

companies that protect and serve our local communities. I rise to honor the Van Guard Hose Company No. 1 in Patchogue, New York and its members, who this year are celebrating the 120th anniversary of its founding.

In the summer of 1890, local residents determined that the Patchogue Fire Department was unable to adequately respond to fire emergencies in the southern section of the Village of Patchogue when Captain G.G. Horton's barn was destroyed by fire. Due to this unfortunate event, these local residents formed the Van Guard Hose Company.

Residents requested the purchase of a hose cart and the fire directors of Patchogue Fire Department granted the purchase of a two-wheeled cart and 500 feet of hose. Chief Edwin Bailey, the department's first chief, was tasked with determining the location to house the new equipment.

Fourteen residents came together to form the present company for its regular meeting on January 13, 1891 at the home of Mrs. Alfred C. Mott, a resident of southern Patchogue. Today, Van Guard Hose Company No. 1, located just down the street from where the company first met, has grown to 63 members who bravely and selflessly serve their community.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great comfort to know that Long Island is still a collection of communities where neighbors look out for one another, as they did back in the 1890s. I'm proud to represent Van Guard Hose Company No. 1 and its members in the House of Representatives. I offer my congratulations on this milestone and wish them well for many years of continued service to the Patchogue Fire District.

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HONORING MITCHELL RYAN  
KOVAC

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mitchell Ryan Kovac. Mitchell is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Mitchell has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Mitchell has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Mitchell has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mitchell Ryan Kovac for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING KATHLEEN CAREY  
MIHM

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2011*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of the 22nd Congressional District of New York, Ms. Kathleen Carey Mihm. Kathy, as she is fondly known to family and friends, is a warm, witty and insightful woman who has dedicated her professional life to public service and, in doing so, has made a lasting contribution to her community.

A native of Kingston, Kathy grew up in a lively Irish family with nine brothers and sisters. She graduated from Kingston High School and went on to pursue advanced study at Ulster County Community College. Kathy began her public career as the Village of Rosendale Clerk, followed by two consecutive terms as a member of the Ulster County Legislature. In 1985, she began a distinguished career with the Ulster County Board of Elections. Kathy served as Deputy Commissioner under the late Harry Castiglione and then, after a brief time as Clerk of the Legislature, was appointed as Commissioner of Elections for the Democratic Party.

During her tenure with the Elections Board, Kathy was a tremendous asset to the voting public of Ulster County. She understood that the fundamental mission of the Board of Elections is to serve the voting public in a bipartisan manner. She worked hard and was diligent in her efforts to ensure that every eligible vote was counted. Kathy retired in December of last year in order to spend more time with her two children and four grandchildren. She has left behind a lasting legacy of honor and integrity.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Kathleen Carey Mihm for more than twenty-five years. She has been a dear friend and a valued adviser and we have worked closely on many issues of importance to the residents of Ulster County. Her work on behalf of the Board of Elections and her community was both inspiring and commendable. It is with great pleasure that I recognize her outstanding contributions and achievements.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2011  
FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2011*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the volunteers who assist the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. These volunteers work with deputies and civilian staff to help inmates to improve their lives during incarceration and to prepare them for a successful transition back into the community.

With more than 500 deputies, the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office is the largest Sheriff's office in Virginia and among the largest in the country. These deputies perform invaluable services for Fairfax County residents which in-

clude providing court security, managing the detention center, and serving the civil law process. Volunteers with the Sheriff's Office help provide inmate programs and services at the Adult Detention Center (ADC) and Pre-Release Center, including mental health counseling, religious services, alcohol and drug support groups, health education, library services and job training.

Volunteers complete a Sheriff's Office training program and also work closely with staff to ensure that best practices are followed. A recent study completed at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center showed the significant impact that detention center rehabilitation programs can provide. The efforts of these volunteers improve the lives of those incarcerated, reduce recidivism, and make our communities safer.

Each year, the Sheriff's Office hosts a luncheon to thank all of the dedicated individuals who help make the volunteer program a success. It is my pleasure to recognize the honorees in each service area:

Alcohol and Drug Services—Nate Trager  
OAR—Opportunities, Alternatives, and Resources—Linda Rule  
Chaplain's Office—Norman J. Bacon  
Education—Bill Richey

The efforts of these individuals are particularly noteworthy, but I also want to acknowledge the nearly 300 volunteers who have contributed their time and support to the Sheriff's Office during the past year. These volunteers provide services that help to place inmates on a path to success. They offer their time that could be spent elsewhere to provide encouragement and support that will improve lives during incarceration and provide for a successful transition to help get inmates back on their feet. The efforts of each and every one of these volunteers are commendable and deserve our praise.

Sheriff Stan Barry and the staff of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office should be commended for their critical role in administering the volunteer program. The efforts of these staffers maximize the contributions of volunteers in the most effective way and provide the support that makes this program a success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of these individuals and all of the volunteers who support the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. The selfless commitment of these individuals helps to provide enumerable benefits to our community and life-changing services to the inmates they serve.

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TRIBUTE TO MRS. ADA LEE  
PATRICK

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2011*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a member of my church, a devoted wife and mother, a Christian woman and a friend to many.

Mrs. Ada Lee Patrick was born in Holmes County, Mississippi, in 1948 and migrated with her family to Chicago, Illinois in 1957. She attended the local elementary and high school on the west side of Chicago. She was baptized at the Mt. Carmel Church and later

joined new morning star and ultimately new Galilee MBC where she remained until death. Ada met and married Mr. Frank Patrick and together they became proud parents of five children.

