

Whether it's his work with community organizations, such as the National Association for the Hispanic Elderly, National Council of La Raza and the Florida Commission on Education Reform and Accountability, Guarione has never forgotten his roots or commitment to provide help for those who most need it. In many ways, his experiences as a Cuban exile have informed so much of what he has done. As a fellow Cuban-American, I know the indelible mark that is left by the struggles of leaving one's homeland and fighting against tyranny. The desire to give back to this great Nation that welcomed so many of us with open arms, as we fled Castro's totalitarian grip, is something Guarione has never forgotten. Even though Guarione will be an irreplaceable voice as he retires from CNC's leadership, his legacy will be the foundation for what I am sure will be CNC's continued success.

TO RECOGNIZE THE SHEPHERD'S
CENTER OF OAKTON-VIENNA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna for its many contributions to the Northern Virginia community. Organized in 1997, the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna provides services to assist older adults to continue living independently and offer programs which supply opportunities for enrichment, learning, and socialization.

2011 has been a year of continued growth for the Shepherd Center. Volunteer drivers provided more than 500 round-trip rides for medical appointments and prescription pick-up, a 10-percent increase from 2010. There were 295 round-trips rides for non-medical errands, a 28-percent increase. In addition, hours contributed to Friendly Visits increased 68 percent, ensuring that seniors can stay connected to the community. The Shepherd Center's many other services include assistance with downsizing and decluttering, minor home repairs to help older adults keep their homes safe and livable, and a range of programs designed to encourage active lifestyles and community integration, including Lunch 'n' Life, Adventures in Learning, and various trips and outings.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Shepherd Center of Oakton-Vienna for the services which enable older adults in our community to age in place and enjoy their golden years with dignity and independence. I thank the many volunteers who generously dedicate their time and efforts to the welfare of our neighbors. Their extraordinary contributions cannot be overstated and are deserving of our highest praise.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on Equal Pay Day to highlight the persistent

wage gap between women and men. April 17th marks how far into 2012 a woman has to work in order to make what her male counterpart made in 2011. This is a travesty, and a milestone we should not still be forced to mark in the 21st Century.

In the 111th Congress, we passed into law the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which reinforced the ability of women to sue for pay discrimination. This was a crucial victory, but we must continue the fight and finish the job by passing into law H.R. 1519, the Paycheck Fairness Act. As in past Congresses, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act. This bill would narrow the wage gap between men and women and strengthen the Equal Pay Act, which makes it unlawful for an employer to pay unequal wages to men and women that have similar jobs within the same establishment.

The Paycheck Fairness Act would allow women to sue for wage discrimination and receive punitive damages, as well as compensatory damages. Currently, women who seek compensation for unequal pay can only recover back pay, or in some cases, double back pay. While this bill would increase penalties for employers who pay different wages to men and women for equal work, it also provides incentives such as training programs for employers to eliminate pay disparities and grant programs to help strengthen the negotiation skills of girls and women.

Some may argue that these changes are not necessary, but the numbers speak for themselves. Despite greatly increased commitment to the labor force over the past 45 years, women working full time make 77 cents for every dollar earned by a man—less than a 20-percent increase since the Equal Pay Act was signed into law in 1963. In Rhode Island, the median pay for a woman working full time, year round is \$40,532 per year, while the median yearly pay for a man is \$50,567. This means that women are paid 80 cents for every dollar paid to men, amounting to a yearly gap of \$10,035 between full-time working men and women in the state.

Even more troublesome, nationally, African-American women earn 66 cents to the dollar and Latina women earn 55 cents to the dollar compared to men. According to a Census Bureau study, male high school graduates earned \$13,000 more than female high school graduates in 2006. Women with a bachelor's degree employed year-round earned \$53,201, while similarly educated men earned an average of \$76,749. This same study also noted that the pay difference between men and women grows wider as they age.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Paycheck Fairness Act to protect the fundamental right of women to earn equal pay for equal work, to support mothers who just want to be treated fairly by their employers while they provide for their children, and to ensure that daughters still in school can reach their full potential when they graduate.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COLONEL
JOHN K. CARNEY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Colonel

John K. Carney, who dedicated his life to the service of our nation. Colonel Carney passed away on March 17th. He was born on October 31, 1913 in Braxton County, West Virginia. He joined the military in 1941, serving with distinction in the U.S. Air Force in World War II, and for a total of 24 years before retiring in 1966. Colonel Carney supervised an array of management and logistics programs both in the United States and overseas, in South America, Trinidad, Saudi Arabia, and twice in the Philippines. He completed his military service at the Pentagon in the Office of the Secretary of Defense where he headed the joint service planning and negotiating groups to consolidate major logistics functions for the Department of Defense.

Following his retirement from the Air Force, Colonel Carney continued his national service, working for the General Services Administration for 14 years. He helped institute a government-wide national supply system to improve efficiencies and eliminate duplicative functions. Colonel Carney retired from GSA in 1980 as the Director of Supply Policy in the Federal Supply Service, having spent almost four decades of his life in service.

Colonel Carney displayed the same enduring devotion throughout his private life. He was a former Divine World Seminarian who graduated from the Jesuit-run Springhill College in Mobile, Alabama during his military career under "Operation Bootstrap." Upon moving to Springfield, Virginia in 1960, Colonel Carney was dedicated to his local community. He was a founding member of St. Bernadette Catholic Church and a member of the Air Force Association, The Retired Officers Association, and the National Association of the Uniformed Services. Colonel Carney is survived by his wife, the former Adelle Wright, their four daughters, Constance Bedell, Bernadine O'Hare, and Deborah Fowler, all of Virginia, and Catherine Carney of West Virginia, their two sons, Daniel Carney of Georgia and Patrick Carney of Virginia, their 16 grandchildren, and their 19 great grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in offering our sincerest condolences to his relatives, and in honoring the life and example of Colonel John K. Carney for his dedicated service to his country, his community, and his family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to being unavoidably detained, I missed the following rollcall vote No. 152 on April 16, 2012.

