

lands on the Ka'u Coast of the island of Hawaii between Kapao'o Point and Kahuku Point as a unit of the National Park System.

The National Park Service has issued a reconnaissance report that made a preliminary assessment of whether the Ka'u Coast would meet the National Park Service's demanding criteria as a resource of national significance.

The reconnaissance survey concluded that "based upon the significance of the resources in the study area, and the current integrity and intact condition of these resources, a preliminary finding of national significance and suitability can be concluded." The report goes on to recommend that Congress proceed with a full resource study of the area.

Although under significant development pressure, the coastline of Ka'u is still largely unspoiled. The study area contains significant natural, geological, and archeological features. The northern part of the study area is adjacent to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and contains a number of noteworthy geological features, including an ancient lava tube known as the Great Crack, which the National Park Service has expressed interest in acquiring in the past.

The study area includes both black and green sand beaches as well as a significant number of endangered and threatened species, most notably the endangered hawksbill turtle (at least half of the Hawaiian population of this rare sea turtle nests within the study area), the threatened green sea turtle, the highly endangered Hawaiian monk seal, the endangered Hawaiian hawk, native bees, the endangered and very rare Hawaiian orange-black damselfly (the largest population in the state), and a number of native endemic birds. Humpback whales and spinner dolphins also frequent the area. The Ka'u Coast also boasts some of the best remaining examples of native coastal vegetation in Hawaii.

The archeological resources related to ancient Hawaiian settlements within the study area are also very impressive. These include dwelling complexes, heiau (religious shrines), walls, fishing and canoe houses or sheds, burial sites, petroglyphs, water and salt collection sites, caves, and trails. The Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs through the study area.

The Ka'u Coast is a truly remarkable area: its combination of natural, archeological, cultural, and recreational resources, as well as its spectacular viewpoints, are an important part of Hawaii's and our nation's natural and cultural heritage. I believe a full feasibility study, which was recommended in the reconnaissance survey, will confirm that the area meets the National Park Service's high standards as an area of national significance.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF GULF BREEZE POLICE CHIEF PETER PAULDING

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2012*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Peter Paulding, Chief

of Police of the City of Gulf Breeze, upon his retirement after forty years of honorable and decorated law enforcement service. For the past ten years, Police Chief Paulding has admirably served the citizens and community of the City of Gulf Breeze, Florida.

Our community owes a large debt of gratitude to Police Chief Paulding for his many accomplishments. During his tenure as Chief of Police, the City of Gulf Breeze maintained one of the lowest crime rates in the State of Florida, helping to make it one of the top rated communities in the country. Under Chief Paulding's leadership, the Gulf Breeze Police Department implemented many inventive and highly successful initiatives. Chief Paulding was responsible for implementing the Volunteers in Policing, VIP, program, creating the Traffic Safety Task Force, and also implementing the first red light traffic enforcement system in the state of Florida, a system that has now been endorsed by the Florida State Legislature.

During Chief Paulding's ten-year tenure, the Gulf Breeze Police Department was awarded the Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing Award eight times by the Florida Police Chiefs Association. Also recognizing the Department's community policing initiatives, the Department received the International Association of Chiefs of Police Community Policing Award in 2003 and 2010.

Under Chief Paulding's leadership, the Gulf Breeze Police Department was the first law enforcement agency in the Northwest Florida Panhandle to receive accreditation by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. In 2011, the Gulf Breeze Police Department was a finalist for the Motorola Webber Seavey Award for Quality in Law Enforcement for implementing a coast-watch program as a community policing response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster. In 2008, as its Project Leader, Chief Paulding was responsible for the Gulf Breeze Police Department's recognition as a semi-finalist for the Webber Seavey Award for its Project Homecoming, and in 2006 the Gulf Breeze Police Department was yet again recognized as a semi-finalist for the Webber Seavey Award for its Volunteers on Patrol program.

In addition to his role as Chief of Police, Paulding served his community in numerous roles, including President of the Florida Police Chiefs Association in 2010–2011. He will continue to serve the City of Gulf Breeze by overseeing the automated red light traffic enforcement program that he initiated.

