

their children Sam, Henry, and Sophie of Tuscon, Arizona; and sister Sue Winther of Pepper Pike, Ohio. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering Chester Gordon and joining with his family and many friends who are mourning his loss.

#### CELEBRATING COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK

#### HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 17, 2012*

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I express my support of Computer Science Education Week, which occurs this week to celebrate the teaching and learning of computer science in our public schools. The week highlights activities and advocacy to elevate computer science education for students at all levels.

Computer science is central to our Nation's global economic competitiveness. Half of the estimated 9.2 million STEM jobs that will be created by the year 2020 will be in computing. Major U.S. companies—Microsoft, Oracle and others—have such jobs available now but can't fill them because our schools aren't offering them. Despite this employment need, public schools in two-thirds of the states treat computer science as an elective and only 9 states require computer science for high school graduation. Meanwhile, very few states have computer science teacher certification and professional development, and public schools lack coherent computer science standards and assessments.

My bill, the Computer Science Education Act (H.R. 3014) would address these problems through supports to states, local school districts and higher education. So I urge you to cosponsor this bill, while joining advocates and businesses across the country in honoring Computer Science Education Week and supporting a concrete effort to increase American jobs.

#### AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT (ASTD)

#### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 17, 2012*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the American Society for Training and Development (ASTD) as the largest association dedicated to the training and development profession, recognizing them for their annual Employee Learning Week, held December 3rd through the 7th, 2012.

Members of ASTD come from more than 100 countries and connect locally in 120 U.S. chapters with 16 international partners. They work in thousands of organizations of all sizes, in government, as independent consultants, and as suppliers.

Established in 1943, ASTD is a leader in the training and development field. As businesses seek competitive advantages and growth, learning and development professionals make sure an organization's best asset, its employees, have the skills they need to help achieve business growth. ASTD serves this important

community of professionals with research and resources.

To further these goals, ASTD has declared December 3rd through December 7th, 2012, as "Employee Learning Week" and designated time for organizations to recognize the strategic value of employee learning. I applaud ASTD and its members for their dedication to developing knowledgeable and skilled employees during Employee Learning Week.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting policies that commit to maintaining a highly skilled workforce.

#### RECOGNIZING DR. MICHAEL OCHS'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE ON THE COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 17, 2012*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Michael Ochs has announced his retirement from the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, which I chair. So at this time I'd like to pay tribute to him for his 25 years of service to the Commission. Michael began his work as a member of the professional staff on October 1, 1987, a time when the changes to come in what was then the Soviet Union were unimaginable. Yet within a few years, the Soviet Union had disintegrated, succeeded by newly independent states facing difficult and sometimes complex transition periods.

Dr. Ochs joined the staff of the Commission after completing his doctoral work in Russian history, and began his career by monitoring human rights abuses in the Soviet Union. He participated in the first international human rights conference to be convened in the Soviet Union, a meeting eventually interrupted by the KGB.

Following the breakup of the Soviet Union, Michael was an early voice promoting democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in post-Soviet states, particularly in the Caucasus and Central Asia. In the early 1990s, he traveled regularly to the region, working with authorities, opposition representatives, journalists and human rights activists to promote democracy and human rights, as well as participating in early OSCE election observation missions. This early involvement in the newly independent states gave Michael a remarkable depth of understanding of the region. His extensive network of contacts has made him indispensable to the Commission as well as other U.S. government agencies. He is certainly one of our government's top experts on the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Michael's extraordinary expertise has served the Commission well over the years, and has also been recognized and called on by other U.S. government agencies. He has earned a reputation for his thoughtful and thorough analytical skills, which are respected not only within the U.S. government, but also within the region by both opposition and authorities alike. He also is known for his outstanding language skills, including near-native proficiency in Russian, as well as a command of Polish, Azeri and several other languages.

Michael's tenure at the Commission has seen color revolutions in Ukraine, Georgia, and Kyrgyzstan, tragic massacres and violence in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, and steps forward towards democracy throughout the region, and, sadly, many steps backward in the region. He has worked hard to advocate for activists, journalists, and others arrested for opposing authoritarian regimes—and, sometimes against the odds—has been successful in getting individuals released from prison.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize and commend Dr. Michael Ochs for his faithful service to the Commission and in defense of human rights and freedom. As he will be retiring at the end of this month, this is also a sad good-bye for me—I have known Michael almost since he joined the Commission, have traveled abroad with him, benefited greatly from his expertise, enjoyed his company immensely, and will certainly miss him.

