

envisioned and fostered the beginning of a thriving arts community and culture in downtown Kansas City. He did this by transforming an undesirable section of Kansas City, Missouri into what is now known as the Crossroads Art District. As an established artist whose work has been exhibited around the world, in over 1,000 one-man shows, he understands the importance of a culture where artists have an integrated community to live, work and showcase their work. Considering those basic necessities, he purchased a building in 1985 and remodeled it to accommodate live/work artist studios and multiple gallery spaces, known as the Leedy-Voulkos Art Center. Today, the Crossroads Art District is home to more than 400 local artists, 100 independent studios, and over 30 galleries. It is one of the most concentrated gallery districts in the nation. On the first Friday of each month, known as "First Friday's", you will find thousands of people visiting the galleries, listening to music and eating at their favorite establishment. It is a uniquely Kansas City environment.

So who is this man that made such a dramatic difference, not only in our community but throughout his artistic career? Born in 1930, Jim Leedy grew up in the clay soils of Virginia and Kentucky. Working with this medium came naturally to him. During the formative time of his career, while attending Columbia University for his art history post-graduate studies, he had the opportunity to meet and listen to the dialogue of established artists in New York City. In 1966 he joined the staff of the Kansas City Art Institute, sharing his artistic skills and working with the administration and faculty to take the Kansas City Art Institute in a new direction. He taught there for over 40 years and mentored thousands of students throughout his career.

As an artist he has been influenced by his life experiences, colleagues, students, friends and family. His daughter, Stephanie Leedy and his granddaughter, Erin Woodworth, now run the Leedy-Voulkos Art Center and continue to showcase both local and international artists. He is an artist in the truest sense, whether he is painting or working with clay. His original artistic renderings with clay can be classified as one of the first Abstract Expressionism ceramic pieces. It was about the material, it was about the clay and creating a non utilitarian piece that would evolve by using the Raku firing technique. A method he learned about in Japan while on leave from the Korean War. His art is about instilling the essence of nature, color, and the continuous experiment and evolution of creativity.

As a Korean Veteran, who served as a military photographer, he had to deal with his war memories and did so through his art. Every war veteran can tell you that war alters and changes your view of life and death. Jim Leedy began experiencing flash backs during the mid 80's and through most of the 90's. Many times through his art he relived the haunting memory of a day in Korea when he jumped into a stream only to see underneath him the rotting corpses and skeletons of the dead. During this time his art focused on the images of that day. It was not until 2000 with his work "The Earth Lies Screaming," that his art conveyed the recurring reality of war through his wall of skeletons and skulls. He reminds us that war brings death. This work was the last of its kind because it put to rest his personal conflict.

Since this period in his life, he continues to experiment with his art. A painting need not be flat, clay need not go through a long firing process. He encourages today's artists and remains a friend to anyone that has an open mind and loves creating.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Jim Leedy and his endless commitment to our artistic community. He is a true role model not only for our artists, but he serves as an example of how we can all live our lives. He comprehended the essential, and with the purchase of his first building, began a slow sprawl that has become the cultural center of Kansas City. Mr. Speaker, his action made a dynamic difference for all of us to enjoy.

RECOGNITION OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. SIRE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the upcoming 65th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel and the bond of friendship between the United States and Israel.

Like the United States, the State of Israel has stood as a beacon of democracy and hope for Jewish immigrants from all over the world. As an immigrant myself, I understand the importance of the democratic freedoms and values that our nation holds dear. The United States and Israel share and embrace those values as the cornerstones of a vibrant democratic society.

I have been fortunate enough to visit Israel and witness the importance of the friendship the U.S. and Israel share. We share the common goals of peace, freedom, security and prosperity for our citizens and for the region. I am pleased to help honor the State of Israel on its 65th birthday I hope all my colleagues and fellow Americans will join me in taking pride in the unique contributions that our Israeli community has made to our nation.

Again, congratulations to Israel and its people all across the world on their 65th independence day.

RETIREMENT PLANNING WEEK

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this week, April 8–12, 2013, as Retirement Planning Week. This week is held during the national effort to observe Financial Literacy Month. This endeavor promotes the education and awareness of important financial issues and provides Americans with essential retirement planning information.

