

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MS. BEATRICE IVORY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a longtime healthcare provider, Ms. Beatrice Ivory. She is the daughter of T.J. and Martha Ivory and is the mother of Kayla Beatrice Ivory, an Industrial and System Engineering major at Mississippi State University.

Ms. Beatrice graduated from Henry Weather High School in Rolling Fork, MS in 1974. After working for 13 years with mentally challenged patients at Mississippi Christian Family service, she aspired to continue her education. In 1990, she received her LPN license from Hinds Community College along with specialties in Intravenous certification (IV) and Emergency Medical Technical License (EMT). Since receiving her LPN, she has worked with Skarkey-Issaquena Community Hospital (SICH), Heritage Manor Nursing Home, Delta Regional Medical Center, and Continue Care Home Health Agency.

Ms. Beatrice is a member of the Pleasant Valley M.B. Church where she is an usher and Sunday school teacher. She is also currently serving as Treasurer of the South Delta School District Parent Teacher Organization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Beatrice Ivory for her services as a healthcare provider and public servant to the State of Mississippi.

HONORING KAREN WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK CITY COMMUNITY GARDEN COALITION

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month 2012, I rise today to recognize a community leader from the Bronx whom I deeply respect, Ms. Karen Washington.

Karen Washington was born and raised in New York City and has resided in the Bronx for more than a quarter century. She attended Hunter College, CUNY where she graduated Magna Cum Laude, with her Bachelor's in Health Sciences. She then attended New York University where she earned her Master's Degree in Occupational Biomechanics and Ergonomics. Since 1985, Ms. Washington has worked to improve the quality of life in the Bronx as a community activist.

Ms. Washington works with residents of the Bronx to turn empty lots into accessible green spaces through her work as a community gardener and as a member of the Board of Direc-

tors of the New York Botanical Garden. Not only has her work brought much needed green space to our neighborhoods but, as President of New York City Community Gardens, she has fought for the protection and preservation of existing community gardens. As a Just Food board member and trainer, Ms. Washington also leads workshops on food growing and food justice for community gardeners throughout the city. She has also worked to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables in the Bronx that are grown in our community gardens.

Ms. Washington is the Co-Founder of Black Urban Growers, an organization of agricultural volunteers committed to building networks and support for growers in both urban and rural settings. Ms. Washington has achieved these impressive accomplishments while working professionally as a physical therapist for over 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Washington's work in creating green space in urban areas and in advocating for food equity has touched thousands of lives throughout New York City. Our communities are stronger and more vibrant due to Ms. Washington's unwavering dedication. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to a woman of excellence, who aspires to make her community stronger, Ms. Karen Washington.

SEQUESTRATION WEAKENS OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this Nation currently faces a clear and present danger to our national security that this body has the ability to defeat: Defense Sequestration. This is an issue that we must address sooner rather than later. Senator JOHN MCCAIN recently stated, "I believe the cuts that would be required by sequestration aimed at the Department of Defense are a threat to our Nation's security. We still live in a very dangerous world and everyone agrees that this kind of sequestration cannot take place."

House and Senate Republicans are determined to prevent sequestration from occurring. Slashing the Army by 80,000 troops, cutting 20,000 Marines, and reducing 10,000 Air Force personnel is risky. The United States does not have the luxury of choosing our enemies or deciding if we will be attacked. Our military must be properly funded, equipped and prepared to protect our families from extremists who carry signs calling for "Death to America."

In conclusion, God Bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF CHRISTOPHER CANNING

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an exceptional young person whose character and accomplishments during his short life of 15 years merit commendation. Chris Canning was an honor student, musician, athlete, humanitarian, and elite martial artist.

In addition to achieving the status of First Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo in only 4 years and playing baseball, basketball and football for his high school, Chris found time to volunteer in his community of Maroa, Illinois, delivering food and clothing to those in need and working in an animal shelter.

Chris has been honored for his service to others and excellence in martial arts by the United Nations Youth Assembly, the World Martial Arts Hall of Fame, the United States Olympic Committee, and the USA Taekwondo Martial Arts Commission, among many others. Despite all of these accolades, the qualities that Chris's family and friends most associate with him were humility and a commitment to service above self. His pursuit in each of life's endeavors, in and out of the martial arts, was to give more than he received, not to gain praise or honor, but to share achievement with others and to set aside his own desires in order to help those less fortunate. His greatest satisfaction came from being there when needed and making a difference.

He was a sincere friend and loving son, and he is missed by all who knew him. His legacy lives on through the Chris Canning Foundation and Awards Program, which has been given to 77 youths from around the world who exemplify the strength of character and excellence that Chris possessed.

