

benefits for mass transit and parking. Congress did the sensible thing when it increased the commuter benefit cap to \$245 per month, the same as for parking earlier this year. Unless Congress takes action now, however, mass transit benefits will decrease by nearly 50 percent, to \$130, while the benefit for parking will increase to \$250. However, this bill makes federal tax benefits for mass transit and parking equal at \$250 in 2014. I support a permanent equalization of commuter benefits, but given the costs associated with a permanent extension, the focus of this bill is on a one-year extension of equal benefits.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

HONORING DONNA HOFFER ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Donna Hoffer as she retires after more than thirty years of faithful, dedicated service to Southeast Michigan. As she retires at the end of this year, I honor and recognize her dedication, passion, and hard work in service to the Southeast Michigan, and the people I have served since 1982.

In 1982 Monroe County became part of my Congressional District. I asked the community's leadership for recommendation of a fine and committed civil servant. Donna Hoffer was unanimously recommended and she joined the staff, managing the Monroe district office for 29 years. She competently and astutely served the community as my representative, in addition to handling a complex variety of casework including Social Security matters, of which she is an expert. When redistricting occurred and I lost Monroe County, Donna stayed on, serving well in our Ypsilanti office.

Donna's loyalty to the office and steadfast dedication in her service to the District has stood out through the years, and it has no bounds. Just recently, Donna played an instrumental role in having a lung transplant denial overturned, giving another chance at life to a desperate constituent. Donna has been a critical part of my staff and I am honored that she has spent her career serving the people of my Congressional District.

I extend my congratulations and best wishes to Donna in her retirement and hope that she enjoys the time with her husband, Mick, their two children and four grandchildren. I sincerely thank her for the loyal years she has given in service to Southeast Michigan. She is a dear friend and is the kind of public servant who brings credit on our Government with her faithful and dedicated effort on the behalf of the people we are honored to serve.

HONORING THE CENTRAL CATHOLIC RAMS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, victories on the field are much sweeter when achieved by a team, dedicated in unity to achieving its goals. This week the Central Catholic Rams won the OSAA Class 6A Championship, defeating their archrival Jesuit 38–28. It was a fitting end to a 14–0 season and showed what can be done with teamwork and effort.

In a truly dominant year, both during the regular season and playoffs, the young men of Central Catholic, their coaches, and their supporters inspired their fellow students and the community through their exemplary actions on and off the field. This is a season that can inspire great pride as the 2013 Rams join the 1952 and 1953 championship teams in the halls of glory.

Go Rams!

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF MS. DOLORES DUNN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service, dedication, and accomplishments of Ms. Dolores Dunn, Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Health of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, upon the occasion of her retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives.

Ms. Dunn graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland in 1978. In 1981, she began her congressional staff career in the office of the late Congressman Bob Stump, where she worked for twenty-two years to serve the citizens of the 3rd Congressional District of Arizona.

In 2003, she joined the staff of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Due to her steadfast commitment to her work and her expertise in veterans' health, Ms. Dunn was named Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Health in 2007.

For Ms. Dunn—the daughter of an Army nurse who served in World War II and the sister and aunt, respectively, of female combat veterans who served in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom—the Committee's work is a personal calling.

Throughout her tenure on the Committee staff, Ms. Dunn faithfully served three different Committee Chairmen—CHRIS SMITH, Steve Buyer, and myself—as well as countless other Members. I know I speak for us all when I say that her wise advice and sage counsel was instrumental in assisting us in honoring the service and sacrifice of America's servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

Ms. Dunn was a key contributor in the drafting and passage of landmark pieces of veterans' health legislation and personally contributed to the creation of policies that continue to improve the daily lives and ongoing well-being of veterans and their families.

Her skilled leadership and accomplished service on behalf of veterans was recognized in 2012 when she was awarded the Military Order of the Purple Heart Exemplary Service Award and an Award of Appreciation from the National Association of Veterans' Research and Education Foundations.

Over a long and multifaceted career of distinguished service in the halls of Congress, Ms. Dunn has been a tireless advocate for the interests of American's veterans and taxpayers, embodying excellence and commitment in service to her fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, it gives me great pride to honor the selfless service of Ms. Dolores Dunn.

My wife, Vicki, joins me in honoring her for her thirty-two consecutive years of exemplary service to our Nation, thanking her for her unyielding dedication to America's veterans, and wishing her and her husband, Richard, all of the best in their future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING KAREN HEYREND

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Karen Heyrend, President of the Ventura County Coastal Association of Realtors, who has demonstrated a personal dedication and commitment in carrying out the mission of the Association, which is to be the primary source of real estate products and services for its member brokers and agents in West Ventura County.

Under her outstanding leadership during 2013, Karen has upheld the Association's priorities of maintaining the highest standards of ethical conduct, all while providing a wide array of benefits to the Association's membership of designated brokers, realtors, and affiliate members.

Karen has worked to provide quality service, not only to realtor members, but also to their clients and customers. Representing the cities of Camarillo, Oxnard, Fillmore, Santa Paula, Port Hueneme, and Ventura, she has helped to strengthen the integrity, competency, and professionalism of the Association's members.

Karen's service to the Association goes far beyond her term as President. As a member of the Ventura County Coastal Association of Realtors for the past thirteen years, Karen has diligently served on the Association's Board of Directors as President-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer and Director.

As the lead representative of the Association, Karen represented its members at the National Association of Realtors mid-year meetings, where she met with Federal, State and local government officials and elected representatives.

Through her work, Karen has demonstrated a proud and enduring enthusiasm for the real estate profession that she has chosen as her life-long career. I want to congratulate Karen on her successes and for her tireless dedication to the Association, both past and present.

