

major accomplishment, the Nighthawks proved that the second time is as sweet as the first.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on January 31, 2012, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall vote 12.

Had I been present for rollcall 12, on agreeing to H. Res. 522, providing for consideration of H.R. 1173, a measure to repeal the CLASS program, I would have voted "no."

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CONGRATULATING MARION GRAY

**HON. STEVE STIVERS**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marion Gray on being named Knight of the Legion of Honor by France. In the course of his service in World War II Marion Gray became the first Franklin County man to be wounded on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day.

Throughout our nation's history, courageous men and women have selflessly fought time and again to secure our liberty. Marion Gray is one of those courageous men.

A true patriot, Sergeant Gray enlisted one day after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Gray then was sent to Camp Roberts to learn Combat Intelligence. He later transferred into the Medical Corps which allowed him to serve his country with the education in pharmacology and pre-medicine that he gained at The Ohio State University.

As a combat medic, Sergeant Gray travelled as part of the 29th Division of the 116th Regiment to the beaches of Normandy, where he was part of the first wave to land on D-Day.

Sergeant Gray's regiment was one of the hardest hit and during the course of that day Gray was injured twice. Thankfully, he survived but had to spend 30 days recovering in a hospital in South Hampton, England before being returned to his original company. He later went on to help liberate St. Lo, France, and served admirably until the end of the war in Europe.

It is because of the sacrifices made by Marion Gray and those he served with, that we continue to enjoy the freedoms that we do today. I am deeply thankful for Sergeant Marion Gray's heroism and sacrifice, and I congratulate him on earning the Knight of the Legion of Honor.

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HONORING MORTIMER SULLIVAN

**HON. KATHLEEN C. HOCHUL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation.

Whereas: Mortimer Sullivan is a resident of Erie County and is married to Maryanne Calella. They are the proud parents of two children, Mark and Michael; and

Whereas: In 1954, Mortimer graduated from the University of Buffalo where he earned a degree in Psychology and completed Western New York's first college-accredited certificate-granting law enforcement training program. He also was the first commander of the University's Air Force ROTC Corps of Cadets; and

Whereas: After graduating from College he reported to active duty in the Air Force, and later served in the Air Force Office of Special Investigations Mobilization Reserve Program from which he retired in 1987; and

Whereas: Colonel Mortimer Sullivan earned the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army and Air Force Commendation medals, and the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross during his service; and

Whereas: Mr. Sullivan was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1964; and

Whereas: Rising to the rank of Lieutenant, Mortimer is a founding charter member of the Erie County Sheriffs Scientific Reserve with 40 years of service; and

Whereas: For 25 years, Mortimer Sullivan chaired the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York Committee on Constitutions and Cannons and received the Bishop's Award for Ministry of the Laity; and be it further

*Resolved*, That we pause in our deliberations to honor Mortimer Sullivan for his dedication and service to the Erie County Sheriff's Department and our community.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER PENNSYLVANIA STATE REP. TERRY VAN HORNE

**HON. MARK S. CRITZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of a selfless community leader, accomplished lawmaker and skilled statesman. Former Pennsylvania state representative Terry Van Horne died on Monday, January 30, 2012, at the age of 65. Terry was a gentleman who used his talents as a legislator to enhance the lives of the people of the Allegheny-Kiski Valley. He was known as an independent-minded public servant who never allowed partisan politics to stand in the way of doing what was best for his constituents. Terry's unwillingness to compromise his core convictions for the sake of political expediency gained him the love of his constituents and the respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Terry began his principled and distinguished career in public service on the Arnold City Council in the late 1970's. From there, he went on to represent Pennsylvania's 54th House District for nearly 20 years. By all accounts, he was a dynamic, yet congenial legislator who could defuse even the bitterest of political scuffles with his quick wit and radiant smile. After leaving office in 2000, he worked as a consultant and practiced law before returning to public service in 2007 to serve as

municipal manager for Penn Hills, Pennsylvania, a position he held until February of 2009. Just this past December, Terry was hired by the Arnold Council to be its new city clerk.

