

their families, to help them set the foundations for success in school and in later life.

Head Start is unique in its comprehensive approach to the needs of children and families. Currently Luzerne County Head Start provides 1,037 children with early learning education. In addition to creating an environment for early academic development, Head Start also provides an environment for healthy early physical development. Children that attend Head Start receive health checkups, oral screenings and nutritious meals. The Head Start faculty also teaches their students about comprehensive health and nutrition, giving them the knowledge they will need to make the right choices about the food they eat.

Head Start also focuses on the whole family unit, not just the child. One primary goal of the program is to move preschool children and their families toward self-sufficiency. Parents are assisted with a wide range of family needs including housing and employment, as well as adult education. Head Start offers assistance to parents interested in obtaining a high school General Equivalency Diploma or other adult education and employment opportunities.

Head Start works with children at a critical learning age. The children begin to socialize with others, solve problems, and have other experiences that help them to become self-confident. I commend the Luzerne County Head Start program for their continuing service to the community. I thank them for being a valuable educational asset to the community these past 48 years, and I wish them all the best in the future.

ROSELINE MUGARUKA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Roseline Mugaruka for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Roseline Mugaruka is an 11th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Roseline Mugaruka is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Roseline Mugaruka for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PENNY FREDERICK RETIRES
AFTER 25+ YEARS OF PUBLIC
SERVICE

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and career of Penny

Angelle Frederick. For the last 25 years, she has served the people of South Louisiana for three Members of Congress as a dedicated Congressional staffer.

Penny began her career in public service working as a legislative assistant for Louisiana State Representative Harry L. Benoit. She then worked with U.S. Representatives James "Jimmy" Hayes and Chris John of South Louisiana. In January of 2005, Penny joined my staff as a constituent service representative. From Day One, Penny has been a great resource to the Third Congressional District of Louisiana. Her knowledge and guidance provided my office with a strong foundation to build on. Her personality and reputation have forged many bonds across South Louisiana. I will miss her ability to provide help and insight to constituents and most importantly, to me.

As Penny enters retirement, I would like to thank her for the work she's done as a public servant. However, I am positive her husband, Kendall, and daughters, Abbey and Lindsey, will be happy to have her around a little more. Penny, I wish you nothing but the best as you enter this next phase of your life and hope you know how grateful I am for all of your hard work over the course of these many years.

IN HONOR OF COLORADO STATE
SENATOR PAT STEADMAN

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Colorado State Senator Pat Steadman, who today was honored by the White House as a "Harvey Milk Champion of Change" for his commitment to equality and public service.

Pat has championed equality for LGBT Coloradans for over 20 years. While studying at the University of Colorado School of Law, Pat fought against ballot issues that targeted gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities. After law school, Pat worked to oppose Amendment 2 on the 1992 Colorado general election ballot. When that anti-gay amendment passed, Pat co-founded the non-profit organization that spearheaded the lawsuit to challenge the constitutionality of Amendment 2; the case eventually went all the way to the Supreme Court. This landmark case *Romer v. Evans* declared Amendment 2 unconstitutional and established the first major court precedent protecting the equal rights of LGBT Americans.

In 2009, Pat was selected to fill the vacant Colorado Senate seat in the 31st District. Since that time, he has worked hard to protect and defend the rights of all his constituents and continue his fight for equality. Last year, his partner of many years Dave Misner was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and died in September after a brief battle. Dave was also a champion for equality, and I know he would have been so proud when this year Pat introduced for the third time the Colorado Civil Unions Act, which legalized civil unions for any two unmarried adults, regardless of gender. This landmark was signed into law by Governor John Hickenlooper on March 21, 2013. I was honored to be able to perform some of the first civil union ceremonies in Denver earlier this month. The joyful celebra-

tions reinforced the fact that Pat has achieved extraordinary things that empower and inspire his fellow Coloradoans. And I know Dave would be even more proud of Pat today.

Yesterday, Pat visited the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C. and shared online his favorite inscription at the Memorial. On the southeast interior panel, he was moved by an inscription from an 1816 letter by Jefferson to a friend that reads: "I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions. But laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors."

Pat, your service to Colorado has embodied this quote, as you work to keep our laws and institutions moving hand in hand with progress. On behalf of a grateful state, thank you.

IN HONOR OF SECOND
LIEUTENANT LUTHER MCLLWAIN

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and pay tribute to Second Lieutenant Luther McIlwain, of the United States Army Air Corps' famed Tuskegee Airmen. Mr. McIlwain recently passed away at the age of 91 and I seek to honor him for his dedicated service to the United States as an airman escorting bombers during World War II.

Lieutenant McIlwain was born in Blaine, South Carolina. His family moved to Lawrence, Massachusetts when he was two and he lived there until his graduation from Methuen High School in 1939. He attended college at Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina. Upon graduation, he sought to join the military in order to serve his country at a momentous time. On his first attempt, military recruiters ridiculed him for his desire to become a pilot. He was repeatedly told that he would not be able to fly because of his race. Undeterred, Luther enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1943 and ultimately became an aviator with the famed Tuskegee Airmen.

The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of soldiers who continuously placed their country's needs above their own, often in the face of extreme adversity. Due to the segregation of the military at the time, the Tuskegee Airmen were routinely subjected to racial discrimination from their fellow service members and civilians alike. This never dissuaded their devotion to their duty or their Nation. They chose to pursue difficult training, knowing it would ultimately place them in direct confrontation with enemy combatants. Luther McIlwain proudly stood as a member of this elite unit.

