

disabilities and the elderly. Often, in global disasters, children, the disabled and the elderly are most at risk. These are the people for whom Project HOPE can make a difference.

In addition to Project HOPE's vital work among the Syrian refugee population, they are also serving the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. Project HOPE has a proven track record in the region and is urgently working to provide much needed emergency medicine and medical supplies to the survivors of this devastating natural disaster.

I applaud Project HOPE's 55-year legacy of tireless service to the poor and vulnerable, both here and abroad.

I submit the following article from the Winchester Star, which details Project HOPE's outstanding work to bring medical relief to Syrian refugees.

[From the Winchester Star, Sept. 21, 2013]

HOPE ARRIVES FOR REFUGEES FROM CIVIL WAR-TORN SYRIA

(By Val Van Meter)

MILLWOOD.—The disadvantaged children affect Frederick Gerber the most.

He is at the Al Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan this week, delivering 186,000 doses of vaccine from Project HOPE in Millwood to children there.

Gerber is a director of operations in Iraq for Project HOPE (Health Opportunities for People Everywhere) and helped to build a hospital for children in Basrah, the first new hospital in Iraq—a country with a population of about 33 million—since the 1980s.

His organization is trying to help Jordan and other countries in the area to cope with the influx of refugees from the two-year-old civil war in Syria.

The conflict has generated a flood of refugees into countries neighboring Syria, Gerber said.

Al Za'atari opened two years ago, with 60,000 men, women and children.

Now, Gerber said, Jordan is sheltering more than 600,000, with more than 200,000 in United Nations refugee camps. Al Za'atari is the second-largest refugee camp in the world, and would qualify as Jordan's fourth-largest city.

"It's the size of 600 football fields," Gerber said.

Those in the camps could be said to be the lucky ones. He noted that they receive deliveries of clean water, food and blankets.

Other refugees try to find shelter with family members or friends, or simply squat in empty or abandoned buildings.

"They live in dire circumstances," Gerber said.

Project HOPE, with its focus on health projects, has been working in the Middle East for a dozen years, he said.

This situation, with the refugee totals of those who have left Syria expected to top 3.5 million by year's end—and another 4.5 million believed to be displaced in the war-torn country—is swamping the resources of its neighbors.

"Jordan needs a lot of help to help them," Gerber said.

Project HOPE's donation of vaccines to fight rotavirus is a preventative operation, he said.

Rotaviruses are known to cause diarrhea and dehydration, especially in children, and break out where people are crowded together and clean water and good sanitation are lacking.

Project HOPE is also readying some \$30 million in medical supplies in its Winchester warehouse for shipment to Jordan.

Much of that shipment will be used in the camps—but, Gerber said, he hopes some can

be moved over the border into Syria, where about 2,500 medical professionals are working under battlefield conditions to help casualties from the fighting.

"These are the real heroes," he said.

Estimates indicate that 70 percent of Syria's doctors have fled the country, Gerber said. Most of the nation's hospitals have been damaged or destroyed.

The physicians remaining are working in field hospitals and aid stations, dealing with battlefield casualties with sparse modern supplies or equipment.

Without proper retractors, Gerber said, he has heard of doctors holding a chest open for surgery "with a pair of pancake flippers."

In addition to immediate medical emergencies, he sees a future threat in post-traumatic stress disorder for all refugees and a dim future for the children who may live in refugee camps for years without any hope of getting an education.

Gerber would like to find ways to have Jordanian professionals trained to handle the "stress, depression and anxiety that are so palpable" in and outside the camps.

"Very few have any training in psychosocial illnesses," he added.

But his first focus now is keeping the children healthy.

"I love what I'm doing," said Gerber, a Washington, D.C., resident who spent 32 years in the Army health services.

"And it's wonderful to do it with an organization like Project HOPE."

But seeing children starved or injured "never fails to bring a tear to my eye."

TO RECOGNIZE THE PENNCO TECH'S 40-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Pennco Tech for celebrating 40 years of success in our community. The school and its branch campuses have been training individuals in electronic, automotive, and technological fields for decades. They also specialize in HVAC, building trades, and healthcare—helping prepare young students to excel in good paying jobs in my community.

In 1961, Pennco Tech was established in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1966, they founded the School of Automotive Technology through the Ford Motor Company. Together, these companies were acquired by Pennco Institutes Incorporated in 1973. The schools then united in Bristol, Pennsylvania in 1975. Since then, the school has opened branch campuses in Pennsauken, New Jersey and Blackwood, New Jersey. The Pennsauken campus has also been granted accreditation from ACCSC. Today, both schools offer a wide range of majors that allow students to gain hands on experience within their field of study.

