

of California Cities and as a member of the board of governors of the San Joaquin County Bar Association. Gus has also lectured at the Delta Community College in Stockton and in the "Bridging the Gap" program. Last but not least, he has been a proud member of the San Rafael Elks Club since 2006.

In his well deserved retirement, Gus is looking forward to spending more time with his wife of 25 years, their now 24-year-old twin daughters Kate and Lindsey and their stepson Chris. He will finally have more time to lose himself in his passion for California history, hiking, travel, photography, reading and swimming.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representative to rise with me to honor Clark E. Guinan, a man with a brilliant legal mind and a big heart who has protected the rights and safety of the residents of Burlingame and other Bay Area communities.

RECOGNIZING ANN THOMPSON AS THE 2014 SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Ann Thompson as the 2014 Santa Rosa County, Florida Teacher of the Year. Ms. Thompson has been an inspiration to her students, her colleagues, and her community, and I am honored to recognize her success and her many achievements.

The best teachers are those who not only educate, but those who strive every day to actively engage their pupils. Ms. Thompson embodies this spirit—she is an educator, a mentor, and a role model to those she serves. As a founding parent of West Navarre Intermediate, Ms. Thompson has played an integral role with the school for more than 14 years, the last 7 of which as an educator.

Throughout her career, Ms. Thompson has served in various capacities. Before joining West Navarre Intermediate, Ms. Thompson had a successful medical career for 25 years. However, she recognized that her true calling was teaching. With the goal of ensuring all children leave school reading at least on grade level in mind, Ms. Thompson earned the required teaching certification from the University of West Florida. Wanting to work in the very school that she helped build, Ms. Thompson has seen her dreams come true as a third grade teacher at West Navarre Intermediate.

The perspectives she gained from raising three children and serving in the medical field give her a unique experience base to better enrich her students education. Ms. Thompson's instructional techniques are calculated, research-based, and focused on the needs of the individual student by using exhaustive data analysis as well as daily observation. In doing this, Ms. Thompson recognizes the reality that each student is different, and she tailors her instruction to her pupils resulting in enhanced academic achievement.

Ms. Thompson's greatness extends well beyond her title as Teacher of the Year—it lies in the hearts and minds of the students who have been deeply affected. and I am proud to

recognize the accomplishments that place her among the best of Northwest Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Ms. Ann Thompson as Teacher of the Year and thank her for her exemplary service in the Santa Rosa County School District. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mrs. Thompson, and we wish her all the best for continued success.

ALLEGANY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR RETIRES AFTER 21 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 21 years of dedicated service that John E. Margeson provided to Allegany County as County Administrator. Mr. Margeson began serving the Allegany County government over thirty years ago in 1977 as a probation officer. In 1982, he was appointed to be the administrative assistant to the chairman of the board and held that position until 1992 when he was appointed the county's first administrator. Mr. Margeson recently announced his retirement as Allegany County Administrator to be effective at the end of March 2013.

As the first county administrator in Allegany County, he spent over two decades making changes and updates as new federal and state mandates emerged. As a result of these mandates, the role of the Allegany County government has grown and reacted to the issues at hand. Mr. Margeson also helped oversee some of the largest capital projects in the county's history, including a new jail and a court annex. Making it a priority to attend every committee and full board meeting, Mr. Margeson provides extensive and invaluable knowledge to the board members.

Following his many years of dutiful work, Mr. Margeson looks forward to spending his retirement with his wife, two kids and his grandchildren. He also intends on playing many rounds of golf and his favorite card games in his hometown of Scio, New York.

I wish Mr. Margeson the very best in retirement and thank him for his public service.

HONORING ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, each year we celebrate March as Women's History Month, and I wanted to take this opportunity to honor the women of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority for their decades of service and commitment to empowering their communities.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1908. AKA is the oldest Greek organization established by African American college-educated women. From its humble beginnings, AKA has grown to 260,000 members with chapters in the U.S.,

the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Caribbean, Canada, Japan, Germany, Korea, and on the continent of Africa.