Comprehensive retirement planning is an important step that will lead Americans into a financially secure future. But, the process can be challenging for consumers which leads many Americans into retirement without an adequate financial plan. We must make this a

national priority and convey to our constituents the value of retirement planning so that more Americans can appropriately prepare for and attain financial security during their retirement years.

Social Security and Medicare face long-term challenges. My constituents depend on Social Security and Medicare for their livelihood. It is important for everyone to think about long-term financial needs, plan for a secure retirement, and create a comprehensive retirement plan. It is vital to have a plan that will leave Americans better prepared and more confident in their financial future.

COMMENDING TAMPA TSA AGENT JIM FLAHERTY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic efforts of a constituent of mine, Mr. Jim Flaherty. An Army veteran, who served over twenty years with the New York Police Department, Mr. Flaherty was driving to his job with the TSA at Tampa International Airport in the early morning hours on March 13th, 2013. He was passed by a speeding car and, minutes later, Mr. Flaherty watched that same car crash into the woods by the side of the road and catch on fire.

Mr. Flaherty stopped his car and, without concern for his own well-being, ran to aid the victim who was unable to escape on her own due to her injuries and the driver's door unable to be opened due to the accident. Along with another passerby, Mr. Flaherty proceeded to pull her out of the passenger-side of the burning vehicle. When it was clear that the injured woman was unable to walk, the two men carried her to safety before the car was consumed by fire. They stayed with her until local first responders arrived on scene. Mr. Flaherty then selflessly continued onto work, demonstrating his commitment to helping others and his official duties.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Flaherty's heroic actions are an example of the best in humanity that all of us should strive for. I applaud his actions and thank him for the bravery that he exhibited that day.

HONORING BENJAMIN KIRTLEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Benjamin Kirtley. Benjamin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 43, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Benjamin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Benjamin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Benjamin has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Benjamin

researched a family grave box and restored a Civil War soldier's gravestone at Mt. Mora Cemetery in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Benjamin Kirtley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

“THE VETERANS’ PRIVACY ACT”

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a bill, the Veterans’ Privacy Act, a bill that directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to prescribe regulations ensuring that, when veterans receive care from VA, their privacy will not be violated by unauthorized video surveillance.

By its very nature, medical care requires that an individual forfeit some privacy in order to obtain treatment. However, when a veteran walks into a VA medical facility, they should not have to worry about a covert camera being in their treatment room.

Last June, a covert camera disguised as a smoke detector was installed in the room of a brain damaged veteran who was being treated at the James A. Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa, Florida. Upon discovering the hidden camera, the veteran’s family was understandably outraged.

When the veteran’s family asked about the camera, VA officials first stated that the camera did not exist, then changed their story and admitted that the “smoke detector” was actually a video camera. When further asked if the camera was recording, VA told the family that the camera was only “monitoring” the patient and was not recording. Only after inquiries by local media and the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee did VA admit that the camera was recording. VA then removed the camera from the patient’s room.

In the wake of this incident, I sent a letter to VA asking for its legal authority to place a camera in a patient’s room without consent. VA stated that its legal opinion was that the hidden camera did not violate the law, but that it was developing a national policy to address the issue of video surveillance of patients. In response to a recent status request on this national policy from my staff, VA stated that it did not expect to have the policy finalized before September 2013, well over a year after this incident occurred.

I am deeply disturbed at VA’s callous actions and response to the privacy interests of this veteran, and can’t help but wonder whether similar incidents are occurring across the country, especially since VA still lacks a national policy in this area. The least we can do is ensure basic privacy rights of the men and women who have served our country when they seek the treatment they have earned.

Mr. Speaker, no veteran should have to worry about being secretly recorded when he or she goes to VA for medical treatment, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Veterans’ Privacy Act.

