

The pride in service Lois has exhibited during her career is only eclipsed by her dedication to her family. Her other son lives close by and is a local meat cutter for Kroger. She has eight grandsons and one granddaughter and one great granddaughter.

It is with great honor that I extend hearty congratulations to Lois for her tireless service. She will always have a special place in the hearts of all those who have had the opportunity to work with her over the years, most especially the countless veterans whose lives she has touched.

Congratulations Lois.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to join my colleagues in celebrating National School Breakfast Week 2012.

I don't have to tell anyone that 2011 was another year of difficult economic struggles for American households. Too many families are struggling to put food on the table. And when they do, kids suffer the most.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in 2010, 48.8 million Americans lived in households that had difficulty putting food on the table. That figure includes as many as 16 million children living in a home where food is not always available. Even worse, in over 380,000 households, one or more children did not get enough to eat—they had to cut the size of their meals, skip meals, or even go whole days without food at some time during the year.

When asked by the Gallup organization in a recent food hardship survey, "Have there been times in the last twelve months when you did not have enough money to buy food that you or your family needed?" more people answered "Yes" in the last six months of 2011 than in any period since the fourth quarter of 2008.

In broad swaths of the country, more than one in six households answered the Gallup question "Yes." In fact, at least one in six said "Yes" in more than half of all Congressional districts (269 of 436 congressional districts.) In my district, according to the survey, the food hardship rate is 23 percent, almost one in four households. That is heartbreaking and even more so when you think that nearly 80 of my colleagues represent districts with even higher rates.

Thirty-seven million people—one in eight Americans—receive emergency food assistance each year through the Nation's food banks, a 46 percent increase in clients served from 2006.

As a result, public efforts to help meet this basic need are even more important. As the recession's grip takes firm hold, for millions of vulnerable children around our Nation, federally-supported school breakfast programs continue to be a lifeline.

The School Breakfast program began in 1966 as a two-year pilot program. It has become a valuable program that makes a difference every day in the lives of millions of children. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that pro-

viding availability, accessibility, and participation in the school breakfast program are some of the best ways to support the health and educational potential of children, particularly low-income children.

Eating breakfast has been shown to improve math, reading, and standardized test scores. Breakfast helps children pay attention, perform problem-solving tasks, and improves memory. Children who eat school breakfast are likely to have fewer absences and incidents of tardiness than those who do not. By eating breakfast, students get more important nutrients, vitamins and minerals such as calcium, dietary fiber, and protein. These are just a few of the known benefits.

The School Breakfast Program can readily be tailored to meet the needs of all different age groups, school schedules and physical environments. Schools use many creative service options in addition to traditional breakfast service in the cafeteria, such as Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab 'n' Go Carts and Mid-morning Nutrition Breaks.

This year, the School Breakfast Week theme is "School Breakfast—Go for the Gold," highlighting how eating a balanced breakfast at school can help students shine. In FY 2011 over 12 million children were able to get a nutritious school meal because of this program. In my State of Wisconsin, school breakfast participation rates have increased from 135,000 in FY 2009 to 166,000 in FY 2011, the vast majority receiving free or reduced price nutritious breakfast to jump start their school day. However, participation in the breakfast comparison lags compared to the approximately 32 million who participate in the National School Lunch Program.

Most school breakfast program students lived in impoverished families and received free or reduced price meals. For the 2009–2010 school year, to receive a free breakfast, the student needed to reside in a household earning \$23,803 or less for a family of three (130 percent of the federal poverty level). For reduced price, the threshold was \$33,874 (185 percent of the federal poverty level.)

Efforts to make this program work better continue and they should. Last month, the Administration released new child nutrition rules—as required by Congress in the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010—that seek to make the same kind of changes many parents are already trying to teach their children at home. The new rule updates school meal standards to increase fruits, vegetables, whole grain, and low-fat dairy while reducing fats, sodium and sugars. This is a long overdue step that will get healthier foods on school plates each day. USDA built the new rule around recommendations from an Institute of Medicine expert panel, updated with key changes from the 2010 Dietary Guidelines. Getting the science right is critical to better nutrition and health for our children.

Additionally, the President's FY 2013 budget request includes \$35 million for school meal equipment grants to help school districts purchase the equipment needed to serve healthier meals, and improved food safety. These equipment grants would support the establishment or expansion of the School Breakfast Program. Lack of adequate kitchen equipment has been cited as a reason why schools are not able to initiate or expand their breakfast programs. Congress needs to support such initiatives.

