

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF SARA STEINHAUER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sara Steinhauer of Douglassville, Berks County, Pennsylvania in recognition of her 105th birthday.

Born near Skippack, Montgomery County on March 25th, 1906, Sara grew up on a farm in Skippack Township and attended public school through 10th grade in a one-room schoolhouse. When she turned 19, Sara moved to Perkasio, Pennsylvania to begin her career as a seamstress with Wemen's Apparel, developing skills in ladies' fashion. She was later promoted to the position of floor lady which she maintained until her retirement in 1968.

The eighth of thirteen children, Sara was blessed with twelve brothers and sisters. Her husband, George D. Steinhauer, passed in 1984 after 57 happy years of marriage. Before moving to the distinctive retirement community of Villa at Morlatton, Sara lived in Telford, Pennsylvania for many of her retirement years and then an apartment in Pottstown, Pennsylvania near her nephew Leroy Fitzgerald.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Sara Steinhauer on the occasion of her 105th birthday and extending her best wishes for continued health and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I was unfortunately unable to cast votes on the evening of March 29, 2011.

On rollcall 194, I would have voted no.

On rollcall 195 I would have voted aye.

On rollcall 196 I would have voted aye.

On rollcall 197, the motion to recommit, I would have voted aye.

On rollcall 198, final passage, I would have voted aye.

The Making Home Affordable Program simply has not protected homeowners from foreclosure, or ensured that mortgage servicers work with homeowners in good faith to achieve loss mitigation that works for homeowners, investors and our communities. Despite clear and repeated calls for reform of the program from the Congressional Oversight Panel, the Special Inspector General for the TARP, and the GAO, changes to the program have been too little and too late. While my constituents and homeowners across the country continue to struggle through good faith efforts to keep their homes, banks are again making record profits and paying large bonuses to their executives and employees.

Despite well documented abuses of homeowners by mortgage servicers participating in the HAMP, no servicers have been sanctioned or fined for violations of HAMP program requirements, despite clear authority to do so. I do not take this position lightly, particularly in light of the fact that no alternative program to help homeowners is offered. However I simply cannot continue to offer support for a program that has protected banks and servicers at the expense of my constituents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during rollcall votes 192 and 193. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 192 and "no" on rollcall 193.

A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR WOMEN VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced important legislation to establish a women veterans bill of rights, H.R. 809.

There are now 1.8 million women veterans, and the number of these women turning to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for treatment and services is increasing every day. In fact, current VA estimates project that the percentage of women among the total number of veterans enrolled in the VA health care system will have risen to 10 percent by 2018, up from 7.7 percent now.

Mr. Speaker, men have long been the dominant stakeholder within VA, but it is past time that VA recognizes women veterans as an equally important stakeholder.

During hearings and roundtables over the past Congresses, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has asked women veterans to come forward with their own stories about their experiences with VA. From their accounts, it is clear that while VA has made some strides in caring for women, significant gaps remain.

The veterans testifying before the Committee have told us of an unwelcoming culture within some VA facilities that makes women veterans feel alienated, disrespected, and reluctant to pursue the benefits and services that they have earned with their sacrifices.

VA must recognize and be equipped to treat the unique medical concerns that women veterans have. They must respect privacy concerns and eliminate cultural insensitivity that may otherwise bar women from accessing VA health care and they must ensure that women and male veterans are always treated equally

in their ability to secure quality VA benefits and services.

This legislation would take us closer to achieving that long overdue standard.

H.R. 809 would require VA to display in all of their facilities, 24 fundamental principles governing their treatment of women veterans. Veterans who may have felt isolated and unwelcome in VA facilities before will be able to read these principles and understand VA's responsibility to them.

The principles lay out women veterans' right to state-of-the-art medical technologies and procedures for treating their unique medical concerns, VA's responsibility to provide vigorous outreach to inform women of the VA benefits and services they are entitled to, and other important guidelines for what women veterans can and should expect of VA.

Above all, the principles make clear that VA must always treat women veterans as they should treat any veteran, with sensitivity to their unique concerns and the dignity that their service to this country demands.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KEENAN MONKS

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to acknowledge the accomplishments of Keenan Monks of Hazleton, who recently placed sixth in the 2011 Intel Science Talent Search, a national competition for high school seniors with exceptional promise in math and science.

To earn sixth place, Keenan conducted research on a math equation that can help improve Internet security and cryptography. His work distinguished him from most of the 1,744 high school seniors who entered the talent search. In January, he was named one of 300 semifinalists, then he was chosen to be a finalist and compete here in Washington just a few weeks ago.

Keenan is a 17-year-old student at Hazleton Area High School. He is captain of the cross-country and track and field teams. Keenan has been playing the piano for 12 years. He has won several piano competitions, has performed at Carnegie Hall, and enjoys sequencing music. Keenan has volunteered with the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup, helping remove trash from community roadways. Keenan also coauthored a paper published in *Discrete Mathematics*.

Mr. Speaker, Keenan Monks is an extraordinary young man. He is a hard worker. He has an innovative mind and an eager spirit. He will no doubt continue to be a bright star in our community. Mr. Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Keenan Monks of Hazleton for winning sixth place in this year's Intel Science Talent Search.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARC
CATALANO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Police Commander Marc Catalano for 31 years of service to the City of San Bruno.

He joined the San Bruno Police Department on June 1, 1979 and spent his first two years as a community service officer. He served as a patrol officer from 1981 to 1984, a detective from 1984 to 1985, a field training officer from 1985 to 1997, an acting sergeant from 1990 to 1991 and again a detective from 1991 to 1994. In 1994 he became involved with D.A.R.E., the Drug Abuse Resistance Education, and was instrumental in expanding that program from elementary schools to middle schools and high schools.

In 1997 Mr. Catalano was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and four years later to the rank of Lieutenant Sergeant. In 2001 he received his final promotion to Commander.

Marc Catalano is a true Bay Area native, born in San Francisco and raised in San Bruno and Burlingame. He graduated from Mills High School and received an Associate Degree from the College of San Mateo. At Notre Dame de Namur University he earned his Baccalaureate Degree in Human Services.

Commander Catalano is anything but complacent; he always thrives to learn more and better himself. He attained advanced supervisory and management certificates from the State of California, the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, and awards from the San Mateo County Trial Lawyers Association and from MADD, Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

In addition to a law enforcement career, Marc Catalano is the loving husband to his wife Laurie, his wife of 26 years. The couple has two daughters Danielle and Lindsay.

Mr. Speaker, it is right to honor Commander Catalano for his 31 years of service to the San Bruno Police Department on December 27, 2010, the day of his retirement.

HONORING FORMER GUAM COM-
MISSIONER JOSE ESPINOSA
SANTOS

HON. MADELINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Jose Espinosa Santos, former Commissioner of the Guam villages of Mongmong-Toto-Maite. Mr. Santos passed away at the age of 77 on March 9, 2011 at Parkview Community Hospital in Riverside, California.

Mr. Santos was born in Guam on June 23, 1933 to Tomas Taitano and Joaquina Mata Espinosa Santos. In 1973, he was elected to serve as Commissioner for the villages of Mongmong-Toto-Maite, in Guam. After serving for four years as Commissioner, Mr. Santos continued to serve Guam in several capacities within the Mayors' Council of Guam, including Special Assistant to the Chief Commissioner,

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Chief Executive Officer, and Executive Director. In addition to his public service, Mr. Espinosa was also active in the Catholic Community as an ordained Deacon for the Archdiocese of Agaña at the Dulce Nombre De Maria Cathedral-Basilica.

I join our community in mourning the loss of Jose Espinosa Santos, and I offer my condolences to his wife, Pilar Rosario Cepeda Santos, his 10 children, 27 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, and his many families, friends, and loved ones. May God bless the family and friends of Jose Espinosa Santos, God bless Guam, and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING MS. MELANIE PE-
TERS AS THE 2011 HURLBURT
AFA CHAPTER 398 ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Melanie Peters as the 2011 Hurlburt AFA Chapter 398 Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Ms. Peters is an inspiration to her students and colleagues, and I am honored to recognize her achievements.

Successfully getting a class of kindergarteners to construct and fly Styrofoam planes to test Bernoulli's Principle is an accomplishment worthy of recognition in itself. Ms. Peters surpassed this feat and also taught her five- and six-year olds about rocket propulsion using balloons.

Her creative techniques coupled with her passion for flight continues to provide an enjoyable and unique learning experience for her fourth graders. In her classroom, also known as TOP FUN, Ms. Peters incorporates math, science, and technology into her student's curriculum by utilizing her knowledge of aviation. TOP FUN's doors open into a world where students learn that living and learning coexist as a combined adventure.

Through her hard work and dedication, Melanie Peters continues to provide her students a solid foundation, upon which her students are able to grow, as their love for learning continues to soar. Teaching, a love Melanie credits to her mother, comes naturally to her, and is evidenced in the positive impact she has made on the lives of her students.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Ms. Peters for this great achievement and her commitment to excellence. Ms. Peters has earned the title of Elementary School Teacher of the Year. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Melanie Peters, and we wish her continued success.

THE HAMP TERMINATION ACT OF
2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 839) to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to terminate the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to provide new assistance under the Home Affordable Modification Program, while preserving assistance to homeowners who were already extended an offer to participate in the Program, either on a trial or permanent basis:

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to the HAMP Termination Act, or H.R. 839, a bill to eliminate the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP). This is just another attempt by my Republican colleagues to do away with important and necessary programs that help our struggling families and communities cope with the devastation of the housing crisis. Our families are dealing with real emergencies and they want real solutions, yet the Republicans offer no meaningful replacement to help families during this housing and foreclosure epidemic.

The Home Affordable Modification Program was put in place by the Obama Administration to provide critical assistance to American homeowners who are working tirelessly to save their homes. While it wasn't meant to save every home on the brink of foreclosure, this program has helped over 600,000 homeowners since it was first launched. This means that because of HAMP, over 600,000 families were given an opportunity they otherwise wouldn't have had to save their home. Approximately 30,000 homeowners are assisted through HAMP each month. If we eliminate this program now, we would be doing a great disservice to these homeowners and to the recovery of our fragile housing market.

The ineptitude and noncompliance of banks and mortgage servicers have created a laundry list of mistakes and missteps in handling homeowner mortgages that led us into this devastating housing situation. HAMP has been criticized by all parties because it did not meet its initial projected goals. This is partly because HAMP sets strict requirements for homeowners to qualify for a modification to ensure that American taxpayer dollars are not wasted or misused. Modifications that continue to be made outside of HAMP are done by servicers who avoid meeting the strict requirements and rules under this program which are put in place to protect homeowners. We have a responsibility to our constituents and we can't simply leave the fate of homeowners and struggling families to the banks and mortgage servicers when their bad mortgage lending practices contributed to our nation's housing crisis in the first place.

HAMP is not perfect, but there is no question that HAMP has provided critical assistance to homeowners facing avoidable foreclosures. The HAMP program has set affordability standards and, more importantly, this program has created a framework for the private sector to provide assistance. The political theater put together by my Republican colleagues to eliminate HAMP and other valuable housing programs and replace them with nothing, doesn't do anything to alleviate the dire circumstances hundreds of thousands of American families are facing today.

Mr. Chair, ending HAMP now would undoubtedly hamper our nation's economic recovery efforts. Many of my colleagues have mentioned throughout this debate something we all know to be true: not a single witness—including the Government Accountability Office and the Special Inspector General for the

Troubled Asset Relief Program—who was invited by Republicans at the hearing we held earlier this month in the Housing Subcommittee, over which I serve as Ranking Member, supported shutting down any of the housing programs Republicans propose to terminate, including HAMP.

Eliminating HAMP would leave American homeowners with fewer options for coping with the worst housing crisis of our generation and would leave our fragile housing market in worse condition than when we started. I urge my colleagues to support American homeowners and vote no on this bill.

LEGALITY FOR THE USE OF FORCE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following article:

IS BUSH'S WAR ILLEGAL?—LET US COUNT THE WAYS

(By Francis Boyle)

THE "BLOWHARD ZONE"

On September 13, 2001 I got a call from FOX News asking me to go on the O'Reilly Factor program that night, two days after the tragic events of September 11, to debate O'Reilly on War v. Peace. It is pretty clear where I stood and where he stood. I had been on this program before. I knew what I was getting in to. But I felt it would be important for one lawyer to get up there in front of a national audience and argue against a war and for the application of domestic and international law enforcement, international procedures, and constitutional protections, which I did.

Unfortunately, O'Reilly has the highest ranked TV news program in the country. I thought someone should be on there on September 13. I think most people agree that I beat O'Reilly. By the end of the show he was agreeing with me. But the next night he was saying that we should bomb five different Arab countries and kill all their people. But let me review for you briefly some of the international law arguments that I have been making almost full time since September 13. They are set forth in the introduction in my new book, *The Criminality of Nuclear Deterrence*.

TERRORISM V. WAR

First, right after September 11 President Bush called these attacks an act of terrorism, which they were under the United States domestic law definition at that time. However, there is no generally accepted definition of an act of terrorism under international law, for reasons I explain in my book. Soon thereafter however and apparently after consultations with Secretary of State Powell, he proceeded to call these an act of war, ratcheting up the rhetoric and the legal and constitutional issues at stake here. They were not an act of war as traditionally defined. An act of war is a military attack by one state against another state. There is so far no evidence produced that the state of Afghanistan, at the time, either attacked the United States or authorized or approved such an attack. Indeed, just recently FBI Director Mueller and the deputy director of the CIA publicly admitted that they have found no evidence in Afghanistan linked to the September 11 attacks. If you believe the government's account of what

happened, which I think is highly questionable, 15 of these 19 people alleged to have committed these attacks were from Saudi Arabia and yet we went to war against Afghanistan. It does not really add up in my opinion.

But in any event this was not an act of war. Clearly these were acts of terrorism as defined by United States domestic law at the time, but not an act of war. Normally terrorism is dealt with as a matter of international and domestic law enforcement. Indeed there was a treaty directly on point at that time, the Montreal Sabotage Convention to which both the United States and Afghanistan were parties. It has an entire regime to deal with all issues in dispute here, including access to the International Court of Justice to resolve international disputes arising under the Treaty such as the extradition of Bin Laden. The Bush administration completely ignored this treaty, jettisoned it, set it aside, never even mentioned it. They paid no attention to this treaty or any of the other 12 international treaties dealing with acts of terrorism that could have been applied to handle this manner in a peaceful, lawful way.

WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST AFGHANISTAN

Bush, Jr. instead went to the United Nations Security Council to get a resolution authorizing the use of military force against Afghanistan and Al Qaeda. He failed. You have to remember that. This war has never been authorized by the United Nations Security Council. If you read the two resolutions that he got, it is very clear that what Bush, Jr. tried to do was to get the exact same type of language that Bush, Sr. got from the U.N. Security Council in the late fall of 1990 to authorize a war against Iraq to produce its expulsion from Kuwait. It is very clear if you read these resolutions, Bush, Jr. tried to get the exact same language twice and they failed. Indeed the first Security Council resolution refused to call what happened on September 11 an "armed attack"—that is by one state against another state. Rather they called it "terrorist attacks." But the critical point here is that this war has never been approved by the U.N. Security Council so technically it is illegal under international law. It constitutes an act and a war of aggression by the United States against Afghanistan.

NO DECLARATION OF WAR

Now in addition Bush, Jr. then went to Congress to get authorization to go to war. It appears that Bush, Jr. tried to get a formal declaration of war along the lines of December 8, 1941 after the Day of Infamy like FDR got on Pearl Harbor. Bush then began to use the rhetoric of Pearl Harbor. If he had gotten this declaration of war Bush and his lawyers knew full well he would have been a Constitutional Dictator. And I refer you here to the book by my late friend Professor Miller of George Washington University Law School, *Presidential Power*, that with a formal declaration of war the president becomes a Constitutional Dictator. He failed to get a declaration of war. Despite all the rhetoric we have heard by the Bush, Jr. administration Congress never declared war against Afghanistan or against anyone. There is technically no state of war today against anyone as a matter of constitutional law as formally declared.

BUSH, SR. V. BUSH, JR.

Now what Bush, Jr. did get was a War Powers Resolution authorization. Very similar to what Bush, Sr. got. Again the game plan was the same here. Follow the path already pioneered by Bush, Sr. in his war against Iraq. So he did get from Congress a War Powers Resolution authorization. This is what law professors call an imperfect declaration

of war. It does not have the constitutional significance of a formal declaration of war. It authorizes the use of military force in specified, limited circumstances.

That is what Bush, Sr. got in 1991. It was to carry out the Security Council resolution that he had gotten a month and one-half before to expel Iraq from Kuwait. But that is all the authority he had—either from the Security Council or from Congress. And that is what he did. I am not here to approve of what Bush, Sr. did. I do not and I did not at the time. But just to compare Bush, Jr. with Bush, Sr. So Bush, Jr. got a War Powers Resolution, which is not a declaration of war.

Indeed, Senator Byrd, the Dean of the Senate, clearly said this is only a War Powers authorization and we will give authority to the president to use military force subject to the requirements of the War Powers Resolution, which means they must inform us, there is Congressional oversight, in theory, (I do not think they are doing much of it), controlled funding, and ultimately we decide, not the Executive branch of the government—we are the ones who gave the authorization to use force.

Again very similar to what Bush, Sr. got except the Bush, Jr. War Powers Resolution is far more dangerous because it basically gives him a blank check to use military force against any state that he says was somehow involved in the attack on September 11. And as you know that list has now gone up to 60 states. So it is quite dangerous, which led me to say in interviews I gave at the time this is worse than the Tonkin Gulf Resolution. Better from our perspective than a formal Declaration of War, but worse constitutionally and politically than the Tonkin Gulf resolution. But still subject to the control of Congress and the terms of the War Powers Resolution. Indeed you might be able to use that War Powers Resolution and the authorization in litigation that might come up. Keep that in mind.

NO WAR AGAINST IRAQ!

For example, on Iraq. Right now they cannot use that War Powers Resolution to justify a war against Iraq. There is no evidence that Iraq was involved in the events on September 11. So they are fishing around for some other justification to go to war with Iraq. They have come up now with this doctrine of preemptive attack. Quite interesting that argument, doctrine was rejected by the Nuremberg Tribunal when the lawyers for the Nazi defendants made it at Nuremberg. They rejected any doctrine of preemptive attack.

NAZI SELF-DEFENSE

Then what happened after failing to get any formal authorization from the Security Council, the U.S. Ambassador Negroponte—who has the blood of about 35,000 people in Nicaragua on his hands when he was U.S. Ambassador down in Honduras—sent a letter to the Security Council asserting Article 51 of the U.N. Charter to justify the war against Afghanistan. And basically saying that we reserve the right to use force in self-defense against any state we say is somehow involved in the events of September 11. Well, the San Francisco Chronicle interviewed me on that and asked what is the precedent for this? I said that the precedent again goes back to the Nuremberg Judgment of 1946 when the lawyers for the Nazi defendants argued that we, the Nazi government had a right to go to war in self-defense as we saw it, and no one could tell us any differently. Of course that preposterous argument was rejected by Nuremberg. It is very distressing to see some of the highest level of officials of our country making legal arguments that were rejected by the Nuremberg Tribunal.

KANGAROO COURTS

Now let me say a few words about the so-called military commissions. I have a little handout out there called "Kangaroo Courts." It would take me a whole law review article to go through all the problems with military commissions. I have been interviewed quite extensively. I have some comments on it in my book. Professor Jordan Paust, a friend and colleague of mine at the University of Houston, just published an article in the Michigan Journal of International Law which I would encourage you to read. It goes through the major problems. But basically there are two treaties on point here that are being violated at a minimum.

First, the Third Geneva Convention of 1949. I will not go through all of the arguments here but it is clear that just about everyone down in Guantanamo (not counting the guys who were picked up in Bosnia and basically kidnapped) but all those apprehended over in Afghanistan and Pakistan would qualify as prisoners of war within the meaning of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949, and therefore have all the rights of prisoners of war within the meaning of that convention. Right now however, as you know, all those rights are being denied. This is a serious war crime. And unfortunately President Bush, Jr. himself has incriminated himself under the Third Geneva Convention by signing the order setting up these military commissions. Not only has he incriminated himself under the Third Geneva Convention, but he has incriminated himself under the U.S. War Crimes Act of 1996 or so, signed into law by President Clinton and making it a serious felony for any United States citizen either to violate or order the violation of the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949.

THE FEDERALIST SOCIETY CABAL

I am not personally criticizing President Bush. He is not a lawyer. He was terribly advised, criminally mis-advised, by the cabal of Federalist Society lawyers that the Bush administration has assembled at the White House and the Department of Injustice under Ashcroft. President Bush, Jr., by signing this order, has opened himself up to prosecution anywhere in the world for violating the Third Geneva Convention, and certainly if there is evidence to believe that any of these individuals have been tortured, which is grave breach, let alone at the end of the day executed. So this is a very serious matter.

I did not vote for President Bush, Jr. But I certainly think it is a tragedy that these Federalist Society lawyers got the President of the United States of America, who is not a lawyer, to sign the order that would incriminate him under the Geneva Conventions and United States Domestic Criminal Law. This is what happened.

JEOPARDIZING U.S. ARMED FORCES

Moreover, by us stating we will not apply the Third Geneva Convention to these people we opened up United States armed forces to be denied protection under the Third Geneva Convention. And as you know, we now have U.S. armed forces in operation in Afghanistan, Georgia, the Philippines, in Yemen and perhaps in Iraq. Basically Bush's position will be jeopardizing their ability to claim prisoner of war status. All that has to happen is our adversaries say they are unlawful combatants and we will not give you prisoner of war status. The Third Geneva Convention is one of the few protections U.S. armed forces have when they go into battle. Bush, Jr. and his Federalist Society lawyers just pulled the rug out from under them.

U.S. POLICE STATE

In addition the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights clearly applies down in Guantanamo. It applies any time in-

dividuals are under the jurisdiction of the United States of America. Guantanamo is a colonial enclave, I will not go through its status any further. But clearly those individuals are subject to our jurisdiction and have the rights set forth therein—which are currently being denied.

If and when many of these Bush, Ashcroft, Gonzalez police state practices make their way to the U.S. Supreme Court, we have to consider that a five to four majority of the Supreme Court gave the presidency to Bush, Jr. What is going to stop that same five to four majority from giving Bush, Jr. a police state? The only thing that is going to stop it is the people in this room.

RECOGNIZING WATERFORD OUR
LADY OF THE LAKES HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the Michigan Class D State Champion Girls' Basketball team from Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes High School. On March 19, 2011, the Lakers sealed a 53–35 victory over the Bark-River Harris Broncos, clinching their second consecutive Class D State Championship under Head Coach Steve Robak.

After winning the East Division of the Detroit Catholic High School League and claiming their third consecutive CHSL C–D Division Championship, the Lakers began district play by crushing West Bloomfield Frankel Jewish Academy's Jaguars 72–4. Our Lady of the Lakes rolled over the Clarkston Everest Collegiate Lady Mountaineers in the district final, 64–20.

Moving on to regional match-ups, Our Lady of the Lakes slipped by Marine City Cardinal Mooney by a score of 43–41. The Lakers shut down Southfield Christian, 51–43 in the regional final to move on to state quarterfinals where they defeated the Bay City All Saints Cougars 61–36. The Trojans of Central Lake fell to the Blue and White 52–41 on March 17 to clear the Lakers path to the Class D Final. Facing Bark-Harris in the final game of the season, the Our Lady of the Lakes press held the Broncos in check giving the Lakers the right to raise high the Class D State Championship trophy.

Mr. Speaker, with a season record of 23–5–0, the 2011 Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes Girls' Basketball team deserves to be recognized for their determination, achievement, spirit and effort. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Lakers for obtaining this spectacular title and in honoring their devotion to our community and country.

HONORING COUNCIL MEMBER HAL
MALKIN

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hal Malkin and his 17 years of public service to the peo-

ple of La Mirada, California. Hal and his wife Barbara have called La Mirada home since 1972. Hal began the first of his five terms on the La Mirada City Council in 1994.

Since taking office in 1994, Hal has worked tirelessly to ensure La Mirada remains safe for its residents and economically vibrant for its business community. Under his tenure, La Mirada has seen the creation of various city resources such as the Frontier Community Building, the La Mirada Resource Center, and the widely popular SPLASH! Complex. While many cities throughout Southern California have felt the impact of a struggling economy, La Mirada has remained fiscally sound without sacrificing important community services, due in large part to Hal's foresight. It's frankly no surprise La Mirada was listed by CNN and others as one of the "Best Place to Live" in 2007.

Over the years, Hal's civic involvement has extended into his community where he proudly served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Rio Hondo Chapter of the American Red Cross and as a member of the Executive Committee for 9 years.

As an active leader in his community, Hal has received several awards including Outstanding Faculty Member, Cerritos College 2002–2003; Member of the Year, La Mirada Chamber of Commerce; and the Parent-Teacher Association Honorary Service Award.

Hal has continuously demonstrated his dedication to his profession, community, and family. Today, Hal continues to open the doors of the educational opportunity to local youth as an Associate Professor and Department Chair of the Pharmacy Technology Program at Cerritos College.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Councilmember Hal Malkin for his many years of service and dedication to the City of La Mirada and the community. Let us wish him and his family the very best in retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 194, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2011 BLUE
AND GOLD BANQUET FOR CUB
SCOUT PACK 976

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2011 Blue and Gold Banquet for Cub Scout Pack 976.

The Boy Scouts were founded in the United States on February 8, 1910 by William D. Boyce when he incorporated the Boy Scouts of America. The following year, the BSA adopted the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. After over one hundred years of scouting, these founding principles have guided over

one hundred million BSA youth members to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

Each year, Cub Scout packs commemorate scouting and its enduring principles with a Blue and Gold Banquet. The pack celebrates scouts, pack leaders and other adults who have contributed to the pack's health and vibrancy. I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the following Cub Scouts in Pack 976 who will be recognized at the 2011 Blue and Gold Banquet for advancing to the next level of scouting.

The Order of the Arrow is awarded to scouts that best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. The following individuals are being awarded the Order of the Arrow this evening.

Chris Arcangeli, John Cheng, Hank Reinhardt, Cyrus Robinson, Holden Snyder, Nicolas Bocock, Nicholas Baltas, Jack Heerink, Charlie McGarry, Noah Strike, Danny Flood, Austin Gillmore, Salim Roustom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the Boy Scouts of America, their one hundred year anniversary and the 2011 Blue and Gold Banquet for Cub Scout Pack 976. The BSA sets a high standard for integrity and strength of character. I admire all scouts who seek to uphold the BSA core principles, and extend my sincere best wishes to the Cub Scouts of Pack 976 as they strive to realize their scouting potential.

HONORING MR. RAYMON P. DONES

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of one of the nation's first and greatest African-American construction project developers, Mr. Raymon P. Dones. A loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, great great-grandfather and friend, Mr. Dones was also a talented entrepreneur, businessman, inventor and civil rights trailblazer. With Mr. Dones' passing at the age of 92, we are reminded of his life's journey and the joyful legacy he inspired.

Born in 1918, Mr. Dones learned the electrical and plumbing trades while working as a Pullman car porter in Denver, Colorado. After earning his electrical contracting license, he founded Dones Electric, which later became incorporated as Aladdin Electric in Oakland, California. Mr. Dones' broad interests also included inventing. He received a U.S. patent for the design of a loud speaker enclosure in 1964.

In the mid-1960s, Mr. Dones became a leading force in advocating for minority contractors and their employees. Working with Joe Debro and Frank Poole, he helped found a group to fight for increased opportunities for minority contractors, which later became the National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC). In 1969, Mr. Dones was elected NAMC president and Mr. Debro became executive director.

Today the nonprofit trade association boasts chapters in 49 states, as well as England, South Africa and the Virgin Islands. Mr. Dones

was also instrumental in establishing Project Upgrade, one of the first construction trades apprenticeship training programs in the United States. In the Bay Area, Mr. Dones participated in building or subcontracting a considerable part of Oakland's landscape, including the MORH and Acorn housing developments in West Oakland, the West Oakland Health Center and the early construction of Oakland City Center.

