

later, after losing his vision to a chemical explosion, he remembered that movie and was determined to work toward his first Seeing Eye dog. Jim is the first Seeing Eye graduate to serve as president of the organization.

Twenty years later, Walt Disney Studios returned to the story of The Seeing Eye for another film, "Loves Leads the Way." This 1986 picture depicted the story of Morris Frank and Buddy.

From the beginning, the work of The Seeing Eye has captured the attention of countless Americans, including several who called the White House home. In 1930, President Herbert Hoover met with Morris Frank to learn more about his work. In 1948, Mr. Frank and his third dog (named Buddy III), visited President Harry Truman at the White House. In 1972, First lady Pat Nixon visited The Seeing Eye at its headquarters in Morristown. And in 1990, President George H.W. Bush named The Seeing Eye the 138th "Point of Light" in honor of its corps of volunteers.

One year later, The Seeing Eye marked several significant milestones, including matching its 10,000th dog with a student and hiring its first full-time veterinarian, Dr. Dolores Holle.

The Seeing Eye, Inc. has continuously dedicated itself to the goals of increasing independence and dignity of those who are blind, providing the best guide dogs possible, educating the public, providing ongoing assistants to both graduates and dogs, and to practice fiduciary responsibility.

The Seeing Eye Inc. is ever dedicated to their growing community through their continuous care of each individual, both human and canine. As the graduates continue on with their dog guides, The Seeing Eye, Inc. will ensure that help is always provided, as needed. The Seeing Eye, Inc. promises successor dogs to graduates, as well as sends trainers to homes across the U.S. and Canada to help with any training-related problem. This remarkable organization not only raises and trains the dogs, but also provides the best research and care for canine health and development.

As The Seeing Eye marks its 85th Anniversary, it continues to commit itself to providing the best guide dogs, with excellent health and training, and to sustaining excellence in their field while always seeking improvement. The employees, volunteers, students, graduates, and guide dogs, look forward to the challenges and excitement of the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating The Seeing Eye as it celebrates its 85th Anniversary.

CONGRATULATING CRANE HIGH SCHOOL LADY PIRATES BASKETBALL

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Crane High School Lady Pirates Basketball Team for winning the Missouri Class 2 Girls State Championship.

The Lady Pirates clinched back to back state championships after defeating the Skyline Lady Tigers with a final score of 67-52. Members of the team include Allie Hagler,

Lexie Vaught, Kylee Moore, Kylie Vaught, Justeen Mahan, Shelby Roder, Riley Israel, Emma Lander, Karen Belin, Loni Johnson, Jalee Johnson, Addie Reel, Hailey Powell, Jenna Scroggins, Madison Fulp, and Tabitha Bishop.

Through their hard work and excellence on and off the court, the Lady Pirates developed into a truly great championship team. The Lady Pirates ended the season 30-1, remaining undefeated in their Class 2 division.

I also want to commend Head Coach Jeremy Mullins and Assistant Coach Billy Redus for a job well-done on developing such a strong basketball program.

The Crane community is justifiably proud of this extraordinary group of young and talented student-athletes. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Crane Lady Pirates as they celebrate their Class 2 Girls State Championship.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MAYA ANGELOU, MENTOR, TEACHER, SOCIAL ACTIVIST, MOTHER, SISTER, WOMAN OF LIGHT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and remember one of the most remarkable figures of the 20th Century and an example of a life well lived for those coming of age in the 21st Century.

Dr. Maya Angelou died this morning at her home in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She was 86 years old.

I first met Dr. Maya Angelou when I was a student at Yale University.

No matter how busy she was—and she was always in demand—Maya Angelou always had time to share with you; as a mentor, a teacher, a social activist, a mother, a sister, a woman of light.

She had a knack of making you feel better about yourself and life's possibilities.

I thank God for her voice, her survival and her spirit and for teaching little girls—with long hair, short hair, curly hair, afros or straight hair—the beauty of all people.

Dr. Maya Angelou epitomized what it is to be a great American who came from a unique and different background.

Dr. Maya Angelou was an American original, a phenomenal writer, woman of insight, eloquence, and artistry who gave voice to the rawness and loftiness of our history and our humanity.

From the struggles of her youth, through her work in the civil rights movement, to her success as an author and her time as the Poet Laureate of the United States, Maya Angelou embodied personal, moral, and artistic courage.

Dr. Maya Angelou reminded us of the beauty of diversity and the importance of the black experience. She wrote of the cry for freedom, the experience of womanhood.

