

The success of the fire company is due in part to the leadership of President Richard Wolfe, who has been with the company for nine years. I would also like to recognize Rick Etter, a 29-year member who served as chair of the anniversary committee, and J.B. Anderson, a 43-year member. Their and exceptional service is appreciated.

I commend all the members of Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company for their bravery, dedication and willingness to put their lives on the line to protect our community. I wish them all the best as they celebrate this wonderful milestone.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HARRIET THOMSEN

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Harriet Thomsen from Washington State, who will be recognized as an extraordinary volunteer by Friend to Friend America at this year's Volunteer Appreciation Day on November 23, 2013.

Harriet has been a volunteer and supporter of Friend to Friend since it was founded in 1974. The visitation program connects volunteers to elderly or disabled persons living in nursing homes, increasing the quality of their lives and establishing long-time friendships. Harriet has since been a strong advocate for the elderly community and has worked vigorously to maintain Friend to Friend's mission.

Harriet's passion for volunteerism stem from her first visit to a nursing home in her earlier years. She noticed that most homes provided dark activity rooms and were lacking sanitary equipment. Harriet immediately took charge and published an article in her local newspaper asking for donations like paint, chairs and lamps to improve assisted living facilities. She also mobilized women at her church, addressing the concerns she had about the unfortunate conditions some elderly must endure when living in a nursing home. She became invested and took it upon herself to positively change the living situation of seniors.

Although Harriet is highly praised for her selflessness and dedication at Friend to Friend, she also volunteers at the Children's Hospital Boutique in Kent, Washington and regularly cooks dinners for the homeless at Grace Lutheran Church. She is currently a retiree that spends more than 40 hours a week assisting others.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Harriet Thomsen. Harriet is a true inspiration and an excellent example of a community leader. Her service to Washington State will be appreciated by many for years to come.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD HONORING JOSEPH A. GATTO

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Joseph An-

thony Gatto, a tireless educator and community artist who passed away, at the age of 78.

Born in Pueblo, Colorado on December 22, 1943, Joseph soon came to call California his home as World War II provided a large migration of workers to settle in the West Coast. Officially settling in East Hollywood, Joseph graduated from Fairfax High School where he excelled both academically and athletically. After turning 18 years of age, Joseph enlisted in the United States Army where he was stationed at Fort Lewis in Washington. Upon completion of his service to the military, Joseph returned to Los Angeles and graduated from California State University, Los Angeles and continued his education earning a Master's from Cal State LA and another Master's from Pepperdine University becoming the first in his family to graduate from college.

During his career he worked multiple jobs tirelessly as he was not only an educator in high schools during the day, having never missed a day of work during his 47 years, he also was a University professor on the weekends at Cal State LA and California State University Northridge. All a while serving as an assistant to his brother a concession manager at Dodger Stadium. In 1968, Joseph met his wife with whom he had three wonderful children; Nicole, Michael—a California Assemblyman, and my friend, Marianna, each of whom went on to do great things in their own right.

Joseph was awarded the "Bravo Award" as California Arts Teacher of the Year, in 1986. He was also honored consecutively at the White House by former President Ronald Reagan in 1988 and again in 1989 by former President George H.W. Bush. Following his success, he was honored yet again in 1990 as the California and Pacific Region Art Educator of the year. Joseph wrote many books throughout his life, many being used as classroom textbooks from Canada to Texas.

He will be remembered as a father, friend, and as an outstanding educator in his community. He will be missed by many.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the House to join me in a moment of silence to commemorate the memory of Joseph Anthony Gatto.

HONORING THE HETTINGER FAMILY

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Hettinger family for their commitment to family solidarity. It is evident by their love and support shared between parents and children that this family deserves to be recognized for its commitment to one another.

Robert and Thesia Hettinger have been blessed with a large family, twelve children in all. The family wasn't always that large; however, after Robert's sister passed in 2006, the Hettinger family grew by seven. With ten children at home, Robert's sister's husband became overwhelmed when they learned of her cancer and Robert and Thesia were eager to help.

