

Pearl Harbor. This award is our nation's highest civilian honor and is presented to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the United States.

Mr. Hirabayashi was a Seattle native and a student at the University of Washington when Pearl Harbor was bombed. Shortly afterwards, Japanese-Americans were ordered to board buses for internment camps. In an act of bravery and civil disobedience, Mr. Hirabayashi, a second-generation Japanese American, refused to board the bus.

Mr. Hirabayashi, with the assistance of the American Civil Liberties Union, filed a lawsuit against the military executive order stating that Japanese Americans were a threat. Unfortunately, Mr. Hirabayashi lost the suit and was sentenced to 90 days in prison for curfew violation.

In 1987, Mr. Hirabayashi's conviction was overturned after it was determined that there was no military reason for the internment of Japanese Americans. After more than four decades, the effort he put into protecting the rights of citizens during times of war has finally been realized.

Mr. Hirabayashi passed away on January 2, 2012, at the age of 93 in Edmonton, Alberta where he served as a sociology professor from 1959 until his retirement in 1983. His family will receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives please join me in honoring Gordon Hirabayashi for his tireless commitment to justice.

HONORING BRANDON ELIZARES

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart as I take time to remember Brandon Elizares, a young man who left us two and a half weeks ago. He will always be remembered for his smile, his personality, and his desire to serve as an inspiration to others.

Brandon, like 11.7 million people in this country, was gay, and like so many of his peers, was harassed and bullied until he took his life on June 2nd after being threatened with being buried alive and shot. His last message-echoed his infinite love for his family and his apologies for not being strong enough to continue taking the abuse he had faced for over two years. His final words read, "My name is Brandon Joseph Elizares and I couldn't make it. I love you guys with all of my heart."

High school is an exciting time with an array of new experiences and challenges, but one thing it should not be is an environment where young people must worry about being bullied. Children in high school should be focused on their education. The sad reality is that for many students their primary concerns don't lie in textbooks or exams, but in fear that they will not be accepted by their peers, that they will be physically abused, and, in the case of Brandon and countless others like him, that they may consider taking their own life to escape the pain.

Brandon was a young man who exemplified the best in the El Paso community. He embodied

what this nation looks for in all of its young people. He was a best friend, a loving son, an aspiring model and artist, an excellent student, and, to a teenage girl who had contemplated suicide due to encounters with bullying, Brandon was a superhero and an older brother.

Like so many El Pasoans, I feel a personal connection to Brandon, and his death reflects the unfortunate truth that many young people in our community continue to suffer. I stand before you today asking you to help me in ensuring that Brandon's death was not in vain. Please join me in support of the Student Non-Discrimination Act (H.R. 998) and the Safe Schools Improvement Act (H.R. 1648) to protect LGBT students from discrimination and bullying in schools. I also ask you to stand with me in support of the "It Gets Better" campaign, a project whose goal is to prevent suicide among youth by having adults and allies convey the message that these teens' lives will improve.

In our country today the facts are clear:

56 percent of students have personally felt some sort of bullying at school. Between 4th and 8th grade in particular, 90 percent of students report being the victim of bullying.

9 out of 10 LGBT youth reported being verbally harassed at school in the past year because of their sexual orientation.

1 in 4 teachers see nothing wrong with bullying and will only intervene 4 percent of the time.

A victim of bullying is twice as likely to take his or her own life compared to someone who is not a victim.

41 percent of principals say they have programs designed to create a safe environment for LGBT students, but only 1/3 of principals say that LGBT students would feel safe at their school.

Every day thousands of children wake up fearing for their well being as they go to school; if the Student Non-Discrimination Act and the Safe Schools Improvement Act were enacted today, we could provide students a sense of relief and some reassurance that their government is working to improve their lives by increasing awareness about their daily struggles.

This issue, as all of you know, is not limited to one district or state, but has been felt throughout our country from California to New York. As a proud grandfather, I could not imagine what it would be like to have any of my grandchildren be bullied at school. There is no place in our society for bullying or discrimination, whether it's in our schools, communities or in our military. I want to provide hope to our youth and remind them they are not alone and that there are many venues they can turn to for help. I want to send a simple and powerful message: it gets better. If you are a student or a teacher there are resources available and I encourage you to visit www.stopbullying.gov or www.itgetsbetter.org for more information.

