

Her first campaign slogan, “Barbara Boxer Gives a Damn,” would exemplify the passion with which she has fought through these years.

In 1992, known as “The Year of the Woman”, she was elected to the United States Senate to fight for the people of California. As a forceful fighter for equality and social justice, and an astounding protector of the environment, Senator BOXER demonstrated time after time her ferocity, effectiveness, and willingness to go to bat for the people and the principles she believed in.

Her legislative achievements are too many to list. As the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Senator BOXER has led bipartisan efforts to protect the environment and address climate change. She has spent her life defending women’s rights, including the importance of gender equality and the protection of a woman’s right to choose. Throughout her career, she has identified matters of concern and has reached across the aisle to find solutions.

Senator BOXER’s tireless work has influenced the lives of millions of Americans. I have often taken her counsel, and I am proud of the work we have done together to protect the Salton Sea. Her distinguished career in Congress is an example of what can be accomplished through hard work, dedication, and service.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize and honor Senator BARBARA BOXER. I will certainly miss our inspiring conversations on the flights to DC together, but I know this is the beginning of her many more successful battles for the common good. On behalf of California’s 36th Congressional District, I offer my sincerest thanks and congratulate her for her exceptional commitment to public service. I wish her and her husband Stu all the best on her well-deserved retirement.

IN HONOR OF THE SENECA FALLS
DIALOGUES

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Seneca Falls Dialogues, a conference that fosters a dialogue regarding women and gender studies issues, and the Women’s Initiative for Leadership and Learning, Inc. (WILL) for supporting such an important event. Once every two years, dedicated students, faculty and activists come together in Seneca Falls, New York, which has been associated with women’s rights since the Declaration of Sentiments was signed in Seneca Falls in 1848 at the first women’s rights convention. The Seneca Falls Dialogues aim to encourage discussion and research concerning equal rights for women.

In October of 2008, the Seneca Falls Heritage Group, the Friends of the Women’s Rights National Historical Park, the National Women’s Hall of Fame, and the Greater Rochester Branch of the American Association of University Women, in collaboration with an alliance of western New York colleges and universities, came together to create the First Biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues. This initial conference was held on October 11–12, 2008 in celebra-

tion of the 160th anniversary of the first women’s rights convention and the 60th anniversary of Eleanor Roosevelt’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Today, the Seneca Falls Dialogues are sponsored by WILL, in collaboration with the College Alliance, the town of Seneca Falls, the Seneca Falls Heritage Group, the Friends of the Women’s Rights National Historical Park, the National Women’s Hall of Fame, and the Greater Rochester Branch of the American Association of University Women. Works presented at the Dialogues are archived and serve as an important cache of materials used by a network of university Womens and Gender Studies programs and enable scholars to do further research.

Additionally, I would like to recognize the President of Friends of Women’s Rights National Historical Park, Marilyn Tedeschi, who is also the key organizer of the Seneca Falls Dialogues.

Ms. Tedeschi has served in a number of roles, including urban educator, youth advocate, business entrepreneur and social activist. Her passions lie primarily in economic development of the working poor and their communities. She is a member of several boards that reflect this dedication, and is a cofounder of the Community Microenterprise Center, a not-for-profit that helps small businesses and serves as a Progressive Neighborhood Federal Credit Union for Rochester’s lowest income families.

An advocate for women and girls, Ms. Tedeschi is the President of the Greater Rochester Area Branch of the American Association of University Women and Vice President of the Women’s Institute for Leadership and Learning, both of which sponsor the Seneca Falls Dialogues.

This year’s WILL award recipient is Brenda Ann Keneally. Ms. Keneally is an interdisciplinary artist who captures intrinsic aspects of human nature in her photographs. A highly honored photographer, Ms. Keneally has pushed the boundaries of art and social documentation by immersing herself in the lives and situations of her subjects, and incorporated the Internet as a documentation tool. Ms. Keneally also cofounded The Raw File, a digital theatre which focuses on expanding recognition for socially provocative media.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Seneca Falls Dialogues, Marilyn Tedeschi, and Brenda Ann Keneally for their dedication to fostering civil discourse regarding women’s rights, and their perseverance and advocacy in the fight to ensure equality for women.

IN HONOR OF MAJOR CHUCK
KILBRIDE AND THE UNITED
STATES MARINE CORPS TOYS
FOR TOTS PROGRAM

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major Chuck Kilbride for his work with the United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. Major Kilbride, through his work with the Toys for Tots Program, has provided hope and joy

to children in need during the holiday season for well over two decades.

Started in 1947 by Major Bill Hendricks, Toys for Tots collects toys to provide to less fortunate youth, bringing local communities together around spreading holiday cheer. Toys for Tots was a quick success, collecting and distributing 5,000 toys in its first year alone. It has only improved throughout the years, providing over 512 million toys to over 237 million children nationwide to date.

The Toys for Tots Program is not only about making children’s wishes come true, it is about creating an environment of inclusion for all youth, regardless of their background or economic situation. The program recognizes that children are our most valuable asset because they are our future; investing in them is contributing to our future.

The Toys for Tots Program has a special place in my heart. Each year, it has provided toys to public housing residents throughout my district in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens. I fondly remember distributing toys with Major Kilbride at the Seward Park Community Center and the Vladeck Houses on the Lower East Side of Manhattan in December, 2009. That year, Major Kilbride named my late husband, Clifton Maloney, honorary vice chairman of the Toys for Tots program in New York City. I am grateful for all the amazing work Major Kilbride and his Marines have done for children throughout the New York metropolitan area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Major Chuck Kilbride, Gunnery Sergeant Brian Gomez, Staff Sergeant J.D. Quinton, and Sergeant Eliezer Gomez for their work for the United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. These gentlemen and the Marine Corps have worked tirelessly to spread happiness and faith to less fortunate youth during the holiday season.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. PRAKASH
M. SWAMY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Prakash Swamy for his tremendous dedication to improving United States and India relations.