In the spirit of National Breakfast Week, I would encourage my colleagues—and in fact, all Americans—to participate in activities like the Share Your Breakfast campaign to combat child hunger. The Share Your Breakfast campaign—which brings together Action for Healthy Kids, the Kellogg Company, and other partners—is focused on ensuring more kids have access to breakfast by increasing participation in school breakfast programs. This campaign is only in its second year, but has already offered assistance to nearly 100 schools in 26 states.

This year's goal is to provide one million breakfasts to American school children who might otherwise go without. Programs like Share Your Breakfast are to be commended and help highlight the vital role that a nutritious breakfast plays in promoting educational success.

Mr. Speaker, a growing number of Americans are going hungry and federal safety-net nutrition programs, like the School Breakfast Program, are playing a crucial role in helping hardworking families, including their children, stay nourished.

Let me conclude, Mr. Speaker, by saying that though our country is in the midst of a tough economic time, I hope there remains bipartisan support for this simple statement: no child in our community or across the country should ever go through the school day hungry. The School Breakfast Program is critical to making that a reality.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in highlighting the value and success of this program and those who work every day to make sure that our future leaders, our future engineers, and scientists, and politicians or whatever else boys and girls across our Nation want to be, won't be stopped because of a growling stomach and nagging hunger.

PROCLAIMING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PATRICIA NIXON'S BIRTH IN ELY, NEVADA ON MARCH 16, 2012

HON. MARK E. AMODEI

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the birth of Thelma Catherine "Pat" Ryan Nixon in Ely, Nevada.

Pat was born the youngest of four children on March 16th, 1912, in the small mining town of Ely, Nevada to William M. Ryan, Sr., a sailor, gold miner, and truck farmer of Irish descent and Katherine Halberstadt, a German immigrant. Thelma Catherine Ryan was nicknamed "Pat" because of her Irish heritage. In fact, the family always celebrated her birthday on the Irish holiday of St. Patrick's Day, March 17th.

Pat and her family moved to a small town near Los Angeles when she was just a year old. She grew up with typical Western self-sufficiency. It has often been said that the mining community in Ely and her family's own straitened circumstances helped mold her into the strong person that she became.

Upon enrolling in college in 1931, she unofficially dropped her given name Thelma, replacing it with Pat and occasionally rendering

it as Patricia. On June 21, 1940, Pat married Richard Milhouse Nixon at Mission Inn, Riverside, California. The two met while they were performing in a theater production of "The Dark Tower." During World War II, she worked as a government economist while Richard served in the Navy. She campaigned tirelessly alongside her husband as he ran for Congress, the Senate, and, later, the Vice Presidency.

On January 20th, 1969, Richard Milhouse Nixon was sworn in as the 37th President of the United States. Pat became First Lady, the first, and so far only, woman from Nevada to serve in that role.

While in the White House, Pat publicly advocated for women to become more involved in the political process. She also used her position as First Lady to encourage volunteer service, opened the White House to more visitors, and added 600 paintings and antiques to the White House collection. She also traveled extensively, earning the unique diplomatic standing of "Personal Representative of the President."

Patricia Nixon passed away on June 22, 1993, and is buried at the Richard Nixon Birthplace and Museum in Yorba Linda, California.

March 16, 2012, marks the 100th anniversary of Patricia Nixon's birth in Ely, Nevada. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and recognizing the varied, significant contributions that Pat Nixon made throughout her life, particularly as the First Lady of the United States.

IN RECOGNITION OF LANCE CORPORAL MARK FIDLER AND FAMILY

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a real American hero, United States Marine Mark Fidler, who hails from my congressional district in Berks County, Pennsylvania. On October 3, 2011, while on foot patrol in Afghanistan, an IED exploded next to Lance Corporal Fidler, nearly killing him. He lost both legs above the knee and suffered extensive internal injuries. He survived, largely due to his brothers in arms and a British air unit that got him to the Bastion marsh unit in record time. His parents, Stacy and Kermit Fidler, have put their lives on hold to be by his side night and day. Families are the quiet heroes who make such a huge difference in the recoveries of our soldiers. I ask that this poem, written by Albert Caswell in honor of those loving parents, be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

WRITTEN ON YOUR SOUL

All that we so have . . .
All that we so hold . . .
All that we so are . . .
Of which so means the most . . .
Is but so written, all on our souls . . .
As is yours Mark, something special to behold!
But, so lies something far much more precious than mere gold . . .
As is so etched upon your heart be told . . .
As lies something far much more greater than you could ever know . . .
Setting you apart from all the rest, all in what your fine heart so holds . . .