While tragedy cut his life short, Terry will be remembered not for how he died, but for how he lived—as a steadfast champion of the people.

Mr. Speaker, who can explain why great men like Terry are taken from us prematurely? The reality that Terry will no longer be able to pursue his life's passion of public service is truly a tragedy for everyone who calls the Alle-Kiski Valley home. I hope that his wife, Jacqueline, and all of his family and friends find comfort in knowing that Terry's legacy will continue to inspire generations of public servants to come.

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IN CELEBRATION OF MARY CLARE HIGGINS

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of former Mayor of Northampton, Massachusetts, Mary Clare Higgins. Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Mary Clare Higgins was the eldest girl among her six siblings. Mayor Higgins later settled in Northampton in the late 1970s where she followed in the footsteps of her father and became involved in local politics.

Ms. Higgins' first involvement in local government came in 1990 when she was appointed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the Massachusetts Housing Authority. Distinguishing herself through her various roles in municipal government, Ms. Higgins was first elected to the Northampton City Council in 1994 and later as president of the council in 1998. Since her election as mayor in 2000, Ms. Higgins has dually served as President of the Massachusetts Mayors' Association and was a member of the Municipal Finance Task Force of Metro Mayors Coalition.

During her tenure as mayor, Ms. Higgins has served as an advocate for the preservation and expansion of Northampton in the twenty-first century. With her initiative for growth within the community, Mayor Higgins saw promise in the development of Hospital Hill and the ongoing preservation of open space throughout the city. Her accomplishments as mayor have been recognized by a number of local, statewide, and nationwide organizations for her distinguished service.

Mary Clare Higgins has been an important part of the history and the further advancement of Northampton in the years to come. She in her role as a civil servant has placed her responsibility as a municipal leader first. Her contributions to the well-being of those whom she had the privilege to represent for over a decade is a testimony of the quality of leadership Mayor Higgins has displayed. I am honored to have known Mary Clare Higgins and I offer her my warmest regards and wishes for her future endeavors.

HONORING THE 13 RECIPIENTS OF  
THE CAMDEN COUNTY, NJ, FREEDOM  
MEDALS

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 13 recipients of the Camden County Freedom Medal. In 2001, this high honor was created to pay tribute to those who reflect the ideals and beliefs held by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The honorees of this esteemed award are exemplary citizens who have made momentous contributions to their community in a variety of ways. These individuals have not only dedicated themselves to bettering their community, but have also worked selflessly to bring together people of different backgrounds, cultures, and creeds.

This award is unique in that it does not honor people only in one area of service, but rather highlights individuals who have made significant contributions to society, each in their own way. Recipients of this year's award have done everything from establishing a college preparatory program for minority students, to founding an environmental program, to creating a 5K race in honor of a fellow Marine killed in action, to providing free health and education classes, among many other accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate all of the recipients of this year's Freedom Medal: Atnre Alleyne, Nasim Badat, Roger W. Barker, Lori Braunstein, Sister Helen Cole, Hardon H. Durrani, James E. Hannold, Linda Holscher, Melinda Kane, Mary Lamielle, Thelma Lenore Long, Robert Morrell, and Larry and Trudy Painter. I join the county in paying tribute to these 13 individuals and I thank them for helping carry out Dr. King's legacy with tireless dedication.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAINE ORGANIC FARMERS AND GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association MOFGA on their 40 year anniversary.

Committed to the Maine tradition of local, family owned agricultural businesses which produce some of the healthiest agricultural goods available, Abby McMillen began organizing membership for what would become MOFGA in 1971. The organization initially served as a forum where organic growers could learn from each other and perfect their trade. By 1972, MOFGA was certifying organic farms using standards laid out by Rodale Organic Garden. Today, the association has grown to include 6,000 members and nearly 350 certified farms.

