

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO VAN HARDEN AND  
BONNIE LUCAS

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Van Harden and Bonnie Lucas of the “Van and Bonnie in the Morning” radio show. Van and Bonnie are Iowa radio icons and broadcast their show daily on the legendary Newsradio 1040 WHO. Van and Bonnie are winners of multiple coveted Marconi Awards from the National Association of Broadcasters, including their most recent, which is why I stand before you today. I am honored to announce that Van and Bonnie have been declared the winners of the 2011 “Personality of the Year Award” among medium-sized market radio stations by the Marconi Radio Award Selection Academy.

What makes this award so exciting for Van and Bonnie, and for Iowa, is that it exemplifies the rewards of hard work from humble beginnings. Van Harden was raised in Adel, Iowa, where he developed his passion for the intimate Iowa communities that make our state so great. Van knew he wanted to turn his passion into a career by promoting and informing Iowans on the radio. His dream became a reality after graduating from Drake University in 1973, where he majored in broadcast journalism and got his first on-air job with KDLS-AM in Perry, Iowa. After jobs in Tulsa, Oklahoma at KWEN-FM and KRNT-AM in Des Moines, he became the host of the morning program at 1040 WHO-AM in Des Moines in 1986.

Similarly, Van’s co-host, Bonnie Lucas of Monroe, Iowa, has been with the WHO morning program for 17 years. Bonnie’s first job in radio began in 1979 at KRNT, where she was a former co-worker of Van’s. In the seven and a half years Bonnie spent at KRNT, she worked in the traffic department, served as secretary to the General Manager, worked as the Assistant Sales Manager and finally went into sales for KRNT. After Bonnie started her own small fitness center business and worked for a communications company, she tried out for Van’s co-host position in August 1994 and has been with the award-winning program ever since.

Van and Bonnie’s commitment to Iowa is virtually unparalleled as they are up every morning by 3:30 a.m. to be on the air by 4:59 a.m. They have made a name for themselves as the most listened to morning show in the state and bolstered an already esteemed radio station with their enthusiasm, knowledge, creativity, and family-friendly humor. They do an exceptional job of utilizing WHO’s 50,000 watts to connect with each Iowan who tunes in and leave their listeners with a smile as the day begins.

Van and Bonnie have provided years of sunshine to our state’s early risers, and I am honored to recognize the most recent affirma-

tion of their stellar broadcasts. I congratulate Van, Bonnie, their correspondent Mark Allen, and all of their coworkers as they continue to wake up Iowa with a smile.

RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA’S NATIONAL DAY

**HON. DAN BOREN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an important day for the Republic of China (ROC), National Day, also known as “Double Ten Day”. On October 10, 1911, the Qing Dynasty collapsed as a result of the Wuchang Uprising and ushered in the beginning of representative government in China. This year, Double Ten Day holds special significance as the Republic of China marks its 100th birthday. This will be a day of great celebration and thanksgiving throughout the country, and I call on my colleagues to join me in offering congratulations and good wishes to President Ma Ying-jeou and the people of Taiwan.

It was under the leadership of Dr. Sun Yat-sen that over two thousand years of dynasties were brought to an end. The past century has seen tremendous growth and development for the Republic of China on Taiwan. It has developed a dynamic democratic system of government, spurred steady economic growth, and encouraged the flourishing of the arts and sciences with an emphasis on free and open dialogue and debate.

Under the leadership of President Ma, Taiwan has continued to strengthen its economy through extensive foreign trade. The United States recently welcomed another Taiwanese agricultural trade mission, which offers the promise of strong export market for our farmers and a steady supply of food supply for the citizens of Taiwan. President Ma has also helped ease tensions with mainland China through economic agreements which have led to benefits for all.

Because of this, I stand today with the people of Taiwan as they celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China. May their commitment to freedom and democracy continue to flourish in the decades and centuries to come.

HONORING TREVOR WAYNE  
PARKER

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Trevor Wayne Parker. Trevor is a very special young man

who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 303, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Trevor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Trevor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Trevor has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Trevor Wayne Parker for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NAMING OF THE MIDPARK POST OFFICE THE DAVID J. DONAFEE POST OFFICE BUILDING

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of David John Donafee, upon the official naming of the Midpark Post Office, the David J. Donafee Building, and in recognition of his service to our community.

Mr. Donafee had longstanding ties within the Cleveland community. The youngest of four siblings, he was born on April 29, 1965, and raised in Brook Park, Ohio. He graduated from Berea High School and Polaris Career Center and went to work as a steelworker prior to his employment with the U.S. Postal Service. Mr. Donafee was tragically killed while delivering mail on his route in Parma Heights, Ohio, on February 14, 2008.

Mr. Donafee’s legacy in the Greater Cleveland community, and with his colleagues at the postal service, is that of a genial and positive spirit. In addition to his fourteen years of service to the community through the U.S. Postal service, he was well-known in the local hockey community for his support of and involvement in his children’s youth hockey league.

David Donafee was the kind of employee that anyone would have wanted to have as a colleague. He was always on the lookout for ways to help his customers. In the office, he was conscientious and willing to go above and beyond to help fellow employees. With customers and coworkers alike, he was always courteous. He was dedicated to family and friends. What made him unique and set him apart was that, regardless of whom he interacted, he would add a little bit of humor that would make the day a little easier.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and memory of David John Donafee, upon the official naming of the Midpark Post Office, the David J. Donafee Building on September 18, 2011. Mr. Donafee’s service to his

• 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.

family, friends, and the community greatly influenced the lives of everyone he has known. He will forever be remembered along the streets of Parma Heights and throughout the Greater Cleveland community.

IN RECOGNITION OF  
INTERDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 2011 Interdependence Day, celebrated annually on September 12th. Interdependence Day is a global celebration targeted at raising awareness of the interdependent character of global society.

Interdependence Day began in 2000, when a small group of international artists, political activists and scholars came together and began a dialogue about the possibilities of interdependence between nations. Following the tragic events of September 11, 2011, this small group's idea began an international movement, the Interdependence Movement. Today, the Interdependence Movement is comprised of a global group of citizens known as Citizens without Borders. This group is focused on "creating a constructive interdependent consciousness that facilitates global cooperation and global governance."

Every year since the 2003 Interdependence Day celebration in Philadelphia, the world's citizens have come together in Rome, Paris, Morocco, Mexico City, Brussels, Istanbul, Berlin and most recently, New York City. The 2011 Interdependence Day celebration coincided with the 10th anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001 and was especially important to the kick-off of the Interdependence Movement as a year long project.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the 2011 Interdependence Day, which was celebrated on September 12th in New York City. I wish the Citizens without Borders my best as they strive towards an international community that comes together for global peace and understanding.

ON PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD AND  
THE U.N. BID FOR RECOGNITION

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, this week, the Palestinian Authority (P.A.) will seek recognition of a Palestinian state on 1967 borders at the United Nations (U.N.) The United States has reportedly given the P.A. private assurances over opposing future Israeli settlement building in the West Bank and has urged the P.A. to return to the negotiating table. Yet the threats by this Congress to cut off aid to the P.A. for making such a move fail to recognize that the efforts of the P.A. to seek recognition from the U.N. and from other states are born directly of the failure of the so-called "peace process" that has allowed settlement construction in the West Bank to continue and that threatens to destroy any hope of the very two-state solution we advocate for.

In July, I opposed a one-sided resolution that condemned any attempt by the P.A. to seek recognition from the U.N., but made no mention of the continued settlement building in the West Bank and East Jerusalem that led to the breakdown in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. By only holding one side accountable for such unilateral actions, we undermine the very negotiations we claim to support. A just solution and good faith negotiations will not succeed as long as the United States allows settlement building to continue. We cannot be an honest broker or claim to act in Israel's best interests while turning a blind eye to actions that undermine its security.

True, long-term stability and security for Israel is dependent on peace with its Palestinian neighbors. I unequivocally support a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. But a just, negotiated solution can only be achieved when both sides are held accountable for actions that undermine the reality of a two-state solution on the ground.

ERNEST HOUSE SR. TRIBUTE

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the former Ute Mountain Ute Tribal leader from the Weeminuche Tribe, Ernest House Sr. Over the past 30 years, his influence, dedication and leadership to the Ute Mountain tribe has grown the tribe's influence in the state of Colorado and in the United States.

Mr. House is the grandson of the Ute Mountain Ute tribe's last hereditary Chief, Chief Jack House. In the last years of Chief Jack House's life, Mr. Ernest House Sr. cared for him, learning much about the tribe's history and potential for future plans.

Mr. House was first elected to the Ute Mountain Tribal Council in 1979. Three years later, Mr. House became chairman for the first time, beginning the first of his four non-consecutive four-year terms as chairman for the Ute Mountain Tribe—his last term ending in 2010.

As chairman, Mr. House helped the Ute Tribe accomplish several projects that widened the tribe's economic and natural resource development. Between 1986 and 1988, Mr. House worked to complete two major water compacts to provide water throughout the Ute territories. In addition, Mr. House oversaw several building projects, including a tribal health center and casino. In his last term as chairman, Mr. House Sr. focused primarily on tribal safety, widening the Tribe's police force from two officers to more than 12 officers.

On Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011, Mr. House was tragically taken from us after a motorcycle accident outside of Cortez, Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Ernest House Sr. His leadership and dedication to the Ute Tribe has benefited thousands, and he will be greatly missed by the Ute Tribe and the state of Colorado.

