

for her outstanding service and commitment to our community.

For over 27 years Maro and her husband Ed Dimmer have successfully grown Rheinlander bakery in Olde Town Arvada into the community jewel it is today. The bakery operates with the mission to give back to the community by donating 10 percent of its profits for charitable activities. Maro is instrumental in running the bakery's fundraising events, including the annual King Cakes for A Cause, a benefit for the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. With the celebration of Rheinlander's 50th year in business, the bakery raised over ten thousand dollars in their Bake Out Hunger Campaign, benefiting the Arvada Community Food Bank. Maro is a huge advocate of small business development and actively mentors bakeries in the Metro Denver area in addition to her own employees, teaching about inventory, margins, marketing and longevity.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Maro Dimmer for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

QUINTEN CURTIS

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 19, 2013*

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Quinten Curtis, a 4th grade student from Granite Falls, North Carolina, who has truly demonstrated the spirit of Christmas this season. When his mother, Becky, asked for his Christmas list, Quinten requested two things: a clarinet and 100 cans of food for the South Caldwell Christian Ministries.

Quinten has proved that every one of us can have an impact on our community. His dedication to helping others is truly exemplary and he is a role model for children and adults alike. Quentin set a goal of donating 100 cans by Christmas, but so far has collected more than six times that amount. His selflessness is contagious and has motivated others in his community to participate, collecting donations at the First United Methodist Church.

Quinten's generosity is an inspiration to us all this holiday season, exhibiting the true meaning of Christmas.

HONORING WILLIAM ABRAMSON

HON. ELIOT ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 19, 2013*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, William Abramson was born and raised in the Bronx and today is being honored by the Riverdale Jewish Community Relations Council with the Community Builder Award for his commitment to the community.

His commitment is impressive. Bill was President of the Board of Directors of the Riverdale YM-YWHA for four years and is now the Chairman of the Board. He is a Past President of the Benjamin Franklin Reformed

Democratic Club and is presently a member of the Van Courtland Park Conservancy.

He served as Chairman of Community Board No. 8 in the Bronx for three years, and was the impetus for the creation of the 197–A plan, a system by which city agencies and local groups inspire area growth. He received the 2000 David Rockefeller Fellowship for helping to develop top private sector leaders and engage them in New York City's public arena. He is also Vice President of the Union Square Partnership, and a member of The Greenwich Village Chelsea Chamber of Commerce and Village Alliance.

He has been selected several times as "Commander for the Day" by the Policeman's Association and "Principal for a Day" by PEN-CIL. Mayor Bloomberg appointed Bill to the Workforce Investment Board, where he is on the Strategic Planning Committee.

Bill is an adjunct professor at New York University, teaching Facility Management and Leadership in Management. Bill has served as president of his condominium board in Riverdale for over five years. He has done numerous residential and commercial deals, serving on Real Estate Board of New York's, REBNY, Residential Rental Committee, and REBNY's Retail Committees.

Bill is committed to making a positive difference in his community, the places he works at, and the people he works with and for. It is my pleasure to join with the Riverdale Jewish Community Relations Council in honoring Bill Abramson with the Community Builders Award for his years of dedicated service to his community and his city.

HONORING HIS EMINENCE  
FRANCIS EUGENE CARDINAL  
GEORGE, O.M.I., ON THE 50TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF HIS ORINATION

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 19, 2013*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Francis Cardinal George on the 50th anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. Yesterday I joined more than 100 bishops from around the world and hundreds of members of the Chicago Archdiocese in congratulating Cardinal George as he celebrated this milestone with a Mass at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, Illinois where he has served as leader of the Archdiocese for almost 17 years. Francis Eugene George was born in 1937 to Francis and Julia George on Chicago's Northwest side. He grew up there with his older sister Margaret and attended St. Pascal School. At the age of 13 he was diagnosed with polio, and to this day wears a leg brace to support the muscles that were damaged by his battle with the illness.

