

heart of our democracy and the most basic of rights in our representative government. Unfortunately, several states across the nation have enacted laws that would impede the ability of millions of Americans across our country from exercising this right. Throughout the nation, including in my home district of Guam, many voters have lost faith in the integrity of the electoral process or become complacent that their vote is irrelevant.

In Guam, voter turnout has decreased significantly over the last several years and allegations of election misconduct have become common during every election cycle. Many of my constituents have been disenfranchised much in the same way as in some states trying to lower voter turnout. I have raised this issue with the Department of Justice, and I hope they will focus on this issue in every state and territory where efforts to disenfranchise voters are being made.

The free exercise of the right to vote is the cornerstone of American democracy, and it ensures that government is accountable to and representative of the people.

IN MEMORY OF DANIEL
FRIEDLANDER

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and privilege that I honor one of my constituents, Mr. Daniel Friedlander, who died on Monday, July 9, 2012. Dan was born on February 3, 1945, in Chicago. He received a Masters Degree in Economics from the University of Chicago and spent the last years of his life as Principal at CleanTech Solutions in Boulder, Colorado.

Known for his environmental activism and art, Dan was an incredible resource for the Boulder community. He spent his life focused on building start-up businesses that moved information technology into the 21st century. Using his expertise, he later shifted his focus on our growing environmental crises and sought to marry his long history of activism with his professional life with his position as Principal at CleanTech Solutions. He engaged his community by creating the Shanahan Neighbors for Climate Action, a neighborhood group intent on becoming more aware of how lifestyle changes can make a significant and positive impact on the environment and each other.

Beyond his successful career and activism, Dan was also a gifted artist. He worked with clay tiles to create extremely unique pieces that he described as the unity of his conscious and unconscious.

Dan was a dedicated father, husband and friend. I am privileged to have known his family including his wife, Diane Rosenthal, and his two sons, Michael Friedlander and David Friedlander. It has been an honor to consider Dan my friend and I know that he will be missed by the countless people who considered him a friend.

HONORING THE KIDS JUST WANT
TO RIDE ACT

HON. DENNY REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the upcoming one-year anniversary of the Kids Just Want to Ride Act being signed into law. This bill, which I authored to end enforcement of an overreaching prohibition of lead in youth-sized ATVs, motorcycles and snowmobiles, was added to a larger piece of legislation that was signed into law on August 12, 2011.

When Congress passed a law banning lead from children's toys, no one thought that those enforcing the law would expand the definition of "toy" to include youth-size ATVs, motorcycles and snowmobiles. But over the strong protests of riders and their advocates, Washington bureaucrats forced youth-sized ATVs and motorcycles to be pulled off showroom floors. All this did was force our kids to ride more dangerous adult-sized vehicles, putting them at extreme risk.

This just didn't make sense. I authored the Kids Just Want to Ride Act so that this issue would be solved legislatively once and for all, but I didn't do it on my own. An amazing community of youth riders, their parents, and those who love youth racing and recreational activities backed me up with letters, phone calls, and visits to Washington, DC, to rally for the bill. I was honored to be included in the riding community and continue to be impressed by their love for sport and for their fellow riders.

Mr. Speaker, I am again honored to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the Kids Just Want to Ride Act, and thank you for the opportunity to celebrate the amazing American riding community that rallied behind it.

TRIBUTE TO DR. PATRICIA GABOW

HON. DIANA DEGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the tireless work and exceptional accomplishments of Dr. Patricia Gabow, Chief Executive Officer of Denver Health and Hospital Authority. After a remarkable 20 year career at the helm of Denver Health, Dr. Gabow is retiring and leaving behind national models for institutions and aspiring leaders in the field.

Dr. Gabow's commitment to Colorado's health care safety net has been recognized in many areas. She has been elected to the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame for her generosity in mentoring others, her innovation in going outside health care in search of new management ideas, and her commitment to best practices. In addition, Dr. Gabow is the recipient of numerous awards including the American Medical Association's Nathan Davis Award, the Florence Rena Sabin Award, and the 2008 National Healthcare Leadership Award. She has been named as one of the top 25 women in health care, one of the top 50 physician executives, and one of the 100 most powerful people in American health care. Of note, Dr. Gabow was one of only four

women named to this list in 2006, and I want to acknowledge my pride in the path she creates for future generations to find their own way in the business of quality health care delivery.

