

When faced with opportunities to stop the Nazis, why did we miss the warning signs? How could we have failed to act? These questions speak to us today about our responsibility to act—even when others don't.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust. This year, they convened an intergenerational walk with Holocaust survivors to bring awareness to the community. Pan Pacific Park was transformed into a timeline of the events of the Holocaust so that participants could learn more about the deep tragedy of Nazi atrocities. This event also shows survivors that they are not alone. They have a community around them to support them.

It is my honor to represent the Los Angeles area, which is home to approximately 10,000 survivors. This week—and every week—we honor their courage and their strength. At a time when fewer and fewer survivors are alive to tell their stories, we must all bear witness to their tremendous legacy.

RECOGNIZING THE 27TH ANNUAL NATIONAL ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, April marks the 27th annual National Alcohol Awareness Month.

As co-chair of the House Addiction, Treatment and Recovery (ATR) caucus, I rise today to talk about the importance of this milestone and to applaud the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD), which since 1987 has sponsored Alcohol Awareness Month to increase public awareness and understanding, reduce stigma and encourage local communities to focus on alcoholism and alcohol-related issues.

Alcohol abuse is one of the leading causes of death in this country and is a huge contributor to other pressing health care problems like hypertension, high blood pressure, heart disease and stroke. Not a day goes by that we as a Caucus don't hear another story about the tragedy wrought by the abuse of alcohol. Some have even gone so far as to call the abuse of alcohol and other drugs the number one public health crisis facing this country.

This year, National Alcohol Awareness Month is highlighting the important public health issue of underage drinking, a problem with devastating individual, family and community consequences. With this year's theme, "Help for Today, Hope for Tomorrow," the month of April will be filled with local, state, and national events aimed at educating people about the treatment and prevention of alcoholism. Local NCADD Affiliates as well as schools, colleges, churches, and countless other community organizations will sponsor activities that create awareness and encourage individuals and families to get help for alcohol-related problems.

Alcohol use by young people is extremely dangerous—both to themselves and to society, and is directly associated with traffic fatalities, violence, suicide, educational failure, alcohol overdose, unsafe sex and other problem behaviors. Annually, over 6,500 people under the age of 21 die from alcohol-related injuries.

Additionally:

Alcohol is the number one drug of choice for America's young people, and is more likely to kill young people than all illegal drugs combined.

Each day, 7,000 kids in the United States under the age of 16 take their first drink.

More than 1,700 college students in the U.S. are killed each year—about 4.65 a day—as a result of alcohol-related injuries.

25% of U.S. children are exposed to alcohol-use disorders in their family. Underage alcohol use costs the nation an estimated \$62 billion annually.

And yet, these statistics don't fully convey the danger of underage drinking. The more we learn about the human brain, the more we learn how dangerous early drinking is for underage drinkers.

Reducing underage drinking is critical to securing a healthy future for America's youth and requires a cooperative effort from parents, schools, community organizations, business leaders, government agencies, the entertainment industry and alcohol manufacturers/retailers. Underage drinking is a complex issue, one that can only be solved through a sustained and cooperative effort. As a nation, we need to wake up to the reality that for some, alcoholism and addiction develop at a young age and that prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery support are essential for them and their families. We can't afford to wait any longer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to highlight this important issue with a National Alcohol Awareness Month event in their districts. This is a problem that plagues all of our communities but working together, we can restore hope to our young people and their families.

GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD WINS TOP ACOE AWARD

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Georgia National Guard on being selected as the winner of the National Guard Special Category in the 2013 Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) awards competition.

It is a source of pride to see Georgia's own National Guard recognized for excellence. These servicemen and women have gone above and beyond the call of duty to earn this prestigious award.

The yearly ACOE competition reviews leadership, strategic planning, customer focus, and performance criteria to rank installations on their overall Army readiness and quality management. The U.S. Army chief of staff chooses National Guard installations that best exemplify these qualities.

As this year's deserving winner, the Georgia National Guard's prize will include funding towards installation upgrades that will improve facilities, and boost morale of soldiers, retirees, and civilians serving there.

Mr. Speaker, this is a momentous occasion for the State of Georgia, and it is with sincere gratitude that I would like to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to the Georgia National Guard for the sacrifice and hard work

that ensures America's safety and won them this esteemed award.

