

IN HONOR OF SACRED HEART
SCHOOL, WEYMOUTH, MA

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sacred Heart School in recognition of its one hundred years of educating the children of Weymouth and Braintree, Massachusetts.

Sacred Heart School was founded in 1913 by the Sisters of Saint Joseph at the request of Father John B. Holland. The school had a humble beginning with thirty-three first graders who were taught in the dining room of the convent under the direction of Sister Margaret Mary.

Today, Sacred Heart School serves over 260 students. Though it is now staffed by an all-day faculty, the qualities of the Sisters of Saint Joseph live on through the commitment and dedication of the teachers.

Mister Speaker, the Sacred Heart School is committed to developing the whole child, in mind, body, and spirit, by integrating a strong academic program with a distinctly Catholic education; as a result, Sacred Heart students consistently score above the average on standardized tests. Community service is also an important component of a Sacred Heart education and the commitment to that service helps students develop a strong sense of civic engagement and lifelong sensitivities to improving the welfare of others.

A strong bond between the parish and school has long been a trademark of Sacred Heart. When a fire destroyed Sacred Heart Church in December of 2005, the school and parish communities came together to support one another during the difficult rebuilding process.

Another important trademark of Sacred Heart School is the level of parental involvement. Through the school's Home and School Volunteer Program, parents contribute nearly seven thousand hours of direct service to the school each year, which allows the school to offer a variety of academic and social programs for students.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with the Sacred Heart School community in celebrating one hundred years of Catholic education.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on April 9, 2013, I unfortunately missed three votes, which included rollcall votes 90, 91 and 92.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 90.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 91.

Lastly, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 92.

HONORING THE FRANK O'HARA
ASSOCIATION

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 organization The Frank O'Hara Association, located in West Orange, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 80th Anniversary.

Frank O'Hara came from humble beginnings in the town of Boggaun in Ballinamore, County Leitrim, Ireland. He was born in 1900 as one of fifteen children. Typical of most young Irishmen of his day, Frank O'Hara fought as part of the Leitrim Brigade for a free Ireland after the 1916 Easter uprising. He was held prisoner in Athlone barracks until he escaped by scaling a wall.

Frank O'Hara immigrated to America in the 1920s with just a primary school education, but a drive to succeed. While working with the Hudson Tubes (now PATH) and Prudential Insurance Company, he opened a speak-easy on Bergen Street, Newark. After prohibition was repealed in 1933, Frank O'Hara opened a tavern on Central Avenue, Newark. Later, in 1932, he married Louise O'Kane, a fellow native of Ireland who shared his deep faith and devotion to family. They became parents to nine children, and thirty grandchildren. Today there are now fifty-five great-grandchildren as well as two great-great-grandchildren, and the family continues to grow.

In 1933, the Frank O'Hara Association was founded in Newark, organized by its first President, Raymond Mulhern, to act as an organization representing Irish culture and values. Frank O'Hara was one of the co-founders of the Newark Saint Patrick's Day Parade in 1936. He moved his family to West Orange in 1941, and opened a tavern and liquor store in the Pleasantdale section of town in 1948. Frank O'Hara pioneered the Irish movement in West Orange and co-founded the Irish American Society of West Orange, which became the present Irish American Society of the Oranges. He also co-founded the West Orange Saint Patrick's Day Parade. During the 1950's, Frank O'Hara aided numerous Irishmen, sponsoring their entry to the United States, which was a requirement at the time. He actively fundraised for many years on behalf of Salesian Missions, and as a result of his efforts and contributions, a Mission Church was built in the Philippines, dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes. He was a parishioner and benefactor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in West Orange, as well as a benefactor for both Our Lady of the Lake Church in Verona and Queen of Angels Church in Newark.

Though Frank O'Hara passed away over 40 years ago, the products of his life, faith, principals, and labor continue to flourish. The Frank O'Hara Association remains one of the oldest active Irish organizations in New Jersey, cultivating the strong Irish heritage and family traditions that Frank O'Hara and his wife Louise stood for.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Frank O'Hara Association as they celebrate their 80th anniversary.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM KAPLAN

HON. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William Kaplan, an inspirational individual who has selflessly served our community in the Hudson Valley.

