

HONORING MR. MARTIN J.  
MARASCO

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2009*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Mr. Martin J. Marasco. As this year's recipient of the Penn's Woods Council Boy Scouts of America's Distinguished Citizen Award, Marty has shown exemplary performance as a businessman, a community leader, a philanthropist, and a role model.

Through his 39 years affiliation with the Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation, Marty has worked at developing and delivering purposeful and creative programs and services involving all aspects of the economic development process to his community. He is responsible for much of the industrial and commercial economic expansion that has been crucial to Blair County's growth and development.

Marty's experiences in all facets of economic development have enabled him to be successful in his dealings with local, state, and federal agencies as well as commercial and industrial clients. His ability to capitalize on both public and private financing vehicles has led to the creation and preservation of 17,580 jobs, and serves to demonstrate how good business sense and strong work ethic can benefit the individual as well as the community.

The diverse background and numerous accomplishments Marty has spent a lifetime working toward have allowed him to be extremely active in his community. He is Past Chair and Member of the Pastoral Council at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, as well as a Member and Vice Chairman of the Executive Roundtable of Blair County. Always supportive of community sports activities, Marty coached instructional level through elementary basketball for 25 years. He also served, for 8 years, as the treasurer and coach for the Altoona Little League baseball program.

As a family man, Marty has been a husband to his wife Carol for nearly 42 years; he is a father to eight children, and a grandfather to thirteen grandchildren. Marty's efforts and accomplishments serve to exemplify great service to self, family, and community. For these reasons I commend those who have seen fit to honor Marty with this year's Distinguished Citizen Award, and I too recognize and congratulate Marty Marasco for all he has done.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT D. WEXLER,  
PH.D

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2009*

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my friend, Robert D. Wexler, on the occasion of his thirty years of service to the American Jewish University (AJU), and particularly his service as president for the past seventeen years.

During the first decade of his presidency at AJU, Dr. Wexler launched three major initia-

tives which promote education, understanding and peace: the Ziegler School for Rabbinic Studies, the Center for Israel Studies, and the Ziering Institute. Under his leadership, AJU started its Community Partners Initiative in which the university reaches out to the many ethnic and religious communities of Los Angeles. He has helped AJU's Whizin Center for Continuing Education become the largest Jewish adult education program in the United States with more than 15,000 participants each year.

In addition to his work at the American Jewish University, Dr. Wexler has served in many community leadership roles. He chaired the Los Angeles Federation's Commission on Israelis and the Committee on Jewish Education. He has also published several articles, including contributions to the Encyclopedia Judaica, the Etz Hayim commentary on the Torah, and a volume entitled Israel, the Diaspora and Jewish Identity.

Born in Los Angeles, Dr. Wexler received his B.A. in Sociology from UCLA, and was ordained as a rabbi at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York where he also earned a Master of Arts degree in Hebrew Literature. While enrolled in rabbinical school, Dr. Wexler also earned his M.B.A. from Baruch College in New York City. Following his ordination, he spent a year on the faculty of Princeton University, teaching in the Department of Middle East Studies. Dr. Wexler later earned both a Master of Arts degree and a Ph.D. from UCLA in the Department of Near Eastern Languages.

Dr. Wexler is included every year in Newsweek's list of America's 50 most influential rabbis, ranking number three in 2008. He has also been included on the Forward's list of the 50 most significant American Jewish leaders.

Dr. Wexler is married to Dr. Hana Wexler, the Director of the Wadsworth Anaerobe Laboratory at the Veteran's Administration in West Los Angeles. They have four children: Daniella, Elisheva, Zev and Nili.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in saluting Robert D. Wexler for his impressive career and dedication to the community and the American Jewish University, and to congratulate him on the occasion of his thirty years of service.

