

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO MR. OLEG  
SMURYGIN

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 9, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Oleg Smurygin for his continued contribution to the health care initiatives of his community.

Mr. Smurygin was born to a middle class Jewish family to Yuriy and Bella Smurygin on April 7, 1966, in Kiev, Ukraine. He attended school in Kiev from 1973 until 1983, when he was recruited into the army for two years. Mr. Smurygin served as a Sergeant in the army from 1985 until 1987 under Special Forces by the border of China, Khabarovsk City. Once Mr. Smurygin was discharged in 1987, he attended the University of Kiev, where he graduated with a Bachelors Degree in the Arts in 1991.

In 1992, Mr. Smurygin and his family decided to relocate to the United States as refugees. He supported his family working at Victory Memorial Hospital in Brooklyn, New York as a full time regular security guard. With more experience, Mr. Smurygin was promoted to shift supervisor and eventually to Director of Security in 2006. Spending over 10 years at Victory Memorial Hospital, he was awarded Victory Memorial Hospital 10 Year Award of Excellence.

When the Victory Memorial Hospital closed its doors in 2009, Mr. Smurygin headed to the PAIN Institute as a Business Manager.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. Oleg Smurygin.

A TRIBUTE TO KDLS

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 9, 2011*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50-year anniversary of local radio station KDLS 1310 AM in Perry, Iowa.

The result of a joint venture between local newspaper publishers G.E. Whitehead and Willard Archie, KDLS was first launched on May 10, 1961. Since then, the radio station has become the voice of Perry while covering birthdays, anniversaries, local news and sports, weather, obituaries, interviews with the local community members and many other topics.

To many, the local radio station provides a sense of pride and identity that many rural communities around Iowa and the United States seem to be losing at an increasing rate. If you talk to any of the staff at KDLS, they will attribute their success to keeping everything as local as they can. In an era of media conglomerates and corporations, it is important to

remember that local content is responsible for the 50-year success of KDLS.

KDLS has demonstrated that locally owned radio stations can really bring out the personality of the community and can be the driving force behind helping businesses and other organizations reconnect with their local citizens. KDLS is characteristic of what Iowa is all about—local citizens motivated and dedicated to improving their communities and maintaining what they see as an important part of their daily lives.

I consider it an honor to represent this radio station and all members of the Perry community in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in congratulating KDLS for its 50 years of success and wish them continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL URBINO

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 9, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Michael Urbino for his service to and excellence throughout his community as a model citizen.

Mr. Michael Urbino is a well-rounded, results-oriented, innovative, and persevering man, who fervently upholds the belief that there is no finish line, but a constant struggle that keeps one challenged.

A native of the Philippines, Mr. Urbino was a pioneer of a business conglomerate in New Jersey and New York. Since a young age, Mr. Urbino professed an interest in business and as such, he went about to complete a Bachelor of Science in Commerce with a major in Business Administration at the University of Santo Tomas, followed by a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Maryland.

From 1985 to 2001 he accumulated substantial experience in sales and marketing of pharmaceutical products while working for multinational companies like Mead Johnson-Bristol Myers, American Home Products, Abbot Laboratories and Novartis. As an executive at ABN-AMRO and at Philippine Savings Bank, prominent banks in the Netherlands and in the Philippines, respectively, Mr. Urbino became exposed to financial services.

After much experience, Mr. Urbino founded his first of three corporations, Axis Point Alternative Solutions, Inc, in 2006. Axis Point operated as an employee leasing and certification company to healthcare professionals with the State of New York and the State of New Jersey. Shortly after, in 2007, Mr. Urbino registered American Healthcare Facility Management Group (AHFMG). A three-division entity, AHFMG offers licensing, administrative, and managerial services to health professionals.

Mr. Urbino also values the importance of educating and training health providers from

grass roots. This longing gave birth to Adriland Institute, which offers vocational medical courses covering various medical specialties.

Mr. Urbino has had a long professional career purposed to provide people the tools necessary to carry on an optimal future for themselves as well as society.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the work of Mr. Michael Urbino.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
PRIVATE DONALD D. OWENS

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 9, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Private Donald D. Owens, a loyal son and true patriot of the United States of America. Private Owens lost his life on October 9, 1944 during World War II when his M-10 tank was attacked outside of Luneville, France. His life reflected an unwavering devotion to his country and his sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Pvt. Donald Owens was raised in Navarre, Ohio where he attended elementary school. He later relocated to Cleveland, Ohio with his father prior to starting high school. He attended James Ford Rhodes high school, where a yearbook and numerous school events have been named in his honor. Before receiving his diploma, Pvt. Owens opted to enlist in the army.

