

Swim Team for winning the 2011 state championship. The past three years have amounted to a great deal of success for the Patriot swimmers, winning the 2009 state championship and coming in as runner-up last year. For a few seniors, this marks the end of a great high school career and I want to congratulate them as well as the rest of the team for their time and hard work.

It takes a strong group of young men to maintain the drive and dedication they have shown season after season. I want to thank their coach, Melissa Case, for instilling such a focus in her team. It certainly has not gone unnoticed.

These individuals should be very proud of their accomplishment and represent the highest level of George Washington High School student athletes. I wish them the best and know they will display the same level of character in their future pursuits as they did in the pool.

RECOGNIZING 50TH JUBILEE OF THE NAVAL AVIATION MEMO- RIAL CHAPEL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Naval Aviation Memorial Chapel on its 50th Jubilee.

In 1961, Naval Air Station Pensacola, the "Cradle of Naval Aviation," dedicated the Memorial Chapel during a celebration of the 50th anniversary of Naval Aviation. Today, during this centennial year of Naval Aviation, it is fitting that we recognize the 50th anniversary of the Naval Aviation Memorial Chapel.

As a testimony to the love of God and Country that is shared among many in the Northwest Florida military community, the chapel continues to stand as a place of worship, guidance and support to military families. In the 50 years since its opening, thousands of members of the Armed Forces have been joined in marriage, and in celebration of its golden anniversary, all couples who were married at the chapel have been invited to return and renew their vows. John "J.R." and Sharon Arthur, the first couple married at the chapel, will return this weekend to make the ceremonial walk up the aisle on behalf of all who have been married there over the years.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Naval Aviation Memorial Chapel and all the couples returning to renew their vows this weekend. My wife Vicki and I wish them all the best. May the Spirit of the Lord continue to bless the chapel. I am certain this anniversary is the first of many milestones to come.

REMARKS HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. JAMES MONGAN

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, last week the health world lost one of its most respected,

admired, and accomplished champions with the death on May 3 of Dr. James Mongan.

Jim's last professional position was as president of Partners Health Care in Boston, following his service as president of the Massachusetts General Hospital, a position he assumed in 1996. His tenure there was heralded for remarkable achievements and progress.

But for those of us who benefitted from his advice and experience in Washington, this was only the latest in a series of positions in which Jim worked tirelessly to increase access to health care services, to ensure that all Americans have health insurance, and to innovate and improve the quality and effectiveness of our health care delivery system.

In the early days of his career in Washington, Jim was the first doctor to serve as professional staff to the Senate Finance Committee. He went on to work at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare with Secretary Joe Califano, and then in the Carter White House, where he headed efforts to enact a national health insurance plan in his role as Associate Director for Health on the domestic policy staff.

After leaving Washington, Jim became the chief executive officer of the Truman Medical Center, a public safety net institution in Kansas City, Missouri, and Dean of the University of Missouri-Kansas City medical school. His work as a leader in academic medicine, in delivery system reform, and in bringing services to the uninsured and low-income, was widely known and respected.

During all his many years away from Washington, Jim's keen interest in public policy and the goal of expanded health care coverage never flagged. He was a frequent and insightful witness before many Committees in Congress. His service as a Member on many advisory boards was highly sought, including service on the Prospective Payment Advisory Commission (a predecessor to MedPAC), on the board of the American Hospital Association, on the board of the Kaiser Family Foundation, and as a member of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured from its inception in 1991. He also served as a member of the board of the Commonwealth Foundation and the Chair of the Commonwealth Commission on High Performance Health Systems.

His leadership and participation in all of these areas was a reflection of the value that was placed on his experience, his knowledge, and his sage advice. He could be depended on to cut through to the heart of the problem, and to offer pithy, practical and wise counsel.

Jim was an instrumental partner in achievement of the health care reform system in Massachusetts, an achievement of which he was proud for its impact on his own State, and which helped serve as the impetus for the long-sought achievement of health care reform for all American.

In 2009, he co-authored *Chaos and Organization in Health Care*, a book that was heralded as "the single most informative and absorbing examination of what is wrong with the U.S. health care system, and what to do about it." It was an accurate reflection of the interests and work that dominated his entire career.

