

of PREIT and was recently appointed Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

In the 1990s, Ron helped to revitalize the Center City Business District by helping develop the Center City District business-improvement group. He has worked closely with many Philadelphia organizations including PECO Energy, the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, the Kimmel Center, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. As the co-chair of the Board of Trustees of the National Museum of American Jewish History, Ron helped oversee the expansion of the Museum to its current location on Independence Mall.

Ron's hard work and dedication to improving Philadelphia embodies the Museum's motto of "Dream, Dare, Do." In recognition of his years of service to Philadelphia, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues rise to congratulate him on this honor.

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INTRODUCTION OF PUTTING OUR VETERANS BACK TO WORK ACT

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**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2017*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act, a bill I introduced earlier today to help veterans gain skills for good paying jobs by reauthorizing the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). The VRAP program, signed into law in 2011 and expired in March 2014, provided training for education that led to high demand occupations, including management, business and financial operations, protective service, construction and transportation among other careers. In the two years of the implementation of VRAP, the Department of Veterans Affairs approved over 126,000 applications, of which, 76,000 veterans enrolled in a training program.

The Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act extends the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Services with severe injuries or illnesses, extends rehabilitation programs for persons who have exhausted their rights to unemployment benefits under state law and reauthorizes collaborative veterans' training, mentoring and placement programs.

This legislation builds on our vow to hire our nation's heroes by directing the Secretary of the VA to establish a Federal web-based employment portal containing information on Federal programs and activities concerning employment, unemployment and training programs that are geared towards veterans. This legislation also directs the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Attorney General to award grants to hire veterans as firefighters and law enforcement officers. Finally, the Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act directs the heads of executive agencies to consider favorably as an evaluation factor for civilian and defense contracts at or above \$25 million, a prospective contractor with a workforce of at least 5 percent veterans.

The men and women who signed up to defend America and our values, whether they served during Vietnam or more recently in Iraq or Afghanistan, are owed our gratitude and

our promise to support them as they transition to civilian life. I urge my colleagues to pass the Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act to ensure that our heroes are afforded meaningful employment opportunities. This is a promise that we must keep.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE DREAMERS, IMMIGRANTS, AND REFUGEES (DIRE) LEGAL AID ACT

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**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2017*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the DREAMers, Immigrants, and Refugees (DIRE) Act. This legislation will provide funds for legal services to protect DREAMers, immigrants, and refugees from President Trump's Executive Order.

Last week, I held an immigration town hall. Scores of my constituents attended because they were afraid for their families and communities. This was before the Executive Order was released. When I was at the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) on Saturday, I saw this fear escalate. Immigrants and refugees were unjustifiably detained and denied access to counsel at airports across our country. President Trump's Executive Order directly challenges the right to due process, which is guaranteed under our Constitution. My legislation will guarantee that DREAMers, immigrants, and refugees have access to legal aid.

I am deeply concerned about the actions taken by the Trump Administration. The refugees that have been granted status by the U.S. Government undergo an intensive security screening process that takes an average of 18 to 24 months. The security screening is performed by multiple federal agencies, including the National Counterterrorism Center, the FBI Terrorist Screening Center, the Department of Homeland Security, the State Department, and the Department of Defense. The security screening that refugees undergo is the most intensive of any individual entering the United States.

It is sad that the Trump Administration would detain individuals, who fear for their lives in their home countries and seek refuge in the United States, with the intent to deport them back into harm's way. These actions are a misrepresentation of our American values. Our country has always stood up for the oppressed and welcomed the persecuted. It is un-American to turn our backs on those that need our help the most.

If we wish to remain a beacon of freedom to the world, we must stand up for the immigrants and refugees looking towards the United States for hope. We cannot just claim we are the greatest nation in the world. We actually have to act like it too.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WOMEN IN DATA SCIENCE CONFERENCE AND THE PARTICIPANTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2017*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Women in Data Science Conference (WiDS) and the Michigan In Data Science professors and scholars who are participating in this forum. WiDS plays an important role in bringing together world-class researchers to share cutting edge findings and best practices.

