

Again, I thank Taiwan for the generosity they have shown to the United States during these difficult times. Relief funds are one of the most important ways in which help can be brought to the storm-stricken areas. I stand alongside the victims of this storm, as well as those who have already dedicated so much time and effort to rebuilding the region, in thanking Taiwan. These resilient people, with the assistance of the relief funds, will see a steady, efficient, and full recovery.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARKANSAS NURSES ASSOCIATION

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Arkansas Nurses Association (ARNA) on their 100 years of continued leadership in and dedication to the nursing profession in Arkansas.

Nurses play a vital role in our health care system, providing essential patient care and improving the quality of their patients' lives. Nearly all—if not all—Americans have been or will be cared for by a nurse at some point in their lives. And, according to a recent survey by Gallup, nursing was recognized as the most trusted profession in the United States.

For their centennial celebration, ARNA has built their anniversary year around a celebration of "The Year of the Nurse," which has included a celebration of their past, their present, and their future. For the past 100 years, it has been the mission of Arkansas nurses to ensure a healthy Arkansas population and a stronger nursing profession, and with ARNA's service, education, and advocacy, the nursing profession has continued to improve the quality of care delivered throughout Arkansas's 75 counties.

Even after the centennial celebration has concluded, ARNA will continue their efforts in promoting and ensuring developments in advanced education, clinical competency, nursing research, and patient and nurse advocacy.

As ARNA celebrates its centennial anniversary, I honor the efforts of Arkansas nurses who have created a professional organization that continues to advance the nursing profession in Arkansas and throughout the country, and I look forward to another 100 years of their success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed two votes on Tuesday, November 27, 2012. While I was unable to cast recorded votes on legislation considered by the House, I ask that the record reflect my intentions.

On Tuesday, November 27, the House considered the Senate amendment to H.R. 915, the Jaime Zapata Border Enforcement Security Task Force Act. On rollcall vote No. 609, final passage of H.R. 915 under suspension of the rules, I would have voted "yes."

The House also considered H.R. 5997, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act. On rollcall vote No. 610, final passage of H.R. 5997 under suspension of the rules, I would have voted "yes."

Further, on November 30, 2012, the House considered H.R. 6429, the STEM Jobs Act. Unfortunately, I failed to cast a vote on final passage and I would like the record to reflect that I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 613, final passage of H.R. 6429.

CONGRATULATING BIGEYE CREATIVE, ORLANDO BUSINESS JOURNAL'S 2012 OUTSTANDING SMALL BUSINESS FINALIST

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate BigEye Creative on being named one of Orlando Business Journal's 2012 Outstanding Small Business finalists. The award is intended to recognize small businesses which have shown significant community service and excellence in their field of work. Of 90 nominees, BigEye Creative was selected as one of three small businesses in the 1–25 employees category.

Founded in 2002, BigEye Creative is a full-service Orlando-based advertising agency, specializing in brand development, marketing and advertising, media buying, web design, social media management, search engine optimization, and video production.

The Orlando Business Journal's selections for Outstanding Small Business are based on individual firms' revenue, job growth, and community service. Celebrating its tenth year of business in Central Florida, BigEye Creative was recently named by Forbes as one of the Top 100 Global Ad Agencies that Know Social Media and Google. BigEye Creative, through a program called BigHeart, is also active in the Central Florida community, volunteering with organizations such as The Mustard Seed Furniture and Clothing Bank, Give Kids the World, and Christian Service Center for Central Florida.

On behalf of the people of Central Florida, I am pleased to recognize and congratulate BigEye Creative's achievements and hard work. They are most deserving of being named Outstanding Small Business by the Orlando Business Journal.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PLYMOUTH COUNCIL ON AGING SENIOR CENTER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Plymouth Council on Aging as the organization opens its new Senior Center.