HONORING FRANCIS B. GIBBS

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements and the unwavering commitment to public service of Francis B. Gibbs.

It seems like yesterday that Francis came to Washington to work for his hometown congressman, Ander Crenshaw. He went on to be a trusted aide and friend to U.S. Rep. Connie Mack. Francis spent over five years by Congressman Mack's side, and his fingerprints could be found on legislative matters concerning government expansion, protection of our Constitution and the principles of federalism.

Francis is a man rooted in principle. From his work on the Patriot Act to defending freedom for people in Venezuela and around the Western Hemisphere, Francis served as a tireless advocate for making this government a "more perfect Union" by protecting people's individual rights and liberty.

After his son Couper was born, Francis and his wife LeAnne—who worked for Congressman Mike Pence—decided to leave Washington to raise their new family in the Sunshine State. Francis took his drive and passion back to the Florida Department of Transportation, where he serves as the chief of staff, leveraging his experience in Washington with his knack for building consensus to get the right things done for the right reasons.

Mr. Speaker, we know all too well that the political arena can be viewed as a cold and cynical process. Francis's approach has always been different. He builds bridges and more importantly, he creates enduring friendships that remind us that there is a way to serve honorably.

Francis is now facing a fight with colon cancer. He has fought this with the same tenacity he exuded during his congressional days when he battled legislative threats to the Constitution—with passion and grace.

LeAnne, has been a constant source of strength, compassion and grace. Ernest Hemingway had somebody like LeAnne in mind when he wrote "courage is grace under fire." Their anchors are two beautiful children, Couper and Riley.

Francis has a long-term view of what America can and should be. He believes that ultimately America promises a better life for the next generation. He embodies everything that this promise stands for, and his children will live out this American Dream that their dad shaped. Over the years, legislative achievements are forgotten by the public and often become footnotes in a textbook. However, the difference that Francis made—the issues he worked on—will carry on. More importantly, the way he treated people will not be forgotten by those of us fortunate enough to spend time in these hallowed halls.

Mr. Speaker, let us today celebrate Francis Gibbs, honor his wife LeAnne, and tell his children that America will be a better place for them because of the work, love and devotion of their parents.

HONORING PATAGONIA FOUNDER
YVON CHOUINARD, RECIPIENT
OF THE LOS PADRES FOREST
WATCH WILDERNESS LEGACY
AWARD

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I congratulate Yvon Chouinard, the 2013 recipient of the Los Padres Forest Watch Wilderness Legacy Award.

Mr. Chouinard started out as a self-taught blacksmith, selling aluminum pitons for mountain climbing out of the trunk of his car. The only pitons available at that time were made of soft iron, placed once, and then left in the rock to rust. In Yosemite, multiday ascents requiring hundreds of placements had left these once-smooth majestic surfaces scarred and pocked. Aluminum pitons revolutionized the sport, preventing further damage and preserving awe-inspiring peaks across the United States. This past year, the company Mr. Chouinard founded, Patagonia, Inc., grossed \$414 million dollars in sales.

As his business expanded to outdoor gear and clothing, Mr. Chouinard has brought these same ethical principles to bear by using recycled and organic materials and adapting energy efficient production methods. Every year, Patagonia pledges 1% of its yearly sales to further conservation work across the globe. Patagonia's tireless commitment has proven that in business the planet does not need to be sacrificed for profit.

Patagonia is an invaluable partner in the Ventura County community, working with local organizations like Los Padres Forest Watch to protect California's wild places. Shortly after Los Padres Forest Watch held its first board meeting in 2004, they received a grant from Patagonia. Since that time, Patagonia has generously given grants to support their important local forest protection work, as well as volunteering their employees, donating their products, and organizing fundraising events like the annual 5k Salmon Run. Yvon Chouinard and Patagonia have had a positive and lasting influence on the preservation of the Los Padres National Forest.

I am pleased to join Los Padres Forest Watch in honoring Mr. Chouinard for his legacy of environmental activism and ensuring Patagonia is an exemplary model of environmental corporate stewardship.

