

side by side, and who share the same level of risk. I encourage my colleagues to join me and Mr. McHUGH in co-sponsoring, the Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act. The valiant officers who protect us deserve no less.

IN TRIBUTE TO JEWEL PEDI

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 2009*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to my longtime friend Jewel PEDI, a person of enormous intelligence and drive, who is retiring at the tender age of 83 to spend well-earned time with her family.

More than 30 years ago, Jewel founded FOOD Share with a small group of like-minded members of the Ventura County, CA, community. The structure she built should ensure its survival for many years to come.

Jewel's dedication comes from a compassion rooted in her faith. That faith led her to work 3 years with state lawmakers on farm bills; to build coalitions with some 200 other non-profit agencies; and to step up to help those in need during the Northridge earthquake, southern California's numerous wildfires, the La Conchita landslide, and hurricanes across the Nation.

Along the way she has been honored with the American Red Cross 4th Annual Clara Barton Award; the city of Ventura Humanitarian of the Year Award; the P.W. Gillibrand Company, Inc., Humanitarian of the Year Award, among others.

Jewel is moving to Bullhead City, AZ, to be closer to her children. While retiring from her current calling, her faith is leading her to another. A pastor, Jewel will perform weddings; and, she said, she will see if another calling awaits her.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join my wife, Janice, and me in thanking Jewel for making Ventura County a stronger and more compassionate community and in wishing her Godspeed in her retirement.

NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH  
HONORS FLORIDA BLOOD SERVICES  
VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

**HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 2009*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, The foundation of our nation is built upon one person helping another in their time of greatest need. This month we honor those volunteers who "Give the Gift of Life" during National Blood Donor Month.

Florida Blood Services, which I have the privilege to represent in St. Petersburg, Florida, provides life-saving blood products for the 14 counties of the Tampa Bay, Northwest Florida and Southern Alabama areas, supplying 61 hospitals and ambulatory care centers. This fine organization also tests and screens blood for 30 East Coast blood centers

and medical facilities from Maine to the north all the way to Puerto Rico to the south.

The heart of Florida Blood Service's operations is its volunteers. Last year, 100,000 blood and platelet donors rolled up their sleeves to donate one pint at a time to save the life of complete strangers near and far away. This includes some remarkable individuals who have made blood donation their passion. Frank Knight, III has donated 96 gallons of blood, Bobbie Bernstein 86 gallons, and my former District Director and now the Vice Mayor of Clearwater, George Cretokos, has donated 36 gallons of blood.

Florida Blood Services has an outstanding staff and Board of Directors that manages donor recruitment, collection, distribution and quality control programs. Don Doddridge is the Chief Executive Officer and this year also serves as President of America's Blood Centers. He has devoted his entire working career to promoting the need for blood donation and to ensure the safety of the procedure and the quality of the products. It has been a pleasure to work with Don and his staff over the years on a number of federal issues related to blood collection. This includes Don's work to focus national attention on ensuring that blood collection is a key part of our nation's disaster contingency planning and that plans are in place to be able to distribute blood products to areas in crisis. He has also seen that Florida Blood Services and other national blood banks are available to provide critical blood products to those serving in uniform here and abroad.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I want to commend Florida Blood Services for instilling in our nation's youth the need to serve others, in this case as blood donors. Through its unique high school leadership program, Florida Blood Services recruits high school students to organize and sponsor blood drives in high schools throughout the four-county Tampa Bay area. It was a real honor for me last April to be asked to speak to its High School Leadership Conference where they brought together more than 400 students who had led efforts in their schools. Together, students at these school-based drives donated 27,000 units of blood.

Madam Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Florida Blood services and their volunteer donors of all ages. Like blood donors all across America, they "Give the Gift of Life" every day to complete strangers out of a sense of service and compassion. We honor all these heroes during this National Blood Donor Month.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK E. SOUDER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 21, 2009*

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 39, and specifically in support of the work being done at St. Charles Borromeo in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

According to the 1972 statement by National Conference of Catholic Bishops: "The educational efforts of the Church, therefore, must

be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives."