KEVIN WODLINGER TRIBUTE

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Kevin Wodlinger for his work with the local Colorado Honor Flight Network, an organization that flies veterans to Washington to see the World War II memorial.

The Honor Flight Network was founded in 2005 by retired Air Force Captain and physician assistant Earl Morse. Mr. Morse retired from the United States Air Force in 1998, and recognized the need for an organization to help World War II veterans fly to see their memorial in Washington. In May of 2005, the first World War II veterans were flown from Springfield, Ohio to see their memorial.

When Mr. Wodlinger received news of this organization, he knew he needed to help to get this program to Colorado's Western Slope. In 2009, the first Western Slope Honor Flight took off.

In April of 2011, Mr. Wodlinger was honored with the Red Cross Hero nomination for his efforts to start the Western Slope Honor Flight. After receiving this nomination, Mr. Wodlinger claimed he only wanted to make sure that the World War II veterans from Colorado's Western Slope, the "real heroes," were recognized.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Kevin Wodlinger. His work with the Honor Flight Network has provided hundreds of World War II heroes the ability to see the memorial America erected in their honor.

TIM JACKSON TRIBUTE

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tim Jackson, president of the Colorado Automobile Dealers Association and advocate for Colorado drivers and Colorado auto dealers.

Mr. Jackson has spent his professional life advocating on behalf of small businesses and Colorado consumers. As the State Director of the National Federation of Independent Business, Mr. Jackson pursued the Colorado legislature on behalf of small businesses.

As President of the Colorado Automobile Dealers Association, Mr. Jackson has urged the Colorado state legislature and the United States Congress to implement policies that help local Colorado new car and truck dealers to maintain their businesses while selling environmentally-safe cars to the Colorado public.

In 2009, Mr. Jackson won the Outstanding Automotive Trade Association Executive from the National Automobile Dealers Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Tim Jackson. The state and people of Colorado are lucky to have such a determined, entrepreneurial-minded leader advocating on their behalf.

HONORING AIMEE SORDELLI FOR RECEIVING THE CHARLES E. PIPER AWARD

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Aimee Sordelli, who will receive the 26th Annual Charles E. Piper Award in November. The Charles E. Piper Award is presented by the Berwyn Development Corporation to honor achievement in business and service to the community. Since moving to Berwyn in 1995, Ms. Sordelli has dedicated herself to making the community safer, cleaner, and healthier.

During the past 16 years, Aimee Sordelli has amassed an impressive record of service, including sitting on several boards that strive to improve life for Berwyn citizens. Currently, Ms. Sordelli is Chairwoman of the Cook County Senior Advisory Board. She is also a member of the 708 Mental Health Board and the Main Street Board, as well as a Berwyn Township Trustee. There is scarcely a charitable organization in Berwyn to which she does not lend her time. When she is not volunteering for Earth Day clean ups or the Depot Beautification Campaign, Ms. Sordelli is at meetings for Senior Advocate Health Care, the Berwyn Development Corporation, or the Depot District Special Events Committee. In addition to her charitable endeavors, Aimee Sordelli works as an Operations Manager at the Loyola Marymount Hospital in Maywood, Illinois.

Perhaps even more impressive than the many leadership positions Ms. Sordelli holds in her community is the constant generosity and support she offers her neighbors. Ms. Sordelli once saved the life of her next door neighbor by using a baseball bat to fend off an attacking pit bull. On September 11, 2001, she brought a pot of chili to her local Berwyn fire department. As her own act of remembrance, Ms. Sordelli has made feeding her local first responders an annual event. Today, it is a community wide operation with catered meals for Berwyn firefighters, police, and paramedics. It is not only her illustrious achievements, but also her kind and genuine demeanor that make Aimee Sordelli a citizen worthy of distinction and recognition.

I ask you to join me in honoring Ms. Aimee Sordelli on her selection as the 2011 recipient of the Charles E. Piper Award, and may she continue to make a difference in the lives of her fellow citizens for years to come.

HONORING LT. COL. TERRENCE J. MCCOLLUM ON HIS PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exemplary citizen and Illinois' 3rd District constituent, Lt. Col. Terrence J. McCollum. On June 30th, 2011, then Major McCollum was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant

Colonel in the United States Air Force. It is a privilege to recognize his many accomplishments and dedicated service to our country today.

Lt. Col. McCollum began his decorated military career upon graduation from the United States Naval Academy in 1994 with a degree in Oceanography. His academic ambitions led him to George Washington University Law School, where he graduated with a Juris Doctor in 2002. Finally, he earned a Masters degree in Business Administration at Colorado State University in 2011.

Upon graduating from the United States Naval Academy, Lt. Col. McCollum was stationed on the USS Peterson in Norfolk, Virginia as a Naval Officer. He has served on several tours abroad, including a recent tour at Kunsan Air Force Base in Korea. Lt. Col. McCollum has pursued a career geared toward assisting his fellow officers with legal matters. A devoted husband and father to three daughters, Lt. Col. McCollum currently serves as Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for Headquarters at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii.

Lt. Col. McCollum's numerous accomplishments include earning a Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, a Joint Service Commendation Medal, a Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and a Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal. Additionally, Lt. Col. McCollum was consecutively named Deputy Staff Judge Advocate of the Year for the 9th Air Force from 2007–2009. These accomplishments and many others speak to Lt. Col. McCollum's commitment to defending the best interests of his colleagues and preserving the security and well-being of our nation.

Lt. Col. Terrence J. McCollum's notable accomplishments, academic achievements, and dedicated service to his country embody what it means to be an exemplary United States citizen. I am proud to count him among the fine citizens of Illinois' 3rd District, and I wish him the best as he continues to proudly serve our country.

TO COMMEMORATE THE LIFE OF GAIL CHATFIELD

**HON. RUSS CARNAHAN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, our nation most recently commemorated the tenth anniversary of 9–11; honoring those first responders who risked their lives to save others. Today, I rise to recognize the life of one of Missouri's finest first responders: Gail Chatfield.

Gail Chatfield's life was one of unselfish public service. Gail served our nation in the Armed Services during the Korean War, dedicated his life to ensure others were safe by serving in the St. Louis Fire Department from 1957–79. Gail also was elected to the Missouri General Assembly, representing the citizens of the City of St. Louis; he fought continuously for affordable healthcare for his fellow citizens. Gail's public service did not end there: My father, Governor Mel Carnahan appointed Gail as Missouri's Fire Marshal, serving from 1993–1995. He served on the St. Louis Labor Council (AFL–CIO).

Gail was a leader who led quietly by example. He was competent, determined, and accomplished many great things, especially in the important field of public safety, all done with a sense of duty, purpose and humility.

Gail was a loving husband, father, and grandfather, and great-grandfather. His wife Lois, and their four children Keith, Kathy, Greg, Pamela and the Chatfield grandchildren, great-grandchildren will miss him.

He dedicated his life to helping others whether it was performing his heroics in a fire or working in the Missouri General Assembly helping those less fortunate—Gail was friend to many Missourians. He was friend of mine. I will miss him.

COMMENDING THE FRANCISCAN MISSIONARIES OF OUR LADY

**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady for their century of faith and service to the State of Louisiana. This honor is shared as many lives have been touched through the three sanitariums operating in our state.

Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady started in France in 1854 when seven groups of Franciscan sisters banded together. As the organization rapidly grew throughout the world, the first North American expansion happened in 1911 with the healing ministry being established in Monroe, La. Two years later, St. Francis Sanitarium opened in Monroe.

After the first establishment in this city, the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady were invited to open two more sanitariums throughout Louisiana: Baton Rouge's Our Lady of the Lake Sanitarium was dedicated in 1923 and Lafayette's Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in 1949.

Even today, the congregation of the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady remains committed to the ministry of healthcare and spiritual wholeness—serving all of God's people.

This organization is an example of how a small founding group can grow to touch the lives of many, and I commend their hard work and dedication to making a positive difference across our state. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady for their century of service.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF GABRIEL "GABE" TERRONEZ

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Mr. Gabriel "Gabe" Terronez, who passed away on July 8, 2011 at the age of seventy-one. Gabe was a distinguished boxer, educator, and community leader who always placed the utmost importance on hard work and leading by example. He served as a role model for an entire community and will be deeply missed.

Gabe Terronez was born on March 24, 1940 to Jesus and Paula Terronez in Cameron, Texas. His family settled in the great San Joaquin Valley where his athletic gifts were able to flourish. While a student at Corcoran High School, Gabe earned championships in wrestling and in track. Not only did Gabe possess superior athletic talent, he was also a man of outstanding character.

In 1957, Gabe joined the United States Marine Corps, where he served his Nation proudly. During his time in the Marines, Gabe won the Inter-Service Boxing championship. In 1960, Gabe competed in the Olympic trials and was also a number five world-ranked welterweight with a 32–8 record and 19 knock-outs.

Following his seven-year career, Gabe decided to broaden his horizons and pursue an undergraduate degree. He used his earnings from professional boxing to help pay for his college tuition. After attending Fresno City College and California State University, Fresno, Gabe earned a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish.

