

joined new morning star and ultimately new Galilee MBC where she remained until death. Ada met and married Mr. Frank Patrick and together they became proud parents of five children.

Mrs. Patrick was actively involved in her church and was known as a cheerful and upbeat person. Her backing was legendary and she is always ready to share encouraging words with everyone.

Mr. Speaker, the world is a better place in which to live because of the life and contributions of Mrs. Ada Lee Patrick. May her soul rest in peace and we extend our heartfelt condolences to her husband Frank and other members of her family.

ISRAEL'S 63RD INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Israel on the celebration of its 63rd Independence Day. I am a strong supporter of the State of Israel and believe in its right to exist as a Jewish and democratic state with secure and recognized borders.

As our strongest democratic ally in the Middle East, Israel is a crucial friend of the United States, and its continued strength and stability are in our nation's best interest.

The past several years have been a challenging time for Israel. Israel continues to face danger on many fronts, from the ongoing threat of terrorism to the potential rise of a nuclear-armed Iran. Peace and stability in Israel and the Middle East at large are still a possibility. Despite recent events with Fatah and Hamas, I hope that Palestinian authorities will be willing to come to the table and negotiate peace with their Israeli neighbors. I trust that new commitments and agreements are reached that enable these two states to live peacefully with one another.

I will continue to advocate for policies that make Israel more secure and work to alleviate the tensions in the Middle East, and I urge my colleagues to join me. As a member of the Israel Allies Caucus, I have been an active advocate for Israel and its people. I know the people of Israel want to live in peace with their Palestinian neighbors, and I will push for continued American engagement in the peace process. Together, the United States and Israel will continue to work in partnership to bring peace and security to the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Israel on their 63rd Independence Day.

RECOGNIZING THE HONOREES OF THE 2010 FAIRFAX COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION AND TREE PLANTING AND PRESERVATION AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of Fairfax

County 2010 Land Conservation and Tree Preservation and Planting Awards. These awards recognize those developers, designers and site superintendents who have excelled in their stewardship of the environment by implementing erosion and sediment control measures for soil conservation or increasing the tree cover through tree preservation and planting efforts.

Fairfax County is considered one of the best counties in the Nation in which to live, work and raise a family. One reason for this designation is the innovative environmental protection policies that have been implemented by the county and embraced by its business partners. I am pleased to have led that effort during my tenure as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. These awards recognize the following individuals and companies who have successfully brought their projects to completion while preserving and enhancing the local environment:

Small Commercial: The Howard Gardner School

Large Commercial: Aerospace Corporation Parcel 35 at Westfields

Small Single Family Residential: Yorkshire Subdivision

Large Single Family Residential: Huntington Mews, Section 2

Linear Project: Bull Run Woods

Best Protected Environmentally Sensitive Site: Aerospace Corporation Parcel 35 at Westfields

Outstanding Site Superintendent: Greg Clark

Outstanding Engineering Firm: Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP

Outstanding Contractor: James G. Davis

Environmental and Facilities Inspections Division Inspector of the Year (East): Martin Klema

Environmental and Facilities Inspections Division Inspector of the Year (West): William Dougherty

Environmental and Site Review Division Reviewer of the Year (East): Hani Fawaz

Environmental and Site Review Division Reviewer of the Year (West): Shahab Baig

Tree Preservation Awards:

Potomac School

Pohick Stream Valley Park Trail

The Aerospace Corporation Stream Restoration Project

Tree Planting Category Award Recipients:

Francis Scott Key Middle School

Huntly Terrace Townhomes

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the efforts of those involved with these projects. Fairfax County and its residents have benefitted greatly from the collaborative spirit that is represented by these awards today. I wish to thank all of the awardees for their efforts on behalf of our community, and I congratulate them on receiving these awards.

