

on the Board of Directors and on both the Legislative and Financial Committees of the Board. He also enthusiastically participated for many years on the Committee on State Legislation and Regulations, as well as the MDPAC Board, the Committee on Federal Legislation, as well as other committees and task forces.

Doctor Elmassian's philosophy of engagement puts patients before politics. He believes that organizational relationships, ongoing interaction with state and federal policymakers, and coalition building are integral to developing sound health policy. It is Doctor Elmassian's philosophy that together we will achieve better outcomes for patients and providers.

As a licensed commercial pilot, Doctor Elmassian enjoys vacationing in Glen Arbor in the summer, reading biographies, the opera, mountain treks in New Hampshire, and exercising, all of which he enjoys most with his family, which includes his wife, Georgina and their sons, Joshua and Zachary.

I ask that the House of Representatives join me in thanking Doctor Elmassian for his exemplary service to his community and congratulating him on his installation as President of the Michigan State Medical Society.

A TRIBUTE TO ANNE MURR

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Anne Murr for being named a 2013 Hero of the Heartland by the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa.

Each year, the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa recognizes Heroes of the Heartland by selecting everyday Iowans who have done extraordinary things to help their neighbors and communities. The Iowans honored with this prestigious award displayed selflessness in a variety of courageous, charitable and thoughtful acts. The Heroes of the Heartland program not only showcases the heroes among us, but also helps raise crucial funds to ensure that the American Red Cross is prepared and equipped to assist those that need food, shelter, and comfort during emergencies and difficult times.

Anne Murr was named a Hero of the Heartland through her efforts as Drake University's Coordinator of the Adult Literacy Center. For more than 20 years, Anne has continued to do everything she can to change lives at the center, from playing support roles to educating and coordinating activities. Outside of her office hours, Anne also plans community-wide events to connect students, tutors and community members. Anne's work as a teacher and a leader has enriched lives and the world around her. She is truly an example our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Murr's actions that earned her the title a "Hero of the Heartland" are a testament to the humble, hardworking and helpful people who make up the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Anne on a job well done, thanking the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa for their life changing efforts, and wishing all of those involved in the Heroes

of the Heartland program continued success for years to come.

SALUTE TO COAST GUARD STATION, PORT CANAVERAL FOR SERVICE IN SUPPORT OF AMERICA'S SPACE SHUTTLE PROGRAM

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the brave men and women of the Coast Guard Station, Port Canaveral on their reunion which is set to take place on May 4, 2013. I rise to commend the meritorious service and commitment of Coast Guard Station Port Canaveral Active Duty, Reserve, and Auxiliary personnel who supported National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Space Shuttle missions. Their service was critical to the safety of the public and the Shuttle missions. A special thanks, also, to retired Admiral G. Robert Merrilees, who has kept a watchful eye on the Space Coast and played a significant role in this celebration of service.

On April 12, 1981, the Coast Guard Station, Port Canaveral began their service in support of NASA's Space Transportation Program (STS) program and provided that support for 135 manned space flight missions. Responsible for over 550 square miles surrounding the Kennedy Space Center, the Port Canaveral station managed STS recovery and safety missions for 30 years. These resolute men and women successfully carried out their mission to ensure the safety not only of the Shuttle, but also for over 200,000 viewers per Shuttle mission.

This dedication and mission accountability would not be possible without the contributions and calculated efforts of over 100 personnel that supported each launch.

Coast Guard Station Port Canaveral personnel played a substantial role as first responders to the Space Shuttle *Challenger* tragedy on January 28, 1986. Contributing 1,300 hours surveying 150,000 square miles of ocean surface throughout an 11 day mission and recovery operation, Station Port Canaveral deserves recognition for its stamina, professionalism, and commitment to mission execution. Their service was exemplary throughout their 30-year space shuttle support mission.

I offer my sincere gratitude and thanks to Coast Guard Station Port Canaveral and the men and women who served active duty, reserve and auxiliary roles in support of our Space Shuttle program between April 12, 1981 and February 24, 2011. May the Space Coast and our nation always remember the service of these brave men and women.

THE DAIRY FREEDOM ACT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Dairy Freedom Act with my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia, DAVID SCOTT.

