

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2012 CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG/BUNDESRAT EXCHANGE

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, since 1983, the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag and Bundesrat have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about each other's political institutions and interact on issues of mutual interest.

A staff delegation from the U.S. Congress will be selected to visit Germany for ten days from May 18–27 of this year. During this ten day exchange, the delegation will attend meetings with Bundestag/Bundesrat Members, Bundestag and Bundesrat party staff members, and representatives of numerous political, business, academic, and media agencies.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States for ten days April 14–22 of this year. They will attend similar meetings here in Washington. The U.S. delegation is expected to facilitate these meetings.

The Congress-Bundestag/Bundesrat Exchange is highly regarded in Germany and the United States, and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and policies of both countries. This exchange is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The U.S. delegation should consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag reciprocates by sending senior staff professionals to the United States.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite U.S. delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern to the United States and Germany such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, economic development, health care, and other social policy issues. This year's delegation should be familiar with transatlantic relations within the context of recent world events.

In addition, U.S. participants are expected to help plan and implement the program for the Bundestag/Bundesrat staff members when they visit the United States. Participants are expected to assist in planning topical meetings in Washington, and are encouraged to host one or two staffers in their Member's district in April, or to arrange for such a visit to another Member's district.

Participants are selected by a committee composed of personnel from the Bureau of

Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State and past participants of the exchange.

Members of the House and Senate who would like a member of their staff to apply for participation in this year's program should direct them to submit a resume and cover letter in which they state their qualifications, the contributions they can make to a successful program and some assurances of their ability to participate during the time stated.

Applications may be sent to the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, HC–4, the Capitol, by 5 p.m. on Friday, February 24, 2012.

RECOGNIZING MR. WILLIAM LE'RON JACKSON FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. William Le'Ron Jackson. Mr. Jackson is a lifelong resident of Byram, Mississippi. He is the son of Mrs. Hollia Smith-Thompson, Henry Thompson, Jr., and Mr. William Smith. He is a graduate of Jackson State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Mr. Jackson is aspiring to obtain a law degree with an emphasis on Disability and Common law.

Mr. Jackson has been involved in numerous volunteer activities throughout the years. He is a dynamic role model who mentors people with and without disabilities throughout the state on the values of education and self-advocacy. Mr. Jackson has worked for Living Independence for Everyone, LIFE, of Mississippi and a children's medical program under the Mississippi Department of Health. He has also served as an AmeriCorps Volunteer. Mr. Jackson always finds time to give back to his community by giving statewide presentations and serving on various committees, such as the My Voice My Choice Board of Directors, Healthy Opportunities for Transition Advisory Council, Teen Empowerment Success Training Council, and the National Youth Leadership Network.

During 2010, Mr. Jackson expanded his volunteer service by beginning a three-year term as a Member of the Board of Directors for Disability Rights Mississippi, a non-profit agency that provides protection and advocacy services to people with disabilities statewide.

Mr. Jackson recently was selected in March 2011, to be a part of a committee, formed with the assistance of the Commissioner of the United States Administration on Development Disabilities, ADD, and other national self-advocacy organizations, to focus on improving self-advocacy throughout the state of Mississippi.

During April 2011, Mr. Jackson was awarded the Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence, GIVE, Award, which is presented by

the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service in cooperation with the Office of the Governor to recognize individuals, organizations, or communities for volunteer efforts which have made a significant difference to the state or to local communities, establishing high standards for volunteer involvement and effectiveness, and multiplying resources for communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Jackson for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

MEMORIES OF DAVID KATZ

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter a statement into the RECORD on behalf of my constituent, Sam Katz. Mr. Katz asked me to enter the following remarks into the RECORD in remembrance of his father, David Katz. Mr. Katz's statement follows:

Today, we mourn the loss of a great man; a man who to us was simply known and loved as, "Daddy."

Daddy was first and foremost a loving, caring, and dedicated husband for nearly 59 years to the wonderful lady we simply know and love as, "Mommy." Daddy's love and support for Mommy is something every man should learn from.

We could not have asked for a more loving and dedicated father. Always a father, he was also our mentor, teacher, and when necessary, a friend. We were deeply blessed with a very peaceful and loving family life with two wonderful parents. We always believed our parents' love for each other was strong. However, throughout Daddy's illnesses this past year, it became beautifully and painfully clear that their marriage was sustained by true and genuine love. There were times in the hospital and in care facilities when Mommy would go to extremes just to give Daddy a kiss because it meant so much to her, and for as long as we can remember, Mommy was the glimmer in Daddy's eyes. This was not a marriage that lasted out of convenience or for the sake of their four children. This beautiful and long marriage endured better, worse, richer, poorer, sickness and health, and was still parted only by death.

We never heard a cross word spoken between Mommy and Daddy, and never even heard them call each other by their first names. Everyone should be so fortunate!

Growing up was a lot of fun. We went on regular summer vacations. Daddy traveled quite a bit and at times, would take one or more of us with him on the road. We traveled to family Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and spent as much time as possible together as a family.

Family dinners were very important to Daddy. We would wait for him to come home from work and the entire family would have dinner together and talk about our day. We spent evenings together watching our 19" black and white TV in the family room—the

• 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.

only TV in the house. This was very important to Mommy and Daddy. We didn't have TVs in our bedrooms and our parents didn't hide away in theirs watching TV.

There were lots of great moments that probably weren't so great for Daddy, such as: us kids learning to drive or taking apart cars in the garage. Through it all, Daddy was always a dedicated father with our best interests in his sights. He genuinely wanted each of us to succeed and to be our best.

Daddy lived his life the proudest man in the world. He always bragged about Mommy and us four children; he treasured the fact that we remained close through our adult lives. As we got older, each of us children chose a career path and moved out on our own. We stayed in touch and enjoyed many family gatherings where we grew up in Williamsville, NY, in New Jersey and for the past 17 years, in Chesapeake, Virginia. At times, we (the kids) would stay up all night talking and having fun. About the only thing that has changed over the years is that now we sometimes stay up as late as ten p.m.

Thanksgiving has always been a very special time for all of us to unite, and this past year was no different. It meant the world to Daddy to be home and with his family. With his health declining before our eyes over Thanksgiving weekend, he remained that proud and wonderful man: the Daddy that we all loved. We are all very proud to have given him this gift, and are convinced this time together has made his journey from this earth more peaceful.

Daddy's other loves: classical music and photography. Born of two concert musicians, he studied piano at the age of three, violin at five, and once arriving in the United States, composition at one of the finest music conservatories in New York. He performed under the batons of some of the greatest conductors in the world. While Daddy's ears are probably still ringing from the blasting rock and roll sounds from our teenage bedrooms, classical music of some fashion has touched all of our lives over the years. Daddy peacefully passed with classical music playing in his room.

A self-taught accomplished photographer, his one-person shows over the years were awe-inspiring and his natural creativity will never be duplicated. Those that share his passion for photography will never forget the lessons learned from him over many years. Thankfully, he was also the kindest critic.

In closing: Daddy didn't talk a lot about being a Holocaust survivor while we were growing up. We would get "sound bites." For example, when we would ask him to drive us somewhere close, he would respond with: "I walked 500 miles to the Swiss border when I was your age." We had no idea it was really true.

Over the years, we started to understand a little more about his survival, but he was never willing to document it. Thankfully, when he retired, he took the time, and now his story has been published in several books including a wonderful autobiography. His story is also presented in several Holocaust documentaries and with the Shoah Foundation.

