank of an Eagle Scout. Travis is a 10th grade student from South Hardin High School in Eldora, Iowa.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about 5% of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Jacob's project was to construct a barn-themed sun shelter for the Joyful Noise Preschool and the Waukee United Methodist Church. Jacob also went above and beyond the requirements by completing more than the minimum required number of merit badges.

Jacob has been involved in scouting since he became a Tiger Cub more than 11 years ago. Jacob's father, John Pomeroy, is also an Eagle Scout and current assistant Scout Master to Troop 178 from Waukee, Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent John Pomeroy and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on earning an Eagle Scout ranking and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

HONORING CAPT. CHARLES E. RIDGLEY, JR.

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to mourn the loss and honor the life of Army Captain Charles E. Ridgley, Jr., who died April 16, 2011, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

A Maryland resident, Captain Ridgley was serving in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan, and died of injuries sustained from a grenade attack by a suicide bomber on Forward Operating Base Gamberi. Four other brave American soldiers were killed in the attack.

At the time of his death, Captain Ridgley was assigned to the 17th Combat Support Battalion, based in Fort Richardson, Alaska. He had just two weeks left of his first overseas assignment before he was due to come home.

After overcoming a challenging childhood, Captain Ridgley joined the Army after earning his diploma from Walbrook Senior High School. He was inspired by his uncle's military service in the U.S. Air Force and participated in ROTC at Walbrook. He was commissioned a quartermaster officer in January 2007 and was assigned to Fort Richardson. While there, he earned his Bachelor's Degree in business administration with a concentration in global logistics from the University of Alaska. He was working toward his Master's Degree when he was deployed to Afghanistan.

Known as responsible and family-oriented, Captain Ridgley took great pride in his daughter and great care of his mother. Captain Ridgley also worked as a martial arts instructor who enjoyed mentoring the children of fellow soldiers. He deeply valued education and ethics.

Mr. Speaker, many Maryland soldiers have died in support of the global war on terror. Once again, we hang our heads with sorrow at the loss of another life. I ask that you join with me today to honor the life and memory of Captain Ridgley, a true Maryland hero.

Captain Ridgley will be forever remembered as a dedicated soldier who greatly loved his country and faithfully served his fellow Americans by fighting for this great nation. He risked his life to serve our country and deserves our unending admiration and appreciation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONSTRUCTION QUALITY ASSURANCE ACT OF 2011

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my colleague Rep. MAZIE HIRONO, I am introducing the Construction Quality Assurance Act of 2011. This bill is designed to stop bid shopping on federal construction contracts. It would require prime bidders on low-bid projects valued at \$1 million or more to list each subcontractor on work categories of \$100,000 or more with their bid submissions. Substitutions of listed subcontractors after contracts are awarded would be allowed only

in exceptional circumstances and only with the consent of the contracting officer.

The bill would impose financial penalties for improper substitution of listed subcontractors. The bill would also apply to subcontractors. Both prime contractors and subcontractors would be subject to debarment or ineligibility determinations in cases where there are two infractions of the prohibitions over any three-year period.

Restoring equitable safeguards in the low bid system will assure that agency practice will conform to the highest standards adhered to by industry professionals and contractor associations, and will reflect best practices followed by a great many other public procurement systems nationally and internationally.

CONGRATULATING KRAFT FOODS' OSCAR MAYER PLANT IN COLUMBIA, MO, WHICH IS CELEBRATING ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kraft Foods' Oscar Mayer plant in Columbia, MO, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary on May 7th.

The plant opened in 1985 and is now a 183,000-square-foot structure located on 30 acres. It has been a formidable force in boosting Columbia's economy, employing over 600 people in the area. Twenty of the plant's employees have dedicated their service since the plant opened over two decades ago, contributing considerably to the plant's ranking as one of the top ten employers in the city.

The Oscar Mayer plant has also played a significant role in contributing to the community of Columbia and its citizens. Over the past 26 years, the plant has produced over 28 billion hot dogs in the last 25 years, enough for over 100 trips around the world laid end-to-end. On average, the Columbia plant donates 70,000 pounds of hot dogs to the Central Missouri Food Bank annually, which is the only source of protein for the food bank. Through Kraft Foods' contributions programs, the facility donates to non-profit organizations for the alleviation of hunger and to promote healthy lifestyles, to support the social service and cultural activities of its employees in the communities where they live and work, and to provide humanitarian aid.