'Oh, but To Be One of America's Finest . . .
but, Her Very Best!

A Uh . . . Raaaa Jar Head . . . As a United States Marine, no less . . .

As is so written upon your soul, as was etched . . .

To go off to war, to our nation's freedom's to insure . . .

And to so face death no less!

How can one ask for more?

As our nation Mark, you and your family have so blessed!

Than, to lose half of you . . . your best . . .

And yet somehow you would so cheat death . . .

No, you are not half the man you used to be, for you sum has grown far much greater . . . see!

As when courage comes to crest, to so teach us all the more!

To so reach deep down inside your heart of courage . . . Amor!

As my son Mark, our world you have so blessed!

As you've come back from such heartache, and such sure death!

Is that not what heaven is so for?

As somehow, your fine soul will not give up or in . . .

All in its most courageous quest, as we so see where its take you, from where you have been!

To but rebuild again, when This Pride of Pennsylvania . . .

Had almost nothing left . . .

As Mark, you bring The Angels up in heaven to tears at your behest!

And all in our Lord's heart Mark, you are now so caressed!

And if ever I have a son,

I wish he could be like you this one . . .

All because of what is now so etched upon your soul!

As your great faith and courage and strength, is but something to behold!

As now so etched!

For Heaven so awaits all of those who give their very best!

Who so freely are so ready to give up their fine lives, all in freedom's quest!

Who all upon their souls such magnificence is so etched!

So etched with such Strength In Honor, and Faith so no less . . .

All in your shades of green, Mark you are one hell of a United States Marine!

Who our nation has so blessed!

Yes, arms and legs we all need . . . But we can get by . . .

But, without a heart and soul like yours Mark, we will surely die . . .

And Mark its up In Heaven, where you need not even eyes . . .

And that's where your going one day Mark, when you rise!

With but tears in your eyes . . .

And in the coming years, it all seems so very clear . . .

That, you have so much more to etch . . . All with you fine heart as left!

Moments, are all that we so have!

Minutes, only to hearts so grab!

To this our world to so bless!

As all written upon our souls as etched!

What, have we so written . . . As we grow old?

What, have we done that which is so worthy to behold?

What, have we so given . . . That which is far much more precious than mere gold?

That now so lies, all etched upon our souls!

As have you Mark, so bestowed!

UH . . . RRRRAH, Jar Head . . .

All in what your fine life has said, and so continues to so grow!

All so written, so on your soul!

TRIBUTE TO SAN ANTONIO ART LEAGUE AND MUSEUM

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the San Antonio Art League and Museum in celebration of their 100th anniversary.

The San Antonio Art League and Museum is the oldest arts organization in the city of San Antonio, Bexar County, and surrounding counties in the State of Texas. The museum was founded by Mrs. Henry Drought, who served as president of the organization for 25 years. Mrs. Henry Drought's mission was to foster knowledge of and interest in art in this area of Texas by means of exhibitions, lectures, and classes. Additionally she firmly believed in the encouragement of local artists in order to create and provide an avenue to display and promote the museum's mission. As a result, the San Antonio Art League and Museum has acquired and preserved more than 400 pieces of art from all across Texas. The museum continues to promote artists from Bexar County and the surrounding areas through its many activities, including promoting talented young art students at a collegiate art exhibition.

Art has always stood as an essential form of expression, communication, and cultural appreciation, and it has been extremely important to the cultural development of our community. I would again ask you to congratulate the San Antonio Art League and Museum for enriching the community of San Antonio for the past 100 years.

TRIBUTE TO PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS ANDREW KNIGHT, USCG

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Andrew Knight, age 26, of Thomasville, Alabama and to honor his devoted service to our country.

Petty Officer Knight, known by his family and friends as "Drew", was one of four U.S. Coast Guard crewmen aboard a MH-65C Dolphin helicopter when it crashed into Mobile Bay on February 28, 2012, during an evening training mission. The accident claimed the lives of each of the crew.

A native of Southwest Alabama, Petty Officer Knight was stationed at the Aviation Training Center in Mobile, Alabama where he served as a flight mechanic.

Petty Officer Knight and his fellow crewmen of CG-6535 each shared a love of service and a dedication to saving lives. The Coast Guard is a vital protector for our nation's coastal communities. We can never thank them enough for their commitment to our country.

I recently visited with Drew's parents to personally extend my deep sympathy for their tremendous loss. As I conveyed to them, growing up in Camden, which is not far from Thomasville, I know the Drew Knights of the world