Pennco Tech is a vital educational institution in our community, as they teach necessary skills that further the knowledge of those who are entering the workforce and contributing to the local economy. Once again, congratulations on 40 years of success.

COMMENDING THE CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Clements High School Marching Band from my hometown of Sugar Land, Texas. They won top honors at the 2nd annual Texas Marching Classic in Round Rock, Texas. Not only did Clements take home the championship trophy, but they also received awards for best music, best visual and best general effects. Their award winning performance of "Resistance is Futile" featured music from J.J. Abrams' Star Trek.

After winning the Texas Marching Classic, the band and color guard followed their win with a grand champion victory at the Sam Houston Marching Contest the very next weekend. In both cases, the band headed into the finals in second place but came out on top in the end.

The Texas Marching Classic hosts 22 of the top marching bands in the State of Texas. I can only imagine the preparation that these young students had to put in these last few months. Their hard work and dedication has certainly paid off. The Marching Band has made Clements High School and our community proud. I'm proud to extend a Texas-sized congratulations to the Clements High School Marching Band for their musical achievements.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF BRAHMIN SAMAJ OF USA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brahmin Samaj of USA (BSOU) on its 25th Anniversary. For 25 years, BSOU has represented the Brahmin community in New Jersey, the surrounding region and all Brahmins across the United States.

Established in New Jersey in 1988, BSOU has grown from 11 members to more than 500 members today. In addition to its growth in membership, BSOU has also expanded to each U.S. state, Canada and other international countries. Likewise, it has seen the establishment of sister organizations in New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Florida and Ontario. It was registered as the official Brahmin organization in New Jersey in 1989.

Since its founding, BSOU has been led by ten presidents, including Founding President the late Shri Manibhai Joshi, Arunbhai Kantharia, Pramodaben Joshi, Begavatbhai Pandya, Rasikbhai Bhatt, Vishnubhai Bhatt, Dr. Hitendra Upadhyay, Naishad Pandya, Bhogilal Jani and current President Abhay Shukla. The organization is also represented by a Board of Trustees and Executive Committee which work toward advancing BSOU.

BSOU hosts various social, religious and cultural activities to promote and maintain the traditions and heritage of the Brahmins. It has hosted youth activities, large conventions and

participated in the India Day Parade in New York City, New York for five years. BSOU continues its mission to honor and celebrate the Brahmin history and culture.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Brahmin Samaj of USA as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary. Its commitment to promoting the Brahmin culture and serving the Indian community is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

HAZLETON LIONS CLUB

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Hazleton Lions Club which is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year.

Since 1917, Lions Clubs have offered people the opportunity to give something back to their communities. On October 23, 1923, the Hazleton Lions Club was formed by its Charter President Roy D. Snyder, making it the 20th oldest Lions Club in Pennsylvania. Since its founding, the Hazleton Lions Club has been extremely active within the community, completing numerous projects and making donations in support of many other organizations. These volunteer service projects include the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Project, Red Cross Disaster Response Team, Nescopeck State Park Project, Can-Do Board of Directors, Greater Hazleton Area Fun Fest and the American Cancer Society. Recipients of the club's donations range from national organizations such as the United Rehabilitation Services and Catholic Social Services, to local groups such as Hazleton Little League and the Hazleton Integration Project. The members of this club continue to find ways to give back and improve their community.

Mr. Speaker, for 90 years the Hazleton Lions Club has been a vital asset to the city of Hazleton, Pennsylvania. Therefore, I commend all those who have served to improve their community as part of this important organization.

RECOGNIZING MR. EUGENIO
“GENE” GARZA JR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Eugenio “Gene” Garza Jr. for his retirement from his position as the Director of Field Operations with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in Laredo, Texas. Mr. Garza has dedicated his service in protecting our nation’s borders and its communities.

As Director for Field Operations for the Laredo Field Office since January 2011, Mr. Garza has lead the agency, providing oversight and guidance to the operation of eight ports of entry extending from Brownsville to Del Rio, including 23 crossings, 6 airports, and one seaport and overseeing more than 2,600 employees and imports exceeding \$134 billion annually processed through South Texas.

Previously, Mr. Garza was the Port Director of the Laredo Port of Entry, first with the U.S.

Customs Service and then with U.S. Customs and Border Protection. As Port Director, Mr. Garza oversaw the largest inland port in the U.S., managing more than 800 employees, four international bridges, one airport and a railroad bridge, with an annual budget of \$12 million dollars and with employees in Laredo, Del Rio, Eagle Pass, Roma, Hidalgo/Pharr and Brownsville/Los Indios.