Gabe spent his adult life serving the public in a number of capacities. Upon graduating from college, he worked for then-governor, Ronald Reagan, as a community relations consultant. Gabe later went on to work for the University of California, focusing his time on migrant and at-risk adolescents as a youth development specialist until his retirement in 1992. Gabe served as an exceptional role model for these young men and women because he was an example of the American Dream. By working hard and showcasing determination in all of his endeavors, Gabe encountered great success in his life.

Gabe was preceded in death by his wife of 25 years, Elizabeth Huerta Terronez. He is survived by his children Stephanie, Dante, Desiree, Damien, and Nicole; his grandchildren Nicholas and Mia Elizabeth; and his siblings, Cecil, Lupe, and Janie.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life of Gabriel "Gabe" Terronez, an honorable and respected man whose talent and passion were not only exhibited in the boxing ring, but also in his unwavering commitment to our community and his loving family.

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICERS AND THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOUSE AND RECIPIENTS OF THE HOUSE EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARD

**HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize outstanding employees of the Officers (Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, and Chief Administrative Officer) and the Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives who have reached the milestone of 25 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the recipients of the House Employee Excellence Award.

The House's most important asset is its dedicated and exceptional employees, whose

work often behind the scenes, is vital in keeping the operations and services of the House running smoothly and efficiently. The employees we recognize today are acknowledged and commended for their hard work, dedication, professionalism, support of House Members and their staffs and constituents, and for their contributions day-in and day-out to the overall operations of the House. These employees have a wide range of responsibilities that support the legislative process, assure the security of the institution, maintain our technology and service infrastructure, and contribute to a more effective and efficiently operating House support structure. They have accomplished a great many things in a wide range of activities, and the House of Representatives and its Members, staff, and the general public, are better served because of them.

We honor the individuals named below for 25 years of dedicated service to the House. Collectively, this group has provided two hundred seventy-five (275) years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives:

Gretchen Ewers, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Kevin Harris, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Darius Holmes, Office of the Sergeant at Arms;

Thomas E. Mako, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Craig D. Pence, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Dean Phan, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Paul Rossiter, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Airlie Shoemaker, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

David Sparling, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Matthew B. Smith, Office of the Clerk;

Sandra E. Watkins, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

We also recognize and congratulate four House employees for receiving the Employee Excellence Award. This is a merit-based award, given to one employee from each House Officer organization, and the Office of Inspector General. Selected employees exhibited outstanding overall job performance and displayed a willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty throughout the last year. We honor the individuals named below for receiving this prestigious award.

Traci L. Brasher, Office of the Sergeant at Arms;

Faye Cobb, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Michele Herzfeld, Office of the Clerk;

Gregory M. Roberts, Office of Inspector General.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations and once again recognize and thank these employees for their professionalism and commitment to the U.S. House of Representatives as a whole, and in particular to their respective House Officers and the Inspector General. Their long hours and hard work are invaluable, and their years of unwavering service, dedication, and commitment to the House set an example for their colleagues and other employees who will follow in their footsteps. I celebrate our honorees, and I am proud to stand before you and the nation on their behalf to recognize the importance of their public service.

KEVIN JEFFERSON

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Kevin Jefferson, a lifelong community leader and public servant. Through his work on issues from voter registration to gun control community empowerment, and through his service as an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Kevin made a lasting difference for the better in the time that he was given.

Kevin began his career in public service early as a student at Bowie State, where he played an active role in student life. After serving on Rev. Jesse L. Jackson's Presidential campaign staff in 1984 and 1988, Kevin joined the national staff of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, through which he promoted voter registration and education. He went on to become the first National Minority Affairs Coordinator at Handgun Control, Inc., and in this role, traveled the country to help secure support for the Brady Gun Control Bill. His leadership on these important initiatives led to his involvement with President Clinton's Presidential campaign. And in 2000, he was appointed to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and later held numerous positions at the State Department. Kevin also served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Labor, Honorable Alexis Herman, and was appointed to the Office of the President, Community Empowerment Board. Throughout his lifetime, Kevin served on a number of Presidential campaigns, worked closely with the DNC and served as the Executive Director of the Democratic National Committee Voting Rights Institute. He is honored and respected by the Democratic Party for his hard work and support.

I join Kevin's family, church and all those who knew and loved Kevin in appreciation for his well-lived life and in fond reflection on his memory. I was proud to count him as a friend, and he will be dearly missed.

HONORING SAN RAFAEL POLICE CHIEF MATTHEW ODETTO

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of a passionate and dedicated public servant. San Rafael Police Chief Matthew Odetto announced his retirement in July 2011, the culmination of thirty years of work serving the people and public safety of Marin County. His leadership has touched the lives of countless Marin residents, and his example has helped forge new bonds between our law enforcement organizations and the communities they serve.

Odetto comes from a family with well-established roots in Marin County and in law enforcement. He started his career in 1981 as a deputy with the Marin County Sheriff's Office, based in Southern Marin, where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant. In that position, he served as commander of the Sheriff's SWAT team

and was lead instructor for the Emergency Vehicle Operation Course.

In 2000, Odetto became the Tiburon Chief of Police, a position he held for six years before his appointment as San Rafael Chief of Police in December 2006. Chief Odetto, firmly committed to maintaining services to San Rafael residents in spite of economic difficulties, guided the Police Department as it confronted newly limited resources. He built partnerships with community groups, solicited support from the private sector, and made community policing a priority. He secured new funding sources to ensure that gaps in resources were covered, eventually providing for the return of the Citizen's Academy program, which introduces the public to the work of the San Rafael Police Department and its law enforcement officers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking Chief Odetto for his contributions to Marin County. He has set an admirable standard for compassionate and responsive public service, and we wish him the best in his retirement.

HONORING JON D. SPALDING

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to commend Jon. D. Spalding, an outstanding citizen and business leader from Perry, Michigan. I want to recognize him today as he completes his service as a national officer of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents. Mr. Spalding also served with distinction a term as President of the association.

Mr. Spalding has distinguished himself throughout his career as a professional insurance agent and he has exhibited only the highest standards of honesty, integrity and professionalism, serving as the President of the Professional Insurance Agents of Michigan.

Jon D. Spalding's tenure as president of PIA National marks the first time in the history of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents that a father, and then his son, has served as President of the organization. Jon D. Spalding was President of PIA National in 2009–2010; his father, Robert M. Spalding, Sr. served as President of PIA National in 1995–96.

With his years of hard work and dedication Jon D. Spalding has earned the respect and admiration of his many colleagues throughout the insurance industry.

He has embodied the motto of his insurance association, "Local Agents Serving Main Street America." Therefore, I would like to congratulate and commend Jon D. Spalding of Perry, Michigan upon the successful completion of his service as a national officer and as President of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents.

NATIONAL DAY FOR THE  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, as the Republic of China on Taiwan celebrates the 100th anniversary of their founding, I rise to celebrate their National Day and to commend them for 100 years of progress. As a friend and ally of the United States, the Republic of China on Taiwan is a model for nations around the world: a peaceful and prosperous democracy.

I would like to take a moment and commend the 23 million citizens of Taiwan for their commitment to peace. As a symbol of this commitment, the Republic of China on Taiwan recently melted down artillery shells and used the metal to construct a "peace bell." Given the many struggles and hardships the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan have faced—and the threats they continue to face—they deserve enormous credit for their sustained desire for peace. We celebrate these efforts to maintain good relations with other countries, and the United States is proud to call the Republic of China on Taiwan a partner in peace.

In closing, I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking President Ma, Vice President Siew, and the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan for their continued commitment to peace on this anniversary of their National Day.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR AND  
EQUITABLE POSTAL SERVICE ACT

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise with my colleague from Ohio, MARCIA FUDGE, to introduce the "Fair and Equitable Postal Service Act."

We are all concerned about the fiscal crisis facing the United States Postal Service. This summer, the Postal Service released a list of some 3600 post offices, branches, and stations that are under review for closure or consolidation. According to recent testimony by the Government Accountability Office, as many as 12,000 Postal Service retail facilities may be on the chopping block in the next few years.

While Congress gave the Postal Service authority "to determine the need for post offices, postal and training facilities and equipment, and to provide such offices, facilities . . . as it determines are needed," that same charge also requires that postal services be established "of such character and in such locations, that postal patrons throughout the Nation will . . . have ready access to essential postal service."

The legislation we introduce today would give the Postal Service guidance as it works to balance those obligations in a way that ensures that these closures don't fall on the backs of the most vulnerable. It would require the Postal Service, as it considers closures, to

specifically examine the needs and impacts of its closures on low-income, elderly, and other populations that have the least means to access alternatives because of limited transportation options and internet access.

For these populations, their local offices provide a range of services that they simply may not have the resources or ability to access elsewhere. The need for this bill was only reinforced yesterday with the release of a Census Bureau report which found that the poverty rate increased in 2010. There were 46 million people in poverty last year. If you don't have enough money to pay for food and keep the lights on, what are the chances you have the income to pay for broadband to access postal services online?

Further, this legislation would prevent any closures that would have a "disproportionate, unreasonable, or undue burden on these populations." The impetus for this legislation was the proposal by the Postal Service to close 5 out of the 26 retail facilities in the Milwaukee area. Every one of the facilities under review are located in one portion of the city with high rates of poverty. If approved, these closures would effectively cut off postal services for residents in these communities.

Too often decisions like these are driven by only one consideration: cutting costs. This bill sends a message to the Postal Service that it must consider the challenges faced by these populations when access to postal services is reduced.

