

Because, your fine son. . . . Your Marine Michael, so died for what is right!
 And what is real!
 As you must remember, one day in Heaven. . . .
 Your son's arms around you, you shall feel!
 And if ever I have a son,
 I but hope and pray, he could be like your fine one!
 Michael, His Father's Son!
 And Mother's only most brilliant one!
 Amen!

CONGRATULATING ALDERMAN
 BRIAN DOHERTY

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the City of Chicago 41st Ward Alderman Brian Doherty. After twenty years of dedicated service, Alderman Doherty has decided to retire, and I wanted to thank him for his work.

Elected to the City Council in 1991, Alderman Doherty represented the City of Chicago's Northwest Side, including O'Hare International Airport. Brian always fought for strong ethics reforms and government transparency, two issues very important to me. He voted for a sunshine ordinance that makes it much easier to determine how taxpayer dollars are spent on Tax Increment Financing Districts.

During Alderman Doherty's time in office, he worked to bring economic opportunities to his communities and make his constituents safer. Since many 41st Ward residents are part of the city's enormous work force, such as police officers, firefighters and employees of Streets and Sanitation, we applaud his efforts for serving those who serve us.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Alderman Brian Doherty of the 41st Ward of Chicago. I appreciate his twenty years of hard work as Alderman and I wish him, his wife Rose and his two children Katie and Kevin all the best.

HONORING ANNIE KLEIN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Annie Klein was born on May 22, 1921 to Dora and Samuel Ratick in Maynard, Massachusetts. Her parents were both immigrants of Warsaw, Poland. She was born into a family of three sisters and four brothers and her mother still had another daughter, at the age of 50.

The family moved from small town Maynard to The Bronx in New York City. Early in her life, Annie lost her father to a heart attack, leaving her mother sole survivor and sole responsible parent for her 9 children.

Annie was a graduate of Morris High School in 1940. On December 7, 1941 she got engaged to David Klein, a soldier in the U.S. Army. They moved from The Bronx to Hereford, Texas. While there, they had a son, Sam, in August 1944. Even though they were offered a "Hereford Cow" every year while

they stayed in Texas by a local rancher, they decided instead to move back to the South Bronx with Annie's mom.

While developing skills that would enable David to get a job, he developed health issues. At the age of 41, David had a massive heart attack that made him a 100 percent totally disabled veteran.

With David unable to work and the addition of her younger son, Les, Annie had to find a job. She worked for the Social Security Office for 5 years. After that, she found a job at City College of New York and worked as a College Office Assistant.

In 1968, her son Sammy married Sandy Desio. While tending to her husband David and son, Les, she managed to work, as well as help care for her mother who had become disabled with Parkinson's disease.

In 1972, her husband David passed away, leaving Annie to once again be the sole caregiver of Les. In 1980, Les married Gail Labita and Annie became a mother-in-law once again. Annie finally decided to retire in the early 1980s.

Annie became grandmother to Sammy and Sandy's children, David and Dena's as well as great-grandmother to David's son Jake and Dena's children Gia, Rocco and Sammi. She is also grandmother to Les and Gail's children Douglas and Allison.

Sadly in her lifetime she had had the misfortune of burying 7 of her brothers and sisters who meant the world to her. Above all, in 2007 Annie received the greatest blow of her life, when her son, Sam passed away. Most people would have crumbled and given up but Annie, with her customary grace and dignity raised her head high and with the help of her family, continued on.

Annie Klein is a Woman of Valor who has shown us all how to live with love and grace even through life's most challenging times. I join with her family and friends and thank her for her dignity and courage. As said in the Bible: "Who can find a virtuous woman for her price is far above rubies?" Well, that woman is Annie Klein.

IN HONOR OF JOHN SHEPHERD
 AND THE AMERICAN SOLDIER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of John Shepherd, the longest-living veteran of the American Revolution, and all of our soldiers and veterans. This Memorial Day, the city of North Royalton will celebrate the life and patriotism of Mr. Shepherd, who lived to be 117 years, 9 months, and 18 days old.

