

A TRIBUTE TO SHELLI-ANNE  
COUCH—28TH CONGRESSIONAL  
DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Shelli-Anne Couch of Atwater Village.

As President of Friends of Atwater Elementary, Ms. Couch has led the turnaround of this Title I public elementary school, bringing new life to the volunteer support group which serves nearly 400 families in the Atwater Village area. She found innovative ways to generate new revenue streams, raised over \$100,000 in support of enrichment, educational and capital improvement programs for Atwater Avenue Elementary School, and created strategic partnerships with local, national and international businesses, non-profit organizations and individuals. Ms. Couch has founded and produced many events and programs that support the elementary school, including the First Annual Day of the Dead Festival with celebrity chef Curtis Stone which drew close to one thousand attendees and raised a substantial amount of money for the school.

Ms. Couch also formed a partnership with executives from Paul Mitchell Hair Products and Enrich LA to sponsor the school's first outdoor classroom program, which provides free tuition for students to learn how to make healthy life choices by gardening, eating seasonal produce, and composting. She also led the effort for school uniforms and created a "Care Closet" for families in need. In addition, she forged partnerships between the school and local organizations such as the Northland Village Church, which provides free weekly tutoring called "Homework Helpers," and the local Lions Club, which provides scholarships and free eye tests to students.

Prior to her dedicated volunteer work in Atwater Village, Ms. Couch was an international business and media executive with over twenty-five years of experience transforming how companies and people build their commerce, content and community, guiding clients like Universal Studios, Diane Von Furstenberg, and the Australian Consulate. She co-founded Billion Dollar Babes, the world's first global designer fashion sales event. Her agency's showrooms in Los Angeles, New York and London pioneered celebrity dressing and editorial placement. An award-winning journalist, Ms. Couch, who moved from her native Australia to Los Angeles in 1997, has been featured in magazines and newspapers such as *Vogue*, *The New York Times*, *The LA Times*, and *People*, and on the television show, *Good Morning America*.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Shelli-Anne Couch.

NICOLE PAPPADAKIS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Nicole Pappadakis for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Nicole Pappadakis is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Nicole Pappadakis 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 Nicole Pappadakis 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 116, I was unable to attend. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, due to attending a previously scheduled meeting at the White House with President Obama, I was absent from votes in the House on Wednesday afternoon (March 12) and missed rollcall votes 1201-124. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall No. 120 (Conyers amendment); "yea" on rollcall No. 121 (Nadler amendment); "yea" on rollcall No. 122 (Jackson-Lee amendment); "yea" on rollcall No. 123 (Motion to Recommit H.R. 4138 with Instructions); and "nay" on rollcall No. 124 (final passage of H.R. 4138, the ENFORCE the Law Act).

TRIBUTE TO JAMES C. DOWDLE

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, on February 17th, we lost an extraordinary American with the passing of James C. Dowdle, who was 79. I rise today to do something a bit out of character. As many folks know, I am a proud University of Michigan Wolverine. Jim, on the

other hand, was a Notre Dame grad. In the Midwest, the Wolverines and Fighting Irish mix, at least in athletics, about as well as the Hatfields and McCoys. In fact, Jim was a physically gifted athlete who played basketball for the Irish. It takes a special individual for me to put aside a rivalry that runs that deep. Jim Dowdle was that unique.

I got to know Jim on a professional level. He was hired by Tribune Company in Chicago in the early 1980s to head its broadcast operations until his retirement in 1999. Tribune Company remains the largest media company headquartered in the Midwest. Of particular interest to me, Jim engineered the Tribune's purchase of the Chicago Cubs from the Wrigley family. As a lifelong, diehard Cubs fan, Jim and I agonized over the team's progress many an afternoon at Wrigley Field. Jim also persuaded legendary Hall of Fame broadcaster Harry Caray to be the Cubs' play-by-play announcer on Tribune's WGN-TV. That powerful combination spread WGN's telecasts throughout the land as cable systems and home satellites grew WGN into a national superstation. What makes the story even more remarkable is that Jim was a proud Irish-American son of Chicago's Southside, that sliver of greater Chicagoland where your allegiance is to the White Sox and whatever team is playing the Cubs. Jim used to say, "Thank God my father is buried in Calvary Cemetery. If he knew I bought the Cubs, I'm not sure he would talk to me." Over the years, Jim gambled on the future of television—investing in little-known cable channels such as the Food Network and others, adding to Tribune's broadcast station holdings, the value of which is now in the billions.

Jim Dowdle's family and civic legacy is just as remarkable. He married his beloved Sally Sayers in 1956 shortly after graduating from Notre Dame. To all, they are known as Honey and Doods. He was the father of five and grandfather of eighteen. At his funeral Mass, nine handsome grandsons, all at least six foot two, dressed in suits and Kelly green ties, served as pallbearers. At the altar, two Catholic monsignors, twelve priests and his godson (a deacon) celebrated his Mass before as many as 1,500 mourners—a powerful, visible testament to a life well led.

Long before I got to know him, Jim had conquered alcohol addiction. For decades, he counseled countless others, often complete strangers. When the word spread that Jim was nearing death, the family received numerous calls and messages from people who wanted them to know how Jim Dowdle had impacted them—saving careers, marriages, and lives. Without those unsolicited testimonials, no one would have known.

A former Marine lieutenant, years later, Jim received the Marine Corps' Semper Fidelis Award. He also received the broadcast industry's highest honor, the National Association of Broadcasters' Distinguished Service Award, as well as the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences' Trustee Award and induction into the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame. A devout Catholic, Jim was a director of Mundelein Seminary's Board of Advisors and Big Shoulders Fund. He served as a former board chairman of Junior Achievement of Chicago, director of Loyola University's Health Systems, director of Robert R. McCormick Foundation, director of Hazelden Chicago, and trustee of Chicago's Museum of

Science and Industry. I mention these. There are more.

