

into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame. I am happy to represent three of them in Congress. Manuel Michael Cardoza Jr. of Preston, Paul Francis Dillon of Gales Ferry, and Herbert Thomas Schacht of Quaker Hill have all served their country with distinction both in and out of uniform and each is well-deserving of their recent induction.

Manuel Cardoza served in the United States Army from 1951 to 1953, including eight months stationed in Korea. Since returning home over fifty years ago, Manuel has actively assisted his fellow veterans. He served as a commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars posts in Norwich and Preston, as well as the American Legion Post 4. As a corporal medical technician in Korea, Manuel showed his commitment to public health through the organization of numerous health screenings throughout the state. He also served as President of the Connecticut Sickle Cell and New London Chapter Disease Research Foundation and sat on the Backus Hospital Board of Directors.

Paul Dillon is a retired Navy master chief radioman who served from 1956 to 1980. During his service in the Vietnam War, Dillon and many of his shipmates fell ill with diseases related to Agent Orange. Paul was troubled by the treatment and lack of care received for some of his colleagues. This inspired him to devote countless volunteer hours with veteran and military groups and to become a leader in the National Association for Uniformed Services. Even while he was battling prostate cancer, Paul worked hard to ensure that other Vietnam veterans received the benefits and treatments that they needed. He continues to assist retired service members and their families each Wednesday at the Retired Activities Office on the submarine base in Groton.

Herbert Schacht spent three years as a medical/surgical tech in during World War II, working stateside in Army hospitals. Upon leaving the military in 1946, Herbert returned home to work at the Waterford Country School. Although he intended to stay for a few short months, Herbert spent the next forty years aiding children with special needs and mental health issues. After retiring as the school's director, Herbert continued to dedicate much of his free time to volunteer work. He worked as a SCORE counselor where he assisted small businesses get off the ground, participated in AIDS work in Africa, and assisted an adoption service in Guatemala.

As veterans return home from serving abroad, they bring valuable skills and strength back to their communities and continue their services to the country. Their induction into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame is a powerful statement of their service to our country both in active duty and as veterans. It is a small elite who receive this honor, and they will be forever remembered at the State Capitol in Hartford as true leaders and examples for future generations. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing and congratulating these extraordinary veterans.

HONORING SALVATORE
CIARAMITARO

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor the memory of Salvatore "Sam" Ciaramitaro, who passed away on November 27, 2012, at 73 years of age. Sam was born on March 22, 1939, in his native town of Terrasini, Sicily. He was a long-term resident of San Pedro, where he was married and raised his children. During his time in San Pedro, he worked as a commercial fisherman and was known for having the sharpest eyes on the ocean.

Sam was a master of many trades. He poured his heart into any task and completed each and every one with perfection and precision. He was his happiest when spending time with his children and grandchildren who were his pride and joy.

Sam Ciaramitaro is survived by his wife Grace; his daughter Geralyn and her husband, the recently elected Los Angeles Councilman Joe Buscaino who represents the 15th Council District in the City of Los Angeles; his daughter Mary Cammareri and her husband Mike Cammareri; his son Donny Ciaramitaro and his wife Sandra Ciaramitaro; his daughter Anna Moore; and his seven grandchildren, Paola, Gracelyn, Sammy, Brandon, Matteo, Gia, and Lucas. He will be truly missed by his friends and loved ones.

HONORING FORMER
CONGRESSMAN JACK BROOKS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of former Congressman Jack Brooks, the renowned Member of Congress from Beaumont, Texas. Congressman Brooks served the American people in the U.S. Congress for 42 years of his life. He was 89 years of age when he passed away last night.

Congressman Brooks was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1952. Almost immediately, Congressman Brooks turned his attention to increasing government transparency and efficiency, and this devotion became a guiding principle of his career. Congressman Brooks was pivotal in the passing of legislation that established the independent Offices of Inspector General, which oversee federal agencies in an effort to prevent fraud and waste. Congressman Brooks also crafted the standard by which the government must award federal contracts in an openly competitive process. By the end of his career, he was attributed with saving the American taxpayer billions of dollars by curbing government excess, and streamlining operations within the Executive and Legislative branches of the U.S. Government.

Congressman Brooks was also a renowned leader of social justice. Defying most of his colleagues in the Texas delegation, Congressman Brooks saw a greater future for America

through equality, and helped draft the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. As a true public servant devoted to the pursuit of the greater good, Congressman Brooks earned the support of labor unions, minorities, and pro-choice activists in a region that otherwise lacked the unified support for such progressive views at the time.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman Brooks was a leader among leaders, and was well regarded for his uncompromising character and integrity. As a fierce advocate for the American people, Congressman Brooks has left a lasting legacy and the indelible mark of progress in U.S. history. A true statesman, he set the bar to which all Members of Congress should aspire. I wish to extend my appreciation for his contributions to this body and to his country.

CONGRATULATING PROFESSOR
TODD PAGANO OF THE NA-
TIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
FOR THE DEAF ON BEING
NAMED U.S. PROFESSOR OF THE
YEAR

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my esteemed honor to congratulate Dr. Todd Pagano, an associate professor and director of the Laboratory Science Technology program at Rochester Institute of Technology's (RIT) National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), for being named the 2012 U.S. Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The U.S. Professors of the Year Awards Program, created in 1981, is the only national initiative specifically designed to recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring. Todd was selected from more than 300 applicants for this award. He is the first RIT faculty member to receive this award.

The world's first technological college for deaf students, NTID provides a world-class college education leading to jobs and career advancement for deaf and hard-of-hearing students from all 50 states. Though not deaf or hard-of-hearing, Professor Pagano's conviction to learn American Sign Language (ASL) in record time after receiving his Doctorate in Chemistry from Tufts University was already a feat in itself. His ability to effectively communicate with and inspire his students—who have a near 100 percent employment rate after graduation—is unparalleled.

While serving as Director of the Laboratory Science Technology Program and teaching a full-time class load, Professor Pagano has made it his personal mission to provide mentorship and opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing students to excel in the study of chemistry. He has championed the advancement of deaf and hard-of-hearing students attending NTID and witnessed the betterment and employment of countless students. As Dr. Pagano has said, "Knowing my students have acquired knowledge that can make a difference in their lives by helping them obtain a job is truly rewarding."

I am so proud of Professor Pagano and NTID and am grateful to have had the privilege to congratulate Todd and his wife—also