Even into his late 80s, Mr. Dones continued to volunteer in the community and work with his son, my good friend Alan, who followed his footsteps as a leader in minority contracting and development. A recipient of many accolades throughout his career, Mr. Dones was named one of the most influential people in the construction industry by *Engineering News-Record Magazine* in 1999.

Ray was a Renaissance Man. As a Capitol Hill staffer for former Congressman and Mayor Ron Dellums during the 70s and 80s, I remember how Ray came to Washington, D.C. to educate staff regarding the importance of minority business participation. He was a tireless advocate and knew how to influence public policy on behalf of minority contractors. We became close friends and Ray and his beloved late wife, Inez, also became some of my longstanding supporters as an elected official. His smile and kind words of support always gave me encouragement and inspiration to continue the fight. I will miss this great warrior tremendously.

In addition to his notable career and influence, Mr. Dones was a proud husband to the late Inez Dones, and father to their extensive family. The couple both came to their union with three children from prior relationships, and had two more children together. Mr. Dones will be deeply missed by his surviving children, and a host of grandchildren, loved ones and friends.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors a great human being, Mr. Raymon P. Dones. The contributions he made to others throughout his life are countless and precious. My thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones. May his soul rest in peace.

IN TRIBUTE TO CSC(SW) OSCAR FLORES ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Chief Culinary Specialist (Surface Warfare) Oscar Flores in honor of his retirement from the United States Navy. Chief Culinary Specialist Oscar Flores has provided 23 years of faithful and devoted service to the United States Navy and to the citizens of our country.

Since 1988, Chief Culinary Specialist Flores has been dedicated to the U.S. Navy and their mission to protect the United States and her citizens. He started as a Mess Management Specialist, and as Chief Culinary Specialist Flores always went above and beyond the line of duty, he rose through the ranks to Chief Petty Officer. With his talents and exceptional culinary skills, Chief Culinary Specialist Flores has provided outstanding service to the Clin-

ton family. His energy and dedication have been a tribute to the first family and his country.

Additionally, Chief Culinary Specialist Flores earned the dignified title of the Commanding Officer's Chef while aboard the USS *Fort Fisher* (LSD 40) as Galley Watch Captain and aboard the USS *Essex* (LHD 2) as Wardroom Supervisor. On shore, Chief Culinary Specialist Flores has proven his loyal leadership as Petty Officer in charge of BEQ/BOQ Operations at Naval Submarine Base Point Loma, CA. I also recognize Chief Culinary Specialist Flores for his many decorations and awards including the Presidential Service Badge, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, and numerous individual, unit and campaign ribbons.

Chief Culinary Specialist Flores represents the best of what our Nation has to offer and has demonstrated exemplary and laudable service while on the Presidential Food Service Staff at the White House as Chef and Personal Enlisted Aide to the President.

Chief Culinary Specialist Flores' tireless work ethic will be missed by the U.S. Navy, though his strong commitment continues as a Personal Chef, Personal Aide, and Director of Operations at the Clinton Residence.

I am honored to congratulate Chief Culinary Specialist Flores on the occasion of his retirement and further extend my gratitude for his many faithful years of service to the United States Navy.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 23RD AMENDMENT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ratification of the 23rd Amendment to the United States Constitution, which granted the citizens of the District of Columbia the right to vote for President and Vice President. This victory fifty years ago was one of the early victories in the long and continuing struggle of District of Columbia residents for equal rights as American citizens. The 23rd Amendment provided the District of Columbia with three electors for President and Vice President, allowing D.C. residents to vote for the nation's highest offices for the first time since the city was created as the nation's capital.

Only two Members of Congress, Representative JOHN DINGELL and Senator DANIEL INOUE, remain in office from the period of introduction and ratification of the 23rd Amendment, when both were members of the House of Representatives. I was away at college then, but it was clear that an important catalyst for the amendment was the birth of the civil rights movement with the Birmingham bus boycott. The civil rights movement was key in moving Congress to afford the presidential and vice presidential votes to the citizens of the nation's capital, which had become a majority African American city at that time.

The original joint resolution, H.J. Res. 757, was reported favorably by the House Committee on the Judiciary on June 9, 1960. The accompanying report made clear that the

amendment “would not make the District of Columbia a state” and did not grant “home-rule” to the District. Home rule, a milestone allowing for democratic self-government, did not come until 1973. Originally paired with a number of unrelated amendments in the Senate, what became the 23rd Amendment passed the House by voice vote on June 14, 1960 and the Senate agreed to the bill two days later. Fifty years ago today, March 29, 1961, Ohio became the 38th state to ratify the amendment, and it was officially declared to have been ratified as the 23rd Amendment five days later.

Unfortunately, the District of Columbia today remains the only capital in a democratic nation where citizens are denied a vote in the nation’s representative body of government. Today, we can only hope that the decision of Congress to support the presidential and vice presidential votes for D.C. citizens will lead the way to votes in the Congress of the United States itself.

HONORING THE ST. PAUL BRANCH
OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN ON THE
OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Saint Paul Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. For the past century, the St. Paul Branch of the AAUW has fulfilled a noble mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

As a non-profit education advocacy organization, one of its major successes has been the creation of a trust providing college scholarships to young women. Each year, the trust awards approximately \$60,000 in scholarships to deserving high school graduates, and one-time scholarship funds to women returning to college to complete a degree. Scholarship recipients reflect the growing ethnic, religious and racial diversity of our community.

Through its Scholarship Trust and nationwide network affiliation with the AAUW, the St. Paul Branch has made a positive impact for many young women and girls by advancing social, economic and education equity. More women and girls are being empowered to seize opportunities that otherwise would have been impossible.

The work of AAUW St. Paul Branch is commendable and it deserves to be celebrated. In honor of its 100th Anniversary and its mission to provide education opportunity for young women and girls, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF ONEIDA
“MOTHER” BRANCH

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the long and loving life of Oneida “Mother” Branch, the heart and soul of the East Palo Alto, California, community, who died in her home on March 22, 2011. For 92 years, Mother Branch put the “active” in activist, devoting her life to her family, her church, and her community.

Born in New Orleans, Mother Branch moved to East Palo Alto half a century ago to start a church with her late husband, the Reverend James Branch. After helping to start St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Mother Branch taught Sunday school and founded a sewing club, attending services until just a month before she died. Widely known and respected for her prodigious knowledge of church history and her willingness to help others, Mother Branch was a deeply religious woman who was revered by the entire community.

But Mother Branch’s charity was not confined to church. “Mother was a little lady with a massive heart,” Paul Nyberg, Publisher of the Los Altos Town Crier, once said. “She was an unabashed Christian reaching out to help everyone in need.” In the 1970’s, Mother Branch established the East Palo Alto Community Center to provide food, comfort, and support to those in need. For decades, she dispensed canned food, blankets, and clothing—as well as uproarious stories and sage advice—to the people of East Palo Alto, working especially hard to promote education and the dignity of women.

Even while she performed her good works, Mother Branch experienced a series of difficult setbacks. The first Community Center office burned down just before Thanksgiving of 1977, and a flood later destroyed her second office. Mother Branch kept aiding her community, spending what little money she had on temporary storage units and continuing to distribute supplies from her own home—which burned down as well. Motivated by a heroic desire to help, even as a stroke at the age of 86 kept her in the hospital for only two days, she went back to work. “No one should suffer,” she would say.

A constant whirlwind of wisdom and affection, Mother Branch always seemed younger than her years . . . which was in fact the opposite. Over the course of resolving a mortgage issue in 2007, Mother Branch discovered that she was actually three years older than she’d thought. But the aid she gave was ageless, touching generations of East Palo Alto residents. Over the years, she would proudly observe, “I have seen people stand on their own feet.” This was perhaps her greatest quality, her ability to strengthen and sustain the lives of those around her. She lived her faith daily, and recognized the godliness in every human being.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest condolences to Mother Branch’s children: Erwin Babney, Whitney Babney, and Nate Branch, her grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, as well as all the residents of East Palo Alto. Mother Branch was deeply rooted in her community,

nourishing everyone she met with her light, love, and laughter. I’m proud to have known such a caring and extraordinary matriarch and distinguished citizen of our community and our country.

RECOGNIZING MR. JAMES BISHIR
AS THE 2011 HURLBURT AFA
CHAPTER 398 MIDDLE SCHOOL
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. James Bishir as the 2011 Hurlburt AFA Chapter 398 Middle School Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Bishir, an Integrated Science teacher at Woodham Middle School, began teaching nine years ago. His dedication and professionalism are exemplified by his efforts leading extra-curricular activities aimed at developing the skills to ensure that students are prepared to succeed after graduation. All of Mr. Bishir’s students benefit greatly from his assiduous work ethic and his dedication to teaching them before, during and after school.

Three years ago, Mr. Bishir began heading Woodham’s robotics program. Through countless hours of hard work, he and his robotics team of 58 members designed and built a robot. This year, their robot qualified, for the second time in three years, to compete at a national robotics championship at Auburn University. At the championship event, his team was the second highest ranking middle school. In just a short three-year period, he has shown students that not only can learning come in any form, but that their hard work and effort yield positive results.

In his capacity as the Project Based Learning Group Facilitator, Mr. Bishir serves as a mentor for eight other instructors at Woodham Middle School. Through his leadership, Mr. Bishir assists the group in using technology to incorporate project based learning in the classroom. Mr. Bishir goes above and beyond the call of duty to engage his students and work with his colleagues to facilitate innovative learning projects. His commitment to excellence leads to success in and out of the classroom and has earned him recognition as the 2011 Hurlburt AFA Chapter 398 Middle School Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Mr. Bishir for his accomplishments. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mr. James Bishir, and we wish him all the best.

HONORING REVEREND LUCIUS
WALKER, JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Rev. Lucius Walker, Jr. The founding director of the new Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), and a steadfast advocate for civil

rights, peace and justice throughout his life, Rev. Walker followed a spiritual call to serve and empower vulnerable communities. With his passing on September 7, 2010, we look to Rev. Walker's personal legacy of faith, the joy he inspired, and the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Born August 3, 1930, in Roselle, New Jersey, Rev. Walker was one of 10 children. As a teenager, he garnered recognition as a skilled preacher at Pentecostal revival meetings. He majored in English at Shaw University, a historically black institution in Raleigh, North Carolina, and later earned a second degree in divinity from Andover Newton Theological School in Massachusetts. He also earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Wisconsin, and was ordained in 1958.

In 1967, a group of progressive religious leaders and community activists called upon Rev. Walker to be the founding executive director of IFCO, an organization that linked mainstream Protestant, Catholic and Jewish denominations and congregations to empower community organizers in troubled areas. For more than four decades, Rev. Walker led the IFCO in assisting the poor and disenfranchised to develop and sustain community organizations that fight for human and civil rights around the world.

As the first and largest foundation in the country led and directed by people of color, IFCO's first major accomplishment was the historic National Black Economic Development Conference in 1969, chaired by Rev. Walker. The conference resulted in the presentation of the Black Manifesto, which asked for \$500 million in reparations to the Black community. In the 1970s, Rev. Walker and IFCO were instrumental in working to organize the National Anti-Klan Network (now known as the Center for Democratic Renewal), which continues to be a watchdog for racist violence and hate crimes. Moreover, Rev. Walker founded Salvation Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, and was also one of the strategists and founders of the National Black United Fund.

In 1988, Rev. Walker suffered a gun shot wound at the hands of Nicaraguan contras while leading an international delegation to raise awareness about U.S. policy in Central America. This harrowing experience strengthened his resolve to form a new IFCO program called Pastors for Peace. Through his work, the program has had a key role in the American Indian Movement, the national farm labor movement, the Puerto Rican struggle for independence, and opposition to the U.S. blockade of Cuba. It has organized more than 40 caravans carrying material aid to Mexico, Central America, Haiti, New Orleans, and more than 3,200 tons of aid to Cuba, flouting the U.S. blockade.

One of Rev. Walker's proudest accomplishments was his decade-long organization of a groundbreaking medical exchange program for low-income American youth from communities of color to earn full scholarships at the Latin American School of Medicine in Cuba and return to the U.S. to provide medical care to the underserved. It was an honor and a magnificent experience to work with him in establishing a process for American students to attend this school. He said, "Yes, we can" in spite of the odds. We owe Rev. Walker a debt of gratitude for his bold efforts.

Lucius was an international leader. I personally witnessed the respect and love people

had for him throughout the world. He epitomized the slogan, "think locally, act globally." I miss his advice and counsel, but most importantly, I miss his friendship.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors a great humanitarian, Rev. Lucius Walker, Jr. The contributions he made to others throughout his life are countless and precious. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, as well as his extended group of loved ones and friends. He was a man of bold integrity who is deeply missed. May his soul rest in peace.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE
OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
VICTOR ANGRY AND IN APPRECIATION
OF MILITARY FAMILIES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Command Sergeant Major Victor Angry on the occasion of his retirement following more than 23 years of service in our United States Army National Guard. SGT. MAJ. Angry joined the Army National Guard in 1987, following in the footsteps of his brothers who also served our country in uniform. SGT. MAJ. Angry was just 19 years of age when he enlisted. Raised in an urban and poor environment, SGT. MAJ. Angry found himself with few dreams, little passion, and deflated hopes, and thought that he was just "taking a job" for four years. That "job" became an extraordinarily successful career in which SGT. MAJ. Angry has become a part of history.

Attaining the rank Command Sergeant Major is the epitome of success in the Army National Guard. It is the highest rank possible, with the exception of Sergeant Major of the Army, for enlisted soldiers and there is no greater honor. SGT. MAJ. Victor Angry was the very first African American to achieve this rank and he has become a role model and inspiration for other young men and women, especially those who face personal challenges.