But George persevered and kept his faith, enrolling at St. Henry Preparatory Seminary in Belleville, Illinois, an affiliated high school with the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He would eventually join the Missionary Oblates and would make his solemn vow as a member of the order. George was ordained a priest in 1963 at St. Pascal Church where his Catholic education had started as a boy. The following year he received a degree in theology from the University of Ottawa, his first of

many degrees including a doctorate in Philosophy from Tulane University and a doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical Urbaniana University.

After spending time as a professor, George continued to serve his order when he became the Vicar General for the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. For 12 years, he traveled to missions in some of the poorest regions of Africa, Latin America and Asia. In 1990 Pope John Paul II appointed George as the fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Yakima, Washington. In 1996 he was appointed the ninth Archbishop of Portland in Oregon when he was installed by Pope John Paul II at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. George would serve there for less than a year before he was appointed by Pope John Paul II to the vacant See of Chicago. He was the first native Chicagoan to be appointed as the Archbishop of Chicago, which serves 2.2 million Catholics in 356 different parishes. Within the first year of his service in Chicago, George was elevated to the honor of Cardinal.

For almost 17 years Cardinal George has led his people in the Chicago Archdiocese with his unmatched intellect and warmth. At Mass yesterday, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, very aptly described George as "intelligent and articulate, courageous and curious, humble, zealous." Kurtz continued, "Like Pope Francis, we see in you a generous heart and zealous missionary spirit . . . a humble man of vision."

Today I express my admiration for Cardinal George's devotion to the Archdiocese of Chicago and the entire community, and honor his lifetime of achievements. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Francis Cardinal George well as he celebrates the 50th anniversary of his ordination, and to thank him for his inspiring service.

GABRIELLA MILLER KIDS FIRST  
RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 11, 2013*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gabriella Miller, a brave little girl who was taken from the world much too soon. I know Gabriella's parents are here in the House gallery and I want to express to them how sorry I am for their loss. Gabriella was a real fighter, not only for herself but for the thousands of other children across the country who are battling cancer. I'm pleased to join my colleague, MICHAEL MCCAUL, in co-chairing the Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus in the House. Over the years, I've had the privilege of meeting hundreds of young people like Gabriella and families like the Millers. I've heard their heartbreak and frustration, and share their commitment to finding a cure for this devastating disease. The National Institutes of Health play a critical role in this effort—conducting basic research toward finding cures, supporting clinical trials, and developing treatments for childhood cancer and other pediatric illnesses. I firmly believe that as a nation we should be investing more in pediatric research but the bill on the floor won't do that.

Today's bill purports to increase pediatric research by \$13 million per year by terminating public financing for political conventions. Assuming last year's 5 percent sequester at NIH was spread evenly across their programs, then pediatric research would have been cut by roughly \$182 million in 2013. The bill's \$13 million would return less than 10 percent of the funding to pediatric research that was lost to sequester last year. On top of that, the bill doesn't actually appropriate any funding, but instead authorizes appropriations, which does not guarantee that these funds will be available.

Mr. Speaker, today's bill isn't a sincere effort to increase funding for pediatric research and it shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone. Since the Republican majority took office in 2011, they've racked up a dismal record on NIH, having cut its budget by total of \$4.2 billion or 13 percent when adjusted for inflation. If Republicans are really serious about pediatric research, and in fact want to put kids first, then they should work with us to replace the sequester with a balanced budget package.

LORETTA DITIRRO

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 19, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Loretta DiTirro for her outstanding service and commitment to our community.

Loretta is an extremely passionate and persuasive individual, especially when it comes to community. She was instrumental in changing the name of the Wheat Ridge Business Association, to help give more definition to the purpose and future of the group. Loretta ensures that the Wheat Ridge business members are well informed and well connected to the community at large, and she drove the membership from 30 to 200 members. She hosts events in her home to raise money for the Feed the Future Backpack Program, giving back to the children of her community. She opened up her garden for the Inaugural Wheat Ridge Garden Tour, and recruits volunteers for the historic Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival. As an influential leader and organizer, she is a valuable asset to the Wheat Ridge and Jefferson County communities.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Loretta DiTirro for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF MRS. EVELYN  
STEVENS

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 19, 2013*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to honor Mrs. Evelyn Stevens, a member of my staff for almost seventeen years. Evelyn is retiring this year after over 34

years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Evelyn began working for my predecessor, Congressman Tom Beville, in 1979 and has worked continuously since then with passion and dedication for the constituents of the current Fourth Congressional District of Alabama. It would be difficult to count the number of constituents that she has helped during her tenure with the Fourth District of Alabama.

