

welcome Israel into the family of nations. And for 65 years Israel and the United States have remained the best of friends and the strongest of allies. One reason for the enduring strength of this relationship is the enduring contributions made by Jewish Americans in enriching American life and culture.

Mr. Speaker, as a representative of the state of Texas which has welcomed Jews for more than three centuries, I join with my colleagues and President Obama in calling upon all Americans to learn more about the heritage and contributions of Jewish Americans and to observe this month with appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies.

HONORING FRED ACQUAVITA ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 2013

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, colleagues, and community leaders who have gathered in celebration of an outstanding member of our community and my dear friend, Fred Acquavita, as he retires from his post as Headmaster of St. Thomas Day School in New Haven, Connecticut after more than three decades of service in education.

A native of New Haven, Fred left Connecticut to attend the Kansas State College of Pittsburg to earn his Bachelors Degree and later returned to earn his Masters from Southern Connecticut State University as well as his 6th Year from Bank Street College of Education. Fred began his career as a teacher in the New Haven Public School system working with children in elementary and secondary schools. Deeply passionate about education and making it work for both teachers and our young people, Fred focused his professional growth on building expertise in curriculum development, instructional support, strategic planning, and team building—all of which would serve him well as he accepted the leadership role at St. Thomas's Day School. As Headmaster of St. Thomas's Day School, Fred has helped to shape the lives of hundreds of young people—nourishing their minds, encouraging their imaginations, and preparing them well to meet their full potential and realize their dreams.

Fred's dedication to enriching our community extends far beyond his work in education. Throughout his adult life he has dedicated much of his time to a myriad of local service organizations. He has served on the Board of Directors at Farnum Neighborhood House where he also coached "Biddy Basketball," participated in the Graustein Foundation Leadership Program, and is currently an Associate Fellow Yale's Berkeley College as well as a member of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools.

On a more personal note, I want to take a moment to thank Fred for his many years of special friendship. His support and camaraderie is something that I will always cherish. Fred's passion for making a difference is an inspiration to many and I consider myself very fortunate to call him my friend.

Teacher, administrator, advocate, and mentor, Fred is a reflection of all that we attribute to an outstanding public servant. His actions reflect his deep and abiding belief in the words of St. Francis of Assisi—we should all strive to "make this a better world and let it begin with me." For his many invaluable contributions to both St. Thomas's Day School and our community, I am proud to stand today and extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to my good friend, Fred Acquavita, as he celebrates his retirement. I wish him as well as his wife, Marie; their children, John and Michael; and their three beautiful granddaughters the very best for many more years of health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING ISMAEL GUZMAN ON
HIS ENLISTMENT INTO THE
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ismael Guzman, a senior at Glades Central High School in Belle Glade, Florida. Ismael is fine young man who has received good grades, and will graduate later this month. He has courageously chosen to enlist in the United States Marine Corps.

Ismael should be extremely proud of his decision to serve this nation. It is thanks to the commitment and dedication of individuals such as him, that we are able to meet here in the House of Representatives, and openly debate and legislate on the many issues facing our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Ismael Guzman for his selflessness to enlist in the Marine Corps. I am certain that he will serve with honor and distinction. We owe him, as well as all the men and women serving in uniform a debt of gratitude.

IN MEMORY OF PATRICK R.
FOSTER

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Patrick R. Foster.

As a Vietnam War veteran who served in a Naval Attack Squadron and a superintendent with the city of Federal Way, Washington, Pat Foster's life was dedicated to public service. As the self-proclaimed "CEO of potholes" for the city, Pat supervised a staff that maintained the city's many roads and sidewalks, using his warmth and sense of humor to add a human touch in handling the multitude of requests the city received.

Pat's tireless efforts and down-to-earth demeanor led his colleagues throughout the Federal Way city government to consider him an integral part of its operations. He was trusted to develop and implement creative and resourceful solutions to the issues and challenges faced by the city and its residents, while involving others and making them feel equally important in the process. As a leader,

he spared no opportunity to make sure his staff's good work received due recognition. Under Pat's leadership, his Public Works division and those who worked in it earned a great deal of respect from all. He was also so well regarded by residents that they would request assistance from him by name.