AKA membership is comprised of distinguished women who have excelled academically, and utilized the organization to promote our mission of "Service to All Mankind." Through AKA's human rights outreach, the organization works to raise awareness of human trafficking and domestic violence. The sorority also works to promote social justice through voter empowerment, civic engagement, and expanding access to education in minority communities. Through the organization's global poverty initiatives, AKA has focused its efforts to end hunger throughout the world, and to promote sustainability and independence through women-owned businesses and sustainable agriculture practices.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, and I am proud to highlight the many accomplishments of the organization. Throughout the years, AKA's outreach has expanded as it strives to promote high academic standards, mentorship, global health services, and the advancement of human and civil rights.

CONGRATULATIONS MONTANA SPECIAL OLYMPIANS

HON. STEVE DAINES

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, two Montana athletes recently competed in the Special Olympics 2013 World Winter Games in South Korea, and I want to recognize them for their efforts.

Dan Hazen of Great Falls and Kathy Rose of Kalispell made Montana proud when they were chosen to represent our state on a national stage. Of the 2,300 other athletes from 110 countries in PyeongChang, South Korea, they were the only two from Montana.

But it's been a long journey, filled with hard work and perseverance.

Their tireless dedication to their sport paid off when they placed first in their events at the 2012 Special Olympics Montana State Winter Games at Whitefish Mountain Resort. Then, they were chosen from a field of other gold medal athletes as Montana's representatives to the Games.

Hazen competed in the slalom, giant slalom and super G, alpine skiing events.

And Rose competed in the 100-meter, 200-meter and 4 x 100-meter relay snowshoe races.

These events require a lot of work and a lot of commitment—and I'm happy that their efforts were rewarded when they were chosen to compete in South Korea.

These athletes are true examples of what makes Montana great—their positive attitudes and tireless dedication exemplifies the characteristics that we value in our state.

Thank you for your hard work, thank you for making Montana proud, and congratulations.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ELLEN K. ANNALA, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL INDIANA

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ellen K. Annala for her 23 years of service as President and CEO of the United Way of Central Indiana. The people of my Congressional district and the State of Indiana are forever grateful for Ellen's contributions and commitment to making the United Way what it is today, a powerful force for positive local development.

Over the years, Ellen's leadership has been critical in providing community leaders with the vision and necessary resources to discover new solutions and address the needs of our state and ensure the welfare of our citizens. As the first female leader of the United Way of Central Indiana, Ellen has been instrumental in bringing together Hoosier leaders from all walks of life to make our communities better places to live.

Due to Ellen's strong leadership, the United Way is making tomorrow a better place by helping children today. She has tirelessly promoted early childhood learning by partnering with Indianapolis Public Schools in an effort to dramatically increase the number of children performing at grade level by sixth grade.

Today, the United Way of Central Indiana is even better equipped to support many of the region's rural communities as a result of Ellen's guidance. She has opened offices and brought resources to the five counties surrounding Indianapolis, giving the United Way the unique ability to respond to local needs.

On behalf of the grateful constituents of the Fifth Congressional District, I congratulate Ellen on the occasion of her retirement. Thank you, Ellen, for your 23 years of dedicated leadership with the United Way of Central Indiana. Best wishes to you as you pursue new challenges in the many bright years ahead of you.

IN RECOGNITION OF CASIMIR
PULASKI DAY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Casimir Pulaski Day. I believe it is important that each year we celebrate and retell the story of this great Polish-American hero of the 18th century, and no one does it better than Illinois with our state holiday. But it is not just the story of one man. It is also true that when we celebrate the memory of Casimir Pulaski, we honor great principles and values that are just as true today.

Principles like the idea of sacrifice for something you believe in, something much bigger than yourself. Casimir Pulaski was willing to risk and ultimately sacrifice his life for the idea of creating a new democracy—and today, young men and women are doing that very

thing around the world. When we honor Casimir Pulaski, we honor our young men and women in uniform who are in harm's way even today.

