

parish was detached with the establishment of Bartholomew parish. Father Meagher's successor, Father Bernard C. Cronin, oversaw the building of a new St. Matthew Church and Rectory at Ninth Avenue and El Camino Real which opened in May 1966. The downtown church also remained open. Father Cronin was elevated to Right Reverend Monsignor in 1972.

In 1979, Father James Ward, a graduate of St. Matthew School, class of 1937, became its eighth pastor. Father James Ward was devoted to the school and the students. During his tenure, the downtown church was demolished after suffering seismic damage. He and the archdiocese fought hard, yet unsuccessfully, for the vacated property that was eventually leased to Walgreen Drug. Father Ward died from a leg infection in 1995. Monsignor James McKay succeeded him and oversaw fundamental renovations of the newer church at El Camino Real and Ninth Avenue that are still in place today.

In 2004, the tenth and current pastor replaced Monsignor McKay. Father Anthony McGuire now oversees the St. Matthew parish of 2,500 and is credited with growing the diverse parish and attracting an ever increasing number of Hispanic and Asian families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor the rich history of St. Matthew Church in San Mateo which has been a place of spiritual and social growth for thousands of families for 150 years.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 614 on approving the Journal. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

#### UNITED NATIONS' INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United Nations' International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Every day, persons with disabilities around the world must face undue physical, social, and economic hurdles in society. International Day of Persons with Disabilities is just one of many opportunities to focus on these individuals' accomplishments.

Since 1992, the United Nations has promoted this international day of observance in order to promote a better understanding of disabilities and to enhance the well-being of persons living with disabilities. These individuals frequently lack access to basic resources such as gainful employment or healthcare. With over one billion people around the world living with some form of disability, it is critical that we raise awareness around these issues.

The National Industries for the Blind (NIB) is one organization that works to raise aware-

ness and provide tangible services and assistance to those living with disabilities. NIB, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, works in 35 States at more than 250 locations across the United States to provide these invaluable services. NIB continues to promote new opportunities for individuals with disabilities through its widely recognized AbilityOne Program.

In my district, I have had the distinct pleasure of visiting the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind, a non-profit organization that provides job training and services to visually impaired individuals. The Dallas Lighthouse, a local National Industries for the Blind agency, employs 185 visually impaired persons and has provided training for employees within certain agencies of the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, as we join the international community in recognizing International Day of Persons with Disabilities, it is important that we highlight the local organizations here at home that bring real value to communities across the U.S. The National Industries for the Blind is one such organization and that I am pleased to recognize as it celebrates 75 years of enhancing the lives of others.

#### IN HONOR OF RACHEL WHEELER-ROSSOW

#### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor a dear friend, Rachel Wheeler-Rossow. Rachel passed away on November 29th at the age of 74. Compassionate and selfless, Rachel dedicated her life to helping those less fortunate. She was a pillar of her community in Ellington, Connecticut, and she will not soon be forgotten.

Rachel was born in Long Beach, California on March 20, 1939. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Salve Regina University and her Master's in Nursing from the Catholic University of America. In 1970, she moved to Ellington, Connecticut and threw herself into public service. Four years later, Rachel and former husband Carl founded the Alpha & Omega Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children with disabilities. Rachel and Carl ran the group out of their home, while taking in and raising nearly 50 children—a remarkable act of compassion and generosity.

Rachel's work earned her recognition from former President Ronald Reagan at the White House in 1983. In 1990, she was awarded the Outstanding Humanitarian Service Award from Connecticut's Department of Children and Youth Services for her work on child welfare programs for children with HIV. The following year she also was honored with one of only 11 National Caring Awards from the Caring Institute, a Washington, DC based non-profit committed to promoting the values of integrity and public service.

Rachel was deeply involved in the local government of Ellington, serving on the Board of Education, the Board of Finance, the Board of Selectmen, and as the chairwoman of the town Democratic Party. In addition to her nationally recognized efforts, her non-stop work

to improve the lives of others never got in the way of her own thoughtfulness and down-to-earth manner. She was a good listener and had a modest quiet-spoken presence that carried a power and dignity that impressed all who came into contact with her. A friend of Rachel's, former Connecticut State Representative Ted Graziani, described her as "an angel," whose example should inspire us all to be better people.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring Rachel Wheeler-Rossow, whose altruism touched the lives of so many people in Connecticut.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF RENOWNED WOMEN'S RIGHTS ADVOCATE SISTER MARY NERNEY

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the passing of East Harlem's beloved Sister Mary Nerney who passed away on November 27, 2013 at the age of 75. Sister Mary Nerney was a dear friend of mine and a pillar to our community as she advocated for women with histories of abuse and trauma. Although I speak with grief of such an overwhelming loss, I ascend to rejoice a life well lived and proudly remember the accomplishments of a remarkable woman.