SGT. MAJ. Angry has a role model of his own—his wife Michelle. The life of a service-member can be very difficult, especially on his family. Frequent moves or deployments, becoming re-established in a new community, guiding your children through the pain of leaving old friends and trying to fit in yet again are just a few of the issues that are faced. Michelle has not only guided her family through these changes, she has aided so many other children along the way. Michelle has been instrumental in the development and success of the Fort Belvoir Family Childcare Program where her nurture, patience, and intelligence have contributed immeasurably to the growth and security of the children of our soldiers. Michelle has become a "Star Provider" and has rightfully earned the praise of so many including Evelyn Flores, Family Child Care Director, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

I believe that SGT. MAJ. Angry would agree that without the unconditional love and support of his wife Michelle and his children Dominique and Alexxyus, his professional success in the U.S. Army Guard would not have been possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Command Sergeant Angry on the occasion of his retirement and in thanking him for his service to our country. I also commend Michelle Angry and all military spouses and families throughout our country. They are truly the unsung heroes. Our armed services would suffer greatly without the eternal support of their families, and I thank Michelle and all military families for their sacrifices.

RECOGNIZING FROZEN FOOD
MONTH

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Frozen Food Month and to thank the thousands of individuals who work in the frozen food industry who help hard-working families have access to healthy foods.

Few other food choices provide consumers with the benefits and flexibility offered by frozen foods. Today, frozen entrees are healthier—using less sodium, less fat and including more whole grains. Frozen fruits and vegetables can be nutritionally superior to their fresh counterparts, particularly over time.

Frozen foods have also played a key role in helping nourish Americans and feed the world. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. exports of frozen food hit an all-time high in 2010 at \$11 billion, an increase of more than 50 percent since 2006.

The industry is also a key job producer. With almost 700 facilities located nationwide, it employs nearly 100,000 Americans. In the state of Washington alone, more than 7,400 jobs come from the frozen food industry.

This makes sense. One of Washington state's top advantages is its reliable production of high quality crops. There are more than 300 crops commercially produced, which can be turned into a diverse range of quality frozen food products for American consumers and growing markets in Asia. Potatoes, apples, grapes, and berries are just some of the crops that are processed and frozen.

I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to commemorate the accomplishments of some in the industry who have made a difference. Clarence Birdseye—an all American inventor—who ushered in a food revolution in 1930 when his line of frozen foods first hit grocery stores, introducing America to affordable foods that were easy to make.

William McCaffray Sr. founded the National Frozen Food headquartered in Seattle, Washington. Mr. McCaffray started freezing one-pound cups of strawberries in 1928—some of the earliest frozen retail packaging in the world. The impact that these two gentlemen had on the industry and the impact that the industry has had on this nation are immeasurable. There is no doubt that the innovations and contributions of this vital American industry will continue to shape the future success of our country.

THE HAMP TERMINATION ACT OF
2011

SPEECH OF

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 839) to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to terminate the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to provide new assistance under the Home Affordable Modification Program, while preserving assistance to homeowners who were already extended an offer to participate in the Program, either on a trial or permanent basis:

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Chair, last November, voters sent an unambiguous message in opposition to the surge in government spending.

Today, House Republicans are fighting to provide a surge protector.

In three short months, we have changed the conversation in Washington from increasing spending to cutting spending and by how much. We have made significant strides toward returning spending to more reasonable 2008 levels, and we are taking the scalpel to excessive regulation that is smothering the economy.

By lifting the ominous fiscal cloud that hangs over our businesses and job creators, we are laying the foundation for lasting growth.

Today, through our YouCut program, the American public has put another wasteful spending initiative on the chopping block.

In February 2009, the administration earmarked \$30 billion in TARP money to implement the Home Affordable Modification Program. This effort was intended to fight foreclosure and strengthen the housing market, but to quote the non-partisan Inspector General, it "continues to fall dramatically short of any meaningful standard of success."

HAMP was meant to help 4 million homeowners; yet only 521,630 loans have been modified under the program. To add insult to injury, HAMP suffers from high re-default rates and has left many borrowers worse off.

This legislation would save taxpayers up to \$29 billion by preventing the government from providing any new assistance under HAMP. It is a common sense way to put an end to the culture of waste we have been working to eradicate in Washington. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor.

A DAY IN HONOR OF ABIODUN OYEWOLE, "FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE LEGENDARY LAST POETS" AND ARCHITECT OF POETS HAVEN—OPEN HOUSE SUNDAYS @ 110 MORNINGSIDE DRIVE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a day in honor of Abiodun Oyewole, founding member of the legendary Last Poets and architect of Poets Haven—Open House Sundays @ 110 Morningside Drive.

On Sunday, March 27, 2011, Harlem's beloved National Black Theater hosted and joined the community of Black Diasporan Artist and Poets to celebrate and honor the legacy of Abiodun Oyewole and his most prized institution, "Open House Sundays @ 110 Morningside Drive," a true rendition of free art, expression, and family love.

Abiodun Oyewole, a founding member of the legendary and original spoken word group, The Last Poets, has for over 30 years opened his living room every Sunday, feeding his fellow artists food for thought, body and soul. Sunday's participants would gather at Poets Haven to celebrate each other, eat delicious foods, and gravitate to the elders. For many aspiring and renowned artists and poets, this is home, a place where one can help oneself to salmon croquettes, grits and home fries. In his living room you can find griots, storytellers and poets sharing their work with people who have an appreciation for the arts and yearn to be around love and expression of Black Consciousness.

Shortly after the assassination and murder of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., along with the changing domestic landscape came the New York City-hip group called The Last Poets. They used obstreperous verse to chide a Nation whose inclination was to maintain the colonial yoke around the neck of the disenfranchised. Their name, "The Last Poets," is taken from a poem by the South African revolutionary poet Keorapetse Kgositsile, who posited the necessity of putting aside poetry in the face of looming revolution. "When the moment hatches in time's womb there will be no art talk," he wrote. "The only poem you will hear will be the spearpoint pivoted in the punctured marrow of the villain. . . . Therefore we are the last poets of the world."

So Abiodun Oyewole and founding members Umar Bin Hassan, Jalal Mansur Nuriddin, Felipe Luciano, Gylan Kain, David Nelson and percussionist Nilaja Obabi formed The Last Poets on May 19, 1968, Malcolm X's birthday, at Marcus Garvey Park (formerly Mount Morris Park) in the East Harlem/El Barrio neighborhood part of my Congressional District in New York.

These young radical poets and musicians rose to become the rappers of the civil rights era. During the late 60s and early 70s, Abiodun and members of The Last Poets connected with the violent factions of the SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee), the SDS (Students for a Democratic Society), and the Black Panther party. They went through confrontations with the FBI and police, arrests for robbing the Ku Klux Klan and various other ventures with Revolution in mind. Abiodun Oyewole received a 12- to 20-year jail sentence, but served less than four years.

Post the revolutionary Civil Rights era, Abiodun went into teaching. He was a Columbia University Fellow, where he taught biology, and also spent 15 years with the New York City Board of Education teaching children.

The Last Poets have been cited as one of the earliest influences of what would become hip-hop music and for paving the way for all socially committed Black and diverse emcees. So, Mr. Speaker, I ask that today we pay homage to Abiodun Oyewole, Umar Bin Hassan, Felipe Luciano and percussionist Don Babatunde Eaton. Without fame or fortune, they continue to raise the consciousness of

America and influence the world through the spoken word of the "Legendary Last Poets."

HONORING VIETNAM VETERAN
DOCKIE BRENDEL FOR HIS SERVICE
AND SACRIFICE IN THE
VIETNAM WAR

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Specialist Fourth Class Dockie Brendle for his valiant service and sacrifice during the Vietnam War.

In 1967, Mr. Brendle started his tour of duty as an Armored Track Commander with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Swan Loc, South Vietnam. In 1968, Mr. Brendle was wounded four times. Due to his service and sacrifice Mr. Brendle received various medals and accolades, including a Silver Star, a Bronze Star with "V" Device for Valor, an Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device for Valor, four Purple Hearts, a Combat Infantry Badge, a President Unit Citation, a Vietnam Service Medal with three Bronze Stars, a Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and a Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Although he is now a 100 percent disabled veteran, Mr. Brendle is an active part of the Swain County community. He is a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Smoky Mountain Chapter 994 as well as a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars in Bryson City. He regularly attends events throughout the community. An avid football fan, he can be seen watching many Swain High School football games as a member of the "Fence Walkers."

I am grateful I have selfless, brave, and dedicated veterans like Mr. Brendle in our community. His service to our country is a great source of pride to me and to Western North Carolina. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Specialist Fourth Class Dockie Brendle for his service and sacrifice to our great nation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW-
MAN CHAPEL UNITED METH-
ODIST CHURCH

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate the parishioners of Newman Chapel United Methodist Church of Kendleton, Texas, on the opening of their new multipurpose worship center. The Center opened this past Sunday, March 27th.

Established in approximately 1872, Newman Chapel was the first Methodist Church organized in the Kendleton. Originally, parishioners meet by the San Bernard River under the old oak trees. Services were held at the river until 1874 when the parishioners constructed a log cabin that served as both a place for worship and a school.

Newman Chapel may have come a long way from its roots in a gathering of believers by the San Bernard River, but what has never

changed is the parishioners' and staff's commitment to the mission of building a spirit-filled community church of believers. The new worship center will enhance the Church's ability to carry out this mission by providing a more spacious and comfortable location for worship and other traditional church activities. The new multipurpose center will also be used for new ministries and needed services to all the people of Kendleton. Some of the new programs planned include a Sunday morning breakfast and bible study, a senior daycare center, after school tutorials and programs to provide nutritious food to Kendleton's low-income population.

In conclusion, I once again extend my congratulations to the parishioners and staff of Newman Chapel United Methodist Church on the opening of their new multi-purpose worship center. I am certain all of Newman Chapel's parishioners as well as the community of Kendleton will benefit from the worship center.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 142ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize the 142nd Anniversary of the Shiloh Baptist Church in Mason Neck, Virginia, and to celebrate the unveiling of its historical marker.

The mission of Shiloh Baptist is to be a "beacon of light" within the community, bringing hope, spiritual guidance, and a loving spirit to those it serves.

On November 18, 1879 Relius Allen and Archie Gilliam, Trustees, purchased one acre of land on Gunston Road, where the first Shiloh Baptist Church was built. This humble log structure became the spiritual home to local families including the original organizers named Gilliam, Berries, Gant, Blackburn and Williams. A small cemetery was also established on the original property. In 1900, another one-acre parcel was purchased directly across the street; this parcel included a building, the Gunston white school, which served as a second meeting house. In 1927, a vestibule and steps were added to the building, which is still in use today.

Since that time, the Church has witnessed many changes. August 11, 1984 marked the groundbreaking of the New Edifice to the Glory of God, which was dedicated the next year. In 1999, a 6-acre addition was dedicated. In 2004, two trailers were installed, providing additional room for classes, administrative offices, prayer rooms, and a library. Also in 2004, two additional acres were purchased, increasing the total Church property to 10 acres. The house on the original Parson's Property has been set aside for use as a "House of Helps and Hope" to serve the needs of our less fortunate neighbors, as well as a nursery.

It is believed that Reverend John Webb was the first pastor of the church and since its founding, 16 pastors and three interim pastors have served the Shiloh Baptist congregation. In 2002, the Reverend Doctor Luther M. Bailey became Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church,

where he continues to serve. Under his leadership, new programs have been implemented and membership has grown to 146.

The significance of Shiloh Baptist Church has been recognized with the placement of a historical marker presented by the Fairfax County History Commission. This Church has witnessed great transformations in our country from its beginnings shortly after the end of the Civil War to the election of our Nation's first African-American President, Barack Obama.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 142nd Anniversary of Shiloh Baptist Church, and in recognizing the historical significance and contributions to the community made by this Church and its members.

HONORING WILLIAM "BILL" RUSSELL

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of basketball Hall of Famer and America's 2010 Medal of Freedom Award Recipient, Mr. William "Bill" Russell. A trailblazer in both athletics and civil rights, Mr. Russell is a five-time winner of the NBA MVP Award, a 12-time All Star, and winner of 11 NBA Championships in his 13-year career with the Boston Celtics. Today, we pay tribute to a living legend, on and off the court. Called "The Greatest Winner of the 20th Century," by HBO Sports and "The Greatest Team Player on the Greatest Team of All Time," by Sports Illustrated, Bill Russell's colleagues, friends and family also know him simply as a great human being.

Born February 12, 1934 in West Monroe, Louisiana to Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Katie Russell, Bill moved with his family to Oakland, California at the age of eight. A promising athlete at a young age, he subsequently led the University of San Francisco to NCAA Championships in 1955 and 1956, and was drafted soon after. In 1956, he also led the United States Olympic basketball team to a gold medal as team captain.

Over the years, Mr. Russell captivated fans across the nation with 14,522 career points, 21,620 career rebounds and 4,100 career assists with the Boston Celtics. Noted as the best defensive player in NBA history, Mr. Russell continued his career by becoming the first African-American head coach in American major league sports with the 1967 Boston Celtics. He also coached the Seattle SuperSonics from 1973 to 1977 and the Sacramento Kings from 1987 to 1988.

Following his coaching career, Mr. Russell served his community as an active philanthropist, author and public speaker. Having been the first NBA player to visit Africa in 1959, Mr. Russell later partnered with the NBA and State Department to introduce basketball to Africa as a global ambassador. He has since hosted clinics in over 50 countries on six continents. He has also served as an active member of the National Mentoring Partnership's Board of Directors. Moreover, he has joined with one of his three children, Karen, in raising national awareness and research for Sarcoidosis, a fibrotic lung disorder that affects them both.

Among Mr. Russell's numerous accolades are an honorary doctorate from Suffolk University, an honorary degree from Harvard University and the NBA's first Civil Rights Award. Also, in 2009, the NBA Finals MVP trophy was renamed: the Bill Russell NBA MVP Award.

On behalf of the residents of California's 9th congressional district, Mr. William "Bill" Russell, I salute you. I congratulate you on your many achievements, and I thank you for the invaluable contributions you have made to the sport of basketball, to communities of color, and to residents throughout the Bay Area. I wish you and your loved ones continued success, happiness and well-being in the coming years.

