

Pete was everywhere. He touched the lives of many, leaving an imprint on all he graced.

So today I honor Mr. Pete Litrenta. As one of his thousands of friends, I join his colleagues, his wife Linda, and their three daughters Danielle, LyAnne and Katie, in not only mourning his loss, but in celebrating his life. His memorial will be held on board the USS Midway Museum, a venue as identifiable with San Diego as Pete.

He was a pillar of the San Diego community and will be missed by all. I am reminded of what Mark Twain said about life:

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

It's hard to imagine something Pete did not do. He explored the world, but found safe harbor in San Diego. He dreamed of brighter futures for his family, friends and for the entire San Diego community. He discovered his true love and pursued his true passions.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House observe a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Peter L. Litrenta.

HONORING THE HISTORICAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SISTERS IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, as we continue to celebrate Mother's Day and the women who have enriched our lives, I would like to recognize a group of women who may not receive cards or flowers this week, but who act as mothers to the world.

Regardless of religious affiliation or conviction, Catholic sisters have not only nurtured countless hearts, minds, and souls throughout our nation's history, but they have played a vital role in shaping American life. The humble sacrifices, the heartfelt dedication and the tremendous contributions of these women are in earnest need of recognition.

For this reason I have introduced a resolution today honoring the historical contributions of Catholic sisters in the United States.

Since 1727, Catholic sisters have fearlessly and often sacrificially committed their personal lives to teaching, healing, and social action. Joined in unique forms of intentional communal life dedicated to prayer and service, these women have participated in the opening of the West, nursed soldiers during the Civil War, and cared for afflicted populations during the epidemics of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Catholic sisters established the nation's largest private school system and founded more than 110 U.S. colleges and universities, through which they have educated millions of young Americans.

Moreover, managing organizations long before such positions were even open to women, the bold passion of Catholic sisters established hospitals, orphanages, and charitable institutions. They were among the first to stand with the underprivileged, to educate or to work among the poor and underserved, and

to facilitate leadership through opportunity and example.

Since 1980 alone, at least nine American sisters have been martyred. Maura Clark, MM, Ita Ford, MM and Dorothy Kazel, OSU were martyred in El Salvador in 1980. Joel Kolmer, ASC, Shirley Kolmer, ASC, Kathleen McGuire, ASC, Agnes Mueller, ASC and Barbara Ann Muttra, ASC were martyred in Liberia in 1992. And, Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN was martyred in Brazil in 2005. Despite such a horrifying reality, Catholic sisters remain dedicated and courageously spirited.

Across the globe, Catholic sisters continue to provide shelter, food, and basic human needs to the economically or socially disadvantaged and advocate relentlessly for the fair and equal treatment of all persons. They work for the eradication of poverty and racism and for the promotion of nonviolence, equality and democracy both in principle and in action. The humanitarian work of Catholic sisters with communities in crisis and refuge throughout the world positions them as activists and diplomats of peace and justice for those most at risk populations.

These women have offered so much to the world yet their stories have rarely been narrated or honored in our history. Though long overdue, the lives, works and legacies of Catholic sisters will finally be recounted.

I am happy to announce that on May 16th, 2009, a traveling exhibit called "Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America" will open in Cincinnati, Ohio. Sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in association with the Cincinnati Museum Center, it will tour multiple cities over the next few years.

In continued celebration of the women who have shaped our lives and cultivated our potential, I stand to recognize the Catholic sisters not only for the personal impact they have had within our own lives, but for the extraordinary contributions they have made to the history of the United States.

FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, as we ate breakfast today, more than 12 million Americans were carefully watching what they ate and how their food was prepared. You may be thinking that they are trying to lose weight, but that's not the reason—it's because they suffer from life-threatening food allergies.

The statistics are frightening—particularly among children. Between 1997 and 2002, the number of children under age five who suffer from food allergies actually doubled.

Scientists have been unable to develop cures for food allergies. We must do more to support NIH medical research and raise awareness about these health problems.