Luther McIlwain fought in the skies above Europe and North Africa with bravery and distinction. He continued to place others first by serving as an instructor during the war, training nearly one thousand aviators in his unit.

Shortly after WWII, Mr. McIlwain was honorably discharged. He went on in his great tradition of service after the war by serving 22 years on the New York City Police Department.

In 2007 he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by President Bush. The ceremony was held in the U.S. Capitol, and Mr. McIlwain, along with nearly three hundred surviving members of the Tuskegee Airmen and their families, accepted the award on behalf of their departed colleagues.

Today, we honor Second Lieutenant Luther McIlwain for his lifetime of exemplary service, especially during WWII as a member of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen, who, undeterred by the rampant racism and prejudice of the time, sought to place their country above all else and paved the way for desegregation of our Armed Forces.

SAVANNAH GALLEGOS-ALEXUS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Savannah Gallegos-Alexus for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Savannah Gallegos-Alexus is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Savannah Gallegos-Alexus is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Savannah Gallegos-Alexus for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

MAY IS MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Motorcycle Caucus and a motorcycle enthusiast, I rise today in support of Motorcycle Awareness Month, which is celebrated each May.

With more than 27 million motorcycle riders today, and that number steadily increasing, being mindful of other types of road and highway users is critical for everyone.

This is especially the case as the weather is warming up and more motorcycle riders are hitting the road.

Drivers' failure to see motorcycles is one of the leading causes of motorcycle crashes, and the prevalence of distracted and inattentive driving poses a significant threat to motorcycle riders.

I urge vehicle drivers to check mirrors and blind spots and actively look for motorcycles—especially at intersections. Taking that brief moment can mean the difference between life and death for motorcycle riders and vehicle drivers alike.

I also encourage my fellow motorcycle riders to take appropriate safety precautions by practicing safe riding techniques and wearing appropriate safety equipment.

The goal is to get all road and highway users to their destinations without incident.

Let's work together to make this a reality.

RECOGNIZING THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC DAY OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan—as they are celebrating the 95th anniversary of the Republic Day on May 28.

The Republic Day commemorates the day Azerbaijan first declared independence from the Russian Empire on May 28, 1918. Though the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan was ended by occupying Soviet forces in 1920, in its 2 years of independence Azerbaijan made important accomplishments on state-building, armed forces, education, their economy, and universal suffrage, from which it benefits today.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan restored its independence in 1991. Parliament adopted the Constitution Act on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan on October 18, 1991.

The last two decades of independence has not been without challenges. The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan was violated and the Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding regions of Azerbaijan have been occupied by neighboring Armenia. In 1993 the UN Security Council adopted four resolutions demanding complete, unconditional, and immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. I am happy that Azerbaijan is committed to peaceful resolution of the conflict with Armenia, and I support a swift, peaceful resolution to this conflict, as well.

Azerbaijan is a key global security partner for the United States. Azerbaijan has extended important over-flight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights to support ISAF and has regularly provided landing and refueling operations at its airports for U.S. and NATO forces. Also, Azerbaijan plays an important role in the Northern Distribution Network, a supply route to Afghanistan, by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities. Azerbaijan was also the first predominantly Muslim country to send troops to Iraq.

Azerbaijan has opened Caspian energy resources to development by U.S. companies and has emerged as a key player for global energy security. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project is the most successful project contributing to the development of the South Caucasus region and has become the main artery delivering Caspian Sea hydrocarbons to

the U.S. and our partners in Europe. Notably, Azerbaijan also provides roughly 40% of Israel's oil consumption. Azerbaijan is considered a leading initiator of the Trans Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP) which will open up the Southern Gas Corridor to Europe. As a co-chair of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Republic Day. I believe we will continue to work with them to advance our partnership which benefits both the US and Azerbaijan. I look forward to further collaboration between our two nations.

HONORING BOB J. McDONALD

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize Mr. Bob McDonald from Athens, Texas. Mr. McDonald is to be commended for his work to support and maintain the historic Athens Cemetery in Henderson County, Texas.

A retired engineer, Mr. McDonald began his work at the cemetery at a time when it was badly in need of refurbishment. He designed and oversaw the installation of a new sprinkler system, a new brick entry and wrought-iron fencing, a columbarium, and numerous other improvements. For more than fifteen years, he has played a vital role in the cemetery's operation, serving as treasurer, public liaison, and overseer of the grounds.

Mr. McDonald also spearheaded efforts to research and classify the cemetery's interments so that visitors could easily find the graves they sought. He also created a roster of veterans buried at the cemetery that dates back to 1850, which is sorted according to the conflict in which the veterans served.

Mr. McDonald also volunteers his time at the East Texas Arboretum, and is a former member of the Trinity Valley Community College Board of Trustees. He was honored as the Athens Citizen of the Year in 1999.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the entire 5th Congressional District of Texas, to thank Mr. Bob McDonald for his dedicated philanthropy to the citizens of Henderson County, Texas.

IN HONOR OF THE QUAKERTOWN BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the Quakertown Business and Professional Women's Club celebrates its 60th anniversary on May 28, 2013. The diverse group of working women came together in January 1953, setting a goal of equity and economic self-sufficiency for women by elevating standards, promoting their interests and bringing about a spirit of cooperation among business and professional women in Quakertown.

Club members provide support for local organizations: St. Luke's Hospital, Children's