JESSICA KALIN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jessica Kalin who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jessica Kalin is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jessica Kalin is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Jessica Kalin for winning the Arvada

Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

HONORING ROBERT HAWKINS ON  
BEING NAMED DEAN OF THE  
CENTRAL TEXAS LABOR COUNCIL  
AFTER 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. CHET EDWARDS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2009*

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a lifelong friend of working families from my hometown Waco, Texas, Robert Hawkins. This week, we celebrate Robert's 50th year of service, and congratulate him on being named Dean of the Central Texas Labor Council.

Prior to his appointment to the Council, he served on the State Job Training Coordinating Council and has held a number of appointments from six Texas Governors. After 30 years of service, Mr. Hawkins retired as the Director of Special Programs at Texas State Technical College in Waco. During his 30 years at the college, he was instrumental in pioneering work in the area of career education and economic development training. He is Chair Emeritus of the Central Texas Economic Development Council and is Chairman Emeritus of the Heart of Texas Economic Development District Board of Directors. He serves his community as a member of the Bellmead City Council and has served four terms as Mayor.

Mr. Hawkins is also a proud member of the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 529, Texas Academy of Science, and the Texas Technical Society. He has served as a member of an Advisory Committee for the Texas Department of Health, on a Senate Advisory Committee for Vocational-Technical Education, as Vice-Chair of the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, and on the President's Council of Youth Opportunity.

Robert is also a true friend to our troops, veterans, and their families. He served in the U.S. Army, the Army National Guard, the Texas State Guard, and the U.S. Army Reserves. He retired with 25 years of combined military service with the rank of Colonel. Robert was attached to the 5th Armored Division, D Battery at Camp Chafee, Arkansas, on September 24, 1957, and participated in the pre-dawn exercises to secure Central High School in Little Rock in preparation for integration of the school. He also taught military courses at the National Guard Professional Education Center and for the Department of Defense.

Robert has received numerous awards for military and public service and humanitarian activities. Among these are the Distinguished Service Award from the Secretary of the Army, the Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal and the Clara Barton Medal from the American Red Cross.

I want to personally thank Robert for his lifetime of service to our community. He is an example of someone who has truly made a positive difference in the lives of others.

## HONORING RALPH AND ROBERT BROWN FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF WOUNDED WARRIORS

### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2009*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two of my constituents, brothers Ralph and Robert Brown. Ralph and Robert will be attempting a 2nd Guinness World Record this summer by sailing non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean from Tampa, Florida to Hamburg, Germany to raise funds for Wounded Warrior Foundations.

In 2007, Ralph and Robert set their first Guinness World Record for the "longest non-stop ocean voyage in a flats boat" traveling from North Carolina to Bermuda and back to New York in a 21-foot open fishing boat of their own design. This voyage garnered a great deal of publicity and convinced the brothers to use this notoriety to raise money for Wounded Warriors Organizations in the future. Ralph and Robert will be using the publicity from their second voyage to raise money for six Wounded Warrior and Disabled Veterans Organizations, having set a goal of \$3 million.

In 1980, former Marine Ralph Brown was placed on the roster to liberate the American Embassy in Iran during the hostage takeover. However, at the last minute Ralph's group was replaced by another group of soldiers, out of which three men were killed. Mr. Brown and his brother have since dedicated their lives to honoring the lives of these three soldiers and their many other brave countrymen.

Madam Speaker, Ralph and Robert Brown truly are doing more than just saying "thanks," by raising money and awareness for our nation's wounded warriors. And they are doing so in one of the most original manners possible.

## CONGRATULATING DONEISHA BROWN

### HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2009*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, this evening the Michelle Mitzvah Group and the Beth Haverim Shir Shalom Temple of Mahwah will bestow their LeBron-Michelle Mitzvah Scholarship upon an outstanding young woman, Doneisha Brown. Doneisha is a graduating senior at Eastside High School in Paterson, NJ, where she is ranked in the top 5 percent of her class. During her time at Eastside, Doneisha was active in the PEER Leadership Program, a student-run organization that helps incoming freshmen acclimate to a high school setting. PEER seeks to create a positive, reaffirming community by creating small support groups that cut across class divides, and by standing up against physical, emotional, and psychological bullying. Along with contributing to this very important organization, Doneisha is a scholar athlete, having competed in track and field and girl's softball.

