

Alijah Caul, Hannah Crane, Gabrielle Daniels, Joseph DeBlasio, Madison Dempsey, Leya Erdman, John Fox, Samantha Gross, Zachary Knight, Briana Lucha, Rachel Mai, Jarred Matchett, Joshua Matchett, Hannah McLaughlin, Stephen McLaughlin, Matthew Michielli, Riley Molway, Minas Nicoludis, Anthony Nocito, Briana Novoa, Cain Pipitone, Dominic Rattell, Melanie Schmidt, Alexandra Simber, Gian Sinfuego, Taylor Swan, Christopher Thatcher, Daniel Trantas, Sophia Troilo, and William Waer. The director is Mrs. Lucinda Garvey and the scenes were all hand-painted by Mrs. Kristen Laurenzi and Mrs. Pam Laurenzi.

The students from the class also interviewed Mr. Rich Zimmerman, a longtime resident of Laurel Springs. After gathering information about the town, they wrote their play based on Mr. Zimmerman's knowledge. These exceptional students were very excited to celebrate Laurel Spring's history and to sing happy birthday to the town after the play. The class' efforts to commemorate their town exemplify a strong dedication to learning and an outstanding commitment to their community. I urge them to continue to practice civic engagement and academic curiosity as they grow older.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF FATHER JUNIPERO SERRA'S BIRTH

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 2013*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 300th anniversary of Father Junipero Serra's birth.

Father Serra was born in Petra, Mallorca, Spain in 1713. After studying theology and being ordained to the Catholic priesthood, Serra left his beloved homeland in Mallorca and journeyed across continents and oceans in order to reach the New World.

Upon Serra's arrival on the West Coast of North America in 1769, he began founding a chain of missions that would eventually stretch from San Diego in the south to Solano in the north. This chain of 21 missions has developed into some of the central cities and towns of modern day California.

In what is now my Congressional district, Father Serra founded Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa. Since its establishment in 1772, this small Spanish outpost has grown into the beautiful city of San Luis Obispo.

Today, Father Serra's legacy is still present in San Luis Obispo and throughout California. The cultural and spiritual heritage of Serra continues as an enduring, living tradition and has shaped various aspects of Californian life up to the present day. Indeed, a statue of Father Serra now stands in the United States Capitol's Statuary Hall in Washington, DC, attesting to his profound influence in the shaping of American history.

This week, Palma de Mallorca, Spain will host a festival commemorating the occasion titled "300 años de Junip Serra (300 Years of Junipero Serra)." I send my best wishes for a wonderful celebration as Spain recognizes Father Serra's significant contribution to American and Spanish history and reflects on his cultural and spiritual legacy.

IN HONOR OF KELLOGG MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 2013*

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kellogg Middle School in Rochester, Minnesota.

Named after the Honorable Frank Kellogg, a citizen of Rochester who served as Secretary of State under President Coolidge, Kellogg Middle School celebrates its 50th year of existence in 2013.

As a social studies teacher at Mankato West, I know how important it is to develop our next generation of leaders. The shared dedication of teachers, staff, and parents at Kellogg Middle School has produced grade-A education for the past half-century and will continue to nurture students for years to come.

Secretary Kellogg devoted his life to the cause of peace and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1929. Kellogg Middle School carries on his legacy by teaching students to work together so everyone can achieve their full potential. That's a lesson for us all.

Over the last half century, the Frank B. Kellogg Middle School has instilled its proud tradition of education and excellence into their students today. The Kellogg Middle School is the oldest middle school in Rochester, and remains to this day the choice for students, parents, and teachers alike.

Just as Secretary Kellogg serves as an inspiration for southern Minnesotans, I am confident that Kellogg Middle School provides its graduates with the skills they need to succeed and maybe even one day win a Nobel Prize.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Kellogg Middle School for its 50 years of service to the students of Rochester.

CELEBRATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FT. SHERMAN TOWNSHIP

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 2013*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the establishment of Ft. Sherman Township, a community of about 200 people, and to applaud the efforts of Titus County Historical Preservation Society, Titus County Historical Commission, Bob Sandlin State Park, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in working together to protect and preserve the location and rich history of Ft. Sherman.

