

some countries, more than half of the population is under the age of 25. Quality education for this generation of young people could further contribute to dynamism and innovation in their countries' economies.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2548 will bring many positive opportunities to a continent that is in great need of assistance. I truly appreciate you and the committee giving this bill the attention it deserves. Electrifying Africa will not only create a brighter future for those who live in the region, but will also strengthen Africa's independence, promote continued economic development, and ensure the continent remains a vibrant source of art, culture, and history for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING LINDA MARTIN

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Mrs. Linda Martin, a finalist for the 2014 School Counselor of the Year award. This distinguished award, presented by the American School Counselor Association, honors school counselors "who have made outstanding and exemplary contributions to students, the school community, and the school counseling profession."

Mrs. Martin has led the Comprehensive Guidance Program at Palm Lake Elementary School for 20 years. As an innovative teacher, she founded the Kids Who Care program to serve Palm Lake Elementary, the Orlando community and Nkomo Primary School, a sister school in South Africa. Her classroom lessons cover a wide range of topics including character development and leadership.

Mrs. Martin's remarkable service has also been recognized on the county and state levels. In 2012, she was named Orange County School Counselor of the Year, and, in 2013, was awarded Elementary School Counselor of the Year by the Florida School Counselor Association.

School counselors play an invaluable role in students' academic and personal development, teaching important life skills and compelling them to strive toward their goals. It is my pleasure to recognize Mrs. Martin for her exemplary dedication to the students of Palm Lake Elementary.

IN HONOR OF THE ARIZONA STATE LIBRARY

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Arizona State Library. The 150th anniversary of the Arizona Territorial Library, which was established in 1864 and became the State Library in 1915, was celebrated this year. Next year is the State Library's 100th anniversary.

A department of the Secretary of State's office, the State Library provides access to historical records and operates the Arizona Capitol Museum. In the beginning, the State Li-

brary was mainly a law library, recording the laws of the territorial government and conducting legislative research. In recent years, this institution has grown to house historical archives, public records, and special collections such as the Arizona Memory Project, which is a collection of digitized records about the history and geography of Arizona. It also provides consulting services to county and local libraries and other government agencies to help them better manage public records. As part of the Library of Congress's Chronicling America territorial newspaper collection, the State Library also houses the Arizona Digital Newspaper Project. It was recently recognized as the Federal Depository Library of the Year for 2013 and is Arizona's only complete federal documents collection.

Congratulations to the Arizona State Library for its many years of service to the people of Arizona.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on the House Energy and Commerce Committee for their leadership and shared goal of promoting legislation that incentivizes stakeholders to manufacture and implement energy efficient technologies throughout our economy. Congress should always be looking for creative ways to incentivize our great American innovators like A.O. Smith to manufacture energy efficient technologies that consumers clearly want. So I commend you on your dedication to this effort and look forward to supporting H.R. 2126.

Sometimes we don't have to look too hard for ways to unleash American innovation and promote energy efficiency. Sometimes, we just have to use common sense and get the Federal Government out of the way.

One concrete way Congress can force the government to get out of the way of our job creators would be to require the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency to recognize independent test results for air conditioning, furnace, boiler, heat pump and water heater products that are already subject to the rigors of an independent voluntary industry compliance program (or "VICP").

Through the VICP, manufacturers of these highly efficient products contract with an independent, third-party laboratory to ensure their products comply with federal efficiency and conservation standards. Manufacturers spend millions to participate and run the VICP, and the program has been a resounding success for years.

But the federal government won't accept VICP data for compliance purposes. Instead, the DOE and EPA (which manages the Energy Star program) force manufacturers that participate in the VICP to subject their products to two additional rounds of tests to satisfy agency standards. But to make matters worse, the DOE and EPA tests aren't any different than the VICP tests. Each test takes place at the same laboratories responsible for the

VICP tests, with the same technicians on the same products.

The end result: manufacturers of highly efficient air conditioning, furnace, boiler, heat pump and water heater products pay for three rounds of tests to effectuate the same result: making federal regulators happy.

That, my colleagues, smacks of inefficient government bureaucracy that serves no purpose other than redirecting operational capital to satisfy the whims of the Obama Administration. We can and should do a better job of incentivizing manufacturers to innovate and invest in job creation—not to waste precious operational capital on complying with nonsensical bureaucratic mandates.