BILL TO HONOR M.D. ANDERSON OF JACKSON, TENNESSEE

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the distinguished life of a successful agri-businessman, a respected philanthropist, and a great Tennessean from Jackson, Tennessee: Monroe Dunaway Anderson. It is my pleasure to introduce a bill to honor M.D. Anderson by designating the property between the United States Federal Courthouse and the Ed Jones Building at 109 South Highland Avenue in Jackson, Tennessee as the "M.D. Anderson Plaza".

Mr. Anderson is a true American legend who used his fortune and influence to provide thousands of people with hope and a second chance at life. Mr. Anderson worked his entire life so that he could endow a hospital which would eventually become the largest medical complex in the world. His philanthropy and generosity were instilled in him as a boy growing up in Jackson, Tennessee. His story deserves to be told and his life commemorated for his bold vision.

Monroe Dunaway Anderson, also known as M.D. Anderson, was born in Jackson, Tennessee in 1873. After attending Jackson public schools, Mr. Anderson left his hometown to attend college in Memphis, Tennessee. Upon completing college, Mr. Anderson returned to his hometown to work at the People's National Bank.

In 1904 Mr. Anderson joined the cotton trading venture Anderson, Clayton, and Company started by his older brother Frank Anderson and Frank's brother-in-law Will Clayton. Their corporation flourished worldwide due to the rising demand of cotton during World War I, and they moved their operation to Houston, Texas to have better access to larger banks and deep water shipping. By the mid-1920's, after the company moved to Houston, they had operational trading firms in Europe, Africa, and Asia.

In 1936, Mr. Anderson established the M.D. Anderson Foundation with \$300,000, which created the largest medical complex in the world, the Texas Medical Center in Houston, TX. The Foundation was set to receive an additional \$19 million dollars upon the death of Mr. Anderson in 1939. The charter of the Foundation did not specify how the money was to be used, but the trustees leaned strongly in the direction of healthcare due to

Mr. Anderson's passion to help people and his desire to rid the world of cancer.

By 1945, Anderson, Clayton, and Company owned and operated 233 gins, 33 cottonseed oil plants, and 123 warehouses worldwide, and Fortune Magazine named this small start-up enterprise the largest cotton buyer, seller, storer, and shipper of cotton in the world.

The company remained private until 1945 when it was listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Because of this business strategy, it allowed the M.D. Anderson Foundation to purchase land for the Texas Medical Center through the sale of the company's stock. The Anderson, Clayton, and Company, by this time, had diversified its capital into a marine insurance company, a barge line, cotton mills, an investment bank, machine works, and even a foods division. After 1950, the multimillion dollar company was known as ACCO, or the "BigStore", and their international market sales reached three and half percent of all the world's production.

The positive impact of the Anderson, Clayton, and Company had on agri-business and the cotton trade as well as the M.D. Anderson Foundation's influence on medicine, research, and education throughout Tennessee's 8th Congressional district and the country is still being felt today.

Mr. Anderson's generosity through his foundation has built libraries, auditoriums, college buildings, and a planetarium on the campus of Lambuth College in Jackson, Tennessee as well as the 49 buildings at the Texas Medical Center.

Because of the positive legacy that M.D. Anderson has left, the city of Jackson, Tennessee along with Madison County passed resolutions in 2009 to honor Mr. Anderson and to rename the plaza between the two Federal Buildings in Jackson, Tennessee as "M.D. Anderson Plaza".

I am not alone in my effort to recognize Mr. Anderson's achievements. I would like to recognize the support of Mayor Jerry Gist of Jackson along with the Jackson City Council members Charles "Pepper" Bray; Ernest Brooks, II; Harvey Buchanan; Johnny Dodd; Danny Ellis; Maurice Hays; Frank Neudecker; Charles Rahm; and Randy Wallace.

In addition to the Jackson City Council, I would also like to recognize Madison County Mayor Jimmy Harris and the County Commission members Jimmy C. Arnold; Fred W. Birmingham; Katie Y. Brantley; Claudell Brown, Jr.; Gary D. Deaton; Aaron D. Ellison; Jim Ed Hart; Arthur D. Johnson, Jr.; Mark G. Johnstone; Terry H. Kuykendall; Larry V. Lowrance; William C. Martin; Luther T. Mercer; Dale Morton; John W. Newman; James W. Pearson; Joe A. Roland; Lacy R Rose; Douglas S. Roth; Billy Spain; Doug Stephenson; Bill Walls; and Arthur Wilson.

Finally, I would also like to acknowledge and thank Mr. Dickie Day of Jackson, Tennessee and Mr. Carter Edwards of Crockett Mills, Tennessee for working on this effort.

Today I join my distinguished colleagues in the city of Jackson and Madison County to rename the plaza between the two Federal buildings in Jackson, Tennessee as the "M.D. Anderson Plaza" by introducing this bill to recognize and honor the life and accomplishments of M.D. Anderson.

Furthermore, I would like to point out that this bill will place no burden to the taxpayers

of this great country due to the generosity of the West Tennessee Health Care Foundation in providing the funds necessary to rename the plaza and honor Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House (and Senate) to support me in this tribute to a great American.

RECOGNIZING MR. TIMOTHY HESTER AS THE 2011 HURLBURT AFA CHAPTER 398 HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Timothy Hester as the 2011 Hurlburt AFA Chapter 398 High School Teacher of the Year. For more than 30 years, Mr. Hester has been an inspiration to his students and colleagues, and I am honored to recognize this achievement.

Out of his passion for teaching and love of aviation, Mr. Hester creates a unique and stimulating learning environment. His introductory middle school course on aeronautics has been adopted by middle schools throughout Okaloosa County as the model for their aeronautics programs. Mr. Hester built on that success and translated it to the high school level, where he currently teaches introductory courses in aviation, aerospace, and space flight in three high schools through the CHOICE Aviation Institute.

Through his tireless work and dedication, Mr. Hester has ensured that the equipment, teachers, and programs necessary to advance aeronautical education are readily available to his students. Last year, he raised \$50,000 in donations and grants to fund these needs, and he has expanded the Aviation Institute, recruiting students and establishing a classroom, among other efforts.

To Mr. Hester, learning is not isolated within the classroom walls. He has afforded his students the opportunity to fly with the Experimental Aircraft Association Young Eagles Program and has hosted field trips to Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. Education in the classroom coupled with practical experience in aviation has amplified the innovative learning experience, providing students a foundation for success and earning him the recognition of High School Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Mr. Hester as the Hurlburt AFA Chapter 398 High School Teacher of the Year and for his continuing commitment to excellence. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Timothy Hester, and we wish him all the best.

TRIBUTE TO COACH MIKE GOTTFRIED—2010 MOBILIAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, in my home state of Alabama, we know something about

winning football, and there is one fact we don't dispute. Behind every winning team is a great coach. The success of the City of Mobile is due in no small measure to the tireless efforts of our own "coach" and my dear friend, Mike Gottfried. I'm especially proud to note that Coach Mike Gottfried is being honored on April 7, 2011, with a most deserving honor, 2010 Mobilian of the Year.

Many Americans may recognize Mike Gottfried as a long-time ESPN sports analyst who covered both college and NFL football for nearly two decades on prime time television. A fixture on the cable network's Thursday Night Game of the Week and College Football Thursday Night, not to mention ESPN's NFL draft coverage, Mike was particularly compelling as a voice for character as well as athletic achievement.

An Ohio native, Mike was quarterback at Morehead State University from 1962 to 1965. Upon graduation in 1966, he proceeded to coach high school football in Ohio before embarking on a distinguished college coaching career that took him to Murray State, Cincinnati, Kansas and Pittsburgh. During his four years at Pittsburgh, Mike earned a 26–17–2 record, including wins over rivals Notre Dame, Penn State and West Virginia.

Mobile was fortunate when Mike moved to our city in 1990 and became an active member of our community. A member of the Mobile Sports Hall of Fame, Mike is credited with helping to establish the GMAC Bowl—now the GoDaddy.com Bowl—in Alabama's port city.

Mike may be a giant on gridiron, but he stands even taller in the lives of hundreds of young men who grew up without fathers. In 2000, Mike founded Team Focus, an organization which has enabled hundreds of single parent children to advance their education in an environment in which they are "motivated, encouraged, and challenged."

He is the co-author of Coach's Challenge: Faith, Football, and Filling the Father Gap, written with Ron Benson in 2007.

A nationally sought-after motivational speaker and supporter of youth programs, Mike partnered with First Lady Laura Bush in promoting her Helping America's Youth (HAY program), benefitting at-risk students. For over ten years, Mike and his wife, Mickey, have also led fundraising efforts for L'Arche, a Christian community for people with intellectual disabilities, raising more and a half millions dollars. Mike and his wife are also the recipients of the 2010 FBI Director's Community Leadership Award for their community outreach work with Team Focus.

Mike's selfless record of service to disadvantaged youth and his uncommon devotion to our community, have certainly earned him the honor of 2010 Mobilian of the Year.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I congratulate Mike on receiving this award and I extend a personal thank you to Mike and his wonder wife and partner, Mickey, for all they continue to do for our community and our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GARRETT
JOSEPH MALISKA

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Garrett Joseph Maliska of Bryan, Texas.

Garrett entered into rest on February 28 at his home with his family by his side. He was 17 years old. Garrett had battled with Spinal Cord Glioblastoma Cancer since March of 2008.

Garrett was an exceptional young man. He touched everyone that he came in contact with. His friends, teammates, teachers, and classmates all admired the strength with which he carried himself through his hard fought battle with this disease.

Garrett, a member of the baseball team, continued to remain on the team's roster throughout his cancer fight. Many of his teammates and friends all shaved their heads in solidarity with him over this time.

Garrett was a senior at Bryan High School who was well respected in the community for his character and perseverance during his difficult fight. He made a lasting impression on everyone in the community he met, who saw the strength in which he carried himself despite facing this hardship.

Garrett planned on attending Texas A&M upon graduation and becoming an Aggie. His spirit will live on and a scholarship will live on in his name, "The Heart of G Scholarship."

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Maliska family at this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING FIREFIGHTER JIM
RITCHIE OF THE HARBOR BEACH
AREA FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR 50
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to pay tribute to Firefighter Jim Ritchie of the Harbor Beach Area Fire Department located in beautiful Huron County, Michigan. This year marks the 50th year of service for Mr. Ritchie who began his career with the Department in 1960 at 22 years old.

Mr. Ritchie has consistently set high standards during his outstanding career in the fire services. The State of Michigan, the 10th Congressional District and the City of Harbor Beach have benefited greatly from his devotion, sacrifice and strong leadership skills. He was among some of the first individuals in the surrounding Thumb Area to become a state certified fire instructor—demonstrating his commitment to be a great mentor and teacher to younger volunteer firefighters joining the profession.

Mr. Speaker, firefighters are the backbone of our communities. They are often the first to respond to an emergency. Whether it is a fire, car accident, natural disaster, an act of terrorism, medical emergency, or hazardous spill, extraordinary men and women stand ready to

serve. They have an unwavering dedication to protect those who are in distress.

But sometimes, first responders are taken for granted. That is until a crisis strikes and the public reaches out for help. Against their better judgment, firefighters rush to the scene of an emergency and into harm's way. When our natural instincts tell us to flee, firefighters rush in. And without the promise of fame, fortune, or as much as a simple "thank you," firefighters remain constantly vigilant.

Despite this, Firefighter Ritchie continues to show true bravery and courage in times of panic and crisis. He has served a key role with the Harbor Beach Area Fire Department. He is a great American and I salute him.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of all the men and women who risk their lives to protect our safety and well-being, so it is my honor to offer my sincere gratitude to Mr. Jim Ritchie for his 50 years of service. His leadership, integrity, and dedication are greatly appreciated. I wish him all the best as he continues to serve the citizens of the City of Harbor Beach.

"AN UNJUSTIFIED ASSAULT ON
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT"

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, very few financial instruments in American history have had the extremely high degree of reliability as full faith and credit, general obligation bonds issued by states or local governments. The rating agencies themselves have acknowledged that there are virtually no defaults of such bonds, and even for those bonds that are funded by particular dedicated revenue sources, and are somewhat less solid, as Iris Lav notes in the New York Times last week, "The leading rating agencies estimate the default rate on rated municipal bonds of any kind at less than one-third of 1 percent; in contrast, the default rate on corporate bonds reached nearly 14 percent during the recession and hovers around 3 percent in good times." I note here, Mr. Speaker, that while I am skeptical of the predictive abilities of the rating agencies, I do not doubt their ability to count what has happened and that is what we are referring to here.

Despite this extraordinary solid record of repayment, there are some in the investing community who are promoting uncertainty by predicting that there will be, in an unprecedented way and quite contrary to the fiscal facts—an outbreak of defaults. This is not only without any factual basis; it is one more assault on the ability of state and local governments to provide for the needs of the people who live in these jurisdictions. Transportation facilities; sewer and water projects; public safety and health and education facilities—all of these are funded by bonds, and the record, as Ms. Lav makes clear, is that those who invest to help build these are always paid back as promised.

In her op-ed article in the New York Times, Iris Lav, of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, decisively refutes this effort to drive up the interest rates that state and local governments have to pay, requiring them either to raise taxes at the state and local level, or to

diminish important projects that both support employment and provide necessary public facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Iris Lav's thoughtful and irrefutable argument be printed here.

UNBREAKABLE BONDS

(By Iris J. Lav)

WASHINGTON.—Late last year a well-known financial analyst, Meredith Whitney, predicted that "50 to 100 sizable defaults" by state and local governments, amounting to hundreds of billions of dollars, were just around the corner. Since then that fear has produced a near-panic, with municipal bond markets down significantly and some even calling for a law to let states declare bankruptcy.

But this fear of an imminent bond crisis reflects a profound misunderstanding of the differences between the short- and long-term challenges facing state and local governments, and what these governments can do to address them. Indeed, such talk hurts those governments in the long run by undermining investor confidence and raising their borrowing costs.

Municipal bond default is actually quite rare: no state has defaulted on a bond since the Depression, and only four cities or counties have defaulted on a guaranteed bond in the last 40 years. A few minor bond defaults do occur each year, usually on debt issued by quasi-governmental entities for projects that didn't pan out, like sewers for housing developments that never were occupied.

