

of community and reminding us all what it truly means to be a good neighbor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Family Pantry of Cape Cod as it continues to fight against hunger in Massachusetts today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 295, H.R. 4201, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL LUSSIER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael Lussier, President and CEO of Webster First Federal Credit Union, as he completes his tenure as Chairman of the Board at the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU). Elected to the NAFCU Board in 2005, Mike has been a devoted and effective leader in the credit union industry.

Given the challenges the country faces in recovering from the financial crisis, Mike's responsibilities as chair have been particularly strenuous. Nonetheless, he has done a masterful job balancing his time as Chairman of the NAFCU Board and his responsibilities at Webster First Federal Credit Union where he first became President/CEO in 1990 at the age of 29. Originally founded as a Polish-ethnic credit union in the 1920's, Webster First currently serves over 47,000 member-owners in Massachusetts' Worcester, Essex, Middlesex, and Suffolk counties.

Throughout his tenure as Chairman of the NAFCU Board of Directors, Mike has been a tireless advocate for credit unions and the members they proudly serve. He has testified before both chambers of Congress on regulatory relief issues for credit unions ranging from member business lending to those stemming from the Dodd-Frank financial reform legislation signed into law in 2010. Mike is also currently a board member of Mass Share Insurance Corp (MSIC) and on the board of Pentegra Retirement Services. Over the years, he has been a trustee of Becker College, on the boards of the Better Business Bureau, Rotary Club, local hospitals, and the American Red Cross. Mike is also a licensed General Aviation Pilot.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Michael Lussier as he reaches the end of his tenure as the NAFCU Board Chairman. It is my understanding that Mike will remain on the NAFCU Board in another capacity and I am sure his experience in credit union management will continue to be an asset to the NAFCU and the larger credit union community.

CONGRATULATING THE SALISBURY UNIVERSITY MEN'S LACROSSE TEAM ON WINNING THEIR 10TH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE 2012 NCAA TOURNAMENT FINAL ON MAY 27TH, 2011

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Salisbury University Men's Lacrosse team on winning the 2012 division three lacrosse national championship with a 14 to 10 victory in the 2012 NCAA tournament final over Cortland University, on May 27th, 2011.

The Salisbury Sea Gulls join an elite group of Division III programs in NCAA history in collecting at least 10 national championships.

They became the seventh squad under head coach Jim Berkman to complete a perfect season with 23 wins and no losses. Also, senior midfielder Sam Bradman was named the Most Outstanding Player in the NCAA Tournament for the second consecutive season.

Salisbury University is located in the heart of the Eastern Shore of Maryland and is a Maryland University of National Distinction. I am honored and proud to represent them in Maryland's 1st Congressional District.

IN RECOGNITION OF LUPUS AWARENESS WEEK

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as co-chair of the Congressional Lupus Caucus, to recognize and honor Lupus Awareness Week. As Members of Congress, we need to do all that we can to get the word out about this little understood, yet life-threatening autoimmune disease.

Lupus affects 1.5 million Americans, of which 90% are female, yet no one patient experiences the same pattern of symptoms. In fact, a wide variety of medications must be used to treat the disease since the manifestations of Lupus vary dramatically from one person to another.

Unfortunately, many more people suffer in silence as they have yet to be diagnosed with Lupus. Many symptoms of Lupus mimic those of other illnesses, and symptoms can come and go over time, which makes diagnosis difficult. Consequently, an accurate diagnosis of Lupus can take as long as four years and usually comes after visits to more than three physicians.

But, through Lupus awareness month and other grassroots efforts to raise awareness, more and more people with Lupus are leading healthier lives and living longer than at any time in history.

Furthermore, researchers are working to better understand the complexity of lupus and

are making great strides in the quest for more effective treatments. Today, there are more than two dozen potential drugs for Lupus in the development pipeline.

Lupus is still complex and unpredictable, but with each day that passes, we are coming closer to greater relief from this disease. For this reason, I will continue to raise awareness and do what I can to secure the resources needed to build upon the steady strides already achieved in Lupus research and development.

THANKING OUR LOCAL BROADCASTERS FOR KEEPING US SAFE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the official start of the 2012 hurricane season. As we prepare for the potential disasters that could strike our city, I want to recognize and thank the men and women who put their lives at risk and work 24/7 to provide lifesaving information to our local communities: America's broadcasters.

Local broadcasters are the most important source of vital emergency information for all Americans and serve as the backbone of the public warning system.

Everyone remembers Hurricane Irene from late last August. Although it had been downgraded to a tropical storm by the time it made landfall in New York, the city and my district narrowly escaped serious damages. The day after Irene hit, there was no service on the Metro-North Railroad and flooding along the Harlem Line. New York City Transit employees had to pump water out of the 148th Street/Lenox Subway Yard. In fact, my district office is only half a block from a Zone B evacuation area. Thankfully, the damage to New York City and my district from Irene was minimal, but next time we might not be so lucky. In any such event, the invaluable contribution of our local broadcasters will be critical to our safety.

