

role improving cabin and cargo safety in ways that have decreased the risk of injuries to airline passengers and saved lives.

According to Dennis Filler, Director of the FAA's William J. Hughes Technical Center, "Gus Sarkos does the science that becomes the fire safety standards adopted by the whole world."

His work testing materials and measuring the effectiveness of fire detection and suppression systems has led to more than a dozen significant changes to U.S. and foreign aircraft during the past three decades to stop fires and curtail the spread of blazes occurring in-flight or during crash landings, increasing the chances of passenger survival.

Most recently, Mr. Sarkos and his team have been examining and reporting on fire threats posed by lighter and potentially flammable materials now being used in airplanes, and by the combustibility of large quantities of lithium batteries that have been carried in cargo holds.

As a result of his team's work, the Department of Transportation (DOT) no longer allows non-rechargeable metal lithium batteries to be shipped in the cargo holds of passenger jets. In addition, a number of U.S. airlines this year unilaterally announced they will no longer accept rechargeable ion lithium batteries because of tests done by Mr. Sarkos and his team showing that a buildup of gases inside bulk containers can lead to explosions and violent fires. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the U.S. DOT currently are considering proposals to ban bulk shipments of these rechargeable batteries or to require safer packaging rules for air transport.

Katherine Rooney, chief of ICAO's cargo safety section, said the work by Mr. Sarkos' group on the batteries and many other issues has been "absolutely invaluable." She added that passengers are "in a safer situation thanks to the research they have provided."

During his long tenure, Mr. Sarkos has participated in and overseen the development of such post-crash aircraft fire safety improvements as new fire blocking seat cushions, heat resistant evacuation slides, burn-through resistant fuselage insulation, and interior panels that release less heat and smoke.

"The FAA's goal", Mr. Sarkos said, "is to minimize the likelihood of an aircraft fire in-flight or improve survivability during a post-crash fire. If a fire occurs in-flight, the objective is to reliably detect, extinguish or suppress it until the aircraft can be safely landed. In the case of a post-crash fire," Sarkos said, "the goal is to have materials that burn and spread fire more slowly, and releases less heat, so passengers have more time to escape."

Director Filler noted how the work of Mr. Sarkos and his team came into play in 2013 when Asiana Airlines Flight 214 crashed and caught fire while landing in San Francisco. Three people died of injuries unrelated to the fire, while 304 survived the crash. He said the fire was slow in developing in large part because of the fire resistant material in the aircraft, and as a result, people had the time to evacuate.

Director Filler also cited a 2008 accident when a Continental 737 veered off the runway in Denver, skidded into a ravine, lost its landing gear and left engine, and caught fire. All 110 passengers and five crew members had

time to evacuate. In 2005, an Air France A340 landed in Toronto during a severe thunderstorm, skidded off the runway and erupted into flames. While the fire eventually gutted the aircraft, all 297 passengers and 12 crew members survived.

"These are examples of three aircraft that caught fire and 728 people survived largely because of the work that Gus and his team have been able to promote throughout the industry," said Filler. "His efforts have provided added time for passengers to evacuate. In the old days, materials would have burned faster or caused passengers to inhale toxic fumes, and they would have died in the aircraft."

Mr. Sarkos said his work is challenging, but a source of pride because it has resulted in increased safety.

"The worst thing I ever had to do was meet with relatives of accident victims," said Mr. Sarkos. "I am glad that in recent years that conditions have improved because of the work we have done and continue to do."

I want to publicly commend Gus for being named a finalist to receive the Service to America Medal a.k.a. "Sammies". Gus' vision, leadership, and dedication to saving lives is a testament to his invaluable public service.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. CON. RES. 11 CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2016

SPEECH OF
HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to thank the Democratic staff of the House Budget Committee for their hard work over the past three months on the budget resolution. Since early February when the President sent Congress his budget, our staff has worked many late nights and long weekends to prepare material and provide analysis for our members. Their service to our Committee's work is indispensable and it's hard to imagine how the Congress could do its job without their contributions. They toil behind the scenes and without public recognition. For that reason, I want to salute them for their service to the Congress and our nation.

House Budget Committee Democratic staff: Sarah Abernathy, Erika Appel, Ellen Balis, Kathleen Capstick, Ken Cummings, Bridgett Frey, Jonathan Goldman, Jocelyn Griffin, Jose Guillen, Tom Kahn, Naji Kamal, Sheila McDowell, Diana Meredith, Kimberly Overbeek, Karen Robb, Scott Russell, Beth Stephenson, Cody Willming, Ted Zegers.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 8, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of Barrington, Illinois.

