

oversaw contractors working on the AEGIS combat system, focusing on evaluation of the contractors' efforts and development of the AEGIS program.

After more than a decade at the DCMA, Mr. Falter moved on to AEGIS Technical Representative. There he continued his work on the AEGIS combat system, designing and implementing Command & Control, AEGIS Display Systems, Mission Planner, and AEGIS Computing Infrastructure. His efforts improved the performance of cruisers and destroyers in the US Navy, saving lives and enabling American sailors to do their jobs more effectively. Mr. Falter's service to his country and technical skill as an engineer are traits to be commended. During his years working for the US Navy, Mr. Falter contributed to countless projects that have gone on to protect American lives.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the First District of New Jersey, I want to thank Mr. Edwin Falter for his years of dedicated service. I stand with the people of New Jersey and the nation in applauding Mr. Falter for his work.

CELEBRATING THE NEW ABC FAMILY TELEVISION DRAMA—THE FOSTERS

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and celebrate the new ABC Family television drama—The Fosters. In its inaugural season, the new show highlights the strength, resiliency, and tenacity of foster youth and families in a compelling format.

Throughout the United States, over 408,000 children have been removed from their families and currently live in foster care. Over 107,000 youth are eligible for and are awaiting adoption. Additionally, more than 27,900 youth "age out" of foster care without a legal permanent connection to an adult or family. The primary goal of the foster care system is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children while working to provide a safe, loving, and permanent home for each child.

The Fosters television series brings these statistics and facts to life by providing millions of people throughout the country with a powerful glimpse into the challenging reality facing foster families. By courageously depicting difficult topics like domestic violence, family separation, school instability, and mental health diagnoses, The Fosters creators help to inform the American public about the difficulties and repercussions of child abuse, neglect, and trauma.

At the same time, the show artfully portrays the love, courage, and dedication of the broad foster care community, including foster youth and parents, child welfare caseworkers and staff, biological families, and community volunteers. The Fosters series helps to highlight the simple fact that loving families help children thrive. The show has the potential to inspire people throughout the country to become foster parents, adoptive parents, mentors, advocates, and volunteers.

As the Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, I commend creators

Bradley Bredeweg and Peter Paige, Executive Producers Jennifer Lopez, Joanna Johnson, Elaine Goldsmith Thomas, Benny Medina and Greg Gugliotta, as well as the entire cast, crew, and production team for their dedication to creating a better future for our Nation's foster youth and families.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JULIUS CIACCIA OF CLEVELAND, OH, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLEAN WATER AGENCIES

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Mr. Julius Ciaccia, Executive Director of Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District on his election as the new President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, NACWA.

Mr. Ciaccia is an accomplished leader and committed environmental steward who plays a prominent role in the water industry, exemplifying what it means to be a public servant. He is ideally suited to serve as President of one of the Nation's leading proponents of responsible policies that advance clean water. Mr. Ciaccia has served the people of the Cleveland area for decades, and in his new role, will continue to ensure that Ohio's, and the Nation's clean water agencies continue to improve to protect public health and the environment.

Mr. Ciaccia began his career in public utilities in 1977 when he was appointed as Assistant Director of the Public Utilities Department for the City of Cleveland. In 1979 he took on the temporary role of Commissioner of Cleveland Water until 1981 when he assumed the role of Deputy Commissioner of Cleveland Water and eventually appointed Commissioner in 1988.

During the 25 years in the Division of Water, Mr. Ciaccia oversaw the management of over \$1 billion worth of capital improvement projects and maintained the Division of Water's very favorable financial position. He was appointed Director of the city's Department of Public Utilities in 2004 and began his current role at the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District in November 2007.

In his current role at the District, he oversees all aspects of managing one of the nation's largest wastewater management utilities. Under his leadership, the District has received two awards from the Commission on Economic Inclusion including a 2009 award for Supplier Diversity which highlights the success of one of Mr. Ciaccia's initiatives to craft and implement a supplier inclusion program; and a 2012 award for Senior Management Inclusion, recognizing diversity of Senior Staff.