IN RECOGNITION OF NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call special attention to Northwest High School

in Justin, Texas. Students from Northwest High School will be competing in Aerospace Industries Association's 9th annual Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC) National finals this weekend. This competition brings students from all over the United States together to hone their skills in math and science in order to design, build, and fly a model rocket. The rocket must carry one raw egg to an altitude of exactly 750 feet, remain airborne for 40 to 45 seconds and return to the ground with the raw egg intact. With this annual competition, the Aerospace Industries Association seeks to inspire students to pursue careers in the aerospace industry.

The students at Northwest High School have been working all year to prepare for this opportunity. The event holds over \$60,000 in prize money, scholarships, and a trip to the Paris Air Show. I know the students of Northwest High School have spent much time and energy into this opportunity, and I wish them all the best. Regardless of the outcome, I and the rest of the 26th District of Texas are extremely proud of this impressive group of students.

A TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN LANE ARTHUR

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jonathan Lane Arthur for achieving the rank of an Eagle Scout.

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.

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 Jonathan 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 LT. COLONEL ALFRED FRANCIS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, next Friday, an outstanding member of our military who hails from my district in the U.S. Virgin Islands will receive a promotion to Colonel at the Pentagon and I rise today to salute his service to our country.

Lt. Colonel Alfred Francis, known as "Plow" to his family and friends as a native of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, is currently assigned to The Army Staff, Pentagon here in

Washington, DC, and has served there since 2009. He previously commanded the 304th Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade, Camp Stanley, Korea from 2007 to 2009. Prior to serving in Korea, Lt. Colonel Francis served at the Pentagon, assigned to DISA's Joint Staff Support Center as Division Chief, NMCC Operations. He deployed in support of ENDURING FREEDOM between 2002 and 2005. He was assigned to Headquarters, 25th Infantry Division (Light), Schofield Barrack, Hawaii, serving as the Assistant Division Signal Officer/Deputy G6 and as the Executive Officer, 125th Signal Battalion and later as Deputy CJ6, CJTF-76.

Lt. Colonel Francis received his Bachelor of Science Degree and ROTC Commission as a Distinguished Military Graduate from Alabama A&M University in 1989. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology and Minor in Mathematics and a Master of Science degree in Quality Systems Management from the National Graduate School. Upon completion of the Signal Officers Basic Course, he was assigned to the 279th Signal Platoon, Kaiserlautern, Germany, where he served as a Platoon Leader and Exercise and Plans officer from 1990 to 1993.

Upon graduation from the Signal Officers Advanced Course at Fort Gordon, Georgia, he was assigned to 525th Military Intelligence, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he served as Brigade Signal Officer, then Company Commander of A Company—327th Signal Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade (Corps, Airborne) from 1994 to 1996. He was then assigned to the Military District of Washington, where he served on the 1997 Presidential Inaugural Committee as Chief, Visual Information Branch, followed by assignments within the Defense Information System Agency, DISA, as a Commercial Satellite Communications Officer and as a Communication Watch Officer in the National Military Command Center, NMCC, Joint Staff, Pentagon from 1996 to 2000.

Lt. Colonel Francis' awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Staff Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Joint Staff Badge, the Army Staff Badge and the Parachutist Badge.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Fredriksted, St. Croix, the U.S. Virgin Islands and indeed the entire nation are proud of Lt. Colonel Francis. He is an exemplary young American who serves as a role model to the young people of our islands and is a source of pride to his parents, Betty L. Wilson and Divincy "Tino" Francis. We salute him on the occasion of his promotion to Colonel.

HONORING SANTA ROSA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Santa Rosa Community Health Centers

and recognize their contribution to health care in Sonoma County, California. They are celebrating their 15th year of leadership and collaboration in building a healthy community.

In 1996, five physicians and one nurse practitioner made it their mission to bring high quality health care to the Roseland area of Santa Rosa, where the predominantly Latino community had no access to medical care. These providers worked tirelessly for 4 years until their first clinic opened with the help of the Sisters of St. Joseph and Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital. Southwest Community Health Center opened its doors on March 19th, St. Joseph's day, and was warmly welcomed to the community.

