

wishes to all these great athletes on their journey in competing in the 2012 London Olympics.

I extend my best wishes for all around success in the upcoming London 2012 Olympics as their hard work, dedication, and perseverance is put to the test!

Go U.S.A.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PINCHOT INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary next year. The Pinchot Institute carries on the legacy of Connecticut native son Gifford Pinchot, whose unique and reasoned approach to conservation endures as we face a new era of environmental challenges.

Born in Simsbury, Pinchot grew up inspired by childhood summers spent enjoying his hometown's natural beauty. Committed to forestry and preservation from an early age, Pinchot went on to found the Forestry School, the first of its kind, at Yale, his alma mater. He helped to establish the United States Forest Service, serving as its first Chief in 1905. Pinchot recognized the need to protect our natural heritage at a time of development unprecedented in our nation's history. Throughout his long career in public service, he was instrumental in raising the profile of the conservation movement to the national stage.

Pinchot's philosophy of "practical idealism" lives on in practice at Yale, at the Forest Service, and at the Pinchot Institute. Dedicated by President Kennedy in 1963, the Pinchot Institute works to balance the sustainable use of our natural resources with a commitment to preservation for future generations. The Pinchot Institute collaborates with organizations around the country and the world to develop non-partisan, innovative, and well-researched solutions to conservation problems. The Institute recognizes the role that sustainable forests can play in the health of our nation's communities, water resources, and wildlife.

The need for conservation also resonates with me on a personal level. I began my career in public service with a call to action against the destruction of wetlands in Southington, and I remain committed to the principles of environmental stewardship. Our public lands and fragile resources are preserved and maintained for more Americans than ever before due to the tireless efforts of organizations like the Pinchot Institute.

In recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an organization at the forefront of its field.

HONORING THE COURAGE AND SELFLESS SERVICE OF CORPORAL DANIEL PALMER OF MILTON, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound gratitude and sincere respect that I rise to pay tribute to the courage and selfless service of Marine Corporal Daniel Palmer of Milton, Florida. In 2010, then Lance Corporal Palmer was severely wounded on patrol in Afghanistan, while assigned to Third Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment, Lima Company. After spending the last year in rehabilitation at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, I am happy to say that on July 27, Northwest Florida will finally be able to welcome home their native son and an American hero.

Cpl Palmer is a 2004 graduate of Central High School in Allentown, Florida. While working at his family's masonry business in 2008 at the age of 22, he surprised his parents, Joey and Flora Jean Palmer, with his decision to join the U.S. Marine Corps. Cpl Palmer chose the Marine Corps because of its reputation for toughness and pride. Cpl Palmer's older brother, Scott, says Daniel has always been energetic and competitive and was proud of his decision to join the Marine Corps from day one.

On March 20, 2010, LCpl Palmer was leading a team of Marines on patrol when he stepped on a concealed improvised explosive device. Although he was severely wounded by the blast and shrapnel from the bomb, his first concern was the safety of his fellow Marines. When one of the Marines on his team started to run toward LCpl Palmer after the blast, LCpl Palmer shouted orders to his team to take cover rather than rushing out into the open and risk setting off another bomb or exposing themselves to small arms fire. LCpl Palmer's toughness and concern for others didn't stop there. His first words to his family after he was injured were, "[D]on't worry about me. I don't want you to feel sorry for me or anything. I did what I did serving my country."

He spent the next two years convalescing at military hospitals, all the while comforted by the tender devotion of his loving wife, Becky, at his side. Although Cpl Palmer is thousands of miles away from Afghanistan, his thoughts are still with his fellow Marines who are in harm's way. "Keep praying for all the boys who are still over there," he will tell you, "there's still a bunch of people over there risking their lives every day."

It has been said that the story of America's quest for freedom is inscribed on our history in the blood of our patriots. Today, the blood shed by America's patriots in defense of freedom is also inscribing the histories of nations like Afghanistan. Cpl Palmer's service in the military of our great country bears testament to his belief in the fundamental truth that all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with the unalienable right to liberty. Cpl Palmer sacrificed a great deal attempting to secure for the Afghan people the blessings of freedom. We must never forget his contribution toward that honorable end.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I stand here today to honor Cpl Daniel Palmer and all of the heroes serving our great nation around the world. My wife, Vicki, joins me in offering our profound thanks to Cpl Palmer and his family and our prayers for his speedy recovery. May God continue to bless him, his family and the United States Armed Forces. l66F

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PLAST, THE UKRAINIAN SCOUTING ORGANIZATION

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of Plast, the Ukrainian Scouting Organization.

