

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. Mike Cleary as he is honored by the Irish American Archive Society.

HONORING JOSEPH J. VINCI, SR.,
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join family, friends, and the City of Middletown in honoring one of its most outstanding community members, Joseph J. Vinci, Sr. as he celebrates his 100th birthday—a remarkable milestone for this extraordinary citizen.

A lifelong Middletown resident, J.J., as he is affectionately known, married his wife, Mary, in November of 1934. Together, they not only raised three wonderful children, Joseph J. Jr., Robert, and Rosemarie, they also opened and ran the family business, J.J. Vinci Oil. The home heating oil business is not the easiest of businesses to run, but J.J. and Mary worked hard every day to build the business and provide for their family. For more than seven decades, J.J. Vinci Oil has been a staple in the Middletown business community and its success over the years has been because of the dedication of its founder, J.J., who at 100 years young can still be found in the office every day.

J.J. has not only been an outstanding business leader, but an exemplary civic leader as well. He has always understood that his community is only as strong as those who give back to it. Throughout his life, J.J. has devoted countless hours to a variety of local service organizations. The myriad of awards and commendations which have been bestowed on him are testament to his unparalleled efforts on behalf of the community. He is a charter member of the New England Association of Fire Marshals, Connecticut Chiefs of Police Association, twenty-five year charter member of the Connecticut Independent Oil Men's Association, life member of the State of Connecticut 100 Club, one of the original founders of the Middletown Italian-American Civic Order, twenty-five year Chairman of the St. Sebastian Cadillac Committee, member of the St. Sebastian Renovation Committee, lifetime member of the Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks, Moose Club, and Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree, to name but a few. Through his work with each of these organizations, J.J. has made a difference in the lives of others and has enriched the community.

Marking decades of hard work, this birthday celebration reflects J.J.'s extraordinary resilience and strength of spirit. Over the course of his life, he has not only witnessed remarkable changes and tremendous progress he has helped to shape the very character of the City of Middletown. It is with my warmest regards that I join his children, Joseph Jr., Robert, and Rosemarie, his grandson, Michael, and his great-grandchildren, Nicholas, Lauren, and Christian in extending my heartfelt congratulations to Joseph J. Vinci, Sr. as he celebrates his 100th birthday. Happy birthday J.J.! My very best wishes for many more years of health and happiness.

“STOP DEMAGOGUING THE
HUNGRY”

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, demagoguing the hungry, unfortunately, has become a regular occurrence during this Republican presidential primary season. The truth is that the majority of the hungry struggle to put food on their table not because they are lazy but because of circumstances outside of their control. Many are unemployed at no fault of their own. Others simply don't earn enough and need help supplementing their monthly budget. But all of the hungry, all of those who are relying on America's anti-hunger safety net programs, deserve the helping hand they are receiving. And none of these 50 million food insecure people deserve to be demagogued simply because they have trouble putting food on their kitchen tables.

Last week, I met with Andrew Morehouse, the executive director of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. Mr. Morehouse shared with me an op-ed he wrote for the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* titled “Stop demagoguing our food safety net.” Mr. Morehouse makes a clear, coherent and smart argument that attacking the hungry is wrong for both moral and economic reasons. I respectfully urge my colleagues to read this important op-ed.

I submit this op-ed into the RECORD.

[From the *GazetteNET*, Feb. 7, 2012]

ANDREW MOREHOUSE: STOP DEMAGOGUING OUR
FOOD SAFETY NET

HATFIELD.—Former Northampton Mayor Clare Higgins made some eloquent points about hunger and food stamps in her recent column, “Beyond food stamp buzzwords” (Jan. 28).

I, too, feel compelled to set the record straight so that the general public has a more complete picture of this critical issue at this juncture in our nation's history. Attacks on SNAP (the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps) are rampant in some corners of the public discourse these days. Republican presidential candidates have blamed entitlement programs such as SNAP—and those Americans who receive benefits from them—for the country's deficit problem.

Newt Gingrich has even claimed that “more people are on food stamps today because of Obama's policies than ever in history.”

It's true that the number of food stamp recipients has risen over the past few years, but the unemployment rate has also increased 110 percent since 2006. As millions of Americans find themselves out of work, those same Americans seek assistance from programs like SNAP to help meet their basic needs. The Census Bureau estimates that food stamps helped to keep 3.9 million people above the poverty line in 2010.

