

Rauf Denktash was born on January 27, 1924 at the village of Ktima, near Paphos, Cyprus, the son of a judge, he went on to study law at Lincoln's Inn in London. During the London Blitz of World War II, he served as an air-raid warden and helped to save Lincoln's Inn Hall from destruction. After the war, he practiced as a prosecuting barrister in Nicosia. By the time Denktash became Solicitor General in 1956, he was already a prominent leader within the Turkish-Cypriot community and served in numerous leadership capacities in the following decades on behalf of the Turkish-Cypriot community. In 1983, Denktash became the Turkish-Cypriot leader, a position he held until his retirement in 2005.

Spanning his entire political career, Denktash worked tirelessly in support of his Cypriot homeland. He defined his vision of Cyprus as "a place where my grandchildren can grow up free from fear." In addition to Denktash's extensive political career, he was also the author of over 40 books, and was an avid and renowned photographer. During the course of his life, his works were exhibited throughout the world.

I extend my condolences to the Denktash family and I join my Turkish-American friends and constituents in recognizing Rauf Denktash for all of his achievements throughout his lifetime. I know that those who knew and admired him will greatly miss him.

RECOGNIZING MERCY VILLAGE APARTMENTS OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mercy Village Apartments, of Joplin, Missouri, which is welcoming its residents home after being damaged in the devastating F-5 tornado of May 22, 2011.

For nearly 30 years, Mercy Housing has been committed to developing affordable, program-enriched housing for low-income families, seniors and people with special needs who lack the economic resources to access quality, safe housing opportunities. To date, Mercy Housing has participated in the development, preservation and financing of more than 40,000 affordable homes and an additional 7,309 homes are in the pre-development, construction or concept phase.

The day of the tornado, residents and staff worked together to get everyone to safety, even carrying wheelchairs down three flights of stairs. Thankfully, no one was hurt. One resident who was especially lucky to survive was 82-year-old Bonnie Betz. When Bonnie was awakened from her nap by the tornado sirens, she immediately started to move downstairs to shelter. The entire wall of the stairwell was torn away from the building by the tornado. She clung to the banister and was lifted off her feet, yet despite her arthritic hands, was able to literally hold on for her life. A structural engineer later said that without the good design and extra structural reinforcement Mercy Housing added when they built Mercy Village in 2005, the story might have a different ending.

I would therefore like to commend Mercy Housing for its hard work and dedication. Be-

cause of them, Joplin seniors can remain in the community they call home.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 103RD BIRTHDAY OF MARGARET BONNER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Margaret Bonner of Quincy, Massachusetts who celebrates her 103rd birthday on February 22nd.

Margaret was born on February 22, 1909 in Great Britain, where she spent her childhood. A concert pianist by training, she graduated from the London College of Music and shortly thereafter immigrated to the United States, arriving just before the crash of the stock market. Margaret first moved to Dorchester, Massachusetts before settling in Quincy in 1975. Always a creative person and an arts enthusiast, she worked as an illustrative artist on greeting cards during the Great Depression.

Throughout her life, Margaret has had a rich and remarkable career. At the end of World War I, she returned to Great Britain to volunteer with the Red Cross as a nurse's aide. Following that, she embarked on a long and accomplished career in the fashion and bridal industry, working as a buyer and manager for Worth of Boston on Boylston Street, among other high-end stores. In this position, Margaret traveled the world, purchasing couture clothes and meeting directly with famous designers from Versace to Halston. It was her love of fashion and the arts that kept her going over the years, and she did not retire until she was 86 years old.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Margaret Bonner on this joyous occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her many more years of health and happiness.

HONORING ALEXIS MONTGOMERY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Alexis Montgomery. Although young, Ms. Montgomery has shown what can be accomplished through hard work, diligence, and determination.

Alexis Montgomery, the daughter of Donald C. and Burnidene Montgomery was born July 4, 1982, in Monroe, North Carolina. After graduating from South Mecklenburg High School at the age of 17, she enlisted into the United States Navy, and was stationed in La Maddalena, Italy. After a year, she was reassigned to Mayport, Florida, for five years where she worked at the base clinic as a Medical Assistant and Lab Technician. She graduated from Sanford Brown Institute in 2003 where she received her certificate in Medical Assisting. After completing her enlistment with the Navy, she gained employment with Quest Diagnostic Laboratory and LabCorp in Jacksonville, Florida.

