

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.

HONORING MT. ZION BAPTIST
CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF
ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mt. Zion Baptist Church of the City of Madison, Wisconsin, on the historic occasion of its 100th anniversary.

Since 1911, Mt. Zion Baptist Church has been a vital organization in the Madison community. The Madison area is truly fortunate to have such a wonderful church continually working to better the community. Over the past 100 years, Mt. Zion has not only offered spiritual guidance, but also opened its doors to the community, expanding and evolving its services to meet the needs of those it serves.

In its first 100 years, Mt. Zion Baptist Church has provided a legacy of pastoral leadership. Reverend Joseph Washington, pastor from 1927 to 1965 and Reverend Joe Dawson, pastor from 1955 to 1985, did much to shape both the church and the community. That dedication to both congregation and community was further exemplified by the leadership of Reverend James Wright, who served Mt. Zion as associate minister from 1960 to 1984 and as senior pastor from 1990 to 1995. He also served the entire Madison community as Director of the Madison Equal Opportunities Commission. That rich tradition continues today under the leadership of Reverend Richard L. Jones, Sr.

Beyond offering a tradition of strong and inspirational pastoral guidance, Mt. Zion Baptist Church works tirelessly to give back to the community. Today, Reverend Richard Jones ensures that Mt. Zion does all it can to feed the hungry and clothe the poor, and work to better our community through scholarships, tutors, and many other forms of charity work. Mt. Zion is always extending a helping hand to its neighbors and all those in need.

The motto of Mt. Zion Baptist Church is "Building up Reaching out," and this ideal is personified by the congregation at Mt. Zion. Every day since 1911, Madison area residents have enjoyed the service and guidance provided by the Church.

Today, I am humbled to join the congregation of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, the residents of the City of Madison, the people of the State of Wisconsin, and all citizens of the United States in recognizing, honoring, and sincerely thanking Mt. Zion Baptist Church and its faithful followers for their selfless works and tireless commitment for the past 100 years.

A TRIBUTE TO IOWA PEACE CORPS
MEMBERS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 17 Peace Corps Volunteers from Iowa's 4th Congressional District. These Iowans represent more than 50 years of service through their efforts overseas to promote peace while serving their country.

These men and women are promoting peaceful international relations through the Peace Corps, which was established on March 1, 1961, and has since facilitated more than 200,000 volunteers promoting peace in nearly 140 host countries.

I would like to take this moment to formally recognize Jill E. Anderson, Katie J. Angell, Brian G. Baskerville, Brittany N. Bermudez, Anna C. Cowan, Jugeswar A. Dowerah, Anse A. Dykstra, Sean C. Fredericks, Mary Kate L. Hart, Kenneth W. Hood, Jessi M. LeClear Vachta, Tyler J. LeClear Vachta, Kyndra A. Lundquist, Alan T. McDonald, Owen G. McMullen, Sarah L. Smiley, and Marcus T. Walton for their incredible service.

I applaud each and every one of these men and women—the next generation of leaders in Iowa and this nation—for their hard work and accomplishments, and I am proud to represent them and their families in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues will join me in congratulating them and wishing them well as they continue to serve those in need at home and abroad.

NORTHERN IRELAND ELECTIONS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, with the recent celebration of Easter and the results of the May 5th Assembly elections in Northern Ireland, there is no better time for those in Northern Ireland and members of the Irish Diaspora around the world to renew their commitment to peace and power-sharing in Northern Ireland.

With some areas gaining new representation, and some choosing to reelect their leaders, we are reminded of the need for constructive political discourse and peaceful debate about the issues that are of greatest concern to the people of Northern Ireland.

The 1998 Good Friday agreement highlighted a commitment to "exclusively peaceful and democratic means" and this example should be continued to be followed every day.

Irish Americans and all Americans can continue to show their support for a peaceful political process and the importance of such an agreement will be highlighted later this month with the President's visit to Ireland.

The two leading parties, the Democratic Unionists and Sinn Féin, have had both of their leaders show public support for continuing peaceful negotiations and represent political parties that have pledged to work together.

They have realized that even though their parties may have differing views on certain issues, it does not immediately preclude them from working together. This is a lesson from which we can all learn.

Recently, Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams released a statement regarding not only the importance of a commitment to peace by the Irish, but also by Irish Americans.

The future of Northern Ireland depends on renewing a commitment to peace and continuing to value the opinions and thoughts of all those that contribute to political and community discussions.

It is critical that the U.S. remain involved in the issues of Northern Ireland. We can work

with the Irish to secure a future where power can continue to be shared amongst parties, where differing points of view are heard and respected, and where differences of opinions are not met with violence and death, but with open minds and hearts.

HONORING ITBD

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Central Connecticut State University's Institute for Technology and Business Development (ITBD), which is being inducted into the Connecticut Business Hall of Fame. Since its inception in 1986, ITBD has provided business and aspiring entrepreneurs with various support services to help them start and grow successful companies throughout Connecticut.

For nearly a quarter century, ITBD has been driven by its mission to help Connecticut businesses and their employees meet the demands of the global economy. To that end, the Institute, located in the heart of my district in downtown New Britain, has offered a full array of employee training courses, manufacturing process improvement, government procurement assistance, and small business development and conferencing services. Its business incubation program has provided dozens of start-up companies with a cost-effective means to grow their fledgling businesses. Several of these one-time incubator clients are now thriving companies that employ scores of people across the state.

Throughout its existence, ITBD has partnered with various community organizations to work collaboratively in achieving its goals. From the state's five workforce boards, to several chambers of commerce, to various regional planning agencies and community service organizations, ITBD has actively engaged a litany of organizations in the furtherance of its efforts to assist the business community and Connecticut's workforce.

While the State of Connecticut and the entire nation strive to recover from the Great Recession, ITBD continues to focus on helping Connecticut companies and their employees prosper in the global marketplace. Its commitment to excellence and service to the business community is reflective of the leadership of the President of Central Connecticut State University, Dr. Jack Miller, and Richard C. Mullins, Jr., Executive Assistant to the President.

I want to thank ITBD for all that they have done over the past 25 years, and I am pleased to congratulate them on their induction into the Connecticut Business Hall of Fame.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF ST. MARY'S STAR
OF THE SEA PARISH

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of St.