

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

four-year scholarship for a deserving T.C. Williams High School graduate entering a college in an aviation degree program; and in 2011 the Veteran's Airlift Command was added as an additional benefactor.

Mr. Speaker, as a fellow Kentuckian I am honored and proud to commend Mr. Bollinger for a quarter century of heroic, selfless and successful service to thousands of deserving people. In their names I wish to publicly thank you, Bo, on behalf of all the people whose lives you have enhanced.

#### RECOGNIZING BERNARD GRAY ON HIS ENLISTMENT INTO THE UNITED STATES ARMY

**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. Bernard Gray, a senior at Glades Central High School in Belle Glade, Florida. Bernard is a fine young man, who has compiled a very good academic record at Glades Central, and will be graduating later this month. He has proudly chosen to enlist in the United States Army.

I want to congratulate Bernard on his decision to serve his country. It is thanks to the dedication of fine 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, Bernard Gray is a selfless and courageous individual. I am certain that he will make us proud with his service. We owe him, as well as all the men and women in uniform an enormous debt of gratitude.

HONORING JOSEPH W. MAHONEY, JR.

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 6, 2013*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great Philadelphian whom we mourn today. Joe Mahoney, Jr. was a man that everyone called a friend. As Executive Vice President of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, Joe was the face of Philadelphia business. He was an eloquent and passionate advocate for the entire business community. But small business was his special love. He and his best friend, his bride Pat, owned a small business themselves. He personally understood the joys and challenges of building and maintaining an enterprise.

There are many adjectives you can use when you talk about Joe. Smart, dedicated, energetic, diplomatic, charming, and knowledgeable are just a few. But the fact that he and Pat were true partners in every sense tells you all that you really need to know. They worked together in support of our region, their alma mater, St. Joseph's University, and in support of local charity. That's the kind of guy Joe was.

Joe was especially gifted in the field of government relations. He worked equally well with

Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. He was at home in the Halls of Congress, the State Legislature, and City Hall. He understood and respected both the executive and legislative branches, as well as business, labor, and the non-profit centers. He worked as well in New Jersey and Delaware as he did in Pennsylvania. He was liked and respected in all of the region's counties. Joe understood how all the pieces fit together to form the complex mosaic that is the Delaware Valley. His life made that mosaic more beautiful. His loss leaves it less so.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to say that I knew Joe. I'm even more honored to say that Joe knew me. He was a friend to all. We all grieve his passing, even as we celebrate his life. I am sure that all of my colleagues join me in expressing our condolences to his family.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MARISSA FROST

**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 8th grader Marissa Frost of Urbandale Middle School for being named Iowa's state winner in the Doodle 4 Google art competition.

The Doodle 4 Google competition is held annually by Google and invites students from across the country to use their artistic talents and creativity to redesign Google's homepage themes, which appear on millions of computers across the globe. The nationwide winner is also awarded a scholarship worth \$30,000 and the winner's school will receive a \$50,000 technology grant to establish or improve a computer lab or technology program.

Marissa titled her doodle 'Discover' and portrays her response to the 2013 Doodle 4 Google theme "My Best Day Ever. . ." Her artwork is one of only 50 pieces that have been selected from across the country and was selected by a panel of Google employees for its artistic merit, creativity, and communication of the competition's theme. Marissa's doodle is now displayed in an online gallery where she will compete to be named a national finalist. Representing Iowa in this national competition is an extraordinary reflection of Marissa's talents and artistic ability.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent future leaders like Marissa from the great state of Iowa in the United States Congress. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating her for this achievement, and I wish Miss Frost the best of luck in the remainder of the competition and with her future studies.

#### CELEBRATING THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 375TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 6, 2013*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and much appreciation that I rise today

to join my hometown of New Haven, Connecticut in commemoration of the City's 375th Anniversary—a remarkable milestone for a very special community. Today, hundreds are gathered not only to pay tribute to our past but to celebrate the unique blend of cultures, traditions, and history that has made our City so strong.

The story of New Haven is the story of America. It was on April 24, 1638, that a group of five hundred English Puritans, led by Reverend John Davenport and Theophilus Eaton and in search of a place where "the word of God shall be the only rule," sailed into the harbor. Upon their arrival they soon met with a local Native American tribe, the Quinnpiack, whose leader, Momauguin, agreed to sell the tribe's land in exchange for the settlers' protection from neighboring raiding bands and the use of the lands east of the harbor. In just two short years a government had been established and the settlement, based on a grid of nine squares with the central square as the public common or Green, was flourishing. In 1784, New Haven was incorporated as a city and Roger Sherman, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence was elected its first mayor.

The history of New Haven is in fact a reflection of our nation's great history. It was in New Haven in 1775, the day after Lexington and Concord, or as we call it Powder House Day, that Benedict Arnold demanded the keys to the local powder house so that patriots could use it in defense of the colonies. It was in New Haven, that Eli Whitney developed the cotton gin and interchangeable parts revolutionizing the manufacturing industry and revitalizing the American economy. It was in New Haven that a group of African Mendi Warriors, led by Cinque Pieh and marooned aboard the Spanish schooner *Amistad*, won a court battle and were able to return to their homeland—an important triumph of the anti-slavery movement. In the 19th century, New Haven was the center of the carriage industry as well as the oyster capitol of the world. New Haven is home to the prestigious Yale University—an institution that has educated three of our last four presidents and three of our current Supreme Court justices.

New Haven, like so many other communities across our nation, also has a rich immigrant story—the story of the American dream. Our City may be most well known for its Italian and fish communities, but we have also become home to a number of other immigrant groups including those from Eastern Europe and Ecuador. As is the same story in so many other communities, these immigrant groups faced all kinds of challenges and obstacles. Through those struggles they stuck together, they established organizations to help re-create a little bit of the Old Country, and to honor the values of family and community we all hold dear—they made New Haven their home.

With such a rich history, the bonds of our community are strong. Born and raised in the Wooster Square neighborhood, wherever I go in this world, it is always with me. That is New Haven—and that is why I am so proud to rise today to say Happy 375th Birthday New Haven.