From its early origins, Barrington has been a model for other cities and towns to follow,

through its continued dedication to building a friendly and welcoming community for residents and visitors alike. It is no surprise that the village motto is, "A great place to live, work and play".

In the years since its first mayor, Homer Wilmarth, and its incorporation in 1865, Barrington has become a center of culture and commerce, serving as a home to families, businesses, professionals, churches and organizations that have made this a vibrant and thriving community. What once started as a small railroad community now boasts a population of over 10,000 people. Over the years, Barrington has developed a well-deserved reputation as a village with hometown charm and small-town heritage.

On the occasion of this 150th Anniversary, we join together to celebrate Barrington's legacy of growth and prosperity and to look ahead to the opportunities facing this great city and our nation. Today both marks 150 years of working together to build a brighter future, and reminds us that our work continues.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of Barrington, Illinois and wishing her residents a very successful year ahead.

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 8, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jewish American Heritage Month. Nearly 360 years have passed since the establishment of the first Jewish community in North America. Since that time, Jewish Americans have contributed to the cultural richness and diversity of our nation in every field of community life, including business, government, medicine, law, the natural and social sciences, the arts and humanities, academia, religion, and the military.

There are approximately 5 million Jewish Americans and more than 100,000 of them live in Texas, nearly half of those, about 45,000, live in the Houston metropolitan area. Although their numbers may be small in a state with a general population over 20 million, the impact of Jewish Americans in Texas and in Houston has been great indeed.

Jewish Americans were there during the fight for Texas' independence from Spain and Mexico. Adolphus Sterne, an East Texas merchant, became a principal source of financial backing for the Texas Revolution and a close friend of Sam Houston. Albert Moses Levy was surgeon-in-chief in the revolutionary army. The De Cordova family helped develop the city of Waco and Henri Castro settled immigrants in several Texas towns. In 1859 the first synagogue in Texas was established in Houston.

Business and trade, especially the merchandising of food, clothing, jewelry with style, elegance, and distinction are the arenas in which many Jewish-Texan families made their most visual marks on the state of Texas. There is hardly a city in the Lone Star State whose history is without landmark stores founded and

developed by Jewish entrepreneurs: Neiman, Marcus, Sanger in Dallas; Battelstein and Sakowitz in Houston; and Joske in San Antonio.

These cities and towns reaped the benefits not only in availability of goods, but also in owners' generous patronage of the fine arts and in contributions to civic life such as the historic Levy Opera House in Hillsboro and the Brin Opera House in Terrell. Other early Jewish Americans who contributed mightily to civic life include Anna Hertzberg, who served as president of the original San Antonio Symphony Orchestra before World War I, and Olga Bernstein Kohlberg of El Paso, who started Texas' first free public kindergarten in 1892. That tradition continues today with the Dell Children's Hospital in Austin established by Dell Computers founder and CEO, Michael Dell.

Mr. Speaker, it was 67 years ago this month that President Truman recognized the free, independent, and democratic State of Israel, making the United States the first country to welcome Israel into the family of nations. And for 65 years Israel and the United States have remained the best of friends and the strongest of allies. One reason for the enduring strength of this relationship is the enduring contributions made by Jewish Americans in enriching American life and culture.

Mr. Speaker, as a representative of the state of Texas which has welcomed Jews for more than three centuries, I join with my colleagues and President Obama in calling upon all Americans to learn more about the heritage and contributions of Jewish Americans and to observe this month with appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies.

**RECOGNIZING WALLACE HIGGINS,
RECIPIENT OF THE 2014 CON-
GRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL**

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 8, 2015

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a constituent, Mr. Wallace Higgins.

Mr. Higgins was awarded the 2014 Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his service with the Civil Air Patrol during World War II.

Mr. Higgins was born in Kendall, New York in November 1925. From a young age, he was intrigued by aviation. Mr. Higgins joined the Civil Air Patrol in 1943, during his senior year of high school. Later that year, he enlisted in the Army Air Force and was chosen to join the Tuskegee Airmen.

During his two enlistments with the Army Air Force, Mr. Higgins achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant and earned several commendations for his service, including the WWII Victory Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, and New York State Medal for Merit. After receiving his honorable discharge, Mr. Higgins settled in Alfred, New York.

