

Dowd, a native of Oswego, Illinois who has devoted more than half of his life to serving Aurora's homeless.

After 14 years of service, Friday, September 20th will be Ryan's last day serving as the executive director of Hesed House, the second largest shelter in the State of Illinois, and the largest shelter outside of the city of Chicago. Under his leadership, Hesed House ministries have tripled in effectiveness, housing more than 1,000 individuals annually.

Ryan began volunteering at Hesed House when he was just 13 years old and started working at the shelter during college. Upon graduating from Northern Illinois University's College of Law in 2003 with a dual JD and MPA degree, Ryan accepted a position as the associate director of Hesed House and would eventually become executive director in 2004.

I am humbled by Ryan's commitment to serve our community. While Ryan's work in Aurora is sadly coming to an end, I know he will continue to serve his fellow man and make the world a better place as he begins a career in international human rights.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ryan Dowd and his service to the community. His tireless commitment and dedication will be missed, and I wish him and his family the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE SAN LUIS CANAL COMPANY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the San Luis Canal Company (SLCC) during their centennial celebration. SLCC serves hundreds of landowners throughout Merced County, and we thank them for all of their hard work.

In 1913, SLCC was established as a private mutual water company. SLCC is comprised of 45,000 acres between Los Banos and Dos Palos. They strive every day to protect the land by managing water resources efficiently and effectively. Currently, SLCC is working diligently to resolve the land subsidence issues throughout the Central Valley.

SLCC has a long standing history of working with the neighboring water districts as well as communicating with the landowners in the area. Keeping the farmers involved and informed is extremely important to SLCC, so that all stakeholders can work to come up with solutions to the significant water issues.

SLCC's focus on sustainable irrigation practices is both impressive and commendable. The conservation techniques undoubtedly contribute to maintaining the Central Valley's status as an agricultural leader. Farmers in the Valley feed our great nation, and SLCC is a vital component to ensuring the success of farmers throughout Merced County.

In addition, SLCC manages some of the most substantial water projects in the State of California including the San Luis Canal. It is the largest earth-moving project in the Bureau of Reclamation's history. The Canal ranges from 8,350 to 13,100 cubic feet per second and extends 102.5 miles.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the San Luis Canal Company

as they celebrate this momentous occasion. Their outstanding service and dedication to the farmers and residents in our Central Valley must be honored.

HONORING ALEXANDRA BOSTIC

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alexandra Bostic of Aurora, Indiana, and her parents, Noel and Jennifer Bostic, on Alexandra being selected as one of two national scholarship winners by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (the NIAAA). The NIAAA is an organization founded in 1977 to promote the educational value of interscholastic athletics through the professional development of its member athletic administrators. Alexandra was awarded the scholarship, from among entries from all 50 states, based on her academic achievement, athletic accomplishments, and her essay on how participation in high school athletics impacted her life. In Alexandra's essay, she talked about leadership, teamwork, and time management. She also discussed the value of work ethic, not only on the playing field, but also in the classroom.

These are all important skills that will give Alexandra an opportunity to become a very successful person, but Alexandra's thoughts about the word "sportsmanship" were most touching to me. A rival high school lost one of its players in an ATV accident, and Alexandra's team faced their rival the next game after the accident. However, that day, it was about more than sports. It was about coming together to honor the life of their fellow player, not as opponents, but as friends. As Alexandra said, "this to me is the perfect example of sportsmanship."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Alexandra's achievement and the accomplishments of all her fellow student athletes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION RE- ORGANIZATION CODIFICATION AND COMPLEMENTS ACT"

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, one of our most important responsibilities here in Congress is oversight of executive branch agencies. Such oversight illuminates flaws either in the structure or the conduct of these agencies that sometimes requires legislative action. Today, I am speaking for just such a reason.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission had operated with acceptable performance for quite some time until a few years ago when a new chairman took over the leadership of the agency in 2009. Unlike his predecessors, this chairman did not seek to work collegially with his fellow Commission members, but sought to consolidate and expand his authority as chairman. This abuse of power led to multiple in-

vestigations by Congressional committees and the NRC's Inspector General.