John Shepherd was born near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1729. He was a brave patriot and served in both the French and Indian War and the American Revolution. In 1817, Mr. Shepherd moved to Royalton Township in the present-day North Royalton, Ohio, where he spent the remainder of his long life as a farmer. At the time of his death, he was the last survivor of Braddock's Defeat, and he was the longest-living veteran of the American Revolution. He was buried in the municipal cemetery of Royalton Township.

This Memorial Day, the city of North Royalton will honor Mr. Shepherd, as well as all American soldiers and veterans, with a pancake breakfast, parade, and memorial service. The Cleveland Shrine Band, the United States Army Color Guard, the Boy Scouts of America, the Sons of the American Revolution, and a number of other organizations will be on hand to mark this special occasion. This will be a fitting celebration to commemorate Mr. Shepherd, and all veterans who have served their country.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of John Shepherd, the longest living veteran of the American Revolution. His spirit lives on through all soldiers and veterans that we proudly recognize, honor, and thank this Memorial Day.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of the Conyers, Clarke, Cohen, Duncan Amendment, opposing the deployment of ground troops in Libya. It is unconscionable for us to deploy our already strained troops into harm's way again when many of them have served two, three or more tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It is also irresponsible for us to spend more money on another open-ended military conflict without a cogent plan of action and withdrawal. As a Member of Congress, I cannot take part in another act of aggression further straining the budget we are so desperately working to fix and our troops who have answered above and beyond the call of duty.

My constituents and I already feel that the war in Afghanistan has gone on long enough without a clear and sufficient exit strategy. We cannot partake in another fruitless war. We must shift our focus to getting out of Iraq and Afghanistan, stabilizing our economy and creating jobs for the American people. Instead let us focus on securing funding for small businesses rather than spending money on another open-end conflict.

Madam Chair, as a representative of the 11th congressional district of New York, our hearts and minds go out to the people's struggle for freedom in Libya. And as a nation, we should continue our support for their quest for freedom, through NATO forces. However it is our duty as a Members of Congress to protect and serve our fellow Americans first. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to join us and support this amendment.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF METRO WEST

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Jewish Family Service of Metro West, based in Morris County, New Jersey, on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

Jewish Family Service (JFS) began its community assistance during the 1860s as the Hebrew Benevolent and Orphan Asylum dedicated to helping orphans and the needy in Newark, New Jersey. Over the past 150 years, JFS has become a well known, comprehensive, social service agency which reaches more than 3,500 families each year. JFS proudly serves Essex, Morris, Sussex, Union and Hudson Counties with offices located in Florham Park, Livingston and Jersey City.

JFS is an inclusive, non-discriminatory agency offering more than 40 wide-ranging programs including, counseling, support groups and eldercare. Counseling is provided for individuals or families who are struggling with communication difficulties, life transitions, loss or abuse. Support groups for eldercare, those with Aspergers and those facing parenting issues and divorce are also available. All services are preformed by highly skilled staff members consisting of clinical social workers, case managers, psychologists and psychiatrists. The dedication of the JFS staff is continually affirmed through their prompt and compassionate support.

JFS promotes family relationships with services such as family play therapy, parenting workshops and adoption services. Putting their clients and families at the center of their team-based approach helps strengthen positive family values. JFS also supplies a 24-hour crisis response line, offers financial assistance, debt management and volunteer services.

As one of New Jersey's oldest and well-respected family service agencies, the Jewish Family Service of Metro West clinical social work team offers the experience, expertise and compassion that deserves to be recognized.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Jewish Family Service of Metro West as it celebrates its 150th Anniversary.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUNTINGDON VALLEY FIRE COMPANY #1

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Huntingdon Valley Fire Company #1 as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

One does not need to look far to see signs of the distinguished history of Huntingdon Valley Fire Company. After their founding the company used a local barn to store their equipment; that barn still stands just up the

road from the current firehouse. After struggling to raise funds for equipment, a locomotive tire was donated to the company to be used as an alarm bell. The tire is currently hanging in front of the firehouse. The fire company's website shows pictures of every major piece of equipment the company has owned in its century long history.

