

# HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE MID-MAINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS

## HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2013*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Dinner.

Each year, the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce recognizes local businesses, business leaders, community service projects and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy business environment. These individuals and businesses are committed to strengthening opportunity and increasing prosperity in Maine.

This year's award recipients include: Megan Williams, recipient of the Rising Star Award; Bert Languet, recipient of the Outstanding Professional Award; Michelle LePage, recipient of the Customer Service Stardom Award; the Waterville Opera House, recipient of the Community Service Project of the Year Award; Peter Schutte, recipient of the Business Person of the Year Award; Delta Ambulance, recipient of the Business of the Year Award; Shawn Michaud, recipient of the Elias A. Joseph Award; and Scott Bullock, recipient of the Distinguished Community Service Award.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and incredible commitment to their communities and the region, Maine is a better place in which to live and do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce and these individuals and businesses on their outstanding service and achievement.

# RECOGNIZING MR. MICHAEL P. DOUGLASS FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2013*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to commemorate and acknowledge a long-time curator from western Wisconsin, Mr. Michael P. Douglass. Michael is a knowledgeable, hard working man from Grant County who is retiring after 30 years of service to the Wisconsin Historical Society as site director at the Villa Louis historic site in Prairie du Chien.

I'm very proud of the extraordinary dedication and positive contributions that Michael has made during his time at Villa Louis—a National Historic Landmark that was the estate of the prominent H. Louis Dousman family in the 19th century. Thanks to the stewardship of Michael, since his very first day at the site on August 4, 1983, the Villa Louis mansion has been restored and renovated to what it once was, making it one of the most well-tended historic sites in Wisconsin. Michael discovered distant Dousman relations and brought back many of the mansion's original furnishings; throughout this process, he helped to preserve and share accurate accounts of Wisconsin's history.

The Wisconsin Historical Society and people of Wisconsin have greatly benefited from his extensive knowledge of the Dousman family and dedication to Villa Louis. Michael excelled in the mission of the Society—to preserve and share stories of Wisconsin history. Good narratives bring past events back to life, and Michael has undoubtedly and successfully championed these efforts in the expansion and enhancement of the collections of Villa Louis. I commend Michael Douglass for his extraordinary efforts in bringing history to life.

Mr. Michael P. Douglass's hard work and 30 years of dedicated service to the people of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Historical Society, and Villa Louis is truly deserving of recognition. It is with great pride that I rise today and congratulate Michael on a job well done, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

# HONORING THE DEDICATION OF THE FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

## HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2013*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rev. Roderick McClanahan, and the dedication of the First Missionary Baptist Church's newest house of worship. For over 20 years the Reverend has served as Pastor of the First Missionary Baptist Church, and has lead this congregation in the Building project which resulted in this church.

Rev. McClanahan was born in Louisiana where he received a calling from God at a young age, preaching his first sermon on September 4, 1984, and eventually becoming ordained at the New Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Rev. Willie Minor, on September 21, 1985. He was brought to Maryland shortly thereafter, and has officially served as pastor of the First Missionary Baptist Church since March of 1990.

The First Missionary Baptist Church has a rich history in Maryland. The church was started as a Prayer Band in October of 1945 by Martha Hickenbottom, as a way of giving the African Americans of Lexington Park a place of worship. Service was initially held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Colson, but as the congregation grew, so did their need for space. For a brief time the Prayer Band made their home in the then USO Building, until on April 19, 1947, at the suggestion of Brother Ivory Moore, then the prayer leader for the Prayer Band, they purchased the first acre of land the church calls home today. Since then, through segregation and beyond, the church has continued to grow and faithfully serve the African American community of Southern Maryland.

It is truly my honor to pay tribute today to Rev. Roderick McClanahan, and the First Missionary Baptist Church, a shining beacon for all of Southern Maryland.

# IN RECOGNITION OF MERLIN REPSHER FOR 50 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE WITH THE BANGOR, PENNSYLVANIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

## HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2013*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Merlin Repsher, who was recognized on Saturday, April 6, 2013 by his fellow firefighters for 50 years of brave service and leadership with Rescue Fire Company No. 1 of the Fire Department of Bangor, Pennsylvania.

