

Michael's host country for the 2011–2012 academic year is Norway.

To receive a Fullbright award is truly a great honor. Recipients of this award must demonstrate significant leadership potential in their chosen field and are selected on the basis of their academic or professional achievement. The experiences provided by this program ensure that tomorrow's leaders are both knowledgeable about the world and well-rounded.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent future leaders like Michael from the great state of Iowa in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating him for receiving this prestigious award. I wish him the best of luck in his studies and future career.

MOTHERS AND OTHERS AGAINST HUNGER YORK COUNTY SHELTER PROGRAMS

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize an incredible program in Maine, the "Mothers and Others Against Hunger" through the York County Shelter Programs.

The York County Shelter Programs is a homeless services provider in Alfred, Maine, that has been in operation for more than thirty-one years and continues to be an essential part of York County—over the years caring for thousands of Mainers.

Maine is a state that has struggled with food insecurity and "Mothers and Others Against Hunger" is making great strides in eradicating hunger in Maine. Projects like this demonstrate Maine's unbreakable community bond in our fight against hunger in Maine today.

SUMGAIT POGROMS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, once again this year I rise to mark an important date that remains strong in the memories of the Armenian and American people. It is always with great emotion that I commemorate the Sumgait pogroms where the murder of hundreds of Armenians stood out as a particularly atrocious event in a long history of hostility against the Armenian people. This anniversary above all reminds us of our duty to act. Year after year, it strengthens our determination to obtain justice and peace.

Beginning on the evening of February 27th, 1988, hundreds of Armenians were brutally murdered, some of them burned alive and thrown from windows. Women and children were raped and maimed by Azerbaijani rioters. Apartments were robbed, shops demolished, and thousands of people became refugees. Despite Sumgait's proximity to Baku, police turned a blind eye to this dire situation, allowing the pogroms to go on for three days.

The truth is that for over two decades, authorities in Azerbaijan have made relentless

efforts to erase all traces of these crimes. This state-sponsored denial is an insult to the memory of all men, women and children who perished on those fateful days; it is a daily affront to their descendants. The Congressional Armenian Issues Caucus is resolutely committed to ensure that those Armenians who lost their lives are not forgotten.

The need for the government of Azerbaijan to fully recognize the Sumgait pogroms is not only in the interest of historical accuracy but also necessary to ensure a peaceful future. The just recognition of these crimes is the first step towards an enduring and peaceful resolution of the regional conflict. Stability in the region is needed now more than ever. The specter of violence indeed still looms and many Armenian lives continue to be subject to threats by the Azerbaijani government. Ceasefire violations by Azerbaijani armed forces at the contact line with the Nagorno Karabakh Republic have shown this to be true. President Aliyev recently announced that Azerbaijan is buying up modern weaponry to occupy the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

I stand here today to solemnly condemn all intimidations and acts of aggression against the Armenian people. The Congressional Armenian Issues Caucus will do its very best to ensure that basic rights to life, liberty and security are not violated. May the Armenian people never have to fear again such attacks. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues stand with me in recognizing the Sumgait pogroms and the needless deaths of so many.

CONGRATULATING RABBI SOLOMON SCHIFF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Solomon Schiff is a dedicated husband to his wife Shirley, a proud father to three sons and doting grandfather of seven. He is a world renowned spiritual leader and humanitarian whose compassion knows no bounds. Rabbi Schiff is a masterful storyteller with a penchant for comedy whose words evoke inspiration and emotion, and he is one of the most ardent Miami Dolphins supporters anyone will ever meet.

Rabbi Schiff has led a remarkable life that has taken him from New York to Illinois, Iowa and to Miami; he has traveled the globe, from Israel to Jordan, Rome, Berlin and Warsaw all in an effort to promote human rights and to live up to his religious obligations. And he has now recently decided to put pen to paper and share his life story with us, publishing his memoir "Under the Yarmulke: Tales of Faith, Fun and Football."

In this touching, and often comical retelling of his life, Rabbi Schiff shares with us his encounters with Presidents and Prime Ministers; Kings and world leaders; the Dalai Lama and the Pope; and an untold number of people of all faiths and walks of life. He has given the opening prayer on both the House and Senate floors, and has given the benediction at the White House and even on the home field of his beloved Miami Dolphins.

Though all of this would be more than enough for one man to be proud of, Rabbi

Schiff takes the most pride in living out his own motto: "Live and help live." And in his memoir, Rabbi Schiff shares with us some of the many ways he has struggled to help so many fight for justice worldwide. It is a truly inspirational story, and I commend him on all of his achievements.

Rabbi Schiff is a man of honor; he is a man of integrity and of compassion. But most of all, he is a man of action whose spiritual guidance and unwavering commitment to the betterment of peace and tranquility for all has carved an enduring legacy. He serves as a reminder to us all that we each have the capacity to make this world a better place.

We in South Florida have had the pleasure of having Rabbi Schiff working to unite the communities of all faiths for over 50 years now. He has been a pillar of the community, and a beacon of inspiration. We congratulate Rabbi Schiff on all of his achievements and accolades over the years, and we thank him for all of his efforts in South Florida and across the globe. We thank Rabbi Solomon Schiff for sharing these touching moments with us, and wish him all the best as he continues to write the next chapters of his life.

COMMENDING THE HONORABLE ERNEST OROS FOR A LIFETIME OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Honorable Ernest Oros for his lifetime of dedicated public service. Ernie was born and raised in Phillipsburg, New Jersey and currently resides in Colonia, New Jersey, part of Woodbridge Township. From a young age Ernie felt called to serve the Nation he loves. Ernie joined the United States Marine Corps as a young man where he was deployed overseas with the Second Marine Division. He served in Guam, Saipan and Japan and was honorably discharged as a Corporal in 1946.

