

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MRS. ALMA LEE  
THOMPSON-LEWIS FOR HER  
DEDICATION TO SERVICE

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. Alma Lee Thompson-Lewis. She was born in the rural town of Flora, Mississippi on September 6, 1930.

Mrs. Lewis received her early education at Good Hope Church and Christ Missionary Industrial Church School in Jackson, Mississippi. She earned her high school diploma from Camden Street School in Canton, Mississippi and Mrs. Lewis later furthered her studies at Mary Holmes College in West Point, Mississippi.

Born to Mr. Willie Lee Thompson and Mrs. Emma Deloris Cotton-Thompson, she is the eldest of four children. After the passing of both her parents in 1950, Mrs. Lewis, with the help of her grandparents, served as caregiver to her three siblings; Mrs. Lucille Thompson-Jamison, Mr. John Thompson and Mrs. Louise Thompson Eley-Sumler.

Mrs. Lewis has been a long-time community servant. She's worked many years with organizations in and around the Flora, Mississippi area. These organizations include the Magnolia Improvement Committee, The Ebony Group, Community Pride Groceries, the Madison County Civic Organization and the Order of the Eastern Star; an organization of which she is a member. She is a faithful and dedicated member of Fearn's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church where she has served as choir advisor, group captain and Sunday school teacher. Over the years, she has also been involved with many other community service projects, including serving as manager of the Magnolia Heights voting precinct.

Mrs. Lewis began to serve with the Mississippi Head Start Program as a carrier, where she used her family's station wagon to transport children to and from the Head Start Center in Flora, Mississippi. She was eventually certified to teach for the Head Start Program and finally promoted to Center Director, where she eventually retired in 1991.

She is the wife of Mr. Dan Lewis and mother to Mrs. Debra Thompson-Devine, Mr. Levi Lewis, Mr. Calvin Lewis, Mrs. Almarie Lewis-Winters, Mr. Sylvester Lewis, Emma Jean Lewis (deceased at six months of age), Mr. Howard Earl Lewis and Mrs. Sandra Lewis-Denton.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Alma Lee Thompson-Lewis for her life-long dedication to service and commitment to education.

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE  
DAVID CROCKETT

**HON. DANA ROHRBACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, below is the text of a detailed report of a speech given on the floor of the House of Representatives that I believe will be of interest to my colleagues. The description was included in a book titled "Speeches on the Passage of the Bill for the Removal of the Indians," published by Perkins and Marvin in 1830. The speech was given by Rep. David Crockett of Tennessee on May 19, 1830, in opposition to the Indian Removal Act. Unfortunately, the Congress disregarded Crockett's objections and passed the bill, which was then signed into law by President Jackson.

A SKETCH OF THE REMARKS OF THE HON. DAVID CROCKETT, REPRESENTATIVE FROM TENNESSEE, ON THE BILL FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE INDIANS, MADE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 1830

Mr. Crockett said, that, considering his very humble abilities, it might be expected that he should content himself with a silent vote; but, situated as he was, in relation to his colleagues, he felt it to be a duty to himself to explain the motives which governed him in the vote he should give on this bill. Gentlemen had already discussed the treaty-making power; and had done it much more ably than he could pretend to do. He should not therefore enter on that subject, but would merely make an explanation as to the reasons of his vote. He did not know whether a man (that is, a member of Congress) within 500 miles of his residence would give a similar vote; but he knew, at the same time, that he should give that vote with a clear conscience. He had his constituents to settle with, he was aware; and should like to please them as well as other gentlemen; but he had also a settlement to make at the bar of his God; and what his conscience dictated to be just and right he would do, be the consequences what they might. He believed that the people who had been kind enough to give him their suffrages, supposed him to be an honest man, or they would not have chosen him. If so, they could not but expect that he should act in the way he thought honest and right. He had always viewed the native Indian tribes of this country as a sovereign people. He believed they had been recognised as such from the very foundation of this government, and the United States were bound by treaty to protect them; it was their duty to do so. And as to giving to giving the money of the American people for the purpose of removing them in the manner proposed, he would not do it. He would do that only for which he could answer to his God. Whether he could answer it before the people was comparatively nothing, though it was a great satisfaction to him to have the approbation of his constituents.

Mr. C. said he had served for seven years in a legislative body. But from the first hour he had entered a legislative hall, he had never known what party was in legislation; and

God forbid he ever should. He went for the good of the country, and for that only. What he did as a legislator, he did conscientiously. He should love to go with his colleagues, and with the West and the South generally, if he could; but he never would let party govern him in a question of this great consequence.

He had many objections to the bill—some of them of a very serious character. One was, that he did not like to put half a million of money into the hands of the Executive, to be used in a manner which nobody could foresee, and which Congress was not to control. Another objection was, he did not wish to depart from from the foundation of the government. He considered the present application as the last alternative for these poor remnants of a once powerful people. Their only chance of aid was at the hands of Congress. Should its members turn a deaf ear to their cries, misery must be their fate. That was his candid opinion.