Daddy was well known throughout the Tidewater community as he regularly spoke about his Holocaust years at schools, military installations, and many other organizations. His story will live on for those that will never have the opportunity to meet the great man, Daddy.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE KENNEBEC VALLEY CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE AWARDS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding recipients of the 2012 Annual Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce Awards. The Kennebec Valley Chamber serves the people of Maine's Capital Region with distinction, working every day to strengthen and develop economic and community opportunity throughout the Kennebec Valley and the entire State.

Every year, the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce honors some of the outstanding businesses individuals that are doing their part to make Maine a better place to work and live. These Mainers are to be commended for their outstanding service and commitment to growing the economy in the Capital Region.

This year's award recipients include the Pine State Trading Co., Business of the Year; John V. Finnegan, Business Person of the Year; and William H. Perry, Lifetime Achievement Award. Recipients of the President's Award include Keltie McCatherin Collins, Kennebec Dance Centre; John Reny, Renys Department Store; and Steve Barrows, Steve's Appliance Service and Sales. Community Service Awards recipients include Judy Lloyd, Johnson Hall Performing Arts Center; and Carolyn Neighoff, currently a service learning mentor in Augusta. Tobias Parkhurst of Oakes & Parkhurst Glass earned the Young Professional Award.

These individuals and the business they represent are some of the best that Maine has to offer, and are stellar examples of the quality of people and businesses that serve as the economic and cultural engine of the Capital Area. They are to be commended for their meritorious service to their community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the recipients of the 2012 Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce Awards on their outstanding achievements.

RECOGNIZING MR. WARREN SMALL
FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY
AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran, Mr. Warren Small, Jr. Mr. Small has shown what can be done through hard work and lofty goals.

Mr. Small, a resident of Rolling Fork, Mississippi, was born on July 17, 1934, to Warren and Betty Small in Winona, Mississippi. He graduated from Kilmichael High School in 1953. After high school, he enlisted in the United States Army in 1955 where he served until 1958. He returned to the Army for one additional year in 1961. After serving in the Army twice, he attended Mississippi Valley State University where he earned a Bachelor's degree in 1962.

In 1968, Mr. Small obtained a Masters in Mathematics from Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado. From 1960 to 1993, Mr. Small taught mathematics at different levels throughout the Sharkey County, Mississippi, School System. In 1973, Mr. Small joined the Army National Guard and served until 1994 when he retired.

In 1961, he married the late Joyce Love Small and to that union they had two children, Warren III and Toyce Michelle. He joined Mount Lula Missionary Baptist Church upon his move to Rolling Fork, Mississippi, in the early 1960s. There, he actively serves on the deacon board. Since 1993, he has held the Veteran Service Officer position for the counties of Sharkey and Issaquena. He is also employed with the Issaquena County Correctional Facility in Mayersville, Mississippi, as a Life Skills and Pre-Release Counselor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an honorable veteran, Mr. Warren Small, Jr., for his dedication and service to our great country as well as his contributions to the Sharkey County, Mississippi, community.

CELEBRATING BABY LOU'S
RETIREMENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincere respect that I congratulate my good friend Mr. Loreto "Baby Lou" Gonzalez on his retirement from ArcelorMittal, formerly the Inland Steel Company. Mr. Gonzalez, a member of United Steelworkers Local 1010 for many years, has dedicated his life to the interests of his fellow tradesmen and the entire community in Northwest Indiana. For his lifetime of service, Baby Lou was honored at a retirement celebration at Club Ki-Yowga in East Chicago, Indiana, on January 7, 2012.

Baby Lou is the youngest of seven children born to Loreto and Carlota Gonzalez. Following his graduation in 1965 from East Chicago Washington High School, Baby Lou began working at Inland Steel in the slab yard. After years of service, he eventually moved to the 80" hot strip where he became a crane operator. Mr. Gonzalez has been one of the most active members of Steelworkers Local 1010, where he was a grievance steward for 30 years.

Baby Lou's dedication to his community has always been a focal point of his life's work. He has helped Local 1010 annually with its food and coat drive to assist families in need. Recognizing the importance of civic involvement, he has also assisted in voter registration and community outreach programs to help improve the lives of all residents of Northwest Indiana. Baby Lou Gonzalez has served as a board member for the Catherine House and the Northwest Indiana Catholic Youth Organization. Additionally, he has spent countless hours coaching and developing baseball players in the East Chicago Little League and Senior League, worked tirelessly as a precinct committeeman, and is currently a member of the Human Rights Committee for East Chicago.

While my friend has been a dedicated worker for the last 47 years, and a steadfast contributor to his community, he has been an even more dedicated husband to Irene, father to Louie, Irene, and Kurt, and grandfather to three wonderful grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Loreto Gonzalez has given his time and efforts selflessly to the steelworkers with whom he has worked and to the people of Northwest Indiana for his entire life. He has been a true role model to his peers and a true friend to Northwest Indiana. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Baby Lou for his outstanding contributions to Northwest Indiana and in wishing him well upon his retirement.

SHANNON MOODY

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Shannon Moody as she is recognized with the STAR Award by the Learn To Read Program for reading her 700th book to her daughter. The Student Achievement in Reading Award is given to one student per year who has shown exceptional dedication, commitment and persistence in reaching their literacy goal. Shannon worked towards this goal with the help of her volunteer tutor and utilized the vast resources available at the Manchester Public Library.

Shannon recognizes and appreciates the quality time she and her daughter share when they read together. As a parent, I know the importance of spending time with your children and she has set a fine example to her daughter on working hard towards a goal that is important to you. I'm sure Shannon's efforts have instilled a great love of reading into her daughter and she can be very proud of her achievements in the Learn To Read Program.

I congratulate Shannon and wish her all the best for continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING MR. THEODORE McCURTIS FOR HIS HONORABLE SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable disabled veteran, Mr. Theodore McCurtis, who was born September 19, 1934, in Hinds County, Edwards, Mississippi. He was the fourth of eight children born to the late Herman and Mae Bell Lloyd McCurtis. Mr. McCurtis' early years of education began at Edwards Elementary School and continued on to Southern Christian Institute High School in Edwards, Mississippi. From there, he volunteered to go to the United States Air Force while in the 12th grade.

Mr. McCurtis entered the United States Air Force on October 22, 1952, where he served in the Korean War. He received basic training at Parks Air Force Base in Pleasanton, California.

Mr. McCurtis served at Castle Air Force Base in Merced, California, and was attached to a Strategic Air Command. He was later sent to England where he served in the Military Police and embarked on missions to set up radar around the world. After dutiful service, he became disabled and lost the use of both his hands.

Mr. McCurtis is a member of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Edwards, Mississippi, where he serves as a dedicated Trustee. His membership at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church began during childhood under the leadership of his grandfather, Sam Butler, who was the second minister of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.

Mr. McCurtis is happily married to his wife of 45 years, Mrs. Christine E. McCurtis. They have four children: Theodore, Jr., Martin Lloyd, Andrea Denise, and Sharon Denise McCurtis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Theodore McCurtis for his honorable service to our country.

RECOGNIZING CHESTER STANLEY LOBODZINSKI

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before you and my colleagues today to recognize Chester Stanley Lobodzinski. Chester has dedicated his life to serving the community of Northwest Indiana. His outstanding dedication put forth toward public service has allowed him the opportunity to enrich the lives of countless individuals.