If present, I would have voted: rollcall vote No. 152—H.R. 3001—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Celebration Act, "aye."

RECOGNIZING HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE DAY 2012

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Days of Remembrance as our Nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust. As you know, Congress designated this week-long observance in honor of the victims of the Holocaust and created the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to serve as a permanent living memorial to them.

This year's Remembrance week is April 15th through the 22nd, and communities throughout the country will observe this occasion with educational programs and other activities. I am pleased to share with my colleagues that the Fairfax County, Virginia, Board of Supervisors, in my district, is proclaiming April 22 as Holocaust Remembrance Day.

It is important that we pause annually to reflect on the systemic persecution and annihilation of European Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. More than six million Jews were murdered during that period and countless others were targeted for oppression or destruction based on factors of race, ethnicity, religion, political affiliation, disability or sexual orientation. The atrocities of that era serve as a reminder for current and future generations about the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies and governments. This year's national theme, as selected by the museum, is "Choosing to Act: Stories of Rescue" and seeks to capture that sentiment.

Confronted with the cruelty against humanity taking place in front of them, many witnesses faced a choice of whether to intervene. Of course, doing so brought the risk of severe punishment, and, in some cases, death. Fear drove many to idly stand by, but there were many ordinary citizens who carried out extraordinary acts of courage on behalf of their fellow man, whether it was a government official who forged identity papers or the housewife and her daughter who hid a family in their attic. Ultimately the United States and the Allies, which later became the United Nations, prevailed over the Axis powers, preventing the further spread of their tyranny and evil.

Mr. Speaker, commemorative events marking the Days of Remembrance are taking place here in our Nation's capital and in communities throughout the country. I hope my colleagues have an opportunity to take part in one of these observances. This is a time to stand in solidarity with our Jewish neighbors, the nation of Israel, and our allies across the globe to once again rekindle awareness of this terrible tragedy in world history and to rededicate ourselves to never allowing such acts to happen again.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House yesterday (Monday,

April 16th) and missed rollcall votes 152–153. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both rollcall votes 152 (H.R. 3001, the Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Celebration Act) and 153 (H.R. 4040, which would provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus).

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2012 FAIRFAX
COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VALOR AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety agencies and their commitment to the community. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. More than 100 individuals are receiving much deserved awards in a variety of categories including: The Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze or Silver Medal of Valor.

Two members of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I submit the names of the following award recipients into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

2012 Bronze Medal of Valor Recipient: Private First Class Naftali Jacob

2012 Certificate of Valor Recipient: MDS Kathleen Holohan

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2012 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

H.R. 4134

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss H.R. 4134, which I introduced on March 5, 2012. This legislation will curtail a tax abuse involving the mass production of cigarettes through "roll-your-own" machines at retail establishments. Currently, so-called "pipe tobacco" is taxed at rates dramatically less than "cigarette tobacco" and "roll-your-own tobacco." That has had the effect of forming an industry of retailers that put RYO machines in their stores that allow customers to manufacture cigarettes for far less than the cost of name-brand cigarettes.

My legislation will require that RYO cigarettes are produced on a level playing field

with all other cigarettes. In doing so—and this is very important—H.R. 4134 should be read as applying prospectively only—neither retailers nor consumers of RYO cigarettes before the date of enactment of my legislation should be forced to pay any taxes on cigarettes manufactured in these machines and sold before the date of enactment. I understand that there is litigation pending in this regard brought by the Department of the Treasury. My legislation should end that litigation and settle this issue once and for all.

I also want to note that H.R. 4134 is not intended to affect small, hand-operated devices used by customers at home to assemble roll-your-own cigarettes. These small devices, which customers take away from the retail establishment in original packaging and use for personal convenience and not for commercial purposes, have been sold for many decades without giving rise to the tax avoidance abuse my legislation seeks to address.

I am very pleased that Senator MAX BAUCUS amended the Senate-passed highway transportation bill with language very similar to my bill. I look forward to working with him and others in order to enact this law, and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 4134 in the House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ASIAN-AMERICAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 2012 ASIAN-AMERICAN
CHAMBER AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Asian-American Chamber of Commerce and the recipients of the 2012 Asian-American Chamber Awards.

The Asian-American Chamber of Commerce (AACC) is dedicated to improving the economic development for Asian Pacific American owned businesses in the Washington, D.C. region. The 11th District of Virginia is blessed by its diversity; 1 in 4 residents are foreign born and more than 40% are minorities, with Asian Americans representing the largest ethnic group. Northern Virginia has a robust international business community and is home to the largest concentration of minority-owned technology firms in the nation. The AACC and its members contribute greatly to our economic strength and stability; Asian-American businesses generate more than 52% of total revenues generated by all minority owned businesses in this region.

Each year, the AACC recognizes businesses and non-profits in the Asian American community for their outstanding contributions to the Metropolitan Washington community and economy. I congratulate the following individuals and businesses for receiving one of the 2012 Asian-American Chamber of Commerce Awards:

Asian Business Leader Award (Posthumous): Mr. Jay Chen, Asian Fortune.

Volunteer of the Year: Mr. Vance Zavela, Fairfax County Office of Public and Private Partnerships.

Small Business of the Year: Analee's Prom, Bridal, Special Occasion & Tuxedo.