

Los Angeles County alone, there were over 170,000 reported cases of child abuse or neglect in 2010. With over half of those referrals being made by mandatory reporters, those professionals required by law to report signs of maltreatment, I applaud our school officials and social service providers who are defending children's wellbeing.

It is vital that we are all equally prepared to speak out for victims who are unable to seek help for themselves. The youngest children, in particular, are most vulnerable to abuse with almost 32 percent of reported victims under the age of four years.

The effects of abuse and neglect can last a lifetime and include physical injuries, mental health conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, increased risk for violent behavior, and lower levels of economic wellbeing. Such long-term effects hinder the ability to form healthy and positive relationships as adults. Abuse can truly become a cycle, harming generation after generation if nothing is done to intervene.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the extraordinary work of the Miller Children's Hospital in the 37th district and its commitment to promoting positive parenting. The hospital offers training for medical professionals to recognize more subtle signs of abuse as well as early learning opportunities for children and their families to develop healthy family relationships.

Efforts aimed at prevention and early detection are critical in helping our nation's children grow up with the confidence and skills necessary to achieve the American Dream. These efforts can include programs in parent education and substance abuse treatment. Through these investments, we can target those specific circumstances and stresses that often lead to an increased likelihood of abuse.

Mr. Speaker, as I rise today to observe National Child Abuse Prevention Month, I ask all communities to invest in preventative measures and programs to end the cycle of child abuse once and for all. This month will serve as a reminder of our moral responsibility to ensure a bright future for our children and our nation.

#### CELEBRATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2012*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise proudly today to honor the Environmental Technology Center, ETC, on the occasion of its tenth anniversary. Located at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, CA, ETC was one of the first 'green' buildings on a university campus.

Before the concept of a green building was a familiar part of our national culture, Rocky Rohwedder, Professor and Chair of the Environmental Studies and Planning, ENSP, department, realized that an environmental center could provide a valuable teaching tool. He and Professor Jean Merriman Falbo (now retired) sought grants to realize this vision. I was proud to assist their effort with funds from the National Science Foundation, NSF. With further support from the California Energy Com-

mission, the majority of the funding was in place.

Partnering with experts at Sonoma State University and in the community, ETC was carefully designed and opened its doors in the fall of 2001. The Center represented an exciting new advance in both building and education. Functioning as a teaching tool, demonstration project, and resource hub, it is used as a classroom for the Environmental Studies and Planning Department and several sustainable certificate programs as well as a center for service learning, technical assistance, and community-based research.

Considered a Zero Energy Building because it actually generates more energy than it consumes, its sustainable technologies include roof integrated photovoltaics, advanced window systems, extensive use of daylighting, recycled materials, and thermal mass as well as energy and water-efficient landscaping.

In February, 2002, shortly after ETC opened, the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology held a Congressional field hearing in the Center on the theme of "A Renewable Roadmap to Energy Independence." As the Ranking Member of the Science Energy Subcommittee, I was able to bring nationally known experts whose testimony delivered a clear message: that we could become energy independent with sustainable technologies using the techniques exemplified in the building. In addition, faculty at the Center, such as Dr. Sascha von Meier, testified in Washington, DC, before the Committee and later helped me in writing alternative energy legislation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating all those who made the Environmental Technology Center possible and who continue to make it a focus of research and application for sustainable building ten years later. I applaud their commitment and foresight in creating "The Building That Teaches."

#### MARKING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL TAIWAN CAUCUS

**HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2012*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus.

Founded on April 9, 2001, the caucus was intended to serve as a forum to educate Members of Congress on issues affecting U.S.-Taiwan Relations, and to provide a platform for exploring ways to positively enhance and strengthen U.S. relations and cooperation with the government and people of Taiwan in accordance with the Taiwan Relations Act. It has grown from 85 Members at the time of its establishment to the current roster of 155, making it the second largest country caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In the past 10 years, the membership of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus has remained solidly bipartisan, reflecting the broad and stable consensus in the U.S. Congress regarding the importance of Taiwan. Through the issuance of various joint letters, its agenda has focused first and foremost on maintaining faithful adherence to legal obligations and pol-

icy principles of the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act, as well as the 1982 "Six Assurances" to Taiwan. Together, these two documents form the cornerstone of our relationship with the people of Taiwan and have contributed immeasurably to the maintenance of peace and stability in the Asia Pacific region, while allowing Taiwan to blossom into a vibrant, open society, eager to engage with the rest of the world.