Mr. C. said he was often forcibly reminded of the remark made by the famous Red Jacket, in the rotundo of this building, where he was shown the panel which represented in sculpture the first landing of the Pilgrims, with an Indian chief presenting to them an ear of corn, in token of friendly welcome. The aged Indian said "that was good." The Indian said, he knew that they came from the Great Spirit, and he was willing to share the soil with his brothers from over the great water. But when he turned round to another panel representing Penn's treaty, he said "Ah! all's gone now." There was a great deal of truth in this short saying; and the present bill was a strong commentary upon it.

Mr. C. said that four counties of his district bordered on the Chickasaw country. He knew many of their tribe; and nothing should ever induce him to vote to drive them west of the Mississippi. He did not know what sort of a country it was in which they were to be settled. He would willingly appropriate money in order to send proper persons to examine the country. And when this had been done, and a fair and free treaty had been made with the tribes if they were desirous of removing, he would vote an appropriation of any sum necessary; but till this had been done, he would not vote one cent. He could not clearly understand the extent of this bill. It seemed to go to the removal of all the Indians, in any State east of the Mississippi river, in which the United States owned any land; Now, there was a considerable number of them still neglected; there was a considerable number of them in Tennessee, and the United States' government owned no land in that State, north and east of the congressional reservation line. No man could be more willing to see them remove than he was if it could be done in a manner agreeable to themselves; but not otherwise. He knew personally that a part of the tribe of the Cherokees were unwilling to go. When the proposal was made to them, they said, "No; we will take death here at our homes. Let them come and tomahawk us here at home: we are willing to die, but never to remove." He had heard them use this language. Many different constructions might be put upon this bill. One of the first things which had set him against the bill, was the letter from the secretary of war to colonel Montgomery—from which it appeared that the Indians had been intruded

• 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.

upon. Orders had been issued to turn them all off except the heads of the Indian families, or such as possessed improvements Government had taken measures to purchase land from the Indians who had gone to Arkansas. If this bill should pass, the same plan would be carried further; they would send and buy them out, and put white men upon their land. It had never been known that white men and Indians could live together; and in this case, the Indians were to have no privileges allowed them, while the white men were to have all. Now, if this was not oppression with a vengeance, he did not know what was. It was the language of the bill, and of its friends, that the Indians were not to be driven off against their will. He knew the Indians were unwilling to go; and therefore he could not consent to place them in a situation where they would be obliged to go. He could not stand that. He knew that he stood alone, having, perhaps, none of his colleagues from his state agreeing in sentiment. He could not help that. He knew that he should return to his home glad and light in heart, if he voted against the bill. He felt that it was his wish and purpose to serve his constituents honestly, according to the light of his conscience. The moment he should exchange his conscience for mere party views, he hoped his Maker would no longer suffer him to exist. He spoke the truth in saying so. If he should be the only member of that House who voted against the bill, and the only man in the United States who disapproved it, he would still vote against it; and it would be matter of rejoicing to him till the day he died, that he had given the vote. He had been told that he should be prostrated; but if so, he would have the consolation of conscience. He would obey that power, and gloried in the deed. He cared not for popularity, unless it could be obtained by upright means. He had seen much to disgust him here; and he did not wish to represent his fellow citizens, unless he could be permitted to act conscientiously. He had been told that he did not understand English grammar. That was very true. He had never been six months at school in his life; he had raised himself by the labor of his hands. But he did not, on that account, yield upon his privilege as the representative of freemen on this floor. Humble as he was, he meant to exercise his privilege. He had been charged with not representing his constituents. If the fact was so, the error (said Mr. C.) is here, (touching his head) not here (laying his hand upon his heart). He never had possessed wealth or education, but he had ever been animated by an independent spirit; and he trusted to prove it on the present occasion.

#### A TRIBUTE TO F. JOHN WHITE

### HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor F. John White. Mr. White, the Chief Executive Officer of Public Financial Management, Inc. and a member of its Board of Directors, will celebrate his retirement after a lifetime of service to his company, profession, and community.

As CEO of Public Financial Management, Inc., Mr. White is responsible for the overall daily management of the firm and chairs the PFM Management Committee, the primary policy-making body in the firm. In his role, Mr. White has spearheaded PFM's growth in personnel, technology advances, and business

practice expansion. He has helped to expand PFM over the past 30 years from a single office with five employees in 1980 to over 445 employees in 31 offices nationwide.

Mr. White has also taken the lead in PFM's effort to develop and maintain a strategic consulting practice designed specifically to assist state and local governments in strengthening credit ratings. He led the team that wrote the original Five Year Plan for the City of Philadelphia in 1992 enabling Philadelphia to recover from a more than \$200 million structural operating deficit and regain an investment grade rating. This effort resulted in upgrades from all three major credit rating agencies and Philadelphia's return to the bond market after a two-year absence.

Prior to joining PFM in 1980, Mr. White held policy-making positions in various aspects of local, state and federal governments. He served as Deputy to the then District Attorney Edward G. Rendell of Philadelphia and as Regional Representative in the Pennsylvania Department of Commerce. He spent five years handling administrative and legislative matters for then Congressman William Green, serving on the House Ways and Means Committee.