Within those five decades, Mr. Repsher served as the chief engineer of the company. He also served as Fire Chief for five years. Merlin additionally always served as a mentor and trainer to new recruits, passing on his extensive knowledge to the next generation of firefighters. In that capacity, he worked as a teacher in the Northampton County Fire School.

Firefighters are often known for their dramatic acts of courage and quick-thinking in the field, but I understand that what a small community sometimes needs most is dogged dedication to the basic public-serving roles, including the civic administrative roles, on which everyone in town depends. Being there for one's neighbors—and always being there—is a quality to which we should all aspire. Fifty years in a demanding position, assisting those in need week in and week out, is quite an impressive record.

I ask everyone in Bangor and northern Northampton County to join me in congratulating Merlin Repsher for his decorated service to his community.

# TRIBUTE HONORING GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

## HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2013*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 192nd anniversary of Greece's independence, which we celebrated on Monday, March 25. This event commemorates the day in 1821 when the people of Greece reclaimed their heritage as democratic citizens and restored democracy to their nation.

The ancient Greeks established the world's first democratic government, and contributed to our own understanding of the world in diverse fields such as mathematics, philosophy and medicine. The democratic principles set forth by the ancient Greeks were the archetype for Americans to establish a democracy in 1776 and have guided our nation ever since. These classical ideals inspired our own founding fathers and shaped the United States Constitution which we are sworn to uphold as Members of Congress.

America's relationship with the people of Greece runs deep. Since the birth of our nations, the ties of democracy between Greece and America have been unwavering. The strong partnership between our two countries

has served as vital tool in peacekeeping efforts around the world. Our long, shared history of democracy and peace is an ideal that should be cherished and honored.

Just as my grandparents ventured to the United States from Italy, the first Greek Americans came here to find a better life for themselves and their families. Their descendants have risen to the highest levels of American culture, government and society. Greek Independence Day is a day to honor the contributions, traditions, and successes of our fellow Greek Americans and our Greek friends abroad.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, and I am truly proud to recognize and commemorate Greek Independence Day alongside the vibrant Greek community in Northern New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Greek Americans, and all of our Greek friends around the world, in recognizing the 192nd Greek Independence Day.

HONORING SANJEEV "SONNY"  
BHAGOWALIA

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2013*

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sonny Bhagowalia, Hawaii's State Chief Information Officer. Sonny recently received the prestigious "Federal 100 Award" from Federal Computer Week magazine.

This award honors the top leaders in industry, academia and government who have had a significant impact on the government information systems community. This year, Hawaii is the only state government to be recognized for its proactive efforts to maximize the use of technology.

Since 2011, Sonny has served as Hawaii's first CIO, planning and implementing the state's IT transformation, and overseeing its new Office of Information Management and Technology. He has repeatedly been honored for his contributions to IT advancement in Hawaii, including two previous Federal 100 Awards.

Sonny's efforts to modernize and invest in Hawaii's technology infrastructure have laid the groundwork for more effective government service and business processes.

I extend my congratulations to Sonny, his very talented team, and the State of Hawaii for this much-deserved honor.

EAU CLAIRE MEMORIAL HIGH  
SCHOOL WISCONSIN INTER-  
SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2013*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Eau Claire Memorial High School boy's hockey team, the Old Abes, on winning the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association State Championship. Their 6-1 victory over Verona on March 2, 2013 was a true display of sportsmanship and teamwork.

After starting 0-2-1 and finishing second to Hudson in the Big Rivers Conference, the team faced a seemingly impossible road to the State Championship. But the Old Abes did not let those set-backs deter them from their dream of being the second team in history to bring home the State Championship for Eau Claire Memorial High School.

With the loss of two key players before the season started, Coach Mike Schwengler and senior team captain Brady Bollinger worked hard to build the young team into a strong, cohesive unit. After reassigning some key players to new positions, the puzzle pieces started to fit together, and the Old Abes won 20 of their last 23 games.

Nonetheless, heading into the championship off of an incredible winning streak, the team still found themselves down 1-0 late in the first period. The team banded together and rose to the challenge. Bollinger answered Verona's goal less than a minute later to tie the score, and the rest of the team stepped up to follow his lead. Jacob Bresser scored two goals, Charley Graaskamp added a goal and two assists, and Dylan Ross added a goal and an assist. Finally, Austin Phippen had the sixth and final goal, while Alex Geving, the goalie, finished the game with a phenomenal 26 saves.

