

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING CALEB
WILFONG

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Caleb Wilfong of the Rock Bridge High School Bruins Boys Cross Country team for winning the individual Class 4 Missouri State Championship.

Mr. Wilfong should be commended for all of his hard work throughout the regular season and bringing home the individual state title to his school, family and community. At the State Cross Country Championships in Jefferson City, Caleb won the individual state title with a time of 15 minutes 54.13 seconds. He holds Rock Bridge's school record for a 3.1-mile race and is the school's second individual cross country champion.

I ask that you join me in recognizing Caleb Wilfong for a job well done.

IN HONOR OF DR. BOB CURRY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the long and distinguished career of Dr. Robert Curry. Dr. Curry, a prominent professor of hydrology and geology at both the University of California at Santa Cruz and California State University at Monterey Bay, has spent his entire professional life teaching generations of students how human activity can change the earth's surface. He has also spent countless hours, many without pay, working for conservation organizations on issues ranging from soil conservation, wetland preservation, water quality, to endangered species protection. Dr. Curry is truly a modern renaissance man. He has mastered many disciplines, including hydrology, geology, fluvial geomorphology, climatic history, wetland delineation, forest ecology, and geologic hazard evaluation. It is important we honor his vision, dedication, and tenacity in doing as much as humanly possible to protect the natural environment from unnecessary harm.

Dr. Curry is a native Californian, raised in the Sierra Nevada area of eastern California where both sets of grandparents instilled in him a love of natural history, hiking and camping. Dr. Curry and his three younger siblings, Barbara, Judy, and Joe as well as aunts, uncles and many cousins have deep roots in the land. He ultimately completed his doctoral dissertation on the climatic history of the Sierra Nevada and his parents are now buried at high elevation in what is now a Wilderness Area.

Dr. Curry studied at the undergraduate and masters level at the University of Colorado. He

later earned a Ph.D in Geology and Geophysics at UC Berkeley, where he helped draft California's Forest Practices Act. Dr. Curry subsequently taught for over 45 years, beginning at UC Santa Barbara. He later served as Provost and professor at UC Santa Cruz before joining the California State University Monterey Bay faculty where he created the Watershed Science curriculum.

Perhaps his most significant contribution was the cooperative authorship of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act. In 1969, Dr. Curry served as the initial science advisor to the U.S. Senate Public Works Committee following its review of the Santa Barbara Oil Spill. Working with Senator Ed Muskie, chairman of the Air and Water Pollution Subcommittee who was drafting the National Environmental Policy Act, Dr. Curry's work led to the clause that says if public funds are used to develop information about projects of national interest that could guide public policy, the information must be released to the public. This became the basis for the Environmental Impact Statement, which has served the public by bringing transparency to the policy process.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in honoring the career of this remarkable scientist and conservation leader. California, and indeed the world, are better for his efforts.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHERIDAN
FIRE CHIEF JEFFREY D.
ROBERTS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the death and celebrate the life of Sheridan Fire Chief Jeffrey D. Roberts.

Chief Roberts had served as an officer in the 45-member volunteer fire department for the past six years, and two years ago was elected chief. In addition to his fire service, Chief Roberts served Chautauqua County taxpayers as a member of the Chautauqua County Department of Public Works.

A devoted husband and father, Chief Roberts leaves behind his wife Katie and children, Alexis and Berkley. A tremendously well-liked and well-respected leader in our volunteer fire corps in Western New York, Chief Roberts' untimely passing is indeed a tragedy, and the entire Western New York community joins with Katie, Alexis and Berkley in mourning the Chief's death.

Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness, but also with pride that I ask you, and all of the members of the House, to join with me in celebrating the life of Chief Jeffrey Roberts, and to join with his family in remembering him as a dedicated and fearless public servant, and a proud member of our Western New York community.

RECOGNIZING LAWRENCE A.
SOLBERG, MD, PHD, FOR HIS
SERVICE TO THE FIELD OF HE-
MATOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF
MEDICINE

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Dr. Lawrence A. Solberg, a Floridian who has dedicated his professional life to biomedical research and medicine.

Having published numerous articles in various publications and scientific journals and received professional recognition and honors from a number of organizations, Dr. Solberg has accomplished an extraordinary number of professional milestones and achievements.

Dr. Solberg is a hematologist currently in the Division of Hematology-Oncology at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. He also serves as Vice-Chair of the Research Operations Management Team and Chair of the Clinical Research Subcommittee of the Mayo Clinic in Florida. Dr. Solberg previously served as Director of the Blood and Marrow Transplantation Program of the Mayo Clinic in Florida. As Professor of Medicine in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Dr. Solberg has shown great commitment to educating our next generation of physicians and researchers, while continuing treatment of patients and his own research.

Service to the greater community is another attribute of Dr. Solberg's career. This is reflected in his service as Chair of the Board of Directors of Community Hospice of Northeast Florida for six years. Community Hospice of Northeast Florida is one of the largest non-profit hospices in the United States operating in 5 counties and serving up to 1000 patients, including 100 children, every day.

For the past four years, Dr. Solberg has chaired the Committee on Practice of the American Society of Hematology and has led the Society's efforts to educate Members of Congress about hematology and issues of concern to practitioners, such as Medicare physician payment, reimbursement of chemotherapy drugs, and the importance of clinical trials. In this capacity, Dr. Solberg has visited with me and my staff to educate us about the critical issues facing hematologists and patients in Florida and throughout the United States. Dr. Solberg has advised the Food & Drug Administration about how to address the current shortages of life-saving drugs; and has served on both public and private sector panels addressing how to improve the quality of care for patients.

Dr. Solberg is a superb advocate for his patients and his profession and his work has helped enhance the health and wellbeing of Floridians and all Americans. I am grateful for his lifetime contribution to field and practice of hematology.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JASON M. WOOD, UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize those men and women who have served this great Nation with honor, men such as Lieutenant Commander Jason M. Wood, United States Navy.

For the past year, Lieutenant Commander Wood served on my staff as a Congressional Defense Fellow. During his assignment, he served as a senior member of my staff responsible for defense, veterans, foreign affairs and intelligence matters. Lieutenant Commander Wood executed his work as a liaison to the constituents of the First District and the numerous defense installations in the First District with distinction. Furthermore, he provided exceptional support to me as my staff liaison to the House Armed Services Committee in my role as a Subcommittee Chairman and the Co-Chair of the Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus.

Lieutenant Commander Wood directly contributed to my goal of providing excellent constituent service to the people of the First District. He was responsible for bringing numerous constituent inquiries to a successful conclusion and he was able to leverage his personal and operational experience to respond to the most challenging inquiries.

In addition to his efforts on behalf of the First District, Lieutenant Commander Wood took on projects with regional, state and national implications, demonstrating his ability to view a challenge from many angles and develop innovative solutions often requiring collaboration across many levels of government.

Lieutenant Commander Wood's work ethic, duty to mission, and commitment to servant leadership is without equal. I believe that his personal drive to achieve excellence in his work has and will set a very high standard for his peers.

I would also like to thank Lieutenant Commander Wood and his beautiful young family for the service and sacrifice they make for our nation and our great Navy. His keen sense of honor, impeccable integrity, boundless work ethic, and loyal devotion to duty earned him the respect and admiration of my staff and the 1st District of Virginia. After spending eight of the last ten years stationed in Hawaii, which included three combat deployments to Afghanistan and a 12 month deployment to Bahrain, Lieutenant Commander Wood is headed to the N88 staff at the Pentagon. After that tour Lieutenant Commander Wood will return to the sky and to leading Sailors as he goes back in to harm's way to execute his trade as Naval Aviator. I have no doubt that Lieutenant Commander Wood will continue to serve the United States Navy honorably and with distinction.

I wish him the best of luck as he continues his Naval career. It was an honor and a pleasure having him serve on my staff. We all can sleep soundly at night knowing that men and women like Lieutenant Commander Jason Wood are members of our all-volunteer force and they stand ready to defend our country and take the fight to our enemies; far away

from their families and the comforts of the United States of America.

Lieutenant Commander Wood, thank you. Best of luck to you and God bless you, your family, and your fellow men and women in uniform.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF OWENSVILLE ON ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Owensville, located in Gasconade County in Missouri, as the community celebrates its centennial anniversary this year.

What is now the City of Owensville began as an early trail called the Potosi to Boonslick Trail. Spurs from this main trail went to the current city, creating a crossroads that later became the St. Louis to Springfield Road and the St. James to Hermann Road called the "Iron Road."

