

that the Society has helped to shape will continue to impact generations to come.

IN HONOR OF COMMANDER ROB SELKO, UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander Rob Selko for his service to our great nation.

For much of his life, Commander Selko proudly, faithfully and honorably served this country. Born and raised near Philadelphia, Commander Selko attended The Pennsylvania State University on the Navy Reserve Officer Training, NROTC, scholarship. After graduating with a degree in Chemical Engineering Commander Selko was commissioned as an Ensign and ordered to NAS Pensacola to commence training as a Naval Flight Officer, NFO.

Following his NFO training he was ordered to VF-101 for Fleet F-14A Tomcat Radar Intercept Officer training at NAS Oceana. Commander Selko was then assigned to VF-33 where he completed a North Atlantic and a Mediterranean Sea deployment on board USS *America* (CV-66), amassing over 750 hours and 200 arrested landings in the F-14A Tomcat.

In 1994, Commander Selko joined the Navy Reserve and was re-designated as an Aerospace Engineering Duty Officer. In February 2006, he was assigned to NAS Lakehurst, New Jersey as Officer in Charge and tasked with leading the Navy's first unit involved in airships in over forty years. His unit deployed to NAS Key West, FL for joint operations with the U.S. Coast Guard, marking the first airship operations involving the U.S. Navy since 1962. Unfortunately, late in 2010, Commander Selko was diagnosed with leukemia. He spent most of 2011 in treatment and recovering from his illness.

Commander Selko currently resides at 5 Glen Burnie Court, Sicklerville, New Jersey and after 28 years of faithful and honorable service will be retiring on June 23, 2012. He is married to Christine Selko of Pennsauken, and they have raised four children together in New Jersey.

It is important that we take the time on this day to remember and reflect on Commander Selko's deep commitment to inspiring and touching the lives of those around him in his service to this country. May he be remembered as such, and may we continue to carry on his legacy in our hearts as we walk through life.

CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF HILLEL HONOREES STANLEY AND PEARL GOODMAN

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Stanley Goodman and Mrs. Pearl

Goodman for their years of exemplary service to the South Florida Jewish community. Their accomplishments are truly a cause for celebration, and it is a privilege to represent them in the United States Congress.

Since becoming members of the South Florida community in 1961, The Goodmans have been tireless advocates for Israel, and have joined countless organizations like The Hillel of Broward and Pam Beach to promote the welfare of Jewish people across the globe. During their 58 years of marriage, the couple has instituted mentoring programs, as well as networks through universities in Broward and Palm Beach that allow young students to engage with the larger Jewish community. In addition, Both Dr. and Mrs. Goodman have served on the Board of the Jewish Family Services of Broward County and are actively involved in the award-winning David Posnak Jewish Day School where Dr. Goodman is an Honorary Vice-President.

But the Goodman family's service extends beyond the scope of creating a more inclusive, informed Jewish community, and includes a commitment to fostering artistic enrichment in South Florida. Dr. Goodman has served as Secretary for the Executive Committee at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts Foundation, and Mrs. Goodman is an avid supporter of the Broward Center for the Performing Arts Foundation.

The South Florida Jewish community has undoubtedly been strengthened by the Goodmans exceptional work. They are truly a source of inspiration for all those who have dedicated themselves to promoting Jewish causes, and I look forward to their continued good work.

Congratulations to Stanley and Pearl Goodman, and well as their children and grandchildren, as they celebrate this well deserved honor.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER L. BROWN

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. AUSTIN. Mr. Speaker, while we can never fully express the depth of our appreciation for those who give their lives to protect our freedoms, I rise today on behalf of the constituents of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District to recognize and honor the life of Army SSG Christopher L. Brown.

A 2003 Hamilton Township High School graduate and Army Service member, Staff Sergeant Brown, 26, was killed in an attack with an improvised explosive device on April 3, 2012 in Kunar Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He showed exceptional courage and bravery, and gave his life while defending the United States.

Staff Sergeant Brown was assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado. He was on his second deployment to Afghanistan and had also served nearly a year in Iraq.

He served with distinction and his awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, a Purple Heart and an Army Commendation Medal.

