

the ties that hold us together as members of our community and country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEW
BEDFORD AREA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce as the organization celebrates its 126th Annual Meeting this year.

Founded in 1885, the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce today serves ten communities situated along the South Coast of Massachusetts. Those ten communities, in addition to the city of New Bedford, include Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester, Wareham, and Westport. Over 210,000 Massachusetts residents are served by this Chamber as the organization guides local economic development, and encourages professional development among its members. The positive impact that the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce has had on Massachusetts' South Coast region over the course of its 126-year lifetime cannot be overstated, and I look forward to seeing the Chamber's continued success in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce upon its 126th Annual Meeting and in thanking this organization for its years of service to the South Coast community. I am certain that the Chamber's and its member organizations' future will be bright.

REMEMBERING KEMAL ATATURK

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, as countries in the Middle East undergo drastic change, they are redefining their political systems, looking to other countries in the region, like Turkey, to serve as examples of positive transition. In Turkey, November 10th is a date remembered for the premature death of Kemal Ataturk, the leader of modern Turkey who transformed that country from an agrarian society caught in the past to a modern, secular and forward looking western model. While the changes were recognized at the time as stunning, given recent developments in the region, Turkey's transformation is even more relevant and noteworthy today.

President John F. Kennedy noted:

The name of Ataturk reminds people of the historical successes of one of the great individuals of this century, the leadership that gave inspiration to the Turkish nation, far-sightedness in the understanding of the modern world and courage and power as a military leader. It is without a doubt that another example can't be shown indicating greater successes than the birth of the Turkish Republic and ever since then Ataturk's and Turkey's broad and deep reforms undertaken as well as the confidence of a nation in itself.

His leadership contributions were noted internationally. Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Winston Churchill, also wrote:

Ataturk's death is not only a loss for the country, but for Europe is the greatest loss, he who saved Turkey in the war and who revived a new the Turkish nation after the war. The sincere tears shed after him by all classes of people is nothing other than an appropriate manifestation to this great hero and modern Turkey's Ata.

As Co-chair of the Congressional Turkey Caucus and on behalf of Turkish Americans, I join my friends in paying tribute to a great man and a great leader. I congratulate the people of Turkey, and continue to work to remember Ataturk's legacy and his contributions to world peace and to the region.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE REOPENING
OF ST. EMERIC CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of St. Emeric Church, one of the 11 Cleveland Catholic Diocese parishes that will be reopening this year.

In 2009 it was announced that several of the Cleveland Catholic Diocese's area churches, including St. Emeric, were to close. However, just months ago, the Vatican overruled this decision and St. Emeric reopening its doors on and celebrated its first mass on Sunday, November 4, 2012. St. Emeric was the last of the 50 churches closed and was be the last of the eleven to reopen.

St. Emeric Church was founded in 1904 and has been home to many of the Cleveland area's Hungarian-American Catholic community. Prior to its closing on June 30, 2010, St. Emeric Church was home to nearly 650 parishioners.

The celebratory mass that ushered in the reopening of St. Emeric Church was held on November 4th, which is especially significant for the parish because it is also the feast day of St. Emeric. The mass was led by the parish's former pastor, Reverend Sandor Siklodi, who was transferred to Chicago's St. Stephen King of Hungary parish in 2010. Siklodi had served as St. Emeric's pastor for 24 years after being sent to the church by a Hungarian bishop in Romania. The parishioners of St. Emeric appealed for the return of Rev. Siklodi because he performs mass in their native Hungarian language.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the reopening of St. Emeric Church, a beloved parish that has returned to Cleveland's near West Side neighborhood.

LEXINGTON MEDICAL CENTER
WINS "PINK GLOVE DANCE"
VIDEO COMPETITION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Lexington Medical Cen-

ter in West Columbia, South Carolina, for winning the 2012 "Pink Glove Dance" video competition. Designed by Medline Industries, Inc., the Pink Glove Dance contest is designed to raise awareness about breast cancer and show support for cancer survivors.

Lexington Medical Center's video featured nearly 1,000 hospital employees dancing to the Katy Perry song "Part of Me" while wearing pink gloves. Lexington Medical Center beat 260 other health organizations. And, it was the second year in a row they won this contest.

We are fortunate to have the leadership of Lexington Medical Center President and CEO Mike Biediger, Board Chairman Dan Jones, and Director of Marketing Mark Shelley. Thank you to Lexington Medical Center for everything they do to treat cancer patients and educate our community about cancer prevention.

