

City of Fairfield and a combined two years with the Yolo County Sheriff's Department and the Antioch Police Department. As her colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of her life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding public servant and defender of peace and safety.

Christina started her law enforcement career as a Reserve Police Officer with the Antioch Police Department. She was then hired as a Deputy Sheriff by the Yolo County Sheriff's Department in November of 1985 and on August 18, 1986, she was hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department. Christina worked in various capacities that included Patrol, Investigations, Youth Services, School Resource Officer, Cadet Advisor, Gang Suppression, Police Probation Team, Crime Scene Investigator, and Property. She received numerous commendations for her performance including Police Officer of the Year for 1997.

Christina's two most significant contributions to the Police Department were her expertise as a composite sketch artist and her talent in mentoring youths within the community. Her artistic talent and ability to create like images of suspects has helped solve numerous crimes in Fairfield. Her work as a Cadet Advisor and Diversion Officer was also exceptional. She intervened at many different levels by confronting and challenging youths that were showing destructive behavior through the appropriate amount of counseling and intervention opportunities for them and their families. Christina's work has made a difference to the citizens of Fairfield.

Christina was a valued employee and leader and her commitment to the community was evidenced on a daily basis. She was a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired for her hard work, dedication, and positive work ethic.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to pay tribute to this dedicated public servant. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Christina M. Golez continued success and happiness in all of her future endeavors.

**HONORING NORWALK,
CONNECTICUT POLICE OFFICERS**

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the police officers who have dedicated their lives to serving the people of Norwalk, Connecticut.

Since its formation in 1913, the Norwalk Police Department has improved the quality of life for generations of citizens. Its officers' vigilant protection of the city's residents and their property has formed the foundation of public peace, order and tranquility that has allowed Norwalk to prosper.

Every day, Norwalk's police officers take on the responsibility of keeping the city safe. It can be a dangerous job. Five times in its history, the Norwalk Police Department has suffered the loss of one of its own in the line of duty. Sergeants Frank S. Stratton and Nicholas W. Fera, and Officers Sherrald Gorton, Marco Carias and Matthew Morelli each lost

their lives in service to the community they sought to protect. We are forever indebted to them, and I join the people of Norwalk in honoring their memory today.

We also remember the retired officers of the Norwalk Police Department who passed away this year. All who serve today carry on a proud tradition inherited from those who wore the uniform in days gone by. We commemorate their service and we celebrate their lives.

Every officer deserves our praise. Their daily work makes it possible for each of us to enjoy the benefits of liberty, secure in the knowledge that our neighborhoods and places of business are safe. The dedication of Norwalk's officers to preventing crime and educating the public has spared so many families from experiencing unnecessary tragedy. And their collaboration with residents and business owners has promoted a sense of shared responsibility that makes the city an example to other communities nationwide.

To every officer who has served Norwalk with pride in years past, and every officer serving today, I offer my gratitude. And to the families of those men who gave their lives in the line of duty, I express the eternal thanks of a city, a state and a nation that can never say "thank you" enough.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH ON THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ST. SEBASTIAN FEAST

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to the St. Sebastian Parish as they celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the St. Sebastian Feast. This wonderful annual celebration has become one of Middletown, Connecticut's most beloved community events. This is a remarkable milestone and I am proud to have this opportunity to commemorate this very special anniversary.

The Feast of St. Sebastian is a blend of faith, culture, and tradition. The three-day event reconnects city residents to their Sicilian heritage. The tradition dates back to 1414, when it is said that a statue of St. Sebastian washed up on the shores near Melilli, a small town in Sicily. No one could lift the statue except for the residents of Melilli, and they carried it to a place where they later built a church in the saint's name.

In the early 20th Century, immigrants from Melilli moved in large numbers to Middletown and soon there were enough families there to form a vibrant and close-knit Italian community that desired its own place of worship. Through a massive fundraising effort, the donation of materials, and the labor of masons, plasterers and stone carvers, the Italian community realized the dream of its own church, a significant local cultural symbol and the only Italian national parish in the Diocese of Norwich. The Feast of St. Sebastian was first celebrated in Middletown in 1921 and proceeds from the feast's early years helped finance the building of the church.

