

Captain James Matero
The Cold Spring Volunteer Fire Company
The North Highland Volunteer Fire Company
The Putnam County 911 Emergency Dispatchers
The Putnam County Intelligence Committee
The Fairview Fire Department
The Veterans Affairs Hudson Valley Health Care System

Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to acknowledge and appreciate those who give so much of themselves to keep us safe.

HONORING SOUTH ABINGTON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor South Abington Elementary School, and a very special group of third grade students, recognizing their efforts to found and promote the Paws for Peace initiative.

Inspired by a children's book, Paws for Peace is an initiative started by six third-grade students from South Abington Elementary, with one goal: end the cruelty and suffering of animals in puppy mills. Many puppy mills engage in inhuman practices, including forcing dogs to live their entire lives in cages.

Paws for Peace encourages people to adopt animals from local shelters and pet rescues, rather than turning to puppy mills, using the slogan "Adopt, don't shop!" Through local and social media, members of Paws for Peace have been able to spread their message of animal welfare and humanity, creating a great impact throughout the 10th District.

With the assistance of Principal Robert D. Bugno, and teachers Judy Szymanski and Emily Saslo, third graders Olivia Arcuri, Paige Caskey, Ashley Hamilton, Christina Leo, Gianna Marturano, Mattie McGuinness, and Grace Phillips have truly made a difference in their community. They have demonstrated a heartfelt commitment to their cause, and I am proud to applaud their efforts here today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my constituents, and ask my colleagues to join me in praising their commitment to all walks of life in Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4970 because it represents a missed opportunity to renew the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA. VAWA exists because women have a human right to live in dignity without fear of criminal activity being perpetrated against them, and local and national law enforcement agencies must have specific tools to protect that right.

The bill before this House will undermine the progress our nation has made toward pro-

tecting and supporting victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. It runs counter to the intent of VAWA by cutting vital existing protections for battered immigrant women, and excludes important protections for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning, LGBTQ, victims, as well as Native American women. This bill fails to protect some of the most vulnerable victims and leaves them without access to essential services.

Three in five Native American women have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Up to 33 percent of the LGBTQ community are victims of domestic violence. These are not merely statistics; these are people we represent and they need our support.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

HONORING ROBIN GREGORIUS,
ALABAMA SMALL BUSINESS
PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Robin Gregorius, who was recently selected the 2012 Alabama Small Business Person of Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Ms. Gregorius' personal story is a testament to her determination to realize her dream of establishing an assisted living center that addresses the needs of her patients for the comforts and of home rather than a care facility.

The daughter of immigrant parents from the former nation of Czechoslovakia, Ms. Gregorius grew up on a farm in Robertsedale in Baldwin County, Alabama.

Her career as a registered nurse took her across the country, both near and far, including the cities of New Orleans and Los Angeles. Yet, she returned to the Mobile area to put her knowledge to work for local patients who would benefit from her new approach to assisted living care.

In a recent interview with the Mobile Press-Register, Ms. Gregorius noted that over her career she had observed that her older patients longed for "homey" surroundings in their care facilities with home cooking—important touches that were often lacking in assisting living quarters. And equally important, the staff in many care facilities seldom offered the "family touch" that many older patients sought.

Ms. Gregorius knew there was a better way and she sought to implement a new approach of "assisted living with a heartbeat." While the journey to fulfilling her dream was a long one, involving two decades of saving money—often working double shifts to earn for a down payment—she eventually secured a \$1 million bank loan. The results have been rewarding.

Today, she owns and operates the Country Gables Assisted Living Home in Grand Bay where she and her staff of 14 care for patients in a novel way. As she put it, her care facility "is pretty much run like a big bed-and-breakfast hotel, except it's breakfast, lunch and dinner with a 24-hour continuum of care."

Ms. Gregorius is joined by her mother, Lahoma, and her sister, Ramona, in running their small assisted living facility like a large

family home. Their hard work has been rewarded with the satisfaction of their patients and the knowledge that County Gables is a special place.

Fittingly, in March, Robin Gregorius was named as Alabama's Small Business Person of the Year. On May 20, 2012, she will officially receive her award at a Small Business Administration conference honoring the nation's other Small Business awardees here in Washington, DC.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and my colleagues in the Alabama Delegation, I wish to extend personal congratulations to Ms. Gregorius and her family for not only receiving this wonderful honor, but also for their substantial contributions to the lives of many local seniors.

HONORING POLISH MUSEUM OF
AMERICA

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the more than 110,000 Polish-American constituents in the fifth Congressional district in Illinois, I proudly recognize the 75th anniversary of the Polish Museum of America.

Ever since the inaugural mayoral election where three Polish-American citizens cast their votes for our first mayor, the Polish community has been influencing the culture and direction of the city of Chicago.

The Polish Museum of America is one of the oldest ethnic museums in the United States. The museum was founded in 1935 as a way to promote Polish culture, literature, customs and history as well as attest to the Polish presence in North America.

The Polish Museum of America has one of the most extensive archives and libraries on Polish history in the world, including original prints of flyers, posters, books, and an amazing genealogical research section. The library and archives of the museum are truly invaluable resources for both the Polish and the non-Polish communities of Chicago.

The museum holds many important historical collections, two of which are a collection of personal belongings of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, the second prime minister of Poland, as well as the items from the 1939 World Fair Polish Pavilion. Along with these treasures of Polish history, the PMA frequently houses modern art and other temporary exhibits which represent the proud culture of the Polish people.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure and honor to congratulate the Polish Museum of America on 75 years of deepening all of our understanding and respect of the rich Polish history, traditions, and culture. I wish them even more success in the years to come.