In 2007, she relocated to Greenville, Mississippi. In 2008, she gained employment at

the Greenville Family Clinic, where she currently works under Dr. Bill Maddox. Along with caring for her patients, she is also the loving mother of three children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Alexis Montgomery for her remarkable dedication and service to the community of Greenville, Mississippi.

HONORING U.S. NAVY VETERAN AND PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR SYLVESTER PUCCIO

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Sylvester Puccio, a very special veteran and a survivor of Pearl Harbor. Mr. Puccio will soon be awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, at the direction of the Secretary of the Navy.

Mr. Puccio served aboard the *USS West Virginia* during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 as a Shipfitter Third Class. As the Japanese aerial attack engulfed the *West Virginia*, the call to General Quarters was sent, and Mr. Puccio went to his battle station at the same time multiple Japanese torpedoes struck the ship. Mr. Puccio and his fellow sailors, realizing that counter flooding was critical to prevent the *West Virginia* from rolling due to the torpedo damage, rushed to the locker containing the handles to operate the counter flood valves.

The locker was padlocked and the key was on another part of the ship. Mr. Puccio, acting quickly, took a large spool and repeatedly struck at the padlock until it broke free, enabling him and the other sailors to access the handles to begin counter flooding. At this time, the *West Virginia* had listed 28 degrees, and the quick actions of Mr. Puccio and other sailors prevented the ship from further listing and together, they righted her. In the coming days after the day "that would live in infamy," Mr. Puccio returned to the *West Virginia* on fire fighting and salvage detail. He was eventually assigned to the submarine section of Pearl Harbor and from there continued his Navy service in the Pacific Theatre during World War II.

Mr. Puccio returned to Rome, and dedicated his life to his family, his community, and his fellow veterans as an active member of the Central New York Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. Mr. Puccio never sought recognition for himself, only for his fellow veterans and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring Mr. Sylvester "Syl" Puccio, United States Navy, for his service and sacrifice during World War II on behalf of the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF FIRST, FOR INSPIRATION AND RECOGNITION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an organization called FIRST.

FIRST is an acronym for the organization titled, "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology." FIRST has been working to help teams of students of all ages understand the importance of Math, Science, and Technology academic disciplines and how to best utilize them in real time problem solving.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending all students, mentors and teachers who participate in this program, especially FIRST Team 93 and all the other teams competing in the Wisconsin Regional in Milwaukee on March 22nd and 24th. I also rise to recognize those that will be at the World Championship in St. Louis, Missouri from April 26–28th. These participants can make a difference in our world and help change a culture.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you join me in congratulating all FIRST participants for their accomplishments and for the efforts put forth in the pursuit of their endeavors and achievements.

A SALUTE TO WOMEN

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give distinct recognition to the 9th Annual Salute to Women in Leadership Luncheon—an event paying tribute to women of diverse social strata committed to strengthening professional, social and family institutions through dedicated responsibilities.

The St. Louis Community Empowerment Foundation, Anheuser Busch and Worldwide Technologies will honor 14 distinguished women at the event, with the Lifetime Achievement Award bestowed upon Ms. Xernona Clayton, President and CEO of the Trumpet Awards Foundation and originator of "Moments in History," one-minute broadcasts on black Americans televised during Black History Month.

Xernona Clayton deserves a broadcast depicting her accomplishments as she actively participated in the Civil Rights Movement organizing events for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference under the direction of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She was also the first African American female to host a prime time talk show broadcast on WAGA-TV in Atlanta, and is credited with influencing a former Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan to denounce the organization.

This year's celebrated women will also include Adrian Bracy, Kathleen Brady, Jacqueline Brock, Myrtle Dorsey, Shirley Drury, Frankie Eichenberger, Robbie Montgomery, Sandra Moore, Valerie Patton, Mary Attyberry Polk, Kacie Starr Triplett, Kimberly McKinney, and Cindy Erickson.

