

Development Commission for the city of Enfield and has previously served on as Chairperson for Enfield's 10 Year Plan of Conservation and Economic Development. She has worked with the Connecticut Department of Labor and the Connecticut Director of Economic Development, to work with incoming European businesses to identify needed workforce skills and provide appropriate preparation and training to potential employees.

During her long career, Dr. McLeod has empowered students across Connecticut and the nation through her many contributions to education and economic development. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the career of Dr. Martha McLeod.

#### THE BENEFITS OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM CELEBRATING NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

#### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2013*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, from California's Central Coast to Alabama's Gulf Coast and every single Congressional district in between, travel and tourism plays an important economic role in all of our local communities. This week is National Travel and Tourism Week, a celebration of the \$2 trillion economic engine that helps drive our nation's economy. As the co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional Travel and Tourism caucus, we would like to take this moment to raise awareness for America's number one export and to explain how the "Travel Effect" benefits everyone.

The Travel Effect is simple: It is the economic benefit that every single community feels thanks to travel. Supporting over 14.6 million American jobs, the travel industry is a top 10 employer in 48 states and the District of Columbia. Today, one in every eight jobs depends upon travel.

Contributing more than \$129 billion to the federal, state and local tax base, the Travel Effect means that Americans pay fewer taxes. Without those added revenues, the average household would pay over \$1,000 in additional taxes. At 2.8% of our nation's GDP and growing at a rate faster than all other industries, travel will play an important role in driving down deficits for years to come.

Thanks to our efforts here in Washington, the United States is now promoting the entire country as a premier travel destination to the world. Brand USA, the nation's Destination Marketing Organization created by Congress, will help bring in 81 million visitors to the United States by 2016, a 36 percent increase equivalent to 21 million more travelers as compared with 2010. This influx of new visitors will help create over a half a million new jobs in communities all across the country.

And you do not have to live in a coastal district or near a major tourist destination to feel the Travel Effect. Historic sites, museums in your community and other local destinations all play a role in building our travel economy. In other words, travel is right in your own backyard!

During this year's National Travel and Tourism Week, we call on all members to support

the travel industry. While the Travel Effect is great now, its potential is even greater. If we recognize that potential in all of our communities, then the Travel Effect will continue to benefit every town across the United States.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO SANDRA KELLER HAAS

#### HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2013*

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sandra Keller Haas, who has been a member of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution for 27 years, giving back to her community and to our veterans across the world.

As a member of the Kushkushkee Trail Chapter of the Pennsylvania State Society Daughters of the American Revolution (PSSDAR), she has served as a chapter officer and as the Chairman of the Daughters of the American Revolution Service to Veterans Committee. This committee has a long and proud history of serving our country's veterans and making sure they are never forgotten.

Mrs. Haas is a precious constant in so many veterans' lives as she volunteers her time at the Pittsburgh Veterans Hospital. She organizes toiletry and clothing drives, delivering goods and spending hours with the veterans, thanking them for their service to America.

Mrs. Haas also supports the troops currently serving in our military, including her work spearheading a coupon-clipping initiative for an Army base in Okinawa, Japan. Under Mrs. Haas' leadership, the ladies of the Kushkushkee Trail Chapter clip coupons and send them to the base where they are placed in the commissary and can be used past their expiration date. She has collected and sent almost 150 pounds of coupons for our troops and their families to use. What one might see as a small gesture of clipping coupons, it tells our troops and families immensely that they are not forgotten back home.

Mrs. Haas is a Pennsylvania native, born in Eastern, PA. She has been married for 54 years to Jim Haas, a retired U.S. Army officer, and is the mother of two and grandmother of four. She worked as a Home Economics teacher and dietician for years, working with students around every community to where her family was deployed. Outside of her work with veterans and troops, she has volunteered at the local food bank and loves spending time with her family.

I applaud Mrs. Haas for her extraordinary dedication to our troops and to our veterans. Her work with the Kushkushkee Trail Chapter of the PSSDAR demonstrates an outstanding dedication and love of country. I thank her for her extraordinary contributions to the community and thank her for the positive impact she has had on one of our most treasured national assets, our veterans.

#### A TRIBUTE TO BURBANK FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2013*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Burbank Fire Department upon its 100th Anniversary. For a century, the Burbank Fire Department has been an integral part of the community, keeping the residents of Burbank safe and well informed about fire prevention.

