

JOE TINER

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2012*

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

The dedication demonstrated by Joe Tiner 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 Joe Tiner for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

**HONORING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK****HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2012*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you remarks I made earlier this week at home in North Texas in recognition of National Police Week. I was honored to be present with many constituents of the 24th District of Texas alongside the Addison, Carrollton, Coppell and Farmers Branch, Texas police departments remembering those brave men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice in protecting our communities and neighborhoods. It was my honor to speak to this group and it is my privilege to express again my gratitude to the men and women who serve as peace officers and protect us each day.

ADDRESS GIVEN AT MEMORIAL CEREMONY, MAY 15, 2012, LIBERTY PLAZA, FARMERS BRANCH, TEXAS

Friends, it is with both pride and sadness that I am here before you today to recognize National Police Week. We come together today to recognize and honor those men and women nationwide who gave the ultimate sacrifice as officers of the peace. We must give thanks to them and the entire law enforcement family for their selfless actions in keeping our communities safe.

National Police Week is a time for all of us to come together to understand the important role these officers play in protecting the rights and freedoms of our community. It is a time for citizens to reflect and understand the duties, responsibilities, and sacrifices of our law enforcement officers. These men and women provide a vital public service, risking their lives on a daily basis to protect our own.

Today, May 15th, 2012, marks the 20 year anniversary of the first National Peace Officers' Memorial Day Service. That first service was held in Washington, D.C., on Capitol Hill to commemorate the peace officers who

had fallen nationally. In 1989, the first annual candlelight vigil was held at Judiciary Square in Washington, D.C. to honor the men and women who sacrificed their lives.

In 1991, President George H. Bush dedicated a National Memorial for these fallen men and women, honoring them for eternity. This Memorial honors federal, state and local law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and protection of our nation and its people.

On the walls of this memorial are the names of more than 19,000 officers who have given their lives in the line of duty throughout U.S. history. Today we celebrate the lives of all these brave public servants.

Each spring since that first fateful day in 1982, we have gathered nationwide to celebrate and venerate these men and women for their bravery. I ask that you join me today in commemorating and remembering law enforcement officers past and present. These are diligent and loyal men and women. They are devoted to their responsibilities and are dedicated in their service to their communities. Their reputation for preserving the rights and security of all citizens should be honored along with their sacrifice today.

Many officers have come from a home where their mother, father, brother or sister served their community in the same capacity. Family members often serve as an inspiration for their siblings, children and peers to serve as an officer. These inspired few that have the desire to protect and safeguard our communities are truly remarkable. It is that inspiration to protect and dedicate oneself to a community that brings us here today.

These men and women who serve with one another are a family. This is a family that I am very proud to support. They have a deep partnership with their community and each other. When a fellow officer falls in the line of duty, they do not lose a colleague, but a brother or sister. These brothers and sisters may have different badges or different oaths, but their valor in the line of duty is what binds them together. This partnership and this family are being remembered nationwide today.

Every day, officers put themselves in harm's way to protect the citizens and families they serve. These men and women are the continuous barrier between lawlessness and peace.

As a former city councilman, mayor, state representative and now Member of Congress, I have had the privilege of working with our community law enforcement for quite some time. I have the honor of calling countless police officers my friends. I will continue to be proud of their deeds and accomplishments in protecting North Texas, my family and my friends in all of you.

The honor these officers receive must be derived not only from their personal deeds, but the countless acts of violence and crime they have prevented. Today and every day we should remember that with courage, these fallen officers that we call to mind have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community.

It is with a heavy heart that we celebrate the lives of these men and women today. Let us not forget the service and duty they have done for us. And let us pay respect to the survivors of our fallen heroes, and we humbly thank their friends and loved ones for their sacrifice.

