

On March 13, 2012, the community of Lancaster, and the greater Antelope Valley, said goodbye to a member of "our greatest generation." She passed peacefully and now resides in the hearts and minds of her family and the people that she touched throughout her life.

Mrs. Didier is survived by her eight children: Mary, Joe, Katie, Pat, Ruth, Annie, Clete and Mickie, 18 grandchildren and four great grandchildren that will miss her dearly. Mrs. Didier is reunited with her husband, Cletus, who passed in June 1992.

I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the lifelong achievements of Mrs. Erleen Didier. Without question, in her lifetime, the community of Lancaster has been made better by her contributions and are worthy of recognition by the House of Representatives today.

#### CONGRATULATING PAUL GRESKY

### HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2012*

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Paul Gresky on reaching the 15,000 mark in teaching the Hunter Education Certification. His lifelong commitment to safety instruction is an invaluable contribution to Colorado citizens and the responsible upholding of our 2nd Amendment rights. We are grateful for the countless hours he has dedicated and the leadership Paul has exhibited to better Coloradans.

Since 1974 Paul has educated our community in the safety necessary for firearm owners. In 1983 Paul began serving Coloradans as a Master Instructor, receiving Instructor of the Year in 1985. Now Paul has successfully reached the 15,000 mark. All of these are impressive feats. I commend Paul for his service, not only because of his work teaching the Hunter Education Certification, but also because of his work in educating the Boy Scouts of America who are involved in the National Rifle Association's marksmanship and home firearms responsibility programs.

Colorado is greatly indebted to individuals like Paul who continue to promote the safe and responsible use of firearms. I commend him for his work and wish him the best as he continues to make Colorado a safer place.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT BRYAN GRAVELINE

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2012*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Robert Graveline of Ames 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 past century.

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. Robert's project transformed an unused grassy area into a prayer garden for the St. Cecilia Church in Ames. The garden required a great deal of landscaping mastery and includes a walking path among the various plantings. The work ethic Robert 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 and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Robert and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him in obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and will wish him continued success in his future education and career. Thank you.

#### SUPPORTING THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

### HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2012*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, some of my distinguished colleagues claim that we must cut spending to protect the future of our country and our children. But what costs are we willing to incur with reckless cuts to a critical program that has helped 46 million Americans stay fed? If we cut SNAP, we will be throwing the baby out with the bath water.

Children make up nearly half of the Americans who rely on food stamps. SNAP continues to play an instrumental role in our nation's economic recovery, helping millions of struggling American families to feed their kids. With SNAP, students across the country can start each day well-fed and ready to learn.

There's no question that SNAP works. The best way to shrink the program is not through funding cuts, but by making the American dream a reality for all Americans once again. If we truly want to protect our children's future, we cannot steal food off their dinner tables. To protect our future, we must protect SNAP.

#### DR. FRANK A. BUCCI

### HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2012*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Frank A. Bucci, one of the 2012 recipients of the Governor Robert P. Casey Medal for a Lifetime of Service. This award is presented annually by the Neighborhood Housing Services of Lackawanna County and given for a person's contributions to the region throughout the years. The Neighborhood Housing Services serves individuals and families through homeownership education and promotion, property rehabilitation and affordable lending.

Dr. Frank A. Bucci is an internationally recognized expert in refractive and cataract surgery. After completing his residency at the Albany Medical Center and the Jersey Shore Medical Center, he graduated medical school

in 1985 from New Jersey Medical School in Newark, New Jersey. Dr. Bucci is a pioneer in refractive surgery, having performed the first RK, AK, PRK and LASIK procedures in the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania. He performed almost 8,000 refractive surgeries, in addition to performing almost 25,000 other microsurgical ophthalmic procedures. Additionally, Dr. Bucci's peers voted him as one of the top 50 ophthalmologists in the United States, as published in *Cataract & Refractive Surgery Today*.

In May 2003, Dr. Bucci founded the Hospice of Sacred Heart, which seeks to bring peace and joy to those facing their end-of-life journeys. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for this non-profit organization.

Mr. Speaker, today, Dr. Frank A. Bucci stands as a role model in Northeastern Pennsylvania. I commend him for his years of committed service to his patients, community, and country, and I wish him continued success in the future.

#### A TRIBUTE TO TYLER CONLON

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2012*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Tyler Conlon of Sheffield for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Tyler is the first Eagle Scout honored by Troop 24 of Sheffield, Iowa since 1948.

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 past century.

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. The work ethic Tyler has shown in his Eagle Project, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Tyler and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him in obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and will wish him continued success in his future education and career. Thank you.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF SARAH RANGEL GUTIERREZ

### HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2012*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to pay tribute to a role model, loving wife, mother and grandmother, Sarah Rangel Gutierrez. Sarah passed away on April 3,

2012, she was nearly eighty-seven years old. I would like to extend my deepest condolences to her family, especially Jimmy who has been a friend.

Sarah was born in Santa Ana, California, and raised in Pomona along with her three brothers and sister. Their childhood was shaped by the Great Depression, which brought the family together and taught Sarah valuable lessons about the importance of a strong family. Sarah attended public school in Pomona through the ninth grade. At school, she learned to speak English fluently, which allowed her to be a lifelong translator for her mother, who only spoke Spanish.

At the age of 18, Sarah married Jesse Gutierrez, who, at the time was a soldier in the U.S. Army, fighting during World War II. Her husband contracted tuberculosis during the war, leaving him hospitalized and unable to care for their children until 1948. During this time, Sarah raised her children by herself. Sarah's strong Catholic faith helped her through these tough times. Although life was not easy for Sarah, she had a unique way of keeping her family together and their spirits high.

