

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Schenectady County Community College on its 40th anniversary of founding. Over the last 40 years, Schenectady County Community College has met the educational needs of tens of thousands and offered a pathway to career success and prosperity.

SCCC has recently expanded its educational offerings to meet the needs of the 21st-century workforce. The college offers a cutting-edge Nanoscale Materials Technology program that trains students for top careers in the high-tech industry. The Culinary Arts program at SCCC attracts students from around the country and is a model for other community colleges as well. In addition, the college offers one of the only aviation programs currently available at a community college.

As testament to the college's importance to the community, full-time enrollment at the campus has increased by 15 percent over the past year.

On behalf of the residents of the 21st Congressional District, I would like to take this opportunity to thank President Quintin Bullock and Schenectady County Community College for 40 years of educating students and preparing tens of thousands for successful futures. We look forward to your continued achievement, and express our heartfelt congratulations.

#### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT'S BENEFIT CONCERT SERIES

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I applaud Miami-Dade County Public Schools for its Superintendent's Benefit Concert Series. This groundbreaking event will bring together singers, dancers and performers from throughout our public school system. Entitled "Listen to the Music," their first event will be tomorrow, Friday, November 20, at Miami Beach Senior High School, located in my congressional district. This uplifting event supports the "cultural passport program," which provides kindergarten through 12th-grade students with a different cultural experience each school year.

This unique program will ensure that our students get to visit local museums and art galleries, as well as experience live musical theatrical and dance performances before they graduate.

As a former educator and Florida certified teacher, I am proud to see our teachers, our students, and our community working together to make this great series a success. I encourage all in south Florida to attend this historic event tomorrow and enjoy a great performance for a great cause. I congratulate Superintendent Alberto Carvalho

for doing such professional work in a challenging economic environment.

#### NATIONAL EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. SKELTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, November is National Epilepsy Awareness Month, and I rise today to help bring awareness to the month and to this year's theme, which is "Talk About It." Epilepsy is a neurological condition that affects more than 3 million Americans and more than 50 million people worldwide. It affects people of all ages, nations, and races. A burst of electrical energy in the brain can cause an individual with epilepsy to experience a seizure. Seizures can be mild, but sadly, in some cases, they are fatal.

In 2008, Congress passed legislation to establish epilepsy centers of excellence within the Veterans Administration. A traumatic brain injury can put a servicemember at greater risk for developing epilepsy in later years. And these centers of excellence will help ensure our veterans receive top-of-the-line care.

Fortunately, research into epilepsy has resulted in the development of medications and other treatments that have proven successful in controlling epileptic seizures. However, these treatments are not effective for everyone with epilepsy, which means more work remains.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing National Epilepsy Awareness Month and to pay tribute to all those working to promote a greater understanding.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1963. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide assistance to caregivers of veterans, to improve the provision of health care to veterans, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-83, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the National Council of the Arts:

The Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL).

□ 1645

#### RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN IRAQ

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the fall of Saddam Hussein in Iraq has unleashed tremendous religious violence against the Christian community there.

According to the London Times, "In the chaos after the U.S.-led war invasion of Iraq in 2003, Christians found themselves targeted by Islamic terrorists."

Archbishop Paul Faraj Rahho said Christians in Iraq faced three bad choices: either they fled, converted to Islam, or risked being killed. Then in 2008, Archbishop Rahho himself was kidnapped and murdered.

These horrendous human rights violations and crimes against Christians in Iraq were brought to my attention by one of my constituents, Susan Dakak, a civil engineer who is a native of Iraq. Iraq's Christian Ambassador, the Iraqi Ambassador to the Vatican, my constituents tell me, is doing almost nothing to call attention to the plight of these people.

The U.S. should do more to aid the Christian minority in Iraq. At least one-third, maybe closer to one-half of these Christians, have fled the country. They should be allowed to return. The killings, kidnappings, and religious persecutions must stop.

The U.S. Government should substantially reduce our aid if Christians are not allowed to freely express their religion in Iraq.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MYRA FARR

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Myra Farr for a lifetime of service and volunteerism.

In 1938, when Myra Farr married, the National Council of Jewish Women Miami Chapter gave her a gift of membership. She then served NCJW as its president and honorary national vice president. Throughout the 70 years since, Myra has given of her time and energy to improve our community.

She became one of the original volunteers of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, where she continues to serve on the board of directors as a lifetime appointee. Myra has also served on the National Conference of Christian and Jews and in various capacities with Jewish Family Services, American Jewish Committee, and the University of Miami Women's Guild. She was a delegate to the White House Conference on Families and has been awarded the Call to Service Award from the U.S. President's Council on Volunteerism.

Myra Farr has dedicated her life to advocating for the well-being of others. At age 94, Myra continues to mentor generations of women—including me—and has improved the lives of countless individuals. She sets a remarkable example for all Americans.

#### IN MEMORY OF STAFF SERGEANT JUSTIN M. DECROW

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the