

beat. Dewar's chews are popular snacks in my office, and a wonderful way to share a little piece of Bakersfield.

Dewar's is a keystone of our small business community that measures success in its loyalty from generations of local customers. I thank Dewar's for its 100 years of tasty service to the people of Bakersfield and wish them the very best in its next 100 years.

A TRIBUTE TO CLAIRE POMEROY,  
UC DAVIS VICE CHANCELLOR  
FOR HUMAN HEALTH SCIENCES  
AND DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF  
MEDICINE

**HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 2009*

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Doctor Claire Pomeroy, who is receiving the distinguished United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Sacramento Humanitarian of the Year Award.

Overseeing the UC Davis Health System, Doctor Pomeroy has brought international recognition to cutting-edge discoveries; contributed to the training of doctors and medical investigators; and spearheaded new initiatives to provide comprehensive clinical care for the greater Sacramento community and our nation.

Most notably, Doctor Pomeroy has outstandingly served the public through the founding of the Center for Reducing Health Disparities and the establishment of Rural-PRIME, a program specifically designed to prepare physicians to practice in underserved rural communities.

The United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Sacramento should also be commended for the work that they do for all people with developmental disabilities. They have improved the quality of life, independence, and productivity for many citizens in my district, and have truly lived up to their motto of providing a "life without limits for people with disabilities."

It is an honor to recognize the United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Sacramento for their immense dedication to improving the wellbeing for so many individuals and also Doctor Claire Pomeroy for her commitment to academic excellence, innovation, collaboration, equality and social justice. Both have served my district and our nation proudly.

RECOGNIZING ARMED FORCES DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 377, "Recognizing Armed Forces Day and the exemplary services of the members of the United States Armed Forces." This resolution was introduced by my distinguished colleague Representative CALVERT of California. The Armed Forces are an important part of the American society, and they deserve a day of admiration during National Military Apprecia-

tion Month. I am proud to today and offer my support to our Armed Forces as I publicly acknowledge their commitment and contributions to our country.

I do not believe there is a person in this House, or a person in this building, who does not feel a remarkable pride in the presence of the men and women who serve in our nation's military. The success of the Armed Forces depends on the dedicated service of its members, their families, and the civilian employees of the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard. Their incredible sacrifices and courage in the face of innumerable hazards have been critical to the preservation of the freedom, security, and prosperity enjoyed that we as Americans have come to love, enjoy, and even expect.

Armed Forces Day is an important part of National Military Appreciation Month. It is a day to celebrate and appreciate all the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces in our country are truly an admirable group of individuals who demonstrate the strength, unity, and community that the United States stands for. It is important we recognize the Armed Forces as individuals and as a group for all that they contribute to our great nation.

H. Res. 377 is essential to demonstrating the Congress's support and acknowledgement of such an important day. The Armed Forces are a substantial entity of our nation and greatly contributes to our strength as a nation on a very real and global level. H. Res. 377 will further emphasize this importance, and more importantly, focus on a genuine appreciation for all military involvement across the United States. To remain as a world leader, the United States must maintain a well-trained and well-equipped army. As a Representative of the Federal Government, we must encourage the people of the United States to recognize the values and principles of our nation which the military encompasses and the sacrifices made for our country by individuals and military entities.

The Armed Forces has greatly contributed to our nation, and it is only right they we demonstrate our support, appreciation, and gratitude for their service to our nation. I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution, and I extend a personal thank-you to those in the Armed Services. I hope that you all know your worth and to extend that you contribute to our country.

TEXAS

In the Iraq War, Texas has suffered over 222 resident casualties, second only to California. As a Representative for the 18th District of Texas, H. Res. 377 is very close to the hearts of those I represent. Many Texans hold a passion for protecting the integrity and strength of their nation, and as the recruitment numbers show, they often exercise their passion by joining the military. In past studies, Texas has been the number one state for military recruitment; therefore, recognition of military involvement is an important issue in Texas and in Houston.