Even after raising her children, Sarah selflessly devoted her life to caring for others. While Sarah was raising her family, her mother and brothers lived within blocks. She was able to visit her mother daily, and watched as she took care of her mentally ill sister. Sarah followed the example of her mother when her own daughter, Teresa was born with down syndrome. Sarah cared for her daughter until she was no longer able. Her selfless giving has taught her children and those around her the important lesson of loyalty, which stays with them to this day.

Let us take the time to pay tribute to a wonderful woman. Let us celebrate the wonderful life she led. Although she is no longer with us, her legacy and spirit will continue to live on through the lives of everyone she has touched.

Sarah was preceded by the death of her husband Jesse, her eldest son, David, and her youngest daughter, Teresa. She is survived by her son, Jimmy and his wife, Mona, as well as her daughter, Christina, and her husband Marc. She leaves with cherished memories a loving family of 7 grandchildren, Monica Gutierrez, James Gutierrez, Sonia Dombroski, Cai Steffler, Tres Steffler, Annette Gutierrez and Josephine Gutierrez. May we all be so lucky to live a life full of love for her family. My thoughts and prayers, along with those of my wife, Barbara, and my children, Rialto City Councilman Joe Baca Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer are with Sarah's family at this time. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to pay tribute to Sarah Rangel Gutierrez.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF NATHAN BENDERSON

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2012*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Nathan Benderson, the Chairman of the Benderson Development Company, who recently passed away at the age of 94.

Born in Buffalo in 1917, Nathan Benderson was a true visionary who leveraged a bottle-salvaging company he created in the midst of the Great Depression as a teenager into one of the Nation's largest privately held real estate companies. Mr. Benderson personified the American ideal of ingenuity and coupled that with an unwavering commitment to charity.

The Benderson Development Company, founded six decades ago in Buffalo, is now among the largest and most diverse developers in the Nation. During that time, Nate Benderson helped transform the real-estate landscape in western New York, constructing many retail plazas and office buildings that still exist today. The company's holdings include shopping centers and malls, office buildings, industrial space, hotels, and raw land. In all, the company owns and manages roughly 500 properties—35 million square feet in 38 States—and employs more than 8,000.

Even with all of his achievements and successes as a real estate magnate, Nathan Benderson will be remembered for his indelible commitment to philanthropy. In addition to his work at the development company, Mr. Benderson was a tireless humanitarian who supported an array of causes, including Jewish-related charities, those that helped the poor and the frail elderly, and animal rescue organizations in Florida and New York.

Mr. Benderson created a \$2 million endowment for programs at Buffalo's Johnnie B. Wiley Amateur Sports Complex and was a major benefactor for Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo Zoo, SPCA Serving Erie County, Variety Club, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Food Bank of Western New York and Center for Hospice and Palliative Care.

The breadth and depth of Mr. Benderson's generosity are on a scale that is unmatched in western New York. Even after his death, Mr. Benderson's charitable work will continue through the Benderson Family Life Insurance Legacy Initiative, a foundation he created which has in excess of \$130 million in assets to support numerous organizations well into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me and with members of the House to express our deepest condolences to the family of the late Nathan Benderson, and join with me in lauding the many good works Mr. Benderson performed during his long and full life.

#### A TRIBUTE TO BRADY BRINKMEYER

#### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2012*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brady Brinkmeyer of Ames 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 past century.

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. Brady's project involved an ex-

tensive landscaping renovation of the chapel entrance at Riverside Bible Camp near Story City where he has spent several past summers himself. The work ethic Brady has shown in his Eagle Project, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Brady and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him in obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and will wish him continued success in his future education and career. Thank you.

#### GIRLS OF STEEL

#### HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2012*

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Girls of Steel robotics team on winning the prestigious Engineering Inspiration Award as well as the Website Award at the Pittsburgh Regional "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (F.I.R.S.T.)" Robotics Competition on March 8 and 9. I also want to congratulate them for winning the Innovation in Control Award at the Queen City Regional F.I.R.S.T. competition in Cincinnati, Ohio on April 5 through 7.

As the founder of the Congressional Robotics Caucus, I am a proud supporter of F.I.R.S.T. and the tremendously important purpose it serves in introducing young people to the fields of technology and engineering. Through its mentor-based programs, F.I.R.S.T. will inspire nearly 300,000 students this year while providing them with confidence, leadership, and communication skills. It is critical that we continue to encourage young people to get involved in these fields if our country is to remain competitive in the global economy in the future. The F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Competition instills a sense of pride in the individuals who participate in it and allows them to apply their natural creativity in the demanding and competitive field of robotics.

The Engineering Inspiration award is given to the team that best advances appreciation and respect for engineering through recruitment and outreach within their community and is the second highest team award F.I.R.S.T. bestows. It also qualifies the Girls of Steel to compete in the National competition in St. Louis at the end of April. The Website Award is presented to the team that best demonstrates excellence in a student-designed, built, and managed F.I.R.S.T. team website. The Innovation in Control Award celebrates an innovative control system or application of control components to provide unique machine functions.

The Girls of Steel beat over 40 other robotics teams in receiving the two awards in Pittsburgh, and they beat over 50 other robotics teams in receiving the Innovation in Control award in Cincinnati.

I would like to mention each of these dedicated young women by name. They are Christina Ambrosino, Sonia Appasamy, Katie