

More than anybody—this victory belongs to you—and was earned by decades of hard work. We salute you. Congratulations!

IN RECOGNITION OF PAGE MORTON BLACK AND THE PARKINSON'S DISEASE FOUNDATION

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2011*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Page Morton Black, an extraordinarily selfless and effective leader who has distinguished herself through her dedication to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, PDF, and its critical mission. I urge my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Black and her service to others as chair of the Board of Directors of PDF. Following the observance in April of "Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month," her immense contributions to the fight against Parkinson's Disease will be recognized this month by PDF supporters at its annual "Bal du Printemps" at the Pierre Hotel in New York City.

Founded in 1957 by Mrs. Black's late husband, William Black, the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, PDF, is a leading national presence in Parkinson's Disease research, education and public advocacy. The PDF serves the nearly one million Americans who live with Parkinson's by offering critical support for cutting-edge medical research to determine the causes of Parkinson's and develop a cure, while assisting those afflicted by the disease and their families and caregivers with educational outreach, vigorous public advocacy, and a host of support services. Led by Mrs. Black and her late husband, PDF has provided more than \$85 million in funding for research on Parkinson's Disease all over the world, as well as \$34 million in support of educational and support programs for families and care partners of persons with Parkinson's. As the chair of the Congressional Working Group on Parkinson's Disease, I can attest first-hand to the critical role the PDF continues to play in the fight against Parkinson's.

The creation of the Parkinson's Disease Foundation is an inspirational story. William Black, an immigrant to America, was the founder of the renowned and much beloved Chock Full o'Nuts coffee and restaurant business—which was made famous in no small part due to its advertising featuring Page Morton Black singing the company's catchy jingle about Chock Full o'Nuts' "heavenly coffee," a performance which quickly entered the popular lexicon. Mr. Black was moved to found the PDF after his close friend, the company's controller, was diagnosed with Parkinson's. He was greatly dismayed to learn that not only was there no truly effective treatment, but also that no basic research on Parkinson's was being conducted. Using his own funds, he established the PDF, which was the first private foundation in the United States created specifically to advance research into the causes of Parkinson's, help develop a cure, and support those living with the disease.

William Black was determined to launch a research program aimed at finding effective drug treatment for the disease. Working with some of the nation's most prominent and re-

spected researchers, the Blacks made two major donations to Columbia University, one to help construct the research laboratory building that now bears Mr. Black's name, which houses one entire floor dedicated to Parkinson's research; and the other to endow support for that research. This close relationship between the PDF and Columbia University has persisted to this day. Following Mr. Black's passing Page Morton Black became chair of the PDF Board of Directors, helping ensure that the PDF has remained a driving force in combating Parkinson's Disease. Under her leadership, the PDF expanding its outreach, advocacy, and research funding. The PDF is making a real difference in our understanding of Parkinson's Disease, leading to new therapies and, in time, hopefully a cure.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise to join me in recognizing Page Morton Black, a great American and a great New Yorker who has distinguished herself through her lifetime of extraordinary service to others.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL LINGO

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2011*

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Lingo, who is retiring as Superintendent of the Bakersfield City School District (BCSD) in Bakersfield, California. Mike has been an education leader in the district for 41 years and has spent the last 5 years as Superintendent of BCSD, the largest non-unified pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade district in California.

Mike grew up in Bakersfield and was educated in the community where he now works. He attended Horace Mann Elementary, Sierra Junior High, East High, and Bakersfield College. He finished his college education at California State University, Fresno. After graduating, he returned to Bakersfield and started teaching in BCSD in 1970.

After 20 years of teaching, Mike shifted his career and began his service in school administration. He served as the Supervisor of Employer-Employee Relations for BCSD in 1990. Then in 1995, he became Director of Personnel Services. In 2000, he was again promoted to Assistant Superintendent of Business Services. In this role, he oversaw all of the financial and services aspects that the district performs on top of pupil instruction. Mike became Superintendent in 2006.

Many of his coworkers have expressed appreciation for Mike's leadership at a time when the school district has seen budget cuts year after year. Yet during Mike's time as superintendent, the district's academic performance index score rose from 643 to 688, a testament to his leadership and the hard work of the teachers, students, and parents in the school district. In addition, BCSD was the first major district in California to implement Learning Village, an online curriculum system.

Dedicated to education on multiple levels, Mike's retirement will leave big shoes to fill at BCSD. The Bakersfield community and I commend his service to the thousands of BCSD students over four decades and we hope that Mike enjoys his transition into the next chapter of his life.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF JUDGE FRANCIS E. SWEENEY, SR.

