

fulfill the needs of the residents of my district. Her dedication and intellect will be missed throughout the entire community.

Following her retirement, Mary plans on spending more time with her family. She has been married to her husband, Bill, who currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County for 23 years. She is the proud parent of 4 children, 7 step children and 34 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the storied career of Mrs. Mary P. Denihan and congratulating her on her retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ROBERT  
M. FRANKLIN

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2012*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Robert M. Franklin, the tenth president of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, in honor of his retirement after 5 years as head of the school. He will be honored at a reception on Friday, November 9, 2012, in Atlanta.

A native of Chicago, Dr. Franklin is an alumnus of Morehouse College. He also received a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School in 1978 and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago Divinity School in 1985. In 1973, he received an English Speaking Union scholarship to attend the University of Durham in England. Dr. Franklin is also the recipient of honorary degrees from Bethune Cookman University, Bates College, and Swarthmore College.

Before he was the President of Morehouse College, Dr. Franklin served as the Presidential Distinguished Professor of Social Ethics at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. He was also President of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. In addition, he served as a program officer in the Human Rights and Social Justice Program at the Ford Foundation in New York.

Dr. Franklin is the author of three books: *Crisis in the Village: Restoring Hope in African American Communities* (2007), *Another Day's Journey: Black Churches Confronting the American Crisis* (1997), and *Liberating Visions: Human Fulfillment and Social Justice in African American Thought* (1989).

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Franklin has revolutionized Morehouse College in many ways during his five-year tenure as President. His vision for Morehouse College is that the institution will shape its students into Renaissance men who are well-educated and ethical leaders with a social conscience and committed to championing the causes of equality, justice and peace. During Dr. Franklin's tenure as President, Morehouse has continued to develop future leaders who are disciplined, altruistic, and wise.

Under Dr. Franklin's administration, Morehouse College has been recognized as the Nation's best liberal arts college by *Washington Monthly* and has been a recipient of more than \$60 million in federal grants as well as a number of gifts from prestigious organiza-

tions and donors. Dr. Franklin has been instrumental in the school's plan for the internationalization of its campus, with a special emphasis on curriculum and study abroad experiences. Moreover, significant updates and renovations have been made to Graves Hall, the oldest building on campus, as well as many other structures. In 2010, the Ray Charles Performing Arts Center was dedicated and this state of the art facility now serves as the practice and performance space for the College's world renowned Glee Club; the Morehouse Jazz Band; Morehouse College Jazz Ensemble; and "House of Funk" Marching Band.

One of the many things I admire most about Dr. Franklin is his unfailing dedication to Morehouse College. After graduating from the school in 1975, he came back years later to lead Morehouse in its mission to develop men with disciplined minds who will lead lives of leadership, service and self-realization. And he is still not gone for good! After a sabbatical as a Scholar in Residence at Stanford University's Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute, Dr. Franklin will return to Morehouse College as President Emeritus and Distinguished Professor, the college's highest honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Robert M. Franklin for his 5 outstanding years as President of Morehouse College, my beloved Alma Mater. He has transformed the lives of countless young men and inspired them to become our future leaders.

HONORING COUNCIL MEMBER  
LARRY VAN NOSTRAN

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2012*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I announce the passing of Larry Van Nostran, who served the city of Lakewood for 37 years.

Larry was first elected to the Lakewood City Council in 1975. He is the longest serving council member in the city's history, and was serving his tenth term as a council member when he passed away Friday, November 9. During his 37 years on the council, he served as the Mayor of the city nine times.

Among Larry's most notable achievements was the founding of the Lakewood Youth Sports Hall of Fame in 1981 and its continued success for the past 30 years. The Hall of Fame has honored thousands of Lakewood youth during that time, and has helped promote a vigorous sports and recreational culture in the city. This strong tradition was nationally recognized by *Sports Illustrated* magazine, who named Lakewood "Sportstown USA" in 2004.

Larry was instrumental in helping create a high quality of life in Lakewood's neighborhoods and finding solutions to keep Lakewood's crime rate low. Larry began his service in Lakewood city government as a member of the Traffic and Safety Commission, and was a longtime member of the Public Safety Committee as a member of the city council. He firmly believed that there's not a more important value than keeping a community safe. He was a strong supporter of the Lakewood Award of Valor event, where public safety per-

sonnel, volunteers and residents are honored annually for their dedication, hard work and courage.

Larry was prominent in the development and expansion of senior services, which were scant before he was elected to the city council. Larry saw the initiation of Lakewood's DASH senior transit system and exercise and fitness programs at the city's two senior centers. He was also a champion of growing Lakewood's business and commercial base, which included modernizing the second largest shopping center in Los Angeles County, Lakewood Center Mall.