This legislation will ensure that the American public will not run into another "DAIRY CLIFF." Last Congress, we did not get to vote on a Farm Bill because, among other things, there was a major problem with the dairy policy section.

Every member that represents a Congressional District with dairy farmers is acutely aware of how our current programs failed dairy farmers and the hardship these families experienced. There is no single farm district member who disagrees on the need for fundamental reform of our dairy program. We all agree on the need to reform and improve our current dairy policies—and our bill would do just that. However, our bill would strike the proposed "dairy market stabilization program." This highly controversial piece would attempt to manage the U.S. milk supply, and in the process penalize both consumers of dairy products, and dairy farmers who expand their operations. This program was proposed to be included in the extension of the 2008 Farm Bill—but it was resoundingly rejected by the House and Senate leadership. Do we really want to run into this wall again? I don't think so if we want to get a Farm Bill done this year.

I would ask Chairman LUCAS and Ranking Member PETERSON to include the Dairy Freedom Act, what we consider to be the compromise, in the Chairman's Mark of the Farm Bill. Our bill is largely based on the Dairy Security Act offered last Congress by Ranking Member COLLIN PETERSON (D-MN) and is anticipated to be included again in the underlying Farm Bill. The only fundamental difference is that it would exclude the supply management program, and require more fiscally responsible risk management insurance premium levels for large farmers.

Supply management runs contrary to the goals of limited government and economic growth. A supply control program that will directly intervene in markets and increase milk prices will ultimately hurt producers as well as dairy food manufacturers by stifling industry growth. A national dairy policy that allows the market to determine prices paid—with the addition of a new risk management tool such as Margin Protection Insurance—will help dairy producers withstand unforeseen market conditions. This is no different than how other commodities are treated in the Farm Bill.

Our bill also represents a true compromise on dairy policy. We agree that our dairy programs need to be reformed and we have accepted over 80% of the proposals that have been made by Ranking Member COLLIN PETERSON. We agree a strong safety net is needed for dairy farmers. What we reject is the idea that government also needs to intervene in dairy markets by controlling milk production, and ultimately milk prices.

Many have labeled the disagreement about supply management as a fight between dairy producers and dairy processors. The truth, however, is that because supply management programs are designed to have government artificially manipulate prices, they are opposed by a wide variety of groups. Consumer advocates point out that increased dairy prices mean families will be forced to stretch their food budgets further, and perhaps purchase less nutritious products than dairy. Food manufacturers, retailers and restaurants know that increased dairy prices will hurt their businesses as well. And, finally, all of our major,

non-cooperative owned dairy exporters agree that supply management will have a negative impact on their ability to be reliable suppliers in the world market.

Dairy regulations are complex, outdated and inefficient. Proposed reforms in the Farm Bill should not reduce exports, cut jobs, and add more regulations. The Dairy Title should allow the dairy industry a chance to compete and grow without government regulating the amount of milk a farmer can produce. Our citizens and the world population deserve an abundant, affordable and sustainable food supply.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT and I have developed a viable, bipartisan alternative. Join us to support a revenue insurance program that will help dairy producers without including a government controlled supply management program.

A TRIBUTE TO ANNE THOMAS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Anne Thomas for being named a 2013 Hero of the Heartland by the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa.

Each year, the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa recognizes Heroes of the Heartland by selecting everyday Iowans who have done extraordinary things to help their neighbors and communities. The Iowans honored with this prestigious award displayed selflessness in a variety of courageous, charitable and thoughtful acts. The Heroes of the Heartland program not only showcases the heroes among us, but also helps raise crucial funds to ensure that the American Red Cross is prepared and equipped to assist those that need food, shelter, and comfort during emergencies and difficult times.

To be named a Hero of the Heartland, Anne Thomas of Clive started the local organization "Let's Soar Together" in 2006 with a group of her friends. Let's Soar Together filled a need in her community to advocate for children with special needs and provide support and resources for their families. Ms. Thomas' organization has donated dozens of iPads and iPods to children with behavioral disorders and autism in the Waukee School District, built adaptive swings for Maple Grove Elementary School, and donated more than a thousand dollars to the Waukee YMCA to install a playground with adaptive play equipment. Anne's commitment to a cause greater than herself continues to change lives and benefit her community.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Thomas' actions that earned her the title a "Hero of the Heartland" are a testament to the humble, hardworking and helpful people who make up the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Anne on a job well done, thanking the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa for their life changing efforts, and wishing all of those involved in the Heroes of the Heartland program continued success for years to come.