This momentous win at the end of a difficult season exemplifies the dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship of each and every member of the Eau Claire Memorial High School boy's hockey team. Furthermore, this victory shines as a proud achievement for the Eau Claire community. Once again, I want to congratulate the Eau Claire Memorial High School boy's hockey team on their incredible season and hard-earned title as Wisconsin State Champions.

RECOGNIZING ELIE WIESEL

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 9, 2013*

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter a statement into the RECORD on behalf of my constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman. Rabbi Zoberman is the Founding Rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He is also the president of the Hampton Roads Board of Rabbis and Cantors. Rabbi Zoberman asked me to enter the following remarks into the RECORD recognizing Elie Wiesel on the occasion of Yom Hashoah, the 65th Anniversary of the State of Israel, and the 20th anniversary of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Rabbi Zoberman's statement follows:

Elie Wiesel, the most distinguished representative of the Holocaust survivors' generation, has risen from Auschwitz's hell which he entered at age fifteen, to become the world's witness to the human condition and humanity's prophetic voice of both sacred remembrance and chastising warning. He even admits to making enemies because of his steadfast stance against trivializing Auschwitz, protectively defining the Holocaust as "the Event."

The 1986 Nobel Peace Laureate—he deserves the literature prize too—and Founding Chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, who as earned our nation's

greatest honors along with foreign high ones, enjoys a special relationship with President Obama and is presently collaborating on a joint literary project. In the latest book of this prolific author, *Open Heart*, Wiesel opens his aching and grateful heart to us following the watershed impact of his open heart surgery on June 16, 2011, at age 82. He utilizes this trying medical and life-changing ordeal to teach us about life's demanding trials and transitions, courageously facing his own mortality at his "greatest pain and darkest anguish."

This master teacher who is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University is asking challenging questions: How well has he fulfilled his obligation as a survivor with a consecrated mission to tell a tale of woes without despairing of the Creator nor of a blemished creation, wrestling with a God who deprived him of so much but also blessed him beyond measure? Having contributed immeasurably toward a sane and sacred world, ever standing guard, Wiesel nonetheless doubts if he has done all he could and should have in his struggle against evil. He and fellow survivors believed that the world would change for the better, never allowing for genocides again, and how painful it must be for heart-broken Wiesel to conclude, "The fact is, the world has learned nothing."

May Wiesel fulfill his heart's fondest desire to live to witness the B'nai Mitzvah celebrations of his beloved grandchildren Elijah and Shira, the children of son Elisha who is named for Wiesel's father Shlomo who perished so close to liberation. May he do so along with his wife Marion, faithful soulmate and professional helpmate, herself a survivor from Vienna, Austria. Her brainchild is Beit Tzipora in Israel, the centers to enrich Ethiopian children, named for Wiesel's precious little sister whom he saw with their mother for the last time upon the arrival in Auschwitz. Reading Wiesel's transforming account a few days following the multiple tragedies at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., the following line resonates with painfully felt relevance, "We must choose between the violence of adults and the smiles of children, between the ugliness of hate and the will to oppose it."

The 20th Anniversary of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, with which Wiesel has been so intimately connected, is testimony to his vision to ensure in the face of Holocaust deniers and the ravages of time's forgetfulness that the indispensable facts and essential lessons of the Holocaust will endure for the sake of humanity. The museum has already exposed millions of Americans and other visitors in our nation's capital to its sacred work, shedding light on history's darkest chapter. I'm ever grateful to this U.S. sponsored museum as a son and grandson of Polish Holocaust survivors with heavy family losses in Zamosc, Poland, and Sarny, Ukraine. I was born in Kazakhstan on November 12, 1945 and spent my early childhood in Germany's American zone of the Wetzlar Displaced Persons Camp, before finding refuge and home with my family and most of the survivors in the reborn State of Israel now celebrating its 65th proud anniversary. Wiesel reportedly was invited in the past to be Israel's president.

Israel's accomplishments in all fields of endeavor are astonishing given its humble beginnings and ever trying circumstances. This vibrant democratic oasis and America's trusted ally in a mutually beneficial bond more significant than ever, is surrounded by a wide wilderness and exposed to substantial threats following the "Arab Spring" with its, so far, destabilizing Islamist victory. It is truly an inspiring expression of the Jewish