Mrs. Patrick was actively involved in her church and was known as a cheerful and upbeat person. Her backing was legendary and she is always ready to share encouraging words with everyone.

Mr. Speaker, the world is a better place in which to live because of the life and contributions of Mrs. Ada Lee Patrick. May her soul rest in peace and we extend our heartfelt condolences to her husband Frank and other members of her family.

ISRAEL'S 63RD INDEPENDENCE  
DAY

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2011*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Israel on the celebration of its 63rd Independence Day. I am a strong supporter of the State of Israel and believe in its right to exist as a Jewish and democratic state with secure and recognized borders.

As our strongest democratic ally in the Middle East, Israel is a crucial friend of the United States, and its continued strength and stability are in our nation's best interest.

The past several years have been a challenging time for Israel. Israel continues to face danger on many fronts, from the ongoing threat of terrorism to the potential rise of a nuclear-armed Iran. Peace and stability in Israel and the Middle East at large are still a possibility. Despite recent events with Fatah and Hamas, I hope that Palestinian authorities will be willing to come to the table and negotiate peace with their Israeli neighbors. I trust that new commitments and agreements are reached that enable these two states to live peacefully with one another.

I will continue to advocate for policies that make Israel more secure and work to alleviate the tensions in the Middle East, and I urge my colleagues to join me. As a member of the Israel Allies Caucus, I have been an active advocate for Israel and its people. I know the people of Israel want to live in peace with their Palestinian neighbors, and I will push for continued American engagement in the peace process. Together, the United States and Israel will continue to work in partnership to bring peace and security to the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Israel on their 63rd Independence Day.

RECOGNIZING THE HONOREES OF  
THE 2010 FAIRFAX COUNTY LAND  
CONSERVATION AND TREE  
PLANTING AND PRESERVATION  
AWARDS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2011*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of Fairfax

County 2010 Land Conservation and Tree Preservation and Planting Awards. These awards recognize those developers, designers and site superintendents who have excelled in their stewardship of the environment by implementing erosion and sediment control measures for soil conservation or increasing the tree cover through tree preservation and planting efforts.

Fairfax County is considered one of the best counties in the Nation in which to live, work and raise a family. One reason for this designation is the innovative environmental protection policies that have been implemented by the county and embraced by its business partners. I am pleased to have led that effort during my tenure as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. These awards recognize the following individuals and companies who have successfully brought their projects to completion while preserving and enhancing the local environment:

Small Commercial: The Howard Gardner School

Large Commercial: Aerospace Corporation Parcel 35 at Westfields

Small Single Family Residential: Yorkshire Subdivision

Large Single Family Residential: Huntington Mews, Section 2

Linear Project: Bull Run Woods  
Best Protected Environmentally Sensitive Site: Aerospace Corporation Parcel 35 at Westfields

Outstanding Site Superintendent: Greg Clark

Outstanding Engineering Firm: Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP

Outstanding Contractor: James G. Davis  
Environmental and Facilities Inspections Division Inspector of the Year (East): Martin Klema

Environmental and Facilities Inspections Division Inspector of the Year (West): William Dougherty

Environmental and Site Review Division Reviewer of the Year (East): Hani Fawaz

Environmental and Site Review Division Reviewer of the Year (West): Shahab Baig

Tree Preservation Awards:  
Potomac School  
Pohick Stream Valley Park Trail  
The Aerospace Corporation Stream Restoration Project

Tree Planting Category Award Recipients:  
Francis Scott Key Middle School  
Huntly Terrace Townhomes

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the efforts of those involved with these projects. Fairfax County and its residents have benefitted greatly from the collaborative spirit that is represented by these awards today. I wish to thank all of the awardees for their efforts on behalf of our community, and I congratulate them on receiving these awards.

IN RECOGNITION OF NORTHWEST  
HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2011*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call special attention to Northwest High School

in Justin, Texas. Students from Northwest High School will be competing in Aerospace Industries Association's 9th annual Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC) National finals this weekend. This competition brings students from all over the United States together to hone their skills in math and science in order to design, build, and fly a model rocket. The rocket must carry one raw egg to an altitude of exactly 750 feet, remain airborne for 40 to 45 seconds and return to the ground with the raw egg intact. With this annual competition, the Aerospace Industries Association seeks to inspire students to pursue careers in the aerospace industry.

The students at Northwest High School have been working all year to prepare for this opportunity. The event holds over \$60,000 in prize money, scholarships, and a trip to the Paris Air Show. I know the students of Northwest High School have spent much time and energy into this opportunity, and I wish them all the best. Regardless of the outcome, I and the rest of the 26th District of Texas are extremely proud of this impressive group of students.

A TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN LANE  
ARTHUR

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2011*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jonathan Lane Arthur for achieving the rank of an Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about 5% of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Jonathan and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on earning an Eagle Scout ranking and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

HONORING LT. COLONEL ALFRED  
FRANCIS

**HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN**

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2011*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, next Friday, an outstanding member of our military who hails from my district in the U.S. Virgin Islands will receive a promotion to Colonel at the Pentagon and I rise today to salute his service to our country.

Lt. Colonel Alfred Francis, known as "Plow" to his family and friends as a native of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, is currently assigned to The Army Staff, Pentagon here in