HONORING WORLD WAR II VET-
ERAN, AVIATOR AND PATRIOT
LT. VICTOR B. SCHOON

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great loss to our community, Lt. Victor B. Schoon, who passed away on September 25, 2012 at the age of 93. My heart goes out to his loving children, Andra Lew, Joanna Schoon-Kormo, and Marcus Victor Schoon; his grandchildren, Michael Lew, Kenneth Schoon, Julianna Marie Schoon, Eric Konno and Allison Konno; and the rest of his family, friends and loved ones. He now goes to join his loving wife, Dora Song, who passed away in 1999.

When Lt. Schoon enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1943, he did so during a time when Chinese Americans could not vote, could not immigrate to the United States, and could not even become citizens. But he enlisted anyway, regardless of the prejudice and discrimination he faced. Such was his patriotism to his country.

Within two short years of his enlistment, Lt. Schoon had become a First Lieutenant piloting his own B-17 over the European Theatre during World War II. He served with distinction, stationed with the 340th Bomb Squadron, 97th Bomb Group based in Foggia, Italy between 1944 and 1945.

During that time he saw air combat over the Balkans, Southern France, Germany, Rome, Arno and the North Appennines. And thanks to his bravery, skill and flying prowess, he flew 50 successful missions, bringing all of his 9 crew members home safely, and contributing to the Allies' defeat of the Axis powers and the end of the war.

For his efforts he was rewarded with the European, African and Middle Eastern Theater Service Medal; an Air Medal with 2-Oak Leaf Cluster; and a Distinguished Unit Badge.

He went on to receive an honorable discharge, enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley and earn a bachelor's degree in architecture. He became a successful architect, drawing custom office buildings for various prestigious firms and opened his own architectural firm in Hollywood.

But this selfless patriot, who dropped out of high school to help provide for his nine siblings after his parents' death, who enlisted in

the military despite the prejudice of the times and great personal danger to himself, and who went on to serve his community so admirably, died before receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross Medal he so deserved.

I urge my House colleagues to join me in honoring Lt. Schoon for his record of bravery, indomitable spirit and remarkable service to his community and to our nation.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JERRY A. VITTARDI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Jerry A. Vittardi.

Jerry was born on January 18, 1925 to Matio and Anna Vittardi. He was a World War II veteran who served in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Jerry was married to his wife, Marianne, for 60 years and they had six children together: Richard, Renee, Gerianne, Marty, Mickey and Ed. Jerry and Marianne raised their family in Parma, a city in which they would remain and where he began a lifetime of public service.

In 1960, he was elected to the Parma City Council to represent Ward 2, serving as a councilman for 5 years. While serving the City of Parma, he gained a reputation as a trustworthy partner for others who were running for seats within the Democratic Party. He campaigned for Governor Richard Celeste, Senator Howard Metzenbaum, Congressman Ron Mottl, Attorney General Lee Fisher, Parma Mayor Michael Ries, for his son Councilman Martin Vittardi and for myself.

Jerry's dedication to public service continued throughout his life. In addition to serving as a Democratic Ward leader and Democratic Precinct Committeeman, he served as an electrical inspector for the City of Parma for 2 years from 1958–1960, and later served as a building inspector for the city from 1967–1980. From 1980 through the late 1990s, he worked for the State of Ohio, Ohio Lottery as a field representative. Heavily involved in the community, Jerry was also a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Cleveland and coached local baseball and softball teams. He strongly supported the local sports teams and loved watching the Cleveland Indians and the Cleveland Browns.

Jerry is survived by his children and 13 grandchildren: Joy, Greg, Amy, Vincent, Kristen, Jamie, Allison, Jessica, Mark, Leah, Michael, Holly and Eric. In addition, he was a beloved great-grandfather to 17. He had a very special place in his heart for his great-grandchildren baby Jack and baby Blake.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Jerry A. Vittardi. May his life of public service and his role as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather serve as an example to us all.

HONORING GIL WATERS

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gil Waters of Sarasota FL, born in 1927 and raised in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New York. By 1955, Gil graduated from Yale University, moved to Sarasota, married Elizabeth Boylston, served in the Navy during the Korean War, and started a family. Over the next 58 years, Gil left an indelible mark on Sarasota/Manatee County and the State of Florida. All while being a loving father to three children, Christopher, Robin, and Michael.