For his tremendous passion to serve those in need and to encourage others to do the same, Chester is a true leader and an inspiration. He has accomplished so much throughout his life and I am grateful for his numerous contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana. Chester, a retired steelworker, founded the American Steelworkers National Day, a day that honors steelworkers who have been committed to improving the quality of life for people in Northwest Indiana. Chester is also the founder of the local chapter of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Old-Timers, an organization that brings people together through public service. Another project that Chester has organized and developed is the Hammond Tech Appreciation Society, which recognizes and honors the faculty and alumni of Hammond Tech High School. In addition to these wonderful organizations, Chester is also a member of American Legion Post 261 in Cedar Lake, Indiana, and has given much of his time to the Crown Point Little League and the Chester Stanley Lobodzinski Hope Foundation for cancer patients, among others. Chester's unwavering perseverance and his enthusiastic outlook when it comes to community service is to be admired, and he is worthy of our highest praise.

Chester's dedication to public service and the community of Northwest Indiana is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing family. Chester and his lovely wife, Lurene, have been happily married for almost fifty years. They raised four beloved children: Cathy, Stan, Tim, and the late Anita, and have

two adoring grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, Chester Lobodzinski has always given his time and efforts generously and compassionately. I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring him for his exceptional charitable work. Chester continues to touch the lives of countless people, and for his unselfish, lifelong commitment, he is to be commended.

HONORING CHARLES T. "CHUCK" KENNEDY

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. Charles T. "Chuck" Kennedy on the occasion of his retirement with the National Security Agency, NSA, after 31 years of distinguished service.

As Chief of the Office of Contracting at NSA, Mr. Kennedy has been responsible for about 36,000 contracting actions per year. His expertise has been used in joint NSA initiatives with other countries and foreign contractors. Mr. Kennedy is also a member of NSA's Power, Space, and Cooling Triage Team. This cross-functional team, made up of leaders throughout the NSA Washington Enterprise, ensures that high-priority mission requirements receive the necessary power and cooling to function.

Mr. Kennedy is also a member of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence Procurement Executive Council. This interagency team examines procurement challenges, helps streamline processes and establishes contracts.

Mr. Kennedy spent his entire career in the contracting field, graduating from his internship in 1983. Over the years, Mr. Kennedy progressed through various management levels that included Chief of the Signals Intelligence Directorate/Research & Development Contracting Office, Chief of the Information Technology Enterprise Contracting Office, Chief of the Mission Support Contracting Office and Chief of the Cost and Economic Analysis Contracting Office.

Mr. Kennedy is a recipient of the Meritorious Civilian Service Award. This is NSA's second highest honorary award, given only to extraordinary individual achievements of major significance to NSA, the Department of Defense, or the United States Government.

Mr. Kennedy holds two Masters of Science Degrees, a Bachelors of Science Degree and is a graduate of the NSA Senior Cryptologic Course. His certifications include Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act Certified Level 4—Acquisition Corps and NSA Logistician. He holds an unlimited Contracting Officer warrant.

Mr. Kennedy and his wife Patti have been married for 34 years. They have three sons and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mr. Kennedy. His long and dedicated service to the United States government is an inspiration to all of us. It is with great pride that I congratulate Mr. Kennedy on his retirement and wish him the best of luck in the future.

RECOGNIZING MR. CALVIN DICKERSON FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICE THROUGHOUT HIS COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable and honorable man, Mr. Calvin Dickerson. Mr. Dickerson has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to serve. He is currently a 56-year-old resident of Rolling Fork, Mississippi, where he volunteers countless hours to the Mississippi Christian Family Services.

Mr. Dickerson is well known at Mississippi Christian Family Services and throughout the community for his hard work, dedication, reliability, and kind deeds. His work at Mississippi Christian Family Services includes making sure families in need of quality social services are provided for in a kindly, comforting, and proficient manner.

Mr. Dickerson volunteers with the Rolling Fork Fire Department, Police Department, and assists the security guards with the Sharkey County Sheriff Department at football and basketball games at the local public and private high schools.

He has the opportunity to serve as an assistant tour guide at the two most popular events that are held each year: the Great Delta Festival held in May and the Bear Festival held in October. He enjoys helping the tour guide show students from local schools the different bear carvings and the stations that are set up to inform students about how the event originated and other important features.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dynamic servant of the community, Mr. Calvin Dickerson for his dedication to service throughout his community.

KHAN ACADEMY PROJECT

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of the House to the recent innovative vision developed by the Khan Academy, a non-profit educational organization. The organization's mission aims to decrease the disparity of educational resources, by using the internet as a tool to revolutionize the way we approach knowledge. In their attempt to mobilize a free, world-class education, they have compiled over 2,700 videos in the subjects of math, biology, chemistry, physics, history and art. The production of these videos is helping adults and children fill in gaps of knowledge they either forgot or never learned. I know that the Khan Academy recognizes the importance of technology in education and I commend them for their effort to develop creative strategies to help our children learn.

Salman Khan is the founder and visionary of the Khan Academy project. After graduating from Massachusetts Institution of Technology,

he pursued a career in finance and quit his job in 2009. While he assisted his cousin with the subject of mathematics, he designed tutorial videos and eventually published them online. He received a successful response from over 20,000 users, which ultimately led to his interest in crafting a media tool that would help revamp traditional classroom techniques. Currently, the Khan Academy receives about \$2 million in support and continues to expand videos and programs. Most recently, the organization decided to make the material available in community colleges and charter schools in the United States.

By recognizing the importance of technology in education, we have a responsibility to make sure that more people have access to the internet. If we fail to pave the road for this access to pioneering technologies, we run the risk of furthering economic disparities and barriers to equal education. I encourage my colleagues to become familiar with the Khan Academy's website and use the fresh approaches in technology to elevate their knowledge about the world.

RECOGNIZING GEORGE THIEL

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to recognize one of Northwest Indiana's most dedicated and selfless citizens, Mr. George Thiel, of Griffith, Indiana. After serving the people of Griffith as a firefighter for sixty years, the last twenty-nine of which he served as the department's Fire Chief, George retired from service at the beginning of 2012. In recognition of Mr. Thiel's service to his community, not only as a firefighter but also for his commitment to serving his community in many other capacities, a party was held in his honor on Sunday, January 8, 2012.

George was born March 20, 1926, in Saint John, Indiana, and learned the meaning of dedication and hard work on his family's farm. To this day, George still enjoys farming. After graduating from Dyer Central High School, George entered the Army, where he was quickly promoted to Sergeant for the 99th Infantry Division. During his military service, he participated in the Battle of the Bulge and earned a Purple Heart Medal. George was honorably discharged from the Army in 1945 and began his first career as a home builder, retiring from that position in 1990. Shortly after beginning his first career, George found his true love and married Peggy Vestal in 1951. He then found his other true love and joined the Griffith Fire Department in 1952. George and Peggy were blessed to have three children: Mike, Larry, and Sandy, who have given them six wonderful grandchildren. George remained dedicated to his family and his career and was promoted to Fire Chief in 1983, a post he retained until his retirement.

Of all the awards and highlights of a sixty-year firefighting career, George can be most proud of the public educational work he has accomplished and the countless lives he has saved. George has saved many lives simply through his initiative to provide Griffith residents with smoke detectors, carbon monoxide

detectors, and fire extinguishers at no cost to the resident. Additionally, George has passed on much of his knowledge and expertise to so many firefighters that Griffith will benefit for generations to come.

