

too soon. It is an honor to recognize his life here today and extend my thoughts and prayers to his family and friends during this most difficult time.

HONORING THE MOUNT FREEDOM JEWISH CENTER 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mount Freedom Jewish Center, located in Township of Randolph, Morris County, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary.

Founded by a group of residents as an orthodox synagogue in 1923, Mount Freedom Jewish Center served the summer and bungalow communities of Morris County. Mount Freedom Jewish Center continued to grow with the population of Morris County, and eventually became a year-round synagogue. The building has been renovated several times to accommodate the ever-growing population, but the walls of the original structure remain a part of the center.

The only synagogue in Randolph, Mount Freedom Jewish Center serves the diverse community of Morris County not only as a house of worship, but also a place of learning, a source of caring, and an outlet for social enjoyment. The center has an active Hebrew School for grades one through eight, as well as active religious and social programs and groups. The Mount Freedom Jewish Center serves all residents of Morris County through interfaith collaborations with other houses of worship, providing programs for young adults with special needs, as well as opening its doors to those in need. Additionally, the center also has the only Jewish Cemetery in Randolph.

The Mount Freedom Jewish Center has planned a year of festivities in celebration of its 90th anniversary. Throughout the year, there have been, and will be, special services, programs and speakers, and special dinners. The year of festivities will culminate with a 90th Anniversary Gala in December 2013 to celebrate the contributions the center has made to the community. The center looks to start off their 10th decade of vision and dedication to enriching the lives of congregants and the larger community by providing an inviting environment for spiritual, educational and social interaction.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Mount Freedom Jewish Center as they celebrate their 90th anniversary.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NICHOLAS MARIOTTI JR.

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Nicholas Mariotti Jr., 72, who passed away April 7, 2013, at his res-

idence in Niles. Nick was born Feb. 18, 1941, in Youngstown, the son of Nicholas Sr. and Mary Levero Mariotti.

Nick was a 1959 graduate of Niles McKinley High School. He worked at US Steel for 22 years in the inspection department and later at Taylor Steel in Warren for 18 years as a splitter before retiring in 2003.

Nick was a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish in Niles, Niles Frontliners and Rebounders and enjoyed sports, casino trips and most of all spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

On a personal level, he was Coach Mariotti to me. He was my first football coach and he taught me how to run the option play in 5th grade flag football. Under his leadership, our team went on to win the championship game—something I'll always cherish and remember.

Nick was a father in the best sense of the word. His son, Nicky (Gumsy), was one of my best friends growing up. I fondly remember Mr. Mariotti taking us to amusement parks, festivals or sporting events. He was always available to make sure we had a fun and active childhood. He never missed a game for any of his children. He was warm, caring and always quietly supportive of his kids, saving any comments or suggestions for private.

He will be deeply missed by his wife, Sandra Stull Mariotti, whom he married Aug. 4, 1962; a son, Nicholas G. (Nicholle) Mariotti of Leesburg, Va.; two daughters, Lisa (Michael) Sypert of Mount Juliet, Tenn., and Laurie (Scott) Paden of Niles; brother, Anthony (Kristine) Mariotti of Niles; sister, Marlene Mariotti of Niles; and seven grandchildren, Alyssa, Ariana, Alec and Andrew Sypert, Scott and Kyle Paden and Sophia Mariotti.

To some, Nick will be remembered as a friend, colleague or coach. To others, he will be remembered as father and grandfather who left behind a lasting legacy. To his family, Nick will always be remembered as a loving husband, devoted father to his children, and as a proud grandfather. I will always remember him as someone who always stepped up to help in whatever way was needed. His contributions to this community will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the life of Nicholas Mariotti Jr. I extend my most sincere condolences to Nick's wife, Sandy, his son Gumsy, daughters Lisa and Laurie, grandchildren, and the entire Mariotti family.

REMEMBERING MR. ELENO OVIEDO

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, today, we remember the life of a wonderful man whose strength, courage, kindness and passion for the Cuban people's struggle for freedom inspired countless activists.

Eleno Oviedo was born in Havana, Cuba, and later served with distinction in the U.S. Army. He was captured at sea by Castro's thugs, and became a political prisoner in a Cuban gulag for twenty-six years. While in prison, Eleno was a plantado, or prisoner who refused indoctrination or any acts that would affirm the legitimacy of his confinement.

Eleno's defiance of the brutal Castro dictatorship resulted in especially harsh treatment in grossly inhumane prison conditions.