It is my honor to recognize Police Chief Peter Paulding upon his retirement as Chief of Police of the City of Gulf Breeze after a distinguished forty-year law enforcement career. I take this opportunity to commend Chief Paulding for making the Gulf Breeze community a safer and more enjoyable place to live, and I thank him for his valuable years of public service. My wife Vicki and I wish Chief Paulding, his wife Ruth, and their children and grandchildren all the best.

#### RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS AMERICAN HEART MONTH

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize February as American Heart Month. This month is dedicated to raising awareness about heart disease and spreading knowledge in order to save lives. Heart disease is the gravest health risk for women in the United States and will take the lives of 420,000 women this year. During this month, I encourage all women to strive to be more proactive about our health and well-being.

Mr. Speaker, heart disease is a harsh reality in our nation and is the leading cause of death for women in the United States. Because information is the most powerful tool against fighting heart disease, let us advance women's heart health through advocacy and education. It is a fact that the chance of developing heart disease can be dramatically reduced by taking steps to prevent and control factors that put people at greater risk. Many, but not all, cases of heart diseases can be prevented. A healthy diet and lifestyle are the best weapons women have to fight heart disease. Women should be aware of risk factors that can lead to heart disease, including high blood pressure, high cholesterol, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, tobacco use, and family history. By working together, we can help women live stronger and longer lives.

While heart disease affects women of every race and circumstance, African American women have a higher risk for cardiovascular disease than Caucasian women and are less aware of their cardiovascular risk factors. I urge all women in the United States to be more proactive about their heart health. It is never too early to take action to improve our heart health, and the Obama Administration is committed to helping Americans fight chronic illness such as cardiovascular disease.

Under the Affordable Care Act, all new individual and group health plans must now provide recommended preventative care and services without a copayment, coinsurance or deductible. These potentially lifesaving screenings include blood pressure, cholesterol tests as well as counseling on losing weight and eating well.

In addition, the Affordable Care Act has administered over \$100 million in funding for up to 75 Community Transformation Grants, which are aimed at helping communities implement projects proven to reduce chronic diseases, such as heart disease. These grants will help improve health, reduce health disparities, and lower health care costs.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize February as American Heart Month. This month let us rededicate ourselves to helping our sisters, mothers, daughters, friends and communities become more aware of the risks and symptoms of heart disease. February 3, 2012 is National Wear Red Day and I urge my friends, family and colleagues to wear red in support for the more than 42 million women are living with or are at risk for heart disease. Together, we can overcome this disease.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY REQUIRING CATHOLIC HOSPITALS AND UNIVERSITIES TO PROVIDE CONTRACEPTION IN EMPLOYEE HEALTH PLANS

**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2012*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong opposition to President Obama's administrative rule requiring religious institutions that provide health insurance policies to supply coverage for medicines and procedures that violate the tenets of their faith.

Freedom of religion is one of the foundations of our country. Famously, in the early days of the Republic, the Vatican requested permission of the Continental Congress to appoint a bishop. The Congress wisely declined the appointment, recognizing that there was no appropriate role for government in the regulation of church activities.

Now, over 200 years later, the Obama administration wants to roll back the clock and make decisions for religious institutions that should properly be left to those institutions. People freely associate themselves with churches and their affiliated organizations, such as hospitals and schools. In doing so, they accept that they will abide by the rules of those organizations. The Obama administration has uniformly usurped the autonomy of each institution to set those rules upon themselves.

This is a dangerous precedent. It is not difficult to see further encroachments by the "all powerful" federal government upon the rights and privileges of church communities. Will the Department of Education begin setting curriculum standards for private religious schools? Will the Department of Labor set standards of employment for Catholic health facilities? Will the Department of Health and Human Services begin requiring end of life counseling that violates the teachings of certain religions?

During the healthcare debate of 2010 and after, assurances were given to Members of Congress and to leaders of religious organizations that nothing in the bill would or could be used to violate the right of conscience of any faithful American. I voted against the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, in part, because I feared exactly this; it is being used as a lever to force values upon the American people that are contrary to their own beliefs.

Let us hope this and future Congresses will work to repeal President Obama's takeover of healthcare and, by extension, the conscience of individual. Further, let us implement true healthcare reform that improves our system, lower costs, and protects the rights of Americans to have healthcare coverage that conforms to their values.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2012*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recog-

nizing the achievements of African American women throughout our nation's history.