Aside from his incredible sixty years of service on the fire department, George's contributions to the Northwest Indiana community extend to numerous youth organizations that were fortunate to have George's coaching and mentoring skills. George continues to enjoy volunteering and watching all Griffith High School football and basketball games. George also remains an instrumental teacher to the people of Griffith by sharing his knowledge of the rich tradition and history of the town.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Mr. George Thiel for his lifetime of leadership, service, and dedication to the residents of Griffith, Indiana. He has touched the lives of countless citizens, and his commitment to the safety of his community and to the improvement of the quality of life for the people of Griffith is to be admired.

RECOGNIZING MS. LELA BUIE FOR HER PERSISTENCE DESPITE DISABILITY AND DEDICATION TO SERVE OTHERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable person with disability, Ms. Lela Buie. Born on June 26, 1938, in Jefferson County, Fayette, Mississippi, she is the youngest of four children to the late Eda and Jude Sims. Her early years of education began at Ledall Elementary School and she later attended Elcorn in Lorman, Mississippi, and received her General Education Diploma.

Ms. Buie was employed at the Mississippi Department of Labor for 17 years before retiring to take care of her children.

Ms. Buie has two daughters, Sarah and Shirley Buie, and four sons, G.C. Buie, Jr., Edward Charles, Jude, and Robert Ander.

Ms. Buie is happy to have seen her loving children grow up to be successful and has a host of nieces and nephews that love and care for her. Ms. Buie is a longtime member of Rosehill Church #2.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Lela Buie for her dedication to serving others in her disability.

RECOGNIZING THE SELECTION OF MR. TRACY HOWARD FOR THE ARMY ALL-AMERICAN GAME

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the accomplishments of Mr. Tracy Howard, Jr. of Miramar, Florida. Mr. Howard was selected to play in the 2012 Army All-American game on January 7, 2012. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate him on this great honor, and to recognize all of his extraordinary achievements.

Mr. Howard is a star cornerback for the Miramar High School Patriots. Thanks in part to his proficient coverage skills, the Patriots finished runner up in the Florida High School Athletic Association's Class 8A Football Finals. While the team is full of talented players, college football coaches across the country rate Mr. Howard as one of the best prospects in the country.

As an indication of his talents, Mr. Howard has received numerous honors and awards. He was recently named a first-team Sports Illustrated.com All-American. In addition to playing in the Army All-American game, he was a finalist for both the U.S. Army All-American Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year Awards.

Mr. Speaker, Tracy Howard is an extremely talented athlete. His success is just one example of how talent, hard work, and dedication can help people achieve their dreams. I am honored to commend Mr. Howard on his accomplishments, and wish him the best of luck as he continues his football and academic career at the collegiate level.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE MICHAEL
E. SMITH MIDDLE SCHOOL'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the 50th anniversary of the building of the Michael E. Smith Middle School in South Hadley, Massachusetts. The school was built in 1961 and was dedicated on January 14, 1962.

The school is celebrating this milestone with an assembly on the morning of January 18, 2012. The assembly will feature several important faculty members who will be speaking, including Principal Erica Faginski-Stark and Walter Morse, a teacher who has worked at the school for 40 years. In addition, Superintendent Sayer, Former Principal Noel, and State Representative John Scibak will all be speaking at this historic event.

The Michael E. Smith Middle School is a public school in the South Hadley school district of Massachusetts. The school has gone by several names, beginning with the South Hadley Intermediate School upon the building's completion in 1962. In 1978, the school's name was changed to the South Hadley Middle School. With this name change came two new grade levels. The fifth and sixth grades were added to the seventh and eighth grades to double the school's classes. In 2002, the school changed its name for the final time, commemorating the late Michael E. Smith, a past superintendent.

For the last decade, the school has undergone several renovations, including the completion of a new building and an extensive remodeling of the interior. Currently, 700 students in the South Hadley School District are educated at the Michael E. Smith Middle School, with a faculty and staff of 104. Ms. Erica Faginski-Stark is the current Principal of the school, and the Assistant Principals are Mr. Vincent Napoli and Ms. Brett Costello.

I wish to congratulate the Michael E. Smith Middle School on providing 50 years of quality

education. I wish them good luck in educating the children of South Hadley for years to come.

HONORING THE MAYOR OF THE
CITY OF GARY, KAREN FREEMAN-
WILSON

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and the deepest respect that I rise today to honor one of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished citizens, the Mayor of the City of Gary, Indiana, Karen Freeman-Wilson. Born and raised in Gary, Karen is truly one of the most passionate and involved individuals that I have ever known, especially when it comes to serving the people of Gary. Mayor Freeman-Wilson's first term began this year, and in doing so, she took her place in history as the first female mayor of the City.

Karen Freeman was born in Gary, Indiana; her father, a steelworker, and her mother, the coordinator of a local community center. Both took great pride in their city and were heavily involved in their community, and it was through their example that Karen learned the importance of hard work and public service from a young age. Karen credits her parents with teaching her that "to whom much is given, much shall be required," and it is with this ideal in mind that she has accomplished so much throughout her distinguished career.

Following her graduation from Harvard Law School, Karen quickly realized that working in a law firm was not what she was meant to do. Rather, her calling was public service. Throughout her esteemed career, Mayor Freeman-Wilson has held many posts. From 1995 to 2000, she served as a presiding judge for the Gary City Court, during which time she established the first drug treatment court in the State of Indiana. In 2000, Governor Frank O'Bannon appointed Karen to serve as Attorney General for the State of Indiana. After leaving office, Karen continued to work for the public in various capacities. She has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, the Executive Director of the National Drug Court Institute, the Director of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, and as a member of the board of directors for Hythiam, Inc. Mayor Freeman-Wilson has also been involved with numerous other organizations and charitable groups, including: the American Bar Association, the Indiana State Bar Association, Legal Services of Northwest Indiana, the Gary Chamber of Commerce, and the Second Chance Foundation, an organization aimed and combating substance abuse, for which she is a founding member. She is also very active in her church, Israel C.M.E. Church.

For her many contributions to her community, the State of Indiana, and beyond, the Mayor has received countless accolades. To name a few, she was recognized by Ebony magazine as a Leader of the Future, by the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority with the National Award for Achievement in Civil Rights, and is an inductee into the Stanley Goldstein Drug Court Hall of Fame. In addition, she is a recipient of the prestigious Sagamore of the Wa-

bash, awarded by former Indiana Governors Evan Bayh and Frank O'Bannon.

A devoted wife and mother, Karen's passion for serving the people of Gary is matched only by her love for her family. Karen and her husband, Carmen, are the proud parents of a daughter, Jordan. Karen and Carmen have reinforced the same sense of responsibility and civic pride in their daughter that Karen learned from her parents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson as she begins her first term as the Mayor of Gary. She is to be commended for her leadership, dedication, and her love for the people of Gary. Karen serves as a true inspiration to those she serves, and I look forward working with her in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND LARRY
WILLIAMS FOR HIS HONORABLE
SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran, Reverend Larry Williams. Reverend Williams has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to make a positive difference in doing God's will.

Reverend Williams, a resident of Mayersville, Mississippi, was born May 25, 1953, to Paul and Gracie Williams in Clarksdale, Mississippi. He enlisted in the United States Army December 7, 1972, and served until January 1993.