As the District's Executive Director, Mr. Ciaccia was also responsible for the recently entered consent order for a long term control plan to significantly reduce combined sewer overflows, as well as the successful development and implementation of a new Regional Stormwater Management Program. Additionally, one of Mr. Ciaccia's many accomplishments as Executive Director has been the transformation of the District's culture to one of transparency and ethical financial practices.

As member of NACWA's Board of Directors, Mr. Ciaccia has served as the Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President. Mr. Ciaccia has selflessly shared his time, passion, energy and ideas to carry out the objectives of the Clean Water Act.

It is my sincere pleasure to congratulate Julius Ciaccia on becoming President of NACWA. I am certain his actions will ensure continued water quality progress for the Cleveland area, the State of Ohio and the Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF MR. JOSEPH DISPENZA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the war record and accomplishments of a local military hero, Mr. Joseph Dispenza, who recently turned 92.

A resident of Cheektowaga for the vast majority of his life, Joseph Dispenza was born in Buffalo and enlisted into active service November 6, 1942. He was just 21 years of age when he became the tail gunner in the Army Air Force for a B-24 D Liberator, "Blessed Event."

This plane was shot down in battle by Japanese fighters over the Pacific on New Year's Day 1944, with a hole blown into the "Blessed Event" the size of a bathtub. Two of Joseph's ten comrades were killed. The other eight were shot from shrapnel, including Joseph. Protecting his compatriots, Joseph was courageously still able to shoot down an enemy plane before his own plane crash-landed with only one wheel remaining. The crew's chances for survival were so low that the army sent a telegram to Joseph's parents on Buffalo's West Side reporting their son's death.

Humble and quietly brave, over the next 64 years, Joseph told his incredible survival story to no one, until he saw an old issue of Look magazine which had reported the events. Joseph never even applied for his medals; his family did so for him.

Joseph deservedly was awarded the Purple Heart and Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, among other medals, though only received them recently, and this great Buffalonian, this great American, does not even see himself as a hero, deferring the label to his fallen brethren in arms.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor one of America's great defenders, who put his life and liberty on the line to protect our freedoms here at home. Joseph represents the best of American courage, humility, and strength, and with the recent celebration of Memorial Day, I am thankful for his nearly three years of service in World War II, from which he was honorably discharged, and his service for all Americans.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ACDI/VOCA

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate ACDI/VOCA on

the occasion of their 50th anniversary. This outstanding organization was founded in 1963 with the mission of empowering people around the world to take advantage of economic opportunities and improve quality of life for their families and communities. To this date, ACDI/VOCA continues to fulfill this mission, as they help millions of individuals and families fight their way out of poverty. Their notable accomplishments include contributing to the launch of the Green Revolution in India, strengthening Ethiopian co-ops to bring their coffee into global prominence, and pioneering grassroots financial services across the former Soviet Union. With a staff comprised of 90 percent locally-hired employees, and working through a network of over 3,000 local partner organizations, ACDI/VOCA combines the best in international development expertise with powerful grassroots capacities to implement effective programming that has a real and sustained impact. Congratulations to ACDI/VOCA President and CEO Carl H. Leonard, as well as to the esteemed members of the Board of Directors: Mortimer Neufville (Chairman), Honorable Timothy J. Penny (Vice Chairman), Deborah Atwood, Dr. G.N. Saxena, Charles F. Conner, Kurt M. Ely, Jerry Fenner, Patricia Wilkinson Garamendi, William Harris, James. K. Hoyt, R. Bruce Johnson, and David Cobb. I commend ACDI/VOCA on their history of outstanding service and am confident that they will continue to make a difference in people's lives around the world long into the future.

CONGRATULATING THE TOWN OF
NEWLAND ON THEIR CENTENNIAL

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial of Newland, the highest county seat in the Eastern United States, nestled along the border of Western North Carolina.

In 1911, Newland was named after North Carolina Lieutenant Governor William C. Newland, and simultaneously became the county seat for Avery County.

By March 1913, small businesses were growing and the town began to quickly develop commercially and residentially.