Robert works as a district network specialist for the Millard Public Schools. Thesia is currently a stay-at-home mother and certainly

keeps very busy with twelve children at home in Papillion. During the final months of her life, Robert and his sister's relationship evolved as they struggled to cope with her disease and living arrangements for all of the children. Soon after his sister passed, Robert and Thesia, along with their five children, made the decision to bring six of their nieces and nephews into their family. The four remaining children stayed with their father; however, they continue to play a significant role in the Hettinger children's lives.

All in all, the adoption process took three years and was finalized in 2009. Recently, the Hettinger's added another nephew to their family, bringing the grand total to twelve children. Miraculously, all of the children are very loving, respectful, and protective of one another and all share a genuine concern for helping others.

The Hettinger reserves Monday nights for family time. During this time they will all get together, which is extremely difficult to do with twelve children between ages seven and seventeen, to focus on their spiritual lives.

Robert and Thesia believe that to be good parents they must teach and lead by example. It is folks like Robert and Thesia who embody the spirit of strong communities. It is an honor to recognize them today.

"FIFTY YEARS AGO THIS DAY": IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the memory of President John F. Kennedy. On the fiftieth anniversary of his tragic passing, it is important to remember all of the ideals that President Kennedy championed and the many Americans that have dedicated their lives to public service based on his example. In honor of President Kennedy, I submit this poem penned by Albert Carey Caswell.

FIFTY YEARS AGO THIS DAY

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

Fifty years ago this day . . .
As a Nation cried and prayed . . .
Fifty years ago this day . . .
As up to Heaven,
an American Hero made his way . . .
Fifty years ago this day . . .
as our Nation's hearts gave way!
Fifty years ago this day . . .
As Camelot,
came to an end that day!
As a Nation's great hopes were so torn away!
As the tears so ran down her face . . .
Fifty years ago today!
For we will long remember,
where we were so then there . . .
Fifty years ago this day . . .
When,
we lost our most beloved JFK . . .
As we all so knelt and prayed!
As up towards Heaven a new Angel made his
way . . .
Fifty years ago this day . . .
So young and so bright,
who so fought to fight . . .
To Save The World!
In World War II,
aboard P.T. 109 all in his most heroic hue
. . .

All in his "Profiles in Courage" as he stood true!

JFK,
a better world so made!
With his "Profiles in Courage" leading the way!

"Let Us All Go Forth" as you would say!
To walk upon the moon,
a dream all in your bold heart had grown!
And oh that hair!
Causing all to stop and stare!
Touching and inspiring hearts everywhere!
And oh that voice,
as so surely you were America's choice!
When leaders lead,
up to new heights our hearts so hoist!
And oh those Brothers Four,
such a work of art of a family's love adorned!
And a lovely wife Jackie . . .
Who all in those tragic days,
out of all that ashes so led the way!
As to her children the hope and strength,
so gave!

As all of their she so eased!
Fifty years ago this day!
Jon Jon . . . and Caroline,
oh how heavy our hearts so weighted!
Fifty years ago this day!
As we lost our most beloved JFK!
And now as we so contemplate,
what we so lost on that day!
As a hole in America's heart was so made!
Fifty years ago this day!
As we all had to so Go Forth!
All out on our course!
To achieve so what up ahead so awaits!
All in our hopes and dreams,
to so sow in our hearts these seeds!
As fifty some years ago!
As a Nation so awoke,
to the words he so spoke . . .
Almost like a prayer,
on an Inauguration spoken there!
"Ask not what your country can do for you?"

"But, what you can do for your country!"
All in what JFK was invoking!
To such new heights,
where only dreams are made by those who burn bright!
As the torch has been passed . . .
"Let Us Go Forth!"
Like that great Irish poet named John,
who inspired us to dream dreams far beyond!
Dearest Jack!
Dearest John!
JFK!

You are gone,
but not forgotten . . .
As your rising tide,
made all boats rise!
Casting your brief light!
As life a Star you rose so high,
and you were gone as we all cried!
Fifty years ago this day!
To Reach For the Stars,
and shoot for the Moon to go far!
As we will remember that smile,
and those eyes . . .
and that hair and his Irish charm as comprised!

As up in Heaven now,
a pickup football game rages on up in the skies!
And then a shot rang out . . .
on that dark day when the music died!
As we will never know what could have been?
But we knew what was so then!
And that we have all so been cheated by this dark sin!