He fought with the 773rd Tank Battalion in France, and tragically lost his life during the final battle for Parroy Forest. For sixty-six years following Owens' death his remains were unable to be located. Pvt. Owens' name can be found among the 443 others on the Tablets of the Missing in the Lorraine American Cemetery.

Sixty-six years after Pvt. Owens lost his life, a French farmer, Gerard Louis, discovered a set of dog tags in the countryside. After contacting Sue Bennis, a Westlake, Ohio librarian, efforts to reconnect with Owens's family began immediately. His closest living relative is his sister-in-law, Lori Owens, who lives in Mobile, Alabama, the widow of Donald's late brother Gerald Owens. On May 16, 2011 Lori was greeted by two Army officers with a folded American flag and a bronze urn containing Donald's remains. A funeral ceremony will be held on August 23, 2011 at Arlington Cemetery to remember Donald's efforts during World War II.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mr. Donald D. Owens, a true hero that embodies the American spirit. I offer my deepest condolences to his family and friends. He will always be remembered by those who knew and loved him.

• 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.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL  
GOLDBERG

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 9, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Michael Goldberg for his continued activism in the community.

Mr. Goldberg was born and raised on Manhattan's lower east side as the youngest of three in a blue collar family. He grew up working part time for his family's store, while also attending school in Brooklyn. Mr. Goldberg's interest in journalism and passion for local politics encouraged him to stay in Brooklyn to attend Brooklyn College. Pursuing a political science degree and working for local newspapers, Mr. Goldberg was exposed to many in the legal profession which served as a springboard for his career.

After attending Brooklyn Law School, Mr. Goldberg held a position with a landlord-tenant law firm in Central Brooklyn. His success propelled him to form Goldberg & Lustig with Harvey Lustig who has been his law partner for the past 26 years. This became one of the premier landlord-tenant firms in Brooklyn, establishing a loyal roster of clients over the years.

Mr. Goldberg's success in the area has given life to the local community's businesses and has been critical in its economic vitality. Protecting many local small business owners and tenants from losing their locations, Mr. Goldberg has gained a positive relationship with his community.

Mr. Goldberg is happily married to his loving wife Jeryl, and together they have raised two bright children: Lee and Lyssa. In his hometown of Long Island's South Shore, Mr. Goldberg remains heavily involved in the local synagogue as the Men's Club President for the past five years.

Mr. Goldberg strongly believes that lawyers hold a special responsibility for improving our society and furthering our democratic way of life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and success of Mr. Michael Goldberg.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN  
CLARENCE ELLSWORTH MILLER

**HON. STEVE AUSTRIA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 9, 2011*

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District to honor the life and memory of Congressman Clarence Ellsworth Miller.

Congressman Miller began his extensive and prolific public service career in 1963 when he was elected mayor of Lancaster, Ohio. During that time, he was also very active in the National League of Cities and the Ohio Municipal League. Congressman Miller was also a member of the executive committee of the Mayors Association of Ohio.

In 1967, Congressman Miller was elected to represent Ohio's Tenth Congressional District where he served for 26 years. Congressman

Miller always represented his constituents with pride and integrity. He understood his southeastern Ohio district and fought vigorously to ensure that his constituents' needs were constantly being met.

Congressman Miller was well known for being a staunch fiscal conservative. While in Congress, Congressman Miller gained respect for introducing bills that were aimed at reducing spending but still meeting the obligations of our Nation. He was awarded a Treasury watchdog award every year he was in Congress because of his great concern with regard to the national debt and overspending at the federal level.

Throughout his time in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Miller served on several House committees including Appropriations, Agriculture, and Public Works and Transportation. Additionally, he served as vice chairman of the Office of Technical Assessment and served on a special committee which forced other countries to reimburse the United States for costs associated with the 1991 Gulf War.

Congressman Miller dedicated much of his time in Congress to the Armed Forces. The Congressman worked tirelessly to ensure that all branches of the military had the resources they needed to protect this great Nation. He respected all men and women in uniform and admired their dedication and bravery.