Larry was born in Seville, Ohio in 1933 and moved to Lakewood in 1958, just four years after the city was incorporated. He was active in Lakewood civic life for over 40 years, including membership in the Elks Club, Jaycees, Kiwanis Club, Lakewood Pan American Association, and Masonic Lodge & Scottish Rite.

As you are aware Mr. Speaker, many of our colleagues in city government have a fundamental impact on the lives of our constituents and they rarely get the recognition that they deserve. The city of Lakewood will miss Larry, and I stand with many in our community in sending my thoughts and prayers to his family. Thank you Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence for Larry Van Nostran, a true public servant, and I yield back the balance of my time.

IN HONOR OF ENDA KENNY, PRIME  
MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
IRELAND

**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. Enda Kenny, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland, on the occasion of the 2012 Mayo Society Banquet and Ball taking place on October 13, 2012.

Prime Minister Kenny was born in Islandeady, County Mayo on April 24, 1951 and obtained degrees from St. Patrick's College of Education and University College of Galway. Mr. Kenny boasts a long career in public service. Following a brief stint as a public school teacher, he began his public service career in 1975 when he was elected to the Dáil Éireann to fill his late father's seat.

Throughout his long career, Prime Minister Kenny served as the Minister of State for Education and Labour between 1986 and 1987. Additionally, between 1994 and 1977 he was the Minister of Tourism and Trade for Ireland. In 2002, he became the leader of his political party, the Fine Gael.

On March 9, 2011, Mr. Kenny was elected as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland. He is married to Fionnuala O'Kelly, and has three children, Naoise, Ferdia and Aoibhinn. The Mayo Society Banquet and Ball will also honor Mr. James Boland as the 2012 Mayo Person of the Year.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Prime Minister Enda Kenny and in recognition of his visit to Cleveland, Ohio on the occasion of the Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland's Banquet and Ball.

IN HONOR OF THE WINNERS OF  
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
WINSLOW TOWNSHIP'S VET-  
ERANS DAY 2012 STUDENT ESSAY  
CONTEST

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2012*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the winners of the Historical Society of Winslow Township's Veterans Day 2012 Student Essay Contest.

These nine students, in the 7th and 8th grades at Winslow Township Middle School and 12th grade at Winslow Township High School, wrote on what the word "freedom" means to them in their hearts. The moving prose of these young men and women is a testament to the patriotic spirit of the citizens of South Jersey and an inspiration to all Americans. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: KELLI O'NEIL, 7TH GRADE, 1ST PLACE WINNER

By definition freedom is; the power to determine action without restraint. But freedom means monumentally more than that to me. Speech, expression, faith these are only a few of the stripes on the beautiful rainbow that is freedom. Freedom is what sets America so high above the rest, what makes it such a beautiful place to live.

Every Sunday, millions of Americans go to church. Imagine if these millions of people were in a different country. Practicing their own religion may not be legal. Whilst this goes on for myself and to most Americans going to church feels like such a simple liberty.

As an adolescent female I am still in school getting an education and plan to continue through college. Now let's pretend I am in some other country for example. I would not be in school, I would be home doing housework caring for my siblings. Back in America I am permitted to wear whatever clothing I wish to wear; however, in some countries I shouldn't even show my own hair. All of these wonderful rights that I do have are given to me simply because America values freedom. Our flag flying through the air sings of freedom. And the graceful eagle soaring through the heavens screams freedom. Every day, I look at the things I do and wear and I am truly grateful for America and all of its freedoms.

I have the privilege of being in an honors writing class, and in this class I write exactly what I think and feel about any and every thing without fear of punishment by law. I cannot say the same for many other children in foreign countries. In these countries writing the way they feel about things like laws, politics, and leaders can result in great punishment. Without the freedom to express how I feel I don't know how I would survive. My opinions are who I am, and they are a piece of me.

Lee Greenwood once said, "proud to be an American Where at least I know I'm free, and I won't forget the men who died who gave that right to me." This is so incredibly true, and I would like to take this moment in time to put the spotlight on the soldiers who have passed away, our veterans, and our soldiers who are currently serving because they are the sole reason for all of these fantastic freedoms that me and my fellow Americans have today.

So, in conclusion, freedom is the biggest blessing ever bestowed upon the American people, and it is not to be taken for granted.

DEANNA PAUL, 7TH GRADE, 2ND PLACE WINNER

The first 10 amendments of the Constitution, or the Bill of Rights, set priceless rights and freedoms that Americans may enjoy. There is a rather large variety of them, ranging from the freedom of speech to just the right of traveling anywhere you want in the nation.

If you were to look in the dictionary for the word "freedom", you'd probably find that it means "free to do something or free of something", or anything within those lines. That'd be correct. The many freedoms that we as Americans have should be treated like gifts, as they are. However, our freedoms are often misused now, in a way our forefathers didn't intend them to be. For example, the freedom of speech, which is the freedom to say our opinions as long as they don't cause any harm to others, is now being used to bully and cause mental pain to citizens by Americans who want to cause trouble.