Equally misleading is Gingrich's characterization of SNAP as a race issue, with comments like, “I'm prepared, if the NAACP invites me, I'll go to their convention and talk about why the African-American community should demand paychecks and not be satisfied with food stamps.”

This statement reinforces a false perception that people of color are the primary recipients of SNAP benefits. The truth is that

49 percent of SNAP recipients are white, while blacks comprise 26 percent and Latinos 20 percent of recipients.

SNAP received more biased criticism in a recent *Wall Street Journal* opinion piece by Warren Kozak (Jan. 30), which declared hunger in America a myth.

Kozak claims that federal government programs like SNAP waste billions of dollars providing food to people that are not really in need of help. Tell that to the 110,000 people in western Massachusetts alone—primarily children, elders, or the disabled—who wouldn't have a meal tonight without their SNAP benefits or food assistance from our region's emergency food network.

What Gingrich and Kozak don't seem to understand is that SNAP is not only a lifeline for millions of households facing hunger, it is also an economic stimulus. SNAP allows families to put food on their table, and provides food dollars that are spent locally.

According to the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance, SNAP generates approximately \$406 million annually in total economic activity in western Massachusetts. SNAP doesn't cause recessions, it responds to them until the economy turns around by supporting vulnerable households while injecting much-needed revenue for local food businesses that employ thousands of residents in our communities.

The fact is that hunger is a very real problem in our country—and right here in Western Massachusetts. At least one in every eight residents of western Massachusetts relies on emergency food to avert hunger. More than 45,000 people seek food assistance each month in our region, a 25 percent increase compared just three years ago.

Here at the Food Bank, we believe that no one should have to go hungry. Without jobs that provide the necessary income to support households, SNAP and other government nutrition programs are essential to solving the hunger crisis facing our country. Without these programs, thousands more households in our region would find their cupboards empty on a regular basis.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR.
STEPHEN O'CONNOR DIEMERT, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mr. Stephen O'Connor Diemert, Jr.

Born in 1932, Stephen was destined to serve his country and the Greater Cleveland community. He served as a private in the United States Army from July 1953 through March of 1955. After returning home, Mr. Diemert began his career as a firefighter in January of 1961. He served as a fireman for 24 years until January of 1985. Mr. Diemert was also a long-time member of the American Legion Firefighter Post 339 and served as the Director of Fire Affairs for Silver and Gold, a fraternal organization dedicated to “supporting the Safety Forces of Northeast Ohio.”

I offer my condolences to his wife, Carol; children, Stephen (deceased) and Cindy, Robert, Laura and Tony, Mary Lou and Mike and Matthew and Vicki; grandchildren, A.J., Sara, Stephanie, Hanna, Katie and Gary; great-grandchildren, Karen, Fallon and Brucey (deceased) and eight siblings.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. Stephen O'Connor Diemert, Jr.

RECOGNIZING ANGELA BRUSCATO

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with enormous pride and admiration that I rise today to recognize Angela Bruscatto.

Angie joined the St. Francis Medical Center volunteer program in May of 1975, and recently surpassed 20,000 hours of service. Needless to say, this is a tremendous feat.

In her long-standing role as a volunteer, Angie has been recognized for her caring service. Over the years, this extraordinary woman has been awarded the Auxilian of the Year, bestowed St. Francis Medical Center's Certificate of Merit for Dedicated Auxiliary Service, and last year, Angie was named one of my Hometown Heroes.

Angie has provided decades of consistent strength and a caring heart for the patients and staff of St. Francis Medical Center. I am honored to bring forth her exceeding 20,000 volunteer hours before this body and our Nation today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE IN ALBANY, GEORGIA

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women who have served and currently serve at the Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) in Albany, Georgia. On Thursday, March 1, 2012 base personnel, Armed Services veterans and local dignitaries will celebrate the facility's 60th anniversary.

Over the last 60 years, the brave men and women who have served at MCLB, Albany have made significant contributions in defending our homeland and safeguarding our liberties.

On March 1, 1952, MCLB, Albany was commissioned as the Marine Corps Depot of Supplies. By 1954 the station was sufficiently complete with warehouses and administration buildings to assume supply support for Marines east of the Rocky Mountains and in the Atlantic area.

