

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

culture by the exchange of ideas on all matters pertaining to the garden." In these early years, the meetings were mainly social gatherings accompanied by a lecture and an elaborate tea. By 1917, the club became a chapter of the Garden Club of America, and its focus shifted from teas to civic projects, conservation, preservation of wild flowers, and bird life.

Throughout its history, the Garden Club of Morristown has been politically active, working with Washington and Trenton to advocate various causes. They aided the needy through the Great Depression, as well as planted Victory Gardens and provided acreage for planting during the World Wars. During World War II, the club sent small decorations to local veterans hospitals, which began an annual wreath-making tradition. The Garden Club of Morristown also strongly advocated against the placement of billboards on New Jersey highways that were built with federal funds and supported the efforts to begin the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in 1964.

The Garden Club of Morristown has also worked on several local projects throughout town, such as the beautification of Washington's Headquarters with plantings in 1926. They worked on the Neighborhood House in 1934, as well as Macculloch Hall's historic gardens in 1959, among many others. Within the club itself, overseen by the Horticulture Committee, members had two main projects; attending flower arrangement courses, and working at least three days in a greenhouse for practical lessons. This program saw members win awards for their irises and chrysanthemums, and by 1949, the club had grown to an impressive 77 members.

The achievements of the Garden Club of Morristown continued, and in 1985, by the leadership of Isabel Bartenstein, the club became a Founders Fund finalist for its work on the restoration of the Gardens at Morven in Princeton. In partnership with the Frelinghuysen Arboretum and Morris County Park System, the Garden Club of Morristown established "Branching Out," an award-winning children's garden. Throughout the 1990's, the club held several fundraising events, including a Christmas house tour. From 1997–1999, the Garden Club of Morristown's own Chris Wilmsen served as President of the Garden Club of America. They also hosted dinner parties and garden tours for the Garden Club of America's annual meeting in 1999, and held the Zone IV meeting.

In 2007, Congressman and honorary member Rodney Frelinghuysen was awarded the Garden Club of America's Frances K. Hutchison Medal for conservation, and since 2000, the Garden Club of Morristown has received the award for the most horticultural, flower show, and photography points at the Zone IV meeting five of seven times. The Garden Club of Morristown's annual plant sale continues to be their largest fundraiser, and they remain active in local projects and fundraising events today. The club is as vibrant and vigorous today as it was at its founding one hundred years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Garden Club of Morristown, Morris County as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary.

## RECOGNIZING THE BULLITT CENTER, THE GREENEST COMMERCIAL BUILDING IN THE WORLD

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 12, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Bullitt Center, which will be the greenest commercial building in the world. The Bullitt Center is complete, and is planning its grand opening on Earth Day, Monday, April 22.

This six-story, 50,000-square-foot building is located near downtown Seattle. The Bullitt Center will achieve the goals of the Living Building Challenge (version 2.0), as described by the International Living Building Institute.

To be certified as a Living Building, a structure is required to be self-sufficient for energy and water for at least 12 continuous months and must meet rigorous standards for green materials and the quality of its indoor environment.

The Bullitt Center features include: a solar array which will generate as much electricity as the building uses; rainwater collection for storage and use throughout the building; and ample natural lighting with opening windows. Also, Bullitt Center has been constructed without "red list" hazardous materials, which include PVC, cadmium, lead, mercury, and hormone-mimicking substances, which are sometimes found in building components.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I celebrate the opening of the Bullitt Center. It is a beautiful, self-sufficient building that exemplify technological leadership and innovation in the Puget Sound region. I am proud that the greenest commercial building demonstrating self-sufficiency for energy and water will soon open in Seattle.

## PORT SECURITY GRANT ACT OF 2013

**HON. JANICE HAHN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 12, 2013*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, each day, U.S. ports move both imports and exports totaling some \$3.8 billion worth of goods through all 50 States. Additionally, ports move 99.4 percent of overseas cargo volume by weight and generate \$3.95 trillion in international trade. Given the importance of ports to our national economy, they must remain competitive and secure.

Thus, we must remain vigilant and make sure we are giving States the resources necessary, so they can address the constant security threats that continue to loom at our Nation's ports. Whether its scanning foreign cargo for nuclear material or patrolling essential waterways, port security has become increasingly important as we expand into a 21st century global economy. However, funding for these efforts continue to be a challenge as maritime security continue to expand and broaden with ever-evolving threats. Additionally, the economic downturn has forced cash-strapped States to cut funding for these vital security initiatives.

That is why I am reintroducing the Port Security Grant Act, which will extend the Port Security Grant Program through 2017. The Port Security Grant Act addresses these problems by allowing States to receive the Federal funding they need in order to secure their vital ports of entry. The program authorizes up to \$400 million for States to train personnel, expand port recovery and resiliency capabilities, and increase their capacity to detect, respond to, and recover from attacks involving explosive devices.

However, Congress has failed to extend this vital program beyond 2015. By not extending this program, we endanger the critical progress that has been made in port security and increase the overall risk to our national and economic security.

By passing this bill, we will ensure that States continue to receive the funding they need in order to protect our Nation's gateways to the rest of the world.

## HONORING DR. ROBERT WITT, CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SYSTEM

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 12, 2013*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, a decade ago this spring, Dr. Robert Witt became the 26th president of The University of Alabama.

Last March, after nine highly successful years as UA president, Bob was unanimously elected Chancellor of the University of Alabama System. In his new post, he is continuing to transform the UA System, which is comprised of the flagship campus in Tuscaloosa, as well as The University of Alabama at Birmingham and The University of Alabama in Huntsville, into one of America's fastest growing public university systems.

Together, the UA system budget exceeds \$4.6 billion with student enrollment at the three campuses exceeding 57,000 and more than 26,000 employees.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Bob Witt for over a decade of dedication, service and leadership to The University as well as to the State of Alabama.

When Dr. Witt was selected UA president in 2003, he brought to the campus an ambitious "Plan for Growth" to boost student enrollment and school prestige. During a period of austerity in state funding and with challenges in the UA's storied football program, Dr. Witt laid out a strategy of increasing enrollment by forty percent, raising faculty and staff salaries, boosting financial aid to students, and upgrading and expanding university facilities.

His record of growth in Tuscaloosa was truly unprecedented.

During his tenure as president, The University of Alabama established the tremendously successful University Honors College and hired head football coach Nick Saban.

And under Dr. Witt's leadership, total enrollment at the Tuscaloosa campus increased from fewer than 20,000 students to more than 31,000 students. Today, total enrollment at the Tuscaloosa campus exceeds 33,000 students and The University of Alabama is ranked first in the nation among public, flagship universities in the enrollment of National Merit Scholars.