Evelyn was married for almost 40 years to Milton "Bud" Stevens and has two daughters, Renita Rigney and Amelia Sutter. She has five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren with two more great-grandchildren soon to be born. She enjoys traveling with her daughters and takes the time to visit a different baseball stadium in the country during a trip they take every year. Evelyn is also an avid bowler, bowling every Tuesday evening with her team.

Few people can look back on their life and see that they have contributed so much to the well-being of their fellow citizens and their country. Evelyn Stevens is one of those people.

On behalf of myself and all the people of Alabama's Fourth Congressional District, I can never thank her enough for her hard work and dedication to serving the people of Alabama and the United States of America.

May God bless Evelyn in the years to come.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 19, 2013*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, December 12, 2013, I missed rollcall vote No. 641 for unavoidable reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 641: "aye" (On passage of H. Res. 441.)

COLLEEN JORGENSEN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 19, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Colleen Jorgensen for her outstanding service and commitment to our community.

Despite facing numerous public education funding cuts, Colleen found a way to launch a campaign to make Red Rocks Community College "green," resulting in reduced paper consumption, in a recycling program, and a boiler system that reduced 30% of carbon emissions. She has translated the value of mentorship into Community Learning Centers, the Gateway program, and a shadowing program for potential Principal Investigators. Colleen stays active in her greater community by serving on numerous boards and area chambers. Colleen's creativity and innovation in education has left a lasting impact on thousands of college students, hundreds of colleagues and the business community.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Colleen Jorgensen for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County.

I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

BURMA

**HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 19, 2013*

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, despite U.S. officials continuing to celebrate the alleged "opening" of Burma and planning projects such as bringing electricity to the entire country, we need to stop and listen to the people of Burma. The ethnic groups have a different story to tell, one which does not support U.S. agencies' narrative. Ethnic minorities are not celebrating this alleged "opening." Instead, they continue to be forced to defend themselves from offensive attacks by the Burma army and regime.

Some officials in Washington act as if democracy has suddenly infused all levels of government and all policies in Burma, including by welcoming and feting Shwe Mann, the 3rd ranking official in the "former" dictatorship who is now serving as the Speaker of the Combined House of Parliament. The people of Burma are still fighting for freedom of speech, conscience, belief, and association. Political prisoners still languish in prison, the Muslim minority has been brutally attacked by factions of the Buddhist majority with nary an outcry by Aung San Suu Kyi or other democratically elected leaders, and Kachin women and girls are still raped by soldiers bent on purifying minority bloodlines. How can a government that continues to implement policies that directly contradict democratic principles be so embraced by the international community, including by U.S. officials?

What is wrong with this picture? The Administration is supporting those in favor of removing a dictatorship in one country while embracing a brutal dictatorship in another country. How is it that in one area of the world, our government has provided training and weapons to groups working against a dictatorship—even as some members of the opposition may have direct links to Al Qaeda—while in Burma, we have turned our backs on a population that has longed for democracy, freedom, and the protection of basic rights?

These inconsistent policies are deeply disturbing. "Former" dictators who truly desired to establish a democracy would stop using forced labor in military projects; would end horrific attacks against the Kachin, Northern Shan and Taang communities; would cease rearming, rebuilding, and resupplying their bases in ethnic territories; and would discontinue using bait and switch tactics in negotiations.

In recent negotiations between the Burma Government and the ethnic groups, the Government acts as if the ethnic groups should prove that they are trustworthy in terms of any ceasefire agreement. I would strongly posit that it's the other way around: the Government of Burma must prove its trustworthiness to the ethnic groups by ending its aggression before any ceasefire occurs. The ethnic minorities have simply defended their people and states when under attacks initiated by the Burma government. It is time for those attacks to