Disasters like these remind us of the essential role that broadcasters play in our communities. Local radio and television stations provide our local communities with important news and other critical information, such as emergency and severe weather warnings and Amber alerts.

Broadcasters' commitment to public service is never more apparent than during times of crisis. During an emergency, no other service can match the ability of full power broadcasting to deliver comprehensive, up-to-date warnings and information to affected citizens. Television broadcasters reach millions of households across the country, while radio reaches more than 241 million Americans each week.

As the 2012 hurricane season gets underway and local communities continue to face erratic weather conditions, I feel safer knowing local broadcasters are dedicated and committed to saving lives by providing critical news and information to our local communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF STANDARDS
DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the vital contributions that independent, not-for-profit standards development organizations (SDOs) make to our nation's economy and Americans' quality of life.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), headquartered in my district in Quincy, Massachusetts, is a leading SDO. I am familiar with the work of the NFPA and other, similar non-profit SDOs through my service on the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Public Safety, where model fire codes and sprinkler standards developed and updated by SDOs were integral to the Joint Committee's state-wide effort to promote fire safety.

SDOs and the voluntary consensus standards that they develop are crucial to preserving the quality of life that we, as Americans' enjoy. From the safety of industrial machinery to standard interfaces for audio equipment, SDOs such as, the NFPA, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and ASTM International, have been safeguarding our health, safety and prosperity for over a century. Additionally, standardization is essential to the health of our economy. Uniform methods, specifications, and interfaces improve efficiency and reduce uncertainties in the marketplace.

The Federal government has repeatedly affirmed the benefits of SDOs. In his first term, President Ronald Reagan directed all Federal agencies to turn to private-sector voluntary consensus standards whenever appropriate, rather than developing separate government standards. In 1995, Congress codified this policy with the passage of the National Technology Transfer Advancement Act. This legislation recognizes the expertise of private-sector specialists, and their ability to react to emerging challenges more nimbly than their government counterparts. It also recognizes the value of a stakeholder-driven process oriented towards achieving consensus.

NFPA recently demonstrated this responsiveness in the wake of the tragic explosion that occurred during the final stages of construction at Kleen Energy Plant. Six workers

died and nearly 50 others were injured in the explosion. An investigation by the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) revealed that the explosion was caused by the use of natural gas to remove construction debris from the plant's piping. After its investigation and subsequent safety recommendations, the CSB turned to the NFPA to develop a new safety standard to prevent such explosions in the future. After seeking input from numerous interested parties, the NFPA Standards Council voted in October 2010 to establish a consensus technical committee to develop new standards for gas process safety. Just 18 months after the accident, the NFPA committee issued a new industry standard to prevent future fires and explosions during gas pipe cleaning and purging. I applaud the NFPA for its prompt response to this tragedy. This is just one example of the benefits that standard development organizations provide.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the important work that not-for-profit standards development organizations contribute to developing health, safety and environmental standards that serve the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and beyond.

PRENATAL NONDISCRIMINATION
ACT (PRENDA) OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3541, the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act of 2012. This is a cynical bill under the guise of preventing sex selection which would undermine a woman's right to choose.

Clearly, sex-selective abortions are offensive and unacceptable. But this bill will only interfere with the doctor-patient relationship. Are doctors supposed to interrogate women to determine their motivation for seeking an abortion? What other means must doctors take to ensure that they are not imprisoned as a result of this bill? These threats will only impede open, honest communication between women and their providers and undermine the doctor-patient relationship. Some providers will be discouraged from offering any reproductive

tests and services and as a result, women's access to access safe, legal health care will be jeopardized.

Mr. Speaker, if House Republicans truly wanted to protect women, then they would have allowed a vote on legislation to ensure the right of women to receive equal pay for equal work. Unfortunately they did not. It is for these reasons that I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 3541.

IN RECOGNITION OF BOURNE'S
HIGH WATER MARK SIGN**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the unveiling of the high water mark sign in Bourne, Massachusetts, commemorating the hurricane that struck the northeastern United States on September 21, 1938. This storm was among the most powerful tropical cyclones ever recorded in the region.

Striking with virtually no warning, the hurricane devastated the unprepared Northeast and resulted in over 500 deaths and over 1,700 injuries. In the upper Buzzards Bay region, the hurricane produced a storm surge of 11 to 13 feet across. This resulted in significant financial damages, including the total destruction of 2,600 boats and almost 9,000 homes, as well as severe damage to businesses, roads, and railroads. In addition to record-setting gusts and devastating floods, the hurricane severed power lines in Connecticut, sparking catastrophic fires.

The 1938 hurricane serves as a sobering reminder of the raw power of nature, and of the constant need to safeguard our coasts against these deadly storms. We must never forget the contributions and sacrifices that public safety officials make daily to protect us from disaster, and we must never forget the need to support their critical endeavors. Preparedness is every bit as necessary now as it was in 1938, and we neglect the danger posed by tropical storms at our own peril.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in remembering the lives lost on September 21, 1938, as well as reaffirming our commitment to protecting our nation from the ever-present threat of natural disasters.