

the company's top performers. A few years later, Ms. Puig accepted an opportunity in broadcasting and has held management positions in the country's top Radio Broadcasting companies ever since.

In 1997, Ms. Puig joined Univision Radio, formerly known as the Hispanic Broadcasting Corporation, as General Manager of their four radio properties. After years of continued success, she was promoted to her current position as Senior Vice President/Eastern Regional Manager. Ms. Puig's current responsibilities are extensive, from the overall supervision of operations, finances, sales to programming for Univision Radio in Miami, Puerto Rico, and New York's nine radio stations. During her tenure, her leadership has been remarkable and has resulted in high revenues and ratings, particularly for Univision Radio in Miami and Puerto Rico.

Ms. Puig's accomplishments go beyond her professional career; her commitment to community service has led to leadership roles in several Miami charitable and civic groups. She was appointed by Governor Jeb Bush to serve as a member of Florida International University's Board of Trustees, and was recently reappointed by Governor Rick Scott. Ms. Puig currently serves as the Chair of the Florida Association of Broadcasters.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ms. Claudia Puig for her outstanding professional career and dedication to our community in South Florida. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this accomplished individual, and wish her continued success in the future.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUR FEDERAL WORKFORCE

##### HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, today, the House of Representatives will vote on a budget proposal that will begin to turn the tide away from Washington's habitual deficit spending. I applaud the House Budget Committee for making difficult choices to cut spending, for finding creative solutions to our country's fiscal challenges, and for taking vital action to stop planned cuts to our national defense—cuts that our military leaders have labeled as "catastrophic." Addressing our nation's fiscal problems is one of my top priorities; however, I believe this can be done in a responsible fashion that does not undercut our nation's federal workforce.

Federal employees have dedicated their lives to public service. They protect our nation's borders, defend our cities and communities from terrorism, provide critical assistance in the wake of natural disasters, and support and treat our nation's military personnel and veterans. At the same time, as our neighbors, they live, work, pay taxes, and spend the money that is helping to build economic growth in the private sector in Virginia.

I believe we must reduce the size of our federal government in order to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness, but as we do so, we must never lose sight of the fact that a capable federal workforce is vital to that goal and we must recognize the contributions of

our federal employees as we work to ensure our government is capable of meeting our country's future challenges.

#### IN HONOR OF JAMES J. SWEENEY

##### HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor John Sweeney of Havertown, Pennsylvania. Mr. Sweeney entered the United States Navy after graduating from high school in 1943, and served aboard the USS *Hancock*. The *Hancock* took part in some of World War II's most pivotal battles, including the invasions of the Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Mr. Sweeney was honored for his heroic service and awarded the Philippines Liberation Medal, two Battle Stars and a Presidential Unit Commendation.

It was during his time in the Navy, that Mr. Sweeney befriended his shipmate, John Finn. Lt. Finn received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions at Pearl Harbor. During the Japanese surprise attack, Lt. Finn manned his machine gun and fought off the Japanese Zeeros for two and half hours even as he took an onslaught of bullets and shrapnel. And for the past nine years, John Sweeney has tirelessly worked to honor Lt. John Finn, who passed away in 2009.

On February 15th, 2011, those efforts proved successful as the Navy announced that a new guided missile destroyer will be named the USS *John Finn*. For these efforts Mr. Sweeney is being honored by American Legion Post 667 in Havertown. On behalf of a grateful nation, I congratulate Mr. Sweeney on his efforts to ensure that Lt. Finn's name and legacy lives on, and for his service during World War II, reflecting great credit upon himself and the United States Navy.

#### HONORING DR. TERRY CHRISTENSEN UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

##### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo and Congressman Mike Honda, to acknowledge and honor Dr. Terry Christensen upon his retirement from San Jose State University.

Terry has been a Professor of Political Science at San Jose State University (SJSU) since 1970. He received his B.A. at Stanford University and his PhD in Political Science at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is a specialist on state and local politics and the media frequently call on him for analysis of politics in California and Silicon Valley.

Having served on numerous civic committee and commissions, he created and currently directs the political science department's internship program. He is the SJSU Coordinator for the Sacramento Semester Intern Program, the Panetta Congressional Internship Program,

and the SJSU Poli Sci Congressional Internship Program. Terry works hard to give back to his students and stimulate interest in government.