I applaud the creation of the new Food Allergy Initiative Advocacy Steering Committee and I'm excited to hear that my constituent, Ms. Sally Porter, will serve on the committee.

This group seeks to help build a strong nationwide presence for the food allergy community. I urge my colleagues to learn how they

can get involved and to work with me to support federal resources for food allergy research.

HONORING THE 34TH ANNUAL CAPITAL PRIDE FESTIVAL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 34th Annual Capital Pride Festival, a celebration of the National Capital Area's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender, GLBT, communities, their families, and friends.

The Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block party in 1975 to the current ten-day-long celebration. This year Capital Pride Festival culminates with what Washington's City Paper has declared D.C.'s Best Parade for two years running, the Pride Parade on June 13th and "The Main Event," a street fair on Pennsylvania Avenue in the shadow of the Capitol, June 14th.

This year, the Festival's new organizers, the Capital Pride Alliance, Inc. anticipates an attendance of 250,000, making Capital Pride one of the largest GLBT festivals in the United States.

2009 marks the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, which, in the early hours of June 28, 1969, New York City's GLBT community spontaneously and publicly asserted its rights in defiance of government oppression. The Capital Pride commemorates this event with the theme "Generations of Pride: Celebrate and Remember."

I have marched in the Pride parades since coming to Congress to emphasize the universality of human rights and the importance of enacting federal legislation to secure those rights for the GLBT community and the District of Columbia. Congress has much work to do. We must pass The Family Leave Insurance Act of 2009, Employment Non-Discrimination Act, The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act / Matthew Shepard Act, Safe Schools Improvement Act, The Military Readiness Enhancement Act, "The Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act, Tax Equity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act, The Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act, Uniting American Families Act, Responsible Education About Life Act, and the Early Treatment for HIV Act.

This year, as Iowa, Maine, and New Hampshire have extended full rights to their GLBT residents. Our city of 600,000 residents, 10 percent more residents than the entire State of Wyoming, who pay more taxes per capita than 49 of the 50 states, remains the only jurisdiction in the United States where all its citizens are denied their basic rights by being subjected to Taxation Without Representation.

The residents of our Nation's Capital are entitled all their rights as citizens. I support and, I will defend, DC Council's action to extend full faith and credit to all marriages contracted in the United States as necessary to stabilize and protect all DC Families.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming the celebrants attending the 34th Annual Capital Pride Festival in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that

U.S. citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

RECOGNIZING ARMED FORCES DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strongest support for H. Res. 377, a bill that recognizes Armed Forces Day and commends the exemplary service of the members of the United States Armed Services. I would like to say a special thanks to Chairman SKELTON and Ranking Member MCHUGH, as well as to the Members and staff of the House Armed Services Committee for their tireless efforts in support of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who are bravely defending us at home and abroad.

Today, it is appropriate that we take a moment to recognize and say thank you to the members of our Armed Forces for their dedication, sacrifice, and honor. Each and every day, they keep this great nation safe and protect the freedoms that we enjoy every single day. We are proud of all of our servicemen and women and are eternally grateful for their efforts in the Global War on Terror. Furthermore, let us not forget those who have given their lives in service to our freedom, and let us say a gracious thank you to them for their willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice for liberty.

Madam Speaker, the families of those who serve our country on the front lines also deserve the admiration and appreciation of each and every citizen. These family members often watch their loved ones travel to far away lands in support of a cause and an ideal so much greater than any one individual. Indeed, our democratic form of government is testament to the courage and valor of our Armed Forces. The support given to our servicemen and women by their loved ones is irreplaceable, as it is the foundation for the bravery inherent in those who labor steadfastly in the defense of liberty.