The Plymouth Council on Aging first opened its doors in July 1973 following the passage of the Older Americans Act, a landmark piece of legislation which allowed local communities to fund supportive services for their senior citi-

zens. The Plymouth Senior Center was an instant success, and before long the organization began to see over 2,500 residents each month. The Center provided such vital services as health and wellness programs, legal assistance, community meals, and assistance with Social Security and Medicare benefits, to name a few. While the Council's board members were thrilled with this success, they realized that the organization was quickly outgrowing its facility on Court Street. After several decades of use, it became clear to both the Council's directors and its patrons that it was time to start planning a new facility that could better serve the needs of the town. Following more than a dozen years of working toward this goal, the Plymouth Council on Aging is proud to officially open its new facility this December.

This new Plymouth Senior Center will be better equipped to handle the needs of a large and diverse population of senior citizens. As Plymouth is home to more than 12,000 individuals over the age of sixty, this is certainly no easy task. The new building is conveniently situated next to Plymouth North High School, and students are excited to be able to more easily volunteer at the Senior Center. The Council on Aging will continue to provide many necessary services to Plymouth senior citizens, and all who are connected with this organization are excited to see its continued growth in the future.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the Plymouth Council on Aging for its many years of dedicated service to the citizens of Plymouth. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing this accomplishment, and in congratulating the organization upon the opening of its new Senior Center.

IN HONOR OF MAJOR JOHN SHIPE AND HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major John Shipe, of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. Major Shipe will be moving on from his present assignment as a Congressional Liaison for the Army to Office of the Secretary of Defense to work on Reserve Affairs.

A native of Jacksonville, Florida, Major Shipe graduated from Jacksonville University and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. He later earned a Master's in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University. His awards and decorations include: Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Achievement Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Parachutist Badge, and the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (Gold).

Following his graduation from Jacksonville University in May 2001, Major Shipe was commissioned in the Army Reserve as a Military Police Officer. His first assignment was with 351st Military Police Company in Ocala, FL where he served as a Platoon Leader and Company Commander. He left his job as an

Account manager for the General Electric Company to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from May 2003 to June 2004. During his time in the combat zone, he was responsible for training Iraqi Security Forces and providing security to convoys throughout Southern Iraq. After returning from his tour in Iraq, John choose to go onto active duty as an Army Reserve Officer and move to Lubbock, Texas where he served in the 413th Civil Affairs Battalion from 2006 to 2008. In 2008, John moved to Columbus, Ohio to take command of the 342nd Military Police Company. As its commander, Major Shipe deployed to Iraq for a second time in 2008. This time John served in Tikrit and was partnered with the Iraqi Security Forces for more twelve months. Upon completion of his second combat tour, John was selected for the prestigious Army Congressional Fellowship Program. During his fellowship he was chosen to serve on my staff where he utilized his extensive military experience to provide expert advice on military and veterans' issues. In May 2011, he arrived in the House Army Liaison Division where he assumed his role as a Legislative Liaison and continued to honorably serve as a conduit between the Army and Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work closely with Major Shipe over the last few years of his decorated career. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Major Shipe for dedicating his life in service to his country. For all he and his family, have given and continue to give to our country; we are in their debt. We wish him, his wife Kelli, and their three children Jacob, John and Kinsley all the best as they continue their journey to his next assignment in the United States Army.

HONORING THE HARD TIMES CAFÉ

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Hard Times Café on the occasion of their 20th anniversary to recognize its contribution to the culture and economy of the great state of Minnesota.

Founded in 1992 as a 24-hour restaurant, the Hard Times Cafe has become a staple of the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood of Minneapolis. The Cafe was started by eight employees out of the vestiges of a failing restaurant in the same location, The Urban Peasant. They came together to form a new cooperatively owned business that has become known for its gritty ambiance, affordable prices, and large selection of vegan and vegetarian food. The Cafe is open 22 hours a day, only closing between the hours of 4 am and 6 am.