Knowing Dr. Gabow was hard at work in Denver was a comfort and a source of pride as I worked in Congress to improve the health and potential of people in my home state of Colorado. Like many Members of Congress, I have often turned to Dr. Gabow for her expertise in health care policy. For example, during the process of crafting the Affordable Care Act, Dr. Gabow testified before the Energy and Commerce Committee on the role of safety net providers in providing coordinated care, Medicaid's vital function in health reform, and the importance of protecting Medicaid and Medicare funding that helps hospitals treat the uninsured and underinsured. Her influence helped to expand the Medicaid program under health reform, which will help millions of children and their families across the nation. We share so many priorities and it is with a deep appreciation of and affection for Dr. Gabow that I recognize her invaluable service to our community and country.

Dr. Gabow has proved that a researcher can run a hospital and run it well. In an era when many hospitals are operating in the red, Dr. Gabow has taken a hospital that, even while treating thousands of uninsured patients, maintains a viable, successful business model. Dr. Gabow has led this success by looking to other industries, like the auto industry, and translating their business efficiencies into the health care sector by developing integrated care models. Hospital administrators, doctors, and researchers have looked to and will continue to turn to Dr. Gabow for ways to reimagine health care in America.

I do not know what is next for Patty Gabow. But I do know that whatever she does, we will be inspired, impressed, and indebted to her for all she will continue to do to strengthen the rights and the outcomes for those among us who are sick and in need of quality health care. Thank you, Patty, for your friendship and work on behalf of the people of the First District of Colorado.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JACKIE
SCHMID

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, Monday July 23 started like any other day in our congressional offices. But shortly after noontime, the unthinkable happened. Our office was called by our dear friend Sandi Schmid. During that call, Sandi told our District Director Megan Corbett Rizzuto that her daughter, our longtime Executive Assistant and Office Manager Jackie Schmid, had suddenly passed away.

To suggest that we were blown away is a severe understatement. There's little that can be said at a time like this, when someone so young is taken suddenly from our midst. Jackie was universally loved among civic, government and political leaders throughout our community. Acting as the hub of our Buffalo office, Jackie was at the center of all of the action, and played a role in virtually everything our office would do for the constituents I was elected to serve.

On Saturday July 28, Sandi and the rest of Jackie's family honored me by asking that I eulogize her by sharing a few thoughts about her life and legacy. Jackie was a giver, a contributor. She gave more than she got—a lot more. She gave so much of her time and of herself to the many causes she loved so much.

Mr. Speaker, Within this extension, you will see the remarks I delivered last Saturday in honor of Jackie, and you will also see the obituaries published in the Buffalo News and the Am-Pol Eagle.

EULOGY OF JACKIE SCHMID DELIVERED BY THE HONORABLE BRIAN HIGGINS, ST. JOHN GUALBERT CHURCH, CHEEKTOWAGA, NY, SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2012

St. John Gualbert was an 11th century Benedictine monk. One Good Friday, he entered Florence with armed followers and came upon a man who had killed his brother. He was about to kill the man in revenge. Suddenly the man fell to his knees, said he was sorry and begged Gualbert to be spared. Gualbert spared him, forgave him and helped the man to his feet. He encouraged the man to go forth and do good for the world. Gualbert then entered the Benedictine Church in Florence to pray, and the figure on the crucifix bowed his head to in recognition of Gualbert's act of mercy and forgiveness to his fellow man. This is a story of redemption and second chances.

Thank you, Father Michael Burzynski for welcoming us to your beautiful church this morning. You make us feel very much at home here, and Jackie would be most proud of you and of this loving community. St. John Gualbert's was Jackie's spiritual home. She attended grammar school here and remained very active in support of this church throughout her adult life and her final days.

Today we say goodbye to the only daughter of Sandi and Bill Schmid. A loyal friend, a beloved colleague in government and politics, a civic leader and Polonia's goodwill ambassador to WNY and to the world. A leader like few others, holding important positions within the Cheektowaga Symphony Orchestra, the Cheektowaga Patriotic Commission, the Pulaski Day celebrations, the Cheektowaga July 4 celebrations, the Annual Western New York Dyngus Day celebrations, the Cheektowaga Democratic Committee, and so much more. In fact, the Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce named Jackie as its "Citizen of the Year" for 2012—an award that will now be bestowed posthumously.

Jackie's was an impressive list of civil and cultural engagement. Someone once said to Sandi: "Jackie runs everything in Cheektowaga." To which Sandi replied, "Not everything. She never ran the vacuum cleaner, or the washing machine, or an iron."