A life-long resident of Philadelphia, Mr. White is a graduate of The William Penn Charter School and Muhlenberg College. He serves on Penn Charter's board of overseers as Treasurer.

Mr. White's long and impressive career showcases his commitment and service to his profession and community. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in thanking F. John White for his work and congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to record my vote on the House floor during the vote on H.R. 3117 and H.R. 1141 on January 23, 2012 because of family commitments in Wisconsin. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of both H.R. 3117 (Roll No. 5) and H.R. 1141 (Roll No. 6).

#### IN RECOGNITION OF TOMMY FELLO AND THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF TOMMY'S RESTAURANT

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the 40th anniversary of Tommy's Restaurant, and its owner, Tommy Fello.

What later became "Tommy's" on Coventry Road in Cleveland Heights started out as a part-time job at a 7-stool lunch counter at the corner drug store for Tommy when he was in the 9th grade in 1967. By 1972, just a year and a half after graduating from Cleveland Heights High School, Tommy bought the lunch counter and renamed it Tommy's. Having

learned to make Lebanese specialties, such as falafel, hummus and baba ghanouj, from the lunch counter, he incorporated these and other items to cater to a growing demand for good food and healthy lifestyles. His menu includes vegetarian, vegan, macrobiotic, and gluten-free foods. But one can also get hamburgers, hot dogs and meat pies. After 45 years cooking and 40 years as the owner, Tommy still works long hours behind the grill making sandwiches and other treats for his many customers.

With success, Tommy always found ways to give back to his community. Every year on Earth Day, Tommy Fello can be found at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo in Ohio's 10th Congressional District, feeding all the volunteers the wonderful food he cooks at his restaurant. On New Years Day every year, Tommy opens his restaurant for a 4 hour pancake breakfast with all proceeds donated to the local arts community. Tommy's Restaurant has provided a first job to thousands of youths in the Cleveland area since opening. Tommy has worked as a mentor for many local schools and is often asked to give entrepreneurial and motivational speeches to students of all ages.

Tommy's Restaurant is a Cleveland-area landmark. His website lists many customers of national and local renown, including TV personality Al Roker, actress Alicia Silverstone, the late Cuyahoga County poet laureate Daniel Thompson, blues musician Mr. Stress (who also has a sandwich named in his honor), comedian Molly Shannon (who once worked at Tommy's), actor Danny DeVito, the late graphic novelist Harvey Pekar, singer Patty Smith, and movie director Jim Jarmusch. I am proud to also be on this list.

I am also proud to know this fine individual who has worked hard, found much success, and has given so much back. Other business-owners on his street have nicknamed him the King of Coventry or the Mayor of Coventry because of their appreciation for all his hard work and dedication to the community. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Tommy Fello on his celebration of 40 years owning Tommy's Restaurant.

#### BLACK JANUARY

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a landmark event in history known as "Black January". This was a day when Azerbaijani citizens stood up to the Soviet government and gave up their lives for freedom from communism and dictatorship. Indeed, January 20, 1990, in Baku, Azerbaijan, has become a symbol of when the Soviet empire lapsed.

At midnight, on January 19, 1990, twenty-six thousand Russian troops flooded the capital city of Baku with tanks. Armed with a state of emergency declared by the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet Presidium and signed by then President Mikhail Gorbachev, the incursion was intended to suppress a growing independence movement. The end result was the opposite as the incident inflamed Azerbaijani nationalism and contributed to the breakup of the Soviet Union.

The national independence movement had reached a remarkable momentum with hundreds of thousands demonstrating for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The emerging democratic groups and protesters called for independence from the Soviet Union and removal of Communists officials. On the night of January 19–20, more than 130 people died, 611 were injured, 841 were arrested and 5 went missing. In the days after the invasion, thousands of Azerbaijanis surrounded Communist Party headquarters demanding the resignation of the republic's leadership. Soviet troops were eventually withdrawn from Baku, but political control was maintained for almost another 2 years until Azerbaijan's parliament declared independence in October 1991. The Republic of Azerbaijan has maintained its independence for more than 17 years.

Today, Azerbaijan has developed into a thriving country with double digit growth, in large part due to a freely elected president and parliament, free market reforms led by the energy sector, and, most importantly, no foreign troops on its soil.

Mr. Speaker, let us remember those who sacrificed their lives and those who stood against communism and dictatorship on the monumental "Black January" day on January 20, 1990.

HONORING THE CARROLL SENIOR  
HIGH SCHOOL DRAGON FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the Carroll Senior High School Dragon football team for winning the 2011 Class 5A Division I Texas State Championship title.

The Dragons finished the season with a perfect 16–0 record and the program's eighth state championship. Carroll High School competes in the University Interscholastic League Class 5A, the most competitive athletic class composed of the largest schools in Texas.