The Postal Service is a national service. It's trusted by the American public. It offers services that are a vital lifeline for all Americans at all income levels, ages, and stages in life. Congress mandated a nationwide postal service—not a two-tier system where post offices in high income areas are able to keep their lights on while those in inner-city and rural communities slowly fade away. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

HONORING BECHTEL BWXT IDAHO  
LEGACY AT AMWTP

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, as a representative of Idaho's Second Congressional District and member of the House Energy and Water Development Subcommittee, it gives me great pleasure to recognize Bechtel BWXT Idaho's exemplary eight year legacy at the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project, AMWTP.

Under BBWI's supervision, AMWTP is the United States Department of Energy's most advanced waste treatment facility, safely and compliantly sending more radioactive waste to the DOE Waste Isolation Pilot Plant for permanent disposal than any other site in the DOE Complex.

The excellence of BBWI and its employees shows through numerous awards ranging from the 2005 Department of Energy Electrical Safety Challenge to the multiple National Safety Awards received in 2010. Employees have worked more than 12.4 million hours and 2,839 days without a lost-time injury and have shipped more than 43,718 cubic meters of transuranic, mixed low level, and low level waste.

BBWI is also an active and involved corporate partner to Idaho. Supporting its community through contributions such as civic, cultural arts, and educational organizations, BBWI helps strengthen the fabric of communities and improve the quality of life for Idahoans.

I am proud to represent AMWTP, a leading corporation in Idaho and for other waste treatment sites across the country.

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HONORING MR. CLAUDE DOUTHIT  
FOR HIS LIFETIME DEDICATION  
TO THE NORTH SHORE ROAD  
SETTLEMENT

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**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Claude Douthit for a life dedicated to helping others in Western North Carolina.

Mr. Claude Douthit, a native of Swain County in Western North Carolina, has dedicated hard work and countless hours into the North Shore Settlement. When the federal government purchased 44,000 acres of North Carolina mountain land and built Fontana Dam on the Little Tennessee River to generate hydroelectric power for the war effort, Mr. Douthit, a Tennessee Valley Authority employee, initially favored the building of the road.

The rising waters of Fontana Lake flooded several small communities, forcing more than 200 families out of their homes expecting the government to follow through on its wartime pledge to build a road they could use to reach abandoned home sites and family cemeteries.

Instead, the government delayed, and thirty years later, only 6.2 miles of pavement and a short tunnel had been built at the eastern tip of Fontana Lake. Convinced that the road would never be finished, Mr. Douthit began working for an alternate solution, a cash settlement for Swain County. In 2000 Mr. Douthit and his wife Jean Douthit helped to organize a group called Citizens for the Economic Future of Swain County, gathering support from a broad coalition of conservationists, parks enthusiasts, environmentalists, public officials, and private organizations.

Mr. Douthit was determined to get a settlement for the county and through his hard work and that of the Citizens for the Economic Future of Swain County, an agreement was finally reached in 2010, with the government agreeing to pay \$52 million to the county. This settlement agreement will guarantee that Swain County has the resources it needs to thrive and grow for decades to come.

It is an honor to represent selfless, hard-working citizens like Mr. Claude Douthit. His devotion to his community is a great source of pride to me and to Western North Carolina. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mr. Claude Douthit for his lasting impact on Swain County.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,729,488,947,751.89.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$4,091,063,201,458.09 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

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TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
RICHARD BERDNIK

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**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the achievements of an outstanding individual, Sheriff Richard Berdnik, who will be recognized by the Central of Polish Organizations of Passaic, Clifton and Vicinity on Saturday, September 17, 2011. Sheriff Berdnik has been selected as the Contingent's 2011 Marshal and will lead them in the 74th Annual General Kazimierz Pulaski Memorial Parade in New York City on Sunday, October 2, 2011.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known. Richard has been a true public servant, one whose commitment to excellence and integrity has helped to enhance and protect countless lives.

Richard is the son of Bernice and Bazil Berdnik, Polish immigrants who endured the hardship of Stalin's gulags. He is a graduate of both the New Jersey State Police Academy and the prestigious National Academy of the FBI.

Sheriff Berdnik's bravery and involvement in the community make him an esteemed individual among his colleagues as well as the citizens he serves. He has been honored with a number of awards; among them The Meritorious Service Medal he received for his quick and efficient response in apprehending criminals. He is also a "Life Saving" Medal recipient, having saved the lives of an elderly person and a child from a burning house.

Sheriff Berdnik is a member of several professional associations, including the FBI National Academy Associates, the New Jersey Honor Legion of Decorated Officers, the Clifton PBA Local 36 and the Passaic County Chiefs of Police Association.

Sheriff Berdnik served as a Police Officer in the City of Clifton for almost 30 years. The knowledge and experience he has acquired has made him not only a great officer, but an outstanding role model to younger police officers. It is his commitment, dedication and ambition that helped him rise through the ranks of the Clifton Police Dept. These same charac-

teristics are what led to his selection as a candidate and his election to the office of Passaic County Sheriff in the November of 2010.

As Sheriff, Richard has been a loyal and energetic leader, and has displayed wisdom and courage in situations requiring strong direction. Sheriff Berdnik demonstrated his leadership during the floods of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. He made Passaic County proud when he recently testified in front of the House Committee on Homeland Security about the need for comprehensive legislation to combat the threat from weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

More than just being a valued leader in the community and honorable public official, he is a beloved husband and father. Richard and his wife, Monica, have been married for over 25 years and have four children: sons, Ryan and Kevin and daughters, Ashley and Alyssa. Ashley is also being honored by the same organization as their Miss Polonia 2011. The Berdnik Family has consistently displayed some of the highest American ideals, among which are courage, determination, and integrity, and I trust he will continue that legacy.

Though the job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, few experiences compare to meeting, working with and having the honor of recognizing the impressive accomplishments of individuals like Sheriff Richard Berdnik.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the Central of Polish Organizations, the County of Passaic, the Berdnik family, Richard's colleagues and friends in celebrating the great achievements of my friend, Sheriff Richard Berdnik; recognized tonight for his leadership, his loyal service to the public and his celebration of his heritage.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington, DC on September 12, 2011 and September 14–15, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 699, the Investigative Assistance for Violent Crimes Act; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 700, the Appeal Time Clarification Act of 2011; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 701, to protect the safety of judges by extending the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact sensitive information contained in their financial disclosure reports; "no" on rollcall vote No. 706, relating to the disapproval of the President's exercise of authority to increase the debt limit; "no" on rollcall vote No. 707, on ordering the previous question on the rule for H.R. 2587; "no" on rollcall vote No. 708, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2587; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 709, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reform and Reauthorization Act of 2011; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 710, the motion to recommit H.R. 2587; "no" on rollcall vote No. 711, final passage of the Protecting Jobs from Government Interference Act.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
FOUNDING OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
CHINA (TAIWAN)

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on this 100th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China (Taiwan), I wish to extend my best wishes to our Taiwanese friends.

Taiwan's continued success and growth into one of the world's most vibrant democracies despite tremendous adversity is a testament to the skill of its leadership and the resolve of its people. Due credit must be given to President Ma Ying-Jeou for his tenacity in advancing the cause of peace in the Asia Pacific region.

It is my greatest hope that Taiwan and its neighbors, in particular the People's Republic of China, will continue to deepen cultural and economic ties to promote lasting peace in the region and in the world.

TAIWAN'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, 100 years ago on October 10, Sun Yat-sen, a Chinese doctor, led his people to overthrow the dynastic rule that governed his people for many centuries.

We have celebrated his achievements and his advocacy of his three principles of the people: Nationalism, Democracy, and the People's Livelihood.

Today, these three principles have been the legacy of Taiwan's President, Ma Ying-jeou, playing an integral role in making the Republic of China (Taiwan) a vibrant democracy and a leading force in today's international community.

We congratulate Taiwan on the historic celebration of their 100th anniversary.

HONORING THE GROUNDBREAKING  
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS  
CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS'  
CHAPEL IN CAMDEN, NJ

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in New Jersey on the occasion of the groundbreaking ceremony for their house of worship. This new building, located in the heart of Camden, will be a welcoming sanctuary, serving the needs of the people of Pennsauken and the City of Camden. Services will be open to the community and bilingual.

The history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in New Jersey dates back to the Church's founder, Joseph Smith Jr., who preached here. In 1944, the Church first established a congregation in Camden, where

Church members from all over South Jersey gathered to worship. Over the years the Church has grown to fifteen congregations in South Jersey, including two in Camden alone. Members have met in various buildings throughout Camden and in neighboring towns.

This building represents economic opportunity and investment in the City of Camden, as well as spiritual and personal growth for the community members. The chapel will be a gathering place for prayer, study, and service. I hope that this chapel will inspire further development in Camden and that its congregants will continue their good deeds in the region.

Mr. Speaker, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' commitment to the betterment of the City of Camden should not go unrecognized. I commend them for their hard work within the South Jersey community and congratulate them on the occasion of the groundbreaking of their new chapel.

PROTECTING JOBS FROM  
GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, once again this Tea Party Republican majority is determined to ignore the jobs crisis in this country and instead focus the energy and efforts of Congress on busting unions and attacking the federally protected rights of workers to organize. This legislation is a direct assault on workers' rights in order to protect the profits of one corporation—Boeing. This legislation essentially tells 14 million unemployed Americans that their needs are irrelevant as long as there is a CEO in America who wants to crush a union.