I intend to eliminate this regulatory roadblock through legislation very similar to an amendment introduced last September by Senators SESSIONS and PRYOR during debate for S. 1392. That amendment, in the words of Senator SESSIONS, would have "require[d] the Energy Department, when conducting routine testing to verify product ratings, to rely on data submitted through voluntary, independent certification programs" that satisfy a robust test of independence and transparency.

COMMEMORATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ST. PETER'S PARISH OF THE NEW YORK ARCHDIOCESE

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of the founding of St. Peter's Parish, the mother parish of Staten Island. The social vitality and spirit of community that the St. Peter's Parish brings to my district cannot possibly be overstated and, as the oldest Roman Catholic parish on Staten Island, this historic occasion is of great significance to our entire community. With the Catholic population of Staten Island consisting of only around 100 people at the founding of the parish in 1839, Father Ildefonso Madrano, the first minister of St. Peter's, was also tasked with serving the Catholic communities of Perth Amboy, New Brunswick, and Princeton, New Jersey. While the congregation met in an abandoned factory for five years, construction on a dedicated church moved slowly yet steadily, made possible by a generous donation of land by the New Brighton Association.

Quickly turning into a staple of life on Staten Island, the pastors of St. Peter's directed the construction of a grammar school as well as additional parishes on the island as the local population continued to grow. At the same time, church ministers showed their dedication to the local community by tending to Staten Islanders' various spiritual and material needs. One of St. Peter's early pastors, Father Patrick Murphy, gave his life in the service of those in need, contracting cholera while tending to the thousands of Irish immigrants quarantined in a hospital in the nearby Tompkinsville neighborhood of the Island.

It is in the same spirit that the parish of St. Peter's has exemplified the communal spirit of caring and service over the past 175 years. Thanks to the resilience of community members and parishioners, St. Peter's has survived

and even expanded its educational role with the establishment what is now the St. Peter's Boys High School under Monsignor Joseph Farrell in the early 20th Century. The contributions of the St. Peter's community continue up to this day, with the parish under the faithful guidance of co-vicar Monsignor James J. Dorney since 1986.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply humbled to represent this dedicated congregation in Congress, and I would ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the virtues that the St. Peter's parish has displayed over its long history. I cannot imagine what the Staten Island community would be like today without the contributions of the St. Peter's congregation, and I sincerely wish this incredible institution a happy 175th birthday, with hopefully just as many more to come.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND
CONTRIBUTIONS OF PATRICK J.
MCDONOUGH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, Robert Mansker, a longtime and now retired staff member in the House, asked me to recognize the passing of another longtime and dedicated staff member of this body: Patrick J. McDonough, as Chief of the Publications and Distribution Service.

The House lost a fine citizen on Sunday, November 10. Patrick J. McDonough of Friendship Heights passed away from a continuing struggle with respiratory problems. His illness took him from us far too soon. He was a very familiar face to the long-time employees of the House.

When the House maintained the "Folding Room" in years past, Pat rose to the position of Chief of the Publications and Distribution Service, as it was formally known. He maintained an incredibly personable demeanor, and he worked well with both Democrats and Republicans.

Born October 25, 1943, Pat was originally from Parkersburg, West Virginia, where he attended the Parkersburg Catholic School System. He continued his higher education at The Pontifical College Josephinum, Catholic University and American University.

Pat taught high school religion at St. Anthony's Catholic High School in Washington, DC, and coached junior varsity basketball during the period John Thompson, Sr. was head coach. He was an avid supporter of the Georgetown Hoyas, always inviting friends to join him to share his mid-court seats at the Verizon Center for home games.

Pat then began his career in government, when he came to the House of Representatives. He then served in the Clinton Administration in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, until his retirement.

Pat was a proud member of The Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in the City of New York and joined with them each year when the group convened.

A celebration of his life was held at St. Margaret Mary Church in Parkersburg on Sunday, November 18, followed by his burial at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Our condolences are extended to his family and to his many friends.