In 1980, during Congress' consideration of President Carter's proposal to reorganize the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Members raised concerns about the potential for just such an abuse by a rogue chairman: namely that the President's plan concentrated too much authority in the chairmanship of the agency.

I believe it is incumbent upon us, as Members of Congress, to exercise our legislative responsibility and address this situation.

For that purpose, my colleagues Mr. Barton, Mr. Burgess and Mr. Kenzinger, and I are introducing the "Nuclear Regulatory Commission Reorganization Plan Codification and Complements Act."

Following the Three Mile Island accident in 1979, the President and the Congress saw the need to improve the NRC's ability to respond to an accident. President Carter responded by proposing the "Reorganization Plan of 1980" to strengthen the power of the chairmanship by consolidating administrative and emergency authorities. A little known artifact of this history is that the 1980 Plan was subsequently approved by Congress as a resolution, not enacted as a law. Our bill would correct that artifact by seeking to codify a modern version of the 1980 Plan while limiting the potential for a chairman to abuse his authority as I described a moment ago.

While the Fukushima accident happened on foreign soil, the then-NRC chairman exercised emergency authority—authority reserved for emergencies within the NRC's jurisdiction—without making a declaration and without adequate reporting of his actions. Clearly, there must be clear operating authority and accountability in an emergency, including a declaration and termination of any special authority. This bill clarifies those requirements.

If the NRC chairman is the subject of an investigation by the Inspector General as a result of allegations of wrongdoing, the Inspector General should not remain under the chairman's supervision. This bill would require delegation of that supervisory responsibility to another member of the Commission.

These are just a few examples of the provisions in this bill. This is about good government. While the current NRC chairman worked to reestablish collegiality at the Commission, I believe we must act to preclude future leadership breakdowns akin to her predecessor. These are common sense changes to ensure the proper conduct of the people's business at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I look forward to working with my colleagues in a bipartisan fashion toward passage of this bill into law.

HONORING THE FRIENDS OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER 20TH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the vital work of the Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) on the 20th anniversary of its founding. Since its inception in

1993, this organization and its army of volunteers has dedicated itself to protecting America's greatest river here at the head of navigation. Countless hours of hard work and dedication by FMR in partnership with many other organizations and individuals is making a difference for generations to come.

When the Friends of the Mississippi River was founded in 1993 its mission was to engage citizens in an effort to protect, restore and enhance the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities region. The river is one of our nation's most important natural resources, cherished each year by millions of residents and visitors alike. As one of the world's longest rivers, the Mississippi is a defining geographic feature of North America and its watershed drains all or parts of 31 states. The river's ecosystem is a natural resource of global significance, with nearly half of North America's ducks, geese and swans relying on the Mississippi River for food, direction and resting places during seasonal migrations.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of its staff, board and the hundreds of members and volunteers that support it, FMR is a one of Minnesota's leading citizen organizations for land conservation, watershed protection and river stewardship. As the ecological vitality of the Upper Mississippi River continues to be under threat, FMR faces the important task of protecting the river's ability to support native plant and animal species. Today, FMR continues to lead efforts critical to the long-term wellbeing of the Mississippi River and the Twin Cities region. FMR provides expertise and technical assistance critical to the protection of the Mississippi River and it continues to engage public and private landowners, local governments and concerned citizens as a steward for current and future generations.

FMR advocacy has helped to make the Twin Cities a model for watershed planning and decision-making. Over the past two decades, FMR has nobly fought for the protection and improvement of the Mississippi River and watershed, and their hard work deserves recognition.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the commitment and dedication of the Friends of the Mississippi River as we commemorate their 20th anniversary today, as they continue the legacy to restore and protect this river for future generations of Minnesotans and indeed all Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 462, I was unable to be present for the vote on S. 793. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING HOLY NAME HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone in the life of a high

school in Ohio. Holy Name High School in Parma Heights begins a yearlong centennial celebration in 2014.

In the first decade of the Twentieth Century, the people of Holy Name Parish determined the grade school must be expanded to offer college preparatory second level higher education. In the fall of 1914, Holy Name High School admitted its first classes. Educated by the Sisters of Charity, Holy Name was the first Catholic high school in the Cleveland area to enroll both male and female students. In its ensuing century of education, both the school and its nearly 20,000 alumni have gone on to make a difference throughout the community, nation and world.