Ernie continued his public service on the Woodbridge council where he championed the creation of the Czick-Varga Memorial Park to honor local veterans who gave their lives to defend our Nation. He was a party leader on the local and county Republican committees and was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly in 1991 where he served two distinguished terms as an advocate for Middlesex County and New Jersey taxpayers.

Ernie became a small business owner with his brother, Lester, where he was known as a caring and effective leader, and is now enjoying a well earned retirement with his wife Betty, children and grandchildren.

I join Assemblyman Oros's many friends in congratulating him for his enormous public service to Woodbridge Township, Middlesex County and the state of New Jersey and his dedication to his family and our larger American society.

A TRIBUTE TO CATHERINE AND
JENNIFER COMPTON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Catherine and Jennifer Compton of Ames for each receiving a coveted Fulbright award to study and conduct research abroad this academic year.

The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. This program is known as America's flagship international exchange program. First established by Congress in 1946, the Fulbright Program has served the purpose of building mutual understanding between American citizens and the rest of the world. Appropriations from the United States Congress, participating foreign governments, and private sector contributions fund the Fulbright Program. The program has exchanged over a quarter of a million people in more than 155 countries, since its inception. Catherine's host country for the 2011-2012 academic year is Germany, while Jennifer will be hosted by Jordan.

To receive a Fulbright award is truly a great honor. Recipients of this award must demonstrate significant leadership potential in their chosen field and are selected on the basis of their academic or professional achievement. The experiences provided by this program ensure that tomorrow's leaders are both knowledgeable about the world and well-rounded.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent future leaders like Catherine and Jennifer from the great state of Iowa in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating them for receiving this prestigious award. I wish them the best of luck in their studies and future careers.

RECOGNITION OF BELVA DAVIS,
NEWS PIONEER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Belva Davis, an icon of San Francisco Bay Area journalism for nearly half a century. Ms. Davis has announced that she will step down as host of public television's, "This Week in Northern California". Her final broadcast will be November 9, 2012. She is the winner of dozens of journalism awards, including eight local Emmys.

Her retirement will mark the end of her 19-year career as anchor of the program. After her departure, for the first time since 1964, Bay Area television viewers will be without coverage from the journalist who used grace and brains to face down the era's virulent racism and sexism and become the first black woman TV journalist in the Western U.S.

Ms. Davis has covered many high profile historical news events locally, nationally, and internationally. She has interviewed world leaders and U.S. presidents, as well as anchoring news programs on KPIX-TV and

KRON-TV. She has been involved in numerous civic projects and helped shepherd San Francisco's Museum of African Diaspora into existence.

In her 2010 autobiography, *Never In My Wildest Dreams: A Black Woman's Life in Journalism*, Ms. Davis tells of being born into poverty in Depression-era Louisiana and growing up in Oakland and Berkeley.

The book opens in 1964, when Ms. Davis is a young radio reporter covering the Republican National Convention. She describes a menacing crowd screaming racial slurs and chasing her and her news director, Louis Freeman, from San Francisco's Cow Palace.

Many members of the African American community respected Ms. Davis's journalism. Comedian Bill Cosby recalls watching Davis on TV from his houseboat, "We looked forward to seeing her prove the stereotypical ugliness of those days to be wrong," Cosby wrote in the foreword to Davis' memoir.

Today, her program "This Week in Northern California" is a must-watch for local new junkies. John Boland, president of KQED, called Davis a trailblazer "who has opened up so many doors for women and African Americans in television and beyond"

During her years as a journalist, I was fortunate to be interviewed by Ms. Davis and I respect, and treasure, my relationship with her. I am pleased to join Belva Davis's friends, admirers and colleagues in commemorating her distinguished journalism legacy.

A TRIBUTE TO CURT TOMASEVICZ
AND TEAMMATES

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Nebraskan who has made the record books, Curt Tomasevicz. Curt was part of the USA's bobsledding team which consisted of pilot Steven Holcomb, and pushers Justin Olsen and Steven Langton. Together they won the International Bobsledding and Tobogganing Federation World Championships in Lake Placid, NY over the weekend.

Thanks in no small part to Curt's efforts, the U.S. claimed five medals, including four gold, to mark the most successful World Championship showing in the history of the program. The American team validated its reputation as the fastest push team in the world by dominating off the block and reaching speeds in excess of 80 miles per hour.

Curt is no stranger to success. In 2010, he won a gold medal at the Vancouver Olympic Games and was also a 2003 Academic-All Big XII selection on the University of Nebraska football team.

Curt embodies the Nebraska spirit. He remains committed to working hard, helping his teammates, and never quitting. Curt has made Shelby, Polk County, and the State of Nebraska proud with his character, work ethic, and passion for sport.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Curt and his teammates for their historic achievement.

HONORING THE ARMENIAN
VICTIMS IN SUMGAIT

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, this week it is important that we not forget the 24th anniversary of the tragic pogroms against Armenians living in Soviet Azerbaijan. Driven by the anti-Armenian movement in the region, mobs committed violent human rights violations against Armenians of all ages living in the town of Sumgait. Today, I stand with the Armenian community around the world to remember all those who were taken from their homes and from their families—simply because of their ethnic background. As we remember those who lost their lives in Sumgait, we must continue to guard against all discrimination, oppression, and targeted violence against ethnic groups around the world.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,488,891,296,248.02. We've added \$4,862,014,247,334.94 to our debt in 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

A TRIBUTE TO LOGAN PEARCE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Logan Pearce of Mason City for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the years.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Logan completed a two-part project by building numerous bat houses to provide a more ecological solution to insect control, in addition to the placement of six fishing line recyclers to assist both the Cerro Gordo County Conservation Department and the Lime Creek Nature Center. The work ethic Logan has shown in this project, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates