

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

Northeast Ohio began to grow and the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation was no longer able to cope with the number of parishioners. The result was four new churches, St. Spyridon, Sts. Constantine and Helen, St. Demetrios and St. Paul. Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church became the Metropolis or "Mother Church" for the new parishes and has brought together the Greater Cleveland Greek American community and Northeast Ohio's Greek American societies.

The centennial celebration of the Mother Church has been led by Fr. Dean Dimon Proistamenos, Fr. Peter Metallinos, Gust Sevastos, Chris Boukis, Pam Petsas, Antoinette Geanneses and Stelios Vitakis. Some of the events that have highlighted this year-long celebration include a Sunday School Reunion, Three Hierarchs Greek Letter's Day, the Tremont Greek Fest, the Centennial Banquet Celebration, and the upcoming Philoptochos Celebration.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing 100 years of service and worship of Cleveland's Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church.

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HONORING RANDY FLACK

**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.

Randy Flack was the first individual to join me on the campaign trail and to serve as a member of my original District staff team. Randy's friendship and companionship have been a blessing in my life since my college days at the University of Tennessee. Randy has always been ready and willing to do anything I asked and then some more. His knowledge of issues and people in the District has been invaluable to me.

Randy has been so much more than an employee, he is a trusted friend, a counselor and a confidant. Without the support of people like Randy the past six years would have never been possible.

Randy should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish

the memories of serving with Randy and the team by my side.

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

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HONORING CONGRESSMAN  
CHARLIE ROSE

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 16, 2012*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a distinguished representative from my home state of North Carolina, Congressman Charlie Rose. Charlie passed away in September at the age of 73 in Albertville, Alabama. Along with many others in this body, I valued him as a mentor and friend, an innovative and effective legislator, and a member who combined international leadership with assiduous attention to agriculture and other North Carolina interests.

Charlie was elected to Congress in 1972 after an early career in law, and he went on to serve North Carolina's 7th Congressional District in the House for 24 years. He ably represented a large district which at the time stretched from Wilmington to Fayetteville. In between those two cities there were farms, and lots of farmers, and Charlie took seriously the hard work of getting around to every community to talk about what he was doing in Congress to help them. He not only took seriously the hard work of explaining legislation to his constituents—he relished it. Charlie was a man with the proverbial "gift of gab." He had insights on important legislation before Congress, but also a way of explaining the complexities that led you to realize his position was the common-sense one.

Even though he may have been more progressive than his constituents on some issues, such as civil rights, they knew that Charlie would look out for them. As the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, Charlie forged bipartisan coalitions to help farmers time and time again. As a former Republican colleague recently recalled, "Charlie was a master at building coalitions. A devout Democrat, he worked assiduously, often behind the scenes, with Republicans on matters of consequence."

Among his colleagues, Charlie was a favorite. He had a great sense of humor and could deliver a punch line with natural comedic timing. But he wasn't just fun to be around. Charlie worked hard, and he devoted much time and effort to the workings of this institution. As the chairman of the House Administration Committee, Charlie acquired the nickname "the Mayor of Capitol Hill" for running a tight ship and attending to detail. "He hears the soup is bad in the kitchen, he goes in the kitchen with a spoon to find out why," a colleague told the Washington Post. "You feel he's on your problem, no matter what it is. And you're grateful."

Charlie had an abiding fascination with technology and was instrumental in ushering in such innovations as live television coverage of House proceedings and computerized record keeping. Today we take websites, twitter, and

social media for granted, but this heightened engagement with constituents started with Charlie's efforts to make the work of the People's House more transparent and more inclusive.

Charlie was of great help to me when I joined him in the House in 1987. He made certain I was warmly welcomed, gave much savvy advice, and especially encouraged my growing involvement in foreign affairs. Charlie's work with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly was not as well known as his other endeavors, but it was important to him and important to the organization. He organized our delegations to Assembly meetings very effectively, and I greatly enjoyed helping him gain election as Assembly President in 1991. It was instructive to see how little he altered his down-home style in dealing with European notables—and how well it worked!

Shortly before leaving Congress in 1997, Charlie married Stacye Hefner, the daughter of our beloved North Carolina colleague, Representative Bill Hefner. They had a wonderful life together in DC and, in recent years, Alabama. Charlie is also survived by a brother and sister and five children, Charles, Louise, Kelly, Parker, and Joseph. To all of them we express our sympathy and good wishes, and our admiration for a life dedicated to public service.

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IN RECOGNITION OF ST. COLMAN  
PARISH

**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 St. Colman Parish as they gather to celebrate the November 23 feast day of St. Colman of Cloyne and honor the trades that built their historic church and community.

Born in Ireland, St. Colman converted to Christianity at the age of 52. Being quite devout, he quickly became a priest and later a bishop, establishing monasteries all over Ireland. St. Colman of Cloyne Cathedral in Cobh, County Cork, Ireland sits high above the harbor from which most late 19th and early 20th century emigrants departed. The cathedral is likely the last thing they saw of their home country. How reassuring it was to those immigrants who made their way to Northeast Ohio and found their new St. Colman Parish to be a welcoming place for worship, education, community celebrations and comfort.

Founded in 1880, construction began on the current church building in 1914. With skill, talent and dedication, the men and women in the building and construction trades completed the beautiful landmark St. Colman Church in 1918. Established in 1912, their Construction and Building Trades Council was responsible for some of Northeast Ohio's most beautiful structures. St. Colman Parish, in addition to the celebration of St. Colman's feast day, is also recognizing the contributions of the Construction and Building Trades Council to the City of Cleveland throughout the past 100 years and honoring Executive Secretary, Loree Soggs, who is retiring this year.

Pastor Bob Begin and the parishioners of St. Colman are very giving to those in need. Annually, parishioners donate approximately