In 1998, Terry was named San Jose State University's Outstanding Professor. The 2006 Political Science Class recognized him as Professor of the Year. He is a prolific writer and students regard him as a legend at SJSU.

He served for 2.5 years as founding Executive Director of CommUniverCity San Jose, which is a partnership among the City of San Jose, SJSU, and the Five Wounds and Brookwood Terrace neighborhoods. CommUniverCity San Jose seeks to empower students and residents and to build community by organizing service-learning projects that address education, community health and improvements to the neighborhood environment.

In order to preserve Terry's legacy, San Jose State University is creating a scholarship program in his name.

We hereby honor Terry Christensen, on the special occasion of his retirement and wish him all the best in the years to come. We commend Terry for his valuable service to our community and wish him the best in his future endeavors. We are very fortunate to have benefited from his compassion, expertise, and commitment. He has left his mark in San Jose State University and the larger community.

#### CELEBRATING NATIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS MONTH

##### HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the month of March as National Social Workers Month. Social workers serve a critical role in our society, one that is deserving of our attention, respect and commendation. Upon becoming a social worker, one embraces a very simple but essential mission: to enhance the well-being of others and to help meet the basic needs of all people, especially the most vulnerable. In working towards that goal, social workers work in adolescent and youth development; aging and family care giving; child protection and family services; health care navigation; mental and behavioral health treatment and military and veterans assistance. Social workers are key to holding our social safety net together. They work to prevent the vulnerable in our country from falling through the cracks.

The Social Work Department at the Clayton County Public School System is a shining example of the importance of social workers. The department works to foster student performance, school completion and success in the workplace by assisting students in attaining the maximum benefits from their education. These excellent social workers collaborate with families and communities to remove barriers that interfere with student performance. Please join me today in thanking the Clayton County Public School social workers, and social workers nationwide for their hard work and dedication. I have great expectations that they will continue to serve us with the same excellence that they have always displayed.

# KEY ALLIANCES IMPROVE REGIONAL SECURITY AND PROTECT CRITICAL U.S. INTERESTS

## HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues of the critical importance of our strategic allies. While some in Congress say that the United States should focus our efforts to defend our nation on building walls and restricting entry at our borders, we must continue to address the global threat of terrorism through cooperation and coordination with our allies.

While I am sure that most everyone would agree with the general concept that nations should work together to fight terrorism, I wanted to mention two countries to give my colleagues concrete examples of the critical importance of our alliances and the need to cultivate these relationships.

Turkey has a key strategic position, controlling the Bosphorus Straits and sharing a border with Syria, Iran and Iraq. A member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Turkey has been a strong ally to the United States and to all of Europe. Turkey has proven to be an important partner as US forces have left Iraq and regional tensions have increased as the situation in Syria continues to devolve and Iran pursues nuclear technologies. Turkey's importance to the US and the world will continue to increase in the future, and Turkey will be critical to maintaining peace and stability.

At a time when the US and NATO continue to maintain a large military presence in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan is a valued partner. From providing critical access to Afghanistan to helping fight the flow of illegal drugs that fund Taliban insurgents, Azerbaijan has repeatedly proven their commitment to the fight against terrorism. As Azerbaijan continues to develop democratic institutions and a civil society, their contributions to regional and global security will increase even more. At a time when all of our alliances are being tested, the partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan remains strong.

The world is a safer place for all when we combine our efforts to fight those criminals who seek to use terror as a means to achieve their goals. When we work together, we become more than the sum of our parts. I urge my colleagues to support our nation's efforts along with those of our allies like Turkey and Azerbaijan to secure and protect our citizens

## HONORING REGGIE COPELAND, MOBILIAN OF THE YEAR

## HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mobile City Council President Reggie Copeland who was recently named "Mobilier of the Year" by the Cottage Hill

Civitan Club. I cannot think of anyone in our community who is more deserving of this high honor than Reggie.

Over 70 years ago, Reggie and his family moved to Mobile. He attended Murphy High School, Spring Hill College and the University of Alabama-Mobile Campus. During his school years, Reggie was a star athlete in football, basketball and softball. And as a young man, he developed a passion for athletics that not only taught him the value of sportsmanship, but instilled in him the very best qualities of success through teamwork.