JOHN PATRICK FISCHBACH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud John Patrick Fischbach for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. John Patrick Fischbach is a 12th grader at Ralston Valley High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by John Patrick Fischbach is exemplary of the type of

achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to John Patrick Fischbach for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today, on the 34th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, I want to take a moment to recognize this landmark legislation, the special relationship that exists between the United States and Taiwan, and the exceptional work by this Congress to reinforce the bond between our peoples. Yesterday also marked another important date in U.S. Taiwan relations: the 11th anniversary of the founding of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus. Since April 9, 2002, the Taiwan Caucus has grown into one of the most prominent caucuses in Congress with almost 140 current members, and has led the way in strengthening diplomatic, security, and economic relations between our two nations.

Since this Congress came together 34 years ago to pass the Taiwan Relations Act, the legislation has constituted the cornerstone of our unique relationship with one of the world's most vibrant democracies. For 30 years, the United States recognized the Republic of China (Taiwan) as the legitimate representative of the Chinese people. Yet, in 1979, the Carter administration switched sides and recognized the People's Republic of China, and at the same time derecognized the Republic of China (Taiwan). In an effort to counter this act of injustice, a unified United States Congress came together to pass the Taiwan Relations Act. To this day, our great nations continue to prosper through mutually beneficial trade relations, shared security interests, and the policies codified by the Taiwan Relations Act.

Mr. Speaker, while recognizing the accomplishments of the Taiwan Relations Act, we must also recognize the need to strengthen our commitment to Taiwan through expanded diplomatic, security, and trade ties. Earlier this year, I was proud to introduce, with my colleagues, the co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, Representatives MARIO DIAZ-BALART, JOHN CARTER, ALBIO SIRE, GERALD CONNOLLY, the Taiwan Policy Act, which seeks to accomplish these goals. If enacted, our proposed legislation would permit Taiwan's leaders to meet with U.S. officials in all executive branches, authorize the transfer of decommissioned Perry class guided missile frigates, and support the sale of F16 C/D fighter jets to the Armed Forces of Taiwan. With the growing antagonism of North Korea and the ever expanding territorial ambitions of China, our alliance with the democratic nation of Taiwan is even more important.

In 2012, as our 11th largest trading partner, 16th largest export market, and 11th largest

import market, Taiwan and the United States shared in \$63.2 billion in total trade. It is clear that Taiwan is already a close and valuable trade partner for the United States but there is more work to be done. We are glad that TIFA talks were resumed and that the most recent round was concluded in a satisfying fashion. As a next step, our U.S. Trade Representative should begin negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Agreement. A free trade agreement with Taiwan should be our ultimate goal and it is my hope that we can begin negotiations in the near future. The United States should also support Taiwan receiving observer status in the International Civil Aviation Organization.

We, as a nation, are fortunate to have Taiwan as an ally, friend, and one of our largest trading partners. Taiwan is a nation we truly can depend upon; a people who share the same dreams and aspirations as we do here in the United States. Today, we remember our predecessors here in the United States Congress who created the Taiwan Relations Act, as well as the founding members of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, who have helped the relationship between our two nations blossom into an enduring partnership.

RECOGNIZING KEVIN KRIGGER

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, when the horses line up in Churchill Downs for the running of the Kentucky Derby next month, all eyes in my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, will be on young Kevin Krigger, a jockey from my home island of St. Croix, who will be riding the horse Goldcents.

We are all proud of Kevin, who grew up in LaVallee and attended Central High School. According to Kevin, he has always wanted to be a jockey and grew up in the sport, riding horses on the beaches and country roads of the island and challenging anyone he could to a race. Before he was recruited by other Virgin Islands born jockeys who race in the States to join their ranks, he was well known on the tracks of St. Croix, St. Thomas and Tortola as a talent to watch. He proved himself riding on the West Coast, in particular at Emerald Downs in Seattle, Washington before his historic win on Saturday at the Santa Anita Derby.

With Saturday's win, Kevin Krigger has become the first African American to win the Santa Anita Derby. Last fall, he was the first African American jockey to win a million dollar race in Louisiana's Delta Jackpot. If he rides Goldcents to victory in the Kentucky Derby next month, he will become the first African American to do so since 1902. Goldcents is co-owned by the stable of Louisville basketball coach Rick Pitino and is trained by Doug O'Neill.

Mr. Speaker, Kevin Krigger's family and fans in the U.S. Virgin Islands will be cheering wildly on the first Saturday in May. I congratulate his mother Averil Simmonds and father Albert Krigger, Jr. We are all proud of this young man and his accomplishments and wish him Godspeed in this and all of his future endeavors.