Representative Miller further impacted Lancaster and Fairfield County by serving on the Board of Directors for the YMCA and Red Cross, and devoting time and support to public officials in the area.

In honor of Congressman Miller's influential and selfless efforts to the community, the Lancaster Post Office was renamed after him as well as the county health department building.

Congressman Clarence Ellsworth Miller truly was a fine example of what all members of Congress and those in public service should strive to become.

After a long life of dedicated public service, Clarence Ellsworth Miller, 93, passed away on August 2, 2011. Congressman Miller was preceded in death by his wife, Helen, and left behind a son, Ron, daughter, Jackie, five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and two stepgrandchildren.

A TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN  
FAULKNER

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 9, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Carolyn Faulkner for her activism in her community among the youth and with her Church.

Ms. Faulkner has been the loving wife of Melvin Faulkner for the past 48 years and have three beautiful children: Lenora, Tasheba (Nikki) and Leonard. They also have had the joy of raising eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Ms. Faulkner attended school in Brooklyn, New York, at P.S. 83, P.S. 54, and Bushwick High School. She always had a passion for business and was poised to have a career within the business community. With her husband, Ms. Faulkner began catering and co-

ordinating weddings in her church, Pilgrim Church. She and her husband were successful at their craft and decided to open One Stop Wedding Corporation, which handled everything from invitations, to designing bridal wear, and honeymoon traveling.

Together they have been in business for over 38 years, but have now focused their attention to planning wedding travel. Ms. Faulkner, however, has continued to be an instrumental voice in her community and has been a part of many organizations. Currently Ms. Faulkner is a member on the Executive Board for Community Board 5, and is an active member of the following groups: Rosetta Gaston United Democratic Club; Rehoboth Cathedral under Bishop Gerald Seabrooks; Brooklyn Clergy/N.Y.P.D. Task Force; and a former member of Churches United For Worldwide Action, Inc.

Among all else, Ms. Faulkner's greatest passion is working with youth. In February 2004, she started workshops in schools which enlightened children and parents on gang awareness. If necessary, Ms. Faulkner would attend Family Court and the Supreme Court with the youth to recommend these teens to enter into a preventative program.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Ms. Carolyn Faulkner.

IN MEMORY OF REVEREND DR.  
HOWARD W. CREECY, JR.

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 9, 2011*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man and child of God, the Reverend Dr. Howard W. Creecy, Jr. His passing is a great loss to his family, his congregation, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the Christian community.

Dr. Creecy was a paragon of what a devout servant of God should be. He was a third generation gospel preacher, teacher and community leader. His family's legacy of leadership has exceeded over 100 years of continuous commitment to the Christian ministry. Rev. Dr. Creecy was born in Mobile, Alabama, to Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Howard W. Creecy, Sr. The family later moved to Dothan, Alabama, before settling in Atlanta, Georgia, where he pursued his education.

In celebrating and acknowledging the outstanding achievements of Dr. Creecy, I am also paying homage to a family friend and someone who I considered to be one of my leading role models. The bond that my family enjoys with the Creecy family transcends different generations and is long-standing.

Like me, he was a proud Morehouse Man. He began his ministry at Morehouse College and completed his graduate work at the Morehouse School of Religion of the Interdenominational Theological Seminary. He also holds a Doctor of Divinity from Abotra Bible Institute and Seminary.

For 26 years, Dr. Creecy served as senior pastor of Saint Peter Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta. There, under his leadership, the church experienced tremendous growth, including a staff of ministers, administrators,

musicians and a pastoral clinical psychologist. Central to the growth and development of Saint Peter Church was his comprehensive and balanced vision of 21st century ministry.

Starting in 2002, Dr. Creedy pastored with his father, Rev. Dr. Howard W. Creedy, Sr., at The Olivet Church in Fayetteville, Georgia, where he brought his 21st century ministry innovations, while still standing upon traditional Christian values. While working with his father until his passing, Olivet's membership, ministries, and resources grew exponentially under his leadership as senior pastor.

Dr. Creedy was highly respected in the Christian community, and he was a frequent guest preacher nationwide and internationally. His strong faith and tremendous presence were felt by all around him.

