

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, Yeicob Duran, Jose Ribot, Jonnathan Gonzalez, Davie Medina Perez, Kenton Ennis, Jacob Rodriguez, Luis Mendez, Mike-Rodman Lorissaint, 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

and grow our nation's economy. These communities have also had historically low enrollment in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which would otherwise help them to achieve stability and security.

Mr. Speaker, as a representative for tens of thousands of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, I join with my colleagues in recognizing the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to not just our history, but our economy and our future. I call on all Americans to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage month by deepening their understanding about these contributions, and pledge to support and serve Asian American and Pacific Islander families.

UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL ROAD  
SAFETY WEEK

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 8, 2015*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the third annual United Nations Global Road Safety Week and to celebrate the contribution of the Association for Safe International Road Travel (ASIRT) to the global effort to reduce the number of road crashes around the world.

ASIRT is extremely active in the global movement to promote and improve road safety. Tens of thousands of people are injured as a result of traffic collisions each year. More than 500 children are killed every day in road crashes and 186,300 children under 18 die from road traffic crashes annually. The rates of road traffic death are three times higher in developing countries than in developed countries.

As part of the Decade of Action for Road Safety, ASIRT has joined with the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration to announce #SaveKidsLives, a global campaign focused on delivering a Child Declaration on Road Safety to the policymakers who can make a difference. During UN Global Road Safety Week, the #SaveKidsLives Campaign seeks to highlight the plight of children on the world's roads and generate action to better ensure their safety. The campaign features hundreds of events hosted by governments, international agencies, civil society organizations, and private companies, including the delivery of the "Child Declaration for Road Safety" to policymakers.

During this Global Road Safety Week, I salute ASIRT and the United Nations for the work they are doing to promote road safety domestically and around the world.

RECOGNIZING UNIVERSITY OF  
MIAMI PRESIDENT DR. DONNA  
SHALALA

**HON. CARLOS CURBELO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 8, 2015*

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of University of Miami President Dr. Donna Shalala, a woman who has made such mark on our community since

her first day on June 1, 2001. As a two-time University of Miami graduate, I have witnessed my alma mater's immense development during President Shalala's tenure; a reflection of her tremendous dedication to our community. During her tenure, UM has solidified its position among top research universities in the country. The University's two successful Momentum campaigns have raised \$3 billion dollars in private support towards its endowment, academic research programs, and world-class facilities. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, President Shalala received her A.B. degree in history from Western College for Women. One of the country's first Peace Corps Volunteers, she served in Iran from 1962 to 1964. She earned her Ph.D. degree from The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. She has held tenured professorships at Columbia University, the City University of New York (CUNY), and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She served as President of Hunter College of the City University of New York from 1980 to 1987 and as Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Thank you President Shalala for your commitment to UM, for being a mentor, an educator, and a friend to our country's next generation of leaders.

IN HONOR OF ALL THE MOTHERS  
OF THE ARMED FORCES

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 8, 2015*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of all the Mothers of The Armed Forces who have served, or who have family members who have served. Let us remember their sacrifice and give thanks to them and their families on this Mother's Day. I submit this poem penned in their honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

FOR ALL THE MOTHER'S

For all of the Mother's of war.  
For all the Mother's across our shores.  
Whose son's and daughters burdens bore.  
And for all the families who have been separated by war.  
While, mommy for our nation so fought for.  
And all those hours of worry and pain.  
And all of that heartache with them which now remains.  
As they rebuild from the scars and loss of war.  
And for all those Mothers who aren't coming home.  
For all their sons or daughters.  
Who now lie in such cold dark graves so all alone.  
Remember them this Mother's Day,  
and say a prayer for all of them . . . please say.  
And for of those Mothers who must learn to walk again.  
And son's and daughters must somehow start their new lives,  
so begin.  
Without arms and legs,  
and with scars and burns upon their faces.  
all in such places.  
As they help them rebuild,  
so face this.  
Lets give thanks and praise for all of them.  
And for all of those little boys and girls,  
who have now lost their best friends in the world.

Their Mother's who are the heart of the home.

Mommy aint coming home.

Who now on Mother's Day sit with tear in eye.

not understanding why mommy didn't say goodbye.

For the Mother is the heart of the home.

They give us life and they give us love.

And in our darkest of all hours help us to rise above.

And how they cry.

when their most beloved daughters and sons die.

A pain that can not be healed by time.

Only when in heaven they reunite.

As they teach us even more.

About faith and courage,

and with hope how to overcome the scars of war.

This Mother's Day carry them with you in your thoughts,

upon your way as you pray.

And give thanks for what they give,

and what they gave.

For all the Mother's this Mother's Day!

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS  
FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS  
ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE  
OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL  
DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND  
THE UNITED STATES

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 8, 2015*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress we know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said:

"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated and that is why today I rise to pay tribute to six extraordinary young persons for their service to my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and to the American people. They are: Kenya Metters, Chelsea Ukoha, Ryan Wallace, Gregory Butchello, Fabian Rubio, and Danielle Konerth.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism these wonderful young people