

In addition to her tireless efforts to improve victims' treatment, Roberta serves as Co-Chair of the National Victims Constitutional Amendment Network—a network of states working with Congress to enact a Constitutional amendment establishing meaningful and enforceable rights for every crime victim in this country.

Today, I join in honoring Roberta Roper for turning a deeply saddening and difficult tragedy into a thirty-year movement to provide crime victims and their families a greater voice.

Stephanie Roper once said: "One person can make a difference, and every person should try." Roberta Roper has built a lasting legacy in her daughter's name by doing just that—and we are all better off for it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday April 24, 2012 I had obligations that necessitated my attention in my district and missed a suspension vote on H.R. 2157, to facilitate a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands in the Inyo National Forest. Had I been present for this vote, I would have cast an "aye" vote for this piece of legislation.

Again, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 2157.

THE HOLOCAUST

SPEECH OF

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. Each year on the 27th day of the Jewish month of Nisan, we remember the victims whose lives were destroyed, and who suffered unspeakable brutalities at the hands of their Nazi tormentors. We all know the number six million far too well, but we must always remember that each of those six million—along with so many others—was an individual whose life was snuffed out because of baseless, senseless hatred.

We should also remember that the date for Yom HaShoah was also chosen to coincide with the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of 1943, perhaps the most famous example of Jewish resistance to the Nazis. When the Germans came to liquidate the last remaining inhabitants of the Warsaw Ghetto in order to murder them at the Treblinka extermination camp, these brave, untrained, overmatched and starving souls fought back. Though they were ultimately crushed, they held out against the Nazis for nearly a month, forcing the German army to divert thousands of troops, as well as air force, artillery, armed vehicles, minethrowers, and machine guns in order to put down the rebellion.

While the Holocaust is the greatest of Jewish tragedies, the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

stands as a moment of pride for the Jewish people, and a foreshadowing of the new Jewish spirit that would rise with the State of Israel just a few years later. Never again would Jews give up without a fight. With a state and an army, the Jewish people would finally have a refuge to run to in their time of need.

While we commemorate the Holocaust today, I call on my colleagues to join me in reaffirming our connection to the State of Israel, and our responsibility to help Israel through its most difficult times. The Jewish State ensures the survival of the Jewish people in a dangerous and often anti-Semitic world, which is one of the many reasons we in the United States have stood by Israel for so many years and will continue to stand by Israel for as long as they need our help.

The memory of the six million killed by the Nazis demands no less. We in Congress stand with the entire Jewish people in saying Never Again.

AUDREY ARAGON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Audrey Aragon for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Audrey Aragon is a 12th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Audrey Aragon is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Audrey Aragon for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF MR. JIM SCHLECHT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Jim Schlecht, who is being recognized for his work serving the homeless.

Born and raised in Euclid, Ohio, Jim has been a lifelong Cleveland area resident. While attending Cleveland State University, he and a group of progressive Catholics joined together at Merton Community's Houses of Hospitality in Cleveland's Near West Side neighborhood to begin serving the community's less fortunate.

Throughout the years, Jim has become one of Ohio City's most well-known residents. He has worked to establish health centers, schools, book stores, social service agencies and community organizations, such as Near

West Neighbors in Action, which cater to the homeless. He has also worked at the Rose Mary Center, West Side Community House, West Side Catholic Center and currently, Care Alliance.

Because of his relentless work to support those in need, today, at the Bishop Cosgrove Center, the Cleveland Tenants Organization and the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless are coming together to honor his lifetime of service.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. Jim Schlecht. His faith has guided him into a life of service which is unparalleled.

HONORING JOHN "JAY" DALICANDRO

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of John "Jay" Dalicandro. Mr. Dalicandro, who honorably serves the Village of Elmwood Park as village manager, plans to retire this June after 23 years of service.

A native of Elmwood Park, Jay has remained a part of the community throughout his life. To date Mr. Dalicandro is the longest-serving Village Manager Elmwood Park has ever had and his retirement will leave some big shoes to fill. Jay is admired by those in his community for his enduring devotion to the Village of Elmwood Park and his service is to be commended.

During his tenure as Village Manager, Jay has done a tough job very well. He has been responsible for day-to-day operations of the Village of Elmwood Park. Most people in Jay's position remain as Village Manager for a short stint before moving on to another position, but Jay's commitment to the people of Elmwood Park for the past 23 years demonstrates his sincere devotion to the wellbeing of the community.

Mr. Dalicandro's vision for the Village of Elmwood Park has impressed his peers and ensured a bright future for the Village. Jay's accomplishments as Village Manager include establishing the Village's first tax increment finance district, superb handling of the Village's finances, and a commitment to establishing new parkland for the Village. In addition to these accomplishments, Mr. Dalicandro has succeeded in ensuring the Village's fiscal stability by consistently staying under budget.

Jay is credited as being the man who brought the Village of Elmwood Park into the 21st century. His colleagues recognize the hard work he has invested into the community. Undoubtedly, the impact Jay has had on the Village of Elmwood Park will be seen for years and decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jay Dalicandro and his commitment to public service in his community. The devotion he has demonstrated to his work in the Village serves as an example to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the House on April 24, 2012 due to important commitments in my district.

On rollcall 178, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 2157, to facilitate a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands in the Inyo National Forest.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVE CSINTYAN IN HONOR OF HIS SERVICE TO THE COLORADO SPRINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and say thank you to the outgoing President and CEO of the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, Dave Csintyan.

