

I extend my deepest congratulations to Cristina Meraz 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 her future accomplishments.

NORTH HOLLYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL  
2012—U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EN-  
ERGY NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to North Hollywood High School on the occasion of advancing to the U.S. Department of Energy's National Science Bowl competition.

Under the leadership of Coach Altair Maine, North Hollywood High School students Rain Tsong, Daniel Bork, Vivek Banerjee, Kennedy Agwamba, and Chiyoun Kim have proven their knowledge and skill by winning the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's 20th Annual Science Bowl Regional Competition. As regional champions, North Hollywood High School is advancing to a field of 69 regional high school championship teams from 40 States. This annual competition provides these commendable young scholars the opportunity to compete in an academically challenging environment that focuses on the principles of mathematics and science.

Now the Nation's largest high school science-based academic tournament, the National Science Bowl underscores the importance of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education. This provides a pathway to encourage America's bright young scholars to enter the fields of mathematics and science. As we progress further into this decade, it is becoming increasingly clear that our economy's future will be technology-based. STEM education produces critical thinkers and facilitates the next generation of innovators. This represents the very fabric of American ingenuity. Through STEM education, America will remain a pioneer in science and technology, ensuring our global competitiveness for years to come.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in saluting North Hollywood High School and all of the regional champion teams at the National Science Bowl for contributing to a truly excellent educational event that will spark further interest in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for young Americans.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN FORTIN

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of John "Jack" Fortin, who passed away on April 20, 2012. Jack and I coached football together at St. Thomas More High School in West Philadelphia in the 1970s.

From his start as a truck driver for 7Up, Mr. Fortin became one of our nation's greatest en-

trepreneurs. He bought a small chemical manufacturing company in North Philadelphia that had about \$150,000 in revenue and three employees in 1975 and built it into Haas Group International, a company with 1,300 employees and revenues of \$560 million that does business in more than 75 countries around the world.

Mr. Fortin, known as Jack, grew up in Southwest Philadelphia. He took on his first job at age 8 delivering alcohol for his uncle during Prohibition.

He attended John Bartram High School and played second base on Bartram's championship baseball team in 1941.

After graduating from high school in 1942, Mr. Fortin joined the Navy that July. As a radioman second class, he spent his active duty in the Pacific and was in Nagasaki, Japan, two weeks after the atomic bomb was dropped. He earned two medals before his discharge in 1945.

After the war he drove a truck for 7Up, where he met his future wife, Maria, who was the switchboard operator. He then got a job with Quaker Chemical in 1957. Eighteen years later he bought Haas Chemical. He retired in 2000, and in 2007 his family sold the business to the Jordan Co., a private equity firm.

Mr. Fortin was a lifelong sports fan and spent more than 20 years coaching youth and CYO football. His last stop was as assistant varsity coach and head freshman coach at St. Thomas More High School in West Philadelphia until it closed in 1975.

During his lifetime, Mr. Fortin received many awards and commendations for his contributions to youth sports but perhaps his greatest thrills in sport were leading all hitters at the age of 62 at Phillies Dream Week in 1985 and receiving the Matt Guokas Sr. Memorial Award from the Philadelphia Basketball Old Timers Association.

Together with Jack's family and friends, I mourn his passing but celebrate his life.

IN HONOR OF TERESA MURACO

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th birthday of a very special woman from my district, Teresa Muraco of Grosvenordale, Connecticut. Teresa is beloved by her community for her unflinching commitment to helping those in need.

A lifelong resident of the Second District of Connecticut, Ms. Muraco graduated from Tourtellotte Memorial High School with the Class of 1940. From there, she went on to hold several local jobs, working in the spinning department of a Grosvenordale mill. She also spent 15 years in the Putnam Superior Court in the family services office.

Although her factory days are behind her, Teresa Muraco very much remains active. By her own estimate, she spends about 10 to 12 hours each week volunteering. She belongs to three different fire auxiliaries, where she helps out at barbecues and suppers. Ms. Muraco is also an active member of St. Joseph Church in North Grosvenordale, helping out at their thrift shop once a month.

Teresa Muraco was named Thompson Volunteer of the Year in 2011 and Citizen of the

Year by the Thompson VFW for her dedication to the town and its veterans. I ask my colleagues to join with me in wishing Teresa Muraco a happy birthday and applauding her tireless efforts to better her community.

DARLENE CHAVEZ

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Darlene Chavez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Darlene Chavez is a 7th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Darlene Chavez 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 Darlene Chavez 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 her future accomplishments.

H.R. 4257, FEDERAL INFORMATION  
SECURITY AMENDMENTS ACT OF  
2012

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, as a co-sponsor of the Federal Information Security Amendments Act of 2012, I rise to commend Chairman ISSA and Ranking Member CUMMINGS and the members of the House Government Oversight Committee for their bipartisan efforts in crafting this thoughtful and timely piece of legislation.

This bill is necessary because there has been an increasing number of cyber-attacks against federal information systems, including incidents in which operations were disrupted or sensitive data placed at risk. Among the number of notable security breaches in 2011 were cyber-attacks at the Pentagon, the Oak Ridge Laboratory and the Veterans Administration. According to the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team, the number of cyber-incidents reported in 2010 totaled more than 107,000. The number of federal-only incidents was up 39 percent compared with 2009, at nearly 42,000 incidents.

This act is intended to help arrest and reverse this troubling trend by ensuring that federal agencies use risk-based approaches to defend against cyber-attacks and to protect government information from unauthorized access.