Carroll had a thrilling 2011 season, winning three playoff games after being behind in the second half. The state championship was especially exciting where the Dragons played Fort Bend Hightower High School at Cowboys Stadium with an attending crowd of 42,822.

Hightower had a 29–28 lead over Carroll starting the fourth quarter. In Hightower's first possession of the fourth quarter, Carroll linebacker Will Davis caused a fumble that was recovered by the Dragons on Hightower's 29-yard line. With key positioning in Hightower territory, Carroll quarterback Kenny Hill led the offense to a touchdown with five plays. Carroll then scored a two-point conversion giving them a lead of 36–28.

With 9:18 left in the fourth quarter, the Carroll defense shut down the Hightower offense. On a second down, cornerback Sabian Holmes made a pivotal play breaking up a pass near the end zone, and on the third down, linebackers Will Davis and Jeff Miller sacked the Hightower quarterback, forcing a punt. Following the punt return, the Dragon of-

fense shrewdly ran down the clock to win the state championship title.

I am extremely proud of the entire Carroll football team. I would like to take a moment to recognize all of the players who contributed to this championship:

Drew Ahmuty, Derek McLemore, Ryan Weigel, Jared Bales, Ray Crockett, Peyton Williams, Cameron Feuchter, Ben Segó, Connor Dyer, Corey Kemp, Tanner Jacobson, Austin Miller, Kyle McKinney, Blake McWhirter, Sean Dickson, Brandon Viohl, Kenny Hill, Conner Combs, Tyler Hunter, Ian Moss, Tyler Barnes, Kellen Day, David Stroope, Tanner Hutyra, Britton Wallace, Michael Stephens, Anthony Custable, Matthew Zauber, Chris Swart, Luke Kissick, James Noetzel, Sabian Holmes, Reid Hall, Roy Peryea, Robert Harless, Jeremy McClellan, Zach Hernandez, AJ Ezzard, Nick Melocik, Aaron Hoagland, Carter Bishop, Adaryan Jones, Matt Swoyer, Travis Martin, Derek Kalata, Hunter Westmoreland, Drew Brown, Will Davis, Conor Owens, Alex Johnston, Sam Downey, Joseph Formella, Steven Bergmark, Nash Neu, Dillon Rake, Jacob White, Landon Howard, Christian Poucket, Jeff Miller, Brian Bonacci, Nick Arst, Jackson Mitchell, Korbin Wayton, Edgar Gonzalez, Hunter Lackey, Michael Gavin, Nicholas Berman, Austin Tyrone, Dustin Flegle, JJ Prince, Alec Deutsch, Brady Stallings, Kyle Arpaia, Patrick Mundlin, Raymond Proietti, Ryan Hauser, Caleb LaCombe, Kyle Rae, Jack Proskovec, Evan Brown, Clay Hochstrate, Avery Hill, Connor Chase, Andrew Olear, Gabe Callan, Matt Jackson, Holden Sheehan, Connor Wakeham, Grant Drowelow, Cam Manning, Chad Kwong, Garrett Hale, Keaton Duhon, Joe Heineman, Sammy Silver, Haydn Billman, Caden Carlton, Brandon Gordon, Hunter Peck, Jesse Martinez, Cenani Lalani, Luke Timian, Blake Collins, Jake Webb, Al Tolbert, Matt Watford, Davin Campbell, Connor Page, James Hagerman, Scott Marks, Brock Sales, Ty Cummings, Joseph Depinto, Nash Dickey, Spencer Sunstrum.

Of course, no championship team is complete without those behind the scenes. Head Coach Hal Wasson; Asst. Coaches Clayton George, Tim Wasson, Mike Loveless, Tony Holmes, Austin Cranford, Aaron Lineweaver, Robert Drake, Brad Skinner, Kirk Rogers, Rob Royer and Brandon Murdock; Team Managers Colt Meachem, Nick Foster, Nick Bromley and Brendon James; Athletic Trainers Derek Abell, Allison Loftin and Carrie Saulters; and Student Trainers Sye Noble, Cameron Spence, Ragan Sims, Scott Miritillo, James Sarandis, and Brad Mason were all key contributors to Carroll's 2011 championship.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the Carroll Senior High School Dragons football team for its victory in the 2011 Class 5A Division I state Texas state championship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT L. TURNER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Mr. TURNER of New York. Mr. Speaker, because of travel delays due to inclement weather,

I missed the two votes on January 23, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on House Resolution 3117, the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2011 (Rollcall 5) as well as House Resolution 1141, the Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act (Rollcall 6).

I understand the responsibility of representing the residents of the Ninth Congressional District of New York and I regret missing these two votes.

CONGRATULATING BACARDI ON  
ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bacardi on its 150th anniversary. The company was founded by Don Facundo Bacardi Massó in Santiago de Cuba on February 4, 1862, and overcame multiple adversities to become the largest privately-held spirits company, one that today sells more than 200 brands and labels in more than 150 markets globally, and the third largest spirits company in the world. Family-owned and run for seven generations, the Company employs nearly 6,000 people around the world. Bacardi has a significant presence and history in the United States.

