

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important policy to promote wind power, which produces no harmful greenhouse gas emissions, involves no environmentally damaging natural resource extraction, and is made right here in America.

HONORING MS. PATRICIA JACKSON

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Ms. Patricia Jackson, whose energy and initiative has helped a number of people in the Philadelphia region through her corporation Alpha Security & Consulting Incorporated.

After graduating from Perdue University, Ms. Jackson began working for General Mills in Human Resources and Labor relations, where she spearheaded a minority equality reform campaign for the corporation. She soon left to join Lever Brothers Company. There she worked tirelessly in its Training and Development Department to aid women climbing the corporate ladder. Ms. Jackson couldn't stay still for too long, soon beginning work at Conrail, which brought her to Philadelphia. Soon after, the University of Pennsylvania asked her to join their staff where she was the head of the Department of Affirmative Action for the University. As CEO and founder of Alpha Security & Consulting Incorporated, she worked with local construction companies to create nearly 600 jobs. She helped in building the New High School for Creative and Performing Arts, and as a result served as chairs of both the Ridgway Library and the Performing Arts Theater. Ms. Jackson extended Alpha to create a Culinary Arts Training Program for underprivileged youth. In 2005, Ms. Jackson took a position as the Director of Immigration Reform at the National Union of American Families. She now serves on the Board of Directors for the National Historical Marian Anderson Society and is an advisory director for a number of other boards and organizations. Ms. Jackson will be honored by the Marian Anderson Historical Society on May 31, 2014.

It is a privilege to recognize a person whose leadership and initiative have aided so many in the Philadelphia region. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Jackson for her lifetime of service and dedication to Pennsylvania's First Congressional District.

HONORING THE WORK OF  
GUSTAVO RAMOS, JR.

**HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gustavo Ramos, Jr., who will be retiring this month from his position as Executive Director for the Housing Authority of Skagit County.

Mr. Gustavo Ramos, Jr., has dedicated a lifetime of hard work in the field of affordable housing and community development. With

more than 40 years of combined service within six different housing authorities since 1972, Gustavo has helped numerous families in Skagit County and throughout Washington State.

Gustavo's hard work and dedication to the communities, families, and housing authority of Skagit County earns him a well-deserved and honorable retirement celebration. Upon retirement, Gustavo will be returning to Nevada to be near his family and begin a new chapter in his career in economic and community development.

I would personally like to thank Gustavo for his many years of service and commitment to helping families. He has been a tremendous contributor to the Housing Authority in the Skagit County area and will be missed dearly.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MARTIN SEVERANCE CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Martin Severance Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution upon its 100th anniversary.

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) is a historic institution, with more than 120 years of service. The NSDAR has 177,000 members across the world; they aim to preserve history and improve their communities.

The Martin Severance Chapter of the NSDAR was founded by Mrs. Adeline Belle Barry and named in honor of her ancestor Martin Severance, a sergeant and veteran of both the Revolutionary War and the French and Indian War.

The Martin Severance Chapter has been a part of the Pasadena community since the beginning. Its members supported the Pasadena Red Cross during both World Wars and have participated in storied local institutions including the Tournament of Roses Parade. The Martin Severance Chapter currently supports high school students, homeless veterans, local libraries, and teachers. The Chapter has reinstated the American History Essay contest, and "adopted" the women at Villages of Cabrillo, Long Beach, a part of the homeless veterans' community Advance program. Additionally, the Chapter annually presents DAR Good Citizens Awards and JROTC Medals to local high school students.

In honor of their centennial, the Chapter is preserving the memory of the American Independence and those who fought for freedom. The Chapter will award grants to Pasadena Unified School District teachers who meet core curriculum standards in Colonial American History. The Martin Severance Chapter is also working on a living history project that presents female patriots to elementary school children in the Pasadena area—chapter members will portray historically significant revolution-era women and share their stories, costumes, and legacies with students and community organizations.

I ask all members to join with me in commending the Martin Severance Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for preserving the history of the American Revolution for future generations and for 100 years of dedicated service to the greater Pasadena community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VERIFY IT ACT

**HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my bill, the Verify It Act, which requires Federal agencies to provide notice to American families that they owe a debt to a Federal agency and verify the debt is a legally enforceable debt.

