

This year's Health Services Award winner is Barbara Tofani of Hillsborough, where she currently works as a registered nurse.

Since 2005, Barbara has been the director of the Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center in Raritan Township.

As director of The Center for Nursing and Health Careers from 2001–05, she was responsible for developing and implementing a strategic plan to address the health care workforce shortage in New Jersey.

I am pleased to congratulate Barbara Tofani for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

SUPPORTING ARKANSAS FIREFIGHTERS

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of America's firefighters.

Not a day goes by that I don't read or hear a story of the dangers and sacrifices our firefighters face to protect us. We are so blessed to have such great men and women who are dedicated to ensuring our safety.

The work that they do in our communities is an important job that requires our commitment to help provide funds for resources and training that enables them to perform their jobs as best as they can. I have been proud to support Arkansas's firefighters in the past by helping to secure grant funding and that work will continue.

Last year when the barracks at Fort Chaffee caught fire, our firefighters braved high winds to contain the fire and protect our communities. That blaze required the help of numerous firefighters including men and women who volunteer their time to help keep us out of harm's way.

According to the National Volunteer Fire Council, the biggest challenges facing volunteer fire departments and emergency services are retention and recruitment. We can help ease those hurdles with new legislation that offers incentives to those who are at the forefront of fires. The Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Act and the Volunteer Firefighter/EMS Gas Price Relief Act show our appreciation for the work that is imperative to protecting our rural communities.

Firefighters put their lives on the line for their fellow citizens, and my appreciation for these Americans who help protect us is immeasurable. I urge the House Committee on Ways and Means to consider these bills, and for Congress to offer more support to all of the men and women who serve our communities with such valor.

RECOGNIZING NEW SOURCE BROADBAND COMPANY ON THEIR GRAND OPENING AND RIBBON CUTTING

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize New Source

Broadband for their far-sighted provision of high speed Internet services to rural areas.

New Source Broadband Company is a pioneer in the high speed Internet industry as they are reaching customers that larger companies have deemed unprofitable. This company has earned my respect for remembering that rural communities should not be left behind in the Information Age. Farmers, ranchers, lake-area inhabitants, and other country dwellers now have immediate access to online communities and knowledge databases thanks to the innovation and concern of this company. New Source Broadband Company will be opening their third office and continues to expand their service capacity to rural areas.

Madam Speaker, I commend the management and employees of New Source Broadband Company for the positive professional contribution they have made to rural communities, notably constituents within the Twenty-Sixth District of Texas. I warmly congratulate New Source Broadband Company upon the opening of their third store and wish them continued business growth.

HONORING CELE PETERSON ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to pay tribute today to Cele Peterson, a resident of Tucson, Arizona who on March 14, 2009, celebrates her 100 birthday.

Ms. Peterson is the founder and owner of a dress store that has been an integral part of the Tucson business community for generations. But to call Ms. Peterson a dressmaker or even a businesswoman fails to capture how important this woman is to countless Southern Arizonans who have been touched by her kindness and good works.

It is impossible to imagine what Tucson would be like without Ms. Peterson's presence over these many years. Through her hard work and generosity, she helped define and shape our city. Her caring spirit and actions are an inspiration to all of us.

Our world today is very different from the one Ms. Peterson entered 100 years ago, on March 14, 1909. Then, much of Europe was still ruled by kings and queens. A czar presided over Russia, a sultan based in Constantinople dominated the Middle East, and William Howard Taft occupied the White House. In 1909 the first Lincoln-head penny went into circulation, the Wright Brothers delivered the first military plane to the army, and two American explorers, Robert Peary and Matthew Hansen, declared they were the first to reach the North Pole.

The year Ms. Peterson was born saw the U.S. Navy open a new base at Pearl Harbor, a Ford Model T win the first transcontinental motorcar race, Sir Thomas Lipton begin packing tea in New York, and the White Star Line start construction of the *Titanic*. It was the year Barry Goldwater, Errol Flynn and Douglas Fairbanks were born and the year the artist Frederic Remington and the Apache leader Geronimo died.

Ms. Peterson's life-long connection to Arizona began when the State of Arizona was

born, in 1912. As a three-year old girl she moved with her family to Bisbee, then a thriving mining town. The population of the entire state in 1912 was around 200,000. Tucson had 14,000 residents and Phoenix—now the fifth largest city in the United States—had a population of 11,000. The Mexican Revolution had begun two years earlier and Ms. Peterson recalls climbing the hills around Bisbee to watch the revolution take place on the other side of the border.

When Ms. Peterson launched her business in 1930, our country was at the threshold of the Great Depression and it was not long before her two business partners backed out of the venture. Ms. Peterson, however, did not give up. She stuck to it and not only survived, but thrived.

For nearly 80 years, Ms. Peterson's merchandise and designs have been at the forefront of the fashion world. Her business has endured decades of ever-changing trends and economic ups and downs.

Today, Cele Peterson's retail store is still going strong in Tucson. Her daughters are managing the business but Cele still comes to the store to greet customers and make sure that her tradition of great service is maintained. Over the years, Ms. Peterson has dressed an untold number of women from all walks of life. Among them are a host of well-known celebrities, such as Elizabeth Taylor and Lady Astor.

Ms. Peterson's accomplishments go far beyond the realm of hems, pleats and necklines. She is a greatly admired and dynamic civic leader who has had a hand in the establishment of some Tucson's finest community organizations. She helped found the Arizona Theatre Company, the Arizona Opera Company, the Tucson Children's Museum and, perhaps most significantly, Casa de los Niños. Casa de los Niños' mission is to support children and families to both prevent child abuse and treat children who are victims of abuse. When the unmet needs of abused children were brought to her attention, Ms. Peterson offered up a three-bedroom house so that the new organization could begin its work. When it opened in 1973, it was the first shelter of its kind in the country.

As Tucson celebrates the 100th birthday of Cele Peterson, it is worth noting that 2009 also marks the centennial of the birth of Wallace Stegner. This great writer of the American West once noted that "creation is a knack which is empowered by practice, and like almost any skill, it is lost if you don't practice it."

Cele Peterson never stopped practicing her knack for creation and in the process she helped build a caring community. For all that she has done we owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude.

Thank you Cele for setting such a fine example of citizenship for all of us to follow.

Happy Birthday to you!

SENDING THE WRONG MESSAGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with our colleagues an editorial from