To the family of Brandon Elizares, no words can lessen your pain or bring your son back, but I stand with you today in honoring this kind young man. The display of love and affection from those who were close to him, those he helped, and those who have gone through experiences similar to his are a testament to the person he was and to the way you raised him. Brandon's genuine spirit and love will live on in all of those he touched. Today, the House

of Representatives and our nation honors Brandon Elizares.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I was ill with food poisoning and missed rollcall vote No. 379 and rollcall vote No. 380 on Monday, June 18, 2012, as well as rollcall vote No. 381 and rollcall vote No. 382 on Tuesday, June 19, 2012.

If I had been present, I would have voted "aye" for each of the following: rollcall vote No. 379 (S. 684), rollcall vote No. 380 (S. 404), rollcall vote No. 381 (On Ordering the Previous Question), and rollcall vote No. 382 (H. Res. 688.)

A TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR MOLINELLI JR.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute today to Mr. Arthur Molinelli Jr.

Mr. Molinelli Jr. is the owner and operator of The Modern Meat Market located on 771 New Lots Avenue. The Modern Meat Market was founded by his father after their family moved from Manhattan to Brooklyn in 1914. The market opened at 383 Milford Street on the corner of New Lots Avenue and has been in his family since 1944. Mr. Molinelli emphasizes that education and leadership, community service and entrepreneurship are deeply rooted values in his family.

Mr. Molinelli was in the Army Reserve and also served as a New York City Police Department Detective from 1974 to 1982. He and his wife, Louise, recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Arthur's brother, Steven, was the Principal of Public School 302. His brother's wife, Rose, is currently the Assistant Principal of Public School 218. Arthur was born and raised in East New York in 1945. He went to St. Rita Catholic School located at Sheppard and Liberty Avenue. Arthur also attended and graduated from Franklin K Lane High School where he was a member of the Varsity Baseball Team. His son Justin started his career as a public school educator at Intermediate School 292 located at Wyona and Pitkin Avenue.

Arthur's entrepreneurship experience spans from the time The Modern Meat Market was opened by his father to when he had officially joined the family business as the owner and operator. The Modern Meat Market services numerous Day Cares and Private Schools in East New York. Presently, he is still the owner and operator of the family business.

Lastly Arthur Molinelli Jr. and The Modern Meat Market are very active in the community. Mr. Molinelli demonstrates his commitment to community service through The Modern Meat Market yearly Turkey Giveaway, in which they distribute over 500 turkeys to the community. Arthur is a member of The New Lots Avenue

Merchant Association which is responsible for the Plaza Triangle located at New Lots Avenue train station. In addition to these services The Modern Meat Market donates food and attends the Annual Precinct Community Picnic.

Arthur Molinelli Jr. is truly an outstanding businessman who sets an example for other business and community leaders through his entrepreneurship, education and leadership, and dedication to community service.

Mr. Speaker I urge my college to join me in recognizing the talents, achievements, and community spirit of Arthur Molinelli Jr.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM FOEGE,
RECIPIENT OF THE PRESI-
DENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor William Foege for receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom for developing a strategy for immunizing people against, and eventually eradicating, small pox. This award is our nation's highest civilian honor and is presented to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the United States.

Mr. Foege, a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University and the University of Washington School of Medicine, was instrumental in developing the plan to eradicate smallpox. While serving as a missionary in Nigeria where we gave vaccines to the locals, Mr. Foege experienced a critical vaccine shortage. In order to be most effective, he started actively seeking out infected people, using photos and rewards to draw people in and immunizing anyone who had come in contact with those suffering from smallpox.

The immunization strategy Mr. Foege developed became known as "surveillance and containment." It is widely credited for the eradication of smallpox, which is often deadly especially in developing countries. For example, while using this technique in India during the 1970s, Mr. Foege and his colleagues found 11,000 cases of smallpox and within a week delivered immunizations to those infected people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives please join me in honoring William Foege for his dedication to effectively delivering immunizations to the world's most at risk populations and for being instrumental in the eradication of smallpox.

TRIBUTE TO CAROLINE WHITSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable educator, civic leader and a dear friend. Dr. Caroline Whitson is retiring on June 30, 2012, after serving as the 17th President of Columbia College for 11 years. Her leadership of this great institution will be sorely missed.

Dr. Whitson is a native of Arkansas, who grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, and returned to her home state to earn a B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. in English from the University of Arkansas. She also earned a diploma in international relations from the London School of Economics.