But while it is her civic involvement that she will be remembered and honored for, it is her loving and generous heart that we will truly miss. I along with my colleagues in our Congressional office knew her as a trusted friend and advisor. Jackie was loved and admired by her colleagues—truly loved and admired. She held the title of Executive Assistant, but she was much more than that. She ran the office and set the tone for our workspace. Jackie organized birthday parties for her colleagues and helped with weddings and showers, and any time there was a need for someone to provide music, to find tables and chairs or to secure a hall for a fund raising event, Jackie always "had a guy." She was always ready, she was always "on it," and incredibly willing to help. Jackie directed our student interns and was so loved by them that she would often receive phone calls and postcards from them long after their service was completed. She engendered a rare degree

of love, respect and loyalty. She was charismatic and had a following of dutiful friends who would eagerly walk through walls for her.

There was one persistent constituent caller who routinely called Jackie with his complaint of the day. Something he had seen on television or had heard on talk radio, often fueled by a vote I had taken with which he had disagreed. Jackie was polite but would give it right back to him when he crossed the line. One Christmas Eve he called not with a complaint, but rather to wish Jackie a Merry Christmas. Because Jackie was kind to him and showed a respect a caring that he rarely received.

If Jackie loved you, you knew it. If Jackie liked you, you knew it. If Jackie didn't like you, you didn't know it. But we did!

Lyndsey Barnes is our newest staff member. She said that she was originally reluctant to accept a position in our office because she was uncertain that she could handle the job responsibilities. Chuck Eaton, our chief of staff, said, "The job, you can learn. But you get along with everyone. And most importantly, Jackie likes you." Jackie gave Lyndsey the confidence and encouragement she needed to get off to a good start in our office. And she always provided friendship to her.

Carol Burns and Bill Greeley often gave Jackie a hard time about all of the events Jackie would organize in Cheektowaga, civic polka parties and church fundraising events among dozens of others. Jackie would remind them, "Listen. On my first day of work, the Congressman told me that my job was to keep Cheektowaga happy—and that's what I'm doing." Jackie not only kept Cheektowaga happy, Cheektowaga is what Jackie lived for and loved. At the funeral home for yesterday's wake, seventeen different people introduced themselves to me as Jackie's best friend. Many more thought they were as well; that was her gift to all of you and all of us. Unconditional love, devotion and friendship.

Not only did they make their way because of Jackie's love, she made her way because of theirs. And especially because the love and the life she found in her mom Sandi. Theirs was not always an easy relationship. Like with any relationship, they had their moments. But Sandi always gave Jackie strength and purpose, joy and friendship, and stood by her always, especially in these last and hardest days.

None of us can know or certain how long we have on this earth. We cannot know what hardship and tragedy will test us along the way. We cannot know what God's plan is for us. What we can do is live our lives as best we can with purpose, and love and joy. We can leave bitterness and that which is unimportant behind, to reach beyond for love and forgiveness. We can learn from our mistakes and grow from our failures. And we can use each day to show those who we are closest to us how much we care about them, and how much we love them. And we can treat others with the kindness and respect that we wish for ourselves.

This is Jackie's legacy. This is how she lived her life. We do not grieve today because of the prestige and praise attached to her name. We grieve because we loved this kind and giving woman. A woman who was moved, not for the sake of greed or self-aggrandizement, not for wealth or power, but only for the people and community that she loved so very much.

Jackie has gone home now guided by her faith and by the light of those she loved and lost. At last she is with them once more leaving those of us who grieve her passing with the memories she gave and the good that she did.

Today, St. Peter is at the gates of Heaven, sitting at the table, selling split club tickets. God has turned to Peter and said, "Slide over. Jackie is here now. She's on it."

May God Bless Jackie, and may she rest in eternal peace.

[From the Buffalo News, July 26, 2012]

JACQUELYN A. SCHMID, HIGGINS' EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Jacquelyn A. Schmid, executive assistant to Rep. Brian Higgins and well known as a community and civic leader, died unexpectedly Monday in her Cheektowaga home. She was 51.

Ms. Schmid over the years achieved a key position in the congressman's Buffalo operation, essentially serving as office manager—and, in the words of one staffer, "organizer extraordinaire."

Her colleagues say she achieved that status through her ability to deal with people, an essential skill for those in the world of politics and government.

She was active in many community and Polish heritage organizations as well as Democratic politics. Higgins called her "Polonia's goodwill ambassador to Western New York."

"Jackie was a big part of our team," he said. "She had a unique relationship with each and every person based on loyalty and good humor, as well."