The city was originally laid out in 1886 by the Owensville Improvement Company, whose owner, Francis Owen, is the town's namesake. Owensville was named from the horseshoe contest in 1847 by Francis Owen and Edward Luster. The contest was won by Mr. Luster, but he did not want the town named Lusterville, and, therefore, it was named "Owen'sville" in honor of his friend. Later it was condensed to Owensville. Owensville residents believe their city is the only place named as a result of a horseshoe pitching contest. Owensville was incorporated as a fourth-class city on May 27, 1911.

Over the past century, industries such as a corn cob pipe factory, a tomato cannery, shoe factories and clay mining supported the town. Today, the RR Donnelly printing company and Emhart Glass Manufacturing are located there. Owensville is a thriving town and a proud community of more than 2,500 residents.

In closing, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the residents of the City of Owensville congratulations on their centennial anniversary.

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CASE OF LOUIS R. HARPER, ET. AL. V. MAYOR AND CITY OF BALTIMORE, ET. AL.

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the case of Louis R. Harper, et. al. v. Mayor and City of Baltimore, et. al. This lawsuit, filed on December 6, 1971, to address discrimination within the Baltimore City Fire Department, BCFD, was the first federal lawsuit to combat discriminatory practices in hiring and promotion decisions in the public safety profession.

The BCFD hired its first African American fire fighters on October 15, 1953, from a group

of 41 men found eligible for appointment after the opportunity for them to take the entrance exam was opened in the summer of 1952. Almost 20 years later, one of those pioneering men became the architect behind the scenes of the legal action filed in 1971.

Mr. Charles R. Thomas was the founding president of the Vulcan Blazers Incorporated, the Baltimore City Chapter of the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters. Mr. Thomas approached Kenneth L. Johnson of the Johnson & Smith law firm asking if he would take on this monumental case. After hearing the facts of the case, Mr. Johnson and his law partner, Mr. Gerald A. Smith, agreed to take the case.

The named plaintiff in the case was Mr. Louis R. Harper, Jr. It was his bravery and selflessness that led the team of plaintiffs, including Mr. Thomas G. Deshields, Mr. Carl E. McDonald, and Mr. Alphonso Thornton. These BCFD members put their careers at risk to demand that the BCFD treat all employees equally.

This case addressed discrimination in the BCFD entrance examination and promotional practices. At the time of the lawsuit, the names of fully qualified African American candidates were marked in red by the civil service commission before being sent to the BCFD. The lawsuit also dealt with disparity in the Department's practices for disciplining African American fire fighters.

Upon the filing of the case, an injunction was issued to halt promotions into 44 newly created battalion chief positions. Finally, in the spring of 1973, Baltimore City was found guilty of discrimination in the management of the BCFD. Federal District Court Judge Joseph H. Young ordered a complete revamping of the Department's entrance examination and promotional procedures.

Since this lawsuit was concluded, the BCFD has appointed an African American Fire Chief and promoted several officers to all ranks as high as assistant chief.

Critically, the BCFD case win was just the beginning of Mr. Johnson and Mr. Smith's mission to eradicate discrimination from the public safety profession all along the east coast. This team went on to win fire department cases in Philadelphia, PA and Richmond, VA. They also won cases for African American Baltimore City Police Officers and workers at Bethlehem Steel.

As I close, I also celebrate the remarkable careers of those involved in this groundbreaking case.

The named plaintiff in the case, Mr. Louis R. Harper, Jr., became the first African American to be promoted to Captain in the Baltimore City Fire Department. The other named plaintiffs all retired with the rank of Captain with the exception of Mr. Carl McDonald, who retired as Assistant Chief.

Mr. Kenneth Johnson has retired from the position of Judge on Baltimore's Supreme Bench. Mr. Gerald A. Smith still practices law from his office in the Baltimore area.

These men are true heroes who opened the doors of opportunity to subsequent generations. I thank them for their service to Baltimore and to our nation—and for their willingness to lead the fight against injustice.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF DR. DAVID L. GOETSCH

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. David L. Goetsch upon his retirement as Vice President of Northwest Florida State College.

Throughout his career in Northwest Florida, Dr. Goetsch has epitomized professionalism and excellence in education. A Distinguished Alumnus of the University of West Florida, Dr. Goetsch was named as one of the school's top 40 alumni during its first 40 years. He has published more than 70 books on topics ranging from management, leadership and professional development to economic development and political science, and several of his best-sellers have been published in foreign languages.

In addition to his extraordinary academic portfolio, Dr. Goetsch has been recognized by many organizations for his excellence in the classroom. In 1984, Dr. Goetsch was named "America's Outstanding Technical Educator of the Year," and in 1986, he was named Florida's "Outstanding Technical Educator of the Year." He has also received numerous awards as "Instructor of the Year" from the University of West Florida, as well as Okaloosa Walton Junior College.

As an expert in Management and Leadership, Dr. Goetsch has applied his extensive knowledge to help businesses in Northwest Florida thrive and expand. Dr. Goetsch is the co-founder, and current Chairman of the Board, of the Economic Development Council serving Okaloosa County and its Technology Coast Manufacturing and Engineering Network (TeCMEN). He is a founding board member of the Walton Economic Development Alliance and has served as president of the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, president of the Niceville-Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce, board member of the Crestview Chamber of Commerce, and board member of the Walton Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Goetsch also calls on his patriotism and service as a United States Marine to support local military installations, missions and defense contractors. He currently serves on the three-county Defense Support Initiative in an ex officio position, and this year he was appointed by State Senator Mike Haridopolos to utilize his expertise as a member of Governor Rick Scott's Florida Defense Support Task Force.

Dr. Goetsch also spends valuable time serving throughout the community and has been recognized at both the local, state and national level. In 2005, Dr. Goetsch was awarded the "James Campbell Community Service Award" from the Niceville-Valparaiso-Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, and he also received the "Spirit of Freedom Award" from the Northwest Florida Daily News. In 2009, the Carnegie Foundation recognized Dr. Goetsch for "Outstanding Community Engagement."

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the career and accomplishments of Dr. David L. Goetsch. His service to the academic and business communities in Northwest Florida is laudable. His expertise has helped small businesses, large corporations, cities, counties

and non-profits thrive, and his books have helped provide students worldwide with the tools to succeed. My wife Vicki and I wish him, his wife Deborah and daughter Savannah all the best.

TERMINATING PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUND AND
ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 3463, legislation that terminates taxpayer financing of presidential election campaigns and party conventions and the Election Assistance Commission.

Once again, the Republican Congress is bringing legislation to the floor that puts more control of our elections in the hands of big business. H.R. 3463 combines two bills that have previously been brought before this House that I opposed and that were roundly rejected by Democrats.

In the wake of the Watergate scandal, Congress established the current system of public financing of our presidential elections, enabling taxpayers to voluntarily contribute a small donation to the fund. While there has been bipartisan agreement that this system should be fixed, not eliminated, one of the Republican House majority's top priorities is, not to focus on creating jobs and building our economy but, to give corporate secret donors more control of our presidential elections.

The American people are rightly concerned that only big money and special interests get a hearing in Washington. The Supreme Court ruling in the Citizens United case opened the floodgates to greater influence by powerful special interests—effectively drowning out the voices of average Americans. Last year, House Democrats worked on bringing fairness and transparency to campaigns with passage of the bipartisan DISCLOSE Act, legislation that would ensure Americans' voices are not drowned out by corporate dollars.

Unfortunately, before us today is legislation that did not receive an opportunity for debate or amendment, which would make presidential candidates more dependent on big corporate money that corrupts our political system.

I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

HONORING THE LIFE AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. DAVID J.
COHN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. David J. Cohn, a small business owner and philanthropist from Forrest City, Arkansas who passed away on November 26. Mr. Cohn was a proud member of Temple Israel in Memphis, whose compassion and devotion to helping the less fortunate was well-known to those who knew him.

Mr. Cohn was born September 30, 1955, in Memphis, Tennessee. He was the proud owner and operator of Forest City Grocery Company and Tobacco Superstore, until illness forced him to spend less time at work. He was also a member of the Arkansas Oil Marketers Association, Retail Tobacco Dealers of America, the Associated Wholesale Grocers and served as President of the Forrest City Country Club. Despite his obligations to his business and to his organizations, Mr. Cohn found time to give back to his community through charity and supporting local universities' athletic programs.

Mr. Cohn was a philanthropist and gave to many causes in Forrest City. He established endowments with the St. Francis Community Foundation including the David Cohn "Wishes" Endowment which grants wishes to those most in need as well as many nonprofits. This endowment was set up by his wife Marsha and their children as a birthday gift because they knew how important giving back to the community was to David. Mr. Cohn was a proud supporter of the University of Arkansas Razorbacks and was an ambassador for the University of Memphis Athletic Department.