Established in 1838, Ft. Sherman was the first community in southwest Titus County. It was built by Captain William Stout and members of the Red River Mounted Rangers, who are now considered to be Early Texas Rangers. Ft. Sherman was named in honor of Colonel Sidney Sherman, the Commander of the Left Wing of the Republic of Texas Army at the Battle of San Jacinto. Ft. Sherman's namesake famously originated the Battle Cry, "Remember the Alamo!"

The Fort served many purposes during its early years, functioning as a refuge for fami-

lies against Indian attacks and a resting place for early Texas Ranger units from 1838–1841, a voting place for several elections between 1842 and 1846, and a military waypoint during the War with Mexico in 1846.

Today, I am pleased to join the Titus County Historical Preservation Society and Titus County Historical Commission in honoring the early Texas families and military units for their self-reliance, independence, and role in Ft. Sherman's history. Yesterday, these organizations' efforts to have the Titus Commissioners Court approve a resolution were rewarded, and Saturday, June 8, 2013 has been declared "Fort Sherman Day."

I join my constituents of Titus County in celebrating Historic Ft. Sherman and its founding nearly 175 years ago, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Titus County's historical preservation efforts of Ft. Sherman.

IN HONOR OF THE DELAWARE COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 2013*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Delaware County Veterans Memorial in my home state of Pennsylvania and the tremendous work done by Memorial's Board of Directors and its founding member, Claude de Botton and his daughter, Nicole de Botton Robinson, to make their vision a reality. The memorial, opening to the public next month, is a fitting tribute to the veterans of Delaware County. Engraved in the memorial's columns are the names of the Delaware County men and women who gave their lives in defense of American liberty. Our nation owes a debt of gratitude to its veterans that can never be repaid, but the Delaware County Veterans' Memorial will honor our veterans and ensure their sacrifices will always be remembered by future generations of Delaware County families.

THE IMPORTANCE OF A US-MOROCCAN RELATIONSHIP

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 2013*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the importance of US-Morocco bilateral relations—a friendship that has strongly endured for over 225 years because of shared interests and mutual respect. At a time when recent reports suggest that the relationship has come under some strain, we must remember that our relationship with Morocco is more important than ever and it will not be jeopardized. The Maghreb and Sahel are increasingly threatened by instability and insecurity emanating from the terrorist groups operating in Northern Mali and elsewhere, the United States' relationships with key allies in the region becomes all the more important. US-Morocco relations remain strong, based on a shared commitment to promoting peace, security, and human rights throughout North Africa and the wider Middle East. The US

must continue to recognize the importance of this relationship—and strengthen it—as it works to combat terrorism and promote regional cooperation throughout the region.

As a stable, democratizing, and steadfast ally, Morocco has made important achievements over the last decade on issues ranging from security and counterterrorism to economic development, political and social reforms, advancement of human rights, and cross-cultural tolerance and respect. There has always been strong bipartisan support for a strong US–Morocco bilateral relationship in the US Congress and we must continue to support these developments and work with Morocco to address our common interests and shared values concerning the most important issues in the Middle East and North Africa. We have been strong partners, friends, and allies for more than 225 years. That is a unique history that has solidified our strong relations with Morocco since the origins of our nation and one which will certainly endure and strengthen in the future because of the importance both countries place on our partnership.

COMMENDING THE BULLITT FOUNDATION UPON COMPLETION OF THE “GREENEST OFFICE BUILDING ON THE PLANET”

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 2013*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Denis Hayes and the Bullitt Foundation for developing the world's most environmentally-friendly and self-sustaining buildings right here in Seattle. The Bullitt Center represents a deep commitment to environmental stewardship and redefines our ideas about sustainable development in dense urban areas. By creating the greenest office building on the planet, you have provided the world an example leading the way to our future. The building is an inspiration and represents a milestone in our efforts to leave a smaller carbon footprint for future generations.

Each aspect of the Bullitt Center was meticulously planned and evaluated with its striking technical aspects. From its rainwater cistern and photovoltaic panels to its energy transparency and 250 year life span, the Bullitt Center is and will remain a marked departure from what has been previously achieved in large-scale architecture.

Your vision reveals the environmental innovation that can be attained and the completion of this building draws attention to the viability for such projects. The Bullitt Foundation's pledge to construct a complex with so many far-reaching goals in sustainability reflects its hard work, determination and resolve.