As its business grew in Cuba, Bacardi capitalized on growing opportunities abroad and expanded outside of Cuba as Cuba's first multinational company. In 1916, the Company established a bottling facility in New York City. Bacardi rum is distributed by Bacardi U.S.A., Inc. based in my home district of Coral Gables, Florida. Having toured the offices recently, I've seen first hand the energy and excitement in the employees about the company.

I congratulate the Bacardi rum brand on its 150th anniversary and commend the Bacardi Company for 150 years of business perseverance and commitment to continue sustainable business practices, fairness to employees and generosity to the community at large that built Bacardi during the past 150 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ST.  
IGNATIUS FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the St. Ignatius Football Team, which won the 2011 Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Division I State Championship.

St. Ignatius High School was founded in September of 1886 on Cleveland's West 30th

Street. At the time, it was the twentieth secondary school sponsored by the Jesuits in the U.S. An all male college preparatory high school, the Wildcats continue to live by the school motto, "Men for Others." Academically, St. Ignatius is one of Ohio's most prestigious high schools. It is St. Ignatius great emphasis on academic achievement which produces scholars and which translates to success both on and off the field. Each year 99% of its students go on to four-year college programs.

Led by Coach Chuck Kyle, the St. Ignatius Wildcats took to the field at 7:07 p.m. on December 3, 2011 against the Pickerington Tigers. The Wildcats gained an early lead in the first quarter, highlighted by a 45 yard touchdown pass by Eric Williams to Tim McCoy. The first half ended with the Wildcats ahead, thanks to two Tim Shenk field goals and a Tim McVey rushing touchdown, by a score of 20-13. The second half was dominated by the Wildcats defense, which did not allow the Tigers to score again. The Wildcats offense continued to produce; Tim McVey ran for another touchdown and Eric Williams threw a 40 yard touchdown to Jake Mooney. At 10:03 p.m., the St. Ignatius Wildcats left the field as OHSAA Division I State Champions for the 11th time in 12 state championship appearances with a score of 34-13.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating the 2011 OHSAA Division I State Champions, the St. Ignatius Football Team.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ALMA R. HOLLINS-RUCKER FOR HER DEDICATION TO SERVING OTHERS

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. Alma R. Hollins-Rucker. Mrs. Rucker was born and raised in Yazoo City, Mississippi. She is the daughter of Mr. Arnett Hollins and the late Ms. Carrie Mae Wright. She is a pillar of her community for not only holding reputable positions within her church, but by also promoting a positive image and reputation through her service to others in the community.

Mrs. Rucker started serving the Lord at an early age at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church where she is still a member and serves as President of the Pastor's Aide Club and Chair of the Trustee Board.

She graduated from Yazoo City High School in 1970 and attended Draughton's Business College. After attending Draughton's Business College, she became the Assistant Librarian at Lamar Library and retired four years later in management due to an acquired disability.

Despite her handicap, Mrs. Rucker continues to serve her community through countless acts of servitude. She volunteers at several food pantries and nursing homes and provides donations to various organizations throughout her community. Mrs. Rucker is the mother of five children and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Alma R. Rucker for her dedication to serving others in need.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed three votes on the afternoon of January 18, 2012, which included rollcall votes 2, 3, and 4.

If I had been present, I would have voted against rollcall vote 2, Representative SCOTT's (SC-01) bill, H. Res. 515.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 3, Approval of the Journal.

If I had been present, I would have voted against rollcall vote 4, Representative TOM REED's (NY-29) bill, H.J. Res. 98.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEDICATION OF A HUMAN RIGHTS CHAMPION: DOUGLAS A. JOHNSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the inspiring career of Mr. Doug Johnson, an international leader and voice for human rights, on the occasion of his retirement from the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT).

When the Center for Victims of Torture opened in Saint Paul, Minnesota in 1985 it was the first center of its kind in the United States and only the third torture treatment center in the world. Doug Johnson became its Executive Director in 1988 and served in this role for the next 23 years. Today, because of Doug's extraordinary leadership and commitment to eradicating torture, CVT is helping thousands of torture survivors from over 60 countries at centers in Minneapolis, Saint Paul, the District of Columbia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Jordan, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Thanks to Doug Johnson's vision, CVT has become a global leader in the treatment of torture. Doug and CVT have received numerous awards for their pioneering work, including the National Crime Victims Service Award, which is the highest civilian honor awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice. CVT is also a leading advocate for torture victims. Doug worked closely with former Minnesota Senator Dave Durenberger to pass the original Torture Victims Relief Act in 1998, which authorizes federal funding for torture survivor rehabilitation programs in the U.S. and abroad. The United States is the world's largest donor to torture survivor rehabilitation thanks to leaders like Doug Johnson.

CVT's central and steadfast conviction that torture is a crime against humanity—a crime against all of us—is one that I share. It is a weapon of terror, intimidation and cruelty that seeks to dehumanize its victims and traumatize their communities. Torture victims face debilitating and unimaginable physical, social, emotional and spiritual scarring. Unfortunately, thousands of our brothers and sisters around

the world have experienced this horror and are struggling each day to live with its aftermath. That is why the work of the Center for Victims of Torture is so incredibly important.