The school's motto, "The School's The Thing," was adopted in 1926. Its message conveys the credo that personal glory in school activity means little. The school encourages its students through the teachings of the Gospels to live Catholic values and develop abilities that prepare them to lead responsible, constructive, and meaningful lives. Name High School seal consists of the Chi Rho encircled by the school of identification. Its seal, the Greek Chi Rho, is an official expression of Holy Name's desire to do all things in Christ, with Him, and through Him.

Holy Name High School's rigorous academic standards are echoed in its extra-curricular activities. From clubs to performances to sports, the "Green Wave" excels. Coined in the 1920, the Green Wave was first used to describe the perfect coordination of the Holy Name football team, which gave the appearance of a giant green wave engulfing opponents.

Through its century of education, Holy Name High School has educated its students, promoted strong values and prepared them to live lives of service. Its alumni include people in public service as well as the private sector, community leaders and those in service to our nation. As the school, its students, parents and alumni celebrate its 100th anniversary milestone, we know they will look upon their years at Holy Name High School with fond recollection, warm memories and pride. Turning toward the future, Holy Name High School walks confidently, ensuring a quality well-rounded education for the generations to come. Onward!

RECOGNIZING MR. WILLIAM "POPSIE" THOMPSON AND "THE WORLD FAMOUS RAINBOW CRUSADERS"

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of one of my most distinguished constituents, Mr. William "Popsie" Thompson, and the young people who work with him as part of "The World Famous Rainbow Crusaders" community musical group. A gifted performer, he uses his talents and abilities to keep our children safe and prepare them for a brighter future.

In 1986, Popsie noticed a group of bored children gathering around his tailor shop in Sunrise, Florida. It occurred to him that what these kids needed was an activity to boost

their self-esteem and academic potential. This inspired Popsie to form The World Famous Rainbow Crusaders, a diverse troupe of over 200 young singers and dancers ranging from ages 2 to 20.

The group has since become a fixture at local celebrations and parades in the south Florida area, representing the community values of tolerance and racial harmony. Furthermore, they are the first drug awareness program to be officially recognized by the Boy Scouts of America. Popsie and his Crusaders have traveled throughout the country, with performances in Tennessee, Georgia, and Washington, DC being among their most notable appearances.

Mr. Speaker, due to their continued efforts to promote the values of anti-drug use, education, and racial harmony, I am proud to recognize Popsie Thompson and The World Famous Rainbow Crusaders. Thanks to them, hundreds of children and young adults in south Florida have greater opportunities to excel and make a difference in their community.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING CSM (RET.) ELLIS DANDY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Command Sergeant Major (Retired) Ellis Dandy, who will be retiring from Fort Benning's Equal Employment Office after more than 52 years of combined active duty military and civil service. He will be honored at a retirement ceremony on Thursday, September 19, 2013 at 12:30 p.m. at McGinnis Wickam Hall at Fort Benning.

A Columbus, Georgia native, Mr. Dandy enlisted in the United States Army after graduating from high school in 1960. Throughout his military career, he served tours of duty in Europe, Southeast Asia and Korea. He taught at Army schools and served first as an Instructor/Facilitator and later as a Senior Instructor at the former Department of Defense Race Relations Institute, which is now called the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute. His last assignment on active duty was at the Pentagon where he served as the Army's Sergeant Major for Equal Opportunity (EO).

After 25 years of military service, Mr. Dandy retired in 1986 with the rank of Sergeant Major (E9). He earned both an Associate and Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology/Psychology from the University of Maryland while on active duty. He also completed the requirements for a Master's in Management from Troy State University shortly after his retirement. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Department of Defense Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (2), Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Army's General Staff Badge, among others.

Not long after his retirement, Mr. Dandy chose to again serve his country as a civil servant and accepted a position as Equal Employment Officer with the United States Food and Drug Administration in Rockville, Maryland in 1987.

In 1988, the Second Congressional District of Georgia gained an extraordinary and hard-working citizen when Mr. Dandy moved to Fort