Jim was a wise and kind person. He served as friend, mentor and advisor for more people in Washington and the health care world than we can count. By all of us, he will be missed.

IN HONOR OF VERA M.
ANDRYCZYK

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Vera M. Andryczyk on her tireless efforts on behalf of the Ukraine-American community and her recognition by the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Federation of America.

Vera's outstanding record of service and accomplishments makes her most worthy of this honor. She is a founding member of the Ukrainian Human Rights Committee and the Ukrainian Federation of America, and she serves on the Board of Directors and as Vice President of Public Relations for the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center. In addition, she serves on the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian American Relief Committee.

All of these positions have allowed Vera to serve her fellow Ukrainian-Americans, strengthen U.S.-Ukrainian relations and assist Ukraine in its effort to become a strong and vibrant democracy. As part of her ongoing commitment, she also earned participation on President George W. Bush's official delegation to the inauguration of President Viktor Yushchenko. Always looking for additional opportunities, she has also served as a member of Ukrainian Women's League of America and she was one of the first to organize help to the victims of the Chernobyl disaster.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Vera M. Andryczyk on the occasion of the recognition she is being accorded by the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Federation of America and for her indefatigable efforts to support, assist and serve the Ukrainian-American community.

ASSAD MUST GO

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, the outrages perpetrated by Syrian President Bashar Assad against his own people have laid bare his regime's total lack of legitimacy. The shelling of Homs evokes memories of the 1982 massacre at Hama, in which his father ordered the Syrian army into the rebellious city, killing up to 40,000 people.

After the elder Assad died in 2000, the new president, in interviews with western journalists, made several cautious statements that led many Syrians to believe that their new president would be willing to take at least the first steps towards democracy in their ancient land. Indeed, the first months of the new regime saw a period of intense political and social debate in Syria which continued to some degree until the fall of 2001, when the government sharply reversed course and ended what had become known as the Damascus Spring.

Similarly, others saw his succession and the September 11 attacks as an opportunity to coax Syria into playing a more constructive regional role, especially in Lebanon, and as a chance to widen the circle of Arab-Israeli

peace. As with the domestic opening, this too proved fleeting and illusory. Tentative Syrian cooperation in the opening months of the campaign against al Qaeda after 9/11 did not last and, in 2005, Syrian intelligence officers joined with Hezbollah in murdering Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and provoking a war with Israel in the summer of 2006. In Iraq, Syria worked with Iran to supply arms to radical Shiite militias, even as the country sought to join its ally in the pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Now the Assad regime has turned on its own people, who have been inspired by their fellow Arabs in Tunisia, Egypt and elsewhere to rise up to demand their rights. As Americans and as the custodians of a great democracy that was forged in revolution, we have a special obligation to support and nurture the aspirations of others who seek to secure for themselves and their posterity the blessings of liberty.

We in Congress must use every diplomatic and economic tool at our disposal to end this dictatorship and I urge President Obama to support the Syrian people in their quest for an end to the corruption and brutality in the Assad regime.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THREE VETERAN MONUMENTS

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three Veteran monuments in my hometown of Palm Springs, California—the “Desert Fliers Command Distinguished Flying Cross Wall of Honor,” “On A Wing and A Prayer Missing Man Monument,” and “Freedom.”

The “Desert Fliers Command Distinguished Flying Cross Wall of Honor” was dedicated on November 11, 2004, and is located at the Palm Springs Air Museum. The Desert Fliers Command is a group of airmen who now live in the Coachella Valley and have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for bravery in air combat. This stunning black marble monument stands nearly seventeen feet and has two wings engraved with the name and rank of the Desert Fliers Command members, branch of service and rank. It sits in the center of a twelve-foot round platform named the “Walk of Honor” in which there are bricks etched with names of fallen airmen.

The “On a Wing and a Prayer Missing Man Monument” was dedicated on November 11, 2006, and is located at the entrance of Gate 1 at the Palm Springs International Airport. This beautiful monument, which is an actual wing of a Navy Aircraft, stands straight up with one side of the wing listing the names of the members of the Desert Fliers Command. The wing tip light is lit at all times and is named the “Eternal Light.” It is intended to serve as a beacon for all missing airmen to find their way home.

