

Throughout its history, the Peace Corps has continued to adapt to the needs of developing countries. Volunteers work in areas such as education, business development, environmental preservation, youth development, agriculture and HIV/AIDS relief. Returned Peace Corps volunteers return to the U.S. with incomparable experience and have gone on to become directors of the Peace Corps, Members of Congress, presidents of universities and CEOs in the business world.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the more than 200,000 volunteers who have dedicated themselves to promoting world peace and friendship throughout 139 countries over the past 50 years.

ON THE OCCASION OF CELEBRATING RABBI DANIEL SCHWARTZ'S FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY IN THE RABBINATE AND HIS RETIREMENT AS SENIOR RABBI OF TEMPLE SHIR SHALOM

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Daniel Schwartz of Temple Shir Shalom in West Bloomfield, Michigan, on the occasion of his retirement after forty years in the rabbinate and a lifetime of service to the Jewish community in Michigan and beyond.

Like many who heed to a call to serve their community, Rabbi Schwartz's leadership began early in his life when he served as President of the Bronx and Manhattan Federation of Temple Youth. Rabbi Schwartz completed his rabbinical training in 1972 and has served the Jewish community of Southeast Michigan as Senior Rabbi of Temple Beth El of Bloomfield, Michigan, and for the last two decades has served as Founding and Senior Rabbi of Temple Shir Shalom. For the past two years, Rabbi Schwartz has also served as CEO of The Corners, an institution that provides affordable space and resources to non-profit organizations.

Rabbi Schwartz has not only taught the values of Judaism, but has also set an example for his congregation and the Greater Detroit community through his commitment to service. As a member of the Michigan Board of Rabbis and its former president, Rabbi Schwartz devoted considerable time and energy to providing spiritual leadership beyond his own congregation. Rabbi Schwartz also serves as Chaplain at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan, and through his work there has offered patients and their families important emotional and spiritual support in times of difficulty. And as a believer in lifelong learning, Rabbi Schwartz has continued his education both formally by obtaining a doctoral degree from the Jewish Institute of Religion and informally through his experiences with his congregation, family, and friends.

On many occasions Rabbi Schwartz has demonstrated his ability as a leader in Michigan's Jewish community, but one occasion serves as a seminal example of his leadership: the founding of Temple Shir Shalom. It was Rabbi Schwartz who gathered together with thirty families just over twenty years ago

to establish their new congregation. And through his guidance and support of those families, the congregation of Shir Shalom has prospered and grown to over nine hundred families. Along the path of the Temple's history there have been many obstacles, including the need to construct a permanent home for the congregation, which was first housed in a converted office building, but with Rabbi Schwartz's unyielding efforts, the congregation of Shir Shalom overcame those challenges.

Mr. Speaker, the congregation of Temple Shir Shalom and the Jewish community of Michigan are blessed to have benefitted from the wisdom, knowledge, and service of Rabbi Daniel Schwartz over the last forty years and I know his retirement will affect generations of worshippers. I wish Rabbi Schwartz well in his retirement and I know his commitment to service will continue through his volunteer work and the Rabbi Daniel Schwartz Legacy Foundation.

RECOGNIZING THE LINN STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Linn State Technical College, located in Osage County in Missouri, for its exceptional performance in training scholars of higher education.

Linn State Technical College, LSTC, founded in 1961, is Missouri's only two-year public technical college with a statewide mission. Originating as Linn Technical Junior College, the college became a part of the public higher education system in Missouri in 1996 as a result of legislation by the 88th General Assembly.

Linn State Technical College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association. Thirteen programs are accredited by the Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering, ATMAE. In addition, 15 other program-level professional accreditations and certifications have been obtained by programs at the college.

Linn State Technical College monitors the economic, industrial and technological needs of the state as new programs are proposed for development. In response to industry demand over the last decade, Linn State Technical College has started 19 degree and certificate programs.

In closing, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the faculty, staff and students of Linn State Technical congratulations in their pursuit of higher education.

RECOGNIZING SUZANNE KILBY ETGEN FOR HER SERVICE AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Suzanne Kilby Etgen, the 2011

recipient of the Jan Hollmann Environmental Education Award, for her service as an educator and advocate for environmental preservation.

The Jan Hollmann Environmental Education Award was established in 1994 to recognize an individual or organization which demonstrates outstanding effectiveness as an environmental educator. This year, Suzanne Etgen has been recognized for her work as the coordinator of the Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy. At the Academy, Ms. Etgen teaches members of the community how to preserve and protect watersheds by minimizing the damage caused by water runoff in the area. Addressing issues such as rainscaping, pollution reduction strategies, and community outreach and engagement, Ms. Etgen has worked tirelessly to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and its inhabitants.

Getting citizens involved in protecting the rivers and streams that make up the Chesapeake watershed is the key to the future health of the Bay. That is why I introduced the No Child Left Inside Act, which seeks to better incorporate environmental education in the curriculum as a means to teach students about their natural surroundings and spark their interest in science. It is critical that the next generation be armed with the knowledge that Ms. Etgen has dedicated her life to sharing. Throughout her years of work as an environmental advocate, Suzanne Etgen has played a pivotal role in ensuring that our natural environment remains as majestic as ever.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again congratulate Suzanne Kilby Etgen for her dedication to environmental awareness and protection.

HONORING FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN CARRIE MEEK

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a former Member of the Florida state and U.S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Carrie Meek. Congresswoman Meek has also served in the Florida State Senate in what was a small part of a diverse history of public service.

With over 24 years of combined public service on both the state and national level, Congresswoman Meek has a true understanding of what it takes to enrich the lives of others. Her service, as a teacher before winning her seat in the Florida State House is yet another testament to her public contributions.