Fiercely proud of his service with the Navy, colleagues fondly remember Pat's many stories of his time in the military and remarked about the wealth of aviation knowledge he was able to share. Nowhere was this on more prominent display than during a visit to the National Air and Space Museum. During their trip to Washington, DC, they also shared an especially moving time with Pat at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Pat's unrelenting and quiet dedication to serving the public, in the military and in local government, serves as an example of the tremendous impact one outstanding person can have on his community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the life of Pat Foster. He is a reminder of the standards of service to which we should aspire every day.

RECOGNIZING PETTY OFFICER 1ST
CLASS (FMF) BENNY MENDIOLA
FLORES JR. ON RECEIVING A
SILVER STAR

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Petty Officer 1st Class (FMF) Benny Mendiola Flores Jr., a hospital corpsman serving with the Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, on receiving a Silver Star, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action with combat operations against the enemy while serving as Field Medical Service Technician, I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), on 28 April 2012, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was presented with the Silver Star, the military's third-highest award for valor, at a ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Calif., on May 3, 2013.

Petty Officer Flores, a native of Guam, graduated from Southern High School in 2001, and, shortly thereafter, enlisted in the United States Navy. He always wanted to be a corpsman, and, in his remarks at the award ceremony, demonstrated his humility and gratitude for the opportunity to serve our country. He is currently serving his third deployment to the Middle East.

During his deployment to Afghanistan last year, Petty Officer Flores was providing medical coverage for a three-day, Afghan-led mission to Zaranj, Afghanistan near Iran's border. He was riding in the back of a pickup in Nimruz province's Zaranj district returning to camp after a trip to the Iranian border when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle as a result of a suicide bomber. Despite suffering shrapnel wounds to his arms and back, he immediately began helping the wounded. He risked his life four times, running through enemy gunfire to help save the Marines and Afghan Uniform Police officer who were injured in the blast.

Petty Officer Flores stayed focused administering combat lifesaving skills. Although he

worked hard to make sure everyone was secure, another passenger in his vehicle, Master Sergeant Scott Pruitt, died from injuries sustained in the attack.

Petty Officer Flores has received numerous awards and decorations for his service, including a Purple Heart, a Joint Service Commendation Medal and a Joint Service Achievement Medal.

He is currently pursuing a college degree and furthering his passion for medicine by studying sports management at American Military University. He is the son of Benny Flores Sr. and Josepha K. Lizama. He lives at Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base in California with his wife, Jerrienne, and their daughter, Jaena.

I commend Petty Officer 1st Class Benny Flores on receiving this high honor for his heroic actions in combat. I join the people of Guam in thanking him for his bravery and selfless service to our nation, and for making our island proud.

RECOGNIZING ROB MELLEN FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO DR. PHILLIPS CHARITIES

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to recognize a close friend of mine whose philanthropic contributions have greatly impacted the Central Florida community. Rob Mellen served as the President and CEO of Dr. Phillips Charities for the past five years. Prior to his role at Dr. Phillips Charities, Mr. Mellen was a leading and well-recognized corporate, banking and real estate attorney and the managing shareholder at Akerman Senterfitt, one of Florida's largest law firms.

Over the last five years as CEO and President, Mr. Mellen has inspired Dr. Phillips Charities to work towards new endeavors while facing the economic turmoil that has affected our nation. During his tenure, the construction of Orlando's Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts began. He continues to play an important role in the planning and construction of Orlando's long awaited world class performing arts center scheduled to open in 2014. With the completion of Dr. Phillips Charities' new headquarters, Mr. Mellen also secured a place where Dr. Phillips Charities can enhance relationships with other major philanthropic organizations and the partnerships with those that they serve. His efforts to improve Dr. Phillips Charities' real estate portfolio and other investments have enabled Dr. Phillips Charities continuous substantial giving. Many charitable non-profit organizations in the Central Florida community have been the beneficiaries of their giving, and numerous lives have been provided with much-needed support.