The National Labor Relations Act, a Federal law, prohibits a company from taking actions, such as firing an employee or relocating a factory, against workers for exercising federally protected rights that include forming a union or striking. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) filed a complaint against Boeing in April 2011, accusing the airline manufacturer of building a plant in South Carolina as retaliation against union employees in Washington State who have engaged in strikes. The Seattle Times quoted one Boeing executive as saying that the main factor for putting the new plant in Charleston, SC was ". . . that we cannot afford to have a work stoppage, you know, every three years."

The legislation on the floor of the U.S. House today, H.R. 2587, is the Tea Party Republican attempt to reward a corporation that breaks the law in order to bust union workers. Rather than negotiate with union workers to reach contract agreements, Boeing built a new \$750 million facility in South Carolina. This legislation in essence sanctions any company in America to move their operations to any low-wage location where workers' rights are ignored, whether inside or outside the U.S.

Tea Party Republicans have titled this bill the Protecting Jobs from Government Interference Act, but it really should be called the Busting Unions and Outsourcing Jobs to Protect Corporate Profits Act. It is remarkable that Members of Congress can vote to sanction

the export of U.S. jobs to other countries just to ensure corporate friends can squeeze every dollar of profit available out of their low-wage workers. This legislation is truly a betrayal of the American people, but it fits into the alarming trend advocated by Tea Party Republican legislators at the State and Federal level to eliminate worker rights and protections. If their goal is to return to the days of sweatshops and the abuse of workers they are certainly moving in that direction.

I truly hope that every Minnesotan who is a member of a union, retired from a union, or has a loved-one in a union is paying attention to what is happening in America. The corporate elites and the legislators their secret money have paid to elect are destroying workers rights. This U.S. House of Representatives, once known as the People's House, now appears to be owned by corporations. Our democracy is at risk along with the rights of workers and the wages of every middle class American.

This legislation is a harbinger of the battle working people, regular Americans, face as corporations dictate to elected leaders. I oppose H.R. 2587 and I oppose the union busting, anti-working American agenda it represents.

EXPRESSING RESPECT FOR THE  
DIGNITY OF ALL WORK AND ALL  
WORKERS

**HON. JAY INSLEE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, in the 1930s, as Americans slowly walked the road to recovery and rebuilt a country ravaged by the Great Depression, workers sought security and stability and unified representation. The National Labor Relations Act outlined the rights of both workers and employers and put forward rules to bring fairness to the union election process. Project labor agreements were established, and the Davis-Bacon Act created prevailing wage requirements. All this in a country still living in the shadow of the largest economic collapse the world had ever known. Our economy rebounded, and the middle class flourished. American manufacturing set the global standard, and much of the work was done by workers who enjoyed the right to collectively bargain with their employer. Our country respected the dignity of all work, and all workers.

Now, in the wake of the worst recession of our lifetime, some leaders appear to be trying to pull the rug from underneath working families who are already on the floor. We have witnessed attacks on collective bargaining rights in the state legislatures of Wisconsin and Ohio, and the repeated attempts of Congress to erode workers' rights. From repealing Davis-Bacon wage requirements to ending the power of regulators to enforce existing labor law, the same workers who made this the wealthiest country on the planet are now at times disparaged and denigrated by some rather than being protected and praised. Workers exercising their right to bargain collectively did not bring us to the brink of another Great Depression. Project labor agreements didn't cause our housing market to collapse. Prevailing wage requirements aren't causing our community banks to fail.

Rather, the protection of workers' rights, such as collective bargaining, has helped to create a strong American middle class, which has in turn spurred the growth of the U.S. economy. Collective bargaining is just that, bargaining. Protecting the rights of employees does not mean handicapping employers, it means respecting the dignity of all work, and all workers. As our country continues to walk the road to recovery, we should be mindful of this example, and we should respect the dignity of the workers who will take us there.

CONGRATULATING CHICAGO IRON & SUPPLIES, INC., AS THE ASHLAND AREA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S 2011 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

**HON. SEAN P. DUFFY**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chicago Iron & Supplies, Inc., from my hometown of Ashland, Wisconsin, for being named the 2011 Business of the Year by the Ashland Area Development Corporation.

From what began as a small five-person fur, animal and metals business in the late 19th Century, Chicago Iron & Supplies has transformed into the successful metal company it is today. The Orensten family purchased Chicago Iron in 1957, and their hard work and entrepreneurial spirit is a living example of the American Dream.

Small businesses, like Chicago Iron, are the drivers of our economy and their success is fuel to the economic engine of local communities. For over 50 years, Chicago Iron has been an exemplary small business whose success extends throughout Ashland, creating jobs and work for other local businesses.

Over the last half century, the Orensten family has not only invested in their business, but they have also invested greatly in the community of Ashland. It is my hope that the Orensten family and Chicago Iron & Supplies find continued success for many years to come.

HONORING THE BRAVERY AND HEROIC DEEDS OF IGOR TOBAS

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic deeds of a young man from Memphis, Tennessee whose quick thinking and courage helped save the life of a child caught in an unfortunate accident. Igor Tobas, 21, was working as a valet at Elfo Grisanti's restaurant on September 10th when he was alarmed by the sounds of a child screaming in agony. Igor quickly rushed to the scene to find that Caleb Roedel, 15, had sustained a severed leg from the knee down after his leg became trapped underneath a slow moving train. Tobas, without delay, tied his belt around Caleb's leg to prevent him from losing blood and he continued to apply pressure to the wound until paramedics arrived on the scene.

The paramedics continued to use Igor's belt until they were able to airlift the child to a local hospital. If it were not for the quick thinking and heroic act of Igor Tobas, Caleb Roedel would possibly not be alive today.

What makes this event so remarkable is not only the quick thinking of Igor but the fact that he does not consider himself to be a hero. When asked about the event, Igor responded by saying that he only did what he could since no one on the scene knew what to do. Even more remarkable, Tobas returned to work after the event even though his arms were still covered in blood after saving a child's life. His boss, Mr. Grisanti, said of Tobas, "the world needs more people like him."

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the brave actions of Igor Tobas. His actions clearly show that anyone can perform acts of heroism if they simply choose to engage in service to their fellow citizens, regardless of the situation. While Mr. Tobas does not consider himself to be a hero, I think that the family of Caleb Roedel and citizens of Memphis surely do. Thank you, Igor Tobas, for your courage and commitment to protecting the life of a fellow citizen. It is my sincere hope that we can all find it in our hearts to follow your example in the future.

SOUTH ALABAMA HONOR FLIGHT SIX ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON, DC

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Honor Flight South Alabama and the World War II veterans this very special organization is bringing on its sixth flight to Washington, DC on September 21, 2011.

Founded by the South Alabama Veterans Council, Honor Flight South Alabama is an organization whose mission is to fly heroes from southwest Alabama to see their national memorial.

Over six decades have passed since the end of World War II and, regrettably, it took nearly this long to complete work on the memorial that honors the spirit and sacrifice of the 16 million who served in the U.S. armed forces and the more than 400,000 who died. Sadly, many veterans did not live long enough to hear their country say "thank you," yet for those veterans still living, Honor Flight provides for many their first—and perhaps only—opportunity to see the National World War II Memorial, which honors their service and sacrifice.

This Honor Flight begins at dawn when the veterans will gather at historic Fort Whiting in Mobile and travel to Mobile Regional Airport to board a chartered flight to Washington. During their time in their nation's capital, the veterans will visit the World War II Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and other memorials.

The veterans will return to Mobile Regional Airport that evening, where some 1,000 people are expected to greet them.

Mr. Speaker, the September 21, 2011, journey of heroes from South Alabama is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank them—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II—for they collectively—and lit-

erally—saved the world. They personify the very best America has to offer, and I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to their selfless devotion to our country and the freedoms we enjoy.

I salute each of the veterans who made the trip to Washington. May we never forget their valiant deeds and tremendous sacrifices: Clinton Ames, Jr., Curtis Avinger, Robert Bagwell, Elwood Barden, Jack Bayuk, Sidney Biehler, Clarence Blocker, Byron Bower, James Boykin, Donald Brassfield, Robert Brown, James Butcher, John Butt, Leon Cain, Sr., Leo Cain, Sr., Arlee Carmichael, Alfred Chance, John Courtney, Jr., James Crocker, Joseph Croom, John Cunningham, Dr. George Dacovich, Sr., Robert Denniston, Glenn DePorter, Murray Driskell, James Dyess, Sr., James Edwards, Roy Eveland, Wilbur Ferguson, Vaughn Frederick, Dorothy Frost, Edward Gilbert, Jr., Sidney Gillikin, Bobby Graham, William Grimes, Joseph Hanson, George Harrison, Richard Howser, Gary Hunter, Morris Jackson, William Jenkins, Joseph Kress, Phillip Laden, Peter Leonardis, Roger Lewis, Harlan Mahan, Annie Mathews, Joseph Maury, James McArthur, Hezzie McCaughn, Joseph McCorquodale, Lee McCurley, Grover McIlwain, Alney McLean, Alfred Meadows, Jr., Mary Moebius, George Moody, Leon Mote, Warren Nelson, Lionel Noonan, Charles Odom, William Olsen, Sr., Robert Ownby, Hurshel Paul, Walter Pawlak, Hilton Peyregne, Frank Phillips, Jim Rainer, Jefferson Ratcliffe, Sr., Willard Ready, J.C. Reed, William Ross, Wayne Roth, James Santa Cruz, Raymond Scott, James Smith, Jerry Stastka, John Taylor, Thomas Turk, Florian Turla, Clyde Ussery, Alfred Webb, George Weldon, James Wicks, Leroy Williams, James Wright, and Harvey Younce.