MOFGA is also one of the most active groups in the state. The association runs nu-

merous educational, apprenticeship, and charitable programs that connect Maine's organic growers with each other and communities around the world. Their quarterly published news paper, The Maine Organic Farmer & Gardener, is one of the nation's leading information sources on organic agriculture and sustainable living practices. What's more, the annual Common Ground County Fair hosted by MOFGA has become one of the state's most anticipated events each year. Thousands of people are drawn to the town of Unity from all over the country to enjoy live entertainment and meet with local farmers, vendors and artisans.

MOFGA has demonstrated itself to be an invaluable resource for Maine growers and consumers who are interested in learning about healthy food and environmentally friendly farming methods. These agricultural practices are beneficial to public health, the environment and Maine's economy. Additionally, the association annually reviews farms and food processors to ensure that food labeled as organic truly lives up to that standard.

I wish MOFGA continued success in working with farmers, gardeners and families all across Maine to promote healthier and more nutritious eating options.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association on the 40th anniversary of its founding.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
RICHMOND TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR  
GORDON FUERSTENAU

**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Michigan's 10th Congressional District. On February 17, 2012, family, friends and neighbors of Mr. Gordon Fuerstenau will gather at the Richmond Township Hall to celebrate his dedicated and honorable record of public service. In total, Gordon has served the Township of Richmond located in northern Macomb County for an impressive 27 years, having first been elected as the Clerk in 1984 and then appointed to the position of Supervisor in 2003 which he held until 2011.

As a former township supervisor myself, I can personally attest to the hard work, long hours and steadfast commitment it takes to efficiently operate and manage the day-to-day business of a township. The job can be difficult at times, but the rewards far outweigh any roadblocks faced along the way. There is nothing quite like the satisfaction of seeing the work you have accomplished to improve the community in which you live. Ultimately, you know you are making a positive difference and enhancing the quality of life for the generations to follow.

Gordon's resume includes a long list of accomplishments demonstrating his leadership skills and impeccable integrity. He has served on the City of Richmond's Wellhead Protection

Team which helped protect drinking water utilized by area residents. He also was a key player in fostering the amicable relationship with the City of Richmond through his work with the Richmond Volunteer Fire Department, and triumphing key environmental issues to help maintain the rural setting that is especially unique to Richmond Township.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for this opportunity to properly acknowledge Gordon Fuerstenau's strong record of outstanding and invaluable public service to Richmond Township. I commend him on this very special occasion and offer my best wishes on many more successes in the future.

RECOGNIZING MR. JACK SCAROLA  
ON HIS DEDICATION TO HELPING  
END HOMELESSNESS

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it heartened me to learn that Jack Scarola was recognized by the Lord's Place for his work in the fight against homelessness in the West Palm Beach area of Florida. Jack is a partner in a prestigious West Palm Beach law firm who has supported homeless persons in the community since he moved to the area over 30 years ago. He was a founding member of the Lord's Place, an organization I am proud to represent in my Congressional district that is dedicated to breaking the cycle of homelessness through engagement, housing, education, and employment programs. He still is active with the Lord's Place, just having finished serving as chairman of their Board of Directors and having served on the Board for more than 20 consecutive years. I appreciate the work that he has done, and I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for his commitment to serving the community.

The Lord's Place recently honored Jack with the Ending Homelessness Award. During the award ceremony, a 1983 radio broadcast featuring the organization's efforts was played. Although the clip was a distant memory, Jack instantly remembered giving the interview. It was early in the movement to help the homeless, and he and some other volunteers were collecting donations on the steps of a local church. Jack was surprised at the community's support for their cause. Since that time, he has worked to turn this support into a community-wide effort to help other people.

For over 30 years, he has helped to make the Lord's Place fight against homelessness in Palm Beach County. In 2010, the Lord's Place supported over 500 homeless men, women, and children. Jack played a critical role in building this organization.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Jack Scarola for receiving the Ending Homelessness Award from the Lord's Place. He is truly a selfless individual that has dedicated his life to helping those in their greatest time of need.