She began her career as an English professor, and climbed the ranks of academia to become a vice president for advancement, and a provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Since coming to Columbia College, Dr. Whitson has embraced the college's original mission, a dedication to the education of women. She expanded the college's Women Leadership Institute and helped found the Alliance for Women, which is a partnership between Columbia College and the Governor's Commission on Women, to prevent the latter's closure in 2004. Dr. Whitson has also instituted on campus the 4C leadership model that develops in young women Courage, Commitment, Confidence, and Competence. All of these efforts combine to support and grow women leaders in South Carolina.

Her leadership of the college has also resulted in annual fundraising that has doubled during her tenure. The endowment has grown by 40 percent, and she has established the McNair Scholars program and the Reeves Endowed Chair in Leadership Studies.

A college cannot grow without providing the necessary facilities. So under Dr. Whitson's watch, the college has added a new student union, residential cottages, and an athletic complex. She has also led the renovations of the freshman center, the Goodall Art Gallery, Edens Library and the Cottingham Theatre. She has also made environmentally friendly updates to the campus, adding solar panels to reduce the carbon footprint, and revitalizing the landscape.

Dr. Whitson has also expanded academic opportunities on campus by signing agreements for research and for faculty and student exchanges with both the State University of Mongolia and the Hiroshima Jogakuin Women's University in Japan.

Under her guidance, Columbia College has received a number of recognitions for teaching and scholarly excellence from the Theodore Hesburgh Foundation, the Carnegie Foundation, the National Collegiate Honors Council, the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, the Foundations of Excellence for the first College year, the NAIA Champions of Character, the National Communication Association, and the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Dr. Whitson has also lent her leadership skills to the community. She chaired the S.C. Independent Colleges and Universities President's Council and the Richland County Transportation Commission. She has also served as a member of the S.C. Tuition Grants Commission, Mayor Bob Coble's City of Columbia Arts Task Force, the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce, and The Nurturing Center board.

Currently, Dr. Whitson chairs the S.C. ETV Endowment Board. She is a member of the Midlands Business Leaders, Eau Claire Development Corporation, and the United Way board. She is also a member of the regional technology council, EngenuitySC, and serves on the President's Circle of the National Council for Research on Women.

Her tremendous work has earned her the honor of a "Woman of Distinction" from the

Girls Scouts of the Congaree Area, "Outstanding Advocate for Women in Business" from the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, and the Martha Kime Piper award from the South Carolina Women in Higher Education.

Dr. Whitson is married to Turner Whitson, and the couple has one daughter, Dr. Heather Whitson. They have a son-in-law, Dr. Ben Maynor, and two grandsons, Jacob and Christopher.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Caroline Whitson for her years of service to higher education and to her community. Her work has improved Columbia College and the greater Columbia Metropolitan area. While her public role will be greatly missed, I look forward to her continued good work on behalf of women's education and improving the status of women worldwide.

HONORING CHARLES M. JONES

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker: Our Nation recently lost one of its most patriotic Americans, Mr. Charles M. "Chuck" Jones, on May 16, 2012. Chuck had been a close friend of mine for many, many years and was one of the finest men I have ever known.

Chuck joined the Navy as a teenager toward the end of World War II and continued his service for 22 years on troop ships and submarines. He served during the Korean Conflict and the 1962 Naval blockade involving the Cuban Missile Crisis, but his service to our Country did not stop here.

Later in his career, Chuck served as the Veterans Service Officer for Knox County, Tennessee, from 1985 to 2012. He was involved in various military organizations over the years and helped spearhead the movement to bring to our area what is now known as the Ben Atchley State Veterans Home, which opened in 2007. In fact, a road near the Veterans Home was renamed in his honor and will be known from hereafter as Chuck Jones Drive.

Along with his exemplary military career and outstanding work in our community, Chuck Jones had a profound impact on my staff and me personally. My Knoxville Office Manager, Jenny Stansberry, worked closely with Chuck on Veterans issues, and I echo her sentiments.

After his passing, she said:

I feel very fortunate to have worked so closely with a man whom I admired tremendously. His accomplishments in serving our Country are only outdone by the character and integrity Chuck displayed every day of his life. I will miss our working relationship, but more than that I will miss our friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to join me in celebrating the remarkable life of Chuck Jones. He was truly a great American and I feel this Country is certainly a better place because of his life.