Reverend Williams completed his graduation through the Army Program while in Germany. Later, he attended the University of Maryland and earned his Associates Degree from Central Texas College.

He is married to Terry Williams. Together, they have one son, Dominique Williams. Reverend Williams was installed as Pastor at Saint Peter Missionary Baptist Church in December 2006. It is his passion to minister to those who are lost.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend Larry Williams for his dedication and service to our great country.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

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 \$15,236,323,396,400.44. We've added \$10,434,918,221,106.16 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.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life, and, unfortunately, his untimely death, reminds us that we must continually work to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. In particular, several distinguished individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District were recognized during the 33rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Saturday, January 14, 2012, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, which was founded in 1952, sponsors this annual breakfast.

This year, the Gary Frontiers Service Club paid tribute to several local individuals who have for decades unselfishly contributed to improving the quality of life for the people of Gary. Mayor Rudolph Clay was honored with the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award for 2012. The individuals recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast included: Attorney Arlene D. Colvin, Mr. Richard (Chappy) Woods, Pastor Dwight A. Gardner, Ms. Sandra Jean Irons, Colonel (Retired) Richard D. Ligon, and Bishop E. Bobby Warren. Yolkfellow James Piggee was selected as the 2011 Frontier of the Year. In addition, the club also inducted its first Honorary Member, Reverend Pharis D. Evans, Pastor of Clark Road Baptist Church in Gary, for his many years of service to the Gary Frontiers Service Club. Though very different in nature, the achievement of all these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and faced them with unwavering strength and determination. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with "a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." They set goals and work selflessly to make them a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast Chairman Clorius L. Lay and the Gary Frontiers Service Club officers: President Oliver J. Gilliam, Vice President Sean Jones, 1st Vice President James Piggee, Recording Secretary Melvin Ward, Financial Secretary Sam Frazier, Corresponding Secretary Ferba Hines and Treasurer/Seventh District Director Floyd Donaldson, as well as the honorees and all other members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to serving the people of Northwest Indiana.

RECOGNIZING MS. KIMBERLY
SMITH FOR HER DESIRE AND
COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a faithful and tenacious young woman, Ms. Kimberly Smith. She has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a boundless desire to achieve.

Ms. Smith is a lifelong resident of Mayersville, Mississippi, and is the third of seven children born to Melvin and Emma Smith.

Ms. Smith was the salutatorian of her 1999 South Delta High School class. She attended Jackson State University, where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. Graduating with honors from Jackson State in 2003, she began teaching at South Delta Elementary School. She taught both second and fourth grade during her short tenure.

In 2004, Ms. Smith was in a car accident that would change her life forever. After her accident, she decided the only thing to keep her going was her drive for education; for that reason, she pursued and obtained her Masters of Education degree. In 2008, she received her Masters of Education with "Honors" from Delta State University. Ms. Smith lives by the motto, "Saved by Grace, spared by Mercy."

Ms. Smith is an active member of Rising Star Seven Day Adventist, where she serves as Youth Director.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a humble but dynamic servant, Ms. Kimberly Smith for her unwavering desire to education.

IN MEMORY OF MAYOR BOB
WASSERMAN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of the Mayor of Fremont, California, Bob Wasserman. The residents of Fremont and communities throughout California and beyond mourn the loss of this dedicated public servant who passed away on December 29, 2011.

Mayor Wasserman was born in Gary, Indiana, and moved to California and attended public schools in the Los Angeles area. He became a Police Officer in the City of Montebello, California, and was appointed to the position of Chief of Police in San Carlos, California in 1969 where he served for three years. He was appointed Chief of Police in Fremont in January 1976 and retired in 1992.

In 1992, Mayor Wasserman was elected to the Fremont City Council and served until 2004. He was elected Mayor in 2004 and currently held that position.

Mayor Wasserman's 40-year career in law enforcement included appointments in Southern California and a term as president of the

California Peace Officers' Association. He has been recognized by the California State Senate for outstanding public service and was the recipient of the Law Enforcement Executive of the Year Award.

His numerous affiliations include Past President of the California Peace Officer's Association, California Police Chief's Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police, Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training and Police Executive Research Forum.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Police Science and Administration from California State University, Los Angeles and received his Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California.

Mayor Wasserman is survived by his wife of 53 years, Linda, and their two children, Dan and Jill. I join the community extending heartfelt sympathy to the family, colleagues and friends of Mayor Wasserman. He served with honor and distinction and his many positive contributions to make a difference in the lives of others have left an indelible mark and will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF RUBEN
AYALA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to pay tribute to a devoted public servant, Ruben Ayala. Ruben, a former State Senator from California passed away on January 4, 2012, at the age of eighty-nine.

Ruben was born and raised in segregated Chino, California, to Hispanic parents. During his youth, he attended Chino High School and was widely respected for his strong athletic ability. After high school, Ruben served honorably in the 1st Marine Division in the South Pacific during World War II.

After his service in the Marine Corps, Ruben attended the National Electronic Institute of Los Angeles, where he studied television repair. It was during this time that he met his beloved wife, Irene. Ruben worked in television repair in Chino, and later the insurance industry, until starting his political career in 1955 with his election to the school board.

In 1962, Ruben continued his career as a city councilman in Chino. Two years later, in 1964, Ruben became Chino's first elected mayor, where he began to leave his lasting impression on the community. From 1974 until 1998, Ruben served admirably as a State Senator, becoming the first Mexican-American to serve in the Senate since 1911.

I had the privilege of knowing Ruben and Irene personally. I also had the honor of serving with Ruben in the California State Legislature. During our service together, I quickly discovered that Ruben was widely respected by both Democrats and Republicans, who looked to him for advice and counsel because of his ability to lead and his hard working reputation. Ruben's success as a Senator opened doors for Latinos and Latinas in California. Ruben encouraged and inspired me to run for his Senate seat, when his career ended due to term limits.

In our time working together on important water and transportation issues, I saw firsthand Ruben's commitment to improving the quality of life for area residents. His immense passion and devotion for his hometown led him to create legislation to build the Peripheral Canal as well as to establish the California Conservation Corps. Through his commitment to public service, Ruben inspired hope for a better future for the next generation. Due to his remarkable service to Chino, a High School was named in his honor, as well as a park in Chino.

Ruben was preceded by the death of his wife, Irene in 2008. He is survived by his sons; Bud, Maurice, and Gary. He leaves with cherished memories a loving family of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. My thoughts and prayers, along with those of my wife, Barbara, and my children, Mayor pro tem Joe Baca Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer are with Ruben's family at this time. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring a beloved community member and tireless advocate, Ruben Ayala.

RECOGNIZING MR. KELVIN DASHUN BROWN FOR HIS DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable disabled individual, Mr. Kelvin Dashun Brown. Mr. Brown is a lifelong resident of the City of Mound Bayou in the Mississippi Delta.

He was born on September 21, 1977, with cerebral palsy and is a spastic quadriplegic. At birth his parents were told that he would not live beyond the age of two years old and if he did, he would be in a vegetative state.

Mr. Brown has proved the doctors incorrect. He started his education at the age of two at Delta House Child Development and the Bolivar County Demonstration Center in Cleveland, Mississippi. At the age of four, he was enrolled in the Mound Bayou Head Start Program. At the age of six, he was enrolled in the I.T. Montgomery Elementary School. Upon completing his education there, he enrolled at John F. Kennedy High School, where he remained until graduating in May of 1997. While a student at John F. Kennedy High School, he was a member of the Student Council and served as class representative and was elected vice-president during his junior year.