Indeed, last year's total defaults amounted to just \$2.8 billion—a drop in the bucket compared to the nearly \$3 trillion in outstanding municipal bonds. The leading rating agencies estimate the default rate on rated municipal bonds of any kind at less than one-third of 1 percent; in contrast, the default rate on corporate bonds reached nearly 14 percent during the recession and hovers around 3 percent in good times.

So why are so many people afraid of a looming wave of bond defaults? The confusion is rooted in a failure to distinguish between cyclical budget problems and the longer-term soundness of state and local borrowing.

State and local budget deficits need to be understood in context. These governments always have trouble balancing their budgets during economic downturns, and this downturn has been worse than most. The 2007–2009 recession and the slow recovery, along with housing foreclosures, caused a big drop in state and local revenues; state revenues remain an estimated 11 percent below what they were before the recession.

Meanwhile, state spending on public services has risen, driven in part by increases in the numbers of unemployed and newly poor residents. The result has been huge and continuing, but understandable, deficits.

Such deficits make for frightening headlines because these days, most governments are legally required to balance their budgets each year, and they have been closing those gaps by cutting programs and raising taxes, neither of which sits well with voters.

But these operating deficits are cyclical: as the economy picks up, demand for social services will decline and tax revenues will increase, just as they have after previous recessions.

To be sure, states also suffer from longer-term "structural deficits" because their revenues are not growing as quickly as their costs of providing services even during good economic times. These structural deficits, which states must address, make it harder for them to meet their responsibilities each year.

However, that doesn't mean their bonds are in trouble. Bonds are a long-term obligation. They finance projects like bridges,

highways and school buildings—not, with very few exceptions, annual operating costs. And by law most state and local governments must pay bond interest before financing any public services.

True, state and local governments do have to make annual interest payments on their bonds, but these payments represent a modest 4 percent to 5 percent on the whole of current spending—no more than in the late 1970s. And while total state and local bond debt has risen slightly over the last decade as a share of the economy, it is no higher today than it was at times in the 1980s and 1990s.

On the rare occasion when a local government faces the risk of default, the state typically steps in and creates a control board or other mechanism to straighten out its finances and assure that bondholders get paid; New York did so when Nassau County's finances deteriorated in 2000 and again this year. Pennsylvania gave the same assistance last year to Harrisburg, which had issued bonds for an overly ambitious trash-to-energy project.

Some doomsayers liken today's municipal bond market to the mortgage bond market before it burst. But that's a false comparison: state and local governments haven't changed the frequency or quality of bonds issued, as occurred with subprime mortgage bonds.

Nevertheless, the fear of imminent defaults has led some politicians to call for a federal law allowing states to declare bankruptcy. That's a solution in search of a problem that doesn't exist—and a dangerous solution at that, since it likely would undermine investor confidence and thereby increase state borrowing costs for necessary capital improvements.

None of this is to say that the country's finances, whether at the federal, state or local level, aren't without serious problems. But it's one thing to talk reasonably about long-term difficulties, and another to spread fear about a bond-default apocalypse. Doing so might win political points, but it makes finding real solutions much harder.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN-MADISON WOMEN'S
HOCKEY TEAM FOR WINNING
THE NCAA DIVISION I NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of Wisconsin-Madison women's hockey team for completing an outstanding season and winning the NCAA Division I National Championship. The victory marks the Badgers' fourth national title in six years.

Under the tutelage of Coach Mark Johnson, UW-Madison achieved tremendous success this season with an overall record of 37 wins, 2 ties, and 2 losses. Their mark of 37 wins is a new NCAA women's hockey record, besting the mark of 36 wins previously set by the Badgers in 2006. and 2007, and their last win capped an unbelievable 27 game win streak. The Badgers secured both the WCHA regular season and tournament titles, and on March 20, 2011, they iced the National Championship with a 4-1 victory over Boston University in the 2011 NCAA Women's Frozen Four National Championship game at Tullio Arena in Erie, Pennsylvania.

The merit of this team is reflected in the many accolades earned by its members. Coach Johnson, a former gold medal Olympian, was awarded the 2011 American Hockey Coaches Association Division I Coach of the Year, making him a four-time recipient of the award. Additionally, senior forward Meghan Duggan was awarded the Patty Kazmaier Award, which recognizes the Division I female hockey player who displays the highest standards of personal and team excellence during the season. Meghan's three point performance in the semifinal game against Boston College, which included an assist on Brianna Decker's goal with just 48 seconds left, helped the Badgers skate into the finals.

The puck does not stop with athletic achievement. UW-Madison Chancellor Biddy Martin, Athletic Director Barry Alvarez, and Coach Mark Johnson are dedicated to creating an environment of academic excellence. Every year, the Elite 88 award is presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade point average participating in the finals for each of the NCAA's 88 championships. This year, sophomore goalie Rebecca Ruegsegger, who also was named to the All-WCHA Academic team and is a WCHA Scholar Athlete, was the women's hockey recipient for this prestigious award for her 4.0 grade point average.

The loyal support of Badger fans clad in cardinal and white across the state helped raise the women's hockey team to the apex of their sport. I join others in south central Wisconsin in proudly recognizing the achievements of the players, coaches, students, alumni, and staffers who were vital in helping the UW-Madison women's hockey team win yet another NCAA title.

HONORING MICHAEL KELLEY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man of utmost integrity and resilience: Michael Kelley. Mike will be honored tomorrow at the Plymouth Public Library in Plymouth, Massachusetts for his steadfast dedication to the security of our Nation and his fellow veterans.

Following over twenty years in the Navy, Mike returned with a new perspective on the challenges that veterans face and the opportunities that our country can create for them. Mike quickly saw that unemployment and a lack of job training plagued his veteran community, and so he set to establish a multidisciplinary team that ultimately founded the VET NET Steering Committee and devoted his life to helping his fellow veterans seek employment opportunities through the Plymouth Career Center. Thousands of veterans from the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, and the Air Force have found a collaborative way to train each other on necessary job skills, explore emerging employment opportunities, and secure careers for themselves. Meanwhile, Mike worked effortlessly to garner support for the Steering Committee and retain an active and outspoken membership.

I commend Mike for his drive and initiative, and I urge others to learn from his leadership

and guidance. I look forward to working with Mike and our veterans' community to address these challenges and help veterans advance our economy.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. EDIE
FRASER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Edie Fraser, a remarkable woman who has devoted herself to promoting diversity, advancing women's equality, and serving others throughout her career, and who I am proud to call my friend.

A remarkably devoted and effective activist and philanthropist, Edie D. Fraser is a successful entrepreneur, an inspirational and visionary leader, and a selfless and dedicated philanthropist and mentor to countless other women and girls. She has a long and distinguished track record as an advocate for diversity in the corporate sector. The remarkable effectiveness and astonishing energy that she has demonstrated in her advocacy inspired her friend Cynthia de Lorenzi, the founder of the "Success in the City" program, to give her the nickname, "the Magical Bumblebee."

A top official at Diversified Search Odgers Berndtson, Edie Fraser is widely respected throughout corporate America. She has a rich history in diversity advocacy, having been the founder, President, and Chief Executive Officer of the Business Women's Network and the Public Affairs Group, Inc., whose divisions include Diversity Best Practices and Best Practices in Corporate Communications. More than 135 corporations participated in the programs created and developed by her company. She currently serves on the Boards of Directors of several important organizations dedicated to promoting diversity in the workforce and to encouraging women's equal participation in every sector of business and society. She was recently featured on the cover of WOW magazine's "Mentoring Leaders" issue, and is being honored in Washington this month.

Edie Fraser has dedicated her life to serving others in countless ways. She is the co-author of *Do Your Giving While You're Living*, a work that reached the best-seller list of *BusinessWeek* magazine and which offers inspirational portraits of prominent women leaders like Bonnie McElveen-Hunter, the Chair of the Board of Red Cross; Jennie Chin Hansen, the President of the American Association of Retired Persons, and the renowned singer and recording artist Dionne Warwick. Ms. Fraser is also a longtime supporter of *Latina Style* and of Robert Bard, as well as non-profit institutions like Big Brothers and organizations serving persons with disabilities. In recognition of her service to others, she has won more than 35 major awards for promoting diversity, advancing women's equality, and far-sighted philanthropy. She has served as Chair of the Public Affairs and Government Relations Sections of the Public Relations Society of America, and has been a keynote speaker for the International Association of Business Communicators. Edie won the highest award possible in the field of communications, the Silver Anvil, for a specialized international campaign

on U.S. and Japan communications and trade promotion. Throughout her long career as a corporate leader and community and civic activist, Edie Fraser has been deeply devoted to her family and friends, above all to her beloved husband, Joe Oppenheimer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the enormous contributions to our civic and political life made by Edie D. Fraser, a leader, activist, and philanthropist in the finest traditions of our great republic.

HONORING DANBURY VISITING
NURSE ASSOCIATION (VNA)

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Danbury Visiting Nurse Association (VNA), which is commemorating its 100th anniversary this year. Founded originally as the Visiting Nurse Association of Danbury in 1911, the Danbury VNA continues to provide a valuable service for thousands of people in Western Connecticut.

As the Greater Danbury's oldest home care agency, the Danbury VNA serves patients from a number of towns in my district outside of Danbury including, Bethel, Brookfield, New Fairfield, Newtown, Redding, Southbury, Woodbury and Ridgefield.

Dr. Sophia Penfield, the first licensed female physician in the State of Connecticut, along with members of the Civic Club of Danbury, established the Agency to provide care for the sick and needy, to instruct families in the care of the sick in their homes, and to teach the principles of simple sanitation and hygiene.

Founding member and first president, Mrs. John Downs served as President for an astonishing 47 years. Following her death in 1957, a recognized Board of Directors adopted the present constitution and by-laws and the agency became the Danbury Visiting Nurse Association, Inc. With the advent of Medicare, Danbury VNA became a Medicare certified home health agency in 1966. In 1993, the Agency joined the Danbury Health Systems as the home care affiliate and is now an affiliate of the recently formed Western Connecticut Healthcare, which includes New Milford Hospital.

The Danbury VNA has been a longtime advocate of preventative care for children. The agency established well child clinics nearly 75 years ago to provide physicals and inoculations. Nearly 15 years ago, the Danbury VNA recognized the challenges that many people have in getting to their physician's office by establishing the Wellness on Wheels program. This unique mobile health program for families with limited access to medical care brings a doctor, registered nurse, a social worker and others out to the community to provide critical health care services to underserved Connecticut residents free of charge. Services include physicals, screenings and immunizations for school and work.

While much has changed in light of advances in nursing practices and technology, the vision of the Civic Club and Dr. Penfield have not. The core of the Danbury Visiting Nurse Association is reflected in its mission

and philosophy to serve the community, treating patients with dignity and respect and providing home care and community health services to all in need.

I want to thank the Danbury Visiting Nurse Association for all that they do and I am pleased to congratulate them on their 100th anniversary.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WEIRTON
MADONNA HIGH SCHOOL BOYS
BASKETBALL TEAM ON BECOMING
STATE CHAMPS

HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to West Virginia's Weirton Madonna High School Boys Basketball Team on winning their first state championship on March 19, 2011. The Blue Dons had a close game against Morgantown Trinity Christian High School, pulling off a win with a final score of 44-42. They finished with a record of 24-3. Both teams played with spirit and enthusiasm but the Northern Panhandle's very own Blue Dons were victorious. Much-deserved congratulations should go out to all of the Blue Don coaches: head coach George Vargo, and his assistants Mike Hagg, Chris Blair and Michael Battista. Coach Vargo and the leadership of his assistant coaches throughout the years have made positive impacts in the lives of their players, former and current. The young men of the Blue Dons basketball team should hold their heads high and know they have made all of their community very proud. They played like champions, and they have a fan in Congress.

MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT
TRANSPARENCY AND ASSESSMENT
ACT OF 2011

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act includes key provisions to increase availability of primary care doctors. For example, it will pay a 10 percent Medicare bonus, expand loan forgiveness programs and create flexibility within the National Health Service Corps. However, an underlying persistent problem exists in Medicare that must be corrected if we are to make primary care sustainable.

No single factor is driving the workforce crisis in medicine more than the income gap between certain procedure-heavy specialists and primary care/cognitive specialists. Last October the Wall Street Journal published an expose of the American Medical Association's Specialty Society Relative Value Scale Update Committee, also known as the "RUC".

For two decades the RUC, a specialist-dominated panel, has encouraged national health care reimbursement policies that financially undervalue the essential and complex work of primary care providers and cognitive specialists, while favoring sometimes unneces-

sarily complex, costly and excessive specialty medical services. This imbalance drives results down for patients and drives medical costs even higher.

The RUC's votes are not open to the public, yet Medicare has mostly rubber-stamped the RUC's recommendations over 90 percent of the time. Since the creation of the RUC in 1991, the income disparity between primary care versus procedure-heavy specialists has exploded.

Today, I'm introducing a bill called the, "Medicare Physician Payment Transparency and Assessment Act of 2011" that will put a transparent light on the way CMS identifies and values health care services. My bill would add public and transparent data collected from independent analysts to compare to the RUC's recommendations. It would also use independent analytic contractors to conduct surveys and collect data for physician services paid under Medicare and to annually identify services that may be over or under-valued.

I am proud to note that this bill is endorsed by the American Academy of Family Physicians and the Society of General Internal Medicine.

It's time we let taxpayers, the citizens who pay the bills for Medicare, see for themselves how Medicare decides how much to pay doctors and for what.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 12TH ANNUAL
MARCH IS RED CROSS
MONTH GALA AND THE FORMATION
OF THE AMERICAN RED
CROSS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL
REGION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 12th Annual March Is Red Cross Month Gala and the formation of the American Red Cross in the National Capital Region.

The gala is traditionally held in the Prince William community to commemorate the work of the local chapter of the American Red Cross. This year's event also celebrates the establishment of the American Red Cross in the National Capital Region, which now serves the communities of Prince William, Loudoun, Fairfax, Arlington, and Alexandria in Virginia, the District of Columbia and Prince George's and Montgomery in Maryland.