David Cohn passed away at the young age of 56 years of age. David Cohn is survived by his wife of 26 years, Marsha, one son, Perry Partain, three daughters, Hannah Reeves, Emily Cohn and Kelli Cohn, as well as his mother, Suzanne Cohn, two sisters, a brother and a host of nephews and a caretaker. Mr. Cohn's commitments to his family and community will be missed. His was a life well lived.

CONGRATULATING KALEB WILSON

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kaleb Wilson of the Linn High School Wildcats Boys Cross Country team for winning the individual Class 1 Missouri State Championship.

Mr. Wilson should be commended for all of his hard work throughout the regular season and bringing home the individual state title to his school, family and community. At the State Cross Country Championships in Jefferson City, Kaleb completed the race with a time of 17 minutes 1.32 seconds. The victory led to his team's overall win, but it has also provided additional support and comfort to his family. Kaleb has dedicated this season, including his final championship race, to his cousin who is still in the hospital following a car accident in early September.

I ask that you join me in recognizing Kaleb Wilson for a job well done.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
ROBERT G. MAHONY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about an outstanding public servant who will

soon be retiring after nearly forty-eight years of service to our nation.

Robert G. Mahony was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, and attended the University of Notre Dame. When he graduated, in 1961, Bob was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army. He attended law school at Loyola University Chicago and earned his J.D. in 1965. For the following two years, Bob served on active duty, including a combat tour in Vietnam. After returning home, he became a member of the Army Reserves and transferred to the Judge Advocate General Corps.

Service in the military was only the beginning for Bob. In 1967, he began work as a trial attorney for the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice here in Washington. After nine years there, he spent a year in private practice and was subsequently appointed as an Administrative Law Judge at the Department of Labor, serving in that capacity for twenty years. Since 1997, Bob has been an Administrative Law Judge at the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Throughout his civilian career, Bob remained in the Army Reserves, serving with distinction as the Commander of the 10th Military Law Center and later as Staff Judge Advocate for the 97th Army Reserve Command at Fort Meade. He retired as a Colonel in 1991 and received the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements. Bob is also a holder of the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal from the former South Vietnamese government.

Bob's commitment to public service extends as well to involvement in the community. He has served for over three decades as an official of the Northern Virginia Swimming League and for over twenty-five years as a basketball coach with the Braddock Road Youth Club, Saint Mary's Academy in Alexandria, the Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Annandale, and the Holy Trinity School in Washington.

Bob and his wife, Margaret, have been married for forty-four years and instilled in their four children a love of public service. I have borne witness to this, since their daughter, Gina, used to work on my staff.

Bob Mahony will retire from government service on January 3 after forty-seven years, eleven months, and twelve days. I join in thanking him for his dedicated service to our country and wishing him all the best in his retirement. Like all of our public servants, he can look back on his career and know he made a real difference in the lives of many Americans and the life of our nation.

CONGRATULATING MARLENE
BLUM FOR RECEIVING THE 2011
LAWRENCE V. FOWLER AWARD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marlene Blum on receiving the Lawrence V. Fowler Award. The Fairfax County, Virginia, government gives the Fowler award annually to a citizen volunteer who has served on a County board, authority

or commission and who has demonstrated exceptional service to the community.

Marlene has committed herself to volunteer service on the often-overlooked advisory boards and commissions that are nonetheless so vital to the functioning of a caring community. She has, through mastery of areas like health care and human services, given us a model of how a single person can affect policy and programs that improve the lives of our entire community. Her wisdom and counsel continue to be indispensable in everything Fairfax County does in health and human services.

I have been privileged to call Marlene a friend for many years now, and I have worked very closely with her on countless issues. Her dedication and hard work have been inspirational. Marlene has been a truly transformative figure, leading by deed and example, improving the lives of the very youngest to the very oldest.

Over the years, Marlene has served in a number of different roles on a number of different boards and committees, generously giving of her time and expertise. She was President of the Fairfax County Council of Parent Teacher Student Association and promoted student needs. As Chairman of the Fairfax County School Health Task Force, Marlene led the effort to place public health nurses in every school. She led the effort to create the Community Health Care Network which provides primary health care to uninsured and underinsured individuals. Marlene helped create the County's HIV/AIDS Task Force in 1989 providing prevention and education assistance. She served on the Planning Committee to End Homelessness, providing blueprint recommendations. Marlene was instrumental in the creation of the Medically Fragile Respite Program in 2006, providing medically needy homeless individuals with critically needed care. Marlene served as the first Chairman of the Consolidated Community Funding Pool Advisory Committee, providing funding allocation recommendations for the County's various human services needs and helping to establish a professional, nonpartisan procedure for allocating human services funding.

One cannot overstate the profound impact Marlene Blum has had on the daily lives of Fairfax County residents over her more than 20 years of service, and she is an indispensable resource for our community. She truly represents a living example that one determined citizen does make a difference. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Marlene Blum for receiving the 2011 Lawrence V. Fowler award and to take this opportunity to recognize all of our tireless citizen volunteers who give of themselves to better our communities.

RECOGNIZING MRS. AUDREY
QUARLES ANDERSON FOR HER
CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION
AND SERVICE IN HOLMES COUN-
TY, MISSISSIPPI

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Audrey Quarles Anderson of Lexington, Mississippi.

Mrs. Anderson is the wife of Mr. Matt Anderson, mother to Shakita Quarles and Shakemia Anderson and grandmother to Cason Hughes. Mrs. Anderson is an active member of the Durant Church of Christ where she serves as Sunday school teacher and coordinator for several of the church's special events and projects.

Mrs. Anderson has devoted a great deal of her life to supporting and encouraging the youth of her community. She was named Mississippi's Second Congressional District Parent of the Year in recognition of her many contributions to protect the welfare of the children of her community.

She is co-founder of Coats for Kids, a program that provides coats to children who are in need within the Holmes County area. She is an adult volunteer with the Girl Scouts, area cheerleading squads, and the Community Students Learning Center After-School Tutorial program.

Mrs. Anderson is a 1989 graduate of Jacob J. McClain High School and is a strong proponent of education. She stands firmly on her beliefs in regard to education and is not afraid to vocalize it. Mrs. Anderson is not only a wife, parent, and grandparent, but she is also a very valuable asset to the Holmes County community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in expressing my appreciation to Mrs. Audrey Quarles Anderson of Lexington, Mississippi for her commitment and servitude to the cause of education.

HONORING MARIE CLARKE ARTURI
AND HER DAUGHTER, DANIELLA
MARIA ARTURI

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Marie Clarke Arturi of Laurel, Suffolk County, New York, the recipient of the 2011 American Society of Hematology (ASH) Outstanding Service Award in recognition of her efforts over more than a decade to raise public awareness and increase scientific research for the rare bone marrow failure disorder, Diamond Blackfan Anemia (DBA).

Mrs. Arturi founded the Daniella Maria Arturi Foundation with her husband, Manny, in honor of their daughter Daniella's short but beautiful life, whose death from treatment complications of DBA on this day sixteen years ago, December 6, 1995. This marked the beginning of the Arturis' tireless efforts to improve the clinical care environment for those living with this disorder and to inspire a remarkable and growing field of researchers now dedicated to this field of science.

Mrs. Arturi's efforts have helped shine a light on the value of understanding rare diseases. By demonstrating DBA's complex link to red cell aplasia, birth defects, cancer predisposition, and the first human disease identified as a ribosomal protein defect disorder, her work has made DBA an important area of focus within the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and clinical and research communities worldwide. These efforts are now leading to

improvements in care and research for patients with blood disorders like DBA, while also leading to advanced research initiatives that are yielding clues to other, more widespread disease populations.

The 2011 Outstanding Service Award will be presented to Mrs. Arturi during the 53rd American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting in San Diego, California, on December 11, 2011.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Mrs. Marie Clarke Arturi and her family for their outstanding public service to rare disease communities and those living with Diamond Blackfan Anemia in honor of Daniella Maria Arturi.

RECOGNIZING MR. DENNIS ROBERTS, RECIPIENT OF THE DYNACORP INTERNATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S PURPLE STAR AWARD

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Dennis Roberts for being the recipient of the DynCorp International Chairman's Purple Star Award. This award recognizes Mr. Roberts' courage and sacrifice while working as a security coordinator in Afghanistan.

The Chairman's Purple Star Award is the highest honor given by DynCorp to its employees. It recognizes individuals who have been killed or wounded while supporting a customer's mission for their exceptional sacrifice.