Mr. Garza started his federal career in 1971 with the U.S. Air Force as a Military Police-man, at which time he was introduced to the U.S. Customs Service, Customs Narcotics Detector Dog Training Center at Lackland Air Base in San Antonio, Texas. In 1976, Mr. Garza began his civilian career as a Canine Enforcement Officer with the then U.S. Customs Service at the Port of Laredo. Today, the CBP Canine Program is the largest and most diverse law enforcement canine program in the country.

Mr. Garza has held numerous supervisory positions at the district and headquarters level since his initial appointment, serving an assignment in the Port of Eagle Pass, Canine Enforcement Branch Chief and Chief in Laredo and Acting National Canine Program Director, prior to being selected as the Port Director in Laredo. Under his leadership, the Port of Laredo has earned a number of Commissioner Unit Citations for outstanding performance by the Laredo passenger, trade and outbound, and enforcement teams.

During the course of his career, Mr. Garza has been widely recognized as an expert in international border security management issues and border trade and recognized by CBP, the trade industry and the Vice President of the United States for his expertise. Under Mr. Garza's leadership, the Port of Laredo has undergone significant facilities enhancements, including lane expansions at the Lincoln-Juarez Bridge and the World Trade Bridge. These projects significantly facilitated processing of passenger and commercial traffic and a boost to economic benefits.

In 2007, Mr. Garza was recognized by Texas A&M International University and the Smithsonian Institute as a Distinguished Alumnus in the Smithsonian Institution's Portraits of Latino Achievement. In 2011, Mr. Garza was recognized as a 2010 Tejano Achiever by LULAC Council 12. In that same year, Mr. Garza was selected to the Senior Executive Service in Laredo. Mr. Garza is an active participant in numerous civic organizations and community activist.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and privileged to have the opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Garza for his outstanding service in protecting our communities and his extraordinary commitment to our country. He has truly contributed to this nation in his efforts to protect our borders.

THE NEED TO REVITALIZE
AMERICAN MANUFACTURING

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the efforts to revitalize American Manufacturing.

Manufacturing has long been a central part of the American economy. Right now, there are more than 11 million Americans employed in high-paying manufacturing jobs. And in 2010, manufacturing accounted for 60 percent of all U.S. exports and contributed \$1.7 trillion to our GDP.

These figures are impressive and lend support for the importance of maintaining a vibrant manufacturing sector. Unfortunately, the dominance of the United States in manufacturing has been steadily challenged. The U.S. share of global manufacturing value added declined from one-third in the early 1980s to just one-fifth today. At the same time, manufacturing activity has rapidly increased in emerging economies such as China and Korea.

Even more troubling, is the fact that countries such as Korea, Japan, and Germany have a more R&D-intensive manufacturing sector than the United States. Additionally, each of these countries has a positive trade balance in advanced manufacturing products unlike the \$81 billion dollar trade deficit observed in the United States in 2010.

The truth is that the perception of manufacturing as low-skilled, assembly line work is outdated and no longer applies. The future of manufacturing is advanced manufacturing, a high-tech endeavor that uses sensors, robotics, and cutting-edge modeling and simulation. If we do nothing and settle for the status quo, our position will almost certainly decline further and our economy will continue to struggle.

Thankfully, the Administration has renewed its commitment to American manufacturing and is focused on ensuring that the United States is the global leader in advanced manufacturing. The President has put forward a number of initiatives, including the creation of the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation. The purpose of the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation is to establish up to 15 public-private manufacturing institutes across the country. These institutes will serve as centers of manufacturing excellence and will accelerate manufacturing and help transition cutting-edge technologies from the lab to the factory floor.

The Administration has also called for a number of tax reforms that will provide incentives to companies that bring jobs back to the U.S. These include making the R and D tax credit permanent, reducing tax rates for manufacturers, and doubling the tax deduction for high-tech manufacturers.

The President's commitment to advanced manufacturing appears to be paying off. We are adding manufacturing jobs for the first time since the 1990s. These jobs will have a downstream impact on our economy since it's been shown that for every manufacturing job we create, we add five additional jobs along the supply chain. And for every dollar in manufacturing value added, we create \$1.40 in new value in other sectors of the economy.

We need to continue to move forward with policies and programs that will expand and support the development of advanced manufacturing. I have worked on two such efforts.

First, my bill, H.R. 1421, the AIM Act makes strategic investments in advanced manufacturing research, development, and education. It brings the public and private sectors together to tackle the research needs of industry. It provides small and medium-sized manufacturers with innovation vouchers that will allow them to make their companies and products more competitive. And finally, H.R. 1421