Throughout his remarkable life, Jim Dowdle never lost the common touch. He stayed humble. He volunteered. He served. He gave. He never forgot what is truly important in life. I think the Marine's motto aptly describes the great man: "Semper Fidelis!" Always Faithful! It was my great privilege to know him and my honor to pay tribute. God bless Jim Dowdle.

RECOGNIZING LORIN LEWIS AS  
THE 2014 OKALOOSA COUNTY,  
FLORIDA EDUCATIONAL SUP-  
PORT PERSON OF THE YEAR

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Lorin Lewis as the 2014 Okaloosa County Educational Support Person of the Year. For over six years, Mrs. Lewis has served the students and community of Okaloosa County, and I am pleased to honor her achievements.

A product of the Okaloosa County School District, Mrs. Lewis was born and raised in Crestview, Florida. Upon graduating from Crestview High School in 2005, she began studying at Northwest Florida State College. The following year, she began her professional career in the Okaloosa County School District as a classroom assistant at a Department of Juvenile Justice facility. It was in this capacity that Mrs. Lewis developed a passion for working with at-risk youth. The patience and compassion she exerted enabled her to inspire and positively impact the lives of some of the most vulnerable, despite the rigors of the challenging environment.

Her love for bettering the lives of students continued to grow, and in 2011, she joined the faculty at Pryor Middle School as the Discipline Secretary. She became the Bookkeeper in 2012, where she continues her supporting role at the school. In addition to her strong faith, Mrs. Lewis credits her success and achievements to the support provided by her colleagues. It is her dedication and commitment to excellence, however, that has proven her to be an invaluable asset to the Okaloosa County School District and has earned her the title of Educational Support Person of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Lorin Lewis and her great achievements. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mrs. Lewis and her husband, Bryan, and we wish them all the best for continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO MARTHA BURNS—  
28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is

an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Martha Burns of La Cañada Flintridge.

Ms. Burns was born and raised in Minnesota. She obtained her degree in Mathematics from Colorado College, where she joined Kappa Alpha Theta, a sorority she continues to be active. After graduation, she worked as a Financial Analyst at General Mills in Minneapolis. Seven years later, she moved back to Colorado Springs, where she met and married Tom Burns while both were working for Burroughs Corp. In 1979, a job transfer moved the family to Glendale, and in 1981 they purchased a home in La Cañada Flintridge. Ms. Burns wasted no time in joining the La Cañada Flintridge Newcomers Club and the La Cañada Junior Women's Club.

As a young mother, Ms. Burns served as President and Treasurer of the La Cañada Elementary School Parent Teacher Association (PTA). She has also served in various positions with La Cañada High School's PTA and Cañada Council of PTA. Ms. Burns has also volunteered as a Leader and Den Mother for Campfire Girls and Cub Scouts, a Team Mom for American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), and as a "Classroom Mother."

Well-known in the area for her accounting and computing skills, Ms. Burns has volunteered her services to numerous service groups and businesses. She was the first woman to lead the softball arm of the La Cañada Jr. Baseball/Softball Association, for which she also served as Treasurer. She is an active member Assistance League of Flintridge (ALF) and previously served as Chairperson of the Summer School Program, Summer School Treasurer, Computer Chair, and Treasurer of ALF's Auxiliary. She was also the Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the La Cañada Flintridge Educational Foundation, the La Cañada Flintridge Chamber of Commerce, and the La Cañada-AM Kiwanis Club. Ms. Burns modernized the bookkeeping system for La Cañada Congregational and St. George's Episcopal Churches and their pre-schools. She has also developed database and accounting systems for the Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge and its pre-school. An avid animal lover, Ms. Burns has volunteered as a bookkeeper for the Recycled Pets Rescue Organization and as Treasurer for the Pasadena Animal League, an auxiliary of the Pasadena Humane Society. Ms. Burns also received a La Cañada Council of PTA Service Award and a La Cañada Flintridge Coordinating Council Les Tupper Community Service Award.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Martha Burns.

ROSELINE MUGARUKA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

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 a 12th 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES J.  
GRIMES, RECIPIENT OF THE 2014  
GREATER PITTSBURGH AREA  
FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK  
SWINGLE AWARD

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in acknowledgment of Charles J. Grimes, who on March 17, 2014, will receive the Swingle Award from the Greater Pittsburgh Area Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. Charles J. Grimes was born in Plymouth, Pennsylvania on November 9, 1946 to Joseph and Helen Grimes. He attended St. Vincent's Catholic School and Plymouth High School. After school, Charlie began his career in 1970 as a Driver and Sales Representative with Freedman Express. He later went on to work for Conway Freight for 15 years.

Charlie has dedicated himself to membership and leadership roles in multiple charitable organizations. He currently serves as a sustaining Fourth Degree member of the President John F. Kennedy Council 372 Knights of Columbus, and previously served as the Grand Knight. He is also a member and past President of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. Charlie also volunteers with Meals on Wheels of Greater Pittsburgh and the Salvation Army.

Charlie now resides in Jenkins Township with his wife, Rose Ferentino Grimes. He and his wife have six children and thirteen grandchildren, of which they are extremely proud.

It is a great honor to congratulate Charles J. Grimes on this award to commemorate his dedication to charity and community service. Charlie is a tribute to the Pittsburgh area, and I thank him for his many valuable contributions to the public good.

HONORING THE JUDGE ADVOCATE  
GENERAL OF THE UNITED  
STATES AIR FORCE, LIEUTEN-  
ANT GENERAL RICHARD C. HAR-  
DING

**HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2014*

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant General Richard C.