Our community is enriched in many ways by the American Red Cross in the National Capital Region. The American Red Cross shelters feed and provide emotional support to victims of disasters; supply nearly half of the nation's blood donation stockpile; teach lifesaving skills; provide international humanitarian aid; and support military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission.

Red Cross offices in Northern Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia are combining their operations to deliver a seamless system that carries out the mission of the American Red Cross. The strength of the American Red Cross and the commitment of

its paid and volunteer staff throughout our region help us prepare for and respond to emergencies down the street, across the country and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 12th Annual March Is Red Cross Month Gala and the formation of the American Red Cross in the National Capital Region. The Red Cross has always depended on the cooperation of communities, neighbors, and volunteers, and this new regional endeavor is in keeping with that tradition.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF RED CROSS MONTH

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, March is Red Cross Month and I rise today to honor the American Red Cross, its chapters throughout the United States, and its affiliates around the world. Founded in 1881, the Red Cross is one of the most effective disaster relief organizations in the world, providing care and comfort to millions of people affected by disasters every year.

We need only look at the recent tragedy in Japan to witness the important work of the Red Cross. The Japanese Red Cross is supporting operations in 1800 shelters and has provided medical care and counseling and distributed blankets and other emergency supplies to those in need. The American Red Cross is also playing a vital role in the disaster relief effort in Japan, sending personnel and monetary support.

Earlier this year here at home, the American Red Cross provided assistance to individuals and families affected by the severe winter storms that impacted the Northeast and Midwest. More recently, the Red Cross provided shelter and meals in response to flooding, tornadoes, and wildfires around the United States.

In addition to its disaster relief efforts, the Red Cross provides training and preparedness information for individuals, families, and organizations. The Red Cross, its dedicated employees, and its many volunteers help to make a difference in American communities every day. Whenever there are people in need, the Red Cross is there.

This March, I honor the Red Cross, its employees, and its volunteers for their continued compassion and assistance in the United States and abroad.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM ACT OF 2011

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I proudly join in a bipartisan effort with Representatives JEAN SCHMIDT, GWEN MOORE, SUSAN DAVIS, BARBARA LEE, TAMMY BALDWIN, JANICE SCHAKOWSKY, DORIS MATSUI, RAÚL

GRIJALVA, KAREN BASS, PETE STARK, JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER, JACKIE SPEIER, CYNTHIA LUMMIS, SANDY ADAMS, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, MARSHA BLACKBURN, MADELEINE BORDALLO, BARNEY FRANK, JUDY BIGGERT, ALCEE HASTINGS, JO ANN EMERSON, MARCY KAPTUR, JAMES MORAN, and YVETTE CLARKE in introducing the National Women's History Museum Act of 2011.

This bill directs the General Services Administration, GSA, to house a National Women's History Museum (NWHM) in one of their properties in Washington, DC. NWHM must pay fair market value for the property and reasonable timeframes are included for the transfer of the property and for construction to begin. NWHM will be built and maintained with private funds. No federal dollars will be spent on this important, new museum.

Women's history is largely missing from textbooks, memorials, museum exhibits and many other venues. In contrast, men have hundreds of years of written and available history to reflect upon and use for inspiration. Of the 210 statues in the United States Capitol, only 9 are of female leaders. Less than 5 percent of the 2,400 national historic landmarks chronicle women's achievement and according to a survey of 18 history textbooks, only 10 percent were dedicated to women.

The museums and memorials in our Nation's Capital demonstrate what we value. We have museums dedicated to flight, postage stamps, law enforcement and many other important people and issues of interest, but not to women. This bill would provide women, comprising 53 percent of our population, a long overdue home on our National Mall to honor their many contributions that are the very fabric of our country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in filling this void and honoring our Nation's foremothers by becoming cosponsors of the National Women's History Museum Act of 2011.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE STERLING HEIGHTS REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today to honor and recognize an exceptional organization located in Michigan's 10th Congressional District—the Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce & Industry. On Friday, April 1, 2011, the Sterling Heights Chamber will mark a special day in its history with a very momentous 50th Anniversary Celebration. This "Golden Occasion" will be an opportunity to reflect upon the excellent work performed since the Chamber's inception in 1961 when it was first known as the Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce.

Over the past 50 years, the Chamber has adapted and transformed in order to maintain its business edge, and is known as one of the premier chambers in the State of Michigan. While over the years their name has changed to accommodate their growing membership in Macomb County and throughout the region,

their mission and goals have always remained the same—"to bring features, benefits and value to their members, and each and every day strive to bring a return on that investment."

The Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been a true ambassador of economic liberty and an admirable advocate for small businesses. It has always taken a proactive approach to highlight the wonderful resources and services available to potential customers and clients. With business workshops, educational seminars and various community outreach events covering a wide range of topics and issues, the entrepreneurial spirit has been the driving force behind their initiatives to improve our economy, create a better business climate, increase the number of jobs, and enhance the quality of life for all who call this area home.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the chamber's leadership, both past and present, for their tireless work, innovative thinking and exemplary vision. The effectiveness and strength of this Chamber is displayed by the fact it has expanded its designated coverage base of the original communities of Sterling Heights, Utica and Shelby Township to also include communities in the adjoining Oakland and Wayne Counties. It captured the essence of this region by focusing on the industrial, manufacturing and engineering businesses that are unique to Southeast Michigan, and provided opportunities for their collaboration.

During these years of severe economic challenges, especially in Macomb County and in the State of Michigan, one thing has become crystal clear: We cannot afford to isolate ourselves from our neighbors based on parochial interests. The 5 million people living and working in the Metro Detroit Region need to work together to find solutions to our economic woes. This includes all stakeholders, private and public, communicating with one another and using all the tools and resources at their disposal. The Sterling Heights Chamber has always fostered this type of cooperation among its members.

I personally can attest to the positive impact the Chamber has had in Macomb County. Beginning with my years working for my family's marina business, and extending throughout my career in public service at the township, county, state and federal level, the efforts of the Chamber have been nothing short of extraordinary. The executive team, support staff and Board of Directors have always set a robust agenda to improve our economic well-being and I salute each and every one of them for their dedicated efforts and hard work.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my personal congratulations to the Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry as they celebrate this milestone event. I wish them nothing but the best and another 50 years of successful service to the businesses in our community.

INTRODUCING THE AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Agriculture Education Freedom Act. This

bill addresses a great injustice being perpetrated by the Federal Government on those youngsters who participate in programs such as 4-H or the Future Farmers of America. Under current tax law, children are forced to pay federal income tax when they sell livestock they have raised as part of an agricultural education program.

Think about this for a moment. These kids are trying to better themselves, earn some money, save some money and what does Congress do? We pick on these kids by taxing them: It is truly amazing that with all the hand-wringing in Congress over the alleged need to further restrict liberty and grow the size of government "for the children" we would continue to tax young people who are trying to lead responsible lives and prepare for the future. Even if the serious social problems today's youth face could be solved by new federal bureaucracies and programs, it is still unfair to pick on those kids who are trying to do the right thing.

These children are not even old enough to vote, yet we are forcing them to pay taxes! What ever happened to no taxation without representation? No wonder young people are so cynical about government!

It is time we stopped taxing youngsters who are trying to earn money to go to college by selling livestock they have raised through their participation in programs such as 4-H or Future Farmers of America. Therefore, I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting the Agriculture Education Freedom Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GREATER NEW YORK CHAPTER, THE LINKS, INCORPORATED—2011 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION SPIRIT AWARD LUNCHEON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Greater New York Chapter, The Links, Incorporated—2011 Women of Distinction Spirit Award Luncheon which takes place on Saturday, April 23, 2011 at the elegant and scenic Pier Sixty at Chelsea Piers in New York City.

Established in 1946, The Links, Incorporated, is one of the Nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of women who, linked in friendship, are committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African-Americans and persons of African descent. The Links, Incorporated is a not-for-profit organization, which consists of nearly 12,000 professional women of color in 272 chapters located in 42 states, the District of Columbia and the Bahamas.

On May 21, 1949, the Greater New York Chapter was chartered in response to an invitation extended by Margaret Roselle Hawkins and Sarah Strickland Scott, co-founders of The Links, Incorporated. Co-founder Sarah Strickland Scott attended the installation of the new charter members at Harlem's famous Hotel Theresa, which included Dorothy Reed, Bernia Austin, Myrtle Howard, Estelle Jarrott, Ethel Lowry, Emilie Pickins, Mable Trent, and Marie Vidal. The Links National Emblem was

designed by Ethel Lowry, who served as the National Corresponding Secretary.

The Greater New York Chapter was the first chapter in New York and comprises members from all five boroughs in New York City and Long Island. Today, under the leadership of President Gerri Warren Merrick, the Greater New York Chapter is committed to fostering community outreach throughout the New York metropolitan area by developing quality programs with a long-term impact on the well-being and enrichment of African-Americans.

The Greater New York Chapter honors two women of distinction and spirit—Ms. Debra L. Lee, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of BET Networks and Ms. Rhonda Mims, President of the ING Foundation and Senior Vice President of the Office of Corporate Responsibility and Multicultural Affairs.

Award recipient Debra L. Lee is responsible for helping guide BET's reinvigorated approach in producing programming that supports, embraces and encourages African American families in a very positive light, focusing on the issues that are important to the Black family, while presenting the freshest talent and entertainment to American Television and beyond.

Award recipient Rhonda Mims is responsible for creating an enterprise-wide community relations platform, focusing on financial literacy, children's education and diversity, including advancing the company's workforce diversity and inclusion strategy.

Please join me in recognizing the Greater New York Chapter, The Links, Incorporated and the Women of Distinction Spirit Award honorees.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDWARD A. BURDICK, FORMER CHIEF CLERK OF THE MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise in tribute to a leader, a parliamentary expert, a mentor and a friend to many, Mr. Edward Burdick, former Chief Clerk of the Minnesota House of Representatives. On March 9, 2011 he died at the age of 89 years old, and he is remembered fondly by his family and many friends and colleagues.

In 1941 at the age of 19, Ed as he was known, began a job in the Minnesota House of Representatives as a Page, earning \$5 a day. He held many jobs in the Legislature and other public service jobs, including U.S. Department of Commerce and the Minnesota Department of Military Affairs. He also proudly served our Nation in the U.S. Army. In 1967, Ed was elected Chief Clerk of the Minnesota House of Representatives, a job he maintained until his retirement 38 years later. In all, Ed provided 62 years of public service to the people of Minnesota and our Nation.

Ed was not only Chief Clerk but also House Parliamentarian, understanding every little twist of parliamentary procedure. His mastery of legislative process made him a nationally renowned expert in the field. Within the House Chamber, his booming and authoritative voice was a familiar presence as he kept decorum

in a legislative body not always known for that quality. During the decades that Ed served as Chief Clerk, he mentored a dozen Speakers of the House and many others in leadership, including myself. He took his role teaching the House rules and parliamentary procedure very seriously.

In November of 1992, I was elected to the Minnesota State House of Representatives. Prior to my swearing-in he informed me that he would meet with each new representative and explain the workings of the House and his office, ending with "if there is anything you need or anything I can do for you, do not hesitate to ask me or my office"—and he truly meant it. That was who Ed Burdick was. A gentleman, a kind and thoughtful person, a hard worker, a person willing to serve everyone who needed assistance of any kind.

Ed will be missed by many, many Legislators and State Government officials for his guidance, dignity and hard work.

I know that I am not alone in saying, that I will miss Ed's kindness, his genuine nature, his loyalty to Minnesota and his absolute and total fairness to all. Ed Burdick will always serve a Minnesotan icon to public service. May you rest in peace, my friend.

AFGHANISTAN WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the return home of our U.S. military in the absence of a declaration of war by this Congress is long overdue. Members of this House must support H. Con. Res. 28, and help reverse the course of the unconstitutional Afghan war.

First, the war in Afghanistan is unconstitutional.

Article 1, Section 8, clause 11 of the Constitution grants Congress—not the President—the power to declare war. Once that declaration is made by the Congress, the President can conduct war.

The Constitution is clear and there is no debate over the fact that the Constitution never intended any shared decision making in declaring a state of war. Such a shared decision making was rejected originally by the Framers. Thus, without a declaration of war, the President's continued use of force to continue a war in Afghanistan is unconstitutional.

James Madison, one of the key architects of the Constitution on separation of powers, said that "this requirement for Congress to be able to declare war is one of the most important provisions of the Constitution." However, ten years after the conflict began in Afghanistan, we still have no such declaration. This significant authority granted to Congress is why I rise today in support of the gentleman from Ohio's resolution.

Congress cannot hand over to the President our exclusive power to declare war. Without a declaration of war, the President's use of military force in Afghanistan is unconstitutional.

The seminal case of *Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer* rejected the President's claim that he had authority as Commander-in-

Chief to unilaterally seize steel production plants. Justice Douglas' concurring opinion contained an important recognition of the importance of separation of powers during war:

"All executive powers—from the reign of ancient kings to the rule of modern dictators—has the outward appearance of efficiency. Legislative power, by contrast, is slower to exercise . . . We therefore cannot decide this case by determining which branch of government can deal most expeditiously with the present crisis. The answer must depend on the allocation of powers under the Constitution."

No one in this Congress argues that the military must diminish their role in fighting against attacks on the United States. However, if the armed conflict is not defensive, the federal constitution has, unmistakably provided that the Congress shall have power to declare war.

This war has continued for almost 10 years and it is time to call it to a stop until Congress declares a clear objective to engage the nation in war. The Framers granted Congress the authority to make the decision to go to war because Congress could best assess whether the country was behind a war, which is a key element to any victory.

Therefore, we must remember our constitutional duty to represent the voice of the American people. The cost of war comes at the expense of their lives, their sons, and their daughters.

Second, the war in Afghanistan exceeds the scope of the authorization of the AUFMA resolution.

The authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF), is not a general anti-terrorism bill. The resolution never gave the President perpetual authority to use military force after 9/11 to any acts or plans of terrorism. Instead, the AUMF resolution reads:

"The President is authorized to use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or persons, in order to prevent any future act of international terrorism against the United States by such nations, organizations, or persons."