In February of 2010, Mr. Roberts was supporting our Armed Forces at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan. During a sudden rocket attack that was launched upon the installation, Mr. Roberts was struck and severely injured by the motor that separated from the rocket. It penetrated a nearby vehicle before striking Mr. Roberts, who suffered severe injuries to his chest, hand, and shoulder.

In the time since the attack, Mr. Roberts has overcome great hardship, undergoing numerous surgeries and completing extensive physical rehabilitation to recover from his injuries. He is also working towards his bachelor's degree and upon his expected graduation next year, hopes to use his education and experience to continue working to support America's security.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Dennis Roberts for receiving this award and I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives please join me in congratulating him.

COMMEMORATING WORLD WIDE SIRES 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to World Wide Sires as they celebrate their 40th anniversary.

World Wide Sires was established in 1971 in Hanford, California, a small town in the San

Joaquin Valley. From his home farm, founder Bill Clark recognized the benefits of genetic potential and its role in producing the most efficient and highest quality livestock. Today, World Wide Sires is the world's leading cattle genetics marketing organization with active markets in over 70 countries.

In 2001, World Wide Sires Inc. was purchased by Accelerated Genetics and Select Sires and became World Wide Sires Ltd. Still operating as a stand-alone company, World Wide Sires has continued to use the San Joaquin Valley as the hub for their growing international sales, maintaining headquarters in Visalia, California. During its 40 years, World Wide Sires has sold products in 108 countries, all from only a few miles away from founder Bill Clark's original home farm.

A leading exporter of US bovine genetic material, World Wide Sires remains committed to providing dairy and beef producers throughout the world with the highest quality genetics and services available. I applaud World Wide Sires for their hard work and dedication to the agricultural community, and I congratulate them on their 40th anniversary.

BURMA

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned about the international community's recent trust in assurances that Burma is opening up to the world and becoming a true democracy in which the rights of all people in Burma are protected. There have been some positive steps taken recently by the dictators, however, until we see permanency in these changes, we would all do well to remain deeply cautious.

One important issue the Secretary of State addressed during her visit this week to Burma regarded the attacks by the dictatorship's troops against the ethnic minorities. It is vital, and I cannot emphasize this enough, that leaders of the various ethnic groups be included in any and all discussions, dialogue and decision about the future of Burma. I would call your attention to the call by the U.N. for a tri-partite dialogue—all three parties, the dictatorship, the democracy groups and the ethnic groups, must be included fully in all negotiations and agreements in order for true change to come to Burma. This is even more important when, during this visit and the recent ASEAN meetings, the dictatorship was violently attacking one or more ethnic groups.

A few years ago, I submitted a Statement for this Record describing the Advanced Light Helicopters that India sold to Burma. The dictators of Burma used these, plus other military hardware sold to them by a variety of nations against the ethnic minority civilian populations. The brutality of Burma's Generals against the ethnic minorities has not stopped, even during this time when they are allegedly making democratic reforms. Therefore, we as a democratic, free nation must be extremely careful of what the Generals are really up to—they haven't proven themselves trustworthy in the past.

I would like to submit for the RECORD, a short letter to the Secretary from Ms. Zipporah

Sein, Secretary General of the Karen National Union.

I urge the Secretary of State, when engaging in further dialogues with the Burmese government, to proceed with the utmost caution.

OFFICE OF THE SUPREME HEAD-
QUARTERS, KAREN NATIONAL
UNION, KAWTHOOLEI,

November 25, 2011.

Hon. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,
Secretary of State,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SECRETARY: Thank you for your constant support and encouragement for the people of Burma.

The leaders of the Karen National Union (KNU), welcome your engagement with the government of Burma and your leadership alongside Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to bring to the forefront the need to see an end to the ongoing conflicts in the ethnic states and an end to the oppression of all people inside Burma.

We the KNU would like to ask you to take the lead to recognize the desires of all the ethnic groups, both armed and unarmed, to be treated as equals in the effort to establish a genuine federal union: A union that recognizes the rule of law and recognizes the equality of all.

We invite you to meet with ethnic leaders from all of the ethnic organizations both armed and unarmed as we move forward to work toward a peaceful and stable nation where our citizens can truly be free from governmental oppression. We need your help and your engagement with all of us.

Sincerely,

ZIPPORAH SEIN,
General Secretary, Karen National Union.

CONGRATULATING THE ROCK BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL BRUINS BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Rock Bridge High School Bruins Boys Cross Country team for winning the Class 4 Missouri State Championship.

The young men and their coaches should be commended for all of their hard work throughout the regular season and bringing home the state title to their school and community. At the State Cross Country Championships in Jefferson City, the Bruins won the state title with a score of 61, 28 points better than second place. They have made history for the school, as it is the Rock Bridge boys' first state title.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the Rock Bridge Bruins for a job well done!

HONORING LARENCE C. "LARRY" MAXWELL

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Veterans of Foreign Wars Chowchilla Post 9896 Life Member Larence C. "Larry"

Maxwell who served his country honorably from a very young age.

Larence C. "Larry" Maxwell entered the United States Army shortly after completing high school and began a journey that would see him serve in multiple wars and conflicts for thirty-two years throughout the world culminating with promotion to Command Sergeant Major, the highest enlisted rank in the Army.

The son of Andrew and Addie Maxwell of Chowchilla, Larry was born in Madera on December 21, 1946. He was raised in Chowchilla, where he attended elementary school and attended Le Grand High School. In 1965, he entered the Job Corps. In 1966, he was drafted at age nineteen and subsequently enlisted in the Army. He completed basic training at Fort Ord, California and then Advanced Individual Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where he was selected for training as an Army Engineer Heavy Equipment Operator. His first duty assignment was with C Company, 94th Engineer Battalion in Nillingen, Germany, where he assisted in the construction of facilities for ammunition and equipment when France resigned from NATO.

Vietnam was the next tour for the young Army combat engineer. He was assigned to the 92nd engineer Battalion in January 1968 as a heavy equipment operator and squad leader. The 92nd was known as the "Black Diamonds" and gained a reputation as the "can do" unit during combat operations, earning fourteen battle streamers in Vietnam and four Meritorious Unit Commendations and the Vietnamese Civil Action Honor Medal First Class. Maxwell participated in the Tet Offensive and four more major campaigns until his tour ended in January 1969. He was wounded by enemy mortar fire in May 1968 and was medevaced to the Army hospital at Bien Hoa and after recovery from his wounds he returned to the 92nd for duty.

He concluded his twelve-month tour and returned stateside. He took a brief break from the Army for two years before re-enlisting in 1971, and was stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, with the 68th engineer Company as a squad leader and heavy equipment operator, where he worked on numerous projects including those for the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Mescalero Indian Reservation. After Fort Bliss, he received orders to report to the 598th Supply and Service Company in Kaiserslautern, Germany, where he assumed duties as Class 3 Distribution Chief. He subsequently was promoted to Assistant Platoon Sergeant of the Equipment Platoon with the 370th engineer company. While serving in Germany, his unit was designated as the best engineer company in the U.S. Army.

In 1975, he reported to B Company, 43rd engineer battalion, Fort Benning, Georgia, where he served initially as a squad leader and promoted to platoon sergeant. With obvious leadership qualities, he was assigned to the 36th Engineer Group as an instructor in the Basic Leadership Course. His superiors selected him to attend the Engineer Advanced Course at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Upon completion of the Advanced Course, he was selected for Drill Sergeant School at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. After graduation from Drill Sergeant School, he served as Drill Sergeant from June 1979 to October 1982.

He returned to Germany as First Sergeant with the 58th Combat Engineer Mechanized 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at Downs

Barracks, at Fulda, Germany. The unit was responsible for protecting the East/West German border. After completion of the tour with the 11th Armored, he found himself back at Fort Leonard Wood as First Sergeant of A Company, 6th Battalion, 10th Infantry Basic Training.

In June 1988, he was selected for the Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas. After graduating from the Sergeants Major Academy in January 1989, he was assigned to Army forces at Camp Nimble in Korea as First Sergeant of B Company, 44th Engineer Battalion. The 44th had responsibilities for duties on the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). In September 1989, he was promoted to Sergeant Major and served in the capacity in Korea at Camp Mercer.

After returning stateside, he assumed duties as Sergeant Major for the 535th Prime Power Detachment at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. The 535th had teams stationed in Kentucky, Georgia, Virginia, New Jersey, Panama, and Germany.

At the beginning of the Gulf War, Maxwell was designated Command Sergeant Major. In the U.S. Army, the leadership position of Command Sergeant Major is the highest enlisted rank and acts as the senior enlisted advisor to the commanding officer and represents all the enlisted soldiers of the command.