After closing in August 2007 for required maintenance that was meant to last a few weeks, the Hard Times Cafe was forced to remain closed for a matter of months. With some assistance from a fellow Minneapolis worker cooperative, the Seward Community Café, they were able to reopen their doors at midnight on December 16, 2007 with many new improvements. The resilience of the workers at the Hard Times Café is a testament to the vitality of the American entrepreneurial

spirit and the ingenuity of Minnesotans. I applaud them for taking the initiative and creating an atmosphere that is truly unique to Minneapolis.

The Hard Times Café also contributes to the civic engagement of the city of Minneapolis; Cam Gordon, the Minneapolis Second Ward City Council Member, holds his open office hours in the Café on the first Tuesday morning of each month.

I truly appreciate everything that the Hard Times Café has contributed to Minneapolis, and I thank them for their contributions.

HONORING BARBARA KOIRTYOHANN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Barbara Koirtyohann upon her retirement and to reflect on her years of service to her community.

Barbara has served as the longtime Director of Public Affairs at Hallmark Cards, Ltd. Her influential leadership has extended beyond Hallmark as well, lending her talents as co-chair of the Postal Affairs Committee with the Greeting Card Association and as a member of the Board of Directors for the Public Affairs Council. Beyond her profession, Barbara has also contributed to her community through many civic and charitable organizations in Kansas City. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Truman Heartland Community Foundation, supporting the efforts of the Truman Medical System; as an Advisory Board member for the Hope House, a domestic violence shelter in Lee's Summit; and as a member of the Missouri Mansion Preservation Board, working to preserve and maintain the Missouri Governor's mansion in Jefferson City.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me, her daughter Cindy and grandson Lucas, and all her friends and family in commending Barbara Koirtyohann for her accomplishments and her leadership professionally and her dedication to her community.

THE AMERICAN ENERGY MANUFACTURING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6582, the American Energy Manufacturing Technical Corrections Act as it provides technical corrections and regulatory certainty to a number of domestic manufacturers. The legislation, which I am proud to cosponsor, has bi-partisan and bi-cameral support, not to mention the support of manufacturers and the NGO community. More specifically I would like to thank Chairman Whitfield and Mr. ADERHOLT for including H.R. 482, the Water Heater Rating Improvement Act of 2011, or Section 3 of the underlying bill, that will fix a regulatory problem related to the test method-

ology that the Department of Energy uses to calculate the efficiency levels of water heaters, which the Department has acknowledged is broken. The legislation will also level the playing field for domestic water heater manufacturers vs. foreign manufacturers and provide the necessary regulatory and business certainty that domestic water heater manufacturers have been calling for over four years. This will also lead to significant energy saved by highly efficient U.S. produced water heaters, many of which were designed in my home state of Wisconsin. In addition, Mr. Speaker, the legislation has the potential of adding up to 1,000 jobs in domestic water heater factories, one of which is in Wisconsin, and thousands of more indirect jobs associated with the manufacturers supply chain.

Finally Mr. Speaker, I'd again like to thank Chairman WHITFIELD and Mr. WAXMAN for their hard work on the bill and steering an accommodative process, and Mr. ADERHOLT and Mr. CARNAHAN for their leadership on the legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO DINA MANFREDINI

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowan and supercentenarian Dina Manfredini on being named the most senior person in the world by the Gerontology Research Group. Dina is 115 years, 244 days young and resides in Johnston, Iowa.

Dina was born in April of 1897 in Italy before moving to the United States at age 23 where she would go on to marry and have four children. Ms. Manfredini has worked in Iowa to support her family since the 1940's when her husband was injured in Des Moines' coal mine, even cleaning houses for additional income well into her tenth decade of life.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Dina's 115 years. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Dina has lived in three separate centuries through twenty U.S. Presidents and twenty-six Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled and, as of today, none can claim to be older than Dina.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Dina's amazing life. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Dina on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, on November 28th twelve new members were inducted