

Jim's commitment to sustainable organic farming and the well-being of agriculture workers continues in his work with Roots of Change. Roots of Change brings a diverse range of Californians to the table to build a common interest in food and farming so that every aspect of our food—from the time it's grown to the time it's eaten—can be healthy, safe, profitable, affordable, and fair.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. Jim Cochran, his achievements with Swanton Berry Farm, and his commitment and service to sustainable agriculture and socially just business practices.

HONORING COMMISSIONER
FRANCES DUPEY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and immense respect that I stand before you today to honor one of Northwest Indiana's finest public servants, Commissioner Frances DuPey, and to wish her well upon her upcoming retirement. Commissioner DuPey's many years of dedication and commitment to the residents of Lake County, Indiana, have had a tremendous impact on our community. In honor of Fran's retirement, a reception was held on Sunday, November 11, 2012, at Dynasty Banquets in Hammond, Indiana.

Fran DuPey was raised in Hammond, Indiana, and attended Hammond Technical Vocational High School until relocating to Lamoni, Iowa, where she completed her high school courses. Soon after, Fran returned to Northwest Indiana and enrolled in Hammond Business College.

Fran married her beloved husband, Frank, a Hammond police officer who would later become the Chief of Police, on November 14, 1964. Fran and Frank, who passed away last year, were blessed with one daughter, Veronica, and one son, Frank, as well as three beautiful grandchildren. It was her husband who first introduced Fran to the Democratic Party, and she has been a constant voice for the party in Northwest Indiana ever since. A loyal Democrat, Mrs. DuPey served eleven years as vice chair for the Hammond Democratic Precinct Organization, followed by five years as the Hammond Democratic Chairperson, and she has been a vice-precinct committeewoman for the past thirty years.

Commissioner DuPey's commitment to the people of Northwest Indiana spans far beyond party lines. In 1987, recognized for her tenacity and leadership qualities, Fran was elected to serve on the Lake County Council and served ten years in that capacity. With her election in 1987, then Councilwoman DuPey marked her place in Lake County's history as the first woman to serve on the Lake County Council. Fran, never one to rest on her laurels, was subsequently elected to serve as a Lake County Commissioner, again being the first woman to hold this office in Lake County. Commissioner DuPey, who has served in this capacity for the last sixteen years, also has the distinction of being the first woman to serve as president of both the Lake County Council and the Lake County Board of Commissioners.

During her many years of service, Commissioner DuPey has received numerous awards and acknowledgements for always going above and beyond for her constituents. One of her most notable recognitions came when she was honored as the "Most Enterprising First Term Commissioner" in the state of Indiana, an award bestowed upon her by the Indiana Association of County Commissioners. Fran's career will be remembered for her dedication to the people of Northwest Indiana and her always candid, up-front approach to tackling the issues at hand.

Fran DuPey has led a life dedicated to the service of others. I am fortunate to call her a friend.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a devoted public servant, Commissioner Frances DuPey. Fran's constant efforts to improve the quality of life for people of Lake County, Indiana, have had an immense impact on her peers and the many citizens whose lives she has touched. It has been an honor to work with Fran throughout the years, and I wish her the best upon her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO NAOMI COLLINS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Naomi Collins, for her track record in public service and her commitment to charity.

Naomi Collins was born in Brooklyn, New York, to the late James and Louise Miller. Mrs. Collins was educated in the New York City public school system. She attended Public School 309, Junior High School 35, Franklin K. Lane High School and Brooklyn College. She is married to Elder Michael Collins and has seven children and five grandchildren.

She currently attends Unity Temple Church of God in Christ in Brooklyn, New York, where the pastor is Elder Melvin Cooper. Mrs. Collins serves on the Deaconess Board as well as the Youth Department. She currently serves as District Youth Leader under Auxiliary Bishop Willie G. Robinson. She holds several licenses including a First Class FCC license as Chaplain in the State of New York and a Deaconess and Food Protection license.

From a young age Mrs. Collins was raised to be a valued and contributing member of her community. She served her community and church throughout her youth and as an adult, she always sought to do more to help others. It was this desire that led her to found the Faith Outreach Food Program to help feed the hungry and disadvantaged in her community. Now over 25 years later, Mrs. Collins is still operating the Faith Outreach Food Program through which she feeds thousands of underprivileged individuals each month. During her years of operating the Food Program, Mrs. Collins saw to other critical community needs. Each year Mrs. Collins adds new programs and events in order to reach as many disadvantaged and underserved groups in New York as possible. Her entire life has been devoted to serving others.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mrs. Naomi Collins for her commitment to serving

others and continued dedication to the community.

TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN HERO
GLEN DOHERTY

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my profound respect for the four patriotic Americans who gave their lives on behalf of this nation, when the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, was attacked on the 11th anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attacks. All of them are heroes not just for their service in a foreign land that presented danger and a difficult diplomatic mission, but also for their selfless actions to defend the consulate and their immeasurable sacrifice protecting the cause of freedom.

One of the brave Americans who stayed at the consulate to repel the assault by a band of terrorists was former Navy SEAL, Glen Doherty. Glen was an inspiration in every part of his life, but his actions in the face of immense danger and personal risk, which saved the lives of many others, were not a surprise to those who knew him best. Glen's passion for life, his unbreakable loyalty and his commitment to helping others were only some of the reasons why he was so admired and respected, both personally and professionally.

When the consulate was attacked, Glen fought tirelessly throughout the night and into the next morning. It was on September 12 that Glen lost his life, after a mortar attack on the consulate. Because of Glen's awareness, his tactical coherency and experience as a sniper and combat paramedic, lives that otherwise might have been lost were preserved. And we all take great pride in the fact that Glen was someone who faithfully represented the most enduring and admired quality that's associated with elite combat warriors like the SEALs. He stood his ground. He never gave up and he fought hard to the end.

Glen's pioneering spirit, his determination and his selflessness is emblematic of America's goodness and the willingness of so many of our citizens to sacrifice for causes bigger than themselves. The preservation of freedom is dangerous and costly, but individuals like Glen are the reason why freedom is possible for others across the world who are eager to break the chains of oppression and put an end to violence that threatens innocence.

Glen's legacy now lives through a foundation in his name: The Glen Doherty Memorial Foundation. The foundation honors Glen's life and his beliefs, truly a fitting way to ensure that his ambition to serve and protect others continues for many years to come.

A close friend and SEAL Teammate of Glen's described him in a few words, which are worthy of repeating. He wrote, "My friend Glen: he would never pound his chest or tell you how great he was. Glen was a great listener and always had experienced advice. He was the jack-of-all-trades AND master of all. A rare person that was great at everything he did. A warrior spirit balanced by the kindest of hearts . . ."

Mr. Speaker. All of the Americans that died that day are heroes in their own right. Glen's

story is one among three others, but I know I speak for all of my colleagues, especially those of us who have ever worn a uniform in defense of this great country, when I say that Glen Doherty is a patriotic warrior whose service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS HELMUT
GRIFFIN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Helmut Griffin, who has shown exemplary commitment to both his country and his community.

Tom was adopted by an American Army Sergeant and brought to America in 1952. He worked nights at the US Post Office Rincon Annex during his senior year of high school in order to help support his family. After his high school graduation, Tom was appointed to the United States Military Academy at West Point. He graduated from West Point in 1963 and became an Infantry Officer.

Tom's Army career shows assignments as a Platoon Leader, Company Commander, and Operations Officer at the Battalion, Brigade and Joint Staff levels. He has also served as Executive Officer of a Company, Battalion, and Infantry Brigade, as Interim/Acting Battalion and Brigade Commander, and as Senior Advisor at Infantry, Battalion, and Regiment levels to Vietnamese Combat units.

Tom served three tours of duty in Vietnam as Infantry Airborne Ranger involved in direct combat. He was wounded by enemy fire during his first tour, yet continued fighting in hand-to-hand combat with enemy soldiers. During his second tour in Vietnam, he was a senior advisor to a Vietnamese Infantry Battalion. On his final tour of duty, he was an advisor to the 23rd Vietnamese Infantry Division Intelligence Staff in Kontum. He finished his service in the war as a Senior Advisor to a Vietnamese Infantry Regiment. Tom was the last American actually in contact and combat with the enemy in 1973.

For his exceptional service, Tom has been awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action, two Bronze Stars-one for heroism in ground combat—a Purple Heart, two Air Medals, four Army Commendation Medals, two Meritorious Service Medals, a Joint Services Commendation Medal, a Defense Meritorious Service Medal, numerous campaign medals, foreign awards, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Tom finished his 20 years of service in the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel of Infantry. His last two assignments were as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon, and at Fort Ord as a Brigade Executive Officer in the 7th Infantry Division.

But Tom's dedication to serving the people of his county and his community extends beyond his military career. Tom has earned his Master's Degree, a Specialists Degree, and a Doctorate. Licensed as a professional counselor, Tom uses his skills to help veterans and underserved or low-income families in Monterey County.