**HONORING THE BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA****HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2012*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Blue Star Mothers of America. The Blue Star Mothers of America was founded in 1942 in order to bring together the mothers of children serving in the United States Armed Forces. In 1960, the nonprofit organization was chartered by the Congress of the United States. The Blue Star Mothers continue to provide support for active duty service personnel, promote patriotism, assist veteran's organizations and homeland volunteer efforts. Not only is the organization for mothers, but family members and friends may become associate members, and fathers of military personnel may join the Father's Association. During World War I, the Blue Star Service Flag was designed by Captain Robert L. Queissar and went on to become an unofficial symbol of a child in service. Today this same flag is an official banner authorized by the Department of Defense for display by families and associations who have members serving in the Armed Forces during a period of war. I ask that the U.S. House of Representatives honor the month of May as Blue Star Mothers Month, keeping in mind that sons and daughters continue to fight for our freedoms and protect this great Nation both domestically and abroad.

**RECOGNIZING USTAD RAHAT FATEH ALI KHAN****HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2012*

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ustad Rahat Fateh Ali Khan who is considered to be the "Heart and Soul of Sufi Music."

Rahat Fateh Ali Khan was born on January 1, 1974 in Faisalabad, Pakistan to a prominent family of Classical musicians. He carries on the 700 year-old tradition of Qawwali, a form of Muslim Sufi devotional music.

Rahat Fateh Ali Khan began his formal training in music at the age of seven and had his first performance by the age of nine. By 1997 he was considered the leader of Muslim Sufi music. As a result of his talent and devotion he has built a bridge between the East and the West—in March of 1998 he performed with Eddie Vedder in Los Angeles and has appeared many times in New York City to much critical acclaim. He has also worked on many movie soundtracks such as Dead Man Walking with Sean Penn, The Four Feathers with American composer James Horner and lastly with Mel Gibson in Apocalypto. He is also a renowned Bollywood playback singer. However, more important than his artistic acclaim, Rahat Fateh Ali Khan has been his been recognized numerous times over due to his selfless participation in benefit concerts all over the world.

Mr. Speaker, please join me, my constituents and music lovers from around the world as I recognize Mr. Ustad Rahat Fateh Ali

Khan, as he is the heart and soul of the world music community with billions of fans all over the globe.

## SECOND INAUGURATION OF TAIWAN PRESIDENT MA YING-JEUO

### HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou will be inaugurated for the second and final time on Sunday, May 20th. In addition to its continued democratic development, Taiwan has undergone numerous unprecedented economic, travel and tourism changes—between itself and mainland China—since President Ma first took office four years ago.

In July 2008, just over two months after taking office, President Ma launched the first regularized direct flights across the Taiwan Strait since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949. Such flights now number 558 per week, having greatly eased the burdens of Taiwanese living and working in mainland China. It's also made life much easier for American tourists and businesspeople crossing the Strait instead of having to change planes in Hong Kong, or another third party port, as they once did.

And in 2010, Taiwan enacted its Economic and Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) with mainland China that zeroed out tariffs on a number of Taiwan exports to the mainland. Further ECFA liberalizations will follow. ECFA's allowed Taiwan companies to tap mainland consumer markets while allowing them to stay in Taiwan and trade from their own home base. ECFA's further offered Taiwanese greater consumer choice at more affordable prices, while additionally uncovering opportunities for U.S. companies that have operations on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. It's thus no wonder the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei has, after years of calling for such changes, wholeheartedly applauded President Ma's economic openings. Slowly but surely, Taiwan's steadily reinserting itself into the global economic supply chain, strongly making its case for a resumption of Trade and Investment Framework Agreement talks with the United States.

The influx of mainland Chinese tourists to Taiwan, allowed since 2008, has boosted the island's economy while also exposing mainlanders to Taiwan's free society and vibrant democracy. This fact was most notable during Taiwan's January 14th presidential and legislative elections won by President Ma and his Kuomintang (KMT) Chinese party. Visiting mainlanders were mesmerized by Taiwan's televised debates and dueling public events, and their some of their cohorts back home even took to blogging about it. Last year, 1.8 million mainland Chinese tourists visited Taiwan. That's 30% of all 6.08 million tourists who visited Taiwan in 2011.