In 1967, the base became a Storage Activity and Depot Maintenance Activity.

On January 17, 1990, the Commandant of the Marine Corps designated the Commanding General, Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany to also be Commander, Marine Corps Logistics Bases. The reorganization placed control of Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow, California; Blount Island Command, Jacksonville, Florida, as well as Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany under this single command.

Over the last several decades, MCLB, Albany has provided exceptional support to the Marine Air Ground Task Forces sent to Southwest Asia. The MCLB, Albany military and civilian team's hard work and dedication, combined with equal efforts from MCLB, Barstow

and Blount Island Command, have reaped outstanding results for our nation's Armed Services.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the pleasure of traveling to many U.S. military installations around the world and the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Georgia is one of the finest military bases I have ever had the pleasure of visiting.

Through my ongoing interaction with MCLB, Albany personnel, one of the things I have come to admire about our nation's Marines is that their commitment to serving our country does not end once they separate from Active Duty.

MCLB, Albany Marines hold themselves to a higher standard—that service to our nation is a lifelong commitment, not just a tour of duty.

Whether it is going on to work as policemen, fire fighters, teachers or business professionals, a MCLB, Albany Marine's commitment to making our nation better remains at the fundamental core of what not only makes them great during their Armed Services career, but what will also make them invaluable members of our society once their military careers end and their transition into civilian life begins.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to the men and women who have served at the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Georgia over the last 60 years for their outstanding valor and patriotic service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, February 27, and Tuesday, February 28, 2012, I was unavoidably detained for personal reasons, and missed the recorded vote for the Senate Amendment to H.R. 347, the Federal Restricted Buildings and Grounds Improvement Act, H. Res. 563, providing for consideration of H.R. 2117, the Protecting Academic Freedom in Higher Education Act.

If present, I would have recorded my votes as the following: On Monday, February 27, "yea," on rollcall vote 73; on Tuesday, February 28, "nay," on rollcall vote 74, "yea" on rollcall vote 75, "yea" on rollcall vote 76, "yea" on rollcall vote 77, "yea" on rollcall vote 78, and "nay" on rollcall vote 79.

CELEBRATING ST. FRANCIS MEDICAL CENTER'S AUXILIARY MEMBERS

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the St. Francis's Auxiliary Members ringing in their 85th year of service and assistance to the patients of the medical center. These men and women have dedicated countless hours to help those during times of need, and I am evermore grateful.

To say that this group is a source of strength within the Monroe community is an

understatement. Bringing comfort and hope to patients and their families is a priceless gift. They have made a real difference in the lives of many, and I commend each member, past and present, for their admirable service and leadership.

This group is among Louisiana's finest, and it is an honor to pay tribute to the 85th anniversary of such devoted and selfless individuals. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in applauding such an outstanding benchmark.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF BARBARA DOUGLAS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in great sadness to mark the passing of Barbara Douglas, an exceptional businesswoman and a champion of the game of golf who displayed tremendous courage during her three-year battle with cancer.

Although Barbara faced challenges and endured discrimination as a female and minority, she never let that get in the way of her personal and professional goals. She was a successful executive for IBM, but what she was most well-known for was her passion and contributions to the game of golf.

Barbara started playing golf on New York-area public courses and went on to compete as an adult in the U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links, a United States Golf Association national tournament.

Among her many accomplishments was serving as the first minority chairman of the U.S. Golf Association's Women's Committee in 2009 and 2010; receiving the Golf Writers Association of America's 2011 Ben Hogan Award for overcoming a physical disability to remain active in golf, serving as president of the National Minority Golf Foundation, and being inducted as a member of the National Black Golf Hall of Fame. She also found time to champion causes such as the LPGA-USGA Girls Golf Program.

The world has lost a true champion. Those who knew her will miss her compassionate spirit, but her legacy to the game of golf will live on forever. My deepest sympathies and my prayers go out to her friends and family and the many lives she touched along her 69-year journey.

THE RECENT VISIT OF GEORGIAN PRESIDENT MIKHEIL SAAKASHVILI

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note the recent visit of Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili to Washington. He met with President Obama, Vice President BIDEN, Secretary Clinton, and many Members of Congress. President Saakashvili's high-profile visit helped consolidate bilateral relations, and the NATO Summit in Chicago in May could witness progress towards Georgia's membership.