

dedication, impressive talent, and noteworthy accomplishments. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors and look forward to seeing all they will accomplish in the years to come.

#### HONORING MALCOLM STOKELY

##### HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special individual, Mr. Malcolm Stokely, of Clark County, Kentucky. Mr. Stokely, a part of the Greatest Generation, answered his nation's call to service during World War II.

Mr. Stokely enlisted in the United States Army on March 28, 1945. After training in Texas, he was sent to Missouri to board a massive train that transported thousands of troops across the Rocky Mountains to Portland, Oregon. The troops then boarded a ship, which, unknown to them, was part of a top-secret invasion party of hundreds of ships and thousands of troops headed for Japan. While en route, the United States dropped the first atomic bomb on Japan, which was ineffective in stopping the war. After the second bomb was dropped and Japan surrendered, the troops were told they had actually been headed for Japan and thousands of them likely would have died in battle. After the surrender, the ships turned around. Mr. Stokely's ship landed in Hawaii where he served out the remainder of his tour in the signal corps. He was discharged on December 9, 1946.

Mr. Stokely returned home to lead an active and productive life. At the age of 93, he is a regular on the golf course and leads an aerobics class. He is very active in his church, Ephesus Baptist, where he serves as a deacon and choir leader.

The bravery of Mr. Stokely and his fellow men and women of the United States military is heroic. Because they were willing to serve our great nation, our freedoms have been preserved for our generation and for future generations. He is truly an outstanding American patriot. It is my honor to recognize him before the United States House of Representatives.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO GRANBY FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

##### HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Granby First Church of God on 100 years of service and dedication to the Granby community.

Granby First Church of God, which was first known as the "old rock church," opened its doors in 1917. Since then, the church has welcomed thousands of people from all different walks of life. When Joplin was hit by a devastating tornado in May of 2011, Granby First Church of God didn't hesitate to open its doors for people outside their community. As people came in to volunteer and help with clean-up, they were allowed to use the Family Life Center as a place to stay.

Granby First Church of God is vital to the Granby, Missouri community.

I am honored to recognize Granby First Church of God and its dedication to not only southwest Missouri, but the many communities throughout the area. On behalf of Missouri's 7th Congressional District, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Granby First Church of God on 100 years of service.

#### TIARA SISNEROS

##### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Tiara Sisneros for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Tiara Sisneros is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Tiara Sisneros 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 Tiara Sisneros 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.

#### HONORING MR. VERNE ALLISON AND THE DELLS

##### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the R&B music group, the Dells. Mr. Verne Allison, the last surviving member of the Dells, was visiting Washington, D.C. over the last few days so I wanted to take this opportunity to recognize the group and their outstanding music.

Originally from Chicago, Illinois, the Dells formed out of a group of young men still in high school: Marvin Junior, Verne Allison, Johnny Funches, Chuck Barksdale and Mickey and Lucius McGill. They originally called themselves the El-Rays, but changed their name to The Dells once they signed with Vee Jay Records in 1955. It was at this record company where they released their hit recording, "Oh What a Night," which, at one point, finished right behind Elvis' "Don't Be Cruel" on the music charts. By the early 1960s, with their reach growing, the Dells were able to tour with big artists like Dinah Washington and Ray Charles, opening for them and exposing themselves to much bigger audiences.

A soundtrack to the 1960s would not be complete without soulful melodies from groups like the Dells. At a time of constant political and social upheaval, a Washingtonian could turn on the radio and be serenaded with

songs like the Dells' "Give Your Baby a Standing Ovation" and "Stay in My Corner," a 1965 top 30 R&B hit. Decades passed and the Dells' music largely adapted. Members of the band remained largely stable. Their final work was the "The Heart is a House for Love," part of a soundtrack for a movie in 1991. The Dells were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2004. Today, Verne Allison, one of the original members of the Dells, is the band's only surviving member.

