

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of this proud veteran, American patriot, family patriarch and role model, Anibal De Jesús Rodríguez. I know he will be greatly missed by those who had the privilege to know him. But I also know that he will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO T. RANDOLPH COX

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lifetime accomplishments of my friend, T. Randolph "Randy" Cox, who is being honored by the YMCA of the Kanawha Valley as its 2012 Spirit of the Valley recipient. Unfortunately Randy is being recognized post mortem as he passed away on his birthday, October 19, 2011, while participating in one of his favorite athletic sports, the game of squash.

Raised in Princeton, New Jersey, Randy attended the University of Virginia as an undergraduate, the University of Massachusetts completing an MBA, and the University of Miami, where he completed his law degree and met his wife and lifelong partner, Ann. Randy and Ann moved to West Virginia and each became members of the law firm of Spilman, Thomas & Battle. Randy's practice included environmental, telecommunications and corporate law, with a primary focus on government relations and insurance regulatory matters. Randy was well respected as a member of his firm and for his work throughout West Virginia's legal community.

Randy was also committed to serving the Kanawha Valley and his state, by giving back to the region where he resided and raised his family. He served in leadership roles with a number of local charitable, civic and philanthropic organizations, most notably, the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation as its former chairman of the board, the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce as its former chairman of the government relations committee and board of directors, and lastly, the Charleston YMCA, who is honoring him as its 2012 Spirit of the Valley recipient, having served as its chairman of the board. At the time of his death, Randy was serving as President of Edgewood Country Club where he spent his leisure time on the golf course or squash court. Randy was truly a versatile and talented man whose life was cut too short.

The Spirit of the Valley award specifies that its recipient be, ". . . a person who quietly gives of themselves, their time and their resources when the Valley's citizens need them. Their commitment, persistence, good judgment and joyful heart only enrich the fabric of life in our Valley." There is no question that Randy certainly embodies these good character traits and is most deserving of this esteemed honor. I am just sorry that he cannot be with us as we honor him.

In addition to his wife, Ann, Randy leaves behind two children, Thomas and his wife, Brittany, and his daughter Erin, whom he truly loved.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to speak to the accomplishments of T. Randolph "Randy" Cox, for the level of devotion to his family and

his dedication to community service which makes Randy most deserving of the honor of the YMCA's Spirit of the Valley. I am honored to call him my good friend and the Kanawha Valley is fortunate to remember him as one of their own.

MR. DAVID M. DONNINI

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David M. Donnini who will be sworn in as President of UNICO National in August 2012. Founded on October 10, 1922, UNICO National is the largest Italian-American service organization in the United States. During its outstanding history, the group has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to help countless people and numerous charities.

Mr. Donnini, a former Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania resident, joined the Wilkes-Barre Chapter of UNICO National in 2001. He was exceptionally active in committee work within the chapter and held numerous positions including treasurer and first elected vice president. In 2005, he relocated to Redondo Beach, California, and continued to dedicate his time to UNICO National by joining the Los Angeles Chapter. Due to his hard work, a year later, he was elected chapter president and served in this role from 2007 to 2008. To further aid the community, he founded the annual Italian Festival and Bocce Ball tournament in Hawthorne, California, to benefit the Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research.

It is an honor to recognize Mr. Donnini and his involvement in an organization that has given so much to the community. I have had the esteemed privilege of attending many UNICO events in my congressional district, including pig roasts and charity events, and proudly witnessed the positive impact the group's efforts have made in my community.

I congratulate Mr. Donnini on this major accomplishment and look forward to seeing how his leadership impacts Italian-Americans and the thousands of people who benefit from this fine organization.

Mr. Speaker, I commend David M. Donnini for his years of committed service to UNICO National and his readiness to serve the needs of Italian-Americans across our Nation and in northeastern Pennsylvania.

AFGHANISTAN WITHDRAWAL LOGISTICS AND CAPABILITY OF AZERBAIJAN TO SUPPORT U.S. MILITARY REQUIREMENTS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues a very important matter that our military will soon face; the logistics of withdrawing our servicemembers and supplies from Afghanistan.