Maxwell was made Battalion Sergeant Major of the 43rd Engineer Battalion and deployed to Saudi Arabia, where he became Command Sergeant Major of Task Force 43 assigned to echelons above corps during hostilities with Iraq.

After the Gulf War, he participated in disaster relief during Hurricane Andrew. He deployed to Somalia twice, first as Sergeant Major with Task Force 43, 10th Mountain Division, and the second time when his battalion was attached to United Nations' forces for the construction of Victory Base. He subsequently deployed to Panama and Costa Rica for civic action projects and construction of medical aid facilities. His last assignment was Command Sergeant Major of the 84th Engineer Battalion and Sergeant Major of the 45th Corps Support Group (Forward), with the Army's famed "Tropic Lightning" 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. While at Schofield, Maxwell deployed with units throughout the Philippines, and other areas. After thirty-two years of service to his country, he retired from the U.S. Army in 1998 and returned to Madera.

For his service, Command Sergeant Major Maxwell was awarded numerous decorations including: two awards of the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, three awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, four awards of the Army Commendation Medal, three awards of the Army Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with five campaign stars, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, two awards of the National Defense Service Medal, United Nations Medal, ten awards of the Good Conduct Medal, two awards of Humanitarian Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry Unit Award with frame, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, two awards of the Army Service Ribbon, four awards of the NCO Professional Development Ribbon, the German Schutzenschnur, the Bronze and Silver de Fleury Medal, and the

Drill Sergeant Badge. During his military career, Larry earned an Associate of Arts degree from Central Texas College.

After retirement from the Army, Larry worked as a Corrections Officer for the Madera County Probation Department, where he performed duties as an instructor in ceremony and physical drill at the boot camp. In 2000, his drill team won the Grand Prize at the Fresno Veterans Day Parade. He was promoted to sergeant in 2002 and continued to teach and counsel adolescents to become productive members of society until his retirement from the Probation Department in January 2010.

Larry is a life member of Chowchilla VFW Post 9896 and American Legion Post 148. He is a member of the Army Engineer Association, the Noncommissioned Officers Association, the Association of the United States Army, and the Armed Forces Association. He is a member of the Grace Community Church and is a volunteer with Food Bank.

Larry has two brothers, Charley Maxwell (deceased) of Idaho, First Sergeant (Ret.) Donnie Maxwell, Sr. of Madera, and three sisters, Donna Lea and Bonnie Bartley of Madera, and June Maxwell of Cleveland, Oklahoma. Larry married his first wife, Linda Swilley of Chowchilla and had three children, Garry Maxwell and his wife Tonya of Falmouth, Kentucky, and a daughter Samantha and husband Tim Richards of Chowchilla, and daughter Wendy and husband Chris Yowell of Chowchilla. Larry married Ronda Davis of Mulberry Indiana, who has two children, Jonathan Shambaugh and wife Melanie of West End, New Jersey, and Courtney Shambaugh and Andrew Watkins of Highland, New Jersey. Larry has thirteen wonderful and very active grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Larence C. "Larry" Maxwell for his honorable service to our great country, and wishing him the best of luck and health in his future endeavors.

HONORING MRS. DIANE McMANUS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Diane McManus who will be retiring after 25 years of outstanding work in the field of commercial lending and finance.

Throughout her career, Diane has been a committed advocate on behalf of Maine's business community. As Vice President of Finance for Development Concepts Inc., she worked hand in hand with companies to locate new investment streams and further develop their business models. Diane brought this background with her to Northeast Bank where, as a loan officer, she continued to provide resources to help grow Maine enterprise. Her devotion to local commercial development, and the successes that followed, have earned her numerous promotions and professional accolades. As Regional Vice President and Senior Market Manager at Camden National bank, Diane is leaving behind a thriving program that covers \$82 million in commercial loans.

Diane has not only excelled within the realm of business, but she has gone above and beyond expectations to serve her community as

well. In 2002, she was awarded the Maine State Chamber Volunteer of the Year Award. In 2004, she earned the Chamber of Commerce Ken Addison Small Business Advocate Award, and most recently, Diane was recognized as the Number one U.S. Small Business Administration 504 Lender in the State of Maine by the Granite State Development Corp.

It is always with some lingering sadness that I pass along my best wishes for the retirement of an individual such as Ms. McManus. Though retirement is well-deserved and will begin a new and exciting chapter in her life, it also signifies that Maine is losing one of its most dedicated and valued employees. Diane's perpetual willingness to believe in Maine businesses has touched the lives of countless entrepreneurs throughout the state. I wish her the very best going forward as she takes this exciting next step.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Diane McManus on her retirement and honoring her 25 years of impeccable commitment to her field and her community.

RECOGNIZING AMERICA'S MINERS
ON NATIONAL MINERS DAY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

Watching coal-miners at work, you realize momentarily what different universes people inhabit.—George Orwell.

George Orwell was humbled by coal miners—brave and earnest individuals who work hard hours, often in cramped, damp, lamp-lit corners far below the surface of the Earth. He was shocked by the living and working conditions he witnessed while he boarded in the coal mining communities of Northern England, accompanying the miners underground to see, first-hand, the hot, horrible conditions under which they labored.

"Down there," he wrote, "where coal is dug is a sort of world apart which one can quite easily go through life without ever hearing about. . . . It is so with all types of manual work; it keeps us alive, and we are oblivious of its existence. More than anyone else, perhaps, the miner can stand as the type of the manual worker, not only because his work is so exaggeratedly awful, but also because it is so vitally necessary and yet so remote from our experience, so invisible, as it were, that we are capable of forgetting it as we forget the blood in our veins."

Even now, in an age of Twitter and reality TV, when every aspect of life can be beamed around the world in an instant, it is too easy to forget about the miner and his daily digging chores, sequestered far from our view, though intimately connected to so many of our daily needs and desires.

Yet, from time to time, something happens to remind us of that separate world. Unfortunately, that something is, too often, a tragedy, like the explosion at Massey Energy's Upper Big Branch Mine in Southern West Virginia, on April 5, 2010, that took the lives, far too soon, of 29 hardworking men.

In the hours following that explosion, reporters from around the Nation flocked to the mine

site, nestled in a rural mountain fold not far from my home. Every phase of the attempted rescue effort was captured and broadcast around the globe, and for many tense and worrisome hours, coal miners were very much on the minds of the world, holding its collective breath and hoping for a miracle—a miracle that was not be.

Now, after the passing of many months, it is clear that the loss of those 29 miners was not due to one unpreventable, fateful incident, but, instead, it was the result of a pervasive, long-running, callous corporate culture that put production and profit far above people.

It is no coincidence that, today, the Mine Safety and Health Administration is releasing its final report on the UBB disaster. This day, December 6th—the anniversary of the 1907 Monongah Mine disaster, the worst mining disaster in American history—is also the Congressionally designated "National Miners Day."

I am proud to have been the author of the House Resolution that sought to establish this date as a milestone of national recognition and remembrance of America's miners. It is a shameful truth that each advance in our Nation's mine safety system has come only after a mine disaster. But I hope that this day might alter that tradition and serve to bring the miner out from the dark of the mines into the national light for at least one day each year. It seems to me far preferable that our national conscience be kindled not by tragedy, but, instead, by celebration.

And so I urge that, at least on this one day each year, the Congress and all Americans will turn our attention to recognizing the contributions that miners have made to our Nation—its economic vitality and its military strength. And that we will take this annual opportunity to help ensure that these men and women are assured of safe, healthy, humane conditions in which to earn an honest living. America and American miners deserve no less.

HONORING LEWIS WILLIAMS

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and highlight the distinguished life and career of the Honorable Lew Williams, who passed away sadly on December 3rd, 2011. Mr. Williams was a member of the Pinellas County School Board and a local educator. His impact on our community will be felt for years to come. He leaves behind two children and his wife, Arthurene.

Mr. Williams was elected to the Pinellas County School Board in 2010. However, over his lifetime, his impact was profound. Quiet and reserved, he chose his words carefully in a way that would be sure to have the most impact. His colleagues on the School Board have noted that he often had the ability to drive debates to a solution, while being one of the quietest individuals in the room. In his time on the Board, he was able to move the district in a different direction and was instrumental in leading the fight for changes in the district's superintendent position.

Lew Williams was born in Blakely, Georgia, but moved to Florida at a young age. Growing

up in public housing, he saw education as a means to future success. Two educators saw his potential for achievement and helped pay his way for college. He graduated from Allen University with a bachelor's degree and South Carolina State College with a master's degree.