Mr. Brown worked for the City of Mound Bayou Police for eight years as a certified dispatcher and was promoted to Sergeant. Serving as Volunteer Youth Activities Coordinator for the City of Mound Bayou Police for the past seven years, he has coordinated and raised funds for annual back-to-school giveaways of school supplies, cookouts, toy drives, and monthly story hours for youths. He has held numerous preventative activities at the local school districts in the City of Mound Bayou and the City of Shelby to forge relationships with local school districts, youths and local police departments. Mr. Brown has received many accolades and awards for his youth and community endeavors.

He is an active member of Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, where he serves with the Usher Ministry.

Mr. Brown is the oldest son of Eugene Brown and Joann Brown. He lives his life by this motto: "It is what it is". In other words, his condition cannot stop him from being an asset to society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Kelvin Dashun Brown for his dedication to serving his community and youths in the Mississippi Delta.

HONORING UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT BRIAN LEONHARDT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense gratitude and deep sadness that I wish to commend United States Army Sergeant Brian Leonhardt for his bravery and his willingness to fight for his country. Sergeant Leonhardt, a member of the Indiana National Guard assigned to the 713th Engineer Company, 81st Troop Command out of Valparaiso, Indiana, was killed in the Kandahar Province of Afghanistan, along with three other members of the Indiana National Guard, when their vehicle struck an improvised explosive device on Friday, January 6, 2012. The sacrifice of Sergeant Leonhardt, as well as that of his fellow Guard members, will be forever remembered by those they fought to protect.

Born in Crown Point, Indiana and a resident of Merrillville, Indiana, Brian graduated from Hammond Baptist High School in Hammond, Indiana. Friends and family remember him as an athlete who loved to play basketball and an avid fan of the Miami Heat. A man of faith, Brian attended services at First Baptist Church of Hammond.

After his graduation, Brian joined the Indiana Army National Guard and completed his basic training and advanced individual training at Fort Leonard Wood, where he was recognized as the honor graduate of his class. One of eight children, it is evident that Brian was raised with a deep sense of patriotism. In fact, three of his brothers are also military veterans. For Sergeant Leonhardt's unwavering love for his country, as well as his extraordinary skill and commitment as a member of the Indiana National Guard, he received numerous military awards and honors.

Sergeant Leonhardt leaves behind a loving family that will forever cherish his memory. He is survived by his devoted wife Dianne, adoring parents Marie and Robert, brothers Charles, Randall, Robert III, Anthony, and Trevor, and sisters Theresa and Jacqueline. He also leaves behind many other friends and family members, as well as a saddened but proud community and a grateful nation. While the loss of Sergeant Leonhardt is a tremendous tragedy, and there is much sadness for a brilliant future cut far too short, the impact he has had on his family, friends, and community will leave a lasting impression.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Sergeant Brian Leonhardt. Sergeant Leonhardt sacrificed his life in service to his

country, and his passing serves as an unfortunate, yet all too familiar reminder of the realities of war. Sergeant Leonhardt will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country. Thus, let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

RICHARD L. MAHACEK

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Mahacek in the event of his retirement after four decades of service with Merced County and the University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources Cooperative Extension.

Richard began his youth development career in 1975 in the California Counties of Sonoma, Napa and San Benito as a 4-H Assistant implementing youth programs. Richard then moved on to Merced County where he became responsible for the development, implementation and evaluation of 4-H educational programs as the 4-H Youth Development Advisor. He has continued in this assignment for over 35 years. In 2005, he also assumed the role of Merced County Director for all Cooperative Extension programs.

In addition to his work with Merced County, Richard became the California statewide 4-H contact for Mechanical Science/Engineering project areas beginning in 1995. Richard's involvement and direction for the Mechanical Sciences and Engineering projects stems from his interest, degrees and credentials in Industrial Arts and Technology. His curiosity in technology was fostered in his youth by participating in electrical, woodworking and safety projects as a 4-H member in Sonoma County. His work over the years has included development of curriculum and activities in science processes, robotics, computers, GIS/GPS, biosecurity, and environmental issues such as watersheds and wildlife habitats. He has provided numerous workshops and training sessions on science processes, inquiry and experiential learning as implemented through various 4-H curricula locally, statewide and nationally.

Richard has partnered with other groups to extend technology programs including the California Girls Collaborative, Challenger Learning Centers, Merced County Office of Education, the California Division of Recycling, 4-H/Military Kids program, Society of Women Engineers, 21st Century Community Learning Centers and state supported after school programs. He serves on the executive board of the Challenger Learning Center of the San Joaquin Valley and is a member of the California Industrial and Technology Education Association and the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association.

Richard has been married to his beautiful wife Susan for over 32 years. Together they have three grown children. Their son Mark works for an office of education working in computer networking and technology support and his wife Marissa is a teacher in Planada. Paul is a mechanical engineer who is working on an ocean acidification research project in the South of France and his wife Lindsay is an

Accountant. Their daughter Anne is a mechanical engineer who is working on a Masters program in Mechatronics.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Richard Mahacek for his years of dedication to the 4-H students and program.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AWARDS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary recipients of the 2012 Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce Awards. The Androscoggin Chamber has an outstanding record of creating and providing opportunities that promote economic and community growth in the communities that make up the heart of Central Maine.

Every year, the Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce honors some of the outstanding individuals that work hard each and every day to make the Lewiston/Auburn region a better place to do business. Their efforts to strengthen opportunity and prosperity in Maine are remarkable, and the whole community benefits from the example of their success.

This year's award recipients include Agren Appliance and Baxter Brewing, Business Leadership Awards; Steve Closson of Androscoggin Bank, the Ray Geiger Award; L/A Cash Coalition and L/A Art Walk, Community Service Awards; Pike Industries, the Poland Business Award; Auburn Chief of Police and Acting City Manager Phil Crowell, the Public Service Leadership Award; Healthy Androscoggin, the Education Award; Industrial Roofing, the Cool Chamber Award; Lewiston Career Center, the Ken Addition Award for Business Advocacy; Center Street Dental, New Member of the Year; and, Northeastern Charter and Tours, and the Library Café, President's Awards.

These businesses, individuals, and organizations are among the very best that the Androscoggin County region has to offer. Thanks to the contributions of this year's award winners, Androscoggin County is a great place to work and live. I wish them all continued success going forward.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the recipients of the 2012 Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce Awards.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND ELIJAH
EASON FOR HIS HONORABLE
SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND
COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran

and man of God, Reverend Elijah Eason. He has served his community through hard work and Christian leadership.

Reverend Eason, a resident of Rolling Fork, Mississippi, was born October 31, 1965, to Frank and Maggie Eason in Washington County, Mississippi. He was the youngest child born to this union.

Following his graduation from Rolling Fork High School in 1984, he enlisted in the United States Army, where he served for four years. After returning home from the military, he met and married Angelia Michelle Bush in 1992.

In 2001, he devoted his life to Christ and was ordained a Baptist minister. For nine years, he led the flock of the Mount Lula Missionary Baptist Church and served there with great spiritual devotion. Reverend Eason always had a joke or a parable that would make you smile. He had true and genuine love for people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend Elijah Eason for his dedication to serving our great Country and his community

PHILIP D. PROVENCHER

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Philip Provencher of Dunbarton, New Hampshire, on receiving the French Legion of Honor. It is truly a prestigious distinction to be appointed a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor by the President of France, Nicolas Sarkozy. Throughout history, France has been a strong ally to the United States and it is greatly appreciated that they continue to recognize the heroic acts of the brave men and women of our Armed Forces, and for the sacrifices and service performed to assist the French people during World War II.