Dr. Phillips Charities' donations extend into all parts of the Central Florida community, including educational programs, youth programs, health and rehabilitative programs, and much more. They have given other local non-profit organizations and charities the resources to fund their efforts through donations that have amassed \$150 million in grants, pledges,

and program-related investments over the last 10 years. Dr. Phillips Charities has made a lasting effect on the Central Florida community that has directly touched the lives of thousands of children and families.

Dr. Phillips Charities has been fortunate to have such a dedicated and experienced leader at the helm of their operations. I want to applaud Rob Mellen on his continued service to the philanthropic needs of the Central Florida community. His commitment to excellence, leadership and service is to be admired, and may it inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

A TRIBUTE TO MABEL BAKER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mabel Baker on the coming celebration of her 100th birthday. Mabel will celebrate a century of life on May 30th, 2013.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Mabel's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Mabel has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-two Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Mabel in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Ms. Baker on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

HONORING PETER N. SILVESTRI

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 2013

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peter N. Silvestri, retiring President of the Village of Elmwood Park and current 9th District Cook County Commissioner. Mr. Silvestri has served Elmwood Park for twenty-four years as Village president and chose not to seek reelection this year in order to focus his complete attention on his position of Cook County Commissioner.

Mr. Silvestri has lived in Elmwood Park since 1971, and is a graduate of Elmwood Park High School. He attended DePaul University for undergraduate studies, as well as for his law degree. In 1977, at the age of twenty, Silvestri became the youngest person in Illinois elected to a local school board. He served on Elmwood Park's school board for two years, and was president of the board when he left to serve the Village in other offices.

Following Mr. Silvestri's exit from the school board, he served on the Zoning Board, Plan

Commission, Civic Foundation, and as Village Trustee before his election to Village President. Under the leadership of Silvestri, the Village of Elmwood Park has been able to prosper and continue to pursue the village's goal of being a great place to raise a family and start a business. Mr. Silvestri oversaw numerous beautification projects in the Village, as well as efforts to modernize the police, fire, and public works departments. Silvestri also holds a good financial track record with the Village, which is seen through the Village's high bond rating, minimal debt and a reduced tax levy coming next year.

Mr. Silvestri leaves the office of Village President in the wake of numerous accomplishments. Recently, the Village opened a new library, and the aquatic center and the new Centennial Park are scheduled to be opened this spring. Other accomplishments while in office include an expanded recreation center, the creation of Mills, Torpe and Central Parks and an expanded Bambi Park. Silvestri has overseen the development of numerous projects within the Village of Elmwood Park which have contributed greatly to the reputation of Elmwood Park as a great place to live and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the years of dedication and public service Peter N. Silvestri has contributed to the Village of Elmwood Park. Mr. Silvestri has helped the Village prosper through the changing social and economic climate of recent decades, and he will surely be missed as the Village's president. I want to thank Mr. Silvestri for his years of service to the Village of Elmwood Park, and I look forward to his continued service as Cook County Commissioner.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL "BO" BOLLINGER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 6, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Paul "Bo" Bollinger, President of the Greater Washington Aviation Open (GWAOW). As the GWAOW celebrates its 25th anniversary this year and Mr. Bollinger begins the process of succession to new tournament leadership, it is the proper time to recognize his quarter century of outstanding leadership.

In 1989, Mr. Bollinger conceived and began an aviation charity event to raise and donate funds to worthy causes. Mr. Bollinger convinced several aviation executives and several aviation associations to hold an annual charity golf and auction event for this purpose. Twenty five years later, the GWAOW has become the largest aviation charity event in Washington, DC, raising almost \$1.7 million for deserving organizations.

Under Mr. Bollinger's leadership, the charities receiving tournament proceeds varied over the first four years, subsequently settling on the Corporate Angel Network (CAN) as its major benefactor. The CAN mission of flying cancer patients on empty seats of business aircraft to treatment facilities was a perfect match with the GWAOW mission. In 2006, Mr. Bollinger led the effort to include funding a