He was involved in numerous civic, social and political activities, serving as chairman of the Atlanta Task Force of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; former chairman of the Board of Directors, Project Re-direction, Atlanta University Criminal Justice Institute; and Founding National Board Member of the Organization of New Equality (ONE), Boston, Massachusetts.

For his numerous endeavours, Dr. Creedy was honored and inducted by Morehouse College into the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel Board of Ministers and was a proud member of the NAACP. He was the first African-American to serve as Director of the Office of Chaplain Services for Atlanta Fulton County Government.

Dr. Creedy leaves behind a devoted family: his loving wife, Yolanda Grier Creedy, their two beautiful daughters, Teresa and Kennedy. On behalf of my wife, Vivian and myself, I want to extend our heartfelt sympathies to the Creedy family.

Dr. Creedy's devotion to God and his church were unsurpassed, and he has left us with a shining example of what a true Christian is. Romans 6:8 says, "If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him." I know that today, Dr. Creedy lives with Christ.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. HARVEY  
LAWRENCE

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 9, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Harvey Lawrence and his exceptional service to the public health of his community and his ongoing public service career.

Mr. Lawrence began his career by attaining a Master of Science degree in Management Science and Policy Analysis from Harriman college and SUNY Stony Brook. He is also a graduate of the Johnson & Johnson/UCLA Health Care Executive Certificate Program.

Mr. Lawrence has been serving in the capacity of President and CEO of the Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Center since January 2009. Before his ascent to President, Mr. Lawrence served as the Corporation's Executive Vice President and COO. Since working with the Brownsville Family Health Center on 1994, Mr. Lawrence has been responsible for most of the new initiatives and expansions the corporation has taken on.

Using his vast experience in public finance and non-profit development, Mr. Lawrence has been able to accelerate the growth of this corporation and provide more services to the public. Mr. Lawrence began his public service career as Management Trainee at the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey and quickly gained experience in NYC's Office of Economic Development.

Mr. Lawrence is a former non-profit developer for affordable housing and vice president in the investment banking, public finance and real estate divisions of the former Manufacturers Hanover Trust Bank. Using his knowledge, Mr. Lawrence maintains his position as the executive Director of the City's Industrial Commercial Incentive Board and Senior Finance/Development Director at the NYC Public Development Corporation.

Mr. Lawrence is a man of exceptional character and one that has been humbled through his ability serve those with greater needs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. Harvey Lawrence.

INTRODUCING THE CONTINUUM OF  
LEARNING ACT

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 9, 2011*

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Continuum of Learning Act. Learning does not start in kindergarten or first grade: learning begins at birth. Decades of research have shown that quality early learning is foundational to success in school and in life.

Economists, educators, business leaders, law enforcement officers, and military generals agree on the importance of quality early learning. By the time they enter kindergarten, children from low-income families have developed only half the vocabulary of their well-advantaged peers. By investing early, we can close achievement gaps early and prevent future costs for special education, dropouts, crime, incarceration, and dependence on social services later in life.

A continuum of learning from birth through the early elementary grades can strengthen students' success in the K-12 system and beyond. The Continuum of Learning Act updates the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA) to strengthen connections between existing early learning programs and the elementary grades.

I have conducted numerous teacher listening sessions and heard from hundreds of educators throughout Hawaii about their needs. Educators want more support in doing their jobs.

This bill, developed with my Senator BOB CASEY of Pennsylvania, and my original sponsors WALTER JONES of North Carolina, JARED POLIS of Colorado, and DON YOUNG of Alaska, helps educators from Head Start, other early childhood education programs, and elementary schools work together so young children have a successful transition into the elementary grades and beyond.

The Continuum of Learning Act of 2011 does not contain any new spending or create any new programs. It is a research-driven approach that integrates early learning considerations within states' and school districts' exist-

ing K-12 plans. This will strengthen the early education efforts for our nation's 21.2 million children under age 5, some 86,000 of whom are in Hawaii.

Without spending any additional taxpayer dollars, this bipartisan legislation helps our keiki (children) in Hawaii enter school ready to learn and increases their success in the early years. That early success puts our students on the path to graduate and compete for the best jobs. It is part of our shared legacy for our keiki, to give them a brighter future.