While it is easy for many of us to point fingers at foreign governments when human rights are abused and torture is used to coerce, silence, or intimidate, it takes the courage of one's convictions to stand up to one's own government when abuses are exposed. During the past decade, Doug was a voice for America's best and highest ideals of due process and respect for human rights. When the American people learned of torture as a sanctioned interrogation technique by our own government in Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay, or other clandestine prisons, it was Doug Johnson who spoke out loudly and fearlessly. He rallied human rights leaders and policy makers to condemn these abuses and sought to expose them for what they were—torture. Doug influenced the debate in Congress and helped elevate torture as an issue of national significance.

CVT is a Minnesota treasure and it has been my pleasure to work closely with Doug Johnson over the past eleven years. The legacy of Doug Johnson will live on in CVT's work providing hope for survivors of torture around the world and bring us ever closer to a world free from torture.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JOSEPH LEE JOHNSON

#### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Joseph Lee Johnson, a dynamic leader of the religious community and a founder of the Police Chaplains Program in the City of Richmond, California—and to mark his passing on January 9, 2012, at the age of 93.

Born in Westdale, Louisiana on September 3, 1918, to the late Adeline and Bill Johnson, J.L. Johnson was one of twelve children. In December of 1937, he met Ida Mae Gilliom—they were married two weeks later on January 11, 1938. He and Ida Mae remained happily married for nearly 74 years.

In September 1943 he and Ida Mae moved to Vallejo, California, where he worked at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard. It was there that he united with Union Baptist Church where he served on the Deacon Board until 1950, when he was ordained and became Pastor of St. John Missionary Baptists Church in Vallejo. He continued to pastor at St. John Church for over 21 years. Reverend Johnson organized the Baptist Ministers Union of Vallejo, and was elected its first president. In addition, he was president of the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance for many years, organizing local clergy around issues such as promoting civil rights, ending hunger, and curbing violence.

Reverend Johnson also started one of the first food programs in Richmond where he was instrumental in working with government agencies to provide cheese, butter and other food to local churches to feed low-income families.

He was a peacemaker. During the social unrest of the 1960s, the Bissell property where Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church is now located was, at the time, the local headquarters

for the Black Panther Party. Reverend Johnson and others negotiated with the late Huey P. Newton and Party leaders to acquire the building as a church and an outlet to serve the needs of the community. In the early 1980s, Reverend Johnson played an integral role between African American police officers and the City of Richmond Police Department to address racial divisions within the department. Those efforts resulted in the very first Police Chaplin Program in the country. Reverend Johnson and other ministers rode with police officers to provide spiritual counseling, comfort and prayer to men and women of the force as well as victims of violence and their families. He served as a Police Chaplin for almost 20 years.

Reverend Johnson received his Bachelor of Arts in Theology from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois, and his degree in Christian Doctrine from the Divinity School of Oakland Seminary. He was a mentor to many young preachers and pastors, and worked tirelessly beyond the boundaries of his faith community by counseling and advising local civic leaders. Reverend J.L. Johnson was a very proud man who would often say, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." His presence will be greatly missed throughout our community. I ask my colleagues to join with me in offering sincere condolences to his wife of 74 years, Ida Mae Johnson and to the entire Church Family of Elisabeth Missionary Baptist Church.

IN HONOR OF MICHELINE  
BENEDICT

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Micheline "Mickey" Benedict as she retires after 50 years of service at St. Ignatius High School as Director of Technology.

From an early age Mickey has been part of the St. Ignatius High School community. Her uncles, Fr. George Kmieck, the former Dean of Philosophy at John Carroll University, and Dr. Peter Kmieck, the St. Ignatius High School team physician, began bringing Mickey to the school at the age of two.

Mickey began her career with St. Ignatius High School in May 1961. She was hired by Fr. Pingstock and made \$1.25 per hour for clerical and typing work. In November of 1997, she was promoted to head the school's Computer Services Department by Fr. Robert Welsh. She led a team of 20 who worked to move the school into the age of modern technology. Mickey was promoted to the position of Director of Technology in May of 2000 and held the position until her retirement in December of 2011.

The St. Ignatius High School community will celebrate the career of Mickey Benedict on January 20, 2012 with a mass and school wide reception.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mickey Benedict and congratulating her on her retirement from St. Ignatius High School following 50 years of dedicated service.

A TRIBUTE TO LOUIS RONEY

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Louis Roney, who has devoted his life both as a performing artist and in support of the arts. Throughout his career as a long-time leading operatic tenor, he has been featured in the great opera houses of Europe and North America. As a great patron of the arts in Florida, he has recently been recognized and will soon be inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame.