Mr. Williams was instilled with the same optimistic belief in those around him. He started out as a social studies teacher, but eventually went on to become a principal at five different Pinellas County schools. In 2010, Mr. Williams was elected to the School Board seat for District 7. Local educational leaders, such as the current head of the local teachers union, credit him for seeing leadership in them when he chose to hire them. His hard work, sacrifice and determination have truly impacted our community and continue to do so.

The Tampa Bay community mourns his loss and is so thankful for his many years of service to students and our community. I ask that you and all Americans remember such a remarkable educator for his ability to inspire success in others.

HONORING DR. CHARLES
GRINDSTAFF

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in memory of Dr. Charles Grindstaff, a great man, devoted educator, and public servant from Southwest Virginia. Dr. Grindstaff left us on December 2, 2011.

Born on September 3, 1947, in Bluefield, W. Va., Dr. Grindstaff was raised in the small town of Bishop, Va. He later earned degrees from Tazewell High School, East Tennessee State University, Radford University, and NOVA University. After God and family, Dr. Grindstaff's passion was education. Since 1969, Dr. Grindstaff—often known simply as "Dr. G"—served students as a teacher, administrator, and professor in Tazewell County Public Schools, Horry County, SC Schools, and at Concord University in Athens, W. Va. For over 15 years, Dr. Grindstaff also served the Town of Tazewell as a councilman and as mayor until the time of his death. He was an avid sportsman, enjoyed performing in local theatre, and sharing his musical talents. Dr. Grindstaff leaves behind his wife Suzanne, daughters Heather and Christina, and his son Andy, as well as three grandchildren.

Dr. Grindstaff, through both his work in the classroom and local government, impacted countless lives. He was also my District Director Michelle Bostic Jenkins' principal at Jewell Ridge Elementary and taught with her mother for several years. After a flood on the Clinch River destroyed many of their belongings, Dr. Grindstaff was there willing to help. He was well known for his exceptional goodwill and dedication to the Tazewell community. I am honored to pay tribute to this great man's many contributions. His legacy and influence will be long remembered in Tazewell and throughout Southwest Virginia. He will be missed, but never forgotten.

CONGRATULATING THE MISSOURI
CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION ON
ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Missouri Cattlemen's Association, which is celebrating its one hundredth anniversary this year.

The Missouri Cattlemen's Association began in 1911 as the Missouri Livestock Producers Association and adopted its current name in 1968. In the beginning, dues were only \$2, and were reduced to a quarter during the Depression.

Missouri ranks third in the Nation in the number of cows, and the Missouri Cattlemen's Association is the voice for the State's 60,000 beef producers, focusing on issues that affect beef production while also providing a safe, abundant, and nutritious source of food.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the members of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association congratulations on reaching this significant milestone.

HONORING THE LIFE OF "J.
BLACKFOOT"—JOHN COLBERT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the life of John Colbert, better known as J. Blackfoot, a great soul singer and entertainer from the city of Memphis, Tennessee. J. Blackfoot was a special talent known for his unique vocal style. Born in Greenville, Mississippi, his family moved to Memphis when he was two. Colbert earned the nickname "Blackfoot" as a child because he would run barefoot through his neighborhood.

J. Blackfoot began his music career after meeting Johnny Bragg, founder of the 1950s-era music group "Prisonaires." Together they recorded a "behind-the-walls" hit for Sun Records, after which J. Blackfoot embarked on a solo venture under his birth name. Strongly pursuing his love for music, he eventually found himself at Stax Records under the tutelage of songwriter/producer, David Porter.

In the late 1960s, J. Blackfoot auditioned at Stax Records where David Porter and his song writing partner, Isaac Hayes, initially wrote many solo songs for him to perform. When the R&B duo Sam and Dave left Stax, Porter and Hayes decided to fill the stylistic void. They paired J. Blackfoot with Norman West, Anita Lewis and Shelbra Bennett to create the "Soul Children." They put out 7 albums over their decade long career and released 15 R&B hits.

In 1983, J. Blackfoot began a successful solo career, scoring many chart successes in both the U.S. and the U.K. He released several hit songs, including "Taxi" from the 1983 album City Slicker, which was perhaps his biggest solo career single. Over the last two decades, J. Blackfoot continued to record dozens

of solo albums, performed at Stax-related events and reformed the "Soul Children."

J. Blackfoot passed away on November 30, 2011 at 65 years of age. Memphis, known for its rich musical heritage, mourns the loss of one of its unique voices. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the contributions J. Blackfoot made to the music community. As an artist and music maker, his was a life well lived.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF SIS-
TER CATHERINE (MARY ISAAC)
COLBY, DOMINICAN SISTER OF
PEACE

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the memory of Sister Catherine (Mary Isaac) Colby, O.P., Ed.D., of the Dominican Sisters of Peace in Columbus, Ohio, who passed away suddenly on December 2, 2011.

Sister Catherine Colby was a native New Yorker, and a graduate of St. Helena's Elementary School in the Bronx and Dominican Academy in Manhattan. She entered the Novitiate of the former Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs in 1960 and made her Profession of Vows in 1963. Sister Catherine earned a Doctorate in Education from Nova Southeastern University of Florida; an M.Ed. in Educational Administration from Xavier University of Cincinnati; an M.A. in Pastoral Ministry from St. Joseph's College of Connecticut; and a bachelor's degree in Education from the former College of St. Mary of the Springs, now Ohio Dominican University, in Columbus.

A lifelong educator, Sister Catherine was an outstanding administrator and a compassionate and perceptive preacher—the principle charisma of the Dominican Order—as well as a division chair, faculty member, school principal and teacher in New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Mexico. Additionally, she had been Vocation Director and Director of Candidates for her Dominican Congregation.

Sister Catherine was an Associate Professor of Education at Ohio Dominican for twenty-three years, and for seven of those she served as Chair of the Division of Education. The founder of the Center for Dominican Studies at ODU, Sister Catherine was also the University's first Vice President for Mission and Identity. In that capacity, she coordinated and facilitated the university-wide process of sustaining, enhancing, and promoting its distinct mission as a Catholic and Dominican university.

Her passing is a great loss not only for the Colby family, but for the Dominican Sisters of Peace, the entire campus community, the twelfth Congressional District of Ohio, and for Catholic education across this country.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to Sister Catherine's family, including her godson, John Colby, who serves with us here as a United States Capitol Police Officer, as well as to her Congregation, Ohio Dominican University, the Dominican Order, and her friends and colleagues during this most difficult time. Her legacy will stand as an exemplar for all Catholic educators and

women religious, and she will be dearly missed.

HONORING 1LT IVAN D.
LECHOWICH

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, sacrifice, and heroism of Army First Lieutenant Ivan Lechowich of Valrico, Florida.

1LT Lechowich, a combat engineer, was unfortunately killed while conducting combat operations for Operation Enduring Freedom on September 28, 2011, in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan.

U.S. Army combat engineers are greatly admired for their fearlessness and diligence in helping to tackle rough terrain in combat situations and for providing combat effectiveness to maneuver forces. 1LT Lechowich personified this bravery and dedication while he and his team worked to clear a roadway of explosive devices on the day of his death. During his Army career, he has been awarded a Sapper Tab, the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, and NATO medal.

Outside of the Army, Ivan was a loving husband and new father, whose daughter was born during his deployment. 1LT Lechowich enjoyed reading, studying history, and was an avid fan of the University of Florida's football team.

Mr. Speaker, though proud to have such a fine example from the Tampa Bay community, it is with great remorse that I rise to commemorate the life of 1LT Lechowich. I am in awe of the young men and women like Ivan Lechowich who choose to serve their countrymen in the armed forces. As professionals in all that they do, they exhibit honor, courage, and commitment in every pursuit. Their sacrifices, like that of 1LT Lechowich, will not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING MRS. DONNIE POW-
ELL FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS
TO EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true valued member of our society, Mrs. Donnie Powell. Mrs. Powell has dedicated a great deal of her life to championing causes relative to education and criminal justice.

Mrs. Powell received degrees in Criminal Justice from Coahoma Community College and Mississippi Valley State University; and has worked 25 years for the Mississippi Department of Corrections.

She is an active member of the Tallahatchie County Parent Teacher Association and was recruited to be a part of the parent-community ad hoc committee's nationwide search for a new Superintendent for the Tallahatchie School District in 2009. She has received Parent of the Month awards from local elementary

and high schools in Tallahatchie County, and was most recently named the 2011 Tallahatchie School District Parent of the Year.

She volunteers her time and energy to her local Boys and Girls Club, in an effort to help educate and deter the youth from engaging in counterproductive activities such as joining gangs and committing violence in their schools and communities.