As a member of the U.S. Army's First Infantry Division, Philip joined with allied forces on D-Day to help liberate France from the Germans by carrying a 50 lb. mortar on his back through the turbulent tides of the English Channel, to help support ground forces on Omaha Beach. As a translator for his unit, "Frenchy" then marched with his fellow soldiers through France, Belgium, and Germany. His valiant efforts during this campaign also earned him a Bronze Star for rescuing a wounded friend while under enemy fire.

These are but a few examples of the heroic and courageous acts Mr. Provencher performed in service to his country during WWII and I join with President Sarkozy and Governor Lynch in congratulating Philip on this esteemed recognition. On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank him for his dedicated service to our country.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT
OF SANDY HOPP FROM THE
COUNTY OF STANISLAUS

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Sandy Hopp in the event of her retirement from Stanislaus County.

Sandy Hopp has been an employee of the County of Stanislaus since January 2003. She was recruited to work as a Field Representative for Supervisor Jeff Grover, a position she held for eight years. She is currently the Field Representative to Supervisor Terry Withrow, representing Supervisorial District Three. After being hired, she quickly increased in responsibilities and exhibited a great skill in working with people in all walks of life. She is often the eyes, ears and voice of her elected Supervisor, and represents the Supervisor in venues such as the Salida Municipal Advisory Committee, the Weed and Seed Project and other community meetings and organizations.

Mrs. Hopp has a tremendous understanding of government operations and serves as an outstanding interface between the Supervisors' Office, County departments, the community and various state and federal organizations. In her role, Mrs. Hopp quickly developed a passion for the area of legislative and governmental affairs. She was selected as a liaison to a French delegation visiting Stanislaus County, she serves as the coordinator of Government Day for the elite Leadership Modesto program and she was a coordinator of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Association of California Counties Supervisors Association Annual Meeting.

Mrs. Hopp is an outstanding liaison with the offices of local, state and federal elected officials. A personal highlight of mine is when Stanislaus County officials visit Washington, D.C. to present projects and priorities. Mrs. Hopp coordinates extremely complex schedules for maximum efficiency of the trip and also serves as an outstanding liaison to Congressional offices. Visiting with Mrs. Hopp on these trips is always a highlight for my staff and for me personally.

Mrs. Hopp has a personal commitment to excellence and a strong faith which is central to whom she is as a person and to her service to her family, church and community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mrs. Sandy Hopp for her many years of dedication to the County of Stanislaus.

RECOGNIZING ELDER HENRY
SMILEY FOR HIS DEDICATION
AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable and honorable man, Elder Henry Smiley. A lifelong resident of Copiah County, Mississippi, he has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve.

Elder Smiley graduated from Breckenridge Job Corps Center in Morganfield, Kentucky, in 1977. After graduation, he accepted God's call on his life to minister.

March 13, 1978, changed his life forever and provided a monumental challenge to his faith and his zeal for life. He suffered a devastating accident while working at a local saw mill. Although paralyzed from the waist down, he maintained a soaring spirit and even stronger love for the Lord.

He is a tireless and tenacious worker who lives a life of service to others and to his God. Elder Smiley has served on the "Spirit Team" at the Methodist Rehabilitation Center where he motivates and encourages others with spinal injuries. He is also a member of the Copiah Chapter of NAACP, Chaplain of the Hazlehurst Parent-Teacher Association and volunteers at high school football games in traffic control and gate security. From 2002 to 2005, he served as a role model and discussion leader at the Mississippi Job Corp Center and he is the Vice President of the Benevolent Fund of the Copiah County Ministerial Alliance and the Transportation Committee.

Elder Smiley and his wife, Cora, have four children. He is an Ordained Minister and Elder at New Cathedral of Worship in Hazlehurst, Mississippi. He serves as an officer on the Church's Executive Board with responsibility as Director of Maintenance, Property and Logistics.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a humble but dynamic servant, Elder Henry Smiley, for his service to the community.

HONORING ERIC MERKELY

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Eric Merkely, a 17-year-old student at Salem Hills High School. This remarkable young man was recently diagnosed with a form of cancer found in his leg called osteosarcoma. The cancer quickly spread into the surrounding muscle, bone, and nerves to the point that Eric had to undergo extensive surgery. While this surgery saved his life, it also took his leg.

For most people this experience would be considered a tragic loss. However, Eric has grown from the experience and greatly impacted his school and community. Even though many were concerned about his health, Eric turned his illness into an opportunity to give back to those less fortunate than himself. He raised money by selling wristbands and donated the proceeds to a children's hospital.

I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of a young man who turned his personal trials into an opportunity to give to those less fortunate and who is great example for the community.

IN HONOR OF THE PREMIERE OF THE "RED TAILS" MOVIE ABOUT THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to an upcoming celebration of the Tuskegee Airmen, which will be held on January 20th when the George Lucas film "Red Tails" makes its national debut.

The movie will highlight the heroic Tuskegee Airmen who served our country with honor and distinction even though they faced great challenges back at home. The Tuskegee Airmen flew over 15,000 missions and were awarded the Congressional Medal in 2007.

Across Tuskegee and Alabama, friends will honor this tribute by wearing red and hanging red ribbons across the community. There will be a red ribbon hanging in my Washington, DC office as well.

In 1998, the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site at Moton Field in Macon County was established. This site draws people from all over to come and visit.

It is with deepest appreciation and honor that we celebrate the Tuskegee Airmen for the film "Red Tails" filmed in their honor. This tribute should be another great way to help continue to tell their story for generations to come.

CONGRATULATING THE SANTA MARGARITA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL EAGLES ON THEIR 2011 CIF STATE BOWL DIVISION AND 2011 CIF PAC-5 DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Santa Margarita Catholic High School Eagles on their 2011 CIF State Bowl Division and 2011 CIF PAC-5 Division Championships. Their 42-37 victory on December 16, 2011, is an achievement that will be remembered forever.

Winning a state championship is a remarkable achievement. This championship is a legacy that both Santa Margarita High School and each 2010-2011 Eagle player will always cherish. The Eagles and Coach Harry Welch, along with assistant coaches John Carpenter, Sean Coen, Dave Frazier, Paul Gomes, Joe Griffith, Wyatt Hart, Rob Hendricks, Mike Johnson, Jay Noonan, Kevin Orton, Brian Pearsall, Adrian Peters, Marty Spalding, Mike Walcott, Butch Ward and Monterio Witherspoon, know that success comes with teamwork and perseverance. The coaches rely upon team managers for expert assistance. Managers Haley Davin, Lauren Haydon, Rachel Imburgia and Sydney Martin were instrumental in the victory.

