

In 1985, members of Pheasants Forever helped form the Conservation Reserve Program, CRP, as part of the Department of Agriculture. The CRP implemented a land set-aside program that paid landowners to keep their environmentally sensitive areas unused, creating more natural habitat for pheasants and other wildlife.

To this day, Pheasants Forever continues to work closely with the Department of Agriculture, partnering with USDA service centers and local landowners to create and improve vital habitat on private lands. More recently, Pheasants Forever launched the "Build a Wildlife" program to create public hunting grounds and outdoor recreation areas. In 2005, Quail Forever launched to focus on improving habitats for quail populations. To date, Pheasants Forever's various initiatives have protected and improved more than 8 million acres of wildlife habitat. These significant achievements have reversed the trend toward vanishing grasslands, and made Minnesota a premier example of upland habitat conservation.

Mr. Speaker, I honor the 30th anniversary of Pheasants Forever and the hunters and outdoor enthusiasts who make this organization successful.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAVAS
TSIVICOS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Savas Tsivicos as he is celebrated by AHEPA Chapter #287 with a Testimonial Dinner in his honor. As Past President of the Chapter and Past District Governor of AHEPA District 5, Savas is truly deserving of this recognition.

A native of Cyprus, Savas immigrated to the United States in 1982 to pursue educational and work opportunities. He earned a Bachelor's Degree and MBA in Management from Fairleigh Dickinson University and a Masters Certificate from George Washington University. In 1989, Savas founded Tsivicos Enterprises, Inc., a consulting and construction management company, and continues to serve as its President today.

Active in the Greek community, Savas has been a tireless advocate for the people of Cyprus. He co-founded the Panpaphian Association of America in 1987 and twice served as its President. He also served as Chairman of the American Hellenic Institute Public Affairs Committee for 3 years. In addition, Savas has been a member of countless other Greek organizations, often holding leadership positions, including the Cyprus Federation of America, which represents all Cypriot Americans. Likewise, Savas has served on the Board of Directors for the NJ Greek-American Chamber of Commerce and Cosmos FM, a Hellenic public radio station. Savas also serves on the Cyprus Children's Fund and is an active member of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Ocean, NJ.

Savas has received many awards for his tremendous work on behalf of the community. In 1988, the Government of Cyprus recognized his contributions with a Certificate of

Recognition. He has also been honored with the Greek-American Chamber of Commerce of NJ Achievement Award, the NECO Ellis Island Medal of Honor Award, and the Evagoras Pallikarides Award of Merit. Savas has twice been recognized as Ahepan of the Year, first by the John G. Thevos Fifth District and most recently by Chapter #287.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Savas Tsivicos for his immeasurable contributions to the community and thanking AHEPA Chapter #287 for hosting the Testimonial Dinner in his honor.

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR DANNEL
P. MALLOY AT THE INTERFAITH
VIGIL FOR FAMILIES OF SANDY
HOOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of the lives lost at Sandy Hook Elementary School. I submit the remarks of Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy, at the Interfaith Vigil for the families and community of Newtown, CT with the President of the United States.

Pat, thank you for all of the great work that you have done for this community in the last three days. To the police chief and to the superintendent of schools, thank you for your great service, as well. To all of the first responders, thank you.

When I came into the hall, one of the first songs to be played on the piano was "Amazing Grace," which is fitting for any number of reasons. Its become an anthem for first responders. It has great words. It also speaks of the power of faith.

"Amazing Grace" was written by a former sea captain engaged in the slave trade. And those profound words that "I once was lost and now am found" speak to us on a day like today when we are called upon—dare I say required to be invested in our faith.

A faith so evident in this room and in this community at this time. A faith that is, after all, at its very core a gift from God. A faith in which we find comfort and hope and compassion. A faith in which we are given the power to go on, to survive that which has befallen this community, these families, these spouses. That which has happened and is unimaginable and unthinkable and was never, we thought, intended to be upon us here in Connecticut, or in Newtown, or in Sandy Hook.