The lessons of this day include the importance of international cooperation, US—Poland friendship, and immigration reform.

Casimir Pulaski made an amazing journey, considering the difficulty of travel in those days. He became, not just a participant in an historic struggle, but a great leader, a general, and helped shape the future of the United States of America. Young Polish soldiers are serving right now as part of a US-led coalition in Afghanistan and deserve our thanks today for standing shoulder to shoulder with us. When we honor Casimir Pulaski, we honor them too.

And how many young Poles living here in Chicago are waiting for their chance to be Generals or simply wear the uniform of the United States or study so they can discover a cure for cancer or be the entrepreneur that develops the next new technology? But a broken immigration system is blocking their dreams. We can honor Casimir Pulaski by working to make this generation of Americans welcoming to the dreamers and all Polish immigrants who have embraced this country.

I don't think Casimir Pulaski was asked for his visa when he mounted his horse and picked up his weapon. Today, visitors to our country from Poland should not be asked either. That is why, once again, I am a vigorous advocate for the Visa Waiver program for Poland. And by pushing for this change, we all honor the memory and heroism of Casimir Pulaski.

I hope that this day will be one during which all Illinoisans and Americans will focus on the significance of this day and this one man on our lives in the 21st century.

JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECOGNIZED AS A "TREE CAMPUS USA" COLLEGE FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Jamestown Community College and its faculty, staff, and student body whose commitment to the environment has earned them the distinguished award as a "Tree Campus USA" college for the fourth consecutive year. As the first community college in New York State to earn this distinction from the Arbor Day Foundation, JCC met the necessary criteria by fulfilling five standards: maintaining a campus tree advisory committee, campus tree care plan, providing annual expenditures to the tree program, observing Arbor Day, and service learning projects for students. By achieving these standards, Jamestown Community College displayed effective management of their campus trees and collaboration with the community to foster urban forests.

The Arbor Day Foundation created this national program to recognize colleges and universities who exhibit dedication to sustaining their campus and community forestry as well as engaging their student body and faculty in

these conservation goals. With one million members, Arbor Day Foundation has grown to become the largest nonprofit organization dedicated to planting trees. It has helped campuses throughout the country plant hundreds of thousands of trees and last year "Tree Campus USA" colleges and universities invested \$23 million in campus forest management.

Jamestown Community College stands as an example to the community and other colleges and universities for making initiatives to sustain the environment by protecting and maintaining trees.

I applaud their many efforts and look forward to Jamestown Community College's continued leadership on this front.

ACKNOWLEDGING ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF MEMBERS OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, March is Women's History Month, and I wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge the advocacy and public service of the members of The Links, Incorporated.

As an organization, The Links has made service to others the founding principle of the organization. Through friendship, we build relationships based on the premise that by our numbers, we are strong. With that strength, we can uplift others.

The Links, Incorporated had as its humble beginning the friendship of two women, Ms. Margaret Hawkins and Ms. Sarah Scott. Formed in 1946, these women worked to engage the African American community in Philadelphia in civic, educational, and cultural opportunities. Each friend invited a friend, and today The Links, Incorporated, is represented by 274 chapters and more than 12,000 professional women of color.

Through its various initiatives, The Links, Incorporated is breaking new ground in providing humanitarian support and closing the achievement gap in our schools. In my role as Chair of the National STEM Career Readiness Initiative, I have used my platform as a Member of Congress to raise awareness about the need for students' science and math literacy, and to increase the ranks of women and minority STEM students, engineers, scientists, and those in academia.

Throughout the history of The Links, we have focused our efforts on children, as they will be the future generations of leaders. Recent initiatives include tackling childhood obesity in our communities, increasing the retention and graduation rates of minority students, and facilitating international involvement and global awareness to serve the educational, health, and cultural needs of people of African descent throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of March we will be acknowledging women in history who have taken courageous steps and made significant impacts in their communities. The Links, Incorporated, have taken up the call for more than six decades, and through their efforts have transformed the lives of individuals and communities throughout the world.