It is an honor to pay tribute to Santa Margarita High School and the entire Eagles football squad. The House of Representatives salutes each of you: Houston Agan, Matt Andersen, Reid Andrew, Ryan Andrew, Nick Begg, Tony Bone, Zach Bonte, Erik Bunte, Justin

Cabrera, Josh Canty, Grant Clancy, River Cracraft, Dane Crane, Kendall Czech, Ian Dewert, Frank DiPietro, Sean Donegan, David Dotson, Chris Frost, Ryan Gardner, Sammy Gibbs, Hunter Graham, Grady Higgins, Duncan Hume, Konner Kafentzis, Patrick Kennelly, Jack Kerry, Ryan Kilander, Jonathan LaBonty, Brenden Linzmeier, Cole Luther, Michael Della Maggiore, Austin Maihen, RJ Mazolewski, Joseph McGill, John McGrory, Brady McGuire, Sean McGuire, Alec McNiff, James McQuitty, Andrew Mendonca, Cory Mendoza, Sean Modster, Connor O'Brien, Mack Pierson, Luke Poutre, Taylor Prenevost, Ben Prukop, Blaine Rieger, Drake Schwenke, Riley Sorenson, Will Sorenson, Gian Carlo Spinosi, Johnny Stanton, Luke Stinson, Alex Suchesk, Randal Swain, Kyle Sweet, Max Tuerk, Alex Ury, Ryan Wolpin and Bradley Ydens.

Congratulations again to the Santa Margarita High School Eagles.

IN RECOGNITION OF GARY JONES

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize FEMA Region 6 Deputy Regional Administrator Gary Jones as he retires from public service. Mr. Jones retired at the end of 2011 after forty-six years of state and federal service.

Earning a Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of Arkansas and a Master's Degree in Public Health Administration from Tulane University, Mr. Jones began his public service with the State of Arkansas. This state career spanned thirteen years, including three years as the Director of Arkansas' Emergency Medical Services Program. He then went into federal service in 1977 with the U.S. Public Health Service where his role as Arkansas State Coordinator for Physician Recruitment to identify doctors, dentists and nurses for rural Arkansas communities federally designated as medically underserved.

In 1983 Mr. Jones joined FEMA and moved to Denton. By 1987 he was Branch Chief for Region 6 Technological Hazards Branch where he was responsible for the region's Radiological Emergency Preparedness, Radiological Defense, Hazardous Materials, Earthquake Preparedness, Hurricane Preparedness, Dam Safety and the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness programs.

In 1994 Mr. Jones was promoted to his current position as the FEMA Region 6 Deputy Regional Administrator, during which he served on five separate occasions as the FEMA Region 6 Acting Regional Administrator for a span of time that exceeded four years.

During the seventeen years he served as Deputy Regional Administrator, he provided executive leadership and oversight in over three hundred federally declared disasters including his roles as Deputy Principal Federal Official for Hurricane Rita (2005) and Federal Coordinating Officer for Hurricanes Katrina (2005) and Georges (1998) as well as service in Hurricane Andrew, the Oklahoma City bombing, the Columbia Space Shuttle disaster, Tropical Storm Allison, and the duration of 2008 which featured Hurricane Ike and proved to be a record-breaking year for the region in presidentially declared disasters. Several of these disasters have directly impacted

the 26th District of Texas, and with each I and my staff have come to rely on his timely and thorough briefings during which he patiently shared the progress and challenges unique to each situation.

As Mr. Jones enters retirement, the region loses a reliable and dedicated public servant. I wish for him many well-earned years to spend time with his wife Mary, daughter Shea Hutchison, and his granddaughter. I am honored to represent Gary Jones and FEMA Region 6 in Washington, D.C., and on behalf of the constituents of the 26th District of Texas I rise to thank him for his service.

RECOGNIZING KENT CONINE AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF TEXAS AND THE CAUSE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize Kent Conine of Dallas, TX. Mr. Conine has spent his career working to provide affordable housing for the citizens of the great State of Texas. As a homebuilder, Mr. Conine has made significant and lasting contributions to his local community and the housing industry. President of Conine Residential Group, Mr. Conine has helped thousands of Texans fulfill their American Dream of homeownership.

However, his efforts extend beyond his personal business. Mr. Conine has served as Chairman of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), on the Board of Directors Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas, and as President of the Texas Association of Builders, the National Association of State of Housing Boards, and the National Association of Homebuilders.

This evening in Austin, Texas the Texas Affiliation of Affordable Housing Providers is honoring Mr. Conine for his years of service and unwavering dedication to the people of Texas. I wish to join them in thanking Kent for everything he has done, and continues to do, to promote the American Dream of homeownership in Texas.

HONORING THE SAINT XAVIER UNIVERSITY COUGARS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2011 NAIA CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Saint Xavier University for winning the 2011 NAIA National Football Championship. I am very proud of Head Coach Mike Feminis and the SXU Cougars for defeating reigning champion Carroll College 24–20 and bringing back the Chicago area's first collegiate football national championship since 1913.

Congratulations are also in order for long-time Athletics Director Bob Hallberg, University President Christine Wiseman, and all the faculty, staff, and students at Saint Xavier, Chicago's oldest Catholic University, which is located in the Third District in the Mt. Greenwood neighborhood and in Orland Park.

The Cougars fielded a balanced team all year. They stifled opponents' offenses with an experienced defense and confused the opposition's defenses with a fast-paced spread offense. Senior captains Patrick Appino and Michael Prosser led one of the top defenses in the country, holding Carroll's running back, the NAIA player of the year, to only 57 yards rushing in the championship game. On offense, local standouts Shane Zackery and Wes Gastel combined for 13 receptions and 109 yards receiving. Zackery and Gastel also provided quarterback Jimmy Coy and the rest of the offense favorable field position on several occasions with four kick returns for 113 yards. This balanced attack has been Coach Feminis' recipe for success all season long.

I am proud to have the Cougars call my district home, not only because they are the best NAIA football team in the country, but also because they embody all the best attributes of true student-athletes. Coach Feminis is proud of the familial atmosphere he creates in the team's facilities and the emphasis he places on academics. I am certain the tradition of success Coach Feminis has established will continue for a long time at SXU.

Please join me in honoring these hard-working, dedicated, and honorable men for a memorable season and bringing a championship home to Chicago.

HONORING SGT. GUY MELLOR

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the incredible service and dedication of Sgt.

Guy Mellor, a resident of Fayette, Utah and a real American hero. As he served his country as a member of the Utah Army National Guard, he set aside his personal aspirations of becoming a Civil Engineer to prepare for the Army's Best Warrior Competition Noncommissioned Officer for 2011. With much preparation he won the State, Regional, and National level competitions.

Sgt. Mellor had to compete against twelve Major Army Commands in a series of tests including physical fitness, marksmanship, battle drills, a written exam, and a board interview conducted by seven of the Army's top leaders. This is only the second time in the history of this competition that a National Guard Soldier has won this prestigious award.

I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of this valiant man who placed service to his country above that of his own ambitions. Sgt. Mellor is a great example of the men and women that are currently serving our country in various branches of the armed services. I am grateful to every one of them for the great sacrifice that they make every day.

IN MEMORY OF THE LIFE OF MR. JOCK SMITH

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the life of Mr. Jock Smith who passed away on January 8, 2012.

Mr. Smith was born in Manhattan, New York, on June 10, 1948, and graduated from Tuskegee University and later the University of Notre Dame Law School. He returned to Alabama after receiving his law degree.

Mr. Smith was an attorney and senior partner at the National Law Firm of Cochran, Cherry, Givens and Smith, P.C. He also worked as a sports agent for Cochran Sports Management, Assistant Attorney General of the State of Alabama and as a professor of political science at Tuskegee University.

Mr. Smith was a member of Christian Life Church in Montgomery, Alabama. He was married to Yvette Smiley-Smith and had a daughter Janay Johnson.

We honor the memory of Mr. Jock Smith today.