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History, ASALH, selected the achievements of African American women as its theme for 2012. ASALH has issued a statement, which I bring to the Floor.

"African American women have played a myriad of critical roles in the making of our nation. Their labor and leadership, their motherhood and patriotism, and their intellect and artistic expression have all enriched both the African American community and the Nation at large. In slavery and freedom, their struggles have been at the heart of the human experience, and their triumphs over racism and sexism are a testimonial to our common human spirit."

"Many know of the accomplishments of a few prominent historic figures: Phillis Wheatley, the unlikely American patriot during the Revolutionary War, Harriet Tubman, the leader of the Underground Railroad from slavery, Ida B. Wells, the unyielding opponent of lynching, Rosa Parks, the mother of the modern Civil Rights Movement. Black women have been notable for standing against oppression. From Gwendolyn Brooks to Toni Morrison to Rita Dove, they have distinguished themselves in American letters, and in recent years they have been recognized as actors and recording artists with Academy Awards and Grammys."

"The accomplishments of these exceptional women are the expressions of a vibrant culture in which African American women play a singular role. The labors, struggles, organization, and sacrifices of common women have made possible the prominence of heralded individuals. In churches, community groups, literary societies, sororities, and advocacy organizations, African American women have been the core of organized black life, but here their strivings have often escaped the gaze of the public, and hence their history is too little known."

"Their story is unique in the annals of American history. Black women were held as slaves and middle-class black women labored while their counterparts were housewives. Subjected to a long history of stereotypes about their sexuality, morality, spirituality, and intellect, African American women have never succumbed to victimhood and have pressed forward to uplift themselves, their families, and their community."

"To gain an understanding of the history of African American women is to broaden our understanding of a people and the American Nation. The Association for the Study of African American Life and History dedicates the 2012 Annual Black History Theme to exploring African American women's roles in and contributions to the making of America."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the work of African American women throughout our nation's history.

CONGRATULATING CAROL W. FLEISHER

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2012*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Carol W. Fleisher, who

recently was awarded the Outstanding Public Service Award from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in appreciation for her great efforts in support of this Nation's veterans. The Outstanding Public Service Award is the second highest honor given by the Chairman to a public servant who "has rendered service or assistance to considerable personal sacrifice, motivated by patriotism, good citizenship and a sense of public responsibility."

Mrs. Fleisher is the daughter of a career United States Air Force pilot, as well as the great-granddaughter of Senator James E. Watson from Indiana and former Speaker of the House of Representatives.

She attended the University of Maryland and graduated with a bachelor's degree in international relations and political science and minors in sociology and history. She attends the University of Missouri, where she is working toward her master's degree in religion. Currently, Mrs. Fleisher is the Director of Missouri University Veterans Center.

As director, Mrs. Fleisher has helped to develop one of the Nation's premier on-campus veterans centers located at the University of Missouri, providing a "one-stop" resource center to those in need of assistance. The veterans center provides valuable assistance for our military men and women who served this country with honor and distinction. Not only do they deserve our gratitude, but they also deserve our assistance for the sacrifices they made in defense of our great Nation.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Carol W. Fleisher for this well-deserved award.

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF OFFICERS LAUREN KEILITZ AND MICHAEL DIBLASI

**HON. JON RUNYAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2012*

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic and selfless actions of Officer Lauren Keilitz and Officer Michael Diblasi of the Barnegat Township Police Department in New Jersey's Third Congressional District.

At 8:44 p.m. on January 30, 2012, the Barnegat Township Police Department was dispatched to a reported car fire on Biscayne Road. Officers Keilitz and Diblasi responded and arrived to find a single motor vehicle fully engulfed in flames.

Shortly after arriving on scene, Officers Keilitz and Diblasi determined that the driver of the vehicle, Mario Dischiavi, was incapacitated in the driver's seat. Dischiavi was discovered by Officer Keilitz who was able to open the rear passenger door of the vehicle and observe Dischiavi through the thick smoke in the passenger compartment.

Officer Diblasi attempted to open the driver's door and could not get the latch to release, at which time he ran to retrieve a window punch from his patrol car in order to break the window and gain access.

Officer Keilitz, despite overwhelming heat and flames, was able to get the driver's door open and pull Dischiavi from the vehicle and drag him out of harm's way.

If it were not for the brave actions of these officers, the successful outcome surely would