CONGRATULATING HOMEBY INDUSTRIES ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Homeboy Industries, a non-profit organization which offers comprehensive reintegration services including job skills training and social services to former Los Angeles gang members, on their 25th anniversary.

In 1988, Jesuit priest Father Greg Boyle began Homeboy Industries to address the need for employment opportunities among local youth. Today, Homeboy Industries is much more than a jobs program. Homeboy Industries gives young people who have lost their childhood to gangs a chance to take back their lives as adults by providing former gang-involved youth with tattoo removal, case management and legal services, as well as mental health and substance abuse counseling.

Thanks to Father Boyle's leadership during the past 25 years, Homeboy Industries has grown from a small job development program in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles into the largest, most comprehensive and most successful gang prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation program in the country.

According to a recent study from the Vera Institute of Justice, the five most common reintegration priorities self-reported by individuals exiting Los Angeles County Jail are: employment, housing, substance abuse, relationships, and staying out of trouble. Through the jobs and support services Homeboy Industries provide, men and women in the LA region are finding these needs met. Homeboy Industries has a 70 percent rate of retaining clients in services, while similar programs across the country have 20–30 percent rates of retention. When weighed against the 70 percent recidivism rate nationally among ex-offenders, Homeboy Industries' ability to engage clients in the process of reintegration and personal transformation is particularly revealing. This organization shows the benefits of investing in impoverished communities that have been impacted by gang violence.

Between 240 and 280 people are hired every year in restaurants and stores owned and operated by Homeboy Industries throughout Los Angeles. When hiring, Homeboy Industries doesn't look for diplomas or job experience. They look for visible gang tattoos and juvenile arrest records. As a business, Homeboy Industries isn't concerned with profits or executive bonuses. Their concern is with their staff and ending the cycle of gang violence one person at a time.

Once again I congratulate Homeboy Industries and their inspirational founder and leader, Father Greg. I had the good fortune and honor of representing Father Greg and Homeboy Industries for nearly 25 years, first in the California State Assembly and then in the U.S. House of Representatives. In closing, I want to express my deepest admiration both for Father Greg's tireless and dedicated efforts and for all former gang members seeking to change their lives and end the culture of gang violence once and for all.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,794,349,827,897.30. We've added \$6,167,472,778,984.22 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING STEVEN ORTIZ

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2013 recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Hailing from Willington, Connecticut, Steven Ortiz is the first Costa Rican-American to receive this honor in award's 27-year history.

Steven is the founder and director of The Good Samaritan Project, which donates new and slightly worn clothing throughout Latin America and has provided educational scholarships in Costa Rica. His clear global vision, leadership and philanthropic spirit has ensured that his organization is run completely by volunteers and that 100 percent of donations are used for charitable purposes.

Steven serves in the Massachusetts Air National Guard as the Commander and conductor of the Air National Guard Band of the Northeast. Under his leadership, the band's various ensembles provide support for military units and civilian events, and perform for tens of thousands of people every year throughout the Nation.

He has taught at the elementary, middle, and high school levels in both public and private schools in Connecticut and has led ensembles at the collegiate level. As an undergraduate student, Ortiz founded the Danbury Youth Band and has provided numerous instruments at no cost to children at home and abroad. He has facilitated thousands of hours of free and low-cost music instruction in an effort to keep children safe and engaged in productive activities, while ensuring they learn valuable life lessons.

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor is a prestigious award presented to an immigrant who dedicates his life to helping others, preserves and celebrates the history, traditions and values of his ancestry while proving himself as a valuable citizen of the United States. Recipients like Steven strive for tolerance and acceptance among ethnic, racial, and religious groups in our nation and abroad and above all, they share their personal or professional gifts for the benefit of humanity. I ask that my colleagues join with me in congratulating Steven Ortiz on his impressive achievement.