Plast was founded in 1911 by Dr. Oleksandr Tysovsky, and it is based on the principles of scouting started by Lord Baden Powell in Great Britain.

As a consequence of the country's absence of national independence through most of the 20th Century, Plast was forced to go underground when the occupying Soviet Union declared the organization illegal and banned its activities.

However, following World War II, when many Ukrainians emigrated to various countries of the Free World, including the United States, the plastuny (members of Plast) among the émigrés formed Plast organizations in the countries of their settlement. This included incorporating "Plast, Inc." in 1950 in the state of Michigan.

Additionally, after the Declaration of Independence of Ukraine in 1991, Plast was reconstituted in Ukraine with the help of plastuny from the United States and other Free World countries.

Today, Plast is an international organization of Ukrainian youth which fosters personal development, leadership and teamwork, as well as a love of Ukrainian culture and history while also raising youth to be conscientious, responsible and valuable citizens of their communities at the local, national, and international level. The former President of Ukraine, Victor Yushchenko, is an honorary plastun, and Liubomyr Cardinal Husar, a U.S. citizen and now Patriarch-emeritus of the Ukrainian Eastern Rite Catholic Church based in Ukraine, is one of many distinguished plastuns.

Currently, Plast has 23 branches coast to coast in the United States, and Plast will be celebrating its Centennial with a Jamboree in Ukraine, August 10th to 24th, with the official opening of the Jamboree Celebration on August 19th in the city of L'viv.

As such, we should recognize August 19, 2012 as the Centennial Day of Plast, commend the Ukrainian Scouting Organization for its tremendous contributions, and celebrate the Centennial of Plast.

TRIBUTE TO THE GREATEST
GENERATION

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women who fought and served in World War II. Their courage, selflessness and remarkable contributions to our country must never be forgotten. They fought not for fame or recognition, and too often made the ultimate sacrifice, but because it was simply their duty.

When Tom Brokaw declared them the "greatest generation any society has ever produced," no one could have described them in more fitting terms. After suffering through the Great Depression as youths, they were summoned to war following the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. They didn't hesitate. They jumped at the chance to fight for their country in the heat of the South Pacific, the chill of Europe and other fronts around the globe. When they returned home, they humbly kept the horrors of war to themselves, not wanting to trouble their families with the terror of what they had faced. Women who had never held a job outside of the home before served as nurses, built tanks and planes, and those who stayed home immediately went to work to support the war effort. Truly, their unwavering patriotism is exemplary and serves as an inspiration to future generations.

I am honored to pay tribute to this generation because I am the proud daughter of a World War II veteran who flew a B17 bomber in Europe during the war. My dad's unwavering courage, unimaginable sacrifices and tireless work ethic is typical of his generation. Because of my dad and others like him, we live in freedom in the greatest country on Earth. As this generation ages, it's up to us to keep their legacy strong and tell their story to generations to come. Together, we must "keep the Spirit of '45 Alive." I commend the residents of the Coachella Valley for their efforts to do just that.

The Palm Springs Air Museum, where old bombers like my dad's stand proudly on display, is hosting a "Spirit of '45 Day" next month to honor those who fought in World War II. Events like these serve as a worthy salute to this brave generation before we are left with only their memory. The Palm Springs Air Museum is a community treasure and labor of love for those dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of our nation's heroic aviators. It is well worth a visit for anyone who wants to learn more about the role our brave pilots and other service personnel played in many epic conflicts. I want to extend special thanks to the many volunteers and supporters who ensure the continued operation of this outstanding museum.

In the early hours of June 6, 1944, General Dwight Eisenhower told his troops that the eyes of the world were upon them. Those words were powerful then, but still rings true today. Indeed, the eyes of the world will always be upon the Greatest Generation, and I hope you'll join me in making every effort to preserve their remarkable legacy, a legacy that will never be diminished as long as the Republic they fought so heroically to preserve endures.

HONORING DEAN WELDON
SLEIGHT

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Weldon Sleight as he retires as Dean of the University of Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA).