The Women in Data Science conference is a Stanford University-affiliated technical conference that brings together the latest data science techniques and findings across a variety of disciplines. The conference features exclusively women speakers and includes seven distinguished scholars from the University of Michigan from its College of Engineering and School of Information. Their research covers a variety of fields including healthcare, artificial intelligence and machine learning. Additionally, it includes a poster session to showcase current student and faculty research as well as a livestream featuring industry and academic leaders at Stanford University.

Data science is a new field that has the potential to revolutionize our understanding of a variety of disciplines, and forums like WiDS play a critical role driving advances by facilitating knowledge transfer between top scholars and industry researchers. It is inspiring to see women from the University of Michigan leading the way in publishing groundbreaking discoveries that further our understanding of critical areas like healthcare, communications and statistical analysis. The real-world impact of this research underscores the importance of the work being showcased, and it is my hope that the University of Michigan continues to be a leader in this field.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the University of Michigan researchers and other participants in the Women in Data Science Conference. The innovative research and support for women help inspire and educate individuals about the important work being done on data science across the country.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE FARM REGULATORY CERTAINTY ACT

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**HON. DAN NEWHOUSE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2017*

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my legislation, the Farm Regulatory Certainty Act. In 2015, a federal judge ruled in a citizen suit that dissolved manure nitrates constitute a "solid waste" under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Four dairies in Washington State that were proactively working with the EPA to address nutrient management issues at their dairies were held culpable of "open dumping" by a federal judge. A farmer myself, I firmly believe farmers have and must continue to

lead the charge on good stewardship and conservation, which this ruling undermined. While there are a number of statutes that do govern agricultural nutrient management practices, Congress never intended for RCRA to be one of those statutes. In fact, the EPA's own regulations promulgated back in the 1970s agree that agricultural wastes, such as manures and fertilizer, were not intended to be governed under this law. This misguided ruling has placed farmers across the country in a legal uncertainty. It is incomprehensible that Congress and EPA intended that agricultural nutrients be exempt from this law, and then have a court find farmers at fault for non-compliance with the very law they are exempt from. Farmers need to know with certainty to what rules apply to them.

The legislation I introduce today would clarify and reaffirm that RCRA was not intended to govern agricultural nutrient management activities. Moreover, if a farmer is already engaged in legal action and is diligently working with the state or federal regulators to address nutrient management issues, then they would be preempted from citizen suits under this bill.

We want to continue to encourage farmers to be good, proactive stewards, and create an climate where farmers can feel comfortable working with regulators to address stewardship issues—not have farmers fear that documents they provide to regulators will be acquired by third-parties and used against them in “double jeopardy”-like lawsuits. This commonsense legislation will clarify Congress’ intent on this statute, and work to restore a relationship of trust and confidence between farmers and regulators.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES J. SPINELLO**

**HON. DINA TITUS**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2017*

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to include in the RECORD some inadequate yet heartfelt words to celebrate the life and mourn the loss of James J. Spinello. Jim was my dear friend, respected colleague, and trusted confidant. We met in 1988 when he was a Young Turk in the Nevada Assembly. Along with his friends, Matt Callister, Gene Porter, and Wendell Williams, he was a legislator with a mission. As members of the Marvin Sedway/Gary Gray posse of talented young idealists, they set out to change the world—and indeed they have made Nevada a better place, each in his own way.

As an Assemblyman, Jim served as Chair of the Education Committee where he led the fight for class size reduction and as Vice Chair of the powerful Ways and Means Committee where he championed more funding for mental health. He was the serious, scholarly one of the bunch who had the compassion, knowledge, and work ethic to get things done.

After two terms he went on to manage Nevada's state workers compensation system.

