

charities and volunteerism. It has been particularly instrumental in supporting Becoming Independent, a North Bay nonprofit dedicated to empowering people with developmental disabilities, and its wineries are a regular presence at the Sonoma Valley Harvest Wine Auction. Earlier this year, Benziger Family Winery also joined with the local Red Cross to support earthquake relief efforts in Haiti and in Chile.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join us in thanking the Benziger Family for its contributions to Sonoma Valley, and in congratulating its wineries on their success and well deserved recognition. Benziger Family Winery and Imagery Estate Winery are powerful examples of the value of community-minded business, and Sonoma Valley is stronger because of them.

#### A TRIBUTE TO DARLENE MEALY

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 15, 2010*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Darlene Mealy for her service to Brooklyn's 41st District.

Darlene Mealy was born in Detroit, Michigan, and raised in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant area, in Brooklyn's 41st District. She attended P.S. 28, J.H.S. 271, and George W. Wingate High School. She later studied at the Borough of Manhattan Community College and Cornell for Labor Women's Studies.

Council Member Mealy is a young grassroots leader committed to bring about a positive change in her community. She serves as an outspoken community leader responding to the needs of the people of her community with honor and integrity. Her perseverance helps her to achieve positive results.

Darlene Mealy has served as the Council Member in Brooklyn's 41st District since January 2006. Prior to her election to the council, she was employed at the New York City Transit Authority for 17 years in the Department of Buses, Technical Services Division. She is the Founder and President of a multiple block association known as the Fulton Street/Atlantic Avenue/Ralph Avenue/Rochester Avenue F.A.R.R. Community Association, Inc. Council Member Mealy has served as a National Delegate for the Reverend Al Sharpton for President and is a Board Member of Neighborhood Housing Services. She was also the former Secretary of both the 81st Precinct Community Council and the Unity Democratic Club.

Currently in her second term, Council Member Mealy was appointed Chair of the Contracts Committee, where she has led the fight for reform in New York City contracts procedure and diversity in the awarding of city contracts. She has committed to the expansion of Minority Women Business Enterprises and diversification in both prime and sub-prime contracts. The awarding of Minority Women Business Enterprises is currently at the highest level ever. Additionally, during her time as Chair, the Small Business Service has partnered with the U.S. Small Business Administration in an effort to ensure the increase of city contracts to small businesses. Throughout her time on the Council, Council Member Mealy has demonstrated a strong commitment to public service.

Council Member Mealy is a member of Christ Memorial Church, Pastor Flora L.H. Grant under the Pilgrim Church, Chief Prelate Archbishop Roy E. Brown.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of Darlene Mealy.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN DAVID P. CONRAD, 2010 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 15, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Captain I David P. Conrad, who has been awarded the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department 2010 Career Firefighter of the Year. This is the department's highest award, established in 1985 to provide special recognition for outstanding service and dedication in keeping with the highest traditions of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Captain Conrad is the 25th recipient of this award.

Capt. Conrad has served the residents of Fairfax County for 28 years. During his exceptional career, he has consistently demonstrated his abilities as a teacher, firefighter, leader and member of the community. As a career firefighter, Capt. Conrad has taken on many roles and positions, serving as a member of the Technical Rescue Operations Team, the Virginia Task Force One Urban Search and Rescue Team, the America's Support Team, United Nations Disaster Support Team, the TROT Trench Committee, the Rescue Squad Committee, the Lieutenant's Test Committee, and the Captain's Test Committee. As a member of the elite VATF-1, Capt. Conrad has participated in multiple search and rescue operations around the world. Most recently, Capt. Conrad served as a team manager during the Haiti Earthquake rescue effort. Through his leadership, his team detected, located and rescued nine people who had been trapped.

Providing the tools for other firefighters to succeed is a passion of Capt. Conrad, especially in the area of education. Capt. Conrad serves or has served as a recruit school adjunct instructor for nine years. He has taught three trench classes, set up and facilitated seven joint training evolutions with the military, taught Rapid Intervention Team operations, assisted with writing swift water rescue protocols, served as an adjunct instructor for several Rescue and Truck company schools, taught two Technical Search classes in Canada and two in the United States, and facilitated several VATF-1 Field Exercises. Currently, Capt. Conrad is an instructor for rope, trench, structural collapse and confined space operations, a lead instructor for FEMA in Technical Search and an adjunct instructor for FEMA in Structural Collapse. Capt. Conrad's level of expertise and willingness to share his knowledge is a key reason that the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department is one of the best in the world.

Capt. Conrad has worked tirelessly to improve one of the finest fire departments in the country and help save lives. In just one example, he assisted with the development a new

Rapid Intervention Team, RIT, kit for the department. These kits are essential for saving lives in emergency situations, and any improvement made to them will directly result in the preservation of life. It took more than five years, but when it was done, a new RIT air pack program was implemented. A great deal of credit belongs to Capt. Conrad for his work on this project, which has produced one of the most innovative firefighter survival tools ever used by the department. Capt. Conrad also accepted a multi-year challenge to develop and implement new travel bags and backpacks for the Urban Search and Rescue Team. His design is now being used by many teams across the country.

The saying "Character Matters 24-7" could have been written to describe Capt. Conrad. He exemplifies how a firefighter and officer should live his or her life. In addition to the professional and educational contributions that he has made, Capt. Conrad is a compassionate and tenacious advocate for others in the community. Whether it is helping paint the home of a fellow firefighter who was ill, serving on many Christmas in April and Habitat for Humanity projects, helping a local church with an extreme makeover for a D.C. resident who was in significant need, constructing an orphanage in Nicaragua, or just being available to help no matter what the project or who was in need, Capt. Conrad has always answered the call.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Captain I David P. Conrad for his years of service and in congratulating him on being named the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department 2010 Firefighter of the year. Firefighters and all first responders are true heroes for our country. They risk their lives every day to ensure the well being and safety of our communities. These heroes often go unrecognized for their dedication and sacrifices. On behalf of the residents of Northern Virginia, I am honored to thank these brave men and women for their contributions to our communities, and I say to each of them, Stay Safe.

IN HONOR OF THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF BAY VILLAGE

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 15, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the 200th Anniversary of the City of Bay Village. I join with residents, business owners, city officials and Mayor Deborah Sutherland in celebrating this momentous occasion.

The Joseph Cahoon family, one of the first founding families, arrived on the land that is now Bay Village on October 10, 1810. The Cahoons and other settlers braved extreme weather conditions, illness and wild animals on their journey westward. They opted to settle along the picturesque southern shores of Lake Erie in beautiful northern Ohio.

By 1901, the township of Hamlet of Bay, once part of Dover Township, began to exist under the leadership of trustees who worked to form a new village. Two years later, on March 10th, 1903, the Village of Bay was incorporated by the State of Ohio and elections