Her story is the story of America. In the early 1960s, Dr. Angelou moved to Cairo, Egypt, where she became the associate editor of a magazine, The Arab Observer.

Dr. Maya Angelou went on to help Malcolm X establish the Organization of Afro-American

Unity in 1964. Since 1981, she held the Reynolds Professorship of American Studies at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Dr. Maya Angelou once said: "I have created myself. I have taught myself so much."

Dr. Angelou defied simple labels. She was a walking list of careers and passions. In addition to authoring books, she was an actress, director, playwright, composer, singer and dancer.

And if that was not enough she was the first female and first black streetcar conductor in San Francisco.

In November 2013 Dr. Angelou stole the show at the National Book Awards in New York when she was presented an award for Outstanding Service to the American Literary Community.

She was introduced that night by her friend, the famed author Toni Morrison, who said of Dr. Maya Angelou: "Suffering energized and strengthened her, and her creative impulse struck like bolts of lightning."

Mr. Speaker, today we lost one of the "great souls" which Dr. Angelou often wrote about.

I hope it is a comfort to her family that so many around the world mourn with them at this sad time. But through our sadness, we draw strength from the enduring power of her own words: "Just like hopes springing high, still I'll rise."

On a personal note, who can imagine a child who silenced herself for five years because of a brutal experience in her young life?

That silence could have ruined her life or been a rebirth of her life.

It was a rebirth.

Just like a butterfly she was reborn and throughout her life she gave us the gift of her genius.

So instead of saying good-bye, I say, as Dr. Maya Angelou said on January 20, 1993, at the inauguration of President Clinton, in her remarkable poem, "A Rock, A River, A Tree":

Here on the pulse of this new day
You may have the grace to look up and out
And into your sister's eyes, into
Your brother's face, your country
And say simply
Very simply
With hope
Good morning.

So long my friend. We will never forget you or all you did to make our world a better place.

HONORABLE GARY GIARDINA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Gary F. Giardina who, after 36 years of service to the people of Clifton as a member of the Clifton Police Force, is being honored for his retirement on Sunday, June 1, 2014. A life-long resident of the City of Clifton, Gary Giardina devoted 36 years to the community that raised him, most notably serving 4 years as Clifton's 9th Police Chief. I am extremely proud to represent such a noble and committed individual in the 9th Congressional District, and I am extremely grateful for the service Chief Giardina has contributed to our community.

Chief Giardina's passion for public service began in his teenage years, when he began training in 1978 through the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act. His extraordinary work ethic and enthusiasm for public service earned him a permanent spot in the Clifton Police Department a few short years later. Not long after his appointment to the force, his success was dampened by a traumatic injury when he was run over by a vehicle traveling on Route 3. Doctors concluded that the damage would render his entire right arm permanently useless. However, his prognosis could not stop his passion for public service; he was determined to return to the police force. He was finally able to return to the force after enduring a long brutal battle through physical therapy. While life continued to present obstacles for then-officer Giardina his resilience persisted, even through lay-offs, demotions, and even brushes with death until 1988, when he was finally recognized for his incredible tenacity and was appointed to the Narcotics and Patrol Division and promoted to Sergeant.

Over the next decade his skill as a leader would earn the respect of his fellow officers and propel him to the rank of Lieutenant where he would assume command of the Community Policing Division in 1997. He was then given the rank of Captain and assigned to Field Operations in 2002. As head of the Field Operations Bureau, he was responsible for the Patrol, Traffic, and Communications Divisions which collectively made up the largest component of officers in the department until he would reach the pinnacle of his career when he was appointed as the Chief of Police in 2010.

During Chief Giardina's long career he was also able to continue his education and earn a Masters of Administrative Science degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and a Baccalaureate degree from Jersey City State College of Criminal Justice. Chief Giardina is also a National and State Certified Public Manager. He has always been a strong believer in open communication and cooperation, not only within the department but also with other City, County, State, and Federal Departments. Chief Giardina has always said, "There are no unimportant jobs or people in this agency. Everyone plays an essential role in success of this Police Department". This type leadership is what has made Clifton, New Jersey a safe and welcoming place to live.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, I have been honored to work first-hand with him on a long list of public safety issues in my district. Chief Gary Giardina has always exemplified the virtues that merit all of his accomplishments. He has been a leader, a mentor, and friend to many of us and I am honored to have worked with a man of such integrity.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of individuals such as Chief Gary F. Giardina.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Chief Giardina's coworkers, family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing the career of Chief Gary F. Giardina.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN L. "JACK" STITZER, RECIPIENT OF THE FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR MEDAL

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John L. "Jack" Stitzer, who was honored on May 8 as a Chevalier (Knight) of the Legion of Honor at the French Embassy in Washington, DC by Olivier Serot Almeras, the Consul General of France. Napoleon Bonaparte created the Legion of Honor in 1802 when he was first consul of France. Those who qualify for this award aided in the liberation of France during World War II.