Today, the Feast is run by a committee of dedicated congregation members and pro-

ceeds continue to benefit the church. Carnival rides, traditional Italian fare, and musical entertainment are part of the festivities, but the heart of the event happens Sunday, when, after Mass, the church's statue of St. Sebastian is carried in a procession and I Nuri, a group dressed in white with red sashes, run barefoot or in socks in a show of devotion for the saint. The procession has grown to include hundreds of people and, as you might imagine, it is an extraordinarily beautiful demonstration of faith and culture.

It is events like the Feast of St. Sebastian, those forged in the bonds of family and community, which allow generation after generation to understand and celebrate their shared heritage. They enrich our communities as well as renew our commitment to faith and family. I am honored to stand today to extend my warmest congratulations to the St. Sebastian Parish and its many families as they celebrate the 90th Anniversary of their Feast of St. Sebastian. The Feast is a real community treasure and I wish them all the best for many more successful years to come.

**A TRIBUTE TO BETTY JEAN
VERETT PEPPER**

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, Betty Jean Verett Pepper was born on April 28, 1931, in Crosby County, Texas, to Charley and Maggie (Fenoglio) Verett. She was the youngest of the family's nine children who were raised working on the family farm. Betty Jean graduated from Ralls High School and went on to graduate from Texas Technological College in Lubbock, Texas, in 1952.

At Texas Tech she met Herbert Leslie Pepper and they married in 1953. Leslie and Jean moved to the San Antonio area where their three sons were born and raised, also working on the family farm and in agriculture-related businesses.

Now back in Lubbock and known as Mama Jean to her own family and the expanded Verett families, she not only remembers the birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions of this group, but personally calls each one on those special days.

That is why we want to take this opportunity to remember her 80th birthday on April 28, 2011, and to wish her many more joyous celebrations with her sons, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN HEALTH FORUM

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the board and staff of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum on the 25th anniversary of their founding. They are guided by a mission to influence policy, mobilize communities, and strengthen programs

and organizations to improve the health of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. As the largest national Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander advocacy organization in the country, they maintain strategic relationships to move sound policy forward that benefit our communities.

Founded in 1986, the organization came together in response to the federal government's first groundbreaking report on minority health. "The Secretary's Report on Black and Minority Health" erroneously concluded that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders were healthier than other minorities despite the "paucity of data." Community leaders, advocates and medical providers who served Asian American populations came together to challenge this "model minority" myth and formed the Asian American Health Forum, solidifying the visionary idea of a national organization that would grow into the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum. Working out of a basement of the old Chinese Hospital in San Francisco Chinatown with few staff, the organization has now grown to be a national organization with over 30 staff headquartered in San Francisco, an office in Washington, DC, and a national network comprised of more than 15 groups.

Over the years the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum has reached several milestones. In the early '90s, the organization received funding from the Department of Health and Human Services to implement innovative outreach programs targeting chronic disease issues in the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, like HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B. As the number of API individuals in the U.S. increased, the organization continued to grow to do work to improve the health of the community by developing tobacco cessation programs, cancer education and outreach programs and reducing domestic violence. In 2006, the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum received the largest ever philanthropic investment in Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities through a \$16.5 million grant by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation which has helped build capacity across the country through the Health Through Action Program. Today the organization continues to advocate on behalf of our communities as the Affordable Care Act is implemented.

As the Chairwoman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I have had the privilege of working with the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum to eliminate health disparities in this country. Their analysis and research have informed the work of policymakers for many years at the local, state and national level. The work produced by its programs and divisions are valuable resources for community groups, legislators, agencies and researchers in understanding the unique health issues that affect Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations.

On behalf of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I would like to once again congratulate the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum on their 25th anniversary and wish them the best in their work to achieve health justice over the next 25 years and beyond.

OPPOSING GIVEAWAYS TO BIG OIL AND DRILLING OFF THE CALIFORNIA COAST

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to allowing drilling off the California Coast and dismantling basic oil drilling safeguards.

Barely a year after the worst environmental disaster in our history, Republicans have brought legislation (H.R. 1231) to the floor that shows they are suffering from amnesia. This legislation, when coupled with the two earlier drilling bills—H.R. 1229 and H.R. 1230—would mandate that vast swaths of the East and West Coasts be open to drilling, while fast-tracking new leases without sufficient safety or environmental review.