While Mr. Allison was in my district, he worked closely with DC Legendary Musicians. This organization works to protect the legacy of D.C. area musicians, past and present, and promote the music of artists from Washington around the globe. Although Mr. Allison and the Dells are from Chicago, DC Legendary Musicians recognizes the impact that music from artists like the Dells—who have performed locally at the Howard Theater, Constitution Hall and the Kennedy Center—have had on D.C. and its own music scene and history. Their work is crucial to ensuring this essential part of D.C. culture stays intact. I thank DC Legendary Musicians for their contributions to the District.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mr. Verne Allison and the Dells. We celebrate their harmonious and soulful music that is part of the rich American tapestry that is Rhythm and Blues. I am very pleased we can still listen to it today.

#### HONORING THE VICTIMS AND HISTORY OF THE MS "ST. LOUIS"

##### HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 78th anniversary of the day that 937 mostly Jewish refugees aboard the MS *St. Louis* were denied entry to the United States.

In the summer of 1939, fleeing unspeakable horrors under Hitler's regime, men, women, and children set sail in search of refuge. After being denied entry to the United States, Canada, and Cuba, many refugees were eventually accepted into several European countries. Over a quarter, however, were not so lucky and lost their lives in concentration camps.

The Brooklyn Synagogue Coalition for Refugees is one of many Jewish communities across the country that will gather to hold a candlelight vigil to honor the victims and history of this anniversary.

At a time when acts of fear and intolerance have dictated policies to yet again shut America's doors to those fleeing harm, we must remain committed to ensuring that America is and will continue to be a place of hope and second chances.

I'd like to thank the Brooklyn Synagogue Coalition for Refugees for their hard work and dedication to the Jewish community. As we reflect on this tragic occasion, let us recommit to ensuring that no one who is in desperate need is turned away from our country's shores.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR.  
CHRISTOPHER J. QUINN

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Christopher J. Quinn on his selection as President-Elect of the American Optometric Association (AOA). Dr. Quinn will be installed as the AOA's 96th President during the 120th Congress of the House of Delegates this year.

Dr. Quinn's long-standing involvement with the AOA exemplifies his dedication to the association and the greater medical community. He has served on the Board of Trustees since 2008 and is a liaison trustee to the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education and the American Academy of Optometry. Throughout his career, Dr. Quinn has also been a member of the AOA Federal Relations Committee, the AOA State Government Relations Committee, and has also served as an AOA representative to the American Medical Association's Resource Based Relative Value Upstate Committee—Health Care Professionals Advisory Committee.

In addition to his experience with the AOA, Dr. Quinn is past president of the New Jersey Society of Optometric Physicians, a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and is an adjunct professor at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, State University of New York, New England College of Optometry, University of California at Berkeley and The Ohio State University. He is also the owner and president of Omni Eye Services in New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Dr. Quinn as President-Elect of the American Optometric Association and thanking him for his commitment to his patients and the field of optometry.

NATIONAL REPUBLIC DAY OF  
AZERBAIJAN

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Republic Day of Azerbaijan commemorating Azerbaijan's 99th year of independence and democracy. In 1918, Azerbaijan became the first democratic and secular Muslim country in the world. However, in 1920, the country was absorbed into the Soviet Union. After seven decades, Azerbaijan prevailed over the forces of communism to restore the country's independence in 1991, following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Azerbaijan's National Republic Day highlights the nation's significant contributions to global stability, and religious tolerance.

As an unwavering U.S. ally, Azerbaijan has provided vital resources for U.S. and NATO forces and fought side-by-side with U.S. troops in Afghanistan. The United States is grateful for Azerbaijan's security contributions in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Iraq as well as the country's commitment to global nonproliferation efforts.

As a tolerant and secular Muslim-majority nation, Azerbaijan is dedicated to religious pluralism and ensuring the right of religious freedom. Azerbaijan is home to a thriving Jewish community and since the early 1990s, bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Israel have grown in the fields of intelligence sharing, security coordination and economic development.