Nevertheless, our freedoms are still gifts and worth protecting. The many veterans who have fought for our country by sacrificing themselves, whether they were killed or wounded physically or mentally in battle or returned home intact, should and are respected by our nation. They fought or are fighting at the moment to keep things the way that they should be, to protect the millions of Americans who have the access to the freedoms in the Bill of Rights. Without those brave men and woman, we might not be the way we are today, as we would be vulnerable to other countries who mean harm to Americans because of our freedoms and policies.

Personally, I'm so used to these freedoms that they seem ordinary and unimportant, but after reading so many articles about the lifestyles and other events occurring in other parts of the world, I feel extremely lucky—and proud. I've learned that not all countries are lucky enough to have the same rights and freedoms that we are able to have, and that's worth protecting.

While practicing these freedoms throughout your ordinary lives, remember: They're special. People are out there fighting; just for us to feel safe while exercising those rights we were given. Be grateful. Use them the way they were intended to be used. And most importantly, respect our veterans.

SARAH MARSHALL, 7TH GRADE, 3RD PLACE  
WINNER

Freedom is a lot of things. To an American citizen it is a privilege. To a mother in a dictated country it's a hope. Or to a government figure it is a law. But no matter what it means to different people, the definition of freedom will always be the same to me; a right.

Freedom can come in all different forms. For example; you could have freedom of speech, freedom of expression or freedom of religion. With freedom, I can speak out against almost anything (including our political and government system); I can choose and practice my own religion without fear of being abused or jailed, and so much more. Freedom is an important part to a great country.

In my opinion, everyone should be allowed to have freedom. It's not right to be killed or abused because of what you believe in or say. Some people take things like freedom, life and rights for granted. Not me. I will always remember that it is a huge privilege that a lot of people don't receive. I will also keep in mind not to abuse my rights and freedom because people died for it. They died for you and me, and everyone else in America to be able to express ourselves without risk. To have my rights taken away would be a dishonor. And I really hope that everyone who does have freedom realizes that.

In some countries, you can actually be shot at just for speaking your mind. A real life example of that is of a young female citizen from Pakistan. In Pakistan, they are currently fighting for women's rights. A young lady spoke her opinion on women having education and she was shot. This reminds us that we are lucky. Those of us in America wouldn't have been shot; we probably would've been rewarded. If the young women had been from the United States that tragic situation would never have happened due to the fact that women already have the right to education.

If you asked a professor what freedom means to them, the answer would be a thousand miles long. The answer is so long I couldn't fit it in this essay. But if it somehow wasn't clear how thankful I am for it, going to put it like this; Freedom is something to be thankful for. You should pray to your (a) god for it, discuss it at thanksgiving dinner, and visit the graves of those who died for it. You never know, thousands of miles away someone might be praying for the freedom you already have.

AKAASH PATEL, 8TH GRADE, 1ST PLACE  
WINNER

Freedom . . . Such a small word for a very meaningful definition. Every day of our lives we are presented with this right. However, what exactly does freedom mean to you? To me, freedom means the moral principle of being able to choose how you live your life. Before freedom we were told what to believe in. We had no say so on what our lives would be like. However, we, as a united nation celebrate and declare freedom; not as a privilege but as a right.

Our forefathers fought for the right of freedom. They put their lives on the line for the sake of other people's rights. We should always be grateful that our founding fathers gave us freedom. Moreover, we should constantly honor America's veterans and active military. They have and are putting their feelings for this country into actions, not words. A picture paints a thousand words.

USA has many veterans coming back from Afghanistan. Some have come back from Vietnam. Some are even coming back from top priority missions that they enlisted in. However, all of these men and woman have one definite thing in common, their reason. All war veterans' reason for fighting always traces back to freedom. They believe in freedom and know deep in their heart what it means to them. America's veterans were, are, and forever will be dedicated to freedom.

I think that freedom is a very unappreciated right. As a kid I woke up every day able to believe in what I wanted to. I was born into my religion. However I was not necessarily forced to accepting it. This was the perfect world our country's founders, veterans, and active military had created for me and everyone else to share. In spite of this, we truly do not honor this right enough despite the immense value it holds. You never miss something until you lose it.

In conclusion, freedom is essential in people's lives. We are free to choose any religion, believe in what we want, and do what we want. This entitlement to every US citizen keeps this country intact. In contrast, we would have never had this right unless our veterans and active military had not protected this sacred allotment. To sum it up, thanks to our brave and bold veterans and our courageous active military we live our lives and cherish freedom.

HARLEIGH MAE BURKE, 8TH GRADE, 2ND PLACE  
WINNER

In the 1700's, when our founding fathers began sculpting the Constitution of our nation, there was one thing they all agreed on: Freedom is a right all people should be given