I choose to think about the fact that in the coming days we will officially enter winter. And that is always to be followed by the spring. Let me assure you that in winter, each time I see the beginning of a snowfall, I will be thinking of those 27 souls lost just a few days ago.

Each time the day gets a little longer, I will think and dream of the lives that might have been and the lives that were so full of grace. And when the flowers start to come out of the ground, and when they rise up, I will know that we are in touch with those that we have lost in the last few days.

We will go on, we will find strength. Faith is a gift, as is our ability to support one another in our greater community.

To all of you, I extend my most profound condolences on behalf of all of your fellow citizens for what you have seen, for what you have witnessed and for what have you personally experienced.

We will move on, we will never forget, we will in many ways be made stronger for what has transpired and we will get better.

We are blessed today to have with us the President of the United States, who upon meeting with Pat and me just a little while ago said that the most difficult day of his presidency was Friday, when he heard the news of that which had befallen this community. I assured him that Connecticut, Newtown and Sandy Hook are strong, and I welcomed him on your behalf to our community.

I now introduce the President of the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE KHOJALY
MASSACRE

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues and people all over the world in recognizing the tragedy known as the Khojaly Massacre which occurred on February 26, 1992 in the small Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. The attack resulted in the massacre of 613 Azerbaijani civilians and is one of the most devastating acts of violence in the South Caucasus in recent history. According to some accounts, the fate of 150 Khojaly inhabitants is still unknown, even after twenty-one years.

The numerous casualties and acts of torture in the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan underscore the need for a political—rather than a military—solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. A fair and comprehensive settlement is the only effective tool to encourage stability, prosperity, and a lasting peace in the region. As co-chair of the Minsk Group, the United States remains committed to working with both sides to that end. With that goal in mind, we remember and mourn the 613 victims of Khojaly and work together to safeguard the human rights of all.

HONORING THE JACKSON,
MISSISSIPPI FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Jackson, Mississippi Fire Department. The Jackson Fire Department is the largest fire department in the State of Mississippi. The Jackson Fire Department currently consists of 7 divisions with 433 budgeted positions. The 7 divisions that make up the Jackson Fire Department are Administration and Finance; Arson and Internal Affairs; Community Relations and Fire Safety Education; Emergency Services; Training, Safety, Research and Development; Office of the Fire Marshal; and Fire Loss.

Emergency Services is the largest division which consists of 21 fire stations and 32 pieces of emergency equipment. In 2006, they upgraded all of their Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBA) along with new ultralite facepieces. The Jackson Fire Department constantly strives for improvement and the highest level of firefighting by updating and purchasing

the latest firefighting equipment and technology such as thermal cameras, chemical detectors, weather stations, portable radios, TSI Portacount Plus Respirator fit testers, Scott Eagle Imagers, video conference systems, Lifepak AEDs, and personal protective gear.

In April 2006, the Jackson Fire Department sponsored an Urban Search and Rescue class, which enhances their ability to serve the City of Jackson and any other city in times of immediate need. In the summer of 2006, the Jackson Fire Department received 7 new fire trucks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Jackson Fire Department for their dedication to serving the citizens of Jackson, Mississippi.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF FLOYD WEAVER

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the public service of Floyd Weaver.

Floyd Weaver's family first moved to Stockton, CA in 1938 from Phoenix, Arizona. After attending local schools in Stockton, he served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. A proud veteran, he then dedicated his life to the social, educational, and economic advancement of community members in Northern California.

Mr. Weaver retired from the Stockton Unified School District after more than three decades of service as both a teacher and an administrator. Mr. Weaver was the first African American male principal in the Stockton Unified School District.

In addition, he served on the Stockton City Council and was also the first African American to be a two-term vice mayor for the city. In recognition of his hard work on the city council, local commissions, and his political activism, Mr. Weaver was honored with a lifetime achievement award by the Stockton Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 2006.