In addition to the ties to their founding, the fire company also has a consistent record of being strongly supported by the community. The use of the old barn to store their first pieces of equipment in 1911 was volunteered by a local resident. To raise funds for their first fire wagon in 1911 the company held carnivals, dances, and minstrel shows for the community. Their first make-shift fire alarm, the locomotive tire, was donated by the Midvale Steel Company. In 1912 the four wheeled fire cart was pulled by the closest two horses available. When the fire company needed to build a new addition to their garage it was built and paid for by members of the company. In 1929 the residents contributed the funds necessary to purchase a piece of modern fire equipment. With the growth in population of the 1940's it became clear that the fire company needed additional funds to continue to provide fire protection. A question was raised and the community agreed that a fire tax was necessary to ensure that the company had the funds needed to purchase and maintain modern firefighting equipment.

Over the 100 years that Huntingdon Valley fire company has been protecting its residents they have upgraded their equipment, modernized their operation, and expanded their services. Through the decades, the fire company has never lost sight of their original goal of fulfilling the time honored tradition of volunteers risking their lives to protect their neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Huntingdon Valley Fire Company as they mark their 100th year of protecting the community.

CONGRATULATING AZERBAIJAN ON TWENTY YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an important ally of ours in the South Caucasus region, Azerbaijan, which is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its independence as a democratic nation. Despite the global recession, Azerbaijan has experienced strong economic growth in each of the past three years, in part due to increased immigration as people from surrounding nations have found that Azerbaijan affords the greatest opportunity for employment, stability and security for working families in the region.

Azerbaijan continues to face unique challenges that it must overcome to maintain the promise of its independent democratic principles. This country of eight million people occupies the Western shore of the Caspian Sea, bordering Russia to the North and Iran to the South. This region contains vast oil and gas resources equivalent to those of Saudi Arabia, with Azerbaijan owning one-third of these valuable deposits, but it must be vigilant in main-

taining independence of action regarding the use and distribution of its extracted resources. Their main oil pipeline runs from the capital city, Baku, through Georgia and Turkey, and out to the Turkish port of Ceyhan on the Mediterranean Sea.

In the early 1990's, Azerbaijan was involved in a brutal conflict with its neighbor to the West, Armenia, and the repercussions from atrocities committed during that time still impact diplomatic and economic relations today. Since a cease-fire was negotiated in 1994, these two nations have been locked in a dispute over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, located within Azerbaijan but occupied by Armenian forces. The Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, of which the United States is a co-chair, was created to encourage a peaceful, negotiated resolution to this conflict, yet work remains in reaching this goal.

Azerbaijan is a secular, modern, Muslim nation that has practiced complete religious tolerance for hundreds of years, with some five Jewish synagogues in Baku alone. Israel is an important oil customer of theirs, and in the past year, honored Azerbaijani teams that worked alongside Israelis in fighting large wildfires that ravaged northern Israel. And of major importance, Azerbaijan bolsters U.S. efforts in Afghanistan through troops and airfields that provide logistical support.

It is important that America continue to encourage Azerbaijan in its democratic and economic growth, and highlight the progress made in these last twenty years. Congratulations, Azerbaijan.

NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY OMS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was National Missing Children's Day, a reminder that although progress has been made, child protection must remain a national priority.

Each day, in the United States, more than 2,185 children are reported missing and approximately 800,000 children are reported missing each year.

This past April marked one year since Ali Lowitzer of Spring, Texas went missing.

Ali's plans were to ride the school bus and go straight to work after school at the local burger shop.

She did not come home after work though, and Mrs. Lowitzer put in a call to the police when she could not get in touch with her daughter.

The search began soon after and continues today.

We cannot give up hope and must continue to be vigilant to guard our children and bring Ali and all other missing children back home.

Congress has passed significant laws to keep children safe, but must always be looking to what we can do to further ensure the security of the most innocent.

And that's just the way it is.