Texas is home to more than 194,965 military personnel including a number of Army, Navy and Marine, Air Force, and Coast Guard bases. H. Res. 377 will encourage the citizens of Texas to reach out to those who are involved with the military and extend their gratitude for all that they do for our nation. Because there is a large population of military personnel in Texas, it is critical that we show

them the support of their nation and their state for all the positive contributions they have brought. I firmly believe that H. Con. Res. 84 is a positive step for the recognition, acknowledgement, and gratitude that should be given to our military personnel, and I hope to see the National Military Appreciation Month become a special time for the state of Texas to recognize the national contributions.

21ST CENTURY GREEN HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHAKA FATTAH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2187) to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to State educational agencies for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities, and for other purposes:

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chair, noise is an environmental hazard similar to air, water, and ground pollution. Too much exposure to noise in an environment has a direct impact on the human body. Children, whose bodies and brains are still developing, more so than adults, are adversely affected by noise. A student's ability to hear and understand speech in the classroom is vital for learning. Unfortunately, noisy classrooms reduce the ability to learn. Noisy classrooms occur when the background noise and/or the amount of reverberation in the classroom are so high that they interfere with learning and teaching. We know that when classrooms are noisy it affects speech understanding, reading and spelling ability, behavior in the classroom, attention, concentration, and academic achievement. Learning in an excessively noisy environment is similar to trying to read in poorly lit room or obstructed by steps while in a wheel chair.

Therefore, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) recommends an appropriate acoustical environment for all students in educational settings. ASHA endorses ANSI S12.60-2002 Acoustical Performance Criteria, Design Requirements, and Guidelines for Schools (ANSI S12.60-2002) as the national standards for classroom acoustics. It is well recognized that the acoustical environment in a classroom or other educational environment is a critical variable in the academic, psychoeducational, and psychosocial development of children with normal hearing as well as children with hearing loss and/or other disabilities (e.g., auditory processing disorders, learning disabilities, attention deficit disorders). Inappropriate levels of reverberation and/or noise can deleteriously affect speech perception, reading/spelling ability, classroom behavior, attention, concentration, and educational achievement. In addition to compromising student function, poor classroom acoustics may also negatively affect teacher performance and increase vocal pathologies and absenteeism. Thus, all educational settings have an incentive to develop acoustical conditions that meet national standards. For children with hearing loss and/or other disabilities, the acoustics of the proposed educational setting(s) should be considered and addressed

during the determination of a child's educational needs and placement.

Acoustical factors in a classroom include: (1) the level of the background (ambient) noise in the room; (2) the relative intensity of the information carrying components of the speech signal to the non-information carrying signal or noise (i.e., signal-to-noise ratio [SNR]); and (3) the reverberant characteristics of the environment. To achieve appropriate acoustical conditions in an educational setting, ASHA recommends the following:

(1) Unoccupied classroom noise levels must not exceed 35 dBA.

(2) The signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) should be at least +15 dB at the child's ears.

HONORING THE ALFRED E.  
ZAMPELLA JERSEY CITY  
HEIGHTS LEGEND

### HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 2009*

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Alfred E. Zampella, recipient of the Jersey City Heights Legend Award. This award honors my Hudson County Director, good friend and constituent, Al Zampella, for his lifelong commitment and dedication to the Jersey City community.

A lifelong resident of Jersey City, Al Zampella was born on February 8, 1923, the youngest of five boys. Coming from an iconic family in Jersey City, Al and his siblings all have made significant contributions to our community in their respective occupations. Al began his commitment to public service on the battlefields in World War II as a Lieutenant and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his heroism during sea combat in the Asiatic Pacific Theater of Operations. He earned his undergraduate degree from Seton Hall University and an M.A. in Education Administration and Supervision from New York University.

Al served as Principal of Jersey City Public School No. 27 for 27 years, as a guiding, trusted force in the lives of thousands of students, encouraging them to remain in school and use their formal education to succeed in life. Al retired in 1990 and on November 7, 1996 received the great honor of having Public School No. 27 formally dedicated to him, and renamed the Alfred E. Zampella P.S. No. 27. Today the school continues the important work he started and has received many prestigious honors and awards recognizing its success.

Al's commitment to his community continued outside the walls of Public School No. 27. Not only is Al a member of many boards and organizations in Northern New Jersey, he also continues to serve the people of Jersey City as the Ninth Congressional District's Hudson County Director. But above everything else, Al Zampella is a family man. He and his wife Jaclyn have three exceptional sons: Edward, Walter, and Gary. And their grandchildren, Bailey, Evan, Lauren, Matthew, Francesca, and Juliana, are the light of their lives.