Dr. Swamy holds a doctorate degree in Media Studies from Amstard University and has worked as a journalist for over 35 years. Starting as an intern with the Gainesville Sun, he has written and served as editor for numerous newspapers both in the United States and India.

Dr. Swamy is an experienced public speaker. He was a speaker at the 2009 convention of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas sponsored by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, which celebrates the contributions of the overseas Indian community to India.

Dr. Swamy currently is a Diplomatic Correspondent to the United Nations and has spent the last 10 years writing about the UN General Assembly Session. In this role, he has reported on prominent international leaders including heads of state, foreign ministers and ambassadors. Dr. Swamy is dedicated to improving India-U.S. relations and has worked

with officials in the Clinton, Bush and Obama administrations to achieve this goal.

Dr. Swamy is the president of America Tamil Sangam, an organization that promotes Tamil language and heritage throughout the United States. America Tamil Sangam provides a platform for Tamil scholars, writers and artists to share a rich culture and history with the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Dr. Prakash Swamy for his accomplishments in the U.S. and abroad, and for his continued dedication to improving India-U.S. relations.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DIWALI
AT TIMES SQUARE CELEBRATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Diwali At Times Square celebration of Diwali, the Festival of Lights. I particularly want to recognize Neeta Bhasin, President and CEO of Event Guru and ASB Communications, for her extraordinary effort in organizing this event. The largest Asian-Indian event in the United States, it has successfully united Hindus, Sikhs and other Diwali celebrators from all over the world in the heart of New York to share the joyous occasion.

Diwali At Times Square started in 2013 and has since grown into an eight-hour event featuring delicious food, fashion, arts and crafts, and Bollywood performances. It displays Asian-Indian culture to the world and engages people of all ages and backgrounds in the values of Diwali: light over dark, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil.

This year, I had the pleasure of attending Diwali At Times Square. The energy and joy at the celebration is contagious. Times Square, one of the brightest places on earth, is the perfect location to honor the Festival of Lights.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Neeta Bhasin and Diwali At Times Square for helping everyone in the New York Metropolitan region celebrate this beautiful holiday.

IN HONOR OF DR. LAKSHMI-
NARAYANA SUBRAMANIAM

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Lakshminarayana Subramaniam for his contributions to classical music. Dr. Subramaniam's achievements have reshaped and added a new dimension to a genre of music which so many people enjoy.

Dr. Subramaniam has earned degrees in Western Classical composition, distinctions in western violin studies, classical Carnatic music, and medicine. This unique combination of classical western and South Indian music led Dr. Subramaniam to develop not only a new style of orchestral writing, but a new genre altogether.

As one of India's most prolific composers, Dr. Subramaniam has collaborated, conducted, and performed with world class orchestras and musicians from all over the globe at some of music's most famous venues. To date, Dr. Subramaniam has worked with over 50 orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, the London Symphony Orchestra, the Swiss Romande, and the Royal Oman Symphony. His recorded collaborations with musicians include Yehudi Menuhin, Stephane Grappelli, Joe Sample, and George Harrison. The sounds of Dr. Subramaniam's compositions have graced the halls of venues like the Lincoln Center, the Tchaikovsky Hall, Zhongshan Music Hall, and the Gewandhaus. Dr. Subramaniam is one of only a handful of living composers with over 150 live performances of his various orchestral works.

In 1992, Dr. Subramaniam co-founded the Lakshminarayana Global Music Festival, which showcases various genres from a multitude of different artists. The event has been held in 55 cities in 22 countries, drawing audiences of up to 200,000 people. In 2007, Dr. Subramaniam co-founded the Subramaniam Academy of Performing Arts, a global music institute located in Bangalore which exposes its young students to music from all over the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Dr. Subramaniam for his contributions to the musical world. Dr. Subramaniam's achievements in composition, conduction, and orchestral performance are truly unparalleled.

IN HONOR OF THE FORTUNATO
BROTHERS CAFE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Fortunato Brothers Cafe, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary as a neighborhood institution in Brooklyn's Williamsburg. What started as an idea by three brothers from Italy to make and sell authentic Italian desserts has become a landmark and a point of pride for New York's vibrant Italian community.

Opened in October 1976 by Salvatore, Michael, and Mario Fortunato in Williamsburg, the Fortunato Brothers Cafe is known for its famous pastries with displays full of cannoli, marzipan, tarts, gelato, and cakes of all shapes and sizes. Using the same original recipes since its opening, Fortunato Brothers Cafe's sweets are just as delicious now as they were in 1976.

The bakery's continued success serves as a model of excellence for other small businesses and speaks to the strength of New York's Italian community. In a city crowded with Italian restaurants and eateries, Fortunato Brothers Cafe continues to shine due to the high standard its owners have set for it.

The Fortunato Brothers Cafe is a symbol of the resilience and liveliness of Italian heritage. Although Williamsburg has changed a lot over the years, the bakery's recipes and atmosphere are timeless. Fortunato Brothers Cafe's widespread popularity reflects the profound positive impact Italian culture has had on New York.

Fortunato Brothers Cafe continues to be a welcoming and familiar place for neighbors to come together over a cup of coffee or a pastry. Still owned by Salvatore, Michael, and Mario, the bakery remains dedicated to serving the community with delicious baked goods and a welcoming environment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary achievements of the Fortunato Brothers Cafe as it celebrates 40 years of serving tasty delicacies in North Brooklyn.