

over the next eight years. The center added a Mobile Outreach Program to take food, clothing, offers of shelter and words of hope to women on the street. In 1988, the center's Belmont Avenue shelter expanded to provide transitional housing for 30 single homeless women, and four years later, the center established a transitional residence serving nine mothers and 20 children in an old Craftsman house.

In 1998, fulfilling Sister Julia Mary's dream, the center opened the first phase of the "Women's Village." The Hawkes Transitional Residence provides transitional and affordable housing for homeless women and their children as well as facilities to train the women for jobs. Two years later, in 2000, the second phase of the "Women's Village" was completed with the Angel Guardian Home. It provides 12 apartments that offer long-term housing in a supportive community setting for homeless mothers with disabilities and their children. In June 2008, the final piece of the Women's Village was completed, with the opening of the Sister Julia Mary Farley Women's Village. This facility provides transitional housing in one-bedroom apartments for 21 employed homeless women. It also includes an employment and client services center that serves all Good Shepherd Center residents, and The Village Kitchen—a bakery and cafe in which residents receive job training and experience in the culinary arts.

With the completion of the Women's Village, Sister Julia Mary and Good Shepherd Center now serve more than 1,100 homeless women and children annually, and house 150 women and children each night.

I have had the privilege of visiting with Sister Julia Mary and the residents of Good Shepherd Center, and I must say the determination of the women to make better lives for themselves and their children is truly inspiring.

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Sister Julia Mary Farley's founding of Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women and Children, I ask my colleagues to please join me in commending Sister Julia Mary for her vision and tireless efforts to provide daily inspiration to the center's residents, friends, generous donors, skilled staff, and caring volunteers, and in thanking her for a lifetime of dedicated service to homeless women and their children.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF COLONEL  
JANE HELTON, UNITED STATES  
ARMY

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2009*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Jane Helton, United States Army, who is retiring after thirty-five years of dedicated service to our nation. Colonel Helton currently serves as the Chief of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office for the Joint Staff of the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Virginia. She is the principal advisor to the Chief and senior National Guard leaders for all sexual assault prevention matters.

Colonel Helton enlisted in the Army in August, 1974. After departing active duty she

served as a Noncommissioned Officer with the 143d Evacuation Hospital in the California National Guard. In 1980 she graduated from Officer's Candidate School and was commissioned as a Medical Service Corps officer. She served as a Health Services officer in the 175th Medical Brigade and commanded the 980th MEDSOM and the 308th Medical Company. Colonel Helton was activated and served in Kuwait during Desert Storm in the 3d Medical Command as a medical logistics officer and as the Director of Medical Redeployment. After returning to the United States she returned to active duty and served as an Operations Officer and Special Events Officer in the Army G3's Office of Military Support to Civilian Authorities. She helped coordinate and provide medical support during several natural disasters, including New York City immediately after the terrorists' attacks on September 11, 2001. Colonel Helton served as the Chief of the Wounded Warrior Program for the 27th Infantry Brigade at Fort Drum, NY where she helped develop the model wounded warrior program for the entire Army. She also served as the Chief of Command Policy and Programs in the Army G1, responsible for Army policies which included Women in Combat, Suicide Prevention, Religious Accommodation, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and other high profile Army policies.

Colonel Helton's military education includes the AMEDD Officer basic and advanced courses, Medical Logistics Management Course, Contracting Officers Course, Movement Officers Course, Mobilization Officer Planners Course, Military Support to Civil Authorities Course, Command and General Staff College, Army Management Staff College, Risk Communication Course, Georgetown University Congressional Liaison Course, and Advanced Crisis Incident Stress Management Course. She also earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Management from the California Coast University and a Master of Science degree in Quality Systems Management from the National Graduate School.

Madam Speaker, few can match the dedication and professionalism of Colonel Jane Helton. On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I express our appreciation of Colonel Helton for her tireless service and support of the warfighter. She has been a compassionate leader and professional staff officer whose expertise and sacrifice showcase her patriotism and selfless commitment to our great nation. She is a woman of honor and principle. I would like to thank Colonel Helton for her years of dedicated service, and I wish her, her husband Ray, their children and grandchildren the best wishes for continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY  
OF PRAYER

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2009*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join the millions of Americans who will participate in the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 7, 2009.

Since the earliest days of our republic, our nation's leaders have seen fit to formally ac-

knowledge the value and power of our people's prayers by designating specific times where we encourage prayer for the future of our country. President Truman declared the first National Day of Prayer in 1952, and in 1988 President Reagan signed a law declaring that the first Thursday in May would be an annual National Day of Prayer.

I can think of no greater calling than for people of all ages, races, and religious creeds to join together and raise their prayers and petitions to the Almighty.

To that end, the YMCA of Middle of Tennessee and the Operation Andrew Group are organizing National Day of Prayer events all across Middle Tennessee. These events will encourage citizens to pray for the future of our communities and our nation, to pray for those placed in positions of societal leadership, and to thank God for the many blessings we enjoy.

At the Maryland Farms YMCA, in the City of Brentwood, individuals will gather to lift up prayers and participate in this wonderful occasion.

I invite all Members of Congress to please join me in praying for the City of Brentwood, the State of Tennessee, and the United States of America during the National Day of Prayer.

HONORING LT. MATTHEW JOHN  
GORDON

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2009*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant in Chester County, Pennsylvania who has retired after more than 20 years of loyal service in law enforcement.

Lieutenant Matthew John Gordon started his law enforcement career with the Parkesburg Police Department and has faithfully served the City of Coatesville Police Department since 1989.

Lieutenant Gordon earned the respect of fellow officers and elected officials with his outstanding work ethic and exemplary police work throughout his distinguished career.

In addition to protecting the citizens of Coatesville, he also served as Commander of the Chester County Emergency Response Team since its inception in 2002.

Colleagues and friends will celebrate Lieutenant Gordon's career accomplishments and wish him well in retirement on May 8, 2009 during a dinner at St. Anthony's Lodge in Downingtown, Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in praising the outstanding service and dedication of Lieutenant Matthew John Gordon, and all those who take an oath to serve and protect their communities.

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL  
NURSING WEEK

**HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2009*

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, in honor and in celebration of National Nursing