Mr. Higgins has dedicated the past six decades to serving his community: he is entering his 50th year with the Alfred Lions Club, he is a life member of the Alfred Station Volunteer Fire Department, he is a member and former chairman of the Allegany County Office for the Aging Advisory Council, and he is a founding

member of the Allegany Senior Foundation, where he currently serves as President Emeritus.

Wallace Higgins truly exemplifies the qualities that characterize the Congressional Gold Medal. It is my pleasure to present this award to Mr. Higgins in recognition of his life-long service to our country and our local community.

**UNVEILING THE SOUTHBURY
SENIOR CENTER WALL OF HONOR**

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 8, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the unveiling of the Wall of Honor at the Southbury Senior Center.

Today, we recognize the senior citizens from Southbury who proudly served our country in uniform. These men and women answered the call of duty to protect our nation and defend its ideals. They served during war and during peace, at home and abroad. No matter their deployment or their mission, each of our veterans deserves the recognition and accolades they will receive during today's ceremony.

While we can never fully repay our veterans for their service and sacrifice, I believe it is important to take every opportunity to thank and honor them. I hope when the wall is revealed, each veteran will feel the appreciation and gratitude of our community and the entire nation.

I would like to thank Wayne Rioux and the staff and volunteers at Southbury Senior Center for creating this memorial to recognize these local American heroes.

HONORING MILITARY ENLISTEES

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 8, 2015

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor thirty high school seniors in Florida's 22nd District who have decided to enlist in the United States Armed Forces.

Of these thirty, four have joined the Army; their names are Margaro Hernandez, Brandon Iglesias, Dylan Reynolds, and Darren Ross.

Sixteen have joined the Marines; their names are Lamech Murzike, Joshua Scott, Connor Bunch, Yeacob Duran, Jose Ribot, Jonnathan Gonzalez, Davie Medina Perez, Kenton Ennis, Jacob Rodriguez, Luis Mendez, Mike-Rodman Lorissant, Jose Vega, Gregory Spotts, Sean McCusker, Alyssa Pontier, Delone Griffin.

Four have joined the National Guard; their names are Trey Rawls, Merisanda Carstea, Spencer Hickey, and Warren Dutes.

Six have joined the Navy; their names are Destiny Huntley, Marco Juarez Jr., Anthony Lewis, Amanda McCarthy, Sergio Santiago, Pedro Jose Silva.

It is in thanks to the dedication of patriots like these that we are able to meet here today, in the United States House of Representatives, and openly debate the best solutions to

the diverse issues that confront our country. On behalf of myself and all of my constituents in Florida's 22nd District, thank you for your service and best of luck as you pursue this challenging endeavor.

**ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH**

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 8, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Throughout the history of the United States, Asian American and Pacific Islanders have contributed to our greatest undertakings and our vibrant cultural diversity. They have become leaders in business, in the community, and in politics, overcoming adversity and prejudice in pursuit of the American Dream.

Today, there are more than 20 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and more than 1 million of them live in Texas. A majority of them are concentrated in the cities, particularly Houston. At 80,049, the Vietnamese American community in the City of Houston has the third largest in the country. Houston is also home to sizable populations of Chinese Americans, Indian Americans, and Filipino Americans. These communities have transformed the city, bringing their cultures, religions, and businesses and creating a new home.

The first recorded Asian Americans in Texas were 250 Chinese laborers, who came to Houston to work on the railroad in 1870. It was thankless, dangerous work, but they helped to build the backbone of our state's economy. Although many of them would leave soon after the work was done, several stayed behind in Houston, and in the early 1900s the first Chinese business districts were opened.

The Asian American population in Houston remained quite low until the 1970s, when a new wave of immigration brought tens of thousands of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the city. Many of these early immigrants were Vietnamese refugees fleeing the country with the aid of the Indochinese Assistance and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975. Others were Chinese, drawn by the growth of the Chinese Merchants' Association throughout the decade.

Today, there are more than 100,000 Asian American and Pacific Islanders living in Houston. As of 2007, they operate 16,000 businesses, and there are multiple temples dedicated to Buddhism, Hinduism, and Sikhism. The city offers official documents in Vietnamese, Chinese, and Urdu. Neighborhoods from Little Saigon to Chinatown to the Mahatma Gandhi District are vibrant community centers for Asian Americans and other residents alike.

But for all their contributions to our state and our country, there are still unacceptable challenges facing Asian American Pacific Islander communities. There is an urgent need to fix our broken immigration system by passing legislation that will support families, strengthen small businesses, protect workers