I commend Azerbaijan for their participation in the international community as a member of the United Nations (UN), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Azerbaijan is a strong partner of the United States in a strategically important and complex region of the world. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Azerbaijani people on their National Republic Day.

RECOGNIZING "MARY A. WHALEN"

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the launch of the NYC Ferry South Brooklyn route, I rise to recognize the 79th birthday of the tanker *Mary A. Whalen* (The *Mary*).

The *Mary* was launched in May of 1938, and now serves as a vital community landmark and asset in Red Hook, Brooklyn. As home to PortSide NewYork, a nonprofit organization, the tanker is a vessel for arts, education and vocational programs as well as public access to the waterfront.

By recognizing the importance of a life of continued learning, PortSide NewYork developed Red Hook WaterStories. As a digital museum, WaterStories is a resource for both locals and visitors to learn about the history and present of the Red Hook Waterfront.

PortSide NewYork received a 2013 Champions of Change White House Award for their Superstorm Sandy preparations that protected the *Mary* followed by creating a pop-up aid station to ensure recovery efforts for the community after the storm.

The *Mary* is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is the only oil tanker cultural center in the world. On June 1, 2017, the NYC Ferry will make its maiden journey to Red Hook, pulling up right beside the *Mary*.

I applaud PortSide NewYork for their dedication to serving the communities ashore and afloat, the Red Hook community and the maritime community of this port. On this joyful day, I wish them many more years of continued learning and success.

MARK GALLAGHER'S ENDURING  
LEGACY

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Gallagher family will lay to rest a beloved husband, father, brother, grandfather and great grandfather—Mark Gallagher.

I worked with Mark for many years in his capacity as the key U.S. Conference of Catholic

Bishops lobbyist for the poor and unborn. Mark was a quiet but extraordinarily powerful force. While the full reach of his impactful life can only be known to God, those of us who were blessed to know him witnessed the many ways his persevering work made a positive difference for the lives of the weakest and most vulnerable.

First hired by the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment in 1974, Mark formally took up the cause just one year after *Roe v. Wade* stripped the unborn child of all legal protection. He eventually represented the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as their lead lobbyist until his retirement in 2007. Over the course of those three decades, Mark played an integral role in every pro-life effort in Congress.

He educated an entire generation of lawmakers on the arguments for protecting the unborn, at a time when few others could be found on Capitol Hill with this expertise.

Mark's skillfulness and serene demeanor was critical to the enactment of and defense of the Hyde amendment—the landmark amendment preventing federal funding of abortion that has saved the lives of at least two million people. Two million people who have been aborted instead survived because public funds were unavailable to effectuate their violent demise.

Mark was as concerned about the plight of women facing an unplanned pregnancy as he was about their unborn children. A former worker for U.S. anti-poverty programs like Catholic Charities, he was happy to take part in efforts to pass the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Refundable Child Tax Credit.

A brilliant strategist for the causes he served, Mark was always selfless and self-effacing. Thanks to Mark's mastery of intricate details of the rules of Congress, all the legislative recommendations of the Meese Report, i.e. the Attorney General's commission to combat pornography, were enacted into law.

Beyond living out a Christ-like care for the vulnerable in the political realm, Mark also labored for souls, becoming a permanent deacon in the Catholic Church in 1996.

Someday soon, America will protect the weakest and most vulnerable. And into eternity Mark Gallagher played a critical part in this all-important human rights struggle. We are grateful for the gift of his life and pray for his family in their time of grief.

INTRODUCTION OF A JOINT RESOLUTION  
COMMEMORATING THE  
BRAVERY OF RICK BEST,  
TALIESIN MYRDDIN NAMKAI-MECHE,  
AND MICAH DAVID-COLE  
FLETCHER

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I, with Representatives SUZANNE BONAMICI, PETER DEFAZIO, KURT SCHRADER, and GREG WALDEN and the support of Sens. WYDEN and MERKLEY, am introducing a resolution commemorating the bravery of Rick Best, Taliesin Myrddin Namkai-Meche, and Micah David-Cole Fletcher. These courageous heroes