Under H.R. 1231, the Interior Department would have to make at least half of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) available to leasing, including the California Coast, regardless of state objections or safety, economic, or environmental concerns. This is on top of the two earlier bills that would actually make drilling safeguards weaker than they were before the BP Spill while destroying judicial review of leasing decisions.

This legislation does nothing to bring down gas prices. It is nothing more than a gift-wrapped handout to the oil industry. Republicans are not working to end the \$4 billion in yearly taxpayer subsidies that go to the largest oil companies. They are not working to crack down on the speculation that we know is driving up the price of oil and gas. Instead, they are pushing legislation that would give these companies free reign over our oil reserves and put our coastlines and the jobs that rely on them at risk. The Energy Information Agency has estimated that even if the entire OCS were exploited for oil, gas prices would drop by only three cents—and not until 2030. The U.S. accounts for just 7% of world oil production and we have only 3% of the world's reserves. Despite the bumper sticker slogan of "drill baby drill," we cannot drill our way out of high gas prices.

I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this misguided bill and focus on sustainable and responsible solutions to rising gas prices.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL
BRANDON JOSEPH LONG

HON. MARLIN A. STUTZMAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, Lance Corporal Brandon Joseph Long of the 3rd battalion, 5th Marines, "Darkhorse" Lima Company from my district in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. On September 27, 2010, while out on point in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Brandon stepped on a pressure plate which nearly cost him his life. He died four times on that day. He said the thought of Nicole and his child Clair kept him alive and that he left his body, but when he rose up to Heaven they told him that

it was not his time. He has been part of one of the most courageous units, losing over 150 United States Marines. In a few short months he has come so far and a large part is due to his family. His lovely supportive wife and new born child have put a smile on his face and given him something to live for. Some people are put upon this earth to teach us and inspire us. Well, Brandon is one of those people. In honor of Brandon, I ask that this poem, penned by Albert Caswell, be placed in the RECORD.

U . . . B . . . LONG!

U . . .

U . . . B . . .

U . . . B . . . LONG!

As Brandon, as is your fine life's song. . . . With but the greatest of all Americans, so very strong. . . .

All in our nation's history, who now so belong. . . .

Belong, to the defenders of the free!

As there is but such a list of most magnificent Americans, so indeed!

Who all for our Country Tis of Thee, would so die and bleed!

Ooo . . . rah Jar Head, As a United States Marine we see!

As Freedom Fighters, who but bring our liberty!

All to leave, a better world for you and me. . . .

Men and women, of such magnificent grace. . . .

Who one and all, the darkest of all evils so face. . . .

With tears in eyes, as they so watched their fine brothers die as still they kept pace. . . .

And still so valiantly marched onward, as their most heroic hearts so raced. . . .

The ones, such men of The Dark Horse who came home without arms and legs. . . .

All in their most amazing grace, teaching us all the meaning of courage and faith. . . .

And now comes another honored name. . . .

Lance Corporal Brandon Long, of Lima Co. as one in the same. . . .

For in our nation's history, have but come such Hoosiers so indeed. . . .

Such fine patriots of peace, sons and daughters who so believe. . . .

Who are a part of one of the greatest fighting machines, The United States Marines!

Who once upon battlefields of honor seen, so courageously fought all in green. . . .

As Brandon, as was your sheen!

And when, all out on point as an IED explosion almost took your life. . . .

Dying four times, but for his daughter and wife. . . . somehow your strength ignited!

At Heaven's gate, you said you were told it's not your time yet. . . .

As when you Marine, your new battle had just begun. . . .

As . . . The Walls . . . came tumbling down . . . tumbling down, you Indiana's son!

All in your most magnificent shades of green, all in what must be won!

As when you awoke, and you did not just step. . . . but began to run. . . .

Running to recovery, as deep down inside . . . your fine heart shone like the sun!

Bringing you back from the dead, as you lifted up your head. . . .

And saw what you had left, take the hill Marine . . . as all of our lives you so bless!

As You So Teach Us . . . and So Beseech Us . . . and So Reach Us, oh so yes!

All with what that you so had left, as your courage began to crest!

All for his beautiful daughter Claire and his lovely wife Nicole so yes. . . .