She works in conjunction with the Mississippi State Department of Health to organize speaking engagements and forums on gangs and violence in Tallahatchie, Panola, Quitman, Sunflower, and Coahoma counties.

Mrs. Powell believes that parents, teachers, and community members should work together and maintain strong lines of communication in an effort to ensure that the students of today receive adequate education and training to thrive in an ever changing world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues join me in recognizing Mrs. Donnie Powell for her many contributions to education and serving her community.

HONORING SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
WILSON "BILL" LIVINGOOD

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, next month this House will lose a dedicated public servant. Wilson "Bill" Livingood, our Sergeant at Arms, will retire after seventeen years keeping us safe. Since 1995, he has stood watch over the People's House and all of its members, staff, and visitors, overseeing the security of this chamber, the Capitol, and Congressional office buildings.

Under Bill's leadership, the House has adapted its security measures to meet new challenges faced since September 11. He has been a driving force in enhancing screening procedures while ensuring that Americans can still easily visit the Capitol and meet with their representatives.

Bill Livingood's life has been spent in service to our nation and to protecting the institutions of our democracy. Before his long service as Sergeant at Arms, Bill was an agent of the U.S. Secret Service for thirty-three years, placing his life on the line to protect our commander-in-chief.

While I have no doubt that the strong voice with which Bill has welcomed U.S. presidents and foreign dignitaries into the House chamber has become iconic, I believe he will be remembered here most for his warmth and kindness and for his deep love of country. I have been fortunate to call him a friend and can attest to the attention and respect he commands from all who have known him. It has been a pleasure serving with Bill throughout his tenure, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

I join with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle in thanking Bill for his long career of distinguished service to the people of the United States and, in particular, to their House.

CONGRATULATING THE LINN HIGH SCHOOL WILDCATS BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Linn High School Wildcats Boys Cross Country team for winning the Class 1 Missouri State Championship.

The young men and their coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and bringing home the state cross country championship to their school and community. The boys have relied on each other throughout the season, providing one another with encouragement and displaying true team spirit. They won by a mere one point, proving that all seven boys were truly needed in securing the victory.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the Linn Wildcats for a hard fought victory and a job well done.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300-132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,068,133,903,969.13. We've added \$10,266,728,728,674.85 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ OF THAILAND

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my congratulations and best wishes to the world's longest serving monarch, King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, on the occasion of his 84th birthday this past Monday, December 5th. King Bhumibol is beloved by his people and esteemed for his great humility, compassion and proactive engagement with everyday Thais.

King Bhumibol has spent decades in virtually every corner of Thailand, engaging with the Thai people face-to-face, seeking new and improved ways to make their lives better. Since the early years of his now 65-year reign, he has been mindful of the livelihood of farmers and others dependent on agriculture. He made water management a key priority in royal development projects, with the first such project initiated in 1963. Taking a holistic ap-

proach, the King's projects also sought to ensure local residents understand the importance of proper water management to avoid flooding, droughts and pollution.

The King has also promoted sustainable agricultural practices along with soil resource management, to maximize economic success in rural areas and to help farmers become self-reliant. His economic advice based on the "Sufficiency Economy" philosophy, which calls on individuals and businesses to practice moderation and reasonableness, and seek self-immunity against external factors in their pursuit of growth, has been embraced by rural farmers and private businesses alike.

Agriculture, environmental conservation and sustainable development are among the many other areas of King Bhumibol's initiatives to contribute to the progress of Thailand and its people. During the 1960s and 1970s, the King developed an opium crop substitution program that encourages hilltribe people to grow cash crops so that they abandon the drug trade. His initiatives on health—started even earlier in the 1950s—helped Thailand's efforts to eradicate and combat diseases such as leprosy, cholera, tuberculosis and smallpox. These and the scholarship programs he created to support Thais to study medicine and medical advancement overseas have contributed to the development of the country's public health system—today one of the most advanced in Southeast Asia.

King Bhumibol's values, initiatives, and passion for improving life for all Thais have earned him the respect of the people of Thailand. He has also been recognized internationally for his unique leadership, which has uplifted the people of Thailand during difficult times.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join the people of Thailand—America's friend and oldest treaty ally in Asia—as they pay tribute to King Bhumibol and celebrate his 84th birthday this week.

HONORING MR. JEREMIAH JOSEPH O'KEEFE FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICE TO COMMUNITY AND COUNTRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a World War II hero, entrepreneur, philanthropist and outstanding public servant, Mr. Jeremiah "Jerry" Joseph O'Keefe.

A native of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Jeremiah Joseph O'Keefe was born July 12, 1923, in a gracious antebellum home constructed by his grandfather. When Jeremiah O'Keefe was 13 years old, the family lost their home during the Depression and relocated to Biloxi, Mississippi. In Biloxi, Mr. O'Keefe attended Sacred Heart Academy high school, where during his senior year he was co-captain of the school's football team.

Mr. O'Keefe was attending Soule Business College when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941 and he quickly offered to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Navy. He would join the Aviation Cadet Program of the United States Navy in June 1942,

and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps and designated a Naval Aviator on June 16, 1943. In 1945, Mr. O'Keefe, then a 1st Lieutenant, and his 24-plane fighter squadron, "the Death Rattlers," deployed upon Okinawa where they would participate in his first aerial combat. Their assignment was to prevent repeated nightly Japanese aerial attacks in the harbor. An "ace" fighter pilot, Mr. O'Keefe was credited with shooting down a total of seven Japanese airplanes in the Battle of Okinawa, including five in one day. At the age of 21, Mr. O'Keefe became one of the youngest "Aces" in World War II. For his meritorious efforts, he was awarded the United States Navy Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, and the Gold Star.

Following World War II, Mr. O'Keefe obtained a degree in business administration from Loyola University and went to work with his father in the family funeral business. In 1958, he purchased Bradford Funeral Service and merged it with the O'Keefe family business to create Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Home. That same year, Mr. O'Keefe founded Gulf National Life (GNL) Insurance Company. Over the course of several decades, GNL acquired a number of other smaller companies and became the largest insurer in Mississippi with over 200 affiliated funeral homes.

Deeply rooted in politics on the Gulf Coast, Mr. O'Keefe's grandfather was alderman-at-large in Ocean Springs. In 1935, Jerry O'Keefe's uncle, John O'Keefe served as Mayor of Biloxi for two years, before resigning to become an Adjutant General in the Mississippi National Guard. Jerry O'Keefe was elected to the Mississippi State Legislature seven years later in 1959 and served one four-year term. Mr. O'Keefe was elected Mayor of Biloxi in 1973 and served eight years. Known as an energetic and innovative mayor, he was awarded Biloxi's Citizen of the Year in 1976.

As mayor, Mr. O'Keefe was a strong proponent for civil rights and the advancement of the African-American community. While mayor of Biloxi, he confronted the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) by rescinding a permit they received to hold a parade in the town. When the KKK proceeded with the parade, he had them arrested. Mr. O'Keefe was guided by his moral compass and ethical disposition during a time when few stood up against the Ku Klux Klan for fear of retribution. Mr. O'Keefe received death threats and the KKK burned a cross in front of his house. Still, Jerry O'Keefe stood his ground.

After three decades of politics, Mr. O'Keefe shifted his focus to fundraising and philanthropy. He has been a supporter and donor to numerous organizations, schools, and museums. In 1967 and 1975, Mr. O'Keefe received awards from the United Fund Campaign for Distinguished Service to the people of Harrison County. He has been the recipient of the Pine Burr Area Boy Scouts of America's Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1995, he and his wife, Annette, founded The O'Keefe Foundation with an initial endowment of \$10 million. The foundation is the primary financial sponsor of The New Hope Center in Ocean Springs, a center for disabled youth. Additionally, the foundation supports numerous organizations throughout the state and the greater

Gulf Coast region which includes the Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities, St. John's and Mercy Cross High Schools, Habitat for Humanity, Shaw University, Tougaloo College, St. Alphonsus Elementary School, YMCA, the St. Vincent Depaul Society, the Walter Anderson Museum, Boys and Girls Clubs, Christians United of Jackson County, and the City of Ocean Springs.

Mr. O'Keefe and his first wife, Annette Saxon O'Keefe, have 13 children. He and his later wife, Martha, have worked to reinforce family bonds through regular church attendance, Sunday dinners, and family vacations. Mr. O'Keefe is an active member in the Nativity B.V.M. Cathedral.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing my sincere gratitude to Mr. Jeremiah "Jerry" Joseph O'Keefe of Ocean Springs, Mississippi for his service to the state of Mississippi and to this country.

