

were among the first friends in Muncie to step forward in support of my initial Congressional pursuits. I will always be grateful for their friendship and early leadership.

Today, it is my privilege to honor the life of Frank Gilkison. My thoughts and prayers go out to Frank's family, and may God comfort those he left behind with His peace and strength.

GLEN STEVENS FROM NORTH
BRANCH

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a story of how a conversation at the National Association of Secondary School Principals Conventional last year in Dallas turned into a transformational life experience. Glen Stevens, who serves as the Assistant Principal at North Branch Area High School, was offered an opportunity to have an expense-paid volunteer trip to the Dominican Republic to help in the building of a vocational center of a local school. He submitted an application and his name was thrown into a large pool of educators willing to have the experience. He said, "When you're 13 or 14 in the Dominican Republic, and you're done with elementary school, unless you have phenomenal talent or potential, you're not going to high school." Because sixty percent of the Dominican Republic's vegetables come from the Constanza area where he was volunteering, many of these families only find work in the fields, earning perhaps \$4 to \$5 a day. Stevens could see the disparity of the income gap between workers and the wealthy land owners.

Fortunately, Glen was able to speak some Spanish, but it took him a while to understand what the school children were trying to communicate when they kept saying "espaldas." After a short time, he found out the children wanted to ride on his big, strong shoulders. During his volunteer stint from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm each day, he was moving blocks and mixing concrete all day. Though he had a short break for lunch, children would come clamoring for attention and suddenly his weariness was gone. He explained, "It was like a big 'boom' and your energy level would be back up again." He was heart-warmed from the warm reception he received from all the Dominicans. "Even though most of the volunteers spoke little or no Spanish, and the Dominicans didn't speak English, a bond had formed between them than transcended language.

He said he came back a different person and knows the next group of volunteers coming to finish painting and completing the electrical work will find the same spirit.

This school, founded by Pastor Angel Moreta, will give children more options than working in the fields after elementary school. They will be adding programs for culinary arts, beautician trades, music and woodworking in addition to building on their skills in reading and mathematics.

Glen Stevens has hopes and dreams for these children to achieve success with newfound skills. I am certain he came home with far more than he brought with him and will

share this new message to the students at the North Branch Area High School.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIC LEAGUE OF GREATER NEW BRUNSWICK

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Civic League of Greater New Brunswick as it prepares to celebrate its 70th anniversary at a gala celebration on March 28, 2015. I would also like to join with the Civic League of Greater New Brunswick in congratulating its gala honorees, Mayor James Cahill, Richard Kaplan and Charlene Brown.

Since its inception, the Civic League of Greater New Brunswick has striven to strengthen the minority populations of central New Jersey. Its efforts have created several programs and services to advance opportunities and improve the quality of life of all residents. Its focus on employment and housing services helps develop a foundation to better the well-being of individuals and families. Through its youth programs, the Civic League of Greater New Brunswick offers tutoring and enrichment activities to students and builds leadership skills. The Civic League of Greater New Brunswick continues to fulfill its mission of an equal society for all through the enhancement of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating the Civic League of Greater New Brunswick on its 70th anniversary and recognizing the outstanding efforts of the Civic League and the gala honorees.

HONORING JUDE KIBODEAUX

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Jude Kibodeaux attends Dawson High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: select an important event that has occurred in the past 15 years and explain how that event has changed our country.

Making landfall on August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina was the most destructive disaster in United States history. A Category 3 storm with winds faster than 100 miles per hour, the storm took a great toll on the country. Its social cost, at least in New Orleans, is obvious. Nearly 2,000 of its citizens were killed by the storm, and thousands

more were displaced by the grievous destruction it caused. Even today, nine years later, the city is still recovering from its losses. But the effects of Hurricane Katrina were not limited to just the area hit. The winds of Katrina were felt throughout the entire nation, if not through physical destruction then through economic downturn and political discontent.

The cost of the storm can be measured not only in deaths but also in dollars. This latter loss was not as tragic as the former, but it was significant enough to impact the rest of the country. The damage caused cost, according to the lowest estimate, a staggering \$96 billion, only \$40 billion of which was insured. And this does not even account for losses in the various affected industries. Its most serious impact was on oil production. Oil pipelines and offshore rigs were destroyed, causing national oil prices to rise and pushing the government to tap into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The sugar industry, worth \$500 million annually in Louisiana alone, was also severely damaged. Chemical plants in the area, which accounted for one-fourth of the country's chemical production, were not spared either. The losses suffered by these important industries were great enough to stunt the economic growth of the whole country. After Katrina, national GDP growth decreased from 3.8% to 1.3%. With all of these losses taken into account, the total cost of the hurricane amounts to \$250 billion. It was undoubtedly a severe setback for the economy.

The government stepped in to try and alleviate the storm's effects, but its efforts were not as cohesive as many would have hoped. On the federal level, it was days before the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), an organization created for this kind of situation, got its act together in New Orleans. And even once it had established itself, FEMA lacked an effective strategy and had a minimal impact on the recovery. The organization was evidently unprepared to do its duty. The director of FEMA, Michael D. Brown, was forced to resign in the fallout, and the popularity of President George W. Bush plummeted, the beginning of a trend that ended Bush's political career. There was also much criticism at the local level. Most was directed toward the mayor of New Orleans, Ray Nagin, for having understated the severity of the storm before it hit and responded inadequately in the aftermath. He managed to stay in office but faced serious criticism, making it difficult for him to implement policies. In all, Katrina caused just as much a political disturbance as an economic one.

The winds of Katrina had proven themselves the winds of change as they caused great disturbances to the society, economy and government of this nation. Homes destroyed by the hurricane can still be seen today in New Orleans, serving as a testament to the lasting effect this storm has had.