Under the guidance of CEO Naomi Fuchs, the original clinic at Lombardi Court expanded its hours and its facility. Ms. Fuchs also responded to the needs of several other important community programs that were facing budget restraints that threatened closure. The Elsie Allen Health Center, Turning Point Satellite Clinic, Southwest Adult Day Services and the Family Practice Residency Program were all brought under the Southwest umbrella as well as the Homeless Clinic, Roseland Children's Health Center and HIV/AIDS care. As their service area expanded well beyond the southwest corner of the city, they assumed a name that better represents them: Santa Rosa Community Health Centers.

In order to better serve their patients, 2011 saw the opening of the Vista Family Health Center, a 42,500 square foot facility that provides primary care and obstetrics to an additional 10,000 residents. This beautiful new health center reminds patients, many of whom are low income, that a medical home with a caring medical team is a right rather than a privilege.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we congratulate Santa Rosa Community Health Centers on 15 years of ensuring that everyone who enters their doors is heard, valued and honored.

A TRIBUTE TO MAPLEWOOD NEIGHBORS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Maplewood neighbors of Humboldt for being the recipients of the Good Neighbor Award at the 2011 Humboldt County Spirit Awards.

The Humboldt County Spirit Awards were established to recognize and honor outstanding groups and individuals who have worked for the benefit of all citizens of Humboldt County, to celebrate the accomplishments and activities of our communities, to acknowledge the value of volunteerism in the county, and to have a positive impact on community spirit.

Annually included in the Spirit Awards, the Good Neighbor Award is presented to an individual or group who exemplify true neighborhood spirit by lending a helping hand in a time of need. This was exemplified when Maplewood neighbors assisted a recently widowed and grieving neighbor by selflessly mowing her lawn, moving snow from her driveway, and

simply taking her on walks to remind her of the support she will always have in her neighborhood despite her current difficulties.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent the members of the Maplewood neighbors in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues will join me in commending them for their sincere dedication to establishing a better community and wish them continued success well into the future.

RECOGNIZING DAN KEIFER

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an environmental leader from Southeastern Michigan, Dan Keifer, as he retires from the Clinton River Watershed Council after 10 years of dedicated service to the Clinton River watershed.

Those of us who represent urban watersheds know that the health of the waterways that flow through our communities are often measured in terms of specific indicators. A recovering river has fewer beach closings, declining e-coli pollution counts, and less bank erosion and sedimentation. A recovering river also shows restoration of native riparian vegetation, improved habitat, healthier stream flows, and the return of a wide variety of fish and other aquatic organisms. All of these watershed characteristics are measurable.

Another quality of recovering waterways is harder to directly measure, but is no less essential. Recovering rivers and streams invariably have people who take the time and trouble to care for them and work on their behalf. Without such public advocates, water quality improvements simply don't happen. Dan Keifer has been a powerful advocate and force for good in the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair watersheds. He has been an invaluable asset to the Watershed Council's mission to protect, enhance, and celebrate the Clinton River, its watershed, and Lake St. Clair.

Dan joined the Clinton River Watershed Council staff in 2002 and has served as that organization's Development Director and, later, as the Community Outreach Coordinator. Along the way, Dan has coordinated countless projects, meetings, and outreach efforts in support of water quality in our area. In 2008, Dan was awarded the National Distinguished Service Award for Trout Unlimited for his work in coordinating the Watershed Council's Coldwater Conservation Project.

Dan has also been an important part of my own office's water quality work, including efforts to support the new Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and deploy resources from that program in the watershed. He has worked with my office on everything from grants, to efforts to battle the invasive Asian carp, to the emerging partnership to carry out the recommendations of the Lake St. Clair Management Plan. Through it all, Dan has been an invaluable resource to my office.

Over the years, Dan has traveled the length and breadth of the watershed to speak to groups and relate the 10,000-year history of the Clinton River Watershed, telling the story about the progress that has been made from the days when the Clinton River was one of