The Burbank Fire Department started as a small group of volunteers defending the population of 500 from the devastating effects of fire in the community. After multiple fires caused damage to the area, the Burbank Board of Trustees established the Burbank Fire Department in 1913.

Over the years, the Burbank Fire Department has expanded their services to fit the various needs of the community. In 1974 the department started a paramedic program and has been an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provider ever since. Burbank Fire Paramedics established field treatment protocols in 1993 and these protocols are now used across Los Angeles County as the EMS standard for clinically effective and safe field care. The department's EMS program has been recognized as one of the best in the State of California.

As a part of the Verdugo Fire Communications Center, established in 1979 by the cities of Burbank, Glendale, and Pasadena, the Burbank Fire Department makes optimum use of fire services available in the area and increases the effectiveness of the cities' fire defense system. The Verdugo Fire Communications Center is still owned by the three original cities, but it also provides services as needed to the Bob Hope Airport, Alhambra, Arcadia, Monrovia, Montebello, Monterey Park, San Gabriel, San Marino, Sierra Madre, and South Pasadena.

Today, the Burbank Fire Department is a full service fire agency with six fire stations, a training center, and seven divisions: Fire Prevention Bureau, Fire Suppression, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Management, Fire Apparatus & Equipment, Training & Safety, and Administration. The department responds to 9200 incidents a year and serves approximately 108,000 people over a 17.14 square mile area. I am honored to recognize the men and women of the Burbank Fire Department for their commitment to keeping our community safe and ask all Members to join me in congratulating the Burbank Fire Department upon its 100th Anniversary.

#### HONORING OUR NATION'S NURSES FOR THEIR TIRELESS EFFORTS IN DELIVERING QUALITY CARE

#### HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2013*

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to highlight the crucial work of nurses in America.

Few individuals touch the lives of others in the manner in which nurses commit to aiding

their patients. This is one of the many reasons that we honor and celebrate our nation's nurses during this week of National Nurses Week.

Unique from almost any other profession, nurses join us in some of life's most exciting milestones as well as some of its most challenging seasons. Nurses share in the joyous moment of a newborn's cries to assisting our grandparents as they transition into their golden years. Nurses help clean up our children's first schoolyard scrapes and tumbles just as they help our Nation's homeless when they fall off their feet.

This commitment to patient care dates back to Florence Nightingale. The archetype of modern nursing, Nightingale demonstrated both commitment and compassion to the fallen soldiers of the British Crimean War. It was this paradigm that helped reduce the death rate of the Crimean War by two-thirds.

As a result of this patient-centric model of aid, patient advocacy and hospital administration have both adapted into what we are familiar with and thankful for today. That is why Nursing Appreciation Week is celebrated during the week of May 12, Nightingale's birthday.

There are more nurses than any other workers in the health profession. However, when nursing staffs decrease, individual patient attention decreases as well. This can lead to medical complications and increased hospital stay increase. It is not only a single nurse that encourages patient recovery; it is a team of nurses that play a pivotal role in patient wellness.

In the upcoming years while the American healthcare system undergoes substantial changes, we will depend on nurses more than ever when seeking healthcare. Nurses will serve alongside their colleagues in discovering the next steps in innovative care models as we transition to the next chapter in patient care.

I would encourage all of my fellow members to remember this week next time they visit a hospital or take their child to the doctor; remember to thank your nurse as well.

#### HONORING OUR WWII MERCHANT MARINERS ACT OF 2013

**HON. JANICE HAHN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2013*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, during World War II, millions of Americans in uniform fought bravely to secure freedom and peace throughout the world. We made sure to honor their sacrifices by ensuring we took care of them at home, through initiatives such as the G.I. Bill and other services meant to support our veterans. However, many of those who made the ultimate sacrifice during the war were not actually part of the U.S. military.

During the war, U.S. Merchant Mariners were responsible for transporting troops and delivering supplies for the military. Even though they were mainly used as an auxiliary fleet, hundreds of ships and thousands of men were lost to enemy submarines and aircraft, including dangerous missions ferrying supplies to western Europe and even Russia. Though the role of non-uniformed merchant sailors in

World War II may have faded, it was one of the most critical roles played during the early part of the war.

Unfortunately, those who served this nation so valiantly during that time, have never been eligible for the tuition subsidies, home loan guarantees or other provisions of the G.I. Bill that helped millions of veterans go to college, secure a home and transition seamlessly into civilian life. The fact that we are not providing similar benefits to those who have risked their lives for this country is simply unfathomable.

