

Board for Penn State Worthington Campus. Michael is a Certified Public Accountant and operates his own private practice. He sits on the Board of Directors for Broadway in Scranton. Michael has also served as Chairman of the Board for the ARC of NEPA, The March of Dimes, and as a board member of Allied Services.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Donna and Michael Barbetti. Their selfless devotion to the arts has enriched the lives of many and has had a lasting, positive impact on the quality of life in northeastern Pennsylvania.

RECOGNIZING MR. RUSTY CARTER

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Army veteran Rusty Carter for his service to our country. Rusty is a long-time Delaware County resident who enlisted in the Army in April, 2009. Rusty became a paratrooper with the "Screaming Eagles" of the famed 101st Airborne Division. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2010 and in July of that year came under heavy enemy fire. Rusty was awarded a Purple Heart for his injuries in the battle but just a month later was back in the fight. Rusty was again injured in a Humvee accident in 2011. He'll receive the Freedom Medal from the Delaware County Veterans Memorial Association tonight.

IN HONOR OF WINES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S 2015 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON AWARD

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Wines Elementary School. For over fifty years, Wines Elementary School has benefited our community through its dedication to the education and development of Ann Arbor's youth. The U.S. Department of Education recognized this commitment by naming the school a 2015 National Blue Ribbon Award recipient.

Founded in 1957, Wines Elementary School's mission is to "create for every student a joyful environment that stimulates lifelong learning and inspires respect for individual differences." The school has actively worked to instill this mission by making community and family participation a cornerstone in the life of each student. Family volunteers organize community events such as the annual Run-a-Thon, in which students run laps around a track to raise money for charity, a movie night, and a country fair, as well as many other fun events. The school also partners with local charities and nursing homes to ensure students are provided opportunities to participate in and give back to their community.

In addition to active community involvement, Wines Elementary School has worked to strengthen all of its students by focusing on

each individual as a unique and capable learner. This has been done through the creation of personalized learning plans which ensures each teacher understands the special needs of their students. The hard work of students, teachers, and parents has resulted in excellent academic achievement. Their standardized tests scores have registered in the top 5% of all Michigan schools in combined measures of student achievement and growth. This earned the school the designation from the Michigan Department of Education as a Reward School and led the department to nominate the school for the National Blue Ribbon Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor the teachers, students and parents of Wines Elementary School. Their multifaceted methods to prepare our children have created a vibrant community which will invigorate Ann Arbor for years to come.

IN HONOR OF MISS RUTHA MAE HARRIS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legendary singer and activist in the Civil Rights Movement, Miss Rutha Mae Harris. Miss Harris will be celebrating her 75th birthday on Friday, November 27, 2015.

Miss Rutha Harris was born on November 27, 1940 in Albany, Georgia to the late Reverend and Mrs. I.A. Harris. She attended Albany's public schools, graduating from Monroe High School in 1958 and Albany State College, now Albany State University, in 1970. She also studied at Valdosta State University, Dillard University, and Florida A&M University.

In 1961, Miss Harris, who always had a love and talent for singing, joined the Original Freedom Singers. The Freedom Singers traveled more than 50,000 miles singing for the cause of freedom and raising funds for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). During the Albany Movement, Miss Harris was thrown several times into the same jail where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was jailed on multiple occasions.

In 1963, the Freedom Singers were signed to a recording contract with Mercury Records. This was the beginning of Miss Harris's professional career and helped propel her to the national stage. She performed in 46 states and the Virgin Islands, in renowned venues such as Radio City Music Hall in New York City and the Civic Opera House in Chicago, Illinois. The Freedom Singers also performed at the March on Washington in Washington, D.C. in 1963.

In addition to performing with the Freedom Singers, Miss Harris also recorded with the Landmark Gospel Singers, Georgia Mass Choir, and the legendary Whitney Houston. One of the highlights of Miss Harris's professional career was being selected to perform with the Georgia Mass Choir in the film, "The Preacher's Wife," starring Whitney Houston and Denzel Washington. In 2004, Miss Harris recorded her first album, "I'm on the Battlefield."

In 1998, Miss Harris organized the Albany Civil Rights Museum (now Institute) Freedom Singers. This group performs every second

Saturday of the month and travels to other cities. This group, along with the Albany Civil Rights Institute, helps to keep the Albany Movement alive for younger generations to learn of the passion and sacrifices made by their ancestors.

Miss Harris has been widely recognized for her music, her involvement in the Civil Rights Movement, and her continued activism. She received the Martin Luther King Dream Award in 2001 and the Trailblazer Award for Outstanding Work Preserving, Promoting, and Advancing the Tradition of African American Music in 2013, among many other awards and accolades. On February 9, 2010, Miss Harris had the honor of performing at the White House for President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama in a special event, "In Performance at the White House: A Celebration of Music from the Civil Rights Movement."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." The Freedom Singers brought light and love to those on both sides of the Civil Rights Movement. Miss Harris has helped to keep this light and love alive through her continued performances and her efforts to preserve the successes of the Movement for younger generations to enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me and my wife, Vivian, in commending and recognizing Miss Rutha Mae Harris for the inspiring life that she leads. We extend our best wishes to her as she and her family and friends prepare to celebrate her 75th birthday.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOHN COOK

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to John Cook, a Marine from Delaware County, Pennsylvania. John joined the Corps fresh out of high school, and served under Col. Lewis "Chesty" Puller. John landed with the Marines at Incheon and served in "Masacre Valley" during Operation Killer in February 1951. He was discharged in 1952 as a Sergeant, having served his country with honor and distinction. John will be honored with the Freedom Medal tonight at the Delaware County Veterans Memorial Association Annual Dinner. It's a fitting honor for a man who served his country ably in Korea.

STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY WINS THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S SOLAR DECATHLON

HON. ALBIO SIREs

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Stevens Institute of Technology's remarkable achievement in winning the Department of Energy's prestigious Solar Decathlon. The competition challenges collegiate teams to spend almost two

years building and designing energy-efficient houses that run on solar power.

This year, the Stevens Institute of Technology team defeated more than a dozen other teams with their design the SURE HOUSE. Thirty students from multiple disciplines competed against teams from five different countries over the course of ten days in ten separate competitions to judge the houses' performance, livability, and affordability. This year the teams also had to prove that their house could power a hybrid, non-electric vehicle.

The SURE HOUSE is a solar powered home that is also able to withstand Hurricane-force winds and flooding. Inspired by the devastating effects of Hurricane Sandy it is meant to act as a new housing prototype for shore communities. The SURE HOUSE was ranked highest in several categories and uses almost 90 percent less energy than conventional homes. It can also provide emergency power to surrounding neighborhoods after a storm. The building will be taken back to New Jersey to act as an emergency management and coastal resiliency center along the Jersey shore.

I am confident that Stevens Institute of Technology's outstanding performance will change the future of home building, particularly in vulnerable shore communities, and I congratulate their team on this impressive achievement.

RECOGNIZING ANDREA VOIGHT OF ST. CLOUD

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Andrea "Andy" Voight for her dedicated service as a nurse in the St. Cloud Community.

For Andrea, nursing was much more than a job; it was a family tradition and way of life. Along with her two sisters, Andrea followed in her mother Rita's footsteps to pursue the noble career of nursing.

After graduating from the Miller Hospital Vocational School of Practical Nursing in St. Paul, she returned to St. Cloud to officially begin her career at St. Cloud Hospital where she remained for an impressive 26 years. Andrea says what kept her working for so long was the connections that she is able to make with people.

Andrea embodied what it truly means to care for others, as she says that she "truly appreciated watching her surgical patients make it to discharge."

Forty-six years and five children later, Andrea made the decision to retire. When asked what she hopes to pursue next, Andrea says that she would like to travel and spend more time attending her grandchildren's events.

Andrea, our community is so thankful for all that you have done, and I wish you a happy and peaceful retirement with your family.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

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 \$18,670,014,021,513.75. We've added \$8,043,136,972,600.67 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING ANNA WRIGHT

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Anna M. Wright. Anna has been a longtime champion of our veterans in our community. She was instrumental in the foundation of the Delaware County Veterans Memorial in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania and her support was key to making this tribute to our veterans possible. Mr. Speaker, Anna is being honored this evening with the President's Award at the Delaware County Veterans Memorial Association Annual Dinner. It's a fitting tribute to Anna and a well-deserved honor for all she's done to express our gratitude to our veterans.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, November 20th is Transgender Remembrance Day. However, every day we must recognize that transgender men and women are being unjustly discriminated against, bullied, ostracized and even killed because of their sexual identity.

On this day, we remember those who were senselessly murdered, those who are targets because they are different and those who end up homeless when family abandon them.

Transgender men and women wake up each morning being targets of bigotry and hate. So far in 2015, about 29 transgender men and women, primarily in their early 20s, have been murdered. Many more take their own lives because they simply cannot see life getting better or easier.

Organizations like "Project Trans at the Center" in San Diego offer a safe environment to be themselves; they offer resources to help with life situations. It's up to Congress to offer protection from discrimination as a basic human right.

Imagine a world where you wake up every day with the challenge of existing; where it seems the world is against you no matter what you do.

This is their world. Every day. Together we can make a difference and work toward ending discrimination.

Today, let's unify and work together to fix the inequality among transgender persons.

But tomorrow—let us not forget the struggles they face and the support they need to live freely in a world that is so full of intolerance.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROTECT OUR STUDENTS AND TAXPAYERS (POST) ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Protect Our Students and Taxpayers (POST) Act, a bipartisan bill I introduced earlier today with my colleague Congressman WALTER JONES.

If enacted, it would take steps towards eliminating an incentive for for-profit colleges to aggressively recruit and enroll veterans, service members and their families, who have sacrificed for this country and deserve the highest quality of education.

Current law prohibits for-profit colleges and universities from deriving more than 90 percent of their revenue from the U.S. Department of Education's federal student aid programs. The other 10 percent is required to come from sources other than the federal government. However, because of the way the law was written, veterans' and active duty service members' federal student aid does not count towards the 90 percent. Instead, it may be included among a for-profit institution's calculation of its 10 percent non-federal revenue.

As a result, for-profit colleges and universities are left with a powerful incentive to recruit veterans, service members and their families, offering them degrees that are often less valuable than those from not-for-profit institutions.

The POST Act would strengthen the definition of "federal aid" to include G.I. bill funds, Department of Defense Tuition Assistance benefits, and all other federal funding sources.

Furthermore, the POST Act would reinstate a 15 percent minimum on revenue that for-profit colleges must receive from sources other than the federal government. The requirement was lowered from 15 percent to 10 percent in 1998.

The bill also takes steps towards eliminating accounting tricks used by for-profit educational institutions that inflate their declared amount of non-federal funding.

Finally, the POST Act increases the penalty for rule-breakers by causing colleges to lose eligibility to participate in federal student aid programs after one year of noncompliance with the new 85-15 rule. Currently, they do not face penalties until they have been non-compliant for two years.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and help get it passed.