Contributions made by the Kraft Foods facility in Columbia have done much to greatly enhance both the business climate and the quality of life for the entire population of the city, in addition to building upon the great sense of pride in those individuals associated with it.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the employees of the Columbia Oscar Mayer plant and the citizens of Columbia, MO, congratulations on reaching this significant milestone.

HONORING DOTTIE BERGER
MACKINNON

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to herald the achievements of Dottie Berger MacKinnon and to acknowledge her valuable contributions to the Tampa Bay community. Dottie is a community activist, child advocate, and former Hillsborough County Commissioner.

Dottie Berger MacKinnon is one of the founders of Joshua House, a safe haven for abused, abandoned, and neglected children, in Tampa and she has passionately supported the children served there since 1992. After founding the institution she helped the group establish a \$1.2 million endowment through the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay in order to ensure that they can continue the work that she started there long into the future. This is one of the truly incredible philanthropic establishments in Tampa Bay. Joshua House continues to change the lives of the children who pass through its doors today.

In addition to her service as a founder of Joshua House, she also served the community as a Hillsborough County Commissioner from 1994–1998. Her impressive service as a County Commissioner inspired those around her and on May 4, 2011 Dottie will be honored with the Ellsworth G. Simmons Good Government Award by the Hillsborough County Commissioners in recognition of the significant role that she played in improving government through leadership and vision.

Not finished with her incredible work for children yet, from 2005–2009 she worked tirelessly to develop, create and co-found A Kid's Place, a residential care facility for foster siblings. Before A Kid's Place opened in 2009, kids who were taken away from abusive homes were often separated from their siblings. Rescued children now stay at comfortable houses at A Kid's Place for up to a month while officials work to find stable homes for groups of brothers and sisters. Her work with A Kid's Place continues to this day, as they just opened up a fifth residence hall due to her tireless work and fundraising.

The achievements of Dottie Berger MacKinnon are truly remarkable, heroic even. She has been recognized as a true difference maker in the lives of the children of Tampa Bay. Although she now battles cancer, she still works unrelentingly in her quest to improve the lives of children in the Tampa Bay area. I stand with the rest of the community in awe of the work she has done and continues to do for the children of Tampa Bay. I am honored to have been invited to the Hillsborough League of Women Voters 2011 Annual Award Luncheon where Mrs. Dottie Berger MacKinnon will be receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award. I can think of no better candidate to receive this honor than Dottie, she is truly an inspiration to everyone in the Tampa Bay community.

A TRIBUTE TO TRESSA
BARTHOLOMEW

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today congratulate Tressa Bartholomew of Carlisle, Iowa on recently celebrating her 106th birthday on March 30, 2011. Today she has four children, thirteen grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and 43 great-great-grandchildren.

There have been many changes that have occurred during the past one hundred and six years. Since Tressa's birth we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and the birth of new democracies. Tressa has lived through nineteen United States Presidents and twenty-five Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I congratulate Tressa Bartholomew for reaching this milestone of a birthday. I am extremely honored to represent her in Congress and I wish her happiness and health in her future years.

HONORING JOE WAZ

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joe Waz for his 17 years of service to Comcast Corporation, where he worked as Senior Vice President of External Affairs, and to the Comcast Foundation, where he served as Public Policy Counsel and President.

Mr. Waz has announced his retirement from Comcast Corporation, and although he will be greatly missed, his hard work and contributions have made a positive impact on the industry and ensure he will not be forgotten. In May 2002, Mr. Waz received the Vanguard Award, the highest honor presented by the cable industry, for his service in government and community relations.

Not only is Mr. Waz recognized nationally for his expertise in telecommunications public policy, he is also a leader in community investment and service. Under Mr. Waz's leadership, Comcast Corporation has made 219 investments to 120 different groups in Connecticut since 2006. More than \$2.9 million has been given in grants to groups ranging from the University of Hartford, the Connecticut Police Chiefs' Association, and the American School for the Deaf. In further commitment to the public interest, Joe also serves as a chairman of the Settlement Music School, the oldest community school of the arts in the U.S., and has previously served on the boards of the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, and the Federal Communications Bar Association Foundation.

On a personal note, I have known Joe since we attended the University of Connecticut School of Law together. I got to know him as a hard working, serious student of the law,