Tom spent seven years researching and studying Army families, with specific focus on the impact that military life has on children. He

served the county's housing authority, with responsibility for the psycho-social services of 3,000 underserved, low-income families, many of them veteran families in need of assistance. He also built and started the HUD-mandated Family Self Sufficiency Program, which was selected by the National Housing Authority Association as one of the top three programs in the United States.

Tom has also served as a social worker for Child Protective Services in Monterey and Santa Clara Counties. He acted as a liaison between the counties and the service families for the Army, National Guard, and all active components.

In 1998, Tom became a member of Monterey County's Vietnam Veterans and the founding President of the Veteran's Transition Center. This program now owns 40 homes on the former Fort Ord and is housing 55 homeless veterans and families in a two-year program that leads from being homeless and jobless to self-sufficiency.

In June 2012, Tom put together a Stand Down for homeless veterans, where 297 homeless veterans including 10 homeless families were served.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to honor this man, Thomas Helmut Griffin, for his outstanding dedication, commitment, and service.

HONORING NICK KAVADAS AND
OTHER MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN
HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL
PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Nick Kavadas, who has been recognized by the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, AHEPA, as Chapter, District, and National Ahepan of the Year. AHEPA honored Nick at a celebratory reception that took place on Saturday, November 10, 2012, at Dynasty Banquets in Hammond, Indiana. Also honored at the event were Pete Kavadas, for his heroic efforts at a recent AHEPA conference, and Joseph Skora, who received the Prometheus Award in recognition of his many years of service to AHEPA.

The Order of AHEPA was founded on July 26, 1922, in Atlanta, Georgia, joining the NAACP and B'nai B'rith in the effort to end racism, bigotry, and discrimination against all immigrants. AHEPA was founded on the principles of ancient Greece, to promote civic responsibility, education, philanthropy, family, and individual excellence through volunteerism and community service.

On November 10, AHEPA honored Nick Kavadas, AHEPA Supreme Governor of Region 6 representing districts 12, 13, and 14 of the Supreme Lodge, who has been an outstanding leader, and who has worked tirelessly to develop AHEPA in presence and membership throughout the state of Indiana. Under Supreme Governor Kavada's direction, AHEPA membership has grown to its highest level this year with over 450 members in the state of Indiana. Brother Nick has spear-

headed many of AHEPA's charitable endeavors supporting worthy causes including the Saint Baldrick's Foundation, which does exceptional work for children's cancer research, the National Hellenic Foundation, the National Hellenic Museum, Greek relief efforts, and the District #12 Scholarship Foundation, among many other charitable endeavors. Over the years, Nick has held numerous positions including serving on the Gary/Merrillville Chapter #78 Board of Governors, as Lieutenant Governor and Governor of Hoosier District #12, and as Chairman of the Standing Governor's Committee. Nick Kavadas has been able to touch the lives of countless individuals through his work with AHEPA, and for his passionate, selfless life of public service, he is worthy of the highest praise. I am pleased that AHEPA has recognized these admirable contributions with such a prestigious award.

Nick's brother, Pete Kavadas, was also honored at this event for his heroic efforts in a critical situation. While attending an AHEPA conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, Pete came across a young man who was contemplating suicide by jumping off of the Hoover Dam Bypass Bridge. Pete, along with the help of his brother, persuaded the young man to cease his efforts and obtain the help he needed. For his courageous efforts, Pete is an inspiration, and we are grateful for his incredible bravery in this dire situation.

Joseph Skora was honored at the event with the Prometheus Award in recognition of his many years of service to the organization. Joseph has been one of the most involved members in the Gary/Merrillville Chapter #78 as well as Hoosier District #12. Brother Joe has worked extensively with AHEPA housing and serves as a board member for AHEPA Chapter #78's Housing Board. Brother Joe also served as the Assistant Project Manager for part of the construction of the six apartment phases in Merrillville, Indiana, which provide housing for senior citizens. He has also been the manager of repairs and improvement projects for the AHEPA apartments. For his many years of service and noteworthy dedication to AHEPA, Joseph is to be commended.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating AHEPA, Brother Nick Kavadas as he is recognized as Ahepan of the Year, Brother Pete Kavadas for his heroic efforts, and Brother Joseph Skora as he is honored with the Prometheus Award. For their remarkable leadership, commitment, and enthusiasm shown through their service to so many in need throughout Northwest Indiana and across the nation, they are worthy of the honors bestowed upon them, and I am proud to represent them in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO TAHARKA ROBINSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Taharka Robinson for his devotion to public service in his community.

Taharka Robinson was born and raised in the Bedford Stuyvesant Community of Kings County. He attended Community Head Start,