But Jack,
all of that light you so left behind!
Still, beckons to us all so all in time . . .
To Go Forth!
To Dream Dreams all out on our course!
All in the service to Mankind,
we feel your force!
Yes, Dearest Jack . . .

My Dearest John . . .
you have left,
but you are not gone!
As your fine life,
among this world lives on!
Now,
"Let Us Go Forth" . . .
And by your Profiles in Courage,
let all our hearts be warned!
As we remember,
what took place fifty years ago this day . . .
As together let us pray.

CONGRATULATING THE IMAGE BAND

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Image Band of the Washington, DC Metro Area on their celebration of their 35th anniversary this week. The Image Band is not just any other Caribbean band, they are a band with roots in my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, who for the past 35 years have kept the sounds of home alive and vibrant for Virgin Islanders and Caribbean people who have migrated here and for people like me who work here and sometimes need to enjoy the cultural flavor of home.

Mr. Speaker, the Image Band returns to the islands regularly to perform there, most notably New Year's Eve on St. Croix and in other East Coast cities, Canada, and the Caribbean, where the Virgin Islands-Caribbean diaspora resides to entertain and excite and to provoke cultural memory. They have fulfilled their founding mission to "reproduce, propagate, and improve the dynamism of the Caribbean musical form." The Image Band was the first group to win the Best Musical Band Award presented by the DC Carnival and they have been crowned Brass-O-Rama champions at the Trinidad and Tobago Days in the Park in Baltimore. The Washington Post has featured their involvement with the Caribbean Fest Live at the Carter Baron Amphitheatre.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands and the entire Caribbean and Caribbean diaspora, I want to say thank you to the Image Band, led by Sarge for their many contributions to the culture of the Caribbean and for many memorable, enjoyable, moments that they have provided for so many of us.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LORD'S PLACE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate The Lord's Place as they celebrate their 30th anniversary. Over the years, I have come to work very closely with this wonderful non-profit organization and have seen first-hand the critical work they do to aid the homeless population in South Florida. It is particularly fitting that we mark this anniversary during National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week, when,

as a nation, we reflect on the progress we have made in reducing hunger and homelessness, and recommit ourselves to the work that remains to put an end to these tragedies once and for all.

For 30 years, The Lord's Place has been a place of refuge for homeless Floridians in Palm Beach County. The organization is dedicated to breaking the cycle of homelessness, and provides critical services to the local community such as job training, health and human services, supportive housing, and community engagement.

Additionally, The Lord's Place operates numerous social enterprises and businesses, such as a thrift store, a catering company, and a community garden, which provide real world experience to homeless Floridians attempting to break their own cycle of homelessness. By helping to educate and provide valuable employment opportunities for these men and women, The Lord's Place provides a path that has already allowed hundreds of formerly homeless Floridians to reenter society and lead independent and self-sufficient lives.

In 2012, The Lord's Place provided these support services to hundreds of people in need. More than 400 men, women, and children were offered supportive housing, and remarkably, by the end of the year, 92 percent of these individuals were no longer homeless. Many now lead self-sufficient and independent lives. Furthermore, dozens of formerly homeless men and women better educate themselves with the organization's on-the-job skill training program every year. This has allowed hundreds of formerly homeless Floridians to find work with local employers.

Mr. Speaker, I want offer my most sincere congratulations and heartfelt gratitude to The Lord's Place CEO Diana Stanley, her staff, and volunteers for all that they do each and every single day. I very much look forward to continuing my partnership with them for many more years to come.

REMARKS OF WELCOME TO KING MOHAMMED VI OF MOROCCO TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I join with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in welcoming King Mohammed VI of Morocco to Washington. Support for good US relations with Morocco is a matter that has achieved longstanding, bipartisan support.

On Friday, November 22, 2013, King Mohammed VI will meet with President Obama at the White House for discussions designed to deepen the two countries' long friendship and strategic partnership.

The friendship between our two countries goes back to 1777 when Morocco's Sultan Mohammed III, the current king's namesake, was the first head of state, and Morocco the first country, to recognize the new United States.

Morocco was also the first country to sign a Treaty of Peace and Friendship with the United States. Negotiations for this treaty began in 1783 and the draft was signed in