Despite his bleak circumstance, Eleno used his time in prison to become fluent in several languages. When he finally was released from prison in 1988, Eleno returned to the United States where he continued to speak out against the Castro regime's atrocities and oppression of the Cuban people. He met with lawmakers to draw attention to the grim realities of the Castro regime, and became director of the effective and highly commendable organization, Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba.

Some complain that our younger generations have no heroes to inspire them to greatness. They need only look to the example of Eleno who, despite remarkably trying circumstances, held to his principles. He was not only resilient in overcoming the appalling injustice that cost him a quarter of his life, but he managed to maintain his compassion and zest for life.

Sadly, Eleno passed away on April 4, 2013. I am grateful to have known and worked with Eleno over many years. He is irreplaceable. His life's work remains a blessing to those who continue the cause of freedom for the Cuban people. My prayers are with him and his family. May God bless his soul.

COLLABORATIVE FOR CHILDREN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, four-year-old Jaylen in Houston, Texas wants to be a teacher when he grows up. It isn't every day that you meet a youngster with aspirations as big as Jaylen's. It takes a special role model, advocate, and teacher to spark the dreams in kids as young as him. The best news for these kids is that the world is their oyster; they have a world of opportunities awaiting them. Teaching our kids about the opportunities that are available is exactly what Collaborative for Children works to do each day. In Houston, Collaborative for Children is an admirable organization that promotes and builds strong educational foundations in the lives of kids for a brighter future.

For over 25 years, Collaborative for Children has partnered with families, teachers, care providers, and community-based groups to provide Houston area youth with the best possible educational foundation. Collaborative for Children's commitment to education for kids, ages zero through six, ranges from helping parents find good child care, providing parental guidance, and providing parents and teachers with necessary educational resources, all the way to strengthening early childhood education systems through policy changes. Every day, the non-profit organization does everything it can for the role models in the lives of the kids so that they can continue leading them toward their dreams.

The impressive Collaborative for Children services are possible because of its strong team. The organization is run by a board of directors made up of diverse citizens from all different fields in the community. Dedicated volunteers help guide the organization and

shape our children's lives every day, with the support of generous local businesses that help fund it. It takes quite a band of leaders to run an organization that goes "above and beyond" for our kids on a daily basis.

Today, I would like to recognize Collaborative for Children for their dedication to improving the quality of education in the lives of our children, America's future. For some kids, you have given them a chance that they may not have had without your help. Thank you for your valuable contributions to our community, our state and our nation. Coming from a family with several teachers—and having taught school myself long ago—I understand what an impact a good education and role model can have on a child. It truly makes a world of a difference. Thank you for being that difference.

And that's just the way it is.

SAFEGUARDING AMERICAN COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 2013

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. agricultural sector is a critical component of the American economy, generating over \$1 trillion in annual economic activity. However, this sector remains vulnerable to the natural or deliberate introduction of pests and disease. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports foreign pests and diseases currently cost the American economy tens of billions of dollars annually in the form of lower crop values, eradication programs, and emergency payments to farmers. Therefore, effective import and entry inspections are essential to preventing further economic losses.

After 9/11, the Homeland Security Act of 2002 transferred federal frontline import and entry agriculture inspection responsibilities from USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) within the Department of Homeland Security. Intended to enhance coordination at our nation's ports of entry by unifying federal customs, immigration, and agriculture inspection officers within DHS, this reorganization has actually generated several problems relating to the recruitment and retaining of agricultural inspection activities, including staffing shortages of CBP inspection personnel, coordination challenges between APHIS and CBP, and a lack of resources for equipment and supplies.

Without measures to adequately address these specific shortfalls, CBP will be powerless to prevent the increasing economic damage foreign pests and diseases are causing to the American economy.

That is why I am introducing the Safeguarding American Commerce and Agriculture Act. This bill will address these issues by establishing an Office of Agriculture Inspection within CBP charged with 1) developing a comprehensive agriculture specialist career track that ensures agriculture specialists are provided the training, experience, and assignments necessary for career progression; 2) developing plans to ensure agriculture specialists receive the necessary equipment and resources to fully and effectively carry out their

mission; and 3) establishing interagency rotations for CPB and APHIS personnel to strengthen critical relationships and promote interagency experience. By focusing on effective training and professional development, we can recruit and retain agricultural specialists, protect U.S. agriculture and commerce, and bolster this very necessary yet vulnerable sector of our economy.