SUPPORT OF H. RES. 440 CONGRATULATING RECIPIENTS OF 2010 WORLD PEACE PRIZE H.H. DORJE CHANG BUDDHA III AND THE HONORABLE BEN GILMAN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support of H. Res. 440 which congratulates H.H. Dorje Chang Buddha III and the Honorable Ben Gilman for winning the 2010 World Peace Prize.

Recently, I introduced this resolution to highlight the awarding of the World Peace Prize to both H.H. Dorje Chang Buddha III and Congressman Gilman. The World Peace Prize is a very distinguished honor granted by the World Peace Council in recognition of individuals who exemplify selflessness in their devotion to humanity.

I commend H.H. Dorje Chang Buddha III and the Honorable Ben Gilman for their multiple contributions to our society and urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 440.

THE CAMERAS IN THE COURTROOM ACT OF 2011

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Cameras in the Court Act of 2011 to ensure transparency and accountability in the judicial branch by providing television coverage for open proceedings before the United States Supreme Court.

This is companion legislation to a bipartisan bill, S. 1945, introduced yesterday by Senator DICK DURBIN (D-IL), Assistant Senate Majority Leader, and Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY (R-IA), Ranking Member on the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. The Cameras in the Courtroom Act of 2011 respects the individual rights of the parties appearing before the Court, only

applying to open proceedings. In addition, a majority of the Supreme Court justices may vote to exclude television coverage of a particular proceeding if they decide that such coverage would result in a violation of the due process rights of any of the specific parties before the Court.

This legislation would only apply to those Supreme Court proceedings currently open to the public. Individual Americans are welcome to observe these Court proceedings, but only in an extremely limited number. The Supreme Court has seating for several hundred, however they typically only allocate roughly 50 seats for the general public. And that is what is so troubling. Given the sweeping nature of recent Supreme Court decisions, this limited seating almost screams elitism, secrecy and contempt for the public by this third branch of our government.

I strongly believe that the separation of powers and our system of checks and balances is essential to the successful operation of a democratic society. However transparency and accountability are necessary to ensure that those checks and balances are properly applied, even in the judicial branch itself.

Regardless of the scope of the legislation, Congressional debates and votes on each and every bill are televised and available to Americans through CSPAN. It was not enough for reporters to pass along their accounts of what occurred, nor was it enough for the limited number of Americans who could directly observe from the House and Senate galleries. The entire American public—it was determined—was entitled to know what the Congress was undertaking in its name.

It strains any reasonable precept of transparency to assert that such momentous recent Supreme Court deliberations such as *Bush v. Gore*, *Kelo v. City of New London*, and *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* were available only to the 50 Americans who were allowed and fortunate enough to be among the chosen few to wait in the queue for public seating.

Americans today live in a world where information is near instantaneous; where with a handheld cell phone they are able to communicate through live video conferencing with nearly anyone in the world. Today's technology allows us to bring events from across the globe to our fingertips in real time.

It is essential that the highest arbiter of the law of our land provide all Americans with the opportunity to observe United States Supreme Court proceedings in a manner that will enable them to form their own opinion through direct observation. Transparency and accountability are the windows through which everyday citizens may observe and protect democracy. Are there risks that some will play to the cameras? Yes, absolutely. Are those risks offset by the public's need, indeed right, to know? Absolutely yes. Sunshine—even in the Supreme Court—remains the best disinfectant against those who might feel that the black robe of life-tenure grants them permanent immunity from accountability for their words and opinions.

I urge my colleagues to support transparency and accountability in the United States Supreme Court and cosponsor the Cameras in the Courtroom Act of 2011.

CONGRATULATING MERAMEC
ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS COMPANY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Meramec Electrical Products Company in Cuba, MO, which was awarded the Make It in America Manufacturer of the Week for November 16–23, 2011.

Make It in America is an initiative supported by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), which works with small and mid-sized U.S. manufacturers to help them create jobs, increase profits and save time and money. The nationwide network of manufacturers provides a variety of services and resources to aid American businesses in expanding into new markets, creating new products and building their clientele. For every one dollar of federal investment, MEP generates \$32 in new sales growth, which equates to \$3.6 billion in new sales annually.

Each week MEP features an American business that is boosting U.S.-based manufacturing and production. I am pleased to acknowledge Missouri's hardworking manufacturing industry and, specifically, Meramec Electrical Products Company. This midwest company is one of the largest manufacturers of instrument current transformers for the power generation, transmission and electrical distribution markets. Its products are used in generators, power transformers and high voltage circuit breakers, to name a few.

The company was founded in 1969 on the principles that quality people and teamwork will produce quality products. Those principles have guided the business for the past four decades, leading to its success today. Meramec Electrical Products Company is the largest bushing transformer manufacturer in the Western Hemisphere and serves a global market. It uses an effective Quality Assurance System to ensure high quality products produced efficiently, effectively and on budget. This company is a true testament that hard work and dedication lead to success and greater opportunities.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Meramec Electrical Products Company and its employees for all their success and the well-deserved title of Make It in America Manufacturer of the Week.

RECOGNIZING MR. KENNETH COLEMAN FOR HIS DEDICATION TO SERVING OTHERS AND GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable and an intrepid man; one who has served as a father figure to many of the children of Crystal Springs, Mississippi; Mr. Kenneth Coleman. Mr. Coleman, a lifelong resident of Crystal Springs, Mississippi is husband and devoted father to two biological sons. Mr. Coleman graduated from Crystal Springs High School in 1991 and received his Bachelors of Science Degree in Recreation from Alcorn State University in 1998.

Mr. Coleman serves as a volunteer coach for both Crystal Springs Middle and High School football and basketball teams. Mr. Coleman's commitment to the children of Crystal Springs is of no small consequence; under his direction the children learn a sense of sportsmanship, comradery and teamwork.

Mr. Coleman is employed as a conservation officer with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and Parks and is also a member of the Sanderson Masonic Lodge #22 in Crystal Springs. Mr. Coleman is a very active member of the Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, where he serves as chairman of the deacon board and is a member of the choir.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Kenneth Coleman for serving as a role model and inspiration to the children of Crystal Springs, Mississippi.

HONORING MARIPOSA COUNTY
HIGH SCHOOL GRIZZLY MARCHING BAND

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Mariposa County High School Grizzly Marching Band that was selected to perform in the 92nd Annual NYC Veterans Day Parade commemorating the 10th Anniversary Tribute to The World Trade Center, and The Band of Pride Tribute Mass Band Performance on November 10, 2011.

The selection committee consisted of The Mayor's Office of Veterans' Affairs, The Hon-

orable Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, The United War Veterans' Council and Melinda Marinoff, The NYC Veterans Day Parade's Official Marching Band and Youth Sponsor. They selected the band because of their incredible reputation for fostering personal growth and development through music, their style and talent, and their respect for the flag.

The band joined fewer than 20 other high school bands from the entire United States to participate with several international bands to form a "Band of Pride." They were the only high school band from California.

It was a great honor for the band members to be invited to participate in such a magnificent and touching tribute to all those who have served our country and to the victims of 9/11. Even more so, it had special meaning for the band director, Dr. Phillip M. Smith, a disabled decorated veteran who has served his country for over 35 years. In addition, he is a member of their local VFW Post 6042, and is a recently retired reservist. In his lifelong spirit of service, Dr. Smith has donated his time for over the last ten years by directing our MCHS Grizzly Band. He has inspired, mentored, and been a staunch supporter of the last decade of band kids. The kids can count on him to love and accept them at all times.

In addition to the great honor of marching in the N.Y.C. Veterans Day Parade, the Mariposa County High School Grizzly Marching Band had the distinction of being selected as one of only 36 high school bands from across the United States to receive a GRAMMY Signature Schools Enterprise Award. In addition to this award, they have also amassed the following: 1st Place, Band and Drum Major—Selma Band Review; highest rating for Division D band in Northern California Band Association history, October 2011; Local Heroes Award presented by Mariposa Chamber of Commerce, October 2011; 3rd Place, Fresno Fair Band Review, October 2011; 1st Place, Oakhurst Heritage Days Parade, September 2011; Mariposa's Fair Parade was dedicated to MCHS Grizzly Band; Silver Medal, Forum Festivals Concert Band Contest, Spring 2011; 3rd in Division, Band and Color Guard, Merced CCBR, November 2010; 1st place Band and Drum Major, Selma Marching Band Festival, October 2010; 4th, Southern California Forum Festivals Concert Band, Los Angeles, Spring 2010; Gold Medal, Forum Festivals Concert Band Contest, Spring 2009; and the Signature Schools Enterprise Award, June 2011.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Mariposa County High School Grizzly Marching Band for their hard work and in wishing them great success in their future endeavors.