Dave has been a dedicated and devoted servant to our region and our Chamber since 2002. He has also loyally served our country for 28 years as an officer in the United States Air Force. The culmination of that career was in Colorado Springs serving as the Air Base Wing Commander at the Air Force Academy.

Dave accepted new challenges this year in guiding the merger of the Springs Chamber and the Economic Development Corporation. He is a passionate worker and advocate for the Pikes Peak Region and I offer him my sincerest thanks and wish he and his wife Margo the best of success in their future service.

BAILEY BATISTE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Bailey Batiste for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Bailey Batiste is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Bailey Batiste is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Bailey Batiste for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING BIRUTA STAKLE
McSHANE**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved mother and wife, Biruta Stakle McShane. She was born Biruta Isolda Stakle in Riga, Latvia April 21, 1940, and passed away surrounded by her family on April 14, 2012, in Cupertino, California.

Biruta immigrated to Oklahoma following the close of World War II after living for some time in Germany. Raised in Stillwater, she attended Oklahoma State University, where she graduated with honors in Mathematics. Shortly thereafter, she moved to Dallas, Texas, where she met and married Thomas McShane.

Biruta and Tom moved to Burlingame, California and started a family. During her career, Biruta worked in various marketing roles for several Silicon Valley Companies, before ultimately starting her own businesses, Meetings & Incentives Group and Bimark Incorporated. Meetings and Incentives Group is one of the leading event planning groups in Silicon Valley and Bimark Inc. specializes in advertising specialty items. Biruta served as president of the Northern California Chapter of the Business Marketing Association and was honored repeatedly as owner of one of Silicon Valley's top twenty women-owned businesses.

Biruta is remembered for her love of travel and cooking. She explored the globe and planned exotic events for some of Silicon Valley's most successful businesses. She was famous for her endless energy, creativity and zest for making other people's lives unforgettable through her event planning.

Biruta is survived by her husband, Tom McShane, her daughter Laura Powers of San Ramon, daughter Alison Aarts of Millbrae and son Steve McShane of Salinas. Biruta is also survived by her four grandchildren, Jack Powers, Shane Powers, Cooper Powers and Aidan Aarts.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Biruta Stakle McShane for her accomplishments and contributions. The life of Biruta Stakle McShane serves as an example of excellence to those in her life, and her legacy will not be soon forgotten.

MARQUIS ALEXANDER, FUTURE
COMMANDER OF TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY'S CORPS OF CADETS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a milestone reached by Marquis Alexander. He is the first African-American to become commander of Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets. Currently Marquis is a Corporal in the U.S. Marine Reserves and a rising senior majoring in International Studies.

HISTORY OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS AT TAMU

The history of African-Americans at Texas A&M University dates back to the founding of

the institution. African-Americans in the Texas Legislature advocated for and supported the passage of the Morrill Land-Grant Act in 1866, which established the A&M College of Texas between 1876 and 1963. African-Americans worked at A&M as laborers, maids, custodians and various other support staff; however they were prohibited from attending as students and faculty.

The history of African-Americans at A&M has been shaped by decades of racial segregation, quiet desegregation, and attempts to redress historical wrongs. It has been filled with lifelong struggles and determination to fulfill a dream which was accomplished when A&M opened the doors in 1963 to African Americans. The past 37 years have been a continuing struggle by African-Americans and A&M to ensure that the dream is kept alive.

The first African-Americans joined the corps in 1964. The first female cadets came a decade later. In A&M's centennial year, Fred McClure won election as body president, making him the first to be equal to that of Corps Commander and Aggie Yell Leader.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Civil rights is a subject that cannot be ignored or taken lightly, even in this day of progressive movement toward tolerance. We must not lose sight of the continued need for civil rights. We must not relax our initiatives which build greater racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance. While I believe that there is still work to be done on the issue of civil rights and hurdles to overcome, we cannot ignore the progress that has been made as the result of decades of hard work, diligence, the sweat and tears of many of our country's civil rights trailblazers.

This is evidenced by an increase in the numbers of minorities attaining leadership positions in the private and public sectors for example: Ken Chenault, an African American who currently serves as the CEO of American Express; Ursula Burns, who became the first African American woman to serve as Chairman and CEO of Xerox, a Fortune 500 Company; and Antonio Perez, the first Latino American to serve as CEO of Eastman Kodak Corporation to name a few.

BACKGROUND ON MARQUIS ALEXANDER

He is the oldest of 10 children and the first in his family to go to college. He is said to be an admirable and mature young man. Mr. Alexander is currently a Corporal in the Marine Reserves. He has become the first person with military experience to head the Corps. Texas A&M University has the proud distinction of having the most graduates to enlist in our nation's armed forces when compared to other non-military academies.

Marquis Alexander grew up in my home city of Houston. And our city is proud of his achievements. Marquis has always wanted to attend Texas A&M. He was so "gung-ho" military that he participated in Texas A&M's Junior Cadet Accessions Program while still in high school. A week after enlisting in the Marine Corps, he received his letter of acceptance to Texas A&M University.

Yet, true to his word and commitment, Alexander attended boot camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego and spent a year and a half on active duty. He subsequently reverted from active duty status and is serving the remainder of his enlistment commitment in the Marine Corps Reserves. He re-applied for admission to Texas A&M in 2009 and was promptly accepted.