One of Mr. Weaver's proudest accomplishments was overseeing construction of the Martin Luther King Jr. plaza in downtown Stockton while he was vice mayor. He was also instrumental in changing the name of Charter Way in Stockton to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

As our nation celebrates African American History Month, it is important that we recognize local heroes who helped shape our communities and states for the better. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the public service contributions of Floyd Weaver.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM D. LAUNDY

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 43-year career and service of a con-

stituent and my friend, William D. Laundry of the State University of New York in Plattsburgh, New York, and to congratulate him on his retirement. Mr. Laundry has served countless numbers of New York's college students in a variety of different roles at SUNY Plattsburgh, ultimately retiring as the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

For more than four decades, Mr. Laundry has devoted his life to ensuring students at SUNY Plattsburgh gain an education that prepares them to lead our society. As Director of Residence Life, Director of Campus Life, Dean of Students, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Mr. Laundry has served as a valuable counselor and confidant to his students, guiding them through the most formative parts of college and helping them understand the lessons life teaches outside the classroom.

Mr. Laundry's influence in the Plattsburgh community spills beyond the border of the SUNY Plattsburgh campus. Whether he was officiating an alumni couple's wedding, helping a recent graduate land her dream job, or connecting an eager student to a new perspective in his service-learning experience, William Laundry has helped make our community a more vibrant and better place.

I have known Mr. Laundry personally for more than 20 years. He deserves recognition for his outstanding character and warm sense of humor, and most of all for his consistent dedication to the students, alumni, and the university, the spirit of which is etched deeply in his soul.

I wish Mr. Laundry well in what I am sure will be an active retirement. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him and wishing him success in his next endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO LINDA LEVINE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Linda Levine, on her more than 30 years of outstanding service to our nation. Ms. Levine, who is retiring on February 28, 2013, has served as a Specialist in Labor Economics for the Congressional Research Service (CRS). She is the model of a dedicated public servant.

Linda received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University and a Master's degree in Labor and Industrial Relations from Michigan State University.

Linda began her career in federal service in 1976 as a labor economist at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, followed by her service as a research economist at the Communications Workers of America. Linda joined the Congressional Research Service in 1982, where she has worked for more than 30 years. During that time, Linda assisted Congress with dozens of reports, countless memoranda, and numerous consultations with Congressional staff and Members of Congress. Linda also served as Section Head of the Labor and Industries Section at CRS.

Linda's first report at CRS, entitled "The Impact of Defense Spending on Employment,"

was as relevant then as it is today. Her last report traces changes in the real value of the minimum wage. In between, Linda drafted analyses on older workers, younger workers, women in the labor force, pay equity, unemployment, job growth, and inequality. She also wrote reports on leave benefits, worker safety, green jobs, offshoring, the chained CPI, immigration policy, and many other subjects.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Linda Levine and in extending our nation's gratitude to her for her honorable and productive service. I know that we will all miss her significant contributions to the important labor economic issues of our country and wish her well in the years to come.

SCHOOL SAFETY

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the important issue of school safety. The tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut shocked and saddened us all. We must learn from this deplorable incident so our children and educators know their school is the one place they should feel the safest.

As we grapple with Newtown and other school tragedies, we have to discuss how these incidents could have been prevented and what steps should be taken to prevent something like Sandy Hook from happening again. As a former federal law enforcement agent, I recognize that our schools must be safe and secure, and I welcome this important discussion. I strongly believe that we must examine ways we can protect our schools through responsible security protocols, barriers, and training.

However, I must share my objection to the idea of allowing educators to carry weapons in schools. As a supporter of the Second Amendment, my objection has nothing to do with gun rights. I object to this proposal because our schools are—and must remain—a safe haven for teaching and learning. School administrators, teachers, counselors, nurses and the many other support professionals all have unique roles and responsibilities for ensuring a productive learning environment for children in their schools. We should not diminish the importance of allowing teachers to teach, principals to lead, and counselors and nurses to care by also asking that they serve as armed security.

HONORING ANNIE LARRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous woman of the community, Mrs. Annie Larry.

Annie Larry, a lifelong resident of Rolling Fork, MS was born August 4, 1962. She is the sixth of ten children born to the late Mariah and Herman Larry. Annie has been married to Nathaniel Pinkins for twenty-six years, and they have four children.