Mr. Kaplan is the founder of the Elaine and William Kaplan Family Foundations, which concentrates on supporting innovative and sustainable projects primarily in the Newburgh area. He has made a tremendous impact on countless organizations in our community including Mount St. Mary College, St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital, Hospice of Orange, The Greater Hudson Valley Health Center, Occupations, Inc., McQuade Foundation, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh, and Orange County Community College. Mr. Kaplan has provided scholarships to help students have to opportunity to attend college.

Mr. Kaplan frequently donates his time and resources in his tireless pursuit to better our community. His philanthropic contributions to his neighbors in the Hudson Valley have led to the betterment of our education system, local infrastructure, and community programs.

Throughout the years, Mr. Kaplan has been recognized for these accomplishments among many others. This week, he is recognized by the Orange County Human Rights Commission as a Human Rights award recipient.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Kaplan and his continued commitment and service to our Hudson Valley community and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

**RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF MELANIE DRESSEL**

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Melanie Dressel of Tacoma for receiving the 2013 Executive Excellence Award for CEO of the Year from Seattle Business Magazine. Dressel is the President and CEO of Columbia Bank and Columbia Banking System, Inc.

The Executive Excellence Award honors leaders in Washington State who demonstrate exceptional leadership and communication skills in the workplace, inspiring their employees to apply themselves and do their best.

Dressel began her career at Columbia Bank nearly 18 years ago. She, along with the Columbia Bank team, created a unique banking system. The new local bank offered programs that big banks provided, such as private banking and cash management, while adopting small-town values and quality customer service. These services enhanced the perception of banking, making Columbia Bank one of the most popular and successful banks in the Northwest.

Under Dressel, Columbia Bank not only expanded, but also endured the financial crisis with ease. Dressel said that by making smart

investment decisions and remaining loyal to their business model, they were able to advance their institution. Dressel and her team did not rely heavily on real estate loans and only raised capital when the market improved.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Melanie Dressel and her admirable leadership as President and CEO of Columbia Bank and Columbia Banking System, Inc. She is a prime example of sound banking company management.

COMMEMORATING VICTOR M.
FORTUNO'S DISTINGUISHED CA-
REER

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Victor M. Fortuno's distinguished career in public interest law and his thirty years of exceptional service to the Legal Services Corporation (LSC).

Vic Fortuno is a true American success story. Like me, Vic is a proud "nuyorican," that is, someone of Puerto Rican heritage hailing from New York City. He was born and raised in Hell's Kitchen in Manhattan, where he lived with his brother and grandparents in a small shotgun-style apartment. Vic thrived both in and out of school and was offered a full scholarship to Columbia University. He earned both his Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctorate degrees from Columbia, and spent his first year after law school providing legal services to the poor as a staff attorney with Community Legal Services in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Vic subsequently served for five years as an Assistant District Attorney for the City and County of Philadelphia. His work under then-District Attorney Ed Rendell included assignments to the Trial and Appellate Divisions, as well as the Organized Crime Unit.

Vic came to LSC in 1983 as an attorney in the Office of Compliance and Review. Subsequently, he served as Acting Director of Compliance and Review, Assistant General Counsel, Senior Litigation Counsel, and Deputy General Counsel before being appointed General Counsel of the Corporation in 1991. He has served honorably in that capacity for twenty-two years. Vic also holds the offices of Corporate Secretary and Vice President for Legal Affairs. As a key member of the management team, Vic has provided exceptional legal advice and counsel to eight LSC presidents and four boards of directors. He brought the highest levels of professionalism, ethics, and leadership to LSC's legal department. He achieved a record of success while providing sound advice, compassionate mentoring, and unwavering friendship to countless individuals during his tenure at LSC. Vic served as a stabilizing force in times of crisis, as the keeper of institutional knowledge in times of transition, and as a trusted and knowledgeable advisor throughout.