The AUMF cannot be used as a cover for a full-blown war, which is what has occurred in Afghanistan. We are now almost 10 years into a full-blown war under the claim that the AUMF continues to authorize this war cannot be upheld. For this claim to be upheld, Congress must then declare war.

The United States cannot engage in national building type activities that are not connected to the scope of the authorization under the AUMF. Should Congress determine that the military needs more or less authority than it has been given under the AUMF, we will act accordingly.

Thirdly, the armed unmanned drones in Pakistan are unlawful.

Another concern is that the Afghanistan action has paved the way for unauthorized military actions in neighboring Pakistan, including the use of military drones.

The military continues to use armed unmanned drones operated by the CIA and conducts exercises on the ground in order to tar-

get Al Qaeda and the Taliban and additional terrorist groups. How can the administration pursue the use of drones without abandoning America's hallmark commitment to civil liberties?

The use of drones has placed the United States military in a bad light internationally for the killings of innocent people from the use of drones. The New America Foundation, reportedly, estimates that between 867 and 1,281 deaths from drone strikes, with 277 to 435 being noncombatants that have died since 2004.

The use of drones by the United States has been called "one of Washington's worst-kept secrets." American drones may well have attacked jihadist groups not connected to the supporters and members Al Qaeda or the Taliban. This combat can not be justified under the AUMF authorization because the attacks exceed the scope the authorization.

Our actions may well be increasing the rush of Pakistan jihadist gaining greater influence in combat in Pakistan. Increased military presence in Afghanistan has inflamed anti-American resentment in the region. Pakistan, reportedly, also has hundreds of nuclear weapons. Our troops may be in more danger because of the effects of compromised U.S. efforts in the region and the greater Middle East.

Expansion of executive war power beyond the AUMF is precisely the kind of momentous decision making the Framers conferred upon the Congress. We must put a stop to this war in Afghanistan or else it will send a message to the world that our Executive Branch may pick and choose wherever they want to send troops or to start a war.

The United States military is in a dozen different locations all over the world engaged in combat. Even now, our military is fighting in Libya, yet there has been no authorization or declaration from this Congress nor has there been any meaningful consultation with Congress.

The burden caused by the decision to expand military activities into Pakistan exceeds the scope of the AUMF. Congress must support H. Con. Res. 28 in order keep this Country dedicated to the way the Framers of the Constitution structured our nation on how to commit to armed conflict.

Finally, the military action appears to violate international legal norms.

H. Con. Res. 28 will place the United States in a better position in light of our international obligations under the U.N. Charter. None of the mandates from the two resolutions passed in the wake of the tragedy on 9/11 decided that any state should engage in war.

Instead, for example, Resolution 1373 directs member states to root out terrorism through means that affect the financing, harboring, investigating, and collaborating of terrorist groups while Resolution 1268 strongly condemned the attacks on 9/11 and called for international cooperation to find the perpetrators of 9/11.

Without a clear objective or credibility that the United States is acting in self defense, our country may be violating our obligation as a member state in the U.N. to refrain from acts of aggression that are unauthorized by the Charter.

The use of drones and military operations by the CIA also conflicts with both article 51

and article 2. Combat for the purposes of article 51 only authorizes the right of the use of military force if the force is in self-defense in the event an armed attack occurs. Article 2 of the Charter also prohibits the use or threatened use of force against another state.

Article 51 does not grant the right of bombing, unmanned armed drones, nor does it describe armed force as self-defense. Unfortunately we have engaged in such force and accepted the risks associated with the use of such force. The U.S. must comply with our obligations under these Articles.

The attacks on the United States on 9/11 were horrific. However, the horror we experienced on that tragic day does not provide any legal justification to use deadly force against people believed to be hiding in regions throughout Afghanistan. There is no justification for the Afghan war to be transformed into an authorization to use force anywhere we think terrorism exists.

HONORING MAYOR PETE DAMES

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pete Dames as he celebrates 17 years of dedication to the people of La Mirada, California. Pete began his service to La Mirada as a member of the La Mirada Parks and Recreation Commission in 1980 and has been involved in numerous civic, service, and educational organizations and programs ever since.

Throughout his time on the City Council, Pete has focused on keeping La Mirada a safe, family-friendly, and thriving community. Pete was instrumental in maintaining a low crime rate and keeping La Mirada business-friendly.

Pete's involvement in public service reaches far beyond the confines of the City Council's Chamber. His broad community service includes serving as President of the La Mirada Athletic Council, as an active, lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9148 and Knights of Columbus, and as a Board member of the La Mirada Youth Foundation and the Beatitudes of Our Lord School. He has received many prestigious awards including the Kiwanis Administrator of the Year, and the Kiwanis Governor's Award for Distinguished Service. He also received the Parent Teacher Association Honorary Service and Continuing Service Award, which honors those who have made significant contributions to the welfare of children and youth in the community.

Today, Pete continues his dedication as a Delegate to the Southern California Joint Powers Insurance Authority and to the Southern California Association of Governments. He also serves as the City's liaison to the La Mirada Chamber of Commerce.

From one public servant to another, please join me in honoring Mayor Pete Dames for his service and dedication to the City of La Mirada and the community.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COLONEL D. GRAY HEPPNER, JR., M.D.

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary accomplishments of Colonel D. Gray Heppner, Jr., M.D., upon his retirement as the Deputy Director for the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, WRAIR.

For over 100 years, scientists at WRAIR have expanded the frontiers of military medicine, taking the road less-travelled, from jungles, deserts, and battlefields to the laboratory and back, intent upon protecting the health of America's soldiers in harm's way. Undaunted by danger, WRAIR scientists developed the first vaccines for hepatitis and Japanese encephalitis, and the means to diagnose and treat deadly malaria. Today, on the battlefields of Asia, WRAIR's work mitigates the stress of combat, the fatigue of sustained operations and the fear of insidious Leishmaniasis, a parasitic disease spread by the bite of a sandfly. WRAIR's success in infectious diseases and military psychiatry is due to the resolve and dedication of an exceptional cadre of men and women, military and civilian.

Today, I salute a distinguished alumnus of WRAIR, Colonel D. Gray Heppner, Jr., a physician-scientist who dedicated his extraordinary 20-year career at WRAIR to developing malaria vaccines and biochemical defense in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and the United States.

After earning his B.A. and M.D. from the University of Virginia, and studying Internal Medicine at the University of Minnesota, Col. Heppner worked in the lab of Professor John Eaton, researching antimalarial drugs and treating patients with tropical diseases at Joint Task Force Bravo in Honduras. When he was 34, he volunteered for active duty on the condition that he would be placed in the malaria vaccine research program at WRAIR.

While serving as an Infectious Disease Officer in the Department of Immunology, Col. Heppner, then a Major, suffered from a case of acute malaria, a known side effect from working with the potential vaccine. This experience gave Col. Heppner a unique perspective on the disease and fostered in him a renewed belief in the critical need for a vaccine.

From 1993–97, Col. Heppner and his family lived in Bangkok, where he served as the Chief of the Department of Immunology and Medicine for the Armed Forces Research Institute of Medicine. In this position, Col. Heppner was the principal investigator for Phase 1 and Phase 2 malaria vaccine trials on the Thai-Burmese border. In 1997, Col. Heppner returned to WRAIR to conduct pre-clinical, clinical, and field trials of malaria vaccines in Kisumu, Kenya.

In 1999, Col. Heppner became Chief of WRAIR's Department of Immunology, and in 2006 was promoted to Director of WRAIR's Division of Malaria Vaccine Development. In these positions, he led teams of dedicated scientists and physicians at organizations and institutions around the world—including USAID, the Gates Foundation, the Kenya Medical Research Institute, NIH/NIAID, and the Malaria Vaccine Initiative at PATH, among others to conduct human trials of innovative malaria vaccines in the United States, Europe, and East and West Africa. During this time, he also served as a member of the Special Medical Augmentation Response Team in Doha, Kuwait, working to develop countermeasures to biological weapons.

In 2008, Col. Heppner became Deputy Director of WRAIR. As an executive of the Defense Department's largest biomedical research institute, Col. Heppner was responsible for overseeing some of the most important vaccinal research in the world. In this position, he also supported WRAIR's transformation to the Department of Defense's Center of Excellence in Infectious Diseases and Psychiatry and Neurosciences.

As a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Col. Heppner has advocated for vaccines to improve health, economic development, and political stability. Through his work with the Order of St. John, Col. Heppner has supported the St. John Eye Hospital in East Jerusalem in its mission to heal the blind of all faiths. Col. Heppner's work has been published in more than 100 peer-reviewed scientific publications and book chapters.

There is a long-standing tradition that WRAIR officers continue to develop vaccines in their retirement. Col. Heppner will be following in that tradition as he serves as Vice President for Clinical Development at Crucell, a global biotechnology company that specializes in vaccinal development for tuberculosis, Ebola, HIV, influenza, polio, rabies, and malaria—the very diseases that threaten soldier and world health. As journalist Michael Leahy observed in his 2006 Washington Post Magazine article, "Breaking the Cycle," "Gray Heppner . . . does not give up easily on a dream."

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the exceptional career of Colonel D. Gray Heppner, Jr., M.D., and his extraordinary efforts in making our world a healthier and safer place.

AFGHANISTAN WAR POWERS
RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the sentiment behind this resolution.

American and other NATO forces have been in Afghanistan for 10 years. That is a long haul and at times it seems that we are making little progress in achieving our objective. Like many Americans, I have serious questions about our strategy in Afghanistan. That being said, I oppose this resolution for three reasons.

First, the foundational argument of this resolution is simply wrong. Section 5(c) of the War Powers Act, the provision referenced in this resolution, states that Congress may, by concurrent resolution, require the President to re-deploy troops out of the line of fire if the President had never received congressional authorization for the deployment. But the Congress did authorized military operations in Afghanistan in 2001. Consequently, there is no sound legal basis for this resolution.

Second, the Secretary of Defense has indicated that an ill-timed and precipitous draw-down of forces could threaten the progress and the sacrifices we have made in Afghanistan. A withdrawal of troops in 9 months, as this resolution requires, could create a total power vacuum and be a recipe for anarchy in Afghanistan. The likely result could be a bloodbath with a high probability that al Qaeda will once again establish itself in Afghanistan.

Third, the President has announced that the United States will begin to re-deploy its forces in Afghanistan this Summer. Last week, General Petraeus indicated that the redeployment would begin as planned. The goal is to steadily, but responsibly, withdraw U.S. and NATO forces as we accelerate the training of the Afghan National Security Forces. I will closely monitor the progress of that effort in order to ensure that we follow through as planned.

Our decision to forcibly remove the Taliban regime in 2001 was the right one. The Taliban regime had allowed Afghanistan to become a safe haven for al Qaeda and a launching pad for the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. The United Nations, the Atlantic Alliance and the entire international community agreed that the U.S. response was appropriate and justified.

Although that decision was justified, serious questions remain about the best way forward in Afghanistan. I oppose this resolution. I will review similar future resolutions with a fresh eye based on the consideration of the situation in Afghanistan. We must see greater evidence that the Afghan National Security Forces are steadily assuming greater responsibility.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 31, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 1

9:30 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the employment situation for March 2011.

SD-106

APRIL 5

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Southern Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2012 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Competitiveness, Innovation, and Export Promotion Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine tourism in America, focusing on removing barriers and promoting growth.

SR-253

10:15 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mara E. Rudman, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and Robert Patterson, of New York, to be Ambassador to Turkmenistan, Department of State.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Airland Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Army modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2012 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine closing the digital divide, focusing on connecting native nations and communities to the 21st century.

SR-253

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jonathan Scott Gration, of New Jersey, to be to the Republic of

Kenya, and Michelle D. Gavin, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Botswana, both of the Department of State.

SD-419

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

APRIL 6

9:30 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Securities, Insurance and Investment Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the role of the accounting profession in preventing another financial crisis.

SD-538

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Department of Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense Health Program.

SD-192

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine state and local perspectives on transportation.

SD-406

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Rafael Borrás, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Management.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, focusing on government perspectives on protecting privacy in the digital age.

SD-226

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Allison A. Hickey, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Benefits and Steve L. Muro, of California, to be Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, both of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SR-418

1:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the census, focusing on learning lessons from 2010 and planning for 2020.

SD-342

3 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the state of community banking, focusing on opportunities and challenges.

SD-538

APRIL 7

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Transportation Command and U.S. Africa Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2012 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2012 for the Department of Education.

SD-124

2:15 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Bruce Shear, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and Kurt Walter Tong, of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Senior Official for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum, both of the Department of State.

SD-419

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the role of SBA 8(a) Program in enhancing economic development in Indian Country.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine securing the border, focusing on progress at the local level.

SD-342

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

APRIL 12

10 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2012 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SH-219 following the open session.

SD-106

APRIL 13

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine veterans' employment, focusing on improving the transition from the battlefield to the workforce.

SR-418

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Department of Defense Subcommittee

To receive a closed briefing on the United States Pacific Command (PACOM).

SVC-217

APRIL 14

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 343, to amend Title I of PL 99-658 regarding the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Palau, to approve the results of the 15-year review of the Compact, including the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Palau Following the Compact of Free Association Section 432 Review,

and to appropriate funds for the purposes of the amended PL 99-658 for fiscal years ending on or before September 30, 2024, to carry out the agreements resulting from that review.

SD-366

MAY 4

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations
Department of Defense Subcommittee
To receive a closed briefing on Intel.

SVC-217

MAY 5

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2012 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

SD-192

MAY 11

10 a.m.

Appropriations
Department of Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2012 for the Guard and Reserve.

SD-192

MAY 12

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations
Department of Defense Subcommittee
To receive a closed briefing on the United States Special Operations Command (SOCOM), and the United States European Command (EUCOM).

SVC-217

MAY 17

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations
Department of Defense Subcommittee
To receive a closed briefing the United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM) and the United States Southern Command (SOUTHCOM).

SVC-217

MAY 25

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations
Department of Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2012 for the Missile Defense Agency.

SD-192

MAY 26

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations
Department of Defense Subcommittee
To receive a closed briefing on the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) and United States African Command (AFRICOM).

SVC-217

JUNE 15

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations
Department of Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

SD-192