Mr. Speaker, by introducing this bill people will not have their tax refunds seized without proper notification and justification. Federal agencies have the right to try to collect debt that is owed to the government; there is a legal process that must be followed before any action can be taken. Each Federal agency must provide 60 days notice to the debtor. This notice requires a written notification of the nature and amount of the debt, the intention of the agency to collect the debt through administrative offset, and an explanation of the debtor's rights. If the agency is unable to collect from the debtor, the debt can be referred to the Department of the Treasury for administrative offset. Through its Treasury Offset Program (TOP), the Treasury reduces or withholds certain payments, often a Federal tax refund, to individuals who owe debts to the government.

Mr. Speaker, the legal process to collect outstanding debts from Americans owing money to the Treasury is simply not being followed. As reported by the Washington Post, Federal agencies are collecting delinquent debt without providing proper notice or that the debt being collected was incurred by the person the Federal agency claims owes the debt. It appears that in certain cases, Federal agencies are collecting money from children in order to pay the outstanding debts to the U.S. Treasury their parents incurred. What legal reason or law gives a Federal agency the right to collect a debt from a person when the debt is incurred in someone else's name? How many years is this Administration going to go back to collect debts? How can the government justify collecting debts from the children of deceased parents?

This bill is all about transparency and accountability. My legislation will ensure that Americans are given proper notification and have time to dispute the debt. This legislation will ensure every Federal agency determines the debt is legally enforceable and restore the 10 year statute of limitations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House (and Senate) to support me in passing the Verify It Act, in order to ensure American families and taxpayers have trust in their government and policies implemented.

## DEDICATION OF THE FOX TORAH

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the dedication of a Torah is always an extremely important occasion in the Jewish community. But next week's dedication of the Fox Torah at Ezra Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation in Skokie, is truly something special.

The Fox Torah was underwritten by Martin Fox, who found some comfort from the terrors he experienced during the Holocaust in knowing that he could make such an enormous contribution to his faith and to his synagogue.

Martin Fox was 34 years old when the Nazis marched into Poland in 1939. He watched as his wife and three daughters were murdered. Then he was herded onto a train and sent to Auschwitz. He survived, came to Chicago, settled in Chicago's West Rogers Park Community, and became a successful businessman. But while he remarried, he never again had children, and the horrors of what he experienced during the Holocaust never left him.

Martin Fox joined Ezra Habonim but was emotionally unable to say the Kaddish, the prayer for the dead. After many conversations with Rabbi Shlomo Levin, then the congregation's rabbi, Mr. Fox was finally able to say Kaddish for his lost family and light the Memorial Candle at the synagogue's Kristal Nacht service.

The spiritual and personal support that Mr. Fox received from Ezra Habonim, Skokie's oldest synagogue, made a powerful difference in his life. It provided him with a safe and nurturing place, and gave him the emotional strength to recite the Kaddish in remembrance of his lost family. He in turn helped others by becoming a "gabbai" or "trustee" of the synagogue.

Today, Ezra Habonim continues its commitment to creating a warm, caring and supportive community under the leadership of Rabbi Jeffrey Weill. In addition to maintaining the tradition of giving each individual and family the personalized attention they need, the synagogue provides for the educational, religious and social needs of the Jewish community. And, as it did with Martin Fox, it gives members of the congregation the opportunity not just to take part but to give back.

While Martin Fox died in 1981, the Torah that he funded and that will be dedicated on June 1 is a true gift. As Rabbi Weill says, "This Torah symbolizes not only Martin Fox's story, but the remarkable story of the Jewish People. It represents continuity, bravery, fortitude, and the indomitable human spirit."

I want to join the Jewish community in Skokie in celebrating the completion and dedication of the Fox Torah and in thanking Ezra Habonim for the important role it plays in our community.

## RECOGNIZING SOUVENISE JEANNE BAZILE

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Souvenise Jeanne Bazile, who passed away on May 11, 2014.