Mr. Stitzer, resident of Gordon, Pennsylvania, entered the U.S. Army on May 24, 1943, and served with the 159th Engineer Combat Battalion. He was stationed in the United States, unaware his unit was preparing to leave for the D-Day invasion in Normandy. Mr. Stitzer served in the Third Army, which was commanded by General George S. Patton. Mr. Stitzer remained in Normandy for a few weeks before his unit of engineers travelled up the coast to clean the mines off the beaches, and ultimately fought as infantry. He and his unit travelled from Brest to Luxembourg and were stationed there until the Battle of the Bulge, where Mr. Stitzer was wounded.

Mr. Stitzer aided in the relief of the 101st Airborne Division, which defended the Belgian town of Bastogne against the Nazis by cinderling the roads for the tanks throughout the day and night. He also witnessed the liberation of the Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany.

Mr. Stitzer was also honored on May 26, 2014 as the grand marshal of the Gordon Memorial Day parade. Mr. Stitzer has received the Good Conduct Medal, Distinguished Unit Badge, American Service Ribbon, Eastern Theater Offensive Ribbon with five Battle Stars, the Purple Heart and World War II Victory Medal. He served in Scotland, England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Holland and Czechoslovakia until he was discharged on December 19, 1945.

Mr. Stitzer and his wife live in Gordon, Pennsylvania, and have three children. After his service in World War II, he ran his father's lumber yard and hardware store, and also was a salesman for Ajax Building Materials for 20 years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Stitzer for his outstanding service for our country, and for risking his life during World War II to fight in France. He serves as a role model and inspiration to all, and I offer my sincere congratulations to him on this momentous occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on Wednesday, May 28, 2014. Weather in Chi-

cago delayed my flight to Washington, DC until late that night. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 599 (Roll No. 241) and in favor of H.R. 503 (Roll No. 242).

COMMENDING LOCAL 2014 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR THEIR DECISION TO ENLIST IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA FOR HOSTING THE FOURTH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize 50 graduating seniors in my community for their record of academic and athletic accomplishment and for their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Army. I also express my appreciation to Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia for providing this opportunity to be among the first to say to each of these young men and women: "Thank you."

I have had the privilege of working with Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia since its inception in 2011. That year my office was contacted by one of the founding parents who upon learning that her son and other students at his school who had decided to enlist would not receive any recognition during graduation, joined with other parents to organize the first enlistee recognition ceremony of its kind in the region. The first ceremony recognized a total of 9 students. This year, we will recognize 129 young men and women who have chosen to serve our country in uniform.

With graduation season upon us, thousands of young people in my community, and millions across the nation, are preparing for the next chapter in their lives. Some will pursue higher education or vocational training, others will seek to enter the workforce immediately, and many will answer the call to serve their community and their country.

The United States of America has distinguished itself from other nations through the entrepreneurship and spirit of our people, the knowledge that we can achieve any goal if we set our minds to it, our inherent compassion and generosity, our fierce patriotism, and the extraordinary sacrifices and dedication to country exhibited by the members of our Armed Forces. The young men and women from our community who will be enlisting possess an abundance of each of these qualities. I join with their families and friends in congratulating and commending the following graduates on their enlistment in the United States Army:

Matthew Ainslie, Daniel Alt, Chardai Adora Anderson, Gustabo Arguera Granados, Rajhan Jubar Atkinson, David Barber, Dustin Barnes, Luke Battle, Anthony Boothby, Nathaniel Macques Bradford, Andrew Brown, Lam Hoai Bui, Jamie Nicole Cabling, Matthew Carrero, Thomas James Cleary, Gloria Cruces-Johansson, Caleb Downing, Oscar Gonzalez, Daniel Hemmingson, Kyle Hodges, Mitchell Henry Johnson, Romulo Grame Jovero, Nershon Kamara, Hunter McConchie,