

HONORING KALERVO RUUSKANEN
OF CANTERBURY, CONNECTICUT
FOR 50 YEARS OF DEDICATED
SERVICE IN THE CANTERBURY
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kalervo "Kavi" Ruuskanen of Canterbury, Connecticut in recognition of his 50 years of dedicated service with the Canterbury Volunteer Fire Department.

In 1960, a young Kalervo Ruuskanen helped friends and neighbors extinguish a brush fire. He impressed the local emergency officials so much that they asked him to join the department. Now 50 years later, Mr. Ruuskanen is the first non-charter member of the Canterbury Volunteer Fire Department to have reached the 50-year milestone. This accomplishment is a testament both to his skill as a first responder and his commitment to serving his fellow man.

Not only has he been with the Canterbury Volunteer Fire Department for 50 years, he has also worked as an emergency medical technician, and currently serves as a Constable of Canterbury and volunteers as a fire policeman. In small towns across eastern Connecticut where we rely on volunteers to protect our homes, our businesses and our way of life, men and women like Kalervo Ruuskanen provide a vital service by ensuring our safety.

As the duly elected Representative of the Second Congressional District of Connecticut, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in extending hearty congratulations and warm thanks to Mr. Ruuskanen for his dedication and selfless service to the people of Canterbury, Connecticut.

IMPORTANCE OF INFORMATION
AND REFERRAL PROGRAMS

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the dedicated professionals working each day in the field of Information and Referral or I&R. These people perform the essential task of bringing people and services together, assistance that has proven to be more important than ever in these difficult economic times.

In particular, I wish to acknowledge the important work of the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems or AIRS which has been serving for more than 30 years as the national organization which developed the professional standards that are a part of thousands of quality Information and Referral programs in this Nation.

In 2010, Information and Referral professionals responded to more than 20 million calls across our Nation from people seeking assistance. This includes people that accessed services through the hundreds of 2-1-1 organizations. AIRS in partnership with

United Way Worldwide were the architects of the 2-1-1 system which has served to transform access to human services in America and Canada.

The United States is currently served by Information and Referral professionals through 2-1-1 programs, aging I&R services, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, child care resource and referral services, military family centers, and other specialty Information and Referral services. In addition, the Aging Network consists of 56 State agencies on aging, 629 area agencies on aging, 244 Tribal organizations, and 2 Native Hawaiian organizations. These entities also provide Information and Referral and are important to moving Information and Referral forward.

The importance of the Information and Referral service is that it links consumers with the most appropriate service that they may need whether it be for housing, nutrition, job training, transportation services or long-term care options counseling. Information and Referral and 2-1-1s have proven to be especially invaluable in times of natural disasters in our Nation working in conjunction with first responders to provide help to persons in need.

Information and Referral services have been recognized in Federal legislation for more than 35 years, including in the 1973 reauthorization of the Older Americans Act and including the establishment of the National Eldercare Locator and the development of Aging and Disability Resource Centers.

Comprehensive and specialized Information and Referral programs help people in every community and operate as a critical component of the health and human services delivery system. Information and Referral organizations have databases of programs and services, and disseminate information through a variety of channels to individuals, professionals and communities.

Let me conclude by commending all those professionals who work in the Information and Referral field and with 2-1-1s. We are especially fortunate in my District and State to have one of the most effective of these professionals, my friend Jamie Moore who serves as Vice President of Volunteer & Community Services at the United Way of the Midlands.

I urge my colleagues to become more familiar with the Information and Referral and 2-1-1 programs in their districts help their constituents learn about who to call for information about local resources.

ALEXANDRA BURTON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alexandra Burton for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alexandra Burton 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 Alexandra Burton 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 edu-

cation and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alexandra Burton 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 RECOGNITION OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO GROUND ZERO FOLLOWING THE KILLING OF OSAMA BIN LADEN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my fellow New Yorkers in expressing my gratitude to President Obama for visiting our city today and for a job very well done. Under the President's extraordinary leadership and with an heroic effort by our military and our intelligence community, at long last, a mass murderer has been brought to justice.

President Obama's visit to Ground Zero will hopefully bring comfort to the families who lost loved ones, and bring the attention of the world back to the courage that so many showed on 9/11: the firefighters, police officers, and first responders who answered the call of duty and went into burning towers, never to return; the construction workers and volunteers who came to Ground Zero to help our nation recover; the office workers who risked their lives to lead others to safety.

I hope the President's visit will also remind Americans how we came together after the attacks, a unity that impressed itself on the heart of the world and delivered us from some of the most difficult times our nation has ever faced. As the President himself said, when we come together, there's nothing that we can't do.

HONORING MURIEL SCOTT

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Muriel Scott, the President and CEO of the Central Maine Area Agency on Aging, better known as Spectrum Generations. For more than three decades, Muriel has been dedicated to building a strong agency to serve central Maine's elderly population.

Muriel has always believed in the importance of seniors' exercising their own independence. For decades, Muriel has worked to support policies and initiatives that make it easier for seniors to live in their own homes and lead their own lives.