Some 90,000 servicemembers, 100,000 shipping containers and 50,000 vehicles will

need to be transported out of Afghanistan by the end of 2014 when U.S. and NATO major combat operations come to an end. This accumulation has occurred over a decade and the logistics to drawdown will be monumental.

Adding to this challenge is the instability of what has been the primary transit route which relies on the cooperation of Pakistan. Pakistan only recently reopened the transit routes after having closed them in late 2011. We must have safe, reliable, and secure alternative ways to move our servicemembers and supplies.

Azerbaijan is one of several options that provides a reliable transit route for over 40% of non-munitions supplies to Afghanistan and with the announced closing of Transit Center at Manas (formerly Manas Air Base) in Kyrgyzstan, this route will be ever more important.

Azerbaijan has been a strategic partner and key ally in our efforts to combat global terrorism. Azerbaijan was among the first Muslim countries to send troops to Afghanistan and Iraq as well as provide flyover rights to our military.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Azerbaijan for their friendship and partnership. I hope we continue to work with Azerbaijan to make certain our servicemembers have a safe and secure route for the supplies they need for their well-being while we are still in Afghanistan. It is also essential that we continue to partner with Azerbaijan to ensure we have reliable ways to safely withdraw by the end of 2014.

IN HONOR OF THE LAWSIDE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY NO. 1

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lawnside Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 for its tireless efforts protecting and serving the residents of Lawnside over the last 100 years. At this great milestone, I recognize the heroic work of these individuals who routinely place themselves in harm's way for the greater good of the community. These volunteers serve as vanguards of safety and stability, performing necessary duties that few are willing to undertake.

Since its humble beginnings in 1912 with only a small fire hall and single Model T Ford, the Lawnside Volunteer Fire Company has found growth through determination and community initiative. Through fundraising and the awarding of federal grants, the Lawnside Fire Company steadily grew its fleet of emergency vehicles, providing greater lifesaving assistance to the Lawnside community. The Lawnside Fire Company has also gained statewide recognition as a premiere company, having won a series of awards at the annual New Jersey Firemen's Convention.

Mr. Speaker, Lawnside Fire Company's contributions and endless dedication to the Lawnside community should not go unrecognized. I join the citizens of Lawnside and all of Camden County in honoring the achievements of this exceptional fire company.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, my scheduled flight into Washington yesterday afternoon was cancelled for mechanical reasons. As a result, I was absent from the House floor during last night's three rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted against S. 679 and in favor of H.R. 828 and H.R. 3803.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CAMELLIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND RECOGNITION OF THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Camellia Symphony Orchestra of Sacramento, California.

The Camellia Symphony Orchestra is one of Sacramento's prized assets and has deep roots in the region.

Today's Orchestra traces its beginnings back to a small group of local musicians who began informally gathering together and playing music, simply for the fun of it. This group began performing at Encina High School, originally naming themselves the "Pot Luck Symphony."

On September 1, 1962, the group formally organized eventually adopting the name the North Area Community Symphony. Ever since that September evening, the Orchestra has continued to grow, educate and entertain people in the Sacramento area.

By 1970 the Orchestra changed its name to the Camellia Symphony and became a regular participant of Camellia Day events held annually by the City of Sacramento. As the Orchestra has grown, it continues to earn national praise while also showcasing the talent of Sacramentans across the country. In 1979 the Camellia Symphony won its first of many future ASCAP awards, and in 1986 won the prestigious "INDIE" award for best classical release.

As the years have progressed, the Camellia Symphony Orchestra has developed and produced innovative, historical and exciting performances, earning a reputation as one of the finest orchestras in the region. While earning this reputation of excellence, the Orchestra has continued to give back to the Sacramento community, providing opportunities for local musicians to display their musical ability. The Orchestra's commitment to community is seen through its ongoing collaboration with a variety of Sacramento events and organizations, such as Camerata California, the Strauss Festival, St. John's Lutheran Church and many others in the region.

