

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

the most polluted rivers in Michigan to today when the trout and salmon have returned. He speaks of what is needed going forward to fully restore the Clinton River and address the challenges confronting this urban waterway. This is an important story. In the truest sense, Dan has been the voice for the Clinton River.

Dan and his wife Heidi are moving to the Washington area to take up their responsibilities as grandparents. On behalf of myself, my staff, and everyone who has benefitted from his work, I am so pleased to join with the entire community in paying tribute to his achievements and thank him for his years of service to the watershed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 11, I was unable to cast my vote on rollcall vote No. 312, the Connolly of Virginia Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 1231.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of the amendment.

A TRIBUTE TO THE GOLD-EAGLE COOPERATIVE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Gold-Eagle Cooperative of Humboldt for being the recipient of the Horizon 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 Horizon Award is presented to a business or entity which has brightened Humboldt's horizon through building improvement. Gold-Eagle has made important commitments to the communities of Thor and Renwick over the past year and both communities have enjoyed sizeable expansion.

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

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT WEXLER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues, Representatives ADAM

SCHIFF, BRAD SHERMAN and HENRY A. WAXMAN, as we pay tribute to Dr. Robert Wexler who is being honored by the American Jewish University.

We know firsthand of his many outstanding contributions to our community. For 18 years, Bob has been the President of the American Jewish University, where students are offered an educational setting which embraces both the history of the Jewish heritage and the skills necessary to become leaders in society. During his time at the university, Bob's many accomplishments contributed greatly to the growth and prestigious reputation of the institution. In 2007, he led the merger between Brandeis Bardin Institute and the University of Judaism, creating the American Jewish University and making it one of the largest Jewish institutions in the United States. Bob is also responsible for the establishment of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at AJU, which is the first independent conservative rabbinical school in the west. Bob is also a founder of the Whizin Center for Continuing Education.

In addition to his distinguished work as the President of AJU, Bob has been deeply involved in many charitable organizations. He has generously given his time to many of the Los Angeles Federation's commissions and committees, and has been named to Newsweek's list of America's 50 most influential rabbis, as well as Forward's list of the 50 most significant American Jewish leaders.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, we ask you to join us in recognizing Dr. Robert Wexler for his invaluable service and dedication to the community.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND WORK OF JOHN GILMAN

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and work of John Gilman, a social justice and peace activist, author, decorated veteran and business owner. Mr. Gilman died on April 26, 2011, at the age of 90.

Mr. Gilman was one of ten children born to Jewish immigrant parents in Chester, Pennsylvania. John Gilman put his beliefs into action at an early age, leading his high school classmates in a strike. They demanded a new school building due to overcrowding that caused students to attend in shifts.

Mr. Gilman served as an infantryman in World War II and saw combat during the Allied advance into Germany. He was nominated for a Medal of Honor and awarded the Bronze and Silver Stars in addition to the Distinguished Service Cross for his exemplary service including "taking out" a German pillbox and tank.

A social activist throughout his life, he served as Executive Director of the Wisconsin Civil Rights Congress fighting against racism. He was one of the pioneers of humanitarian aid for Cuba, worked for nuclear disarmament and was an early local protestor against the Vietnam War. Mr. Gilman marched with Father James Groppi, Father Dismas Becker, and the Rev. Lucius Walker during Milwaukee's civil rights struggle. The flooring store he operated was firebombed in retaliation for his work. The

grand dragon of the Illinois Ku Klux Klan was convicted in connection with the bombing.

Mr. Gilman's politics came under scrutiny in the 1950s; he was twice called before the House Un-American Activities Committee for his involvement in organizations deemed to be Communist. Gilman refused to testify or implicate anyone else pleading the 5th Amendment and displaying his military medals in a large frame to the ire of his questioners.

John Gilman's autobiography, *Footsoldier for Peace and Justice* details an amazing life and in his own words "standing up against what he thought was wrong". Mr. Gilman is survived by his wife Helen; daughters, Rose Corso and Jennifer Gilman; 2 sons, Herman and Glenn; a brother, Jack; and a sister, Edith Silverstein; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Milwaukee and the country has experienced a profound loss with the passing of John Gilman. Mr. Gilman remained active almost until his death; I am proud to have called him friend. John Gilman was a true patriot understanding the turmoil of war firsthand through his honorable defense of his country but still fighting for peace because of his service. Today, I thank him and his family for their immeasurable achievements, I mourn his loss and I salute his legacy.

A TRIBUTE TO ELWIN HODGES

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Elwin Hodges for being the recipient of the Spirit 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 Spirit Award is presented to a leader in the community and recognizes longtime achievement of community support or a superior effort on behalf of the Humboldt community. Elwin has consistently been finding new ways to help those around him for more than 50 years. A 55-year member of the Lions Club, Elwin recently was awarded the Lions International President's Medal, which is the second highest award a Lion can receive. He earned this award through commitment to the local vision program for school children, years of service to the Department of Social Services, donations of hundreds of pounds of vegetables to the Upper Des Moines and the Food Pantry from his own garden, and most interestingly, by inventing the hand-crafted "Fort-U-Nut" to provide thousands of messages of cheer and inspiration to those that need them most.

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