The development of the Bullitt Center stands as an example for Seattle, the United States and beyond as a viable solution to our continued efforts to go green and commit to furthered environmentally sound projects. Through your dedication, conviction and perseverance to establish such a groundbreaking commercial workspace you have set a new standard of achievement for environmental sustainability.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EUGENE S. “GENE” CUNY

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 2013*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Eugene S. “Gene” Cuny Jr., who passed away on February 13, 2013. Gene was a very dear friend of mine, and he was blessed with an exciting life that allowed him to work a variety of fascinating jobs with interesting people. I know he will be missed by all who knew him.

Gene was born in Houston, TX. From an early age, he demonstrated leadership and a strong work ethic. As a youth, Gene achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. After high school, he attended the University of Houston, where he received a bachelor's degree and graduated with Honors. Upon graduation, he received a scholarship to Colorado State University where he studied theater.

He married his beautiful wife, Charlotte Walser, and they moved to New York City where Gene performed in the Broadway production of “The Pirate,” featuring actress Lynn Fontanne, in 1942. He also worked as the stage manager at Radio City Music Hall, and studied drama at Yale University as a Rockefeller Foundation fellow. He then went on to teach speech and English at New Haven Junior College in Connecticut.

Following his education and career in theater, Gene returned to Houston, where he worked for an advertisement agency writing copy for radio commercials and soap operas. Cuny went on to work as a general manager for radio stations in Louisiana, and after moving to Dallas in 1951, worked for KRLD-TV (now KDFW). He held the responsibilities of program director, national sales manager, and director of community affairs before he retired after 35 years. He also produced the Dallas press club's Gridiron Show, a spoof on news events, for many years.

In addition to his successful career, Gene was also an active leader in his community. He was a press club board member, leader of the Dallas Advertising League, and president of the downtown Dallas Exchange Club. He was also a 32nd degree Knight Commander of Court of Honour Mason, a Dallas leader of the Scottish Rite, and a Rotarian, volunteering as a court-appointed special advocate for neglected or abused children. Gene also helped deliver Meals on Wheels all the way into his 90's.

Gene is also preceded in death by his son Fred, who lost his life when he became deeply involved in international relief work. Fred was the leader of one of the most successful refugee assistance programs in recent decades, working abroad to help literally millions of refugees, whether in Africa, Southeast Asia, Kurdistan, Bosnia, or in Chechnya. Many think Fred was murdered during his effort to support Chechens in their resistance to a Russian attack. His body was never found. Gene is also survived by his wife Charlotte; their sons Chris, Phillip, and Eugene III; as well as eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Gene's verve for life and compassion for others are qualities we should all strive toward. I ask those here today to join me in honoring Eugene S. “Gene” Cuny.

HONORING LUIS DIAZ

**HON. JANICE HAHN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 2013*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Luis “Louie” Diaz, a distinguished labor organizer and community leader, who is receiving the renowned South County “San Foley” 2013 Labor Leader of the Year Award. Raised in San Pedro, Louie at a young age was exposed to the hardworking environment of this port community. Louie became a member of Teamsters Local 692, representing Marine Terminal Operators, and held the positions of Organizer, Business Agent, and Recording Secretary. In 2001, he was elected Vice President of Local 692. He currently serves as Vice President for Local 848.

For the last 23 years, Louie has continued to support his union brothers and sisters by serving as a member of the Board of the Teamsters Hispanic Caucus California Chapter, the National Hispanic Caucus, and the Maritime Trades Department, Southern California Ports Council. He is also the Coordinator of the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Labor Coalition, which conducts one of the largest Labor Day parade and barbecue in the nation.

Louie's exemplary service to his fellow community and union members has earned him this distinct honor. I am proud to recognize such an accomplished leader.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF SARA PISARSKI ON HER OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 2013*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Sara Pisarski of Bowling Green, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York.

Sara's offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Merchant Marine Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2017. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Sara brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2017. While attending Bowling Green Senior High School in Bowling Green, Ohio, Sara was on the Honor Roll and was a member of the National Honor Society and the National Society of High School Scholars.

Throughout high school, Sara was a member of her school's basketball team and earned a varsity letter. In addition, Sara was a section leader in the marching band and the symphonic band and was the Lt. Governor of