RECOGNIZING MOVEMENT IS LIFE

**HON. CHAKA FATTAH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2011 National Caucus on Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Health Disparities and Movement is Life. This body may not know that arthritis is the number one cause of disability in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), affecting 46 million Americans, and costs the U.S. economy \$128 billion annually in medical costs and lost wages. The burden of arthritis falls more acutely on some members of our population, and African Americans and Latinos, and women of all backgrounds, face more severe osteoarthritis and disability, yet receive less than optimal access to diagnostic, medical, and surgical intervention than do other groups.

Additionally, there is a lack of awareness about the connection between musculoskeletal health disparities, increasing physical inactivity levels, and disparities in chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity, and heart disease among women, African-Americans and Latinos. The Movement is Life Work Group Caucus has been established, and the second annual meeting is currently underway in Washington, D.C., to develop action plans aimed at reducing musculoskeletal health disparities. By promoting early intervention, the



Caucus seeks to slow musculoskeletal disease progression, reduce disability, and encourage physical activity and daily movement in order to improve the health of those currently disadvantaged as well as the overall health of the nation.

I was introduced to the Movement is Life initiative by its co-chair Dr. Ibrahim; a Core Investigator with the VA Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion, Chief of Medicine at the Philadelphia Medical Center, and Professor and Vice Chair of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. His work on understanding and intervening on racial disparity in access and utilization of joint replacement in the management of knee/hip osteoarthritis provides a national model for advancing health disparities research from first-generation studies that detected disparities in care, to second-generation studies exploring the reasons for these disparities, to the first-ever third-generation intervention trial to reduce well-documented disparity.

I commend Dr. Ibrahim and Movement is Life on their second annual meeting, and for their efforts in creating a dialogue which draws attention to these health disparities that continue to impact our national economy and many lives around the country. I strongly encourage all to discuss musculoskeletal issues with their doctors and to participate in physical activity and daily movement in order to limit the exasperation of related chronic diseases and lead an independent, productive, and healthy lifestyle.

IN HONOR OF THE NEW YORK CITY STREET RENAMING OF EAST 111TH STREET, BETWEEN 1ST AVENUE AND FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT DRIVE AS PHILIP REED WAY

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the New York City street renaming of East 111th Street, between 1st Avenue and Franklin D. Roosevelt East River Drive after my beloved friend, political ally, and the late former New York City Council Member Philip Reed. Elected in 1997, Phil represented East Harlem and Manhattan Valley, and parts of the Upper West Side and the South Bronx. He left office in 2005, unable to seek re-election to a third term because of term limits. He was a Democrat, and the first openly gay black member of the City Council. Phil passed away on November 6, 2008, two days after fulfilling his last wish to vote for and witness the election of Barack H. Obama as President of the United States of America.

Born on Feb. 21, 1949, Philip Reed, a New York native, was the son of a black father and a white mother. He and a twin sister, Elinor, were raised by their mother and stepfather, both white, in an upper-middle-class Manhattan world of civil rights activism, prep schools, and Martha's Vineyard. Phil dropped out of Ohio Wesleyan University and received conscientious objector status during the Vietnam War.

Philip Reed began his activism, participating in the Civil Rights Movement, the Free Speech

Movement, and the Vietnam War protests, as a student and tennis athlete. He took part in civil disobedience at the University of California, Berkeley Campus in Oakland and was arrested. He later became a leader in the Gay Rights Movement and was one of the legendary participants of the Stonewall Riots, which were a series of spontaneous, violent demonstrations against a police raid that took place in the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn, in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of New York City.

As a local community activist, Phil worked with Central Park West North Block Association, Community Board 7 and the NYPD to rid Central Park North and the surrounding Manhattan Valley neighborhood of drugs, crack cocaine, trafficking and prostitution. He challenged the Community Board and Borough Presidents to bring issues that are more diverse to the board, and increase the number of minority appointments to the Community Board. As a Democratic District Leader, Phil helped to make Three Parks Independent Democratic Club one of the largest and most diverse productive Independent Democratic clubs on the upper West Side Manhattan Valley and city of New York.

As a New York City Councilman, Phil Reed is responsible for authoring and passing historic legislation to ban racial and religious profiling in New York City, the use of cell phones in places of public performances, and predatory lending. As Chair of Consumer Affairs, he created identity theft legislation to protect all New Yorkers and sought to reform and increase vendor licenses for all potential entrepreneurs living in the city. As a member of the Aging Committee, he directed funding to purchase vans, upgrade kitchens and food pantries for senior centers and programs. He renovated libraries to include air conditioning and fought for and secured funding to preserve and expand El Museo Del Barrio, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Museum of the City of New York, which Mayor Giuliani tried to relocate to the Tweed Building in lower Manhattan.

He created cultural pathways along the East 103rd Street Corridor, installed new historic street lamps and poles, planted trees and installed tree guards along the East 116th Street, West 106th Street, East 138th Street and East 106th Street corridors. He led, managed and funded the Frederick Douglass Memorial Circle and West 110th Street Gateway Project and directed funding that increased the number of police emergency call boxes throughout the northern end of Central Park. He funded new technology for computers and science labs for public schools throughout the entire district.

As Member of the Health Committee he protected and preserved HIV/AIDS funding from cuts and made sure those funds were distributed to the areas and agencies in the field that did the work and outreach. He kept the Health Department from closing the 115th Street Community Health Office and dental clinic in East Harlem. He organized one of the largest coalitions to fight against the redevelopment of the 100th Street Bus Depot, and even though the community lost that fight, he made the MTA spend an additional 15 million dollars to add a roof and state of the art ventilation system to enclose and protect asthmatics from diesel fuel exposure. Because of that coalition's fight, the MTA purchased a record num-

ber of clean air and hybrid buses. He re-established and nurtured the East Harlem Asthma Working Group and at the urging of Senator Hillary Clinton in 2003, the group held New York City's First Annual Asthma March. Phil's annual asthma symposiums were effective and known throughout the city.

Phil will be greatly remembered for his work to improve, create and refurbish open space and directed most of his capital dollar allotments to the restoration and creation of parks and playgrounds throughout the Eight Council District and beyond, including Hudson River Park, Riverside Park Ball Fields and the Frederick Douglass Memorial Circle. Phil funded a nature pathway boardwalk and bridge on Randall's Island, and today thousands and thousands of public school children from East Harlem and beyond are learning hands-on about nature and their environment through programming through the Randall's Island Sports Foundation.

Parks funded by Philip Reed: Peoples Park and Playground (Mon Haven), Brook Park (Mott Haven), Millbrook Playground (Mott Haven), Happy Warrior Park and Playground (Manhattan Valley), Frederick Douglass Ball Field, Playground and Pool (Manhattan Valley), Riverside Ball Fields (Manhattan Valley/Upper West Side), Broadway Malls & Water Truck (Manhattan Valley/Upper West Side), Booker T. Washington Playground (Manhattan Valley), Thomas Jefferson Ball Fields and Recreation Center (East Harlem), Robert McNair Park and Playground (East Harlem), Central Park Zoo & Tiger Bathrooms (Central Park), Wagner Houses Playground (East Harlem), East 103rd Street Community Garden (East Harlem), 97th Street Park Avenue Mall (East Harlem), Randall's Island's Nature Boardwalk and Pedestrian Bridge (Randall's Island/Ward Island).

Mr. Speaker, please join me, the city of New York and a very grateful Nation as we celebrate the legacy of a true American hero by the street renaming of East 111th Street, between 1st Avenue and Franklin D. Roosevelt East River Drive as "Philip Reed Way."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE AND RETIREMENT OF ELIZABETH "LIZ" DECKER

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to recognize the service of a longtime public servant, Mrs. Liz Decker, to Alabama's Third Congressional District.

Liz will retire on September 30, 2011. After working as a packer and fine threads spinner at the Blue Mountain Cotton Mill in Anniston, Alabama, Liz became the church secretary at Gladeview Baptist Church in 1973. In 1977, she worked as an assistant to the Calhoun County Superintendent of Education and in 1981 began her Federal service by working for former Third District Congressman Bill Nichols who served in Congress from 1967 until he passed away in 1988. Since then, Liz has continued working for the Third Congressional District for three more Representatives, including Congressman Glen Browder, Congressman Bob Riley and now in my office. In addition, Liz also was elected to the Board of the

Calhoun County Board of Education for two six-year terms. Liz is married to Ronald Decker.

Liz has served countless East Alabamians through the years, assisting them with any number of concerns they may have had, from the grants process to casework focusing on immigration and Social Security. She is known as a kind and genuine public servant, and a joy to have in the Third District family. She will be missed. Thank you, Liz, for your service to the people of the Third District. On behalf of so many East Alabamians you have helped, we wish you well and congratulate you on your retirement.