"She had a cult following of friends who really loved her," he added, "all a result of her special charisma."

A graduate of St. John Gualbert Elementary and Villa Maria Academy, Ms. Schmid also attended Erie Community College.

She was a member of Dyngus Day Buffalo and the point person in planning the Pvt. Leonard Post Pre-Dyngus and Dyngus Day celebrations. Four years ago, she helped found the Cheektowaga Crabapple Festival for families to enjoy at Cheektowaga Town Park and served as general manager of the Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra.

Ms. Schmid was also a staff writer for the Am-Pol Eagle, where she wrote a weekly column on Polonia, and annually organized the St. John Gualbert chicken dinner and theme basket auction.

As a vice chairwoman of the Cheektowaga Democratic Party, Ms. Schmid played a key role in petition drives, fundraisers and Election Day activities. She was elected as a district committeewoman for many years.

She was recognized by the Buffalo Bisons in 2008 as Polish-American of the Year for her decades of service to the Polish community, including stints with the Cheektowaga Patriotic Commission, Cheektowaga Polish American Arts Festival and General Pulaski Association.

Her final public event occurred the day before she died, as she supervised the Pulaski Day Parade—at which she became a familiar figure directing activities from behind the reviewing stand—which capped off the annual Cheektowaga Polish Arts Festival in Cheektowaga Town Park.

In September, Ms. Schmid was to be honored by the Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce as its "Citizen of the Year."

The award will now be bestowed posthumously.

She is survived by her mother, Alexandra "Sandi" Lawkowski Schmid; her father, William F. Sr.; and a brother, William F. Jr.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 10 a.m. Saturday in St. John Gualbert Catholic Church, Gualbert Avenue at Doat Street, where Higgins will deliver the eulogy.

[From the Am-Pol Eagle]

JACKIE SCHMID DIES

Am-Pol Eagle's polka columnist, polka promoter, Polish American and political activist Jackie Schmid, 51, died at home on Monday.

Schmid, an executive assistant to Congressman Brian Higgins, had just helped organize the Cheektowaga Polish American Arts Festival and General Pulaski Parade in Cheektowaga last weekend.

Schmid was a Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 2012. She was presented the Polish American of the Year award by the Buffalo Bisons in 2008. At that time Judge Michael Pietruszka said of Schmid, "She is definitely one of the unsung heroes of Polonia. She works on all of these projects behind the scenes and just does wonderful things for the community."

Despite feeling ill, Schmid attended the Pulaski Parade and Cheektowaga Polish Arts Festival on Sunday. Last year Schmid stated: "The Polish Festival is really important to keep the Polish heritage alive and pass down the traditions. The younger generations need to keep the traditions going."

Ron Urbanczyk of the band City Side had said of Schmid: "She promotes not only polka music but the Polish tradition." Schmid planned the Pvt. Leonard Post Pre-Dyngus Day and Dyngus Day celebrations.

Schmid was vice chairwoman of the Cheektowaga Democratic Committee, general manager of the Cheektowaga Symphony Orchestra, a director of the General Pulaski Assn., Inc., an organizer of Squeezefest (an accordion festival and old-fashioned polka party), and a member of the Polish American Arts Festival Committee. She was also active as a polka promoter and member of St. John Gualbert Parish in Cheektowaga.

Cheektowaga Supervisor Mary Holtz has referred to Schmid as an "event planner extraordinaire" for the Cheektowaga Crabapple Festival. Schmid was also an active volunteer with the Cheektowaga Patriotic Commission which organizes the Independence Day celebrations including the parade in the town.

Schmid was born in Buffalo and raised in Cheektowaga, where she was active in local Democratic politics. She was a 1979 graduate of Villa Maria Academy. She also cooked for her family's restaurant, which was located on Broadway and Shepard Street on Buffalo's East Side, before it was moved to Cheektowaga. The restaurant was closed in 1985.

Brian Rusk, president of the General Pulaski Assn., lauded Schmid's collaboration with other directors as she served as co-chair of the parade for 10 years. He called her, "A fine and dedicated woman."

Rusk added, "She was a foundation of our Pulaski Assn. and parade for the last 15 years. We will miss her at the General Pulaski Assn. and I personally dedicate the parade yesterday in her memory."

Pulaski parade co-chair Mira Szramel said Schmid was always dependable. "I knew I could count on her," Szramel said. She added that she knew she could always "Call Jackie" and the job would get done.