The “Freedom” monument was dedicated on November 11, 2010, and is located at the Palm Springs Air Museum. It is the actual propeller of a World War II B-24 Aircraft standing atop a twenty-four inch base that recognizes each branch of service, as well as Distinguished Flying Cross recipient Joseph Foster,

Lieutenant Colonel United States Air Force Retired.

The artists who inspired and created these important monuments are Lee Stanley—Lieutenant Commander United States Naval Reserve Retired, recipient of two Distinguished Flying Crosses and nine Air Medals—and his loving wife Pita.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope these memorials serve as powerful reminders of how our nation's liberty and justice has been preserved by the dedication of our armed forces. May their patriotic spirit and devotion to our nation continue to inspire Americans for generations to come. While no single tribute can fully honor their sacrifice, these memorials offer a chance for our community to stand together in honoring the men and women who have fought under the Stars and Stripes. It is with great pride that I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing these important Veteran memorials.

TRIBUTE TO THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH FLINT TABERNACLE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, May 15th, the South Flint Tabernacle will celebrate 80 years of bringing the Word of God to the people of Genesee County. The congregation will join together on that day to express their gratitude for the multiple blessings bestowed upon them by Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Reverend John McLaughlin founded South Flint Tabernacle in 1931. Several months later he turned the church over to Reverend Albert A. Abbey. Reverend Abbey remained as the pastor for the next 35 years. During this time the church relocated to its current site in Burton, Michigan. Due to an expanding congregation the church is planning to relocate to a larger facility in the near future. The Reverend Robert E. Henson has been the Pastor since 1979. Our community has grown spiritually because of Pastor Henson. I am a beneficiary of his deep faith and love of God and his creatures.

The dynamic congregation is active in over 50 different types of ministry including Home Friendship Groups. South Flint Tabernacle's Statement of Purpose is to pray, proclaim the Word of God, to win and mature disciples of Jesus Christ. Through their commitment to exalting Jesus Christ through lifestyle, worship and ministry, the congregation grows stronger in their relationship with God.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating South Flint Tabernacle as they celebrate 80 years of spiritual, meaningful, inspirational worship and ministry. The vibrant prayer life of this congregation has made South Flint Tabernacle a landmark in the community. I pray they continue to spread the Word of God through their prayers, actions, example, ministry and worship for many, many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on May 5, 2011, I inadvertently cast a “yea” vote for H.R. 1230. I intended to vote “nay.”

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. BYRON J. GROSS

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Byron J. Gross for his exceptional military service to the United States during World War II. On May 25th, 2011, the Honor Flight program will recognize Dr. Gross along with other World War II veterans at the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC for answering the call of service to our country in a time of dire peril.

In 1942, when his country needed him, Dr. Gross did not hesitate—he left his private dental practice and immediately joined the Army medical corps. In the service, he went above and beyond his assigned duties, demonstrating extraordinary patriotism and a tireless commitment to service. He was recognized for his outstanding achievements and promoted to Captain before his honorable discharge in 1946.

Dr. Gross was initially stationed stateside in Wyoming at Ft. Francis E. Warren. He then transferred to Camp Phillips in Salina, Kansas where, in addition to his regular duties in the dental clinic, he was a bivouac officer. In 1943, Dr. Gross was sent overseas to treat enlisted personnel and officers, as well as supervise the set-up, personnel, and day-to-day operations of dental laboratories based in England, France, and Germany.

Once stationed in England, Dr. Gross witnessed the devastating blitzkrieg of London which literally shook the Cumberland hotel where he was billeted with other military personnel. He vividly recalls witnessing, on D-Day, the swarms of American planes flying over Grimm's Ditch near Stonehenge in route to Germany. He remembers the sky appearing black as a seemingly never-ending wave of warplanes and airplanes towing gliders headed toward their appointed bombing mission.

The momentousness of the events in which Dr. Gross and the other servicemen and women took place cannot be overstated. Quite simply, they saved the world. We owe them a debt that can never be repaid.

Dr. Gross completed his tour of duty in 1946 and returned to the United States, where he resumed his private practice until he retired in 1990 at age 75. He is currently living in St. Louis and will turn 97 on this July 4th—a date which uniquely symbolizes his enduring love for his country.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Dr. Gross for his tremendous patriotism and courage during such an important moment in history. I ask my colleagues to join me now in thanking him for his service to his country.