Madam Speaker, since its founding the St. Charles Borromeo school has been enriching the lives of individuals across Northeastern Indiana. With its emphasis on the traditions and principles of the Catholic faith, the school seeks to infuse in its students a sense of obligation to their community.

Elementary and Middle School are the early steps many individuals take on their way to academic achievement and lifelong learning. With its focus on math, computer training and science, St. Charles Borromeo equips students with the skills needed to thrive in a 21st century economy. Furthermore, by requiring all seventh and eighth grade students to study a foreign language, the school helps prepare students for the globalized marketplace.

As the mission of St. Charles Borromeo states, "all children deserve a safe, loving, and respectful environment where children and faculty can grow spiritually and academically." Madam Speaker, I second these thoughts and am grateful for the contributions the faculty and staff at St. Borromeo make in the lives of young people. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution and the efforts of Catholic schools across the country.

HONORING REVEREND CLAUDE  
BLACK JUNIOR

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 2009*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today just days after the historic inauguration of our country's 44th President to honor a similarly honorable and trailblazing individual, Reverend Claude Black Jr. of San Antonio. On Sunday, January 18th, 2009, Rev. Black will be honored at Realizing the Dream's second annual Holiday Commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with the organization's Testament of Hope Award. I join the organization in offering my congratulations for all his achievements and contributions to our country.

Born in a segregated San Antonio in 1916, Rev. Black's lifelong commitment to civil rights, justice, and equality is well-deserving of this recognition and honor. From leading marches for civil rights to attending the White House's Conference on Civil Rights in 1966 with President Lyndon Johnson, he has always been at the forefront of the fight for equality. And as the first African American Mayor Pro Tem of San Antonio in 1974, he paved the way for future African Americans to seek elected office and rightfully participate in our democracy.

Rev. Black is a hero and inspiration to all Americans. His efforts to better our society are not only worthy of this recognition but also our sincere gratitude. I am honored to call him a constituent, congratulate him for this recognition, and thank him for all he has done on behalf our community and our country.

LET DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
AND CIVILIAN POLICE COORDI-  
NATE

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 2009*

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I recently introduced the Department of Defense and Civilian Law Enforcement Coordination Act of 2009 (H.R. 675). My bill would amend federal law to permit Department of Defense law enforcement officers to better coordinate and cooperate with civilian law enforcement agencies. I drafted this legislation in cooperation with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) because many DOD law enforcement officers in my district have informed me that they are prohibited from basic coordination and cooperation with civilian agencies near DOD facilities. We need to ensure that federal, state, and local law enforcement are able to work together to apprehend criminals and to prevent and solve crimes. I hope that my colleagues will join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation.

CONGRATULATING THE GRAM-  
BLING STATE UNIVERSITY FOOT-  
BALL TEAM

**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 2009*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Grambling State University (GSU) Tiger Football Team for becoming the State Farm Bayou Classic Champions, the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Champions and the Sheridan National Black College Champions for 2008.

By defeating Southern University 29–14 in the 35th Annual State Farm Bayou Classic on November 29, GSU won the SWAC West Division and earned the opportunity to meet Jackson State University (JSU) in the SWAC Championship Game. This battle provided the Tigers a rematch against the victors of last year's game.

On December 13, GSU secured their 10th consecutive win of the 2008 football season, making the Tigers the new champs of this competitive conference. This win marked the Tigers 22nd time to capture the SWAC Football Championship. In addition, GSU head coach Ron Broadway was named the SWAC Coach of the Year.

Shortly following this victory, the Tigers were crowned the Sheridan National Black College Champions—marking their 14th time to win this national title in the school's history. This outstanding recognition is the second earned by Broadway in three years.

The Tigers finished the season with an impressive 11–2 record—matching the record of the 2005 GSU Football Team, which also earned these titles.

I would like to recognize the accomplishments of the players, coaches, students and staff that were instrumental in these triumphs.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2008 GSU Tiger Football Team for all of their successes achieved during this season.

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS  
OF THE PILOT, CREW, AND RES-  
CUERS OF US AIRWAYS FLIGHT  
1549

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 26, 2009*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 84, legislation to honor the heroic efforts of Flight 1549's Captain Chesley B. Sullenberger III, his flight crew, the First Responders and private citizens that prevented a catastrophic engine failure on a commercial aircraft from resulting in a single loss of life.

