

low-income families. He also championed tenants' and workers' rights, inspiring lawmakers in both major parties to listen to the voices of average Californians. All the while, he was a loving husband to his wife of 60 years, the late Anna Vlahos.

On a personal note, I was incredibly honored to succeed Senator Petris upon his retirement due to term limits in 1996. He was a steadfast friend and provided wise counsel to me throughout my time in the California Legislature. Particularly, I will always remember Senator Petris and his beloved wife, Anna, taking me to dinner prior to my first visit to Greece. They provided me with invaluable travel tips for restaurants, shopping, and tourist attractions that made my first visit so exciting. Senator Petris' beloved Greece became one of my favorite countries to visit.

Today, we mourn the loss of a wise political pioneer, a respected lawmaker, and an innovative thinker who helped shape the State of California as we know it. His legislative insight, legendary eloquence, and the camaraderie he inspired among his colleagues is unmatched. Senator Nicholas Petris' legacy continues to thrive among generations of advocates committed to championing progressive California policy as a model for environmental and social justice throughout the world. I offer my sincerest condolences to his surviving family and to the many friends and associates whose lives he touched over the course of his long and fruitful life. He will be deeply missed.

JHAMIER RYAN

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 Jhamier Ryan for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jhamier Ryan is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jhamier Ryan 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 Jhamier Ryan 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 9th, 2013, I missed rollcall vote numbers 90, 91, and 92 for unavoidable reasons.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall no. 90: "yea" (On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 254, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate the development of hydroelectric power on the Diamon Fork System of the Central Utah Project.)

Rollcall no. 91: "nay" (On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1033, to authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program.)

Rollcall no. 92: "yea" (On approving the Journal.)

INTRODUCTION OF RFS REFORM ACT AND RFS ELIMINATION ACT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have long been a critic of the renewable fuel standard and we must act now to fix this broken policy.

While the livestock industry has been witnessing the effects of the RFS mandate for several years, the drought last year highlighted for many the extreme reach of the RFS throughout our economy. But even before the drought, by diverting feed stocks to fuel there have been diminished corn supplies for livestock and food producers. Tightening supplies have driven up the price of corn. The higher cost for corn is passed on to livestock and food producers. In turn, consumers see that price reflected in the price of food on the grocery store shelves and restaurants.

This year, the U.S. is expected to hit the blend wall—where the ethanol mandate will require more ethanol be produced than can be safely blended into gasoline. In order to address the blend wall by reducing the RFS mandate, EPA is working to push E15. EPA has granted a partial waiver to allow E15 blends for model cars 2001 and newer, despite the fact that a study from the Coordinating Research Council, commissioned by U.S. automakers and oil companies, found that 25 percent of cars approved by the EPA to run on E15 experienced engine damage—and even failure. The EPA should not be promoting fuel that is unsafe on the roadways just to meet a mandate.

EPA administrators from both parties have constantly refused to use the flexibility granted to them by law to alter the RFS, so Congress must act. That is why I am introducing two bills that would alter this artificially created government market.

The first bill, the Renewable Fuel Standard Elimination Act is simple; it would eliminate the RFS and make ethanol compete in a free market. The government should not be creating a market to sustain an entire industry. While, I believe that we should completely eliminate the RFS, I recognize that there may not yet be the political will in Congress to completely eliminate this mandate. And while there may not yet be the political will to elimi-

nate this mandate we have to address the reality that we are being confronted and reform the broken RFS policy.

That is why I have joined with several colleagues in introducing legislation to reform the RFS. The Renewable Fuel Standard Reform Act eliminates the corn based ethanol requirements and caps the amount of ethanol that can be blended into conventional gasoline at 10 percent—a level that is safe for all vehicle models. And this legislation will require the EPA to set cellulosic biofuels levels at production levels—oil and gas refiners should not be fined for not being able to blend products that do not exist.

More than 40 diverse organizations are joining us to call for action to address the problems created by the RFS mandate. This is no longer just a debate about fuel or food. It is also a debate about jobs, small business, and economic growth. This mandate has wide reaching and negative impacts on a broad swath of industries. Congress created this artificial market that is distorting the food and feed market, and we must provide relief of its unintended consequences. I urge the Congress to pass this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote Number 91 "To authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program" (H.R. 1033). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

JEREMIAH BATES

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 Jeremiah Bates for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jeremiah Bates is an 11th grader at Jeffco's 21st Century Virtual Academy and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jeremiah Bates 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 Jeremiah Bates 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.

NATIONAL ASSISTANT
PRINCIPALS WEEK**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for National Assistant Principals Week, April 8 through April 12, 2013. Assistant principals are vital school leaders responsible for establishing a positive learning environment and building strong school community relationships. The National Association of Secondary School Principals/Virco National Assistant Principal of the Year program began in 2004 to recognize outstanding middle and high school assistant principals who have demonstrated success in leadership, curriculum, and personalization. This week, 47 assistant principals from across the country will participate in professional development, networking, and advocacy to share best practices and discuss the issues facing school leaders today.