Schmid is survived by her mother, Sandi (Alexandra), father William Sr., and brother William.

A wake will be held at Barron Miller, 3025 William St., Cheektowaga on Friday from 2-8 p.m. A Mass of Christian burial will be offered 10 a.m. Saturday at St. John Gualbert Church in Cheektowaga.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SGT.
JEFFREY KELLY

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to express my sincere appreciation for Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Kelly's service to his country.

After joining the U.S. Army Reserves in 2000 and transferring to the Regular Army in 2006, Sgt. Kelly served three tours in Iraq. In 2008, during his last tour, Sgt. Kelly was seriously injured when his convoy came under rocket-propelled grenade and mortar fire. Despite his injuries, Sgt. Kelly completed his assigned mission.

Sgt. Kelly is a native of Central Florida and graduated from Westside Vo Tech in Winter Garden. Sgt. Kelly now lives in Clermont with his wife, Michelle, and two young children, Jade and Lindsey.

On behalf of the people of Central Florida, I am pleased to express our gratitude and to praise Sgt. Kelly for his courage and dedication to his country. His commitment to his country and his selfless service is an inspiration to us all.

CONGRATULATING GRAMBLING
STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate Grambling State University (GSU) on its 111th anniversary. This milestone is a testament that GSU is a true leader in education.

Opening on November 1, 1901, GSU was organized by a group of African American farmers who wanted to organize and operate a school for African Americans in north Louisiana. What began as an industrial school, Grambling State shifted its focus to rural teacher education in the late 1930s. GSU transformed in the early 1950s into an institution that offered students education in the areas of science, liberal arts, and business. The university now offers 68 degree programs to its students.

In recent years, Grambling has incorporated new academic programs and has added new facilities including a business and computer science building and school of nursing. Throughout the university's 111-year history, the value of each individual student has always been emphasized. GSU continues to be an institution "where everybody is somebody."

I commend Grambling State University on this significant milestone, and its dedication to positively influencing the lives of its students. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Grambling State University for this momentous occasion.

SEEKING FREEDOM FOR AMERICAN
TRAPPED IN BOLIVIAN
PRISON

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights, which I chair, held a hearing to shine a spotlight on and to search for a resolution of the extreme injustice being perpetrated by Bolivian government officials against Jacob Ostreicher, an American trapped in the infamous Palmasola prison. Charged with crimes for which the Bolivian Government has produced no evidence, either of the crimes themselves or that Mr. Ostreicher committed either one, he is being denied the most fundamental due process and human rights both under Bolivian law and international human rights standards.

On June 9, Sheri Rickert, my Staff Director on the subcommittee, and I went to Bolivia to meet with Mr. Ostreicher and to attend a court hearing for his release on bail which had been repeatedly delayed since September of last year. The testimony presented at the Subcommittee's June 6 hearing about this case revealed the repeated due process violations being committed by Bolivian officials.

On June 11, I had the opportunity to witness some of them myself. Two attorneys from the Bolivian Ministry of Government, who I understand should not be intervening in the case, aggressively threatened to take legal action against the judge if he refused to recuse himself. Although the judge rightly rejected the ludicrous reasons on which the Ministry of Government attorneys based their threat, they accomplished their goal of having the hearing postponed and Mr. Ostreicher returned to prison.

To underline the absurdity of the Bolivian judicial system, Mr. Ostreicher's case was then referred to a court where the judge is detained in the same prison as Mr. Ostreicher. It took fully six weeks for the hearing to be rescheduled in another court that has a judge. I've been told that, unfortunately, the same scenario as occurred at the June 11 hearing took place again on July 23. The Ministry of Government attorneys injected themselves into the hearing and aggressively threatened the judge if she failed to recuse herself. The judge rejected out of hand the basis asserted for the threat, but again postponed the hearing and returned Mr. Ostreicher to jail.

While in Bolivia, I met with the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Juan Carlos Alurralde, the Minister of Government Carlos Romero Bonifaz, and the Minister of Justice Cecilia Ayllón Quinteros to advocate for Mr. Ostreicher's release. Each one of them have made commitments with respect to this case but have not followed through.

And in the meantime, Mr. Ostreicher continues to face daily threats to his life in the violent, unsanitary, drug-infested Palmasola prison. He has been on a hunger-strike since April 15, and he was already extremely frail and weak when I saw him over a month ago. Both a private and a Bolivian government doctor have examined Mr. Ostreicher and recommended that he be referred to a medical clinic for evaluation. Given everything else that