Gil founded the FCCI Fund in 1959. Upon his retirement in 1985, Florida Trend ranked FCCI as one of Florida's largest private companies. It was Florida's largest self-funded workers-compensation companies and one of the largest in the nation. Gil created WIMCO (Waters Insurance Management Company) in 1979 and FEISCO a, NASDAQ-listed, captive "reinsurance" company in 1980. In 1982, he founded Keep-Well Health Insurance. Gil, is an entrepreneurial visionary who revolutionized the workers-compensation insurance industry.

From 1956 to 1970, Gil served as Executive Secretary for Sarasota/Manatee County Gulf Coast Builders Exchange; Executive Secretary for Consulting Engineers Counsel of Florida; Public Relations Counsel for New College; and served as a Sarasota City Commissioner.

In 1970, Gil ran a successful State Constitutional Amendment regarding mobile home taxation. From 1977 to 1984 he became a statewide lobbyist for workers compensation in Tallahassee. Gil organized and served as first president of Florida Self Insurance Association, producing a wide ranging bill that passed the Florida State Legislature, providing wage-loss protection for injured workers.

Between 1987 and 2003, Gil spearheaded grassroots efforts to replace the Ringling Bridge. The Florida State Legislature honored him by renaming the bridge, "Gil Waters Bridge" on the Ringling Causeway. He was honored and humbled, and instead, requested a plaque be placed at the bridge paying tribute to every citizen who supported the construction of the fixed-span bridge.

In addition, he dedicated 40 years to developing condominium, single family, retirement and nursing communities. He also impacted municipal planning and growth, served his community and state as a philanthropist through public and private schools, Florida State's Asolo Repertory Theater, Florida West Coast Symphony Association, New College Music Festival, Sarasota Opera, Hermitage Artist Retreat, Sarasota Memorial Hospital, and others. He received environmental awards from the Audubon Society, Save Our Bays, and Sarasota Garden Club.

At 85, Gil enjoys traveling with his second wife, Elisabeth; however, he is never far from his 55-year vision to complete Sarasota's 1959 Architectural Plan—connecting Island Park/Marina Jacks to Main Street over U.S. 41, with a safe-walkable overpass; and, Main Street becoming a walkable city-center, daily attracting 1000's of visitors and residents. Gil likes to say, "Come for an hour, stay for the day!"

One of Gil's greatest honors occurred on December 27, 1999, when The Sarasota Herald Tribune named Gil one of "The 10 Most Influential Businesspeople of the 20th Century."

TRIBUTE TO RIVERSIDE COUNTY'S RECIPIENTS OF OPERATION RECOGNITION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a group of individuals—heroes—who are receiving the recognition and honor they deserve for their service to our country. Operation Recognition is operated by the Riverside County Office of Education with assistance from the Riverside County Department of Veterans' Services. The program awards high school diplomas to veterans who missed completing high school due to military service in World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, or due to internment in WWII Japanese-American relocation camps.

A recognition ceremony was held on November 7, 2012, for the following individuals who received their high school diplomas through Operation Recognition:

Edward A. Alfaro; Anthony John Amoroso; Edward Barr; Leroy Burbidge; Justino Castillo; Harry J. Dillon; James N. Ellis; James Albert Finch; Irving G. Fowler; Robert Ray Gooch, Jr.; Herb Levine; Donald George Marion; Marvin Odell Pace; Anastacia P. Panarites; Thomas James Plouffe; Michael Loren Rittenhouse; Robert Rodriguez; Edward L. Ryan; Robert Irwin Stover; Glenn C. Waggoner Jr.; Robert Lee Williamson; James Verne Olson; and Thomas Eugene Butler.

Our country owes a debt of gratitude to all the above recipients for their service and sacrifice. I salute all the above individuals and congratulate them on receiving their high school diploma.

IN HONOR OF MR. RICHARD GRIMMETT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Richard Grimmert, who is retiring after 38 years of dedicated service with the Congressional Research Service (CRS).

An Ohio native, Mr. Grimmert attended Kent State University, where he earned a Ph.D. in American history and focused on U.S. national security policy. Since joining CRS in 1974, Mr. Grimmert has been a specialist on defense and foreign policy issues. Specifically, his expertise lies in international arms trade, overseas U.S. military bases, war powers and intelligence. Throughout his time with CRS, Mr. Grimmert has worked intimately with Senate and House Select Intelligence Committees and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Mr. Grimmert has proven time and again that he is a vital asset to the U.S. Congress. His support and intelligence are evident in the