Dean Sleight has led NCTA since 2006 and played a vital role in supporting the college legacy and our rural agriculture economy along the way.

Under his watch NCTA constructed a new residence hall, expanded the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, and built a state-of-the-art education center.

In addition, Dean Sleight has established innovative programs combining entrepreneurship and agriculture such as the "Combat Boots to Cowboy Boots" initiative, designed to assist military personnel, their families and veterans in becoming farmers and ranchers; and the "100 Beef Cow Ownership Advantage" program which assists students, parents, employers, and agencies in creating successful businesses and ranch transfer plans.

When Dean Sleight retires in December of this year, we wish him the best of luck and thank him for his contribution to agriculture, education and Nebraska.

DEBRINA WORKMAN 30 YEARS
WITH CONGRESSMAN NICK
RAHALL

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, thirty years ago today, a young woman joined my Congressional Staff to help serve our fellow West Virginians in the midst of our State's rich coalfields. She hailed from the community of Holden and still resides there near her parents' home.

Though she was very young, she had a burning passion to help people. And so she has, by the hundreds, nay thousands, over the decades working from her home base in my Logan District Office. For years, once a week, she did outreach work, bringing the constituent services of this Member of Congress to the good people of Mingo County. Working from the Mingo County seat of government in Williamson, she keeps me abreast of the important issues confronting the citizens of the Tug River Valley, the demarcation line of the famed Hatfield and McCoy Feud.

To say she is a seasoned expert in agency process, procedure and practice is an understatement. She knows constituent casework inside and out. More importantly, Mr. Speaker, she knows the families of the coalfields, where they came from and where most of them are headed. She knows this because she cares, cares deeply that people are treated justly, and that justice is meted in a timely manner. She can scrap the varnish off truth faster and cleaner than anyone I know, whether you want her to or not.

In the office she laughs with family members when things go right for them, and at

home in the evening, she sheds tears for them when they are troubled. Indeed her passion still burns brightly, though now through these many years, it takes on the golden hue of seasoned compassion. She knows just the right thing to say to put people at ease. Not the art of politics, just working the Golden Rule, overtime.

In these past thirty years, she has stuck with the people of southern West Virginia, through floods, blizzards and now a derecho. Her loyalty knows no bounds, even by Mother Nature's standards. Those in West Virginia's Third Congressional District and I are indeed fortunate to have Debrina Taylor Workman on our side because when the need arises, she can be a force of nature all by herself.

Members of Congress are indeed blessed with godsenders like Debrina to help us serve. While we don't say it often enough, we are thankful for their many sacrifices on our and the good people we represent behalves. Please join me in thanking Debrina for thirty years of service to her country and its families. May the good Lord's blessings continue to shine upon Debrina, her son, Jordan, and her many friends and family.

RECOGNIZING THE GRAND MARSHALS FOR DELANO'S 38TH ANNUAL PHILIPPINE WEEKEND

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Grand Marshals for Delano's 38th Annual Philippine Weekend. This event takes place in my district each year to honor and celebrate the Filipino culture. This year's honorees are Juanita Quiocho Villaruz, Suzanne Villaruz, and Arleen Villaruz-Gonzales, and they were selected for their dedication to service in their community. They are terrific examples of strong women that exhibit leadership, selflessness, and perseverance.

Juanita immigrated to the United States in 1958 from Rancho, Santa, Ilocos Sur, Philippines. She married Louie V. Villaruz, and had three children—Suzanne, Arleen, and Lounito. While supporting their young family, Juanita and Louie were active in the United Farm Workers of America's efforts to change conditions and wages for farm laborers. In 1970, Juanita found herself having to support three children on her own due to Louie's sudden death. She received training and worked as a psychiatric technician at Porterville State Hospital. Juanita retired from the State of California in 1995.

As a member of many different organizations, Juanita has stayed extremely active in the Filipino community. She was a charter member of the Filipino-American (Fil-Am) Cultural and Educational Association and served as president in 1976–77. She is also a member of the Filipino Catholic Association, Legionarios del Trabajo, the Filipino Community of Delano, and the Sons of Santa, of which she is a past president.

Juanita has always had a sense of service and participation in her community which she has undoubtedly passed down to her children.

Suzanne Villaruz was born in Delano and graduated from Delano High School in 1977.