The Continuum of Learning Act makes a set of changes that I hope will eventually be included in a bipartisan reauthorization of ESEA. Specifically, the bill calls for: States reviewing and revising their early learning/guidelines for children ages 0-5 and additional standards for grades K-3, including core academic areas and social and emotional development like appropriate classroom behavior. Hawaii's Good Beginnings Alliance already developed strong early learning guidelines for preschool children in 2004; creating or revising state teacher certification or licensure in the early elementary grades and younger to reflect the specialized knowledge and skills to teach children in the birth-to-8 age span; providing training—including joint professional development—to early education and elementary school teachers in child development and best teaching practices. The plan also calls for elementary school principals and administrators to participate in professional development geared toward better developing elementary school curricula for young learners. Many states currently are under-utilizing the use of education funds for this purpose; promoting coordination between early childhood and Head Start programs and elementary school teachers so children have a supportive transition from preschool to elementary school. For example, a child who receives help on language skills or visits by a social worker in preschool can continue receiving that help, if needed, when he or she gets to kindergarten; assisting elementary schools in being "ready schools" so all children have the quality teaching, supportive services, and family engagement needed for their success. I thank Senators SHERROD BROWN (D-Ohio) and KAY HAGAN (D-North Carolina) for introducing the Ready Schools Act, which is included as part of this legislation; encouraging schools in need of improvement to use early childhood education as a strategy for improving student achievement.

The Continuum of Learning Act was developed with input from numerous national and Hawaii organizations, including: the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest organization of people working with children from birth through age 8. Twenty thousand people participate in Hawaii AEYC activities each year; the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), representing the principals of 33 million children in preschool through grade 8. More than 200 of Hawaii's public schools serve elementary-age children; the National Head Start Association (NHSA), supporting Head Start providers nationwide. In Hawaii, 3,300 children are enrolled in Head Start; Pre-K Now; First Five Years Fund (FFYF); the National Women's Law Center; Zero to Three; First Focus Campaign for Children; Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP); Early Care and Education (ECE) Consortium; High Scope Educational Research Foundation.

Additional organizations supporting the legislation include: Mission: Readiness, a bipartisan group of retired generals advocating education for military preparedness; Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a bipartisan organization of criminal justice leaders who understand the importance of early education in preventing delinquency and crime later; and Mental Health America of Hawai'i because the bill calls for identifying and responding to emerging behavioral challenges of all young students.

Gary Kai of the Hawaii Business Roundtable, whose members believe very strongly in the importance of early childhood education, has pointed out that research shows that the highest rate of return for investments in human capital occurs in a child's earliest years. That's why he says "this education initiative will help to prepare children to succeed when they get to kindergarten and to be successful throughout their entire school career. Our businesses need the best educated workforce possible and they realize that our children must be able to compete internationally."

I encourage my colleagues to support the Continuum of Learning Act.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. MARK  
GLADSTEIN

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 9, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Mark Gladstein for his ongoing ability to serve his community by providing advanced health care options.

Dr. Mark Gladstein is a founder and a medical director of Brooklyn's leading pain management facility, Pain Institute of New York. He is offering his community an expert team of personnel that have completed over 4000 procedures per year—retaining the recognition of being the fastest growing, advanced, and most diverse pain management practice in New York. With locations in Brooklyn and Queens, Dr. Gladstein's practice serves over 2,500 patients from all five boroughs as well as outside of New York City and all walks of life, ethnicities and religious backgrounds.

Being in practice for over 8 years, Dr. Gladstein has gained the trust and respect of the community by providing the most advanced care in the field. Their patients receive quality care in an accredited state-of-the-art office and ambulatory surgery facility. To this end, the entire skilled staff follow one simple philosophy: pain is an individual struggle and requires a unique and personal approach to manage. This approach allows Dr. Gladstein and his staff to personalize their attention to patients in a unique way.

Over the past years, Dr. Gladstein's achievements have been recognized by his peers and patients alike. He is a recipient of multiple Patient's Choice Awards, Consumer Research Council of America Awards as well as multiple teaching awards.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the many accomplishments of Dr. Mark Gladstein.

HONORING THE HUDSON RIVER  
SCHOOL OF PAINTERS

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 9, 2011*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, in 1996, President Clinton signed into law a bill that I authored establishing the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. One of the key priorities of the National Heritage Area is to preserve and appreciate the rich heritage and scenic beauty of the Hudson Valley and to highlight its contribution to both New York and the nation through the contributions of the Hudson River School of Painters, America's first school of art.