ON THE OCCASION OF REVEREND DERRICK S. MCDONALD'S FIFTH ANNIVERSARY AS PASTOR OF PROSPECT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF PONTIAC, MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Derrick S. McDonald on the occasion of his Fifth Anniversary as the spiritual leader of the congregation of Prospect Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac, Michigan.

As the son of the late Reverend Eddie McDonald, who was pastor to Friendship Missionary Baptist Church for many years, Reverend McDonald grew up immersed in the teachings of Christ. It is hardly surprising that, like his father, Reverend McDonald would heed the call to serve his community. Reverend McDonald would continue to be involved in the congregation of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and after heeding the call to serve he joined the leadership at Friendship in 2002 as Gospel Minister under the late Reverend Dr. William Dulaney.

In 2008, Reverend McDonald was called to serve the congregation at Prospect Missionary Baptist Church. Under his leadership, the congregation at Prospect has not only grown in membership, but has also developed a greater spiritual connection to the words of the Gospel. Reverend McDonald strongly believes that faith plays a central role in the transformation of lives, both within his congregation and the City of Pontiac. The lessons of love in his faith have also led Reverend McDonald to place considerable emphasis on ministries that are active in the Pontiac community, which focus on improving the quality-of-life for local residents. While serving as pastor, Reverend McDonald has supported church programs that have nurtured the youth of the congregation as they work to discover and achieve their full potential.

His leadership and dedication have led Reverend McDonald to become a pillar of strength in the community and an example to others who seek to make a positive impact through the teachings of the Bible. For his commitment to his faith and his support of the Pontiac community, Reverend McDonald has been recognized by the Wolverine State Congress, Walter Cade Regional Workshop of the National Baptist Convention and the Crystal Lake District Congress Association, where he currently serves as Assistant Dean of the Crystal Lake Baptist District Association. Reverend McDonald's efforts, both at the pulpit and beyond, have been strengthened by the love of his wife, Barbara, and their children, Antonio and Jennifer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the profound impact that

Reverend Derrick McDonald has made on the congregation of Prospect Missionary Baptist Church as its pastor of the last five years and the larger impact he has made on the Greater Pontiac community. I wish Pastor McDonald, his family, and the congregants of Prospect many more rewarding years of spiritual fellowship.

HONORING THE WANAUQUE FIRST AID SQUAD'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Wanaque First Aid Squad, located in the Borough of Wanaque, Passaic County, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Before the existence of the Wanaque First Aid Squad, emergency medical services were provided to the borough by the Pompton Lakes First Aid Squad, located in the adjacent municipality. With the aim of providing better coverage to Wanaque, a group of residents petitioned the Mayor and Borough Council to form their own squad in 1970. Then Mayor Frank Longo appointed Councilman Samuel Liotti to serve as a liaison to the group and monitor its progress, and in October 1971, prospective members began training with the Ringwood, New Jersey Ambulance Corps. The first officers appointed by the Wanaque First Aid Squad were President Dennis Gallagher, Vice President Thomas Jones, Secretary Rosemary Jenkins, and Captain Robert Brown.

The Wanaque First Aid Squad was incorporated on June 21, 1972, due to the efforts of founding members Martin Carrigan III, Joseph Cisco, Arnold Cohen, Raymond Ernst, and David Sisco. The seventeen new members then began probationary training with the Ringwood and Pompton Lakes Squads, while they worked to build up their training and the capabilities of the new Wanaque First Aid Squad. The members wrote to other area squads seeking equipment donations, and were able to meet most of their needs. Later in the year, the squad obtained two aged Cadillac Ambulances, and in December, found a property on Melrose Avenue for their headquarters. While the new building was being completed, the squad operated out of a trailer set up behind the Borough Hall on Ringwood Avenue.

The Wanaque First Aid Squad officially began to operate at midnight, April 1, 1973. They held a dinner at a local restaurant to celebrate, and there they chose the names for the first premier, duty crew from a hat. Just before midnight, David Bolema, David Dougherty, Joseph Carrigan, and Robert Jordon left to start the first shift of the Wanaque First Aid Squad. The squad proved their importance quickly, as the first use of the rigs was the following day, April 2, and the first emergency call came on April 3.

The official headquarters was completed and dedicated on May 26, 1974, and within five years, a large hall was added, thanks to the donations of the Wanaque Lion's Club. Today, the hall is open for use for public fundraisers and private events, and every Thursday night, it is used to host the Wanaque First