

homeland for their children, members organized again to establish a school. In 1903, St. John Nepomucene School was established, with an enrollment of 300 students.

As immigrants navigated their way through the difficult transition toward assimilation in America, St. John Nepomucene served as a haven of security, faith, support and assistance. As immigrants embraced the freedoms and ideals of their new nation, St. John Nepomucene served as a bridge between two worlds—connecting Fleet Avenue to their homeland across the ocean.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and celebration of the generations of spiritual leaders and parishioners who founded, supported and sustained St. John Nepomucene Church for 110 years. The leaders and members of St. John Nepomucene Parish, past and present, continue their tradition of providing faith and hope to individuals and families throughout Slavic Village.

HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL OF PAINTING

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the Hudson River School of Painting. The Hudson River School is the first American art movement. Begun in the early 1800s, the movement comprised three themes of American life at the time—discovery, exploration, and settlement. The style originally focused on landscape paintings of the Hudson River Valley and surrounding areas, before expanding to the nearby Catskill, Adirondack, and White Mountain ranges, eventually including locales far outside this narrow slice of upstate New York.

One of the Hudson River School's leading painters, Sanford Robinson Gifford, served in the New York State National Guard's Seventh Regiment during the Civil War. Mustered into service in defense of the Union, the Seventh Regiment's stay while in Virginia inspired Gifford to paint several scenes of the enlisted life. One of these paintings, "Bivouac of the Seventh Regiment, Arlington Heights, Virginia," captures a scene at the heart of Virginia's 8th Congressional District.

The legacy of the Hudson River School, however, is much greater than the paintings hanging on museum and gallery walls across the nation. These paintings, depicting historical landscapes across our country, captured the hearts of the American people. The majestic landscapes, seen by millions of Americans, fueled an interest in the conservation movement as the public demanded that many of the sites depicted by the Hudson River School be preserved for future generations. This conservation movement quickly led to the establishment of the first national park in 1872, giving rise to the creation of the National Park Service in 1916. Hundreds of millions of visitors travel, explore, and enjoy these parks every year.

Adding to the legacy of the Hudson River School is New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. This landmark cultural institution was established with the help of artists from the Hud-

son River School of Painting, including Mr. Gifford. In addition to donating time, funds, and some paintings, these Hudson River School artists served as trustees and committee members.

Mr. Speaker, the impact of the Hudson River School is much greater than simply beautiful paintings of the mountainous river valley in New York. Its legacy can be found in our National Park system, our commitment to conservation and in our museums and cultural institutions enjoyed and appreciated by Americans all over the country.

SUPPORTING OUR CLOSEST ALLY, ISRAEL

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this week and even today Israel's terrorist enemies massively escalated their rocket attacks on our country's closest ally, Israel—Hamas has fired its rockets at large cities whose population has not been under attack for decades, including Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, the latter of which had never been subject to rocket attack. Sadly, three people have been killed.

Words cannot express the inhumanity and barbarity of these rocket attacks. The number of Israelis who live under daily threat of air attack has increased exponentially: more than a third of Israel's population lives in the Tel Aviv metropolitan area alone, which was last under rocket fire during the first Gulf War.

This is the moment for America to send a clear message: Hamas's rocket attacks are completely and totally unacceptable and unjustified and intolerable, their escalation even more so. The Israeli government has not only the right but the duty to defend its people. I want to recognize and applaud Israel for vigorously doing so, and for taking every reasonable precaution to avoid civilian casualties. I want to remind my colleagues that Hamas's goal is not to avoid civilian casualties, but to initiate conflict that will cause it, so that all the people killed, whether Israeli or Palestinian, are in fact Hamas's victims. Our hearts and prayers go out to their families.

HONORING WHITNEY MITCHELL

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but

also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship they have shown me during my six years of service in the Congress.

Whitney Mitchell has been an invaluable asset to my office since joining our team in February of 2009. Whitney's talents as a skilled and effective communicator were quickly recognized and rewarded with a series of promotions, ultimately achieving Press Secretary and Communications Director status. Few individuals on Capitol Hill have so effortlessly and skillfully developed a political acumen as sharp as Whitney's, or mastered the complexities of political nuance and communication as she has. Marking Whitney's strengths further still, she is also responsible for a broad portfolio of legislative issues for which she has proven her ability to rapidly research and synthesize voluminous amounts of information while also successfully reinterpreting complicated information into clearer, more comprehensible parts, the latter a critical skill to effectively communicate policy to our various constituent groups. In all, Whitney has been a trusted, loyal and exceptional member of my staff.

Whitney should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with Whitney and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Whitney and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Whitney Mitchell for her hard work on behalf of all of western North Carolina and the United States and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK OF MORRIS COUNTY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County, Morristown, New Jersey as they celebrate their 120th Anniversary this year.

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick is a national network of social organizations of men of Irish ancestry and affinity. Each local organization takes an active role in their community preserving the Irish history and heritage of its members while also participating in acts of charity. The purpose of each local Sons of St. Patrick organization is to provide an opportunity for Irish-Americans to meet in a spirit of comradeship for the common purpose of promoting, cultivating, celebrating and preserving interest in Irish arts, literature, history and culture.