After answering his county's call in the Korean conflict, Reggie returned stateside to embark on a long journey that would take him from the basketball courts to public office. After serving as a nationally recognized collegiate basketball official for 25 years and taking the role of executive with Alabama Power Company for an equal amount of time, Reggie found even greater challenges in leading the City of Mobile.

In 1985, he was elected to the Mobile City Council and has been re-elected six times. Currently, Reggie is in his second term as President of the City Council.

Among his long and storied history of community involvement, Reggie is credited with helping establish Mobile's Junior Miss Program, known today as the Distinguished Young Woman of America, and also helped bring the Magnolia Grove Golf Course, of the world-renowned RSA/Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, to town.

He also led the construction, and later expansion, of the Copeland-Cox Tennis Center, which bears his name, and is generally considered one of the finest public municipal tennis complexes anywhere in the country.

Councilman Copeland also played a major role in helping reestablish minor league baseball in our city with the construction of Hank Aaron Stadium, home of the Mobile BayBears.

Reggie's considerable accomplishments and recognitions include former President, Mobile Jaycees; former Vice President of Alabama Jaycees; President of the TB Health Association of Mobile County; Chairman of the Mobile County Red Cross Blood Drive; Chairman, United Way Commercial Division; President of the Southeastern Conference Basketball Officials Association; President of the Port City Basketball Officials Association of Mobile; Member of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame Board; Inducted into the Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame, Mobile; Inducted into the Spring Hill College Hall of Fame; Chairman of the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference Basketball Tournament, 1995-97; Chairman of the Little Sisters of the Poor Golf Tournament, 1995-2000; Inducted into the Mobile Sports Hall of Fame, 1999; and member of the Board of Directors-Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce.

Reggie also assisted with the Mobile Mystics Hockey franchise and is currently working to develop a world-class soccer complex in Mobile. He also played a major role in development of the Riverfront Park and the Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center.

In short, it is safe to say that there are few individuals in Mobile's rich history, which has spanned more than three centuries, who have been a more positive force for change than Mobilian of the Year Reggie Copeland.

Although Reggie recently announced his intention to retire from elected office at the end of his present term, I know him far too well to believe that he is going to slow down for even a minute. Reggie Copeland is Mobile's own version of the Energizer Bunny, and our community, our region and our entire state are better places because of his tireless efforts and unselfish example.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for all Mobilians in expressing our gratitude for Reggie's enormous dedication to making Mobile second to none. We all wish him and his fine family, including his five children and 13 grandchildren, all the best. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor.

## RECOGNIZING GENEVA A. BLACK OF PHILADELPHIA ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

## HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2012*

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the tenacious spirit, remarkable expertise and admirable accomplishments of Geneva A. Black in providing high-quality and compassionate in-home, community and center-based services for elderly and vulnerable residents in West Philadelphia.

As Ms. Black begins a richly deserved retirement as Executive Director of Haddington Multi-Services for Older Adults, Inc., where she has served our senior citizens for 41 years, it is time to reflect upon and thank this outstanding leader. In 1970 Ms. Black joined the Haddington Leadership Organization as its housing coordinator and two years later became Executive Director. At the time, Haddington had three employees. Now the renamed and expanded Haddington Multi-Services for Older Adults, Inc. has a fulltime staff of 25 and a million-dollar-plus budget.

Along the way, under Ms. Black's leadership, the Haddington organization purchased the vacant firehouse at 5500 Haverford Avenue and converted the building to a showplace center for senior activities, serving over 30,000 West Philadelphia seniors since 1975. It is only fitting that Philadelphia City Council recently named the stretch of Haverford Avenue adjoining the firehouse as "Geneva Black Way." This is where Geneva Black's way on behalf of older Philadelphians has been making a difference for decades—and that service will be her legacy into retirement.

Having her "Way" is only one of the many tributes flowing toward this remarkable leader. The Board of Directors of Haddington Multi-Services, in recognition of her valued contributions, will honor Geneva A. Black with a celebration on Friday April 27, 2012, at First District Plaza in West Philadelphia.

I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in saluting and congratulating a great Philadelphian, Geneva A. Black, and to wish her good health and long life upon her retirement as Executive Director of Haddington Multi-Services for Older Adults Inc.