RECOGNITION OF MS. LESLEY
KILP HAENNY

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Lesley Kilp Haenny in

the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management on the occasion of her departure from the Bureau's Office of Congressional Affairs.

Ms. Haenny is ending her federal service to join her husband, Jeremy Haenny, a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, who was deployed three times to Afghanistan and recently transferred to the State of Washington.

Ms. Haenny distinguished herself through exceptional service while serving as a Congressional Liaison for the Bureau's Office of Congressional Affairs. Many Members of this chamber and our staffs have had the pleasure of working with Ms. Haenny over her four-and-a-half years of service with the Bureau.

Every day she provided key support for not only the Bureau and the Department of the Interior but also in assisting every Member of Congress and the constituents they serve. During her time in the Liaison office, Mrs. Haenny was instrumental in ensuring successful communication that kept Members of this body informed of the Bureau's activities in managing the nation's vital offshore energy resources, both renewable and conventional, in a way that ensures environmentally and economically responsible development. Her keen abilities in organization and interpersonal relationships were critical to the timely and successful communications with this body on the mission and program operations of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Haenny for their exemplary service to our nation. I wish them safe travels and continued success in this new endeavor.

HONORING BUD CLARK

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor a longtime friend and community servant from my District.

William Clark, Jr., or Bud as he was known by everyone, passed away recently at the age of 78.

Bud was born in Flint, Michigan, and lived most of his life in that state. Following business school at the University of Michigan, he went to work in the automobile industry and had a very successful career in management at General Motors.

East Tennessee—and my District in particular—has become one of the most popular places to move to in the entire country because of its incredible quality of life. I first met Bud when, like many others from his home state, he moved to Tennessee to retire.

Although he was not a Tennessean by birth, Bud quickly became more involved in the community than almost anyone I know. He undoubtedly touched the lives of hundreds of people in my District in many positive ways.

Bud became active in the American Legion Post 120 and 256, served in the Loudon County Veterans Honor Guard, the Loudon County Republican Party, the Piney Ruritan

Club, the GM Club of Tellico Village, Friends of the Tellico Village Library and was a member of First Baptist Church of Tellico Village.

I have nothing but the highest respect and regard for anyone who serves this country in the Armed Forces, and Bud did so admirably during the Korean War from 1951–1953. He was a very patriotic American who loved this country very much.

I offer my condolences to Bud's wife of 34 years, Connie; daughters, Kim, Karin, Kris, and Keri; 5 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, 3 brothers and 2 sisters.

Mr. Speaker, I will remember Bud Clark as a good family man with a deep faith in God. I urge my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to join me in recognizing the many contributions he made to my District. This Nation is a better place because of his service and example.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Rule and urge a “no” vote on the flawed bill my Republican colleagues will bring to the floor. They had an opportunity to bring the bipartisan Senate Violence Against Women Act, but chose not to.

The Violence Against Women Act has been bipartisan and noncontroversial for almost 20 years now. The update passed the Senate on a bipartisan basis just last month.

Why does everything have to be a partisan fight? Over the past year, my Republican colleagues in the House have blocked an important jobs package, stalled the national transportation and infrastructure bill, dragged their feet on help for students and the impending increase in the student loan rate, and now they have turned what has been a bipartisan effort to protect the victims of domestic violence into a senseless political fight.

Republicans would not even allow debate on any amendments so we could address its flaws.

In fact, their legislation not only rolls back longstanding, bipartisan provisions, but it leaves out protections for our LGBT community, Native American women and immigrants.

Unlike the bipartisan Senate version, the House Republican bill does not include a provision prohibiting any Violence Against Women Act funds from discriminating against anyone based on their sexual orientation.

The House Republican bill also does not include language explicitly including the LGBT community in the “STOP Grant program” that provides funds to domestic violence service providers.

Studies have shown that the LGBT victims face discrimination when accessing domestic violence services.

We should be working towards stronger domestic violence protections for the LGBT community—not trying to exclude them from do-

mestic violence protections, as the Republican bill would do.

One in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. Many of these domestic assaults go unreported by the victims for fear of retaliation by their abuser.

Immigrant victims are oftentimes the most vulnerable to this cycle because their abusers use their immigration status as a tool to manipulate and control them.

That is why in the 1994 Violence Against Women Act Congress included the “self-petition” provision to ensure that immigrant victims of domestic violence could leave their abuser without fear of losing legal status.

The Republican bill would delay and deny that protection for many immigrant victims.

In my home state of Florida there were 113,378 crimes of domestic violence reported in 2010.

If the Republican bill were to pass, more domestic violence crimes would go unreported, more abusers would be free, and more victims would be harmed.

More children, families, and women would be at risk of continued abuse by their abuser.

This bill works in opposition to the very purpose of the legislation—to protect victims of domestic violence.

Not just some victims—all victims.

So advocates across the country who are on the front lines in aiding women and victims everyday have announced their opposition. Please defeat the rule, so that we can call up the bipartisan, improved version from the Senate.

IN MEMORY OF EDWARD MALLOY

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and acknowledge Ed Malloy, who tragically passed away on May 16.

Mr. Malloy was a committed labor leader who served as president of the New York City and New York State Building and Construction Trades council and was a vice president of the New York State AFL–CIO. He was a former steamfitter and a veteran of the U.S. Army who proudly served as Grand Marshal of the 2001 St. Patrick's Day Parade. I was proud to call him my friend.

Ed selflessly dedicated his own life to improving those of the working men and women of New York. He promoted private economic development and public works projects that cut costs and created countless jobs throughout the State. Following the tragic events of 9/11, he heroically led his members in the cleanup and rebuilding of the site.

Ed Malloy's contributions to the State of New York will endure for years to come. My thoughts and prayers are with his members, family and friends. He will truly be missed.