Muriel's hard work and dedication expanded Spectrum Generations to seven community center locations in central Maine. She first joined Spectrum in 1976 as the Director for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, and Muriel would serve as Nutrition Director before rising to the position of Associate Director in 1979.

Under Muriel's leadership, Spectrum became a leader in ensuring community access

to these services in multiple, convenient locations. Her achievements in Maine led her to national success, serving as a delegate to the 1995 White House Conference on Aging and a Board member of the National Association of Area Agencies.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Muriel Scott on her retirement after 34 years of dedication to Maine's elderly.

ADRIAN ESTRADA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

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

The dedication demonstrated by Adrian Estrada 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 Adrian Estrada for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

THE NATIONAL GUARD
EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION ACT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before you today to reintroduce the National Guard Employment Protection Act.

I created this legislation in order to extend the same reemployment rights for all of our National Guard personnel, regardless of whether they are assigned to a homeland security mission or deployed overseas to Iraq or Afghanistan. Under current law, the members of the National Guard who are called up for active duty in support of homeland security missions inside the United States are not provided the same reemployment rights to their civilian occupations that other members of the National Guard and Reserve have when they are called to active duty for overseas military assignments.

There is no doubt that the soldiers and the airmen serving in the National Guard must have the same reemployment rights irrespective of where they are ordered to serve. The bill recognizes that those who are called up for homeland security missions can face the same hardships and challenges in trying to return to their civilian employment as someone who has been away from their civilian occupation due to an overseas military assignment.

With the passage of this law, National Guard members will no longer have to worry

about being put into a position where they are forced to choose between retaining their civilian employment or serving our Nation in a critical homeland security mission.

I would like to thank Delegate MADELINE BORDALLO, Representative HARPER and Representative ROE for co-sponsoring again. I urge the passage of this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. KIRAN
DESAI

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Kiran Desai, former Chairman of the Old Bridge Township Zoning Board of Adjustment and member of the Township Planning Board. Kiran is being recognized by the New Jersey State Planning Officials Organization as a recipient of the 2011 Achievement in Planning Award for his continued service to the residents of Old Bridge, New Jersey. Kiran continues to demonstrate significant contributions to the planning and development of Old Bridge and is therefore deserving of this body's recognition.

Kiran served as the Chairman of the Township's Zoning Board of Adjustment from 2000 to 2010. A humble, thirty year resident of Old Bridge, Kiran excels in his professional endeavors as a result of his personal relationship with the local residents and neighbors. During his tenure, Kiran has evaluated hundreds of applications and has most notably opposed larger residential developments and retail complexes not suited for the area. Kiran's steadfast determination and clear mission has assisted in balancing the rights of developers with the needs of Old Bridge's large, diverse and growing community. He also proudly continues to place particular emphasis on protecting local environmentally sensitive areas. In January 2011, Kiran transitioned from the Zoning Board of Adjustment to the Old Bridge's Township Planning Board where he spearheads the initiative to review the Township's master plan.

In addition to his professional experience, Kiran has also been active in several other civic organizations. He has served on the Economic Development Corporation and is the former Treasurer of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee. He currently serves as a Commissioner and Secretary of the Old Bridge Municipal Utilities Authority.

Kiran is also very active in the Indian community and various organizations dedicated to preserving cultural roots and further Indian strides within the American community. Kiran is a founding member of the India Cultural Association of Central Jersey and has served as President of Vraj of North America. He is also founding President of the Chh Gaam Patidar Samaj of North America and continues his involvement with countless other cultural organizations. As a result of his outstanding efforts, Kiran was recently awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, an annual award presented to an individual for their contributions by immigrants to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, once again please join me in congratulating Mr. Kiran Desai, the 2011 recipient of the New Jersey State Planning Offi-

cials Organization's Achievement in Planning Award. Mr. Desai's professional accomplishments and community and cultural involvement should be an inspiration to us all.

ARISAI GURROLA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Arisai Gurrola for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Arisai Gurrola is an 11th 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 Arisai Gurrola 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 Arisai Gurrola 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.

COMMENDING THE MASON SMALL
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend The Mason Small Business Development Center for being named the 2011 Small Business Development Center of Excellence and Innovation by the Small Business Administration Washington Metro Area District Office. This award recognizes and honors centers that use innovation to provide quality and effective services to small businesses to help them improve program management and delivery.

For more than ten years, The Mason SBDC has helped small businesses throughout Northern Virginia support and business counseling services. It is a successful partnership between the federal government, Commonwealth of Virginia and George Mason University, and it assisted more than 480 small businesses in 2010. The hard work and dedication of the team members from The Mason SBDC has resulted in the retention of more than 1,200 local jobs. The Washington Metropolitan region has greatly benefited from the vitality of the small business sector, and The Mason SBDC is an important part of that success.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in commending The Mason Small Business Development Center and its team members for their efforts on behalf of our nation's small businesses.