Congresswoman Meek had all throughout her career a reputation for being a strong legislator. She was the first African American woman elected to the Florida Senate and the first African American to serve there since Reconstruction. In the Florida State Legislature, she staunchly promoted literacy and championed minority business enterprise laws.

Her career in the U.S. House was no less distinguished than it was on the state level. Almost immediately, the Congresswoman established herself as a champion of expanding federal programs to create jobs and providing

initiatives for African American business owners. In a battle that is still being fought today, Congresswoman Meek passionately opposed cuts to social welfare programs in the 90s to prevent the financial burden from being carried on the backs of the middle class and the disadvantaged.

Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman Meek has been an asset to this country and it is important that we recognize her lasting contributions to her district and our nation. It is always my pleasure to honor an individual with such exemplary character and integrity such as my dear friend Congresswoman Carrie Meek.

INTRODUCING THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES LEAVE TRANSFER ACT OF 2011

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Federal Employees Leave Transfer Act of 2011. Put simply, this bill will permit federal employees to transfer unused sick leave, without compensation, to agency sick leave banks.

I offer this bill during a time when federal employee benefits and service are under attack. Unlike some voices, I believe that public service as a worthwhile endeavor, and that the civil service is a talented workforce that needs to be carefully managed and developed.

Though this bill is a small change to existing law, it is an important one because it reassures federal employees that if they became catastrophically ill, or require extended leave due to the illness of a loved one, other federal employees can come to their assistance through the donation of their excess sick leave.

This bill is expected to be nearly cost-neutral. The bill states that federal employees cannot be compensated for transferring their sick leave to a sick leave bank. That provision is expected to nearly eliminate the cost of the bill, with the small exception of program administration.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, until 2014, Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) employees will be allowed to use one-half of their accumulated sick leave for annuity purposes. This bill will allow federal employees to donate their excess leave to a sick bank, rather than suffering from the "FERS flu." This bill could even increase productivity by preventing the abuse of sick leave.

Sick leave donation programs and banks are abundant in state and local government, at public and private universities, and in the private sector. Therefore this bill will not grant federal employees a benefit not enjoyed by the private sector.

For those who believe this bill may contribute to abuse, it must be noted that a federal employee cannot draw from a leave bank unless he/she donates to the bank in the first place. That incentivizes participation. Second, a federal employee cannot actually draw from a leave bank until he/she has exhausted all of their own sick and annual leave. Therefore, leave banks are shielded from abuse since federal employees cannot take advantage of this benefit until they have significant skin in the game.

Finally, I am proud that this bill has 4 esteemed public servants as original co-sponsors: Congressmen CONNOLLY, WOLF, SARBANES and VAN HOLLEN. This bill is also supported by the American Federation of Government Employees, the National Treasury Employees Union, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, and Federal Managers Association.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF LINN ON ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Linn, located in Osage County in Missouri, as the community recently celebrated its centennial anniversary.

In what is now the city of Linn settled a diverse group of people with different nationalities and backgrounds. They settled in the region that is currently Osage County, calling the settlement Linnville but then later renamed the town more simply Linn, after the U.S. Senator Lewis F. Linn. It was in 1842 that Linn was designated the County Seat for Osage County.

Here is the home of Linn State Technical College. The college was started with some of the foresight that is indicative of this region, recognizing the need for training a talented workforce. This vision has grown with the community for the last fifty years, putting technical education as an integral part of the community.

Over the past century, a multitude of trades and occupations supported the town. Today, Linn is known for its diverse population, collection of many religious ideologies and exceptional school system. Linn is a thriving town and a proud community, thankful for those that have paved the way to the present and laid the foundation for our tomorrow.

In closing, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the residents of the city of Linn congratulations on their centennial anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON LAKEWOOD HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the dedication of The University of Akron Lakewood Higher Education Center. The University of Akron Lakewood will give students throughout Cuyahoga County an opportunity to benefit from the quality education that The University of Akron (UA) has been providing its students for more than one hundred years.

Founded in 1870 by John R. Buchtel, the University of Akron was originally Buchtel College. When Butchel College first opened its doors in 1872, 46 collegiate students were

taught by seven faculty members. Over the past 140 years, UA has expanded and in 2010 welcomed 4,796 freshman students, the largest incoming class in the school's history. Today, the University of Akron offers 300 undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 29,000 students. The Princeton Review listed UA among the "Best in the Midwest" in its 2011 edition of Best Colleges: Region-by-Region.

The University of Akron Lakewood Higher Education Center will be housed in downtown Lakewood's Bailey Building on the corner of Warren Road and Detroit Avenue. The Lakewood location will offer variety of classes for students enrolled in the College of Nursing, College of Education and College of Business. Additionally, general education courses will be offered to high school students who wish to pursue dual-enrollment.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the new University of Akron Lakewood Higher Education Center.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances I was absent on September 21, 2011 for the vote on H.R. 2608, The Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012. However, had I been present I would have voted no for H.R. 2608.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF HERMANN ON ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Hermann, located in Gasconade County in Missouri, as the community recently celebrated its 175th anniversary.

What is now the city of Hermann began as a small colony of the German Settlement Society of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1836. Hermann has remained the county seat of Gasconade County since 1842.

The city was originally laid out by the German Settlement Society of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with the intent of preserving the German language and culture. In 1847 what is known today as Stone Hill Wine Company was formed. Today the winery hits an annual wine output of 1,250,000 gallons. Hermann became the "Wine City of Missouri," and today is still the center of Missouri's wine industry.

Over the past century, industries involved in the cultivation of grapes, production of wine, shoemaking and tourism have supported the town. Hermann is a thriving town and a proud community known for its many festivals and also as "The Bed and Breakfast Capital of Missouri."

In closing, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the residents of the city of Hermann congratulations on its 175th anniversary.