

central Indiana. The Indianapolis Motor Speedway has been the testing ground that has led to the development of many of the technologies that we see in today's passenger vehicles.

This weekend marks the 100th anniversary of the Speedway's premier event: The Indianapolis 500 Mile Race. Over the last century, race fans from all walks of life have been treated to some of the most compelling stories ever seen in the sporting world.

The winner of the 1911 race completed the 500 miles with an average speed of 75 miles per hour, while the racers attempting to make history this weekend will circle the 2.5 mile track at speeds well in excess of 200 miles per hour.

Like many Hoosiers, I look forward to the Race, one of our proudest traditions each and every year. We have come to know the names of Harroun, Foyt, Unser and Andretti in the time since Carl Fisher, Arthur Newby, Frank Wheeler and James Allison helped found the Speedway back in 1909.

Following World War II, Indiana businessman Tony Hulman purchased the track from then-owner, World War I flying ace Eddie Rickenbacker. Since that time, the Speedway has been owned by the Hulman-George family.

The stewardship of Mari Hulman and Tony George, along with entire the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Board of Directors has helped the 500 Mile Race become the world's largest single day sporting event, and you can bet that the more than a quarter of a million seats at the Speedway will be packed with race fans this weekend from Indiana and beyond.

So, this weekend my family and I will once again return to the Speedway to see history made at amazing speeds and I am eager to once again be Back Home Again in Indiana for the Greatest Spectacle in Racing.

HONORING BRIDGEPORT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS OF 2011

**HON. JAY INSLEE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2011*

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the graduating Class of 2011 from Bridgeport High School in Bridgeport, Washington. These students were finalists in President Obama's Commencement Challenge, and because of their inspiring story, deserve to be recognized.

Bridgeport is a public school in eastern Washington State where students are forging a way to bring energy and talent to a small, rural orchard community. Most of the students I recognize today have overcome incredible challenges in order to graduate this June. Many of them will be among the first in their families to do so and all of them are on free or reduced lunch plans, an indicator of the difficult economic circumstances overcome by these students and their families.

Only two students in the class have parents that graduated from high school. Yet, 90 percent of the students will receive their diplomas and 82 percent of the students are college-bound. This is a remarkable accomplishment

and something for which all schools should strive.

The principal, teachers, students, and families of Bridgeport High School should be commended for their success. They have demonstrated that by working together, we can close the academic achievement gap, improve graduation rates, and most of all, help students realize their dreams.

Congratulations to the exemplary graduating class at Bridgeport:

Adriana Gomez Saucedo—Valedictorian; Ana Berta Soto Mendez—Salutatorian; Javier Aguilar; Elvis Alcaraz; Michael Baca; Norma Camacho; Brooke Desjardins; Fredy Eduardo Flores; Elizabeth Gameros Garcia; Maria Elizabeth Garcia Gomez; Miranda Garza Trevino; Alejandro Jr. Gomez Camacho; Irma Gomez Garcia; Nadia Gonzalez Garcia; Lizbet Lopez Casillas; Maria Alexis Macedo Ruiz; Baltazar Muñoz Perez; Mauro Efrain Mosqueda; Marisol Vanessa Valdovinos Aleman; Carina Ochoa Valdovinos; Christian Perales Barboza; Ricardo Perez Rojas; Miguel Angel Ramos Parbol; Paige Leone Rodriguez; Rosendo Rodriguez Hernandez Jr.; Erika Berenice Saucedo Rubio; Samuel Soto Rojas; Alfredo Ubaldo Rosas; Joaquin Valdovinos Infante; Xenia Valdovinos Perez; Daniel Velasco Velasco; Jasmine Mogollan Roa; Olivia Silva Dominguez; Veronica Nicole Saucedo; Elodia Isabel Jimenez Valdovinos; Carina Velasquez.

VICKI GOTTLICH; A TRUE  
ADVOCATE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2011*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Vicki Gottlich for her more than three decades of advocacy on behalf of senior citizens and their families. She has been a treasured resource for all of us concerned about protecting and strengthening Medicare and Medicaid and improving the wellbeing of older Americans. Along the way, she has also worked on issues that affect persons with disabilities and working families.

Vicki is leaving the Center for Medicare Advocacy, where she has served as Senior Policy Attorney since January 2000. Before that, she worked as staff attorney for the National Senior Citizens Law Center, the managing attorney for the Prince George's County Senior Citizens Law Project, and the associate director of the National Law Center's Institute of Law and Aging at George Washington University.

In each of those roles, Vicki demonstrated her absolute commitment to improving the lives of senior citizens. In my work as co-chair of the Seniors Task Force and a member of the House Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health, I am able to work with many skilled policy analysts. Vicki is certainly one of the very best. She has provided my office with in-depth and cogent analyses of legislative proposals and regulations for years. We have come to rely heavily on Vicki's knowledge and experience and she has always been available to answer questions, provide recommendations or undertake research.

Vicki, though, brings more than policy astuteness to her work. She always keeps her

eye on the real-life impacts that policies have on our constituents and their families. A typical conversation with Vicki will include plenty of discussion about legal points and policy precedents, but it will also include numerous examples of the specific problems facing actual people and how solutions can be crafted to solve those problems.

I want to thank Vicki for sharing her wisdom and skills over the past years. I wish her well in her new role at the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight at CMS, where she will continue to work to improve access to affordable health care for all Americans.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the Chaffetz Amendment to H.R. 1540, the Defense Authorization Bill. The amendment, if passed, would require the immediate withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan with certain limited counterterrorism operations permitted to remain on the ground.

I appreciate the motivation behind the amendment because I too question the wisdom of our continued presence in Afghanistan. We are engaged in a protracted war there, and unlike our operations in Iraq, have yet to see stability and a solid foundation for independence emerge from the sacrifice of our men and women serving in Operation Enduring Freedom.

While I believe that it is time to commence a timely discussion regarding Afghanistan, I do not believe that this amendment to the defense bill is the answer. The amendment short circuits the process necessary for thoughtful action and does not regard seriously the impact of the unintended consequences of immediate withdrawal on the stability of the region.

U.S. forces in Afghanistan have made great strides in the last 6 months. In light of the recent death of Osama Bin Laden, the U.S. military must have the opportunity to consider the ramifications of his death on our current Afghanistan strategy. We have a short window in which the intelligence gained in his death can be leveraged successfully.

How successful further action can or will be is unclear. Al-Qaeda may be able to regroup and revitalize. Regardless, immediate withdrawal will bring neither clarity nor stability to a region in which the United States has offered its highest currency, the blood of our young men and women in uniform.