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County was founded in the spirit of the first truly American St. Patrick's Day celebration

which was held at George Washington's camp at Jockey Hollow, Morristown in 1780. Since that day, the Irish have continued to play an important role in Morris County's social, economic and political fabric.

Originally founded on March 14, 1892, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County have aimed to create a social group for the large community of Irish-Americans within Morris County while also assisting the county's neediest residents through charitable works. With 300 members today, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County is open to all men of Irish descent, the group is non-political and non-sectarian.

The Friendly Sons meet monthly to promote faith, heritage and fellowship, they are noted for their charity work including the annual Morris County St. Patrick's Day Parade. Organized by their membership, the parade is attended by over 50,000 people and raises over \$10,000 for local charities, including Employment Horizons and Cheshire House. The Friendly Sons have also been integral in the recognition and preservation of several historically important Irish-American buildings and sites throughout New Jersey and New York.

The mission and work of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County has made the group an important asset to Morris County. Their continued support of local charities and preservation of Irish-American history and heritage are to be commended.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County as they celebrate their 120th Anniversary.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 811, supporting the goals and ideals of American Education Week, which this year celebrates its 91st annual observance. As a proud father of two children enrolled in public schools and a member of the House Education and Workforce Committee, I recognize the critical role public schools play in providing our young people the intellectual and practical skills necessary to become functioning and productive members of our society.

American Education Week, to be recognized from November 11 through November 17, 2012, provides our Nation the opportunity to recognize the importance of public education and honor those individuals who each and every day strive to provide a quality education to every child. Each day of this week features a special observance dedicated to five critically important groups within the public education sphere. Specifically, armed service veterans (especially student and teacher veterans), parents, education support professionals, educators, and substitute educators, as well as the countless individuals who devote their time to our public schools but are not mentioned here, should be all recognized and honored for their hard work and the services they provide to our Nation's youth.

Today, I express my strong support for American Education Week and encourage all

schools, teachers and staff, universities, and citizens to recognize this occasion as well. I support the resolution and ask my colleagues to please do the same.

REP. BARLETTA STANDS WITH ISRAEL

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with our friends in Israel.

We've recently seen Hamas, the Palestinian terrorist organization, target Israeli cities with large civilian populations, like Tel Aviv. Since last Wednesday, more than 500 rockets have been fired at Israel generally targeting schools, playgrounds, homes, and other civilian targets. Innocent civilians trying to live in peace are purposely placed in the middle of the violence. This ratchets up the conflict, and brings both sides to the brink of a dangerous confrontation. Israel has the right to defend itself, particularly when its civilian population is directly targeted by Hamas. Americans must stand with Israel as it confronts these terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, I condemn the evil actions of Hamas, and I pray for the safety of all innocent civilians caught in the middle of this escalating violence.

HONORING SHELLEY TOWNLEY

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my staff is second to none in providing the best assistance to everyone in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Each District Staff member has shown a strong sense of dedication in meeting the needs of each and every one of our constituents. They often go well beyond the call to make sure each constituent is treated fairly and respectfully by our government agencies and that they receive appropriate resolution. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Shelley Townley has served as member of my District staff since the fall of my first term. Shelley's work in constituent services has been invaluable to thousands across western North Carolina as they attempted to navigate the often difficult processes of the U.S. Department of State and Immigration Services. I cannot count the number of times people have stopped me and thanked me for the work she did in expediting their passport application to make sure they were able to attend that special family vacation or participate in a mission trip to help others abroad.

Shelley should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with her and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Shelley and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Shelley Townley for her hard work on behalf of all of western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF ANTHONY LAINO AND SAFAR SHAFINOORI—VICTIMS OF SUPERSTORM SANDY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. Tragically, two constituents from my congressional district perished due to Superstorm Sandy hitting the New York area. While unfortunately many people lost property, or lost power due to Sandy, we cannot forget that many people and their families lost much, much more: they lost their lives and their loved ones. These people were just in the wrong place at the wrong time—a minute or two earlier or later, a foot or two closer or farther—and perhaps their lives would not have been tragically cut short. They were our neighbors, our friends, our brothers, our sisters; they were part of our community.

Anthony Laino was in his home in Flushing, waiting out the storm in his bedroom when a tree fell onto his home, taking his life. Tony, as his friends and family called him, was only 30 years old and a graduate student at St. John's University. He had his whole life to live; friends and family described Tony as larger than life, a "pillar of Flushing." His family and friends will truly miss him as they grapple with their unspeakable loss.

Safar Shafinoori of Roslyn was just moving his car. Just as any of us would have that night of the storm. Heartbreakingly, a falling tree struck and killed him. My heart goes out to Mr. Shafinoori's family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of colleagues join me and rise in remembrance of Anthony Laino and Safar Shafinoori. They will be missed by their family, friends and our entire community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, "Mother Church," in Cleveland Ohio.

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church was founded in 1912 by Greek immigrants in the Cleveland area. Since its establishment, it has fostered a strong Greek School program. Following World War II, the Greek population in