Today, Taiwan is well on the path to becoming a mature and fully consolidated democracy, and our shared values now form an ever stronger foundation of trust for cooperation across our many areas of mutual interest. At the same time, the military threat posed by the People's Republic of China to Taiwan's democratic way of life only continues to grow with each passing day.

In the coming 10 years, we hope to forge a stronger consultative role for Congress in the formulation of Taiwan policy. We look forward to working closely with our allies—both abroad and at home—to find solutions for ensuring Taiwan's long-term security, and to deepen our dialogue with the people of Taiwan.

#### RECOGNIZING SCOTT ERICKSON AS THE 2012 HURLBURT AFA CHAPTER 398 HIGH SCHOOL AND OVERALL 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 Mr. Scott Erickson, the 2012 Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 High School and Overall Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Erickson's joy and passion for teaching began at an early age, from watching his mother, also a teacher. Her example, coupled with the skills he learned through his work as a summer camp counselor, became an inspirational force behind his current "learn by doing" teaching approach, which engages students through lesson plans that incorporate activities and experiments using modern-day technology. Throughout his career, Mr. Erickson has used this approach to educate students of all ages ranging from elementary school to high school.

A teacher at Milton High School in Northwest Florida, he continues to hone his teaching techniques, always striving for excellence and establishing award winning technology and aviation programs. Mr. Erickson has played an integral role in sponsoring Milton High School's Robotics Team and led the team to its notable victory at the Emerald Coast BEST (Boosting Engineering, Science, and Technology) Robotics competition. Additionally, through his tireless efforts in fundraising and procuring necessary grants, he became the driving force behind the creation of Milton High School's Aviation Academy—a state-of-the-art teaching and flight simulation facility—which continues to yield positive results. Several of his students are now on the path to earning pilot ratings. Equally commendable, several of Mr. Erickson's aviation students were selected to join the National Flight Academy, a multi-day immersion program that uses aviation to inspire students to

challenge themselves in science, technology, engineering, and math.

Mr. Erickson is respected by all—his students, parents, and administrators alike. Through his hard work and dedication, Scott Erickson is making a tremendous impact in the lives of his students, and this earned him both the title of Teacher of the Year and the admiration of those around him. The North-west Florida community is proud to call him one of our own.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Mr. Scott Erickson for his great achievements and exemplary service. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing him all of the best.

A TRIBUTE TO THE VOLUNTEERS  
OF CLARION, IOWA

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2012*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and acknowledge the volunteers of Clarion, Iowa, for their hard work and becoming 2012 National Honorees of Make a Difference Day. This year, more than a thousand citizens of Clarion participated in Make a Difference Day activities, earning them the prestigious honor as one of the nation's 2012 Make a Difference Day winners.

Make a Difference Day is a celebration of the power of neighbors helping neighbors. Created by USA Weekend, this annual day of service mobilizes more than 3 million volunteers nationwide to create positive change in their communities.

This group of outstanding volunteers from this three-stoplight town of 2,800 has made a substantial impact in their community by completing hundreds of small acts of kindness that culminated in their well-deserved national recognition. From crocheting robes for seniors to cleaning ditches, from raking leaves to running errands for neighbors in need, this small town came together a thousand strong to make an unforgettable impact on Make a Difference Day.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Clarion and its citizens in the United States Congress and I trust my colleagues in the House will rise to join me in congratulating them on a job well done. Clarion has shown the nation once again that small towns can surely do big things.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE  
AMERICAN LIBERATORS OF  
WORLD WAR II AND THE 25TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTER-  
NATIONAL MARCH OF THE LIV-  
ING

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2012*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, as Holocaust Remembrance Day approaches on April 19, 2012, I would like to commemorate the U.S. forces that liberated concentration camps and death camps throughout Europe during World

War II. I would also like to commend the International March of the Living, which is commemorating 25 years of taking thousands of students to Poland to visit the sites of mass murder by the Nazi regime.