Mr. Speaker, the 9th Annual Salute to Women in Leadership Luncheon inspires advocacy for social justice through the works, accomplishments and deeds of the honored women. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this event slated to be held this May in the beautiful City of St. Louis.

IN RECOGNITION OF JULIE
CARUSO

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Julie Caruso, who was honored as the 2011 Citizen of the Year by the Pembroke Express, in recognition of her tireless support of our troops serving overseas.

Julie started the Pembroke Military Support Group following the attacks of September 11th, and for the past ten years, she has been the moving force behind it. The group's goal is both simple and noble: support our service men and women and military families in tangible ways.

Meeting every month, a core group of approximately fifteen volunteers assemble care packages for more than 120 Pembroke residents—or those connected to Pembroke—who are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Members of the Military Support Group also provide support to the service members' families living in Pembroke, Massachusetts. In 2009, the group received the Community Caring Award presented by the Norwell Visiting Nurse Association for outstanding service to the community.

Many people would have become fatigued or worn out after a couple years supporting a military community, but not Julie. Julie is that rare individual with the imagination to dream up this successful group, the dedication to get it off the ground and the perseverance to remain its backbone for over ten years. She not only organizes fundraising, but collects and packages the items and then works with multiple agencies to get the care packages to the troops overseas. Julie has said that she lives by the belief that her door is always open for family members of servicemen and service-women in need of a shoulder to lean on, and I doubt there is any resident in Pembroke, MA who would disagree with her.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Julie Caruso as she is honored for her generosity, drive and initiative. She is a model of leadership and selflessness for us all.

HONORING FILIPINO AND FILIPINO-AMERICAN WORLD WAR II VETERANS

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to give recognition to the stalwart Filipino and Filipino-American veterans who fought alongside U.S. troops in the Battles of Bataan and Corregidor following the Japanese invasion of the Philippines in December 1941. By Executive Order, the Filipino soldiers' service entitled them to U.S. veterans' health benefits, pensions, and money for college. But when the war ended, the VA benefits promised to the Filipino soldiers were rescinded by Congress' passage of the Recession Act of 1946.

I also rise to honor those prisoners of war forced into the Bataan Death March, a harrowing episode of dreadful suffering and immense casualties. The heroic resistance of these fighters engaged the Japanese Imperial Army for four months, preventing Japanese occupation of Australia.

On February 4, 2011, at Dr. Jose Rizal Park in Seattle, Washington, I joined the Association of Bataan and Corregidor Survivors and their families and friends for the unveiling of two bronze memorial plaques honoring the Filipino and Filipino-American veterans. These permanent reminders of their extraordinary bravery and sacrifice will always speak of the strength of the Filipino and American spirit.

I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 210, the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011. This measure deems certain service performed before July 1, 1946, in the organized military forces of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts, active military service eligible for veterans' benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Filipino World War II veterans, who fought so courageously alongside U.S. troops during critical engagements of World War II, have waited far too long—almost 65 years—to receive what they were promised by our government. Most have now passed on.

Mr. Speaker, our debt to the surviving veterans and their families is long overdue. We must fulfill our obligation to them now.

IN CELEBRATION OF JIMMY AND BILLIE METCALF'S 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Jimmy and Billie Metcalf on their 70th wedding anniversary.

Jimmy Metcalf joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1941 and married Billie Borchardt on February 14, 1942, just two months after the attack on Pearl Harbor. During World War II, Jimmy proudly served his country overseas, which kept him apart from his wife for over three years. Despite this separation, their love persevered.

As family and friends join Jimmy and Billie to celebrate this joyous occasion, it is important to reflect upon the significance of this outstanding milestone. Over the past seventy years, they have shared many joys and faced life's trials together. Through all of life's ups and downs, their love for each other and for their children has remained constant. This platinum anniversary is a testament of their commitment to each other and to the wedding vows they took seventy years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating Jimmy and Billie on seventy years of wedded bliss. May God bless them with many more years of happiness and health together!