Brown is survived by his wife, Ariell, their daughters Charlie and Dylan, their unborn child, as well as his parents and three sisters. His devotion to his family, friends, and fellow Service members and to this nation is honorable. As a dedicated and loyal patriot, he selflessly served this country with bravery and valor.

Thus, today I ask my colleagues to join me and the constituents of the Ohio's Seventh Congressional District in honoring the life and memory of SSG Christopher L. Brown, a true hero.

RECOGNIZING LAURA PINK AS THE 2012 HURLBURT AFA CHAPTER 398 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ms. Laura Pink, the 2012 Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Pink has spent her entire career "paying it forward" to her students, their parents, and her colleagues. Her dedication to helping educate others started long before she stepped into the classroom as a teacher. As a junior in high school, Ms. Pink began teaching as a reading tutor. She went on to earn a double major in Elementary and Special Education in college and received an endorsement in Gifted Education for all grades. Ms. Pink attributes her success as an educator to her own teachers, who instilled in her the self-confidence for success and a passion for scholarship. She has forever impacted the lives of her students, and she is truly deserving of this honor.

In the classroom, Ms. Pink uses the wonders of science, technology, engineering, and math to challenge and empower her students. Outside of the classroom, she is involved with the Air Force Association, Hurlburt Chapter's Teacher Workshop, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the Civil Air Patrol, and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Ms. Pink has been able to combine her classroom activities with her extracurricular activities so that she can better serve her students and secure grants for hands-on classroom experiments. Additionally, Ms. Pink has been able to introduce the Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Connections in Education program at her school, which uses aviation to foster her students' interest in science and math.

The importance of teachers such as Ms. Pink is unquantifiable, and I commend her dedication to our nation's future. To be selected as Teacher of the Year is a reflection of Ms. Pink's exemplary work ethic and steadfast dedication to the students of Northwest Florida.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Laura Pink for her great achievements and laudable service. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing her all of the best.

HONORING CHELSEA TATLOW

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Rock Bridge High School Lady Bruins Swimming and Diving team member Chelsea Tatlow on her state victory in the 100-yard backstroke.

Ms. Tatlow played an integral part in the school's success at the state championship. Winning this event in her sophomore year is indeed a considerable feat, and I am sure that we will continue to see her name in swimming headlines. Ms. Tatlow and her coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and in the state championship.

I ask that you join me in recognizing Rock Bridge High School Lady Bruins' Chelsea Tatlow for a job well done.

IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL
AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Coalition for Autism Research and Education, I rise today to recognize April as National Autism Awareness Month. Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in America, with 1 to 1.5 million Americans living with it each day. Every April since the 1970s we celebrate National Autism Awareness Month, which provides an opportunity to educate the public on autism and the issues affecting those people afflicted with the disorder.

This disorder is universal, affecting children from all ethnic, racial and socioeconomic backgrounds. The latest statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention state that 1 in 88 children born in the United States will develop autism.

Mr. Speaker, this increase is a clear call that more needs to be done in terms of research and education. Congress must call for more resources to be given to early screening and diagnosis programs. This can lead to improved educational and social outcomes and increases the chances of employment and independent living for those suffering from autism.

My own State of California has seen a huge increase in autism diagnoses. In 1990, 6 out of every 10,000 children born in the State were diagnosed with the disease by the age of five. Only 11 years later that number had risen to 42.5 in every 10,000 children. Since then the numbers have only risen.

Children diagnosed with this disorder will struggle with significant social, behavioral and communication challenges. For example, an activity as simple as going to the movies is impossible for many families with autistic children. However, autism is treatable. There is no permanent cure for the disorder, but studies show that early detection and intervention can lead to significantly improved outcomes.

Mr. Speaker, the occurrence of autism is on the rise in our nation. This is why it is more important than ever that we continue to fund programs like the National Database for Autism Research, whose overall goal is accelerating scientific discovery in autism spectrum disorder through data and research sharing among ASD investigators.

