

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. MICHAEL
RYAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Michael Ryan of East Keansburg, New Jersey. Mr. Ryan will be honored as the 2012 Hibernian of the Year by the Ancient Order of Hibernians Volunteer Patrick Torphy Division 2 of Monmouth County. This prestigious honor is well-deserved in light of his tremendous contributions to the Irish American community. Mr. Ryan is known to his AOH brothers as someone who will always be there to support his community and those who are in need, and his charitable actions are undoubtedly worthy of this body's recognition.

Mr. Mike Ryan was born in Newark, New Jersey to Dick and Nancy Ryan. Together, the Ryan family moved to East Keansburg, New Jersey in 1955 and have continued to serve the residents of the Monmouth County community. Mr. Ryan joined the Ancient Order of Hibernians Volunteer Patrick Torphy Division 2 of Monmouth County in 1998, where he serves as the Division Marshall. Mr. Ryan serves as a core member of the organizing committee for the annual Irish Festival at the Jersey Shore. In upholding the AOH motto of friendship, unity, and Christian charity, Mr. Ryan tirelessly assists in raising funds for a multitude of causes, including Catholic school education, local food pantries and shelters, and the Wounded Warrior Program.

Mr. Ryan is also a proud member of the Knights of Columbus Council #2858. He is a graduate of Saint Catherine's School and a member of the Middletown High School class of 1974. Mr. Ryan is a 25-year employee of the United States Postal Service and currently resides in East Keansburg, New Jersey with his wife, Christina, and their three sons, Sean, Danny and Matthew.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Mr. Michael Ryan upon receiving the 2012 Hibernian of the Year award and thanking him for his service to the Irish American community.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GREG DASH

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent, Major Greg Dash, for his distinguished service to our country as a member of the United States Air Force.

Major Dash, known to his fellow airmen as "Fez," was raised in Gaithersburg, Maryland. After graduating from Wootton High School, he received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy, where he earned a degree in Electrical Engineering and graduated on the Commandant's List. He was commissioned in May 1998. After having served his country for 18 years, Major Dash will be medically retired this month.

Throughout his service in the Air Force, Dash excelled in both his tactical judgment

and outstanding leadership capabilities. As an Air Battle Manager, he qualified in three separate weapons systems and was selected for graduation from the distinguished United States Weapons School. Major Dash earned a number of awards and decorations, including the 2012 Air Traffic Control Association Earl F. Ward Medallion.

Over the course of his career, Major Dash had several combat deployments. During his last deployment in Afghanistan, he collapsed and was medically evacuated from the country. Later, he was diagnosed with a rare and highly lethal form of cancer. But he was undeterred.

After a 1½-year-long battle with cancer, Major Dash has heroically defeated the disease with the same spirit and determination he brought to his years of military service. Although his cancer has cut short his Air Force career, his talents, personal qualities, record and achievements bode well for great accomplishments in the future. I know that he will continue to make our Nation proud.

Our country owes Major Dash a debt of gratitude for his service, impeccable character and model of selfless leadership. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing him and in thanking him for his service and sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING THE UCI PARA-CYCLING TRACK WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AT THE HOME DEPOT CENTER IN CARSON, CALIFORNIA

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a particularly exciting event that will be held this weekend in my district. On February 10th–12th, The UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships will take place at the Home Depot Center Velodrome in Carson, California. The competition will welcome 230 athletes from 30 countries, including United States athletes: Allison Jones, Greta Neimanas, Clark Rachfal, Jennifer Schuble, Aaron Trent and California's very own, Anthony Zahn.

The UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships are the world championships for track cycling and is open to male and female athletes with physical disabilities such as amputation, visual impairment, spinal cord injury, wheelchair-users and cerebral palsy.

The UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships serves as the final qualifying event for U.S. athletes to be nominated to the 2012 U.S. Paralympic Cycling Team which will compete at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London this summer.

Mr. Speaker, the Paralympics are a major international multi-sport event, similar to the Olympics, for athletes with physical disabilities. Over 4,000 athletes from 146 countries compete in the games, which run in parallel with the Winter and Summer Olympic Games. The goal of the Paralympics is to empower persons with disabilities through sport.

Since its creation, the Paralympic games have been inspiring those with physical handicaps to realize their potential and strive to achieve their dreams. The Paralympics are making a difference in the lives of thousands

of physically disabled people every day by focusing on participants' athletic achievements and ability rather than their limitations.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been a big supporter of the Paralympics and their goals and that is why I am pleased that this year, the UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships will be held at the Home Depot Center in the 37th Congressional District. This marks the first time that the Home Depot Center will host a Paralympic event in its facility's history and just the second time ever, that the UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships will be held in the United States.

The Home Depot Center, home of Major League Soccer's Los Angeles Galaxy and Chivas USA, is designated as an "Official U.S. Olympic Training Site," and is the first and only permanent indoor track of international standard in North America. It is a state-of-the-art facility that has brought much attention and prestige to my district.

In March 2011, I was able to join U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano in support of the "See Something, Say Something" campaign, which has since expanded to include The Home Depot Center. The campaign raises public awareness of indicators of terrorism and violent crime and encourages average citizens to identify and report indicators of terrorism, crime and other threats to the proper transportation and law enforcement authorities.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that my district is able to host such an extraordinary event that continues to empower people with disabilities and in the process, inspire people around the world. I am sure that the people of California will embrace the spirit of the Games and will cheer on the athletes as they compete for the Paralympic games this summer.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, our 40th president, Ronald Wilson Reagan, was born on this date in 1911, making him 101 years old today. On President Reagan's 98th birthday, 17 days after President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,717,280,371,345.89.

Today, it is \$15,335,108,283,338.57. We've added \$4,617,827,911,992.68 to our debt in 3 years. This is \$4.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

A TRIBUTE TO ANNE MARQUESS
GARROTT

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Anne Marquess Garrott and the Southwest Belmont Community Association.

The Southwest Belmont Community Association, SWBCA, was a result of the Colored