I cannot imagine the Heights section of Jersey City without this true legend: Al Zampella. My very best wishes go to Al and his family

and I offer my sincerest and deepest appreciation and congratulations to him on his receiving the Jersey City Heights Legend Award.

HONORING RICHARD JONES

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard Jones upon his retirement from Oakdale Joint Unified School District as the Principal of Oakdale High School. Mr. Jones will be honored on Friday, May 15, 2009.

Richard Jones has been an educator for over thirty-five years. For the past ten years, he has served as an administrator within the Oakdale Joint Unified School District. Since 2001, he has served as the principal of Oakdale High School. Under Principal Jones' leadership, Oakdale High School has continued to develop and reach new heights of academic, athletic and extracurricular success. The school has consistently scored among the top schools in the region on annual state tests. The Academic Decathlon team at Oakdale High School has won the Stanislaus County championship for nine consecutive years. The school's Occupational Olympics, Science Olympiad and Model United Nations teams have also succeeded under Principal Jones. He has pushed the students to accelerate themselves by adding five advanced placement courses, and also included integrated mathematics courses for students struggling in that discipline.

Along with a variety of academic achievements, Principal Jones has also reinvigorated the school's athletic program. Oakdale High School's various athletic teams consistently finish near the top of the Valley Oak League. In the last eight years, the football team, baseball team and softball team have won the section championships. Principal Jones has been instrumental in obtaining facility upgrades at the school; including a state-of-the-art football field, as well as new baseball, soccer and softball fields. Currently, there are plans for a new aquatic center and three additional upgraded academic buildings. Sixty-five classrooms now have the latest technology available to students. Above all, Principal Jones has created an atmosphere on the campus that is safe and positive for staff and students.

Outside of his work at Oakdale High School, Principal Jones is active in the community. He has been a youth soccer, baseball and softball coach, the past secretary for the Oakdale Youth Soccer Association and past vice president of the Oakdale Youth Swim Team. He has served as a team leader for the accreditation of other high schools in Northern California under the Western Association of Schools and Colleges program. As a cancer survivor, Principal Jones has an active role in the annual Oakdale Relay for Life with the American Cancer Society. Finally, he is heavily involved with his church and has served in various roles over the years.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Principal Richard Jones upon his retirement from Oakdale High School. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Principal Jones many years of continued success.

CONSUMER DEBT

### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 2009*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to help Americans struggling with consumer debt by excluding discharges of debt from the definition of taxable income. Currently, when someone is relieved of consumer debt, such as credit card debt, they are taxed on the forgiven debt. So, for example, if a credit card company agrees to forgive \$12,000 of a \$15,000 debt, the debtor's taxable income increases by \$12,000—even though the debtor does not actually have an additional \$12,000 in his or her bank account.

The only way for Americans to avoid turning cancelation of debt into a taxable event is by declaring bankruptcy or insolvency. Thus, the tax code's perverse incentives could cause more Americans to declare bankruptcy, which is neither in the best interest of the debtor or their creditors.

Madam Speaker, the tax code should not punish Americans who work out a settlement with their creditors that enables them to avoid bankruptcy. This is unfair to both the debtors and their creditors. I therefore encourage my colleagues to cosponsor my legislation removing discharged debt from the definition of taxable income.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 2009*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, on May 12 2009, due to an illness, I missed the following recorded votes:

Roll No. 243, on a Motion to Table a Resolution Raising a Question of the Privileges of the House; had I been present, I would have voted "aye";

Roll No. 244, on H. Res. 413—Supporting the goals and ideals of "IEEE Engineering the Future" Day on May 13, 2009; had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; and,

Roll No. 245, on H. Res. 378—Recognizing the 30th anniversary of the election of Margaret Thatcher as the first female Prime Minister of Great Britain; had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE GEORGE MITCHELL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

### HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 2009*

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise and am proud to join my colleagues in supporting the George J. Mitchell Scholarship program. As someone who has long been dedicated to Ireland and Northern Ireland, I welcome the important work the United States-Ireland Alliance is doing to build a future for this relationship that reflects current realities.