That is why it was so important that Congress passed H.R. 2005, the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011. I am proud to have been an original co-sponsor of this legislation, which authorizes more than \$200 million in continued funding for the Centers for Disease Control's surveillance and epidemiological research programs for autism and other developmental disabilities and for the National Institutes of Health's respect to research program on autism spectrum disorders and possible environmental causes of autism. The bill also authorizes a robust autism education, early detection, and intervention program at the Health Resources and Services Administration, HRSA.

Mr. Speaker, nowhere is autism's impact felt more than in underserved communities, where diagnosis is delayed on average two years. Given that early identification and intervention are paramount to the developing brain of children with autism, this two-year delay is especially devastating, as it denies thousands of vulnerable children the benefits of early diagnosis and intervention. This can mean the difference between a child who may someday live independently, and a child destined for a life of institutionalized care.

The alarming delay in diagnosis becomes even more detrimental when compounded by issues of poverty, such as a lack of housing, employment, and transportation. This is the reality faced by families in underserved communities who are affected by autism and other developmental disabilities.

That is why I also want to recognize, commend, and encourage organizations like the Special Needs Network, Inc., which serve the greater Los Angeles community for the great work and service they provide to families and individuals affected by the autism in underserved communities.

This month, let us recommit ourselves to raising awareness about autism. We have a responsibility to continue to broaden our efforts to research this disorder, and increase awareness about the importance of early detection.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of National Autism Awareness Month, and ask all Americans to take time this month to find out what you can do to help the growing population of those afflicted with, or affected by, autism.

BANKRUPTCY EQUITY FOR
HOMEOWNERS ACT**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, on February 16, 2012, I spoke on the House floor about the intrinsic unfairness of certain bankruptcy laws. In my statement, I inappropriately characterized the actions of the Mortgage Bankers Association. The following is my amended statement:

This week, we watched the settlement unfold between the Department of Justice, the State attorneys general, and the major banks. Twenty-six billion dollars sounds like a lot of money, but given that almost one in four homeowners owe more on their mortgages than the values of their homes—overall losing some \$700 billion in value. This is a step in the right direction that will help some people but is not really a major correction. There are still far too few real pressures to get the market right.

There is a simple answer that won't cost the taxpayers a dime and which will stabilize the housing depression within a year. It would help reestablish home values and encourage banks to work with their customers whose mortgages are "under water".

The recent decision of American Airlines to pursue bankruptcy is illustrative. This corporate giant could actually pay its bills. It had some \$4 billion in cash and was still taking in revenue, but it made a strategic judgment to use the bankruptcy laws to reposition itself to win market rate loan terms, to modify its union contracts and the pension obligations to its employees because, under the law, a bankruptcy judge can adjust these business relationships to reflect current market conditions—for a business, that is. Curiously, homeowners are treated differently.

A business speculator could buy 10 units in a condominium in south Florida when the housing bubble bursts and could get bankruptcy relief on all 10 units—but not Sally Six-Pack, who bought an identical unit to live in.

What is it about homeowners that make them less worthy of relief of the fresh start of bankruptcy than the speculator or American Airlines? The answer is right here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Congress has decided to look out for business, not the homeowner. The daisy chain of profit we saw collapsing under the weight of colossal greed and bad judgment was protected at the expense of the homeowner, who was trapped, with limited options to renegotiate, with no leverage, who simply faced foreclosure, a short sale, or what is described as jingle mail: send the keys back and walk away.

It's interesting that homeowners have been urged that it's their moral duty, their obligation to pay, even as the Mortgage Bankers Association, itself, reneged on the mortgage on its headquarters and cut a side deal with its financial partners to get out of its underwater mortgage. Not long before this happened, John Courson, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Mortgage Bankers Association, was quoted in the press as asking defaulting homeowners, "What about the message they will send to their family and their kids and their friends?" What message did the Mortgage Bankers Association send? The answer is clearly that they have one set of rules, while American families have another. This blatant hypocrisy enrages ordinary families and runs counter to democratic values of fairness and equal opportunity. Homeowners are expected to do the right thing, even if we're seeing a cavalcade of financial misdeeds, shortcuts, and, in some cases, outright fraud.

I've been unable to find any good reason that homeowners should be discriminated against in bankruptcy. If it's good enough for business, it should be good enough for the homeowners.