THE END OF DON'T ASK, DON'T  
TELL

### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, we move one step closer towards full equality by ending the immoral and irresponsible practice of discriminating against courageous Americans who want to serve their country. I am proud to have voted again and again for Don't Ask Don't Tell's repeal because I know—and the military has told us—that ending this policy will strengthen our armed forces.

A comprehensive report from the Defense Department found that of the 400,000 service members and 150,000 military spouses, 70 percent of military personnel thought the repeal would be positive, mixed, or no consequence. This is a remarkable finding, and makes the policy seem all the more indefensible for the more than 14,000 service members who have been discharged.

Brave Americans have served and sacrificed in silence for years while the military enforced a discriminatory and harmful policy. Today this policy is officially a thing of the past, a relic of a different time.

The road to equality is long, winding, and will have many bumps along the way. Today, I have the 14,000 discharged service members in my thoughts as we celebrate the end of an era of discrimination. Tomorrow, we will get back to work, fighting for the Employment and Student Non Discrimination Acts, the Safe Schools Improvement Act, and the Respect for Marriage Act that will overturn DOMA.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF WHCR 90.3 FM PUBLIC ACCESS RADIO, "THE VOICE OF HARLEM"

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great jubilation to recognize the WHCR 90.3 FM Public Radio Station, also known as The Voice of Harlem, to recognize the station's twenty-five years of broadcasting in New York City. As I speak with profound elation, I ascend to celebrate the hard work and devout

effort of WHCR and the amazing people who have contributed to its success all these years and have truly made it Harlem's Voice. WHCR will commemorate their twenty-five years of broadcasting on Friday, September 16, 2011 at the prestigious Aaron Davis Hall.

In my community of Harlem, WHCR is well known for its service as a non-commercial public radio station. Owned and operated by the City College of New York, WHCR gives both City College students and community members the skills to host and produce music and talk shows. The station seeks to empower its listeners by providing informative, educational and cultural programming that speaks to the diverse populations of Harlem, Upper Manhattan and some sections of the Bronx, Queens, and New Jersey.

People around the world can listen to and watch programming on WHCR online. WHCR offers a mixture of music and talk programming and has 20,000 terrestrial, Internet listeners weekly, and 8,000 Internet viewers. The station has served for twenty-five years as the voice of a community that is greatly underserved by the mainstream media.

On-air personality Dee Ramey, the host and producer of the "I Love Jazz!" show on WHCR, is one of those amazing people who have contributed so much. Her show's mission is to drive demand for jazz music, serve as a cultural resource, and connect an increased number of musicians, music presenters, and listeners to community radio, by providing entertainment and information to the growing listenership of WHCR jazz shows. Her valiant efforts have created a new generation of jazz and music connoisseurs in Harlem.

Dee took the initiative to create the first annual "I Love Jazz" Fan Award in an effort to further promote music and the arts throughout the greater community of Harlem. It is my honor and privilege to present this year's "I Love Jazz" award on behalf of my colleagues in the United States Congress to Kevin Walters, the owner of "Creole Supper Club," located in my District in East Harlem. Kevin is a New Yorker at heart with a strong passion for fine music and art and truly deserving of this recognition.

Dee Ramey's "I Love Jazz" radio show airs biweekly on Wednesdays from 6 pm–8 pm and offers an eclectic mix of musical styles. The show unleashes the passion of the jazz fan by inviting individuals to spread their love for jazz through sharing their personal experiences, favorite music, and unique insight into the world of jazz. Interviews with prominent artists and jazz luminaries are a feature on the show, and to name just a few, have included Gradie Tate, Jimmy Heath, Jimmy Scott, Gloria Lynne, Nat Hentoff, Melba Moore, Thelonious Monk, Jr., Wycliffe Gordon, George Gee, Bobby Sanabria, Loren Schoenberg, Billy Mitchell (Mr. Apollo), and Camille Yarbrough.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting WHCR 90.3 FM Public Access Radio, on their 25th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO THE DIXIE BOYS  
BASEBALL TEAM OF BRUNSWICK  
COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

### HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to recognize the Dixie Boys baseball team of Brunswick County, North Carolina, for being named National Champions of the 2011 Dixie Boys World Series.

This year, the Brunswick County team won every match against the other states without losing a single game. The team went on to win the 2011 Dixie Youth World Series held in Beaufort, South Carolina, earning the title of National Champions on August 3, 2011. This is the fourth time that a North Carolina team has earned this title since 1956.

In a true feat of excellence, the team from Brunswick scored 80 runs during its seven games, and failed to score in the double digits in only two of those seven games. As a team, Brunswick County had a strong batting average of .450, with team member Kevon Perkins leading with an astounding .750 average. With an outstanding number of 80 runs, this team truly deserves acclaim for their remarkable accomplishment in the Dixie Boys World Series.

This was Brunswick County's third consecutive year as North Carolina's representing team for the Dixie Boys World Series. The Brunswick County Team went undefeated for its seven games of play, and showcased an unwavering mental and physical tenacity throughout the Dixie Boys championship. This is especially true for their victory over the reigning champion of the Dixie Boys championship, the same team which defeated North Carolina in the past championship game of two years ago.

As founder of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports, and also as both a long-time little league coach and one who grew up playing baseball in, as well as a charter member of a youth baseball organization, I appreciate the dedication, determination, and teamwork that earned these players the esteemed title of National Champions.

Mr. Speaker, the members of the Brunswick County baseball team deserve acclaim for their skill as well as for being outstanding ambassadors of Southeastern North Carolina, and the State of North Carolina. Their names are Gray Cheers, Dylan Howard, Shakeem Graham, Chris Graham, Hunter Price, Justin Wittkofsky, Kevon Perkins, Blain Hollis, Randy Mac Clark, Jerry Martin, Shelton Perkins, Garrett Scoggins and Dylan Darguzas. Coaches were Bobby Scoggins, Randy Fennell and Jeffrey Hollis.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor and acknowledge accomplishments of not only the Brunswick County team, but also the parents, relatives and citizens who were so supportive of their children's efforts throughout this championship season. Of equal mention are the coaches and assistant coaches who were instrumental in guiding the team to becoming champions of the Dixie Boys World Series; without these coaches, victory would not have been possible.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Brunswick County

Dixie Boys World Series Championship team and wishing them the very best in all of their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NAACP  
MID-MANHATTAN BRANCH 45TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING  
CHARTER AND IN CELEBRATION  
OF THEIR 10TH ANNUAL FREE-  
DOM FUND ROY WILKINS AWARD  
LUNCHEON

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Mid-Manhattan Branch's 45th Anniversary as they celebrate their 10th Annual Freedom Fund Roy Wilkins Award Luncheon on Saturday, September 17 at the elegant Marina del Rey in the Bronx, New York.

In the mid 1960's a group of citizens, concerned that there was no NAACP Branch in the Mid-Manhattan area, met for several months to plan a branch. Over 500 letters co-signed by Roy Wilkins and Ralph Bunche, invited hopefully interested residents to a meeting at Freedom House (120 Wall Street, New York, NY). The meeting began the enrollment of members that continued until the 50-membership requirement for the Charter was obtained. On June 8, 1966, The Mid-Manhattan Branch received its Charter from the National Office of the NAACP.

Among those playing a key role in securing the Charter were Tom Allen, Harold Bailer, Gloster Current, Max Delson, Shirley Stewart Farmer, Bernard Leannan, Stanley Lowell, Morris Milgram, Bill Morrison, Frederick O'Neal, Betty Stebman and Roy Wilkins. In 1973, branch members agreed that a building was needed to maximize the services to the community. On May 25, 1978, Roy Wilkins and Benjamin Hooks dedicated the Roy Wilkins Center Building in a special ceremony.

For forty-five years, the Mid-Manhattan Branch has been an advocate for all its citizens in the struggle for civil rights and equality in playing an active role in confronting the gaps and disparities in healthcare, economics and education funding.

Today, under the leadership of Branch President Geoffrey E. Eaton, the Mid-Manhattan Branch has over 760 members, with ten working Committees—Act-So, Criminal Justice, Civic Engagement, Education, Fundraising, Health, Housing, Membership, Veteran Affairs and Youth Council. The NAACP, under the leadership of our Chairman Roslyn M. Brock, and President Benjamin Todd Jealous is more diverse and more active than before and the Mid-Manhattan Branch continues to be actively and directly involved with voter education, registration and mobilization, as well as youth development and enrichment programs like mentoring and mentorship.

The Mid-Manhattan Branch has brought their informative General Membership meetings closer to the community and to the public at large and are broadcast monthly on Manhattan Neighborhood Network Cable Television (MNN). This year, they held their second annual Criminal Justice forum featuring

the U.S. Secret Service, FBI, DEA, ATF, U.S. Marshall Service, NYPD, featuring the role of women in law enforcement at Wadleigh School for the Performing Arts. They are empowering more parents on issues of education and focusing more time on HIV/AIDS Awareness, Obesity and other health concerns. At the 102nd National Convention in Los Angeles, Mid-Manhattan took 2nd Place in the Thalheimer Award competition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting all the officers, executive committee and members of the NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch as they celebrate their 45th Anniversary of their founding Charter and 10th Annual Freedom Fund Roy Wilkins Award Luncheon.