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Judge Francis E. Sweeney, a former Justice on the Supreme Court of Ohio, who passed away on April 10, 2011.

Born on January 24, 1934, Judge Sweeney was raised in Northeast Ohio. He graduated from St. Ignatius High School before attending Xavier University. He received the Legion of Honor Award from his alma mater upon graduating in 1956. After completing his undergraduate education, Judge Sweeney spent several years playing professional football in Canada with the Ottawa Rough Riders. In 1957, Judge Sweeney joined the U.S. Army and served his country bravely during the Korean War.

Judge Sweeney returned to Cleveland in 1958 and began working in Allstate Insurance Company's legal department. While working at Allstate, he attended Cleveland-Marshall Law School and earned his juris doctor degree in 1963. He left Allstate and started working as an assistant prosecuting attorney for Cuyahoga County.

In 1970, Judge Sweeney began his career as a judge for the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas. In 1988, he began sitting as a judge for Ohio's Court of Appeals of the Eighth Appellate District, the busiest and largest appellate court in the state of Ohio. In 1992, Judge Sweeney became a Justice on the Supreme Court of Ohio and would serve two terms until his retirement in 2004. After retiring, Judge Sweeney continued serving as a retired assigned judge in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court.

Judge Sweeney was a highly accomplished lawyer and judge. He was the recipient of the Outstanding Judicial Service Award by the Ohio Supreme Court for fourteen consecutive years. He was named Xavier University's Alumnus of the Year in 1977, received the Cardinal Bellarmine Award for Legal Excellence 1994 from St. Ignatius High School, and was presented with the Outstanding Alumnus Award in 2000 by Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Judge Francis E. Sweeney, Sr. I offer my sincere condolences to his wife, children and grandchildren.

COMMEMORATING MAY 19TH AS A HISTORIC DAY IN THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2011*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a historic day in the Republic of Turkey. On May 19th, while Congress was in recess, the Republic of Turkey and Friends of Turkey commemorated the 92d anniversary of the launching of Turkey's national campaign to establish an independent nation by Mustafa

Kemal Atatürk, the founder of modern Turkey. Turkey also celebrates May 19th as the birthday of Atatürk.

During his lifetime Atatürk was able to lift a country from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire and build a secular democratic nation located at the crossroads of Europe and the Middle East. His reforms were widespread including political, social, legal, educational, and economic. Some were monumental such as abolishing the caliphate and the sultan, recognizing equal rights for men and women, adopting a new alphabet and adopting secular law. Atatürk had a vision for the country, one of a pro-western secular and democratic state in which the rule of law would prevail. He swiftly but steadily advanced toward that goal with the confidence of a born leader and the support of the Turkish nation.

Atatürk championed women's rights, and believed that education and scientific training was the key to advancement not only for the individual, but also for the country. During his tenure, women were encouraged to become doctors, lawyers, engineers, scientists, and enter into politics.

The legacy of Atatürk is even more evident today, as the Arab Spring leads to dramatic changes in the Middle East and North Africa. There are lessons in Turkey's history which can be applied to the current situation around the world. With the right leadership and determination, democracy can take root and lay the foundations for a prosperous future in the region.

HONORING MAYOR JOHN  
DESTEFANO, JR., 2011 RECIPIENT  
OF THE TORCH OF LIBERTY  
AWARD

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2011*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Anti-Defamation League and the New Haven community in paying tribute to the outstanding work of this year's Torch of Liberty Award recipient, the Honorable John DeStefano, Jr., Mayor of New Haven, Connecticut. In the seventeen years since he was first sworn into office, Mayor DeStefano has worked tirelessly to improve our community and the quality of life for residents. It is that extraordinary spirit of public service that is honored with this prestigious tribute.

Our communities would not be the same without the efforts of individuals whose work truly benefits our families and neighborhoods. Each year, the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League presents the Torch of Liberty Award to an outstanding leader in the community, recognizing their unique commitment and dedication. Mayor DeStefano and his efforts to enrich the city of New Haven are a remarkable reflection of the true spirit of community service.

When Mayor DeStefano took office in 1994, the city of New Haven was facing challenges on multiple fronts. The crime rate had risen, the downtown business district was being eclipsed by the modern conveniences of mall shopping, the schools were in desperate need of modernization, and the individual neighborhoods had suffered the consequences of sub-

urban expansion. It was no small task to turn the city's reputation around and regain the promise and prosperity it had once held. Mayor DeStefano approached all of these issues with both enthusiasm and purpose.