On behalf of all those in the Sacramento area who appreciate what the Camellia Symphony Orchestra means to our community, I would like to congratulate them on their 50th anniversary and wish them many more years of success and prosperity.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSION ON AMERICANS LIVING ABROAD ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, U.S. citizens who live and work abroad serve as American's informal ambassadors, helping to strengthen the United States economy and promoting American influence around the globe. For years I have worked to ensure overseas Americans are able to exercise their right to vote and have access to banking services. Five years ago I formed the Congressional Americans Abroad Caucus to focus and bring awareness to the concerns of the 4–6 million U.S. citizens residing abroad. Because they're scattered across the world, it can be hard for Americans living abroad to get the attention of Congress. U.S. citizens remain Americans wherever they are in the world and should not be ignored.

Americans living and working outside the U.S. continue to voice concerns regarding the impact of federal policies on voting, access to financial institutions, immigration, and taxation. Given that these and other federal policies affecting Americans abroad cover an array of agencies, we should study the full impact of these policies on the overseas community. That is why today I am introducing the Commission on Americans Living Abroad Act, creating an Executive Commission expressly charged with examining the concerns of U.S. citizens living and working abroad. This new legislation creates a 15 member panel to study the impact of U.S. laws and Executive actions on the overseas Americans community. The study would then be used to make recommendations for actions Congress and the Executive Branch could take to improve collaboration and communication of policies impacting this community. Through this study we can better ensure awareness, coordination, and integration of the activities of the federal government relating to Americans abroad. Thanks to original cosponsors Reps. MICHAEL HONDA and CHARLES RANGEL for their support of the bill and their advocacy on behalf of overseas Americans.

It is time we take a systemic look at all the issues affecting our citizens living abroad. Through this bipartisan Commission we can establish the state of policies and rules affecting Americans abroad so we can better serve their needs as they live and work in our global economy. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 537, I was unavoidably absent due to my flight being canceled. Had I been present, I would have voted "No."

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 538, I was unavoidably absent due to my flight being canceled. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 539, I was unavoidably absent due to my flight being canceled. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING JOHN BOGERT

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor the memory of John Bogert, who passed away on July 29, 2012 at the age of 63 following a lengthy battle with cancer.

John Bogert was a columnist for the Daily Breeze, a South Bay local staple, for 28 years. In that time, he wrote some 6,500 columns. He worked hard, writing five or six columns weekly, and his efforts did not go unrecognized. By the end of his life he was known as the "Voice of the South Bay."

He wrote about anything and everything, but some of my favorite columns were those he wrote about his family. These columns were honest—sometimes brutally so—and gave readers insight into a life that often seemed very familiar. He had an uncanny ability to draw readers into his experiences and after reading his columns, his followers felt that they knew him. His book signings were characterized by long lines and his appearance at local events drew crowds of people waiting to shake his hand. He even wrote one of his columns on me as he attempted to capture a "Day in the Life of Janice Hahn"—it was one of my favorite writings on my life.

John was born on October 7, 1948 in Utica, New York and spent much of his childhood in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He attended the University of Florida where he started his own newspaper and starred on the track team. After some time abroad, he moved to Southern California where he was hired by the Daily Breeze in 1979. He did not originally plan on staying long, but he became one of the Breeze's longest tenured journalists until his departure in June of this year.

He once said in an interview that journalism gave him the opportunity to "meet some pretty great people." And indeed he met with so many interesting figures, from presidents to nuns to an encounter that let him drop the line, "Stalin's interpreter once told me . . ."

John Bogert leaves behind three children: Caitlin, 29, Rachel, 25 and Ian, 18. His eldest daughter is expecting his first grandchild in September. The granddaughter will be named Charlotte, a name picked by John himself. I consider myself incredibly lucky to have known John, and to have considered him a close friend. His family, friends, colleagues and so many readers will miss him dearly. I know that I will.

RECOGNIZING RADIOLOGISTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RADIOLOGY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the International Day of Radiology, and