COMMEMORATION OF TAIWAN'S  
100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, one hundred years is a long time. Much has happened in these last 100 years since a group of Chinese people, led by Sun Yat-sen, threw off the yoke of warlords and emperors to become the Republic of China (Taiwan).

China has a long history as one of the earliest centers of human civilization. It brought us the invention of paper, the written word and so many scientific developments, but it is during these last 100 years that we have seen the great progress of Taiwan developing into one of the strongest democracies in the world.

We congratulate Taiwan on its 100th anniversary and for its role in shaping the destiny of its people. We look forward to continuing Taiwan's partnership with the United States through the Taiwan Relations Act in promoting peace and progress for humanity.

THE ALAMO: THE THERMOPYLAE  
OF TEXAS

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a plaque on the Alamo wall states: "The Alamo: The Thermopylae of Texas." The Alamo is a tribute to all those that are defiant against any form of tyranny. It is important for us to recognize all those that sacrificed for freedom, yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Remember who we are and what we stand for. This week, we "Remember the Alamo."

One hundred seventy-five years ago, 187 freedom fighters started assembling in an old beat-up mission in San Antonio. Juan Seguin and his company of Tejanos, rode into the Alamo and readied for battle alongside William Barrett Travis, Jim Bowie, and Davy Crockett. This rag-tag group of relentless patriots, made up of men from nearly every State in the Union and 13 foreign countries, including Mexico, readied for one of the most storied battles in our history.

Outnumbered by an overwhelming Mexican army, these Texas warriors knew that sur-

render was not an option. Retreat was never on the table. Victory or death.

On February 23, 1836, Santa Ana's army of 1,500 well armed troops unleashed on the defenders of the Alamo. During the siege, Travis sent out his famous call for reinforcements. Juan Seguin was the last messenger to leave, riding though enemy lines carrying the final message from the beleaguered mission. Unfortunately, the call for help was not answered in time. On March 6, 1836, Travis and 187 volunteers sacrificed their lives on the altar of freedom after thirteen glorious days at the Alamo.

It was at his final battle that my favorite Texas war hero, William Barrett Travis, penned the most famous letter in Texas history. From behind the walls of a besieged run-down mission in San Antonio, Travis wrote:

To the people of Texas and all Americans in the world, fellow citizens and compatriots, I am besieged by a thousand or more of the enemy under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannon fire for over 24 hours, but I have not lost a man.

The enemy has demanded surrender at its discretion. Otherwise, the fort will be put to the sword. I have answered that demand with a cannon shot. And the flag still waves proudly over the north wall.

I shall never surrender or retreat. I call upon you, in the name of liberty and patriotism and everything dear to the American character, to come to my aid with all dispatch.

If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself for as long as possible, die like a soldier who never forgets what is due his honor and that of his country. Victory or death.

I could read this over and over. As a child, I was so intrigued by this letter. I would always be the first in my class to volunteer to play Travis at any given opportunity, if only just to read his words aloud. To me, he was the ultimate hero.

History teaches us everything we need to know, if we just look. This letter was written nearly two centuries ago and its message still rings true today. It's a story of "liberty and patriotism and everything dear to the American character." Freedom is still worth dying for. And to do so as a soldier, "is what is due his honor and that of his country."

Travis believed these words wholeheartedly. He believed that the cause for independence was worth his life. Our freedom fighters today understand these words as well, they know that America is worth fighting for and that defeat is not an option.

When I visit our troops over in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Texas boys, and gals, are easy to spot. They usually have a Texas flag flying on their humvee. (I have even seen one on a tank.) My personal favorite is the "Don't Mess with Texas" bumper sticker. And when you meet these modern-day freedom fighters, you know that no truer words have ever been spoken. There's just something about a Texas warrior.

As we continue to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Texas Independence this year, I will take a look back at those that put it all on the line for freedom. As much as some things change, the most important, thankfully stays the same. A century and half later, that same dogged determination that filled that little Spanish Mission is what continues to set us apart from all the rest. "God and Texas."—William Barrett Travis.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING DIONNE WARWICK ON  
HER 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN THE  
RECORDING INDUSTRY

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of my good friend and outstanding recording artist Dionne Warwick as she proudly celebrates her 50th year in the recording industry.

M. Dionne Warwick has, over an illustrious four-decade career, established herself as an international musical legend. Her reputation as a hit maker has been firmly etched into public consciousness, thanks to nearly 60 charted hits since "Don't Make Me Over" began its climb up the charts in December 1962. As a performer, she has charmed and entertained audiences on every continent, amassing a worldwide audience. Dionne received her first Grammy Award in 1968, and in doing so became the first African-American solo female artist of her generation to win the prestigious award for Best Contemporary Female Vocal Performance.

In recent years, Dionne's pioneering efforts have focused on leading the music industry in the fight against AIDS. Her Grammy-winning, chart topping, single "That's What Friends Are For," lead the way by raising, literally, millions of dollars for AIDS research. Throughout the world, Dionne has devoted countless hours to a wide range of humanitarian causes, serving as the U.S. Ambassador for Health throughout the Eighties. In 2002, she was named a global Ambassador for the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization. Dionne has spearheaded the long overdue development and production of a history book that will detail African and African-American history for use in schools, libraries, and bookstores throughout the world. She continues her work as a socially conscious and concerned global citizen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my fellow colleagues join me in celebration for such a national icon. With such a legacy of accomplishments and achievements, there is no question on how she has lasted over 50 years in the music business. As she looks forward to another decade of great music, nothing seems impossible to Dionne, a woman who has inspired and empowered millions through her music, her performances, and her work as a humanitarian.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DAY FOR  
THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON  
TAIWAN

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the people and leaders of the Republic

of China on Taiwan as their day of National Celebration, October 10, 2011, approaches. This special day recognizes the founding of the country and this year the anniversary is especially powerful as October 10, 2011 marks the end of a "Spectacular Century" and the beginning of another great century for the Republic of China.

I would like to highlight the economic success of the Republic of China on Taiwan over the last century, a success which has rightly been called a miracle. Beginning with very little economic activity just a few decades ago, the Republic of China on Taiwan now has a dynamic economy which is the envy of the world. Moreover, Taiwan has been a fair trading partner; while total trade with the United States reached an all-time high in 2010, almost half of this trade total, \$251 billion, was due to the Republic of China importing goods from the United States. In fact, U.S. exports to the Republic of China have grown even during the Great Recession, creating jobs all across America. Our relationship is a model for fair trade between countries benefiting both sides, a model we should highlight here today.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan on their economic success and thanking them for their continued efforts to work with the United States to foster economic growth in our country. When the day of National Celebration arrives, the people of both the United States and the Republic of China on Taiwan have much to celebrate.

224TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Mr. NUNES, to commemorate the 224th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution on September 17, 1787, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The signing of the Constitution by thirty-nine delegates to the Constitutional Convention, led by George Washington, represents the formal beginning of our Republic. In conjunction with the Bill of Rights, the Constitution is one of the greatest documents in history, a model for more than 100 governments around the world; what President Lincoln describes in his Gettysburg Address as a "government of the people, by the people, for the people."

Mr. Speaker, please join Mr. NUNES and me in celebrating the 224th anniversary of this historic day, and in recognizing the contribution of the U.S. Constitution to American freedom.

HONORING GOLD STAR MOTHER  
OF CAPTAIN KIMBERLY HAMPTON

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2011*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following remarks from Mrs. Ann Hampton, who recently traveled to the Kurdish Region of Iraq. She is the proud Gold Star Mother of Captain Kimberly Hampton, who was killed in action on January 2, 2004, in Fallujah, Iraq.

"My recent trip to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq was everything I hoped it would be, and more! Traveling with another gold star mom and dad, a medically retired soldier, and the founder of the Friends of Kurdistan Foundation, the visit was filled with welcome events. We met several Kurdistan Regional Government officials, who all willingly gave us their undivided attention and treated us graciously. We were told over and over that their nation is our nation, their homes, our homes, and that we share the bonds of friendship forever. Their deep appreciation to the United States for liberating them from Saddam's tyrant regime knows no end. They said thanks.

"We visited hospitals, clinics, and villages in Kurdistan where progress is being made just as there are still hurdles ahead. We visited homes and were welcomed with open arms. We visited the home of a widow who lost 20 family members in one of the regime's chemical attacks. She fed us cantaloupe, bread and water, almost all she had. We visited a camp and were fed peaches and water, almost all they had.

"One very important thing Kurds and other Iraqis do have now is hope; hope for peace, security and maybe one day, prosperity. There was significant construction across Iraqi Kurdistan, which is a good sign that people have risen and taken charge of their freedoms, and serve also as role models to peoples in other countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

"I am very grateful for the opportunity to visit Kurdistan, and hope to go back again to continue my humanitarian work. Seeing and hearing the appreciation of the Kurdish people for the U.S. has made a tremendous impact on my healing, as a proud mother of an American soldier, Kimberly, killed in action liberating Iraq. The only way to move forward is by strengthening people-to-people links between Americans and Iraqis, in and out of government. The people of Kurdistan extended their hand to me, and I am grateful."

As the co-chairman of the Kurdish Regional Congressional Caucus I have visited the Region, and my oldest son led an Army National Guard convoy through the Region. We share the optimism of Mrs. Hampton that the liberated Kurdish Region of Iraq has a bright future of peace, security, and prosperity as a friend of America.