He joined the administrative team at Clark County in 1997 for several years before becoming an integral player at R&R. Partners where he served as director of local government affairs. He loved his R&R family, especially Billy Vassiliadis, who was there for him in the most generous ways until the very end.

Meanwhile, he taught classes part time at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the College of Southern Nevada, which he thoroughly enjoyed. He was a natural teacher and role model who entertained, educated, and inspired. He brought his practical experience as well as his academic training and a vast wealth of information to the classroom.

Throughout all this time, Jim remained a wonderful friend, a man I trusted totally, which is a rare thing in politics today. We shared a Mediterranean temperament—mine Greek and his Sicilian. Boy, was he Sicilian. He had black curly hair and a beautiful singing voice (we called him Spinatra). He loved red wine and pasta, and loyalty was very important to him.

Jim enjoyed traveling, especially with his beloved daughters, Lilly and Chessa. He traveled to Sicily with his girls to visit his mother's village and found some slightly suspect cousins along the way. Everything he did, he did with their futures in mind. He was very proud of them and spoke of them often. At the Sicilian wake following his service, there was consensus among those who had known Jim for a long time that he was, simply put, a really good guy—in the very best sense of the words. Billy V. noted that his legacy is in his girls and the many young people he taught in class and in the work place. Dick Cooper commented on how ethical he was: He just couldn't not tell the truth. Another legislative colleague, Ernie Alder, said Jim was polite enough to laugh at his jokes. And Tom Warren and Marc Hechter, who had been with Jim every day those last weeks, recalled when Jim had selflessly been there for them in trying times. Matt called him a true friend and Chris Giunchigiani remarked on his amazing strength of character and spirit.

Tears were shed. Stories were told. Memories were bittersweet. He was a wonderful person to work with, to have a martini with, to stay out of or be in trouble with. He was loyal to me and I will always try to be loyal, in words and deeds, to his memory. The Spinner set a high bar. His passing is Nevada's loss.

**RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2017*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as our nation celebrates National Catholic Schools Week, I rise to recognize the lasting contributions of Catholic education in my South Florida community.

Marian Center School and Services, Archbishop Edward McCarthy High School, Car-

dinal Gibbons High School, St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Archbishop Coleman F. Carroll High School, Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame High School, Immaculata-LaSalle High School, Monsignor Edward Pace High School, Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, St. Brendan High School, Archdiocese of Miami Virtual Catholic School, St. John Vianney Seminary, Belen Jesuit Preparatory, Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart, Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory, Christopher Columbus High School, and Archbishop Curley Notre Dame are just a few of the Catholic institutions serving my district.

These schools do more than provide their students with an excellent education.

Each one of them is also dedicated to instilling a religious grounding, academic excellence, and moral values in their students so that they can dedicate their lives to serve God, their families, and their community.

Congratulations to the teachers, administrators, and staff at our fantastic Catholic schools.

Thank you for your dedication to building a brighter future for South Florida.

**HONORING S. JEROME FELDMAN**

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2017*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Pennsylvanian, Mr. S. Jerome Feldman. A well-respected and greatly admired member of our community, Mr. Feldman is celebrating his 85th birthday today, February 3rd.

I have known Jerome and his wife Helene for many years and have always found them to be extraordinarily kind-hearted and wholly selfless people. His lifetime of charitable work and his dedication to peace and our national security is without peer. Jerome served our country with honor as a member of the United States Navy during the Korean War. Well-liked among his peers in the Navy, his bravery and commitment earned him the respect of everyone who served with him as well as the undying gratitude of our nation.

Mr. Feldman continues his advocacy for peace and security through his support of our closest ally, the State of Israel. He is also an active member of Philadelphia's Jewish community, one of our nation's oldest and most vibrant Jewish communities.

More than anything, Jerome is a family man, a neighbor and a friend to many, including me. He is the sort of man that Pennsylvania is proud to call a native son, and I am equally proud to call Jerome a friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring S. Jerome Feldman on the occasion of his 85th birthday on February 3rd of this year.