During the Mayor's tenure, virtually every public school has been rebuilt under the City-wide School Construction Plan. Some of the key features of this program have supported universal pre-kindergarten, the largest inter-district enrollment and magnet school program in Connecticut, and college level lab and technology features. Mayor DeStefano brought the New Haven public school system into the modern era and has gone a long way in providing New Haven teachers and students with the technology and tools that they need to achieve academic success.

The Mayor focused his attention on rebuilding the relationships between the city and Yale University as well as the hospital and medical communities. By strengthening these partnerships and building on its successes, New Haven has emerged as a national center of life and bio science businesses and the city center has undergone a dramatic transformation into a mixed use community. The Mayor also worked to strengthen neighborhoods through managing housing stock to mixed income and use models, promoting commercial corridors as well as implementing street smart infrastructure and public improvements. In addition, the Mayor worked with local law enforcement on a new model of community policing which decentralized police management districts which has effectively transformed public safety in the community. With all of these efforts, it is no wonder that under Mayor DeStefano's tenure, New Haven has been recognized by the National Civic League as an "All America City" three times.

A lifelong resident of the city of New Haven, Mayor John DeStefano, Jr. has dedicated innumerable hours to finding solutions to our city's challenges and to improving the quality of life for all New Haven residents. His work and public service is a reflection of what the Torch of Liberty Award stands for and I am proud to join all of those gathered this evening in congratulating him on this very special honor. I am pleased to have this opportunity to wish him, his wife Kathy, and their two sons, Dan and Jim, all the best for many more years of health, happiness and success.

COMMENDING STAFF SERGEANT  
DEANTE BROOKS AND HIS WORK  
IN AFGHANISTAN

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2011*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the courageous work of Air Force Staff Sergeant Deante Brooks in defending the Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan. Sergeant Brooks deployed to Afghanistan in 2010 as part of the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. On May 19, 2010, Sergeant Brooks was performing a security sweep of the airfield's perimeter with a Security Forces teammate, along with their Marine comrades when they came under attack.

Sergeant Brooks heard a scream, and realized his wingman had been injured by a gre-

nade. He raced back to the base with the injured wingman, providing medical assistance along the way. After Sergeant Brooks placed the injured soldier in the care of emergency medical personnel, he returned to the fight and provided reinforcements that helped to secure the area.

I recently met Sergeant Brooks, and we talked about his heroic work in defending the airfield's perimeter. I was deeply honored to meet such a brave and admirable individual. I cannot imagine what our country would be like without individuals like Sergeant Brooks—he and his fellow soldiers deserve the praise of all Americans for their dedication and service in protecting our nation.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are forever indebted to the men and women in uniform for their courage, honor, dedication and hard work in serving our country. Staff Sergeant Deante Brooks exemplifies this spirit and is a true American hero.

IN RECOGNITION OF HILDA  
GRIGORIAN

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2011*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hilda Grigorian, a Glendale resident who has dedicated herself to helping those in need around the world, often in some of the most challenging and dangerous locations.

Hilda Grigorian was born and raised in Iran, and migrated to the United States in 1978 in pursuit of the American dream of education and career. Hilda achieved both of these goals—she obtained a bachelor's degree and MBA and is currently working toward her Ph.D. at Walden University. She also worked in the private sector for over two decades, focusing on international development.

Hilda began her international relief efforts with a trip to her motherland of Armenia, where she volunteered to help small businesses. After several visits to Armenia's rural villages, she established a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) called Armenia Village Operation, which she started with her own funds and other private funding. The program implemented important projects in the rural villages of Armenia.

In 2005, Hilda traveled to Afghanistan to work with a USAID funded program to help vulnerable, widowed women with business planning and access to funds to regain their businesses which were destroyed by the Taliban. She then worked for UNDP in the youth development project. In 2008, she began working for USAID Afghanistan as a Field Program Officer, stationed in the Province of Nangarhar, which borders Pakistan. In 2009, she was transferred to the remote, rural Province of Ghor in western Afghanistan, where she helped people implement community development programs, created jobs through cash for work projects, and ensured a fair distribution of food to the people of Ghor.

Hilda's selfless dedication to the people of Afghanistan has immeasurably benefited some of the most at-risk people in the world, and has demonstrated the generous spirit of Americans toward those in crisis. She thrived in an environment that afforded her very basic living