#### COMMEMORATING THE CITY OF OAK PARK

#### HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 17, 2012*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the City of Oak Park, and thank the residents of Oak Park who have provided me with the honor of representing them in Congress for 30 years. My beloved late wife, Vicki and I, enjoyed lasting friendships with so many in the community for many years. I have been proud to see the fabric of this community diversify racially and to watch it develop economically.

Historically, the area that was to become Oak Park existed within Royal Oak Township, and was first settled in 1840. The first major housing development came in 1914 when the township sold land to the majestic Land Company to be developed as the Oak Park subdivision. The subdivision was incorporated as a village on May 3, 1927. The village incorporated as city on October 29, 1945. Planned developments in the late 1950s resulted in Oak Park being named "America's Fastest Growing City" at one point.

I have enjoyed participating in so many activities and events in Oak Park like the annual 4th of July parade, Dr. Martin Luther King Day program and activities sponsored by your schools and your strong and vibrant religious institutions.

I was proud to host several events in the city including our Community Resource Fairs where we brought together Oak Park residents with county, state and federal agencies to that offered critical services within the community.

Mayor McClellan, who was preceded by long-time mayor Jerry Naftely, along with all of the dedicated City Council members and other local elected officials continue to move the City of Oak Park forward, and I look forward to following their success in the years to come.

As I close, I can say with confidence that the City of Oak Park and its residents are in good hands with Congressman GARY PETERS. My office will, of course, stay in close touch on issues that impact Oakland County and south-east Michigan as we all work together to revitalize our Michigan economy.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION  
ACT OF 2012 AMENDMENTS

SPEECH OF

**HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2012*

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I understand a concern has been raised by the gentleman from Alaska, Mr. YOUNG and others that wording in Section 307 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 relating to a vessel's "eligibility" to participate in the non-AFA trawl catcher/processor sector could potentially be read to result in the loss of fishery endorsements for AFA catcher/processors. I can affirm that it is not the intent of the legislation that either existing AFA vessels or rebuilt or replacement AFA vessels suffer a loss of fishery endorsements merely for being considered eligible to participate in a fishery in which they are not participating.

As my colleagues know, this provision came as the result of a request from the other body during negotiations with them on a final text of the legislation. I can assure my colleagues that it was never contemplated that either existing AFA catcher/processors or rebuilt or replacement AFA vessels would lose, or be precluded from acquiring, fishery endorsements just because a federal agency might find such vessels eligible to participate in certain fisheries. The wording of Section 307, that amends 46 U.S.C. section 12113(d)(2)(C), relates to a section in statute pertaining to rebuilt or replacement AFA vessels. It creates restrictions on those vessels from entering the non-AFA pollock catcher/processor sector as replacement vessels, but it is not intended to affect the fishery endorsements for existing AFA catcher/processors or rebuilt or replacement AFA vessels that are not participating in the non-AFA trawl catcher/processor sector.

HONORING THE WORK OF MARK  
RIDLEY-THOMAS**HON. KAREN BASS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 17, 2012*

Ms. BASS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of a distinguished public servant from Los Angeles, Mr. Mark Ridley-Thomas. In 2008, Mr. Ridley-Thomas was overwhelmingly elected as the first African American man to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. This past November, Mr. Ridley-Thomas' leadership was further acknowledged and he was unanimously approved by the Board to become the first African American man to chair the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

First elected to public office over twenty years ago, Mr. Ridley-Thomas served with distinction on the Los Angeles City Council for nearly a dozen years. He later served two terms in the California State Assembly, where he chaired the Assembly Democratic Caucus. Thereafter, he served as a California State Senator where he chaired the Legislative Black Caucus and initiated unprecedented levels of cooperation and collaboration between the Black, Latino, and Asian-Pacific Islander Legislative Caucuses.