Now, thanks to the Architect of the Capitol, anyone who visits the U.S. Capitol and Capitol Visitor Center can enjoy two famous paintings by Albert Bierstadt, one of the major 19th century Hudson River School painters, entitled "Discovery of the Hudson" and "Entrance into Monterey." These large paintings were originally purchased by the U.S. Congress after the Civil War and were displayed prominently in the Capitol until recently taken down to facilitate renovations. The re-hanging of these paintings is a major event for a rebirth in the study and appreciation of the Hudson River School of Painters. I encourage all members in the House and Senate to view these magnificent American landscapes and recommend to their visiting constituents that they do the same.

The Hudson River School of Painters captured the beauty and clarity of American landscapes, and not only painted throughout the Hudson Valley and in my state of New York, but created idyllic scenes never before viewed. The school's roots are based in the works of Thomas Cole and his contemporaries Asher Durand and Frederic Edwin Church, as well as Jasper F. Cropsey, who became world-renowned for his depiction of American splendor in his painting "Autumn on the Hudson" (1860), and for his visit with Queen Victoria on one of his many trips to Europe. George Inness, who was born in my district, documented the expansion of the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad and Albert Bierstadt was celebrated for his portrayal of many Western mountain ranges, so much so that Mt. Bierstadt in Colorado was named in his honor. Thomas Moran's famous works were used to support the creation of Yellowstone National Park, and these paintings helped inspire the eventual creation of the National Park Service. Many of the painters in the Hudson River School, including Church, Bierstadt, John Kensett, and Sanford Gifford served in advisory roles in the founding of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York in 1870.

Mr. Speaker, it is also with great pleasure that I join with my colleague from New York, Representative ELIOT ENGEL, in supporting the placement of a series of historic bronze markers along the Hudson River honoring the sites at which the Hudson River School of Painters created their works of art. These bronze sculptural markers were created by Greg Wyatt, Director, Academy of Art, Newington-Cropsey Foundation, and will be placed at Hastings-on-Hudson, Hook Mountain State Park, and in my district in the City of Newburgh. The bronze

text of each marker reads: "This monument is dedicated to the memory of the Hudson River School, a fraternity of landscape painters who worked in New York City in the 1800s and celebrated American as well as foreign scenery in their works. Among these painters of the Hudson River School were Thomas Cole, Asher B. Durand, Frederic E. Church, John F. Kensett, Sanford R. Gifford, and Jasper F. Cropsey." Today, their major works are seen in museums great and small, where they glorify the nation's original resource and its enduring responsibility: the land.

Mr. Speaker, there will be a series of speeches and statements by my colleagues highlighting the contributions of each of the Hudson River School of Painters and the impact they had on their districts, and to America. The beauty of these paintings depicted a growing interest in American landscape and an effort to conserve and protect what I consider the first environmental movement in America in the 19th century. Please join with me in recognizing and appreciating the Hudson River School of Painters.

A TRIBUTE TO CELAL SECILMIS

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 9, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Celal Secilmis for his ongoing ability to serve his community through public service and education.

Mr. Secilmis was born in Sarikamis, Turkey in 1953 and was raised in Mersin, Turkey until his early adult life. After graduating from Istanbul Academy of Economic and Commercial Sciences in 1974, he went on to complete a Graduate Certificate Program at Istanbul University, Institute of Business Economics.

Mr. Secilmis has had a life in academia—deciding to move to America in 1975 after winning the Turkish Government Scholarship to do doctoral studies in the United States. Under this scholarship, Mr. Secilmis attended Georgetown University for a Masters Degree in Management, and then received an MBA degree from LIU.

Mr. Secilmis continued his dedicated studies at City University of New York's Graduate Center in Financial Economics with emphasis on "Agency Theory: Bonding and Monitoring Costs." Upon completion of his graduate studies, he worked as a professor of finance at Baruch College, CUNY, until 1995. Mr. Secilmis had started his own business, but shortly returned to the academic arena to fill the role of adjunct professor, which is his current profession.

In addition to being an adjunct professor, Mr. Secilmis also serves as the CEO and President of CEL Group of companies: Seckin Management, CEL Management, Semerica Trading, Inc., ATA Marketing Co, Inc., and ATA Construction USA, Inc. Mr. Secilmis is also the current President of Turkish American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as his term expires in 2012.