Vic also served as LSC's first Latino president from 2010–2011. Always prepared and unflappable, with a ready smile, a hearty laugh, and a great sense of humor, Vic brought a wealth of experience and confidence to the Corporation's highest office. His patient, thoughtful, and collaborative leader-

ship style empowered staff and enhanced LSC's commitment to providing access to justice for low-income Americans. I met Vic during this time period, and he struck me as just the type of person we should have in public service—caring, committed, and devoted to helping others.

Throughout his career at LSC, Vic has selflessly dedicated himself to promoting the public interest and making the dream of "equal justice for all" a reality for all Americans. He is a model public servant, and I commend him for his life-long commitment to providing high-quality civil legal services to the nation's poor.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating and thanking Victor M. Fortuno for his truly remarkable service to the Legal Services Corporation and his immeasurable contributions to both the legal aid community and our nation. I wish Victor all the best as he enters this new phase in his life.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MARY
E. WALTON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Ms. Mary E. Walton, a World War II veteran and the first African American nurse from Dallas to enlist in the U.S. Army. Ms. Walton lived to be 93, and left behind a legacy working as a nurse for more than 70 years.

Ms. Walton had a long and rich history living in Dallas, and remained in Dallas for most of her life. Ms. Walton left Dallas to pursue her degree in nursing at the Brewster Methodist Hospital School of Nursing in Florida—one of the few schools available for black nurses at the time—and later enlisted in the Army in 1944.

Ms. Walton believed that being a nurse was her purpose in life. She recalled that working to serve others was the driving force behind her dedication as a nurse, and her chief motivation was to pursue a career serving others, even in the face of overwhelming adversity and discrimination.

After serving in World War II, Ms. Walton returned to Dallas to become a public health nurse at Parkland Hospital, only the second African American nurse to be hired there. Ms. Walton would later come to work at the Dallas VA Medical Center in the service of other veterans—but not until after first being turned away during the late 1950s, when African Americans were not hired.

Mr. Speaker, as the first nurse to be elected to the U.S. Congress, I am honored to recognize such an influential and historic figure from Dallas. Ms. Walton was a selfless caregiver whose faith helped her to overcome the challenges of discrimination. We are grateful for Ms. Walton's service to our country and courage in the face of adversity, and our thoughts are with the friends and family she left behind.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEW JERSEY
MANUFACTURERS INSURANCE
COMPANY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company (NJM) of West Trenton, New Jersey on its 100th Anniversary. Since its founding, NJM has provided quality, affordable insurance to its customers. Its commitment to the service and benefit of its policyholders is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Incorporated on June 7, 1913, New Jersey Manufacturers Casualty Insurance Company (currently NJM) was founded as a workman's compensation insurance agency to serve the well-being of the many workers employed in the manufacturing industry throughout New Jersey. It has expanded over the years to now also include personal and commercial automobile, homeowners, flood and umbrella insurance. In its 100-year history, NJM has insured over one million New Jersey households and businesses. Additionally, it has provided nearly \$5 billion in dividends to its policyholders since instituting them in 1918. NJM's expansions have had a positive impact on the economic growth of New Jersey and have provided for thousands of employment opportunities to New Jersey residents.

NJM has received various recognitions and accolades over the years. In 2006 and 2010 the carrier had zero valid complaints and was ranked as the #1 automobile insurance company for overall customer satisfaction in the U.S. by Consumer Reports. It has also been recognized as a J.D. Power Customer Service Champion, a Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Corporation of the Year and a Ewing Township Economic Development Advisory Commission Large Business of the Year. NJM also continues to maintain its ranking as one of the best carriers by the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company. The company continues to provide outstanding service to its customers.

HONORING THE GARDEN CLUB OF
MORRISTOWN

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 Garden Club of Morristown, located in Morristown, New Jersey, which is celebrating its Centennial Anniversary.

In 1913, Mrs. Gustav Kissel, granddaughter of the Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, gathered together a few women and established the Garden Club of Morristown. This club reflected a new type of organization where women "sowed their own seeds" not only for providing floral beauty, but also for civic action. They composed a constitution stating that the club's purpose was to "promote garden