On this, his second inauguration, I ask my colleagues to not only congratulate President Ma on his inauguration, but also on his openings to mainland China that have not just benefited Taiwan companies and consumers, but also U.S. economic interests and enterprises in the region.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, my car battery died and I was detained from voting on Tuesday, May 15, 2012. If present, I would have voted yea on the following rollcall votes: rollcall No. 250; rollcall No. 251; and rollcall No. 252.

### JEANNINE LESANTE MAZURKIWECZ

### HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. LOU BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jeannine Lesante Mazurkiwecz, who will be recognized with the 2012 Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce Athena Award. Each year, the Athena Award is presented to a Greater Hazleton businesswoman for outstanding professional achievement. Jeannine's selfless dedication to her career and community makes her an ideal recipient of this award.

Jeannine graduated from King's College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communications. Upon completion of an unpaid internship at WBRE, a regional television station, she declined a full-time job to invest her time and talents in her local, family-owned television news station, Greater Hazleton's First Local News 13/Sam-Son Productions. Since News 13's founding in 1994, Jeannine has worked in a variety of positions. Recently, Jeannine was promoted into administration. Through her various responsibilities, Jeannine has led her team at News 13 to the top of news and information coverage.

Jeannine is also active within the community, from teaching classes at King's College to assisting all types of organizations such as the American Red Cross and the Hazleton Blind Association. Additionally, she is the co-founder of the Making a Difference Foundation and currently holds the position of Assistant Director of Corporate Relations with Professionals Organized & Working to Enrich the Region (POWER) of Hazleton. Furthermore, Jeannine finds time to mentor students at the McCann School of Business and Technology and has been a volunteer to local brownie troops.

Mr. Speaker, Jeannine is truly a pillar of her community in the Greater Hazleton Area. I commend Jeannine for her many years of committed service to the community and our country.

## HONORING MAY AS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

### HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor May as Older Americans Month. Since 1963 our Nation has come together to

celebrate the seniors in our communities. This month the theme is "Never Too Old to Play", which emphasizes how important it is for older Americans to stay active and engaged in their communities.

Communities are encouraged to organize social events like trivia night, painting a mural or a team photo scavenger hunt to encourage seniors to get involved. Just this past week I hosted a senior luncheon in my district.

This annual event is not only an opportunity to listen to my constituents concerns over a great meal, but it is a time for seniors to get together and enjoy themselves. We had performances from local entertainment groups, speeches and karaoke. It was a wonderful time for all involved.

I have also introduced H.R. 3794, the Expanding Opportunities for Older Americans Act of 2011. This bill would amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to include government funding to hire seniors who still wish to be working and active. Although seniors have already given so much, I truly believe they have much more to offer.

Older Americans Month is also a great time to bridge the generation gap. Children to young adults can learn so much from the older generation, but they rarely interact in everyday life. There is so much valuable knowledge the young people from this country can receive from the older generation, and this is an opportunity for people of all ages to get out there and interact together.

This month also gives me a chance to address an issue of key importance; caring for seniors with chronic illness and preventing unnecessary hospitalizations. In-home care can make a huge difference in recovery from illness and inpatient hospital treatments. Being around family and in the comfort of one's own home makes these traumatic experiences that much less painful.

Mr. Speaker, the majority of the skilled home healthcare providers in my district deliver high-quality, clinically effective and highly efficient care. In-home care is so important for the seniors who would otherwise be forced into hospitals without it.

As an elected official I want to make sure that Medicare funds in my district are going to those who qualify and deserve it, so we can continue to provide the best care for our seniors. With such a tough economic outlook throughout the nation it is of vital importance that we are not handing money over to criminals who are trying to play the system.

Mr. Speaker, after decades of paying taxes and working hard so that they will have security in retirement, the seniors of America deserve our full support. I hope every community takes this month to plan at least one event supporting the older generation, and bringing people of all ages together.

This month I honor the seniors of the 37th district of California, as well as all seniors across the country. Thank you for all you do, and do not forget, "It is never too old to play".

## RECOGNIZING THE RIVERHEAD BLUE WAVES

### HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Riverhead Blue Waves