The Michelle Mitzvah Group was founded by Marc Applebaum as a living memorial to

his daughter Michelle, who succumbed to leukemia. The Michelle Mitzvah Group seeks to practice the Jewish covenant of Mitzvah through "hands-on projects," such as ministering at children's hospitals, food banks, and homeless shelters. The Group also raises money for charities, sponsors blood drives, and collects items for our wounded veterans. Three years ago, Nathan LeBron partnered with the Michelle Mitzvah Group to form the LeBron-Michelle Mitzvah Scholarship Fund. Nathan is a cancer survivor who grew up in a dysfunctional home and was mentored by Marc Applebaum. With the love and support of individuals such as Marc, Nathan went on to graduate from SUNY Albany and Harvard University. Nathan formed the LeBron-Michelle Mitzvah Scholarship Fund to help other promising-yet-disadvantaged youths in receiving the help and guidance they require to go on to college or technical school.

Doneisha Brown is an exceptional student and role model for her peers. I am proud of her accomplishments, and expect great things from her as she continues her education. I am also proud of the Michelle Mitzvah Group and Beth Haverim Shir Shalom Temple on helping make a college education possible for Ms. Brown. Through this scholarship and countless other acts of selfless service, the individuals involved have made their community a better place. I wish all the very best in the coming years.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2009*

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Thursday, May 21, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of Rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: Rollcall 289—"yea"; Rollcall 290—"yea"; Rollcall 291—"nay".

## YARITZA HUERTA

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Yaritza Huerta, who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Yaritza Huerta is a senior at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Yaritza Huerta is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Yaritza Huerta for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career in her future accomplishments.

## HONORING MR. AND MRS. WALLY AND MARY GROTZ ON THEIR 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

### HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2009*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. and Mrs. Wally and Mary Grotz of Delano, Minnesota, on the occasion of their sixtieth wedding anniversary. For the last sixty years, they have raised four children and lived in the homestead Wally built while the town of Delano grew into a city. But this is no ordinary couple; they are some of America's "Greatest Generation" and both have tremendous wisdom to share from their personal histories.

Wally was a B-24 bomber pilot during World War II and at one point served under American film legend, Jimmy Stewart. But Wally's story goes much deeper. He was shot down over Germany in 1944 and taken as a Prisoner of War until May of 1945. When he returned home he found a job at the local post office where he worked for 34 years, serving as Postmaster for 16 years.

Mary spent her time working for Minnesota-based food producer, General Mills. Her job was as unique as she is; she answered cooking and baking questions as Betty Crocker, the General Mills kitchen icon. She still remains active in her church and the Delano community today.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Wally and Mary Grotz. Their accomplishments as individuals and dedicated citizens would be enough to warrant recognition, but the love and devotion they have shown to one another sweetens their story as American heroes. I wish them a happiest anniversary and another sixty years together!

## IN HONOR OF GERALD OEHLER, M.D.

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2009*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, for more than 50 years, Dr. Gerald Oehler has dedicated his life and his work to the care and well being of his patients. Born January 29, 1933 in Harvey, North Dakota, Dr. Oehler's well rounded medical education came from Kansas University Medical Center, where he was trained in several specialties and gained the broad-based knowledge that would become his hallmark. Graduating from medical school in 1958, Dr. Oehler put his skills to work for his country, enjoying a distinguished career in the United States Navy.

Named to the staff at Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System in 1966 and Board Certified in 1973, Dr. Oehler's practice was dedicated to the entire patient. In his four decades at Salinas Valley Memorial, his surgical and family practice touched the lives of thousands in the Salinas Valley and Monterey Peninsula. Dr. Oehler's specialty was the patient, his practice in the operating room, at bedside or in his medical office. Regardless of the location, his knowledge and experience touched and saved lives.