COMMEMORATING YOM HASHOAH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day, or Yom Hashoah, and to pay tribute to the men, women, and children murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

This week, we pause to join in solidarity to remember one of the darkest chapters in human history. During the Holocaust, six million Jews were killed, and countless others were brutalized, raped, dehumanized, and robbed. It is critical that, as nations and as individuals, we preserve the history of the Holocaust and the memories of survivors and other witnesses.

The Days of Remembrance hold a deep meaning for me, as a Jewish American, and for my community. My district, the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, is home to one of the largest concentrations of Holocaust survivors in the country. An estimated 3,500 Holocaust survivors live in the Chicago area, all of whom are elderly, and many of whom do not receive the care and services they need. Skokie, in my district, is home to a beautiful Holocaust museum opened in 2009, a 65,000-square-foot facility dedicated to sharing the history of the Holocaust and teaching the importance of combating hatred, indifference, and genocide to current and future generations across the Midwest.

We pledged “Never Again” but, over sixty years later, we continue to fight anti-Semitism and other forms of hatred and intolerance, even genocide. As we reflect on the tragedy of the lives lost and honor those who survived, we need to also pledge to do better moving forward. In a world where genocide, intolerance, and neglect are far too prevalent, we need to stand up against violations of human rights. We need to continue to fight injustice and protect people everywhere.

This week, we pause to remember all those who perished, honor those who survived, and redouble our pledge to fight genocide, intolerance, and persecution wherever they occur.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLD DOMINION DENTAL SOCIETY

HON. ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a legacy of community service in the Commonwealth of Virginia and throughout the nation. This year, the Old Dominion Dental Society is celebrating its 100th anniversary, and I would like to take a moment to reflect on the history of this esteemed organization and its contributions to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In 1913, black dentists sought to organize into a professional society and these efforts resulted in the Tri-State Dental Association of Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Colum-

bia, formed under the leadership of Dr. D. A. Ferguson of Richmond, Virginia. Five years later the name was changed to the Interstate Dental Association to accommodate growing interest from dentists around the region. Ultimately, in 1932, the organization’s name was changed to the National Dental Association, and so it remains today. Since that time, the National Dental Association has provided over 6000 African-American dentists in the United States and abroad the platform and the support to help them succeed.

From this history also arose the Old Dominion Dental Society. The Old Dominion Dental Society served as a forum for minority dentists in Virginia who were denied membership to the American Dental Association and the Virginia Dental Association. For 100 years, the Old Dominion Dental Society has grown and fostered professional development for the dental profession and brought needed services to the most vulnerable communities in Virginia.

The Old Dominion Dental Society has also invested in the next generation of dentists through annual scholarships for underrepresented minorities. Through these scholarships, the Society has insured that a diverse group of young students will have the opportunity to excel in the field of dentistry. Members of the organization have been generous donors of their time and expertise to various state and community service organizations, strengthening communities and making our neighborhoods healthier. Motivated by the philosophy that health care is a born right for all people, the Old Dominion Dental Society has been a relentless leader in the quest for equality and equity in health care and today I celebrate all of the members, past and present, that have set an example for all of us over the past 100 years.

There are many Old Dominion Dental Society members that have worked tirelessly to make the Society as successful and respected as it is today. I want to congratulate the members for all their achievements, and especially acknowledge a few: Dr. McKinley Price, Mayor of Newport News; the late Dr. James Holley, former Mayor of Portsmouth; the late Dr. Hugo Owens, former Vice Mayor of Chesapeake; Dr. Elizabeth Daniels, Vice Chair of Portsmouth School Board; Dr. Walter Claytor, the first African-American dentist to serve on the Virginia Board of Dentistry; and Dr. James Watkins, presently serving his fourth term as a member of the Virginia Board of Dentistry and the first African-American dentist to be president of the Virginia State Dental Board. Under their leadership, the Old Dominion Dental Society has and will continue to flourish.

As the Old Dominion Dental Society gathers to celebrate this historic milestone, this organization can truly remember its past, celebrate its present, and focus on its future. As we continue to work to invest in our future, protect access to health care, and promote education, I praise the drive and vision of the members who make our community a better place to live. I would like to congratulate all of the members of the Old Dominion Dental Society on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary, and I wish them many more years of dedicated service to the community.