As a former principal, I would like to recognize these distinguished school leaders for the pivotal role they play in their school communities. Assistant principals interact with all sectors of the school community, including support and instructional staff members, students, and parents. Assistant principals play a significant role in the instructional leadership of the school by conducting instructional supervision, mentoring teachers, encouraging collaboration, and ensuring the implementation of best practices. Assistant principals also monitor student-achievement goals and progress, facilitate and model data-driven decision making to inform instruction, and foster continual school improvement. Furthermore, assistant principals support the day-to-day logistical operations of facility management, attendance, transportation, and scheduling, as well as supervise extra- and co-curricular events. Lastly, assistant principals are entrusted with maintaining an inviting, safe, and orderly school environment that supports the growth and achievement of each and every student by nurturing positive peer relationships, recognizing student achievement, analyzing behavior patterns, providing interventions, and conducting discipline.

I applaud the work of assistant principals and recognize their contributions to the success of students in schools in the United States. I encourage the people of the United States to observe National Assistant Principals Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the primacy of school leadership in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education.

IN HONOR OF GREY NUN
ACADEMY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker I rise today to congratulate the 50th Anniversary of the Grey Nun Academy, a private Catholic school located within my district that serves pre-kindergarteners through the eighth grade.

Founded in 1963, the Grey Nun Academy opened in 1963 as the D'Youville Manor Acad-

emy in honor of Saint Margurite D'Youville, who founded the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart. Since then, The Grey Nun Academy has evolved into a school of 200 boys and girls. In 2009, the faculty of Gray Nun's educational work was recognized on the national level when the school was named a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the US Department of Education. Grey Nun Academy prides itself in creating a nurturing educational environment that encourages students to learn about themselves, and their faith.

As a lifelong resident of Bucks county, I greatly admire the Grey Nun Academy. Their commitment to creating exceptional students is highly valued within the community. Institutions such as the Grey Nun Academy are learning environments graced with dedicated teachers, administrators, and students. Grey Nun provides students with a strong foundation for success that influences their young students well into adulthood.

I am pleased to congratulate the Grey Nun Academy on its successes over the past 50 years and I hope that the Grey Nun Academy may provide a safe and compassionate learning environment in the coming years.

HONORING DR. MARKLEY SUTTON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Markley Sutton, who is retiring after 31 years of service to the Sonoma Developmental Center.

Dr. Markley Sutton served in several different capacities at the Sonoma Developmental Center, most recently as the Senior Supervising Psychologist from 2003–2011. In this role he not only solved issues that arose with residents with behavioral problems, but also acted as a mentor and friend to the psychologists he supervised. He was always ready to pass on his considerable knowledge, and has taught at many universities on a range of topics centering on clinical issues, behavior concerns, and psychopharmacology for those with multiple diagnoses.

Dr. Sutton has received awards for his leadership including the Superior Accomplishment Award Supervisory Bonus Program from the State of California in both 1986 and 1992. He received the Outstanding Leadership Pioneer Award in 1998 and the Who's Who in California award in 1982, 1988 and 1989.

Dr. Sutton has a long and distinguished career in working with individuals with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and individuals with some of the most challenging behavioral problems. Yet it is his ability to remain engaged, curious and always ready to pitch in when needed that most exemplifies him. There is no issue too challenging, no resident too difficult, nor any task beneath him.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Sutton has a long and distinguished career of service to others, most notably to the developmentally disabled population at Sonoma Developmental Center and those who seek his support in his private practice. It is therefore appropriate that we acknowledge Dr. Sutton today and wish him well in his retirement from Sonoma Developmental Center.

JAZMIN PHELPS

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 Jazmin Phelps for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jazmin Phelps is an 8th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jazmin Phelps 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 Jazmin Phelps for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING DURHAM, NORTH
CAROLINA AS THE "TASTIEST
TOWN IN THE SOUTH"**HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the city of Durham, North Carolina that was recently recognized as the "Tastiest Town in the South," by Southern Living magazine.

This year, from mid-January to February, ten Southern regions competed for the ultimate title of "Tastiest Town in the South." During the voting period, over half a million votes were cast. The editors of Southern Living magazine highlighted Durham's unique ties to the land and its great prices—noting the burgeoning food scene has quietly made Durham one of the best food destinations in the South. In addition, many chef-owners, such as James Beard of Nana's Diner, have really helped to establish a diverse assortment of landmark restaurants—ranging from breweries and café's to comfort food.

Southern Living magazine listed several other notable places to eat in Durham including: Fullsteam Brewery, Pizzeria Toro, Geer Street Garden, Mateo Tapas, Monuts Donuts, Cocoa Cinnamon, Counter Culture Coffee, and Scratch Bakery. Other great Durham restaurants include Blue Coffee Café, Beyu Caffé, and Bistro Vin Rouge, just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, when considering that Durham was competing against many more widely known Southern locales known for excellent cuisine, such as New Orleans, Atlanta, and Charleston, it's quite remarkable and impressive that Durham has created its own culinary niche. I share Durham County Commissioner Fred Foster's opinion that this award's impact will be felt for years to come.