Mr. Secilmis is happily married to Olcay Soyman and together they have two sons Seckin and Ata and a daughter, Deniz who is married to Adam Beaulieu.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and success of Mr. Celal Secilmis.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MS. BARBARA JENSEN'S 27 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION

**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 9, 2011*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Barbara Jensen for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America. Ms. Jensen will retire after 27 years of distinguished service to the Nation, both as an Army officer and as an Army Civilian.

Ms. Jensen began her service as a Medical Service Corps officer. She served honorably for 21 years, commanding troops and serving as a Logistician, Commodity Manager of the Army's critical medical supplies and equipment at Fort Carson, Colorado, Fort Lewis, Washington, Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii, and overseas in Germany.

Ms. Jensen was assigned to ever higher levels of responsibility because her experience and reputation as a skilled leader, manager, and advisor grew. As the Director of Logistics for the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, she played a key role in enabling the Institute to provide world-class, life-saving diagnostic consultations. Her leadership also supported the innovative scientific research conducted at the Institute, while providing an opportunity to educate military and civilian pathologists, physicians, and various medical and scientific professionals.

Ms. Jensen became a liaison to Members of Congress and advised Army leadership on Congressional interest items and legislation. With the Army Staff in the Pentagon, she provided legislative analysis on Congressional actions affecting Army programs. She led numerous Congressional staff visits and ensured that Members of Congress and their staff were supplied with critical, time sensitive information to afford deep understanding of the Army's medical research programs. She became the advisor to the Army's Surgeon General and his staff on legislation affecting military health care, thereby helping to ensure continued Congressional support for medical innovation and the finest medical care for our Service Members.

Ms. Jensen retired from the United States Army in 2004, receiving the Legion of Merit

award for her superb service. Afterwards, Ms. Jensen became a civil servant with the Department of the Army in 2005, returning to use her vast talents and expertise to serve her country once again.

As an Army Congressional Legislative Liaison, the Army entrusted Ms. Jensen to provide accurate assessments to Capitol Hill and to effectively communicate the Army's priorities. She earned the trust and confidence of the Members of the House and Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittees, Congressional Staffers, the Office of the Secretary of Defense; Director, Army Staff and other service legislative activity directors.

Ms. Jensen most recently served as the Deputy Chief of Congressional Operations Division, Army Legislative Liaison. Ms. Jensen was an instrumental member of the legislative team, collecting information Congress needed to enact authorizations and oversee the Department of the Army. Her advice was heeded by Army leaders to include the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff, the Under Secretary of the Army, the Vice Chief of Staff, and the Sergeant Major of the Army.

Ms. Jensen has continued to remain passionate about Soldiers, their Families, and ensuring quality of life for Service Members matches the quality of their service. She has made a real and lasting impact through her numerous contributions toward gaining Congressional trust, confidence, and advocacy for the Army.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in saying thank you to Ms. Barbara Jensen for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to this country throughout her distinguished career in the United States Army, both in uniform and as a Civilian. We wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES AURORA

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 9, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. James Aurora for his exceptional service to his community and the youth.

James Aurora is a third generation of owners of the now famous Sonny's Collision Specialists in Queens, New York. This renowned business has been serving the Brooklyn community for 60 years and has gained a distinct reputation for quality customer service.

Mr. Aurora has built an operation that employs 25 professionals that offer clients guaranteed personal attention. In the years that Mr. Aurora has been operating Sonny's Collision Specialists he has never known any unsatisfied customers. Every customer of Sonny's has only experienced top notch service in the most expeditious manner.

Jimmy Aurora knows the importance of giving. Sonny's is not only a staple in the community for their expertise in auto body collisions, but they are famous for their giving spirit. Mr. Aurora on a yearly basis has sponsored cricket teams, baseball leagues, and boys' clubs, along with donating thousands of dollars towards autism awareness and the American Cancer Society. He has not only provided a necessary service to his community but he has found the means to give more to those in dire need.

Mr. Aurora lives by the company's motto: "Perfection is not an accident." Jimmy proudly represents his heritage and family legacy by ensuring that Sonny's Collision Specialists continues to be a leader and trendsetter in auto body collision work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. James Aurora.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 9, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, August 1, I missed a rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on No. 691.