The town of Newland continues to be an important representative of the small-town family values and mountain culture so important to all of us in the western part of the state.

Mr. Speaker, the town of Newland is a beacon for American small business and the free enterprise system. America is a country that rewards earned success, and Newland is an example of that inspiration.

Therefore, I rise today as a Representative for the 11th District of North Carolina to congratulate the town of Newland for its overall steadfastness and perseverance displayed by its citizens.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE
OF AMBASSADOR WILLIAM
KENNARD

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor the distinguished public service of Ambassador William Kennard and recognize his vital role in reinvigorating the deep relationship between the United States and the European Union.

As the first U.S. Ambassador to the European Union to work with the institutions created by the Lisbon treaty, Mr. Kennard was instrumental in strengthening relations between the United States and a rapidly changing European Union. Ambassador Kennard has worked tirelessly to expand the economic dialogue and minimize the regulatory divide between the United States and the European Union, and his efforts were a driving force behind the decision to begin negotiations on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership that will ignite economic growth and create jobs on both sides of the Atlantic. For his work on behalf of United States business interests in Europe, Ambassador Kennard received the prestigious Transatlantic Business Award from the American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union.

Prior to his nomination as U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, Ambassador Kennard served as the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission from 1997 to 2001 where policies he shaped brought the Internet to a majority of U.S. households for the first time. In his time at the FCC, Ambassador Kennard championed programs to bridge the digital divide, such as the e-rate program which brought Internet service to 95 percent of K-12 schools and 58,000 libraries in the United States. Ambassador Kennard's commitment to expanding digital access earned him many accolades, and U.S. News and World Report called him "a consumer champion for the digital age."

Mr. Speaker, as Ambassador Kennard prepares to step down as U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his exemplary public service and wishing him well as he writes the next chapter of his life. His dedication to encouraging dialogue and expanding trade will have a lasting impact on our transatlantic relations.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 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 \$16,738,602,543,527.17. We've added \$6,111,725,494,550.09 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CONGRATULATING THE MAR-
GARET R. PARDEE HOSPITAL ON
THEIR 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate The Margaret R. Pardee Hospital for reaching their 60th Anniversary.

Pardee Hospital has shown outstanding and ongoing contributions and service to the health and well-being of the citizens of Henderson County since 1953.

This is a tremendous milestone for our community hospital. Pardee has served area residents with an outstanding health care facility that is recognized by the nation and throughout North Carolina. Pardee is the second largest employer in Henderson County and is the only hospital in the Carolinas to earn the ISO 9001-2008 certification for quality.

Mr. Speaker, as a Representative for the 11th District of North Carolina, I am grateful for the steadfast commitment to healing and saving the lives of our citizens in Western North Carolina.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAULA
RAPOSA

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Ms. Paula Raposa on the occasion of her retirement.

Ms. Raposa has been a vibrant fixture in her local community for over fifty years. After arriving in Fall River from the island of Sao Miguel in 1960, Ms. Raposa got her start at a factory on Water Street. Six years later, her gift for helping others led her to a job as a teacher's aide with Fall River Public Schools. For the next 12 years, she would serve as a secretary and parental liaison for the school district's bilingual program. Ms. Raposa played a key role in guiding the next generation of Portuguese-speaking immigrants as they became acclimated to life in the United States. She later supported the Women's Center at Bristol Community College as their outreach coordinator.

In 1978, Ms. Raposa began her career with SER—Jobs for Progress as a consultant. She was soon named as the first executive director for SER's Fall River affiliate. Under Ms. Raposa's leadership, the organization proved indispensable in training residents for jobs in the local garment industry and beyond. In 1984, her efforts were recognized by President Reagan through an appointment to the Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship, a federal body devoted to economic development and the advancement of workforce trainees. At that time she was the first woman in over fifty years to be appointed to this prestigious position. SER continues to provide a range of vital services to the community, including business classes, adult English instruction, computer training, and job placement. Alumni of SER's programs have gone on to succeed in a variety of professions.