Mr. Roney's professional music career began after his studies at Harvard and commended service in the U.S. Navy during WWII. Over four decades he sang leading roles throughout Paris, Vienna, Berlin, Hamburg, Amsterdam, Brussels, Munich and Lisbon, as well as Italy, Canada, and of course, the United States. He was frequently engaged as a soloist all across America and Europe and appeared in numerous movies and national operatic festivals over the course of his career. Over the years he has performed as leading tenor in every major French and German opera house. His life work has been performing, teaching and supporting music.

Though he spent his whole life mingling amongst heads of state, royalty and Europe's cultural elite, he never lost a deep sense of how art can transcend power and wealth and can be appreciated and enjoyed by everyone. Mr. Roney has said that, "The artist's life is a 'giving' proposition. And if giving is more blessed than receiving, the artist is more blest than those who enjoy his art."

Returning to his home State of Florida after his European career, Mr. Roney continued to devote his life to expanding cultural opportunities for others. He founded and for 17 years led Orlando's Festival of Orchestras. He served as Distinguished Professor of Music and Artist in Residence Emeritus at the University of Central Florida. In both of these roles Mr. Roney has worked with passion and dedication to make culture and the arts accessible to as many people as possible.

Mr. Roney is well deserving of the honor and induction into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame. This recognition expresses our State's appreciation for his selfless service to the humanities and salutes a life lived with great dignity and purpose, as well as a daily sense of the high calling of the artist. He and his career have had a deep and profound impact on our community, State and Nation. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Mr. Roney for his decades of service and congratulate him on the Florida Artists Hall of Fame's recognition of his invaluable contributions.

CONGRATULATING MIKE ABRAMS

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, today, I'd like to congratulate Mike Abrams on his new position with the Ohio Hospital Association. Mike has been at the Iowa Medical Soci-

ety for 15 years, and he has been a friend and adviser to me since I came to Congress in 2007.

For years, Iowa has suffered from unfair Medicare reimbursement rates, and a flawed equation that determines payments. Within the first few months of my Congressional career, Mike was in my office helping me find solutions to that problem. It was only with Mike's help that we were able to increase payments to Iowa doctors, and take significant steps towards a reimbursement structure based on quality of care, not just quantity of care. He has been a resource to me, and he often served as my "lifeline" during late-night, high-level health care negotiations over the last few years.

Mike's knowledge and understanding of current health care issues is matched only by his terrific wit and shining personality. Iowa doctors and patients have benefited from his time at Iowa Medical Society, and he has helped me advocate for improved access to health care in Iowa. Thank you, Mike, and we wish you the best in your new endeavor.

IN HONOR OF ARMY SERGEANT  
FIRST CLASS BENJAMIN WISE

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Mr. ROSS of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated soldier and true American hero who died in service to this great country. On January 15, 2012, U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Benjamin B. Wise, who was 34 years old, died at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Sergeant First Class Wise died of injuries sustained on January 9, 2012, in Balkh Province, Afghanistan, from small arms fire.

SFC Benjamin Wise graduated from West Side Christian High School in El Dorado, Ark., in 1995 and eventually joined the United States Armed Forces in 2000, where he began a distinguished military career. At the time of his death, SFC Wise was on his fourth deployment overseas—once in Iraq and three times to Afghanistan—and was assigned to A Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

SFC Wise was an outstanding soldier and, according to his family, incredibly proud of the career he built in the Army. During his 11 years as a soldier, SFC Wise earned three Army Commendation Medals; three Army Good Conduct Medals; the National Defense Service Medal; two Afghanistan Campaign Medals with Bronze Service Stars; three Iraq Campaign Medals with Bronze Service Stars; the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; two Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbons; the Army Service Ribbon; two Overseas Service Ribbons; the NATO Medal; the Parachutist Badge, Basic; the Combat Infantryman Badge; the Expert Infantry Badge; the Combat and Special Skill Badge, Basic Marksmanship Qual Badge; the Canadian Parachutist Badge; the Special Forces Tab; and four Overseas Service Bars.

SFC Wise was also posthumously awarded two Bronze Star Medals for his bravery in battle and a Purple Heart for giving his life in service to his country.

As a well-respected leader, SFC Wise was an outstanding soldier who served his country well and proudly wore the uniform of the United States of America. He represented the best of our Armed Forces and the best of America—giving his life to protect the freedoms we all cherish. As a husband, father, son and brother, his loss will leave an incredible void that will be impossible to fill. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Traci; his children, Kallen, Luke and Ryan; his parents, Dr. Jean and Mary Wise; his brother, Marine Corps Cpl. Matthew Wise; his sister, Mary; and, the rest of his family and friends during this very difficult time.

Unfortunately, what made SFC Wise's death even more tragic is that just two short years ago, the Wise family also lost another son in Afghanistan—Jeremy Wise, who was SFC Benjamin Wise's brother. Former Navy SEAL Special Warfare Operator First Class Jeremy Wise, age 35, was part of the CIA's security detail at an outpost near Khost, Afghanistan, when he was killed on December 30, 2009, when a terrorist detonated a bomb at the facility killing seven Americans in the attack. America has now lost two outstanding patriots in the Wise family and both Benjamin and Jeremy will be deeply missed.