Sister Mary Nerney was admired for her leading role in the Catholic social justice movement in New York City. As unemployment, violence, and drug use began affecting women disproportionately in Harlem during the late 1970s, Sister Nerney undertook the challenge of constructing a pathway for female prisoners to reenter society. Through her diligent work, Sister Mary was able to found numerous alternatives to incarceration programs designed for female offenders.

In 1975, Sister Mary Nerney formed Project Green Hope: Services for Women Inc. in Harlem to offer a treatment program for formerly incarcerated women. As envisioned by Sister Nerney, her organization developed formal relationships with the criminal justice system and expanded its work to include services for women on parole. Through Sister Nerney's leadership, the program has helped over 4,000 women reclaim their lives by reestablishing contact with their families and children, enrolling in educational programs and securing housing at their Green Hope Houses.

Sister Mary Nerney also founded STEPS To End Family Violence in 1986 after she saw a great need for services for the victims of gender-based violence and trauma in New York jails and prisons. And though STEPS began with a staff of two, Sister Nerney developed it into an extensive network of comprehensive services and innovative programs for abused women. Thanks to Sister Nerney's constant work, STEPS now offers essential teen programs, children's therapy, counseling, and legal services to help prevent further gender-related violence and trauma.

Sister Nerney was loved in our community because of her constant work with staple organizations and her unwavering Women's Rights activism. She was a proud member of the Pax Christi Catholic Peace Movement, the

New York State Coalition Against Violence, the New York Coalition for Women Prisoners and the Legal Aid Society Board. Her outstanding commitment to Women's Rights Advocacy has won her awards from the Network Women of Justice in 1997 and the Human Services Consortium of East Harlem for 30 years of outstanding work in the community. Sister Mary also founded the Incarcerated Mothers Program and was a founding member of the Coalition for Women Prisoners. Only days before her death, our dear Sister Nerney continued to counsel inmates and visit prisons with the message of hope for a better life.

Mr. Speaker, rather than mourn her passing, I hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of my friend Sister Mary Nerney by remembering that she exemplified greatness in every way.

---

IN RECOGNITION OF SHARON  
WILLIAMS

---

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the remarkable Sharon Williams, the long-time director of Menlo Park-based JobTrain. Sharon is retiring after forty years of instilling opti-

mism in each JobTrain client and building life skills amongst an entire community. I have watched with amazement over these many years as Sharon has guided the JobTrain organization.

Sharon earned her BA in English from the University of the Pacific in 1965 and her teaching credential from San Francisco State University in 1968. She joined JobTrain in 1973 as a GED teacher. She became Director of Development in 1978 and a short time later took over as Executive Director. Conducting job training classes and connecting people with jobs was very difficult in the late 1970s. Sharon guided JobTrain and its clients through difficult financial times and build a stunningly successful career and job education center.

With Sharon's outstanding leadership, JobTrain has offered cutting-edge and traditional job training, everything from solar panel installation classes to computer repair to culinary arts to laboratory technician training for biotechnology facilities. Knowing that life skills are a large component of the training done by JobTrain, Sharon and her staff insist that clients learn how to show up on time to work, become team members in the modern work environment, and learn how to balance work and the demands of a family.

Mr. Speaker and Members, Sharon Williams has infused JobTrain with the same "can do" attitude that she insists from her clients. I've

visited JobTrain on several occasions, most recently in the last few months.

It's a very busy place. JobTrain helps 8,000 persons per year, and 600 of them receive full-time vocational training. At least 85 percent of those who enroll complete their training. Seventy five percent of those persons are placed in jobs, and 12 months after placement, 84 percent are still working. JobTrain's success is spelled out in these numbers. Sharon's contributions to the Peninsula are not limited to JobTrain. She currently serves on numerous boards, including the Center for Excellence in Nonprofits, and East Palo Alto Digital Village. She has also previously served on the boards of the East Palo Alto Senior Center, the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula, Leadership Mid-Peninsula, and the San Mateo County Workforce Investment Board.

After forty years at the helm of JobTrain, it is time for Sharon Williams to bid her beloved nonprofit goodbye and to head off in new directions. The only thing missing from JobTrain's smorgasbord of classes at the moment is a class on how to make eyeglasses. That's not surprising. Sharon sees quite clearly the need for human dignity through productive work. Why would she believe that anyone else in the community needs glasses when her own sight is both perfect and prescient? Let us give Sharon the highest compliment that any employer can offer an employee. Let us say, "Job well done."