That's why I am introducing the "Honoring Our WWII Merchant Marine Act for 2013." This bill would provide a \$1,000 monthly benefit to the nearly 10,000 surviving World War II Mariners. By providing this modest benefit, we will finally be giving our brave merchant mariners the recognition they rightfully deserve.

#### TRIBUTE TO MIKE RAAHAUGE

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2013*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a dear friend of mine, Mike Raahauge. Mike passed away on May 6, 2013 after a long battle with esophageal cancer. He was a pillar of the community in Corona and will be deeply missed.

The story of Mike's shooting range, Raahauge's Shooting Enterprises, began with his father, Linc, who had operated a pheasant hunting facility in Dixon, California in the 1950s. While on a family trip to Disneyland, Linc got lost and ended up on Highway 71. He believed the area would be ideal for pheasant farming, and in 1971 Mike helped his father move the facility to southern California after signing a lease with the Orange County Water District.

Mike's father had always wanted to move south because the region had a larger population. The family's first hunting facility, which hunted pheasants and ducks, opened on Bluff Street in Norco, California. Target traps were set on the balcony of the clubhouse and alongside a dirt road which overlooked the basin below with views of the Santa Ana River. The range was eventually moved to River Road in Corona. Throughout the years, the Raahauges offered chukar, quail and other upland game hunting. After his father's death in 1989, Mike, his wife Elaine, and their son Pat continued to operate the range as a family business.

Today, about 2,000 men, women and children annually come to Raahauge's to take the hunter safety course required to obtain a hunting license. Mike said of the program, "Of everything I do here, that's the most important . . . It makes it a safer world. There are guns in our society. People need to know how to handle them safely. We're giving them a safe way to deal with guns."

About 1.5 million rounds are fired by shotguns in sporting clays at the property in a year, and ten police agencies including Anaheim, Fullerton and Buena Park practice at the pistol range. It is also home to many shooting groups such as Shooting Sports Alliance, The Cowboys, LUHT Steel Challenge, Gen X and Running Gun, The Appleseed Project, SoCal

Top Guns Youth Shooting, NRA Shooting Programs and Firearms Training Associates. The ranch also hosts events for local wildlife and conservation organizations such as the Cowboys, who turn the ranch into the Old West twice each year to compete with old cowboy guns. In 1982, Mike worked together with gun manufacturers to create the Hands On Shooting Sports Fair, which began that year and still occurs every first weekend in June in Corona.

Carolyn Morse, the office manager for Raahauge's, said that Mike's success came from his desire to get boys and girls and women involved in what was traditionally seen as a male-dominated sport. In fact, the most prominent girl to pick up the sport at the range was Mike's daughter, Cindy, who competed as part of the 2000 U.S. Olympic team in Sydney. Mike said his time spent in Australia watching his daughter take fifth place in women's skeet shooting was the "highlight of my life." Cindy was trained by 1984 Olympic Bronze Medalist Dan Carlisle, who lives in Houston but still makes frequent appearances at the range to give private lessons. Michael Reagan, son of President Ronald Reagan, also took shooting lessons at the range.

Mike is survived by Elaine, his wife and partner of 48 years; his son, Pat, who has three sons and two daughters; and his daughter, Cindy Shenberger, who lives in North Carolina with her husband, Kevin, and their two daughters.

Mike was a great American patriot who will always be remembered for his incredible work ethic, generosity, contributions to the community and love of family. His dedication to her family, work, and community are a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to Mike's family and friends; although Mike may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE CONSTRUCTION QUALITY ASSURANCE ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2013*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, as we look for ways to ensure government dollars are used efficiently, Congress should reform the procurement process to limit bid shopping on federal construction contracts. Restoring equitable safeguards in the low bid system will assure that agency practice will conform to the highest standards adhered to by industry professionals and contractor associations, and will reflect best practices followed by a great many other public procurement systems nationally and internationally.

That is why I am introducing the Construction Quality Assurance Act, legislation that would require prime bidders on low-bid projects valued at \$1 million or more to list each subcontractor on work categories of \$100,000 or more with their bid submissions. Substitutions of listed subcontractors after contracts are awarded would be allowed only in exceptional circumstances and only with the consent of the contracting officer.

The bill would impose financial penalties for improper substitution of listed subcontractors.