Mrs. Bazile, who lived in Spring Valley, New York, was 107 at the time of her passing. Originally from Haiti, she moved to the United States in 1978 to join her husband. Mrs. Bazile was a loving mother who dedicated herself to her six children, fifteen grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Just a few months ago, Mrs. Bazile fulfilled one of her dreams—becoming an American citizen. After living here for three decades, working hard and contributing to society, Mrs. Bazile became one of the oldest immigrants ever to gain citizenship. She is truly an inspiration for all those who hope to one day achieve the American dream.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize my constituent, Mrs. Souvenise Jeanne Bazile. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring her tremendous life.

## TRIBUTE TO GUIDE DOGS OF THE DESERT

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an organization whose dedication and contributions to the Southern California community are exceptional. For the past 40 years, Guide Dogs of the Desert have tirelessly committed themselves to the service of the legally blind community. We have all heard the age-old adage, "a dog is a man's best friend," but a guide dog is so much more than a best friend. Guide dogs are essential to the legally blind in ways that are simple, such as crossing the street to go grocery shopping, and ways that can be more complex, like airplane travel. These dogs dedicate their lives so that the blind may see, and in light of all they have done for the community, I would like to recognize these faithful and dutiful animals as well as their equally devoted trainers and volunteers at Guide Dogs of the Desert.

Founded in 1972, Guide Dogs of the Desert was built on the premise that every legally blind person should have the opportunity to adopt a guide dog, regardless of the depths of their hardship. This dream could only be made into a reality because of the amazing volunteers that give their time and effort to this organization's mission. These volunteers selflessly provide love, food, shelter, discipline and socialization to puppies that are just beginning on their journey toward guide dog graduation. The fingerprints of these individuals are found at every juncture of this organization. Among many other responsibilities, these volunteers take in 12 week-old puppies, assist with student interaction to increase awareness in the community, and complete the basic office tasks that allow Guide Dogs of

the Desert to run smoothly. These individuals go above and beyond the call of duty to help those visually impaired come one step closer to independence and today they deserve commendation.

While many of us know the pleasure of canine companionship and loyalty from our family pet, we cannot appreciate the complexity of the relationship that develops between a visually impaired person and their guide dog. These dogs help these individuals in such a wide variety of ways, and their service enriches these lives powerfully, improving their daily quality of life. With over 1,000 dogs trained, many of these success stories may be found scattered throughout the Nation.

The organization's tireless passion for service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the visually impaired community. Although there are many schools, Guide Dogs of the Desert is one of the most exceptional. As one guide dog recipient stated, "Frankly, all of the schools do an adequate job in developing extraordinary animals, but only Guide Dogs of the Desert adapts the training according to the very special needs of the people with multiple disabilities, veterans and even difficult cases like mine." I am certain that many more individuals and families are grateful for the guide dogs, the volunteers, and the organization itself for all of their services and I salute their efforts moving forward into their fourth decade of dedicated assistance.

## RECOGNIZING TERESITA BATAYOLA, RECIPIENT OF THE CHAMPION OF CHANGE AWARD

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound admiration that I rise to congratulate Teresita Batayola on being honored as a White House Champion of Change. Teresita has been an advocate for the Puget Sound region's Asian-American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) community for many years and is incredibly deserving of this award.

Since the beginning of her tenure as CEO of International Community Health Services (ICHS) in July of 2005, Teresita has worked tirelessly to ensure that the healthcare needs of the AAPI community are met. She has overseen the opening of new clinics in Bellevue and the Rainier Valley, and developed a mobile dental clinic that visits Seattle area middle and high schools. Each year ICHS serves over 19,000 patients in 50 languages, a feat that I am confident would not be possible without Teresita's commitment to understanding the needs and dynamics of the communities her organization serves.

This commitment has taken on a new and innovative form in the last year as ICHS has worked to help AAPI communities in the Seattle area access the benefits of the Affordable Care Act. Under Teresita's leadership, ICHS has enrolled over 5,800 individuals in health plans through their multi-lingual and multi-cultural in-person assister team. This effort to provide culturally appropriate healthcare assistance will have a deep impact on the health and wellbeing of these communities for years to come.