Just five minutes after lifting off on January 15, 2009, Captain Sullenberger's aircraft was struck by a flock of birds, resulting in the loss of two of his engines. The instant those engines failed, Captain Sullenberger, his crew, the passengers entrusted to his care, and residents of the 9th Congressional District of New Jersey who were in the plane's potential flight path were at grave risk. And yet, rather than give in to panic, Captain Sullenberger wrestled his damaged aircraft into a controlled water landing—an act described in the Wall Street Journal as “one of the rarest and most technically challenging feats in commercial aviation.”

When his plane hit the water Captain Sullenberger and his flight crew—including First Officer Jeffrey Sikes and Flight Attendants Doreen Welsh, Donna Dent, and Sheila Dail—worked quickly and calmly to evacuate their passengers, not stopping until every man, woman and child was out of harm's way. Outside, they were aided by a growing flotilla not just of Coast Guard and police boats, but civilian ferries as well.

Once Flight 1549 was emptied of passengers, Captain Sullenberger walked up and down the aisles of the sinking aircraft twice, only exiting when he was absolutely certain that he had discharged his duty to completely evacuate the plane. His grace under pressure, as well as that of the rescue workers and flight crew, ensured that an emergency in the air did not become a disaster on the ground.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 84. The courage, level-headed professionalism and sheer heroism of the Captain and crew of Flight 1549 are an inspiration to all Americans.

HONORING DEBRA JORDAN

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 2009*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to mark the passing of a true champion for the working families of eastern Connecticut. Debra Jordan of Plainfield, beloved daughter, wife and mother, passed away on January 25, 2009 after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Debra was a consummate professional who cared deeply about the rights of working men and women. She was an active member of UNITE HERE, serving as local 217's sec-

retary-treasurer for more than 15 years. She fought tirelessly for the people with whom she worked, always believing that no matter what one's station in life might be, that everyone deserved to be treated fairly and justly.

Although her professional career was marked by her commitment to working families, it was the love of her own family that defined her life. Whether it was caring for her grandson Lucien Dube, or at the track watching her son Tim race, anyone who knew Debra could tell you that these were the moments that brought joy to her life and that great smile to her face. While we lament her passing, we know that her memory will live on in her beloved family, including her husband Patrick, to whom she was married for 25 years.

This has been a trying week for those of us who had the privilege to call Debra our friend. She left us too early, but as we grieve her we must remember the joy that she brought to the lives of all she touched. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of Debra Jordan.

HONORING PURPLE HEART  
RECIPIENT FRANCIS J. SEYFRIED

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 2009*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero and Purple Heart recipient, Mr. Francis J. Seyfried. A proud member of our Nation's military during World War II, Staff Sergeant Seyfried was killed over the North Atlantic when his plane evaded enemy fire, crashed into another aircraft, and his parachute landed in the frigid Atlantic waters below.

Born on November 22, 1921 in Brooklyn, New York, Mr. Seyfried joined the Army Air Corps on January 30, 1943. Stationed in Europe, he and his fellow soldiers were assigned to perform bombing runs over enemy lines. It was during his 43rd such attack on December 31, 1944 that Mr. Seyfried lost his life in battle.

Commonly known as the Piggyback incident, the midair collision of two military planes caused a sensation amongst military members at the time. Returning from a bombing run over Hamburg, Germany, Staff Sergeant Seyfried's aircraft was evading enemy fire when his plane collided with another Allied aircraft. The two planes stuck together, with the engine of one plane dug completely into the engine of the other. Instead of separating and crashing separately, the two planes continued flying together in piggyback fashion. While ten of the crew members from the two planes did manage to escape safely, Staff Sergeant Seyfried was lost in the frigid North Atlantic waters off the German coast.

Madam Speaker, soldiers like Francis J. Seyfried should be recognized for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to present Mr. Seyfried's family with his long overdue Purple Heart. While he has passed on from this life, his family, friends and loved ones should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.