Mr. Ridley-Thomas is widely regarded for uniting civic engagement and government decision-making. In an effort to encourage neighborhood-based advocacy and citizen leadership, Mr. Ridley-Thomas established the Empowerment Congress which served as a model and predecessor for the citywide Neighborhood Councils. Through education, engagement, and empowerment, Mr. Ridley-Thomas equipped and inspired his constituents to confront prevailing racial and economic disparities and improve community and public policy outcomes.

Throughout his life, Mr. Ridley-Thomas has shown a dedication and passion for improving the health and wellness of communities by inspiring participatory engagement to provoke change. After earning a baccalaureate degree in Social Relations and a master's degree in Religious Studies, he further went on to receive his Ph.D. in Social Ethics from the University of Southern California focusing on Social Criticism and Social Change. He has devoted his life to the betterment of the people of Los Angeles County and has used his leadership to bring about effective change in Los Angeles County.

In addition to this exemplary public service, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas is deeply committed to his roles as father and husband. His wife Avis and twin sons, Sebastian and Sinclair, are shining examples of love and inspiration that Mr. Ridley-Thomas derives from his family and graciously shares with the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have called Mr. Mark Ridley-Thomas a friend and partner in the fight for social and economic justice. He has left an indelible mark on Los Angeles, and continues to inspire my work in Congress and people of Los Angeles. It is a great honor to recognize his work here on the floor today.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
PAUL A. LEONARDI**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 17, 2012*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paul A. Leonardi for his loyalty and commitment to the United States. He exemplifies a passion for serving others, and we must commend him for his hard work in keeping our country safe. After 28 years of dedicated service to the federal government, Paul is retiring to spend more quality time with his family.

In 1973, Paul joined the United States Air Force. He served as a Security Specialist and an Air Force Recruiter for over eight years. His various assignments in the military enabled him to travel all over the United States. Paul was stationed at the Strategic Air Command at Wurtsmith AFB, Michigan; the United States Air Forces in Europe Command at RAF Alconbury, England; the Air Force Logistics Command at Hill AFB, Utah; the Air Training Command as an Air Force Recruiter in Bay City, Michigan; and the Strategic Air Command at Minot AFB, North Dakota. Paul was honorably discharged in 1981. Paul's time in the Air Force prepared him well for his work at Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Department of Homeland Security.

Paul began working for INS in 1992 as an immigration inspector at the Orlando Inter-

national Airport in Orlando, Florida. He was then transferred to Miami as a criminal investigator. Paul worked as a criminal investigator for several years before being promoted to the Joint Terrorism Task Force after September 11, 2001. A couple months later he was promoted to Supervisory Special Agent, and after a year, he relocated to Fresno, California.

In 2003, Paul continued his work as Supervisory Special Agent for Homeland Security Investigations, and in 2010, he was promoted to Resident Agent in Charge. His vast experience and knowledge made him perfect for the job.

Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that in addition to his countless gifts to our country, Paul has been a true champion for my constituents. He and his team have always been available to discuss issues and work together to make our Central Valley a better place. We are all grateful for Paul's unwavering commitment and leadership, but I know he will enjoy more time with his wife of 26 years, Barbara, his children and grandchildren. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the commitment, dedication, and success of Paul Leonardi.

IN RECOGNITION OF  
CLEVELANDPEOPLE.COM**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 17, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of ClevelandPeople.com, a website designed to promote the more than 100 different ethnic and cultural people and events in Northeast Ohio.

ClevelandPeople.com strives to embrace the City of Cleveland's rich and ethnically diverse ethnic and cultural groups by promoting the "tossed salad model." Opposed to the "melting pot," a tossed salad model is designed to embrace and maintain unique cultures.

ClevelandPeople.com's work is an invaluable documentation and collection of text, videos and pictures of cultural events that occur throughout Northeast Ohio. They truly are creating "an archive of this activity (ethnic and cultural events) that makes Cleveland so unique."

In addition to being an archive of cultural events, ClevelandPeople.com has proven to be an invaluable resource to Northeastern Ohio residents, tourists and people seeking to relocate to the area. ClevelandPeople.com has information on nearly every ethnic and cultural group in the city and is also a hub for ClevelandPeople.com Ambassadors. These ambassadors are leaders among the dozens of cultural groups throughout the city and have proven to be invaluable contacts for members of the community and people new to the area looking to become involved with their respective ethnic groups.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the work and efforts of ClevelandPeople.com.