I am pleased to recognize Karen Heyrend on her personal and professional accomplishments and exemplary year as President of

Ventura County Coastal Association of Realtors in carrying forth the organization's goals, and I extend my best wishes for all of her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEWAREN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sewaren Free Public Library on its 100th Anniversary. The library has been an integral part of the local community since 1913 and continues to provide residents an opportunity to learn and a place to gather.

Officially opened in December of 1913, the idea for the Sewaren Free Public Library was proposed in August of 1913 by a member of the Sewaren Civic Association, Mrs. Blanche B. Balfour. Fundraisers were held by supporters, and within a few months, committees were formed and requests were sent out for books and periodicals. Upon its opening, the library had acquired about 417 volumes.

By 1994, the Sewaren Free Public Library was one of many small branches within the Woodbridge Township Public Library system. After being closed due to funding cuts by the Woodbridge Township Public Library system, it was re-opened as an independent library. The Sewaren Free Public Library is currently run by a volunteer Board of Trustees.

Since its founding, the Sewaren Free Public Library has supported and been supported by the local community. It provides services and resources to residents, offering computer access, media services, pre-school programs, and bingo for senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Sewaren Free Public Library. Its continued service to the community is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LARRY MCKINLEY

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Larry McKinley, a New Orleans radio personality and music promoter who for decades tirelessly promoted our city's cherished Jazz music. Mr. McKinley recently passed away and while today I am saddened by his passing, I wish to pay tribute to Mr. McKinley and his passion towards a beautiful and beloved art form.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, Mr. McKinley attended the Columbia College of Broadcasting before moving to New Orleans in 1954. By the end of his first decade in New Orleans, he became one of the most influential deejays in the city. During the formative years of his illustrious career, he earned national notoriety for his distinguished musical taste. Atlantic Records' executives credit Mr. McKinley for the success of Ray Charles 1959 hit "What'd

I Say" the label's best-performing song of the era.

In 1959, Mr. McKinley founded Minit Records alongside Joe Banashak, a local record-business veteran. He also promoted local concerts by such musical superstars as James Brown, Sam Cooke, and the Jackson 5. Whenever possible, he shined a spotlight on the talented New Orleans musicians broadening their exposure and helping them ascend in the music business.

For these and countless other achievements Mr. McKinley was introduced into the Black Radio Hall of Fame, the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame, and awarded an OffBeat Magazine Best of the Beat Music Business Award. The passion and commitment Mr. McKinley dedicated to the national treasure that is R&B and Jazz Music inspires us all. I want to join his family, the people of New Orleans, and the music industry in celebrating the life of this exceptional citizen.

HONORING CONCEPCION MORON, A WORLD WAR II HERO

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Private First Class Concepcion G. Moron and his bravery during World War II.

Private First Class Concepcion G. Moron of the 304th Infantry Regiment of the United States Army heroically distinguished himself in combat in Germany on April 1, 1945. While advancing upon the town of Steinfischbach, Private Moron's company faced enemy fire from nearby woods. Private Moron led his squad through the woods as they encountered heavy machine gun fire. Private Moron, risking his own life, fired upon the enemy gunners, killing one and forcing two additional e to surrender. This courageous act is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces.

For these acts of bravery and heroism, Mr. Moron was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement in ground combat against an armed enemy during World War II in the European Theater of Operations.

On behalf of those whose lives he saved, I rise to recognize the exemplary service of Concepcion G. Moron.

RECOGNIZING JOHN HERBER AS PEOPLE MAGAZINE'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. John Herber of Northwest Florida for being named "Teacher of the Year" by People Magazine. Mr. Herber was one of only six teachers throughout the United States that was bestowed this honor. For fifteen years, Mr. Herber has been an inspiration to his students, his colleagues, and his community, and I am pleased to recognize his commitment and dedication to molding the minds of our Nation's future leaders.

A native of Tomahawk, Wisconsin, Mr. Herber earned his teaching degree from the University of West Florida in Elementary Education. Ever since, his passion for education has only grown, along with the tremendous impact he has made on the Northwest Florida community. Mr. Herber has served the students and families of Escambia County, Florida at Lincoln Park, Warrington, Brentwood, and Weis Elementary Schools. For the past seven years, he has taught fifth-graders at Oakcrest Elementary School.

Mr. Herber creates an enjoyable environment for learning. His classroom, adorned with science experiments, is evidence of his unique hands-on approach. His pupils' enthusiasm and passion for learning are a testament to Mr. Herber's talent and leadership. Outside of the classroom, Mr. Herber dedicates time on the football field as a school football coach. There is no question that the amount of time and energy Mr. Herber invests in the school and his students has contributed to the school's high ratings and improved student performance.

The superb quality and effectiveness of the schools in Northwest Florida can no doubt be credited to educators like Mr. Herber. He understands the invaluable role teachers serve in the lives of their students, and blessed with the support of his wife Sammi, he possesses an unwavering commitment to excellence.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize John Herber's achievements in teaching and elementary education. My wife Vicki and I wish Mr. Herber and his wife continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 631, I was unable to cast my vote for rollcall No. 631 because my flight from Seattle was delayed.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

CONGRATULATING GREENBRIAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON BEING NAMED A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Greenbriar Elementary School in Northbrook, Illinois, in the district I represent. This outstanding educational institution has been recognized as one of only 286 Blue Ribbon schools in the entire country.

This is the first National Blue Ribbon distinction that Greenbriar has earned, one of 21 awarded in the state, one of four awarded to schools in Illinois's Tenth District and one of three in Northbrook.

Good education is the foundation of any community, and it is essential to our success in the 21st Century. At any of Northbrook's Blue Ribbon Schools, you will find some of the