RECOGNIZING VICTIMS OF THE
MASS MURDER OF ARMENIANS

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness of the mass murder of Armenians during the state-sponsored pogroms 26 years ago in Sumgait, Azerbaijan. These ethnically motivated mass killings were an affront to basic human rights and the continued lack of international recognition and acknowledgment represents a grave injustice.

Peaceful demonstrations by Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh, who sought freedom and protested against policies that discriminated against Armenians, were met with violence against the Armenians of Sumgait, who were hundreds of miles away, defenseless, and targeted simply because they were Armenians. Nearby security forces allowed the violence to continue unabated and turned a blind eye to the horrific violence directed against Armenian civilians. True democracies must respect the rights of the minority and the human rights of all residents.

On July 27, 1988, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed Amendment 2690, which called upon the Soviet government to "respect the legitimate aspirations of the Armenian people", and noted that "dozens of Armenians have been killed and hundreds injured during the recent unrest." The U.S. Senate passed an amendment in July 1988, acknowledging that even the Soviet authorities had described these massacres as a 'pogrom'.

Today, I remember the victims and ask this body to join me in honoring their memories.

ECOGRAPHICS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud EcoGraphics Printing and owner Scott Feavel for receiving the Small Business of the Year award from the West Chamber serving Jefferson County.

The Small Business of the Year is awarded to a business with 50 employees or less and is involved and engaged in improving the business community in Jefferson County.

EcoGraphics Printing produces excellent work for their clients. As the leader of the company, Scott Feavel is involved with the community on many fronts. He generously raises money for Children's Hospital cancer ward, donates to several associations throughout Jefferson County and mentors other chamber members and small business people.

I extend my deepest congratulations to EcoGraphics Printing and owner Scott Feavel for this well deserved honor from the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt Scott and EcoGraphics Printing will exhibit the same dedication and character in all their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS A. SHERMAN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a man who has dedicated 50 years of his life in the service of the State of California and to the United States of America. I say with the utmost sincerity there are few who have contributed more to the understanding and development of the challenging and dangerous discipline of wildland firefighting as Thomas A. Sherman. Riverside County is fortunate to have enjoyed the leadership and experience that Tom Sherman has provided. On March 8, 2014, he will formally retire from the Bureau of Land Management Fire Service as Division Chief of California Desert District Fire and Aviation. In total, Tom has served in multiple capacities of the fire service at the county, state, and federal level.

The roots of Tom's service go back generations when the Sherman (Scherarm) Family left Germany in the late 1800s to become some of the first settlers of the San Jacinto Mountains. Many years later, Tom was born in Upland, California on July 6, 1946 to Jack and Georgette Sherman. He spent a great deal of his youth in the Santa Ana Canyon learning from his grandfather and attending elementary school in Corona. He began what would become a long and thriving career in firefighting in 1963 as a Seasonal Firefighter with the California Division of Forestry (CDF) in Corona. After graduating from Blythe High School in 1965, he worked as a Firefighter with CDF in San Jacinto, California until 1966.

In September of 1966, Tom answered his nation's call and was drafted into the U.S. Army. He attended basic training at Fort Ord, California and was subsequently sent to Vietnam in 1967 as a soldier with the 1st Battalion, 84th Artillery of the 9th Infantry Division. His potential was recognized by his superiors with a promotion to Sergeant and gun-crew NCO in charge. He and his battalion earned two Presidential Unit Citations for their gallant service. Tom returned to the United States in March of 1968 and took the knowledge learned in Vietnam to train new artillery soldiers at the Artillery School at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. He was honorably discharged from the Army in June of 1968 as a Specialist 5th Class. Tom returned to California and immediately resumed his job at CDF as a Firefighter in Orange County.

Tom's natural leadership led to the initiation of numerous firefighting programs that exist to this day. He designed the Riverside County Fire Department emblem, which was formally adopted in 1976 and is still used. That same year while buying guitar strings at the Corona Music Center he met MaryAnn Colapinto. Not long after they were walking down the aisle to be married.

As the 1970s progressed, he was appointed the first Fire Captain in the Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD). In that capacity he further revolutionized wildland fire response through the development of rapidly deployable hand-crews and a state-recognized crew relief driver program. His vast experience led the transformation of obsolete fire trucks into "Brush Engines" specifically designed for the unique terrain of Southern California. In 1985