The United States of America remains a strong beacon for freedom and liberty around the world because of brave, honorable and dedicated service members like SFC Benjamin Wise and his brother, Jeremy. The Wise family has endured an incredible burden and made an extraordinary sacrifice on behalf of all Americans and we are forever thankful.

Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me as we honor the life and legacy of Army Sergeant First Class Benjamin Wise, as well as each man and woman in our Armed Forces, and all of those in harm's way supporting their efforts, who give the ultimate sacrifice in service to this great country. I also ask that we recognize the sacrifice and burdens our military families endure in support of this great country. We owe them all our eternal gratitude.

#### A TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL BUTLER

### HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Samuel Butler, the President of the Robeson County Firemen's Association, of Maxton, North Carolina, for his commitment to his community and as a dedicated man of public service. Mr. Butler proved himself to be a devoted and effective public servant, a man of great character, and a dedicated public servant. Tragically, he lost his life while protecting others on January 8, 2012. He was also a devoted father, grandfather, and dear friend, who will be dearly missed.

In addition to his service to the Evans Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department, Mr. Butler was also a proud employee of the Campbell's Soup Company for over 29 years. Driven by the spirit of service and dedication to his community and its people, he was a board member of the Robeson County Fire

College and Robeson County Honor Guard, guiding future stewards and first responders to better serve the community. In recognition of his devotion, Mr. Butler was a candidate for the Robeson County Hero Society.

Mr. Butler, a volunteer fire fighter for over 20 years, was struck and killed by a vehicle while responding to an accident. He made the ultimate sacrifice to save those in danger. His passing is a significant and tragic loss to his family, his community, and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, may we never forget the goodness, humility, service, and character that defined the life of Samuel Butler. May God continue to bless his beloved wife, Brenda, and all of his loved ones, the work he did, and the greatness that he inspired within all who knew him.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR DAVID W. SMITH

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mayor David W. Smith who is retiring after serving 33 years as the Mayor of the city of Newark, California.

Mayor Smith began his career in 1967 after graduating from Michigan Technological University with a degree in Business Administration and Industrial Management. He began his career as a Plant Manager at Ethyl Corp. After working at the plant for ten years he developed an interest in public service. In 1976, he was elected to the Newark City Council. Just two years later, in 1978, he was elected Mayor of the city of Newark.

Mayor Smith is currently serving his 16th consecutive term as mayor, the most senior mayor currently serving in California. Additionally, he is also 2nd in mayoral seniority in the United States. During his service as Mayor, Smith was the Vice President of the Retail Division of Oatey Supply Chain Services from 1979 to 2006. More recently, he has served as the Executive Director of Ohlone College Foundation since 2006.

Mayor Smith's accomplishments during his tenure as Mayor are exemplary. He has displayed the highest level of public service to his citizens, and his commitment can be seen through the wide array of organizations and committees in which he was involved. He was a Trustee and Committee Chair of the United States Conference of Mayors, and was highly involved in the Arts Committee as well as the Education Committee. He was previously chair of the Alameda County Transportation Authority and the Tri-City Waste Management Authority, and was also President of the Alameda County Conference of Mayors. He is the currently the Chair of the Newark Redevelopment Agency, the Newark Disaster Council, and the Newark Community Development Advisory Committee.

Mayor Smith has received a myriad of awards for his outstanding accomplishments. He was honored as a Distinguished Alumni of Calumet High School, and an Outstanding Young Alumni of Michigan Technological University. He was selected as one of California's

Five Outstanding Young Men, and was named a Life Member of the United States Junior Chamber, a leadership and civic organization.

I join many others in saluting Mayor Smith for his commitment to excellence, thanking him for his exemplary service, and wishing him well on his retirement.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 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 \$15,236,245,309,869.69. We've added \$10,434,840,134,575.41 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.

#### RECOGNIZING MR. BENNIE DOTSON FOR HIS DEDICATION TO SERVING OTHERS

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fine patriot and noble member of his community, Mr. Bennie Dotson. Mr. Dotson was born September 9, 1923, in Vicksburg, Mississippi. He is the younger of two children born to the late Mr. Ben and Mrs. Mary Dotson.

Mr. Dotson's early years of education began at Dunbar Elementary School in Warren County, Mississippi. He later attended Grange Hall Elementary School culminating with an eighth grade education.

At the age of 18, Mr. Dotson entered the United States Army and served in the European War. He received his basic training at Camp Shelby in Mississippi, after which, he served tours of duty in England, France, Belgium, and Germany.

After leaving the United States Army, Mr. Dotson worked at Anderson Tully Lumber Company in Vicksburg, Mississippi, where he retired after 45 years of service. Mr. Dotson has continued to serve as a lay member of Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church for many years.

Mr. Dotson was happily married to his late wife of 57 years, Mrs. Lorraine Dotson, and together they raised one child, Ruby McDonald. He also has a host of nieces and nephews that love and care for him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Bennie Dotson for his dedication to our country and his commitment to serving others.