Each year, those participating in the March of the Living solemnly walk the three kilometers between Auschwitz and Birkenau, two sites that represent the largest concentration camp complex during the war. This year marks the first time students will march not with only friends, families, and survivors, but also the liberators who freed so many from the grips of the Nazi regime. These liberators saw first-hand the atrocities committed by the Nazis, and because these atrocities remain achingly clear, it is important that, as the number of liberators dwindles, we ensure their first-hand accounts are never forgotten. These brave soldiers exhibited compassion, and brought hope, to the survivors they liberated. It is for these reasons that I salute the liberators of the concentration camps and death camps, as well as International March of the Living on its 25th Anniversary, and I call on my colleagues to do the same.

THE PASSING OF MARK AYERS,  
PRESIDENT OF THE AFL-CIO'S  
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION  
TRADES DEPARTMENT

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my shock and sadness at the untimely passing of Mark Ayers, President of the AFL-CIO's Building and Construction Trades Department.

Mark led the BCTD with great skill and amazing grace. He was a champion for worker's rights and worked tirelessly to raise the standard of living and quality of life for all working people and their families.

Mark was an extraordinary leader who possessed an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of working families.

Mark leaves big shoes to fill and will be missed by all who knew and loved him. But his legacy will live on.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

BAYLOR 2012 WOMEN'S  
BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2012*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Baylor women's basketball team for winning the 2012 NCAA national championship. I was born in Waco, Texas, home of Baylor University, and I am so proud of my hometown team.

The Baylor Lady Bears did more than win, they made history. The Lady Bears completed a 40-0 season on April 3rd, 2012, by defeating Notre Dame 80-61 in the championship game. They became the first team, men's or women's, to go undefeated and win 40 games in one season.

Baylor University women's basketball team also made television history. With 4.24 million viewers, their game ranks as the most viewed national championship final since 2004. Brittney Griner, the Associated Press Player of the Year and the Most Outstanding Player of the NCAA tournament, led the Lady Bears in their sound defeat of Notre Dame. I am pleased to hear that Brittney intends to stay in school and is on track to finish her undergraduate degree.

Baylor University, which also happens to be the alma mater of my own sister, has the most wins combined in football, men's basketball, and women's basketball of any Division I school this season. Baylor should be proud of their many accolades. They have worked so hard to succeed not only in sports, but academically as well. Baylor is a top ranked national university and is an academic gem for the State of Texas and our country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the Baylor University women's basketball team for their historic accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. REBECCA POE  
OF WEST VIRGINIA

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2012*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishment of a constituent of mine Mrs. Rebecca Poe; specifically her twenty-six years of service as Executive Director of the Randolph County Senior Center along with her other accomplishments as Randolph County director for North Central Community Action, campaign chairman for United Way of Randolph County, President of the Elkins Rotary Club and her service on the board of Elkins Rehabilitation & Care Center.

Rebecca, whose first day as Executive Director of the Randolph County Senior Center was July 1, 1985, will work her final day on April 27, 2012. When Rebecca took over the Senior Center it was a small operation with a staff of seven people. Today it has a staff of about 120, including both full-time and part-time positions.

Under Rebecca's guidance the Senior Center home care program began in 1988 with a nurse and coordinator. Today the program has 140 clients and features two full time nurses and a support staff. In 1989 under Rebecca's guidance, the Senior Center made use of a seven-county regional grant to upgrade the nutrition program for their seniors. The Country Roads Transportation program began in 2006 to transport riders of any age.

Although Rebecca has helped the Senior Center make great strides over the years, she insists that the center and the many people she's gotten to know there over the years have made just as big an impact on her.

Mr. Speaker, as the nation's baby boomers move into their senior years, we certainly need more people like Rebecca Poe and the outstanding level of care to our aging population.

I thank Rebecca for her years of service and Randolph County is fortunate to call Rebecca one of its own.