I believe that the brave men and women who sacrifice for our present freedoms deserve our fullest support. Our nation's servicemen and women represent the best our country has to offer, and they must be treated with the respect and honor they deserve. As we ask these courageous soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines—and their families—to do more and more, it's only right we continue doing all we can for them. Recognizing Armed Forces Day in 2009 is just one small reminder of the superior job our troops perform for America at home and abroad, and it is my hope that we will continue to do all we can and more for the members of our Armed Forces.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

21ST CENTURY GREEN HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

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. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2187, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act. As the only former state schools chief serving in Congress, I know that one of the biggest challenges we face in North Carolina, and across the country, is the lack of adequate facilities for learning to take place. This bill will put the federal government in partnership with local school districts to improve our schools and make them safer, healthier, and more green places for our children. However, this bill is about more than building schools. In this time of economic crisis, our efforts should be focused on helping people in our communities. And this bill does that by focusing on three things: jobs, jobs, and jobs.

First, the bill will create jobs in our communities in the short term. School construction and modernization projects enabled by this legislation will put people to work in construction, renovation, and planning. Across the country, hundreds of projects are ready to go immediately if given the green light with funding, and that means employment in 30 or 60 or 90 days from the time this bill gets funded.

Second, the bill lays the foundation for the clean energy jobs we need in the future. The green building projects enabled by this legislation will provide a model for innovation in the future. We will put people to work improving energy efficiency and applying new sources of energy to our needs, creating high tech jobs and new industries that will apply American ingenuity and know-how. This will also reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy.

Third, the bill invests in the next generation so that they are prepared for the jobs of the 21st Century. There really is no substitute for bricks and mortar when it comes to quality schools and to meeting the educational goals of our communities. Funding in this bill will move our kids out of trailers, from facilities that put our children's health and safety at risk, into quality classrooms where they can focus on learning. And it will free up local funds to be used to improve classroom education.

This bill is about jobs today, jobs tomorrow, and jobs for the future. It addresses our most important priorities in unemployment, energy, and education. It is a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

HONORING DIANE POLICELLI

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Diane Policelli,

upon her receipt of the Tribute to Women Award, presented by the Michigan Federation of Republican Women.

Diane Policelli has selflessly dedicated herself to serving her community and actively promoting the values and ideals of the Republican Party. Since retiring from her career with Ford Motor Company, she has become dynamically engaged in her neighborhood. A certified member of the Community Emergency Response Team, Diane frequently supports the city and Police and Fire departments during emergency situations. She is a Board member and chief fundraiser for the Livonia Public Schools Foundation, as well as the Vice President of the Civic Library Commission. In these roles, she dedicatedly volunteers her time to mentoring high school students.

As the Community Service Chair and Hostess Chair for the Suburban Republican Women's Club, she dedicates her time to organizing activities which allow the members to creatively engage with the community. Under her direction, the Suburban Republican Women have been participating in a program to collect coupons to assist the military families of the United States. Diane also worked with a local senior citizen center on a project to have the club serve food at a dinner for the seniors.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending sincere congratulations to this year's Tribute to Women Award honoree, Diane Policelli, for her devoted service to her community and country.

28TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, today we stand on the West Lawn commemorating and celebrating the Nation's law enforcement officers from across the Nation. As Members of Congress, we welcome you to this Congress every year, and we do so humbly and with great appreciation.

Let me acknowledge the work that many of us have done with our local law enforcement in the State of Texas. We have a multitude of law disciplines and law enforcement persons to whom we in Texas owe a debt of gratitude. From the constables office to other peace officers throughout the City of Houston, we owe these peace officers a debt of gratitude.

As a Member of the Eighteenth Congressional District, I have the privilege of representing the first African American constable, Mae Walker, and representing Constable Victor Trevino, a Hispanic constable. We have deputy sheriffs. We have the sheriff's department. We have the Houston Police Department, the Department of Public Safety. In many instances we find great leaders who believe not only in crime fighting, but crime prevention.

Today I would like to focus upon the importance of law enforcement and their need to work in the community. I salute the former mayor of the City of Houston, Lee Brown, former chief of police of the cities of Houston, New York, and Atlanta. I consider him the father of community-oriented policing that really speaks to the hearts and minds of the people.