DEVORAH LINFORD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Devorah

Linford for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Devorah Linford is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Devorah Linford 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 Devorah Linford 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. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 130/131 my flight was cancelled due to inclement weather. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on both.

THE 4 CHAPLAINS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, anywhere there is someone in the military, there will be chaplains. They are men of God, doing God's work. Bringing faith in a time of misery, pain and sorrow, chaplains serve their spiritual duty on the battlefields alongside our servicemen and women. Chaplains help battle demons in every sense of the word. While their efforts are spiritual in nature, their courage deserves to be celebrated.

The Chaplain Corps was created in 1775 by the Continental Congress to be an essential part of the Army while ensuring American soldiers would have spiritual guidance available anytime. The corps is made up of both ordained clergy who are commissioned officers and enlisted soldiers who serve as chaplain assistants and they can be assigned anywhere they are needed.

One of the most famous stories about these brave faith warriors is the tale of the Four Chaplains. It was February 3, 1943. The U.S. Army Transport Dorchester made up a three ship convoy that was moving from Newfoundland to an American base in Greenland. The ship was at full capacity, carrying 902 servicemen, merchant seamen and civilian workers.

Only 150 miles from its destination, the Dorchester became a quick target for a German submarine. The hit was detrimental.

It was 12:55 a.m., when 902 lives were completely turned upside down. The Dorchester began rapidly taking on water. It was sinking. The ship's captain, Hans J. Danielsen, gave orders to abandon the ship.

The fate of the ship however was not much better; the icy waters gave many of the men

hypothermia, even killing some of them. All alternatives were bleak.

The torpedo hit killed and wounded many of the men. Those who were still alive were desperately trying to get aboard lifeboats and rafts and struggling to find life preservers. As mass chaos erupted aboard, four men remained calm and brave. Aboard the ship were four Army chaplains: Lt. George Fox, a Methodist; Lt. Alexander Goode, a Jewish Rabbi; Lt. John Washington, a Roman Catholic Priest; and Lt. Clark Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister.

Witnessing the situation in front of them, the chaplains took charge. They began quickly handing out lifejackets, prayers and words of encouragement. Rabbi Goode even gave his own gloves to a soldier. When there were no more lifejackets, the chaplains simply removed their own and handed them out, no questions asked.

In a mere 20 minutes, the ship slipped below the surface of the sea, drifting to its final resting place in the Atlantic. 672 men died. Only 230 survived. Among the casualties were the four selfless chaplains. They were an earthly liaison and a light of peace during a time of complete turmoil. It was a German death wish, but death was defeated by faith, the divine won that day at sea.

The Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously as well as a posthumous Special Medal of Heroism; The Four Chaplains' Medal was approved by Congress and awarded by the President in 1961.

They were from different denominations and even religions, but bound together by a God's love and their faith in his eternal promise. The chaplains lived by a unifying example that transcends religions, countries and generations: laying down their lives for others, there is no greater love.

The epitome of selflessness, they fought a silent battle. While in a literal sense they lost, they gained all in the eyes of their creator.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KENTUCKY YMCA

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Kentucky YMCA by recognizing March 1st as Kentucky YMCA Day in Lexington, Kentucky.

On March 1, 1890, the Kentucky YMCA was incorporated by an Act of the Kentucky General Assembly. For 125 years, the YMCA has supported families and communities across our Commonwealth through programs that promote youth development, healthy living, social responsibility, and that build a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

Nineteen YMCA Associations throughout Kentucky proudly serve more than 367,100 individuals, including 160,000 children and youth as well as 32,700 seniors. They also provide nearly \$7 million in financial assistance for families to participate in YMCA programs and membership. YMCAs mobilize almost 8,300 Kentuckians each year to volunteer and serve their local communities, including over 100 students in the Y-Corps service learning program who collectively perform over 1,500 hours of service.

The Kentucky YMCA is home to the largest YMCA Youth and Government program in the country, providing thousands of middle school, high school, and college-aged students the opportunity to become better leaders and engaged citizens through the Kentucky Youth Assembly (KYA) and Kentucky United Nations Assembly (KUNA).

The sixth district of Kentucky is proud to be home to 50 Student YMCAs and KYA/KUNA Delegations with over 1,000 student members, including my alma mater, Henry Clay High School. The mission of the Kentucky YMCA is to develop engaged citizens and servant leaders, inspired to set change in their school, community, Commonwealth, nation, and world. The YMCA has and will continue to shape the future of the Sixth District and Kentucky.

Therefore, I encourage all Kentuckians and my colleagues to observe March 1, 2015 as "Kentucky YMCA Day."

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN ROTH

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Jonathan Roth attends Seven Lakes High School in Katy, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

Why should you be involved?

The United States was founded on the principle of freedom, freedom from oppression, freedom from foreign rule, and freedom to participate openly in our government. The United States rebelled against the British Crown so that they and future generations may experience the freedom they so desperately desired.

The national voter turnout for the 2012 general election dipped all the way down to 57.5%. That's almost a situation in which one in every two people doesn't vote. Only 65.1% of the voting eligible general population was registered to vote in that general election. For a nation that prides itself on its democratic processes, it is quite ironic that less than three fourths of the nation actually participates in that democracy. Our nation politically travels the world masquerading as the ideal democratic country when we rank in the lower half of global voter participation. There are many in our country that complain about laws and decisions made by those on Capitol Hill. Yet the majority of these people have never contacted a congressman nor attempted to voice their opinions in a constructive way. "No taxation without representation" was the battle cry during the United States' quest for freedom. Even though there are more problems than taxation in our country today, the representation part fits our situation perfectly. Our