By shifting the federal government to a system of continuous monitoring of information systems and streamlining reporting requirements, the bill addresses concerns that

FISMA, in its current form, places too great an emphasis on compliance over outcomes.

The bill requires OMB to oversee agency policies and develop information security protections consistent with standards issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and OMB would have to report to Congress annually on agency compliance.

Additionally, each agency would be required to provide protections that are commensurate with the risks posed to the security of the agency's information. The head of each agency would be required to appoint a Chief Information Security Officer responsible for developing and implementing an information security program and the bill mandates that each agency develop and implement an information security program that is approved by OMB.

Mr. Speaker, as a leading employer in the U.S., the federal government has a special responsibility to ensure that the electronic points of entry it maintains with Americans and with the world are protected from unauthorized access and disruption.

The common sense and necessary legislation before us today is an important step in that direction. I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of the bill.

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, this week, we joined people in the State of Israel and her many friends around the world in celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut—the independence from British mandatory rule and the establishment of the State of Israel.

The United States and Israel have shared a special bond since the establishment of the Jewish State in 1948. The United States, under the leadership of then-President Truman, was the first country to recognize Israel, only 11 minutes after its founding. Today, the United States and Israel continue to share a commitment to democracy, the rule of law, the freedoms of religion and speech, as well as respect for human rights. The United States and Israel also share a desire for peace and stability.

Our countries cooperate closely on intelligence issues, partnering on the development of new technology to promote the security and safety of our citizens. Bilateral ties in trade were codified in the 1985 U.S.-Israel Free Trade Agreement. Today, the American and Israeli governments and businesses are working together to develop and promote new energy solutions.

The Jewish people paid a heavy price for security and independence. Nearly 23,000 men and women have been killed defending Israel since the first Jewish settlers left the secure walls of Jerusalem in 1860. Since the end of the War of Independence, nearly 2,500 people have been killed by terror attacks in Israel, including 14 in the past year.

Today, despite disturbing political instability in the region, Israel stands strong. She is among the safest countries in the world, her economy is sound, life expectancy there is among the highest in the world, and more Israelis earn advanced degrees than most

other nations. And, at a time when our own country is challenged by polarizing politics, an astounding 88 percent of Israelis say they are proud to be Israeli.

I want to extend my best wishes to the people of Israel as we celebrate Israel's extraordinary friendship and honor her achievements over the past 64 years.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LA VERNIA IN TEXAS, HAROLD SCHOTT

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retiring Mayor of the City of La Vernia in Texas, Harold Schott. He was elected Mayor of the City of La Vernia in May 2008 and ends his tenure in May 2012. His tireless efforts have improved the community and served to better the development and progress of the City of La Vernia.

Mr. Schott was born in Castroville, Texas and grew up in San Antonio, Texas where he graduated from the Central Catholic High School. At twenty-five years old, he joined the San Antonio Police Department in 1970. In his duration with the department, he was a Police Department Union Representative for his substation. After 33 years of dedication and service, he retired from the Police Department in 2003. His work with the City of La Vernia began in 1998 when he was elected to the La Vernia City Council and held his position as a council member for a decade. By May 2008, he was elected Mayor of the City of La Vernia. I had the pleasure of working with the Mayor on various projects, such as securing a \$500,000 earmark on a new water well and assistance for a grant that brought a new energy efficient roof for City Hall.

His work as Mayor led to a list of accomplishments that benefited the city and people of La Vernia, including new pumps and vault at Wood Creek water plant, TMRS Retirement plans for employees, and residential water meter replacement. Additionally, he increased safety and protections by reducing speed limits at the city limits and developed emergency response plans for water and wastewater systems. His actions were for the betterment of the community and commendable.

Along with serving the city, he sat on the Canyon Regional Water Authority Board of Trustees from 2004 through 2012. He has been married to his wife, Lucy, who has served as a U.S. Marshal for 17 years. The couple has two children and one grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Harold Schott, retiring Mayor of the City of La Vernia. His years of dedication and commitment to our community have truly impacted the quality of lives for the people of the city.

CARLOS DELACERDA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Carlos

DeLaCerde for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Carlos DeLaCerde is a 10th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Carlos DeLaCerde 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 Carlos DeLaCerde for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE 64TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF ISRAEL

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with a strong spirit of solidarity that I recognize the 64th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel. On May 14, 1948, as the world was working toward a brighter and less war-torn future, the Israeli people declared their independence from the British Mandate. The United States recognized the new State of Israel minutes after its birth and, ever since, our two nations have remained strong allies and profound friends.

During its 64 year history, the State of Israel has weathered persistent threats with a remarkable resolve. The nation has not only survived, but has prospered. While ensuring the security of her people, Israel has maintained a firm commitment to democracy. We in the United States are fortunate to have Israel as an unshakeable ally in the Middle East. On this anniversary of independence, we should reflect upon the endurance of that alliance and renew its promises for future generations.

I further recognize the importance of fostering our alliance with mutual cooperation. The second ten-year Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and Israel, which was signed in 2007, has established a fruitful security agreement that has served both of our nations well. A later Memorandum in 2009 further strengthened our joint commitment to counter-terrorism by pledging our mutual assistance to stop the supply of arms to terrorist organizations. It is strategic landmarks like these that help support the lasting bond that we have established with the Israeli state and people.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the 64th anniversary of the State of Israel. I am proud of the historic relationship that the United States has with Israel and look forward to the future of our friendship.