It is my honor to recognize the legacy of this exceptional young man from Central Illinois today.

HONORING JAMES "JIM" SCHRANZ

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James "Jim" Schranz for his tireless efforts to promote and expand retirement security for all Americans. Jim has played an integral role in the formation of the Employee-owned S Corporations of America (ESCA) and will soon be stepping down from his role as the founding Treasurer to fully enjoy his retirement with his wife Nancy.

After earning his MBA from the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University,

• 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.

Jim began working at Austin Industries, rising to Vice President of Human Resources. In 1998, he took on the role of Treasurer with ESCA where he used his knowledge of this important and unique retirement savings vehicle to help protect and expand it to other businesses across Texas and the United States. Through ESCA's efforts, Members of Congress have become better educated about retirement savings benefits created by private, employee-owned companies for their employee-owners. Jim has been instrumental in the fight to prevent inadvertent harm to S corporation Employee Share Ownership Plans (ESOPs), particularly in the days of pension reform. His retirement is well-deserved.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Jim Schranz and wishing him all the best as he retires.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL SALUTE TO VETERAN PATIENTS AND HONORING THE JESSE BROWN AND HINES VETERANS AFFAIRS HOSPITALS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the week in which we celebrate the National Salute to Veteran Patients which begins February 12th.

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs annually observes the week of February 14th as our Nation's National Salute to Veteran Patients. This week is our opportunity to honor the more than 98,000 veterans who are cared for day-in and day-out by our Nation's Veterans Affairs hospitals, outpatient clinics, and nursing homes.

Our Nation's veterans have sacrificed much to ensure the safety of our homeland. Their service oftentimes comes at a price to their own personal well-being. When our servicemen and women are injured, our Veterans Affairs hospitals provide vital services that help them heal and return to life in our communities. This week serves as a reminder to thank our veterans for their service to our country while also commending those who treat them with medical care.

I would also like to recognize the Veterans Affairs hospitals that serve the servicemen and women of Illinois's 5th District and the surrounding areas. The Jesse Brown Veteran Affairs Medical Center and the Edward Hines, Jr. Veteran Affairs Hospital admirably serve our veterans throughout the City of Chicago as well as into other parts of Illinois and Indiana. With more than one million outpatient visits between the two hospitals in a single year, the doctors, nurses and staff of both Jesse Brown and Edward Hines, Jr. are to be commended for the care that they provide to our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring our Nation's veterans during this National Salute to Veteran Patients week.

CELEBRATING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF SAN RAFAEL CITY SCHOOLS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of San Rafael City Schools, an institution with a long and proud legacy of service to the young people of Marin County. San Rafael City Schools dates almost to the foundation of our county itself, and its history reminds us of the powerful role our system of public education has played in shaping the character and direction of our communities.

The first of the San Rafael City Schools—the fourth public school in the county—was opened in San Rafael in 1861, just over a decade after Marin County was founded and California was admitted into the Union. In a city numbering only several hundred residents, this first school counted 25 students in its first year, and it remained the city's only public school for 26 years.

As San Rafael began to assume its role as Marin County's population center, the school system expanded rapidly to meet new demand. A second elementary school was added in 1887, and in 1888 the county's first high school, which expanded further in 1899. New elementary schools were added again in 1904 and 1909, followed by an even more intense series of construction projects mid-century, eventually numbering over a dozen new, expanded, or retrofitted facilities. Today, 12 schools serve San Rafael's nearly 6,000 students, including separate districts for K-8 and high school education.

Since its founding, San Rafael City Schools has been an anchor for local families. It has played an integral role in the strength and success of San Rafael and Marin County, sending generations of Marin young people into the world with the preparation necessary to tackle our country's challenges. More recently, the special role of San Rafael City Schools has been recognized in the bond measures city voters have supported to support extensive infrastructure modernization projects.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating the sesquicentennial of San Rafael City Schools. This is an institution that represents the democratic promise of public education to empower every individual, and in so doing foster and uplift an entire community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, an unavoidable conflict required that I miss roll call #45, the Alexander Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 3521, the Expedited Legislative Line-Item Veto and Rescissions Act of 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted in support of this amendment.

HONORING CARY M. MAGUIRE

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cary M. Maguire, a fellow Texan who exemplifies fortitude, American entrepreneurship, and community service.

Over the past twenty years, Cary's strength of character was tested and proven as he fought for justice in a property rights dispute against the Houston, Texas city government. Despite being dealt a bad hand, court after court, Cary never surrendered. He showed courage and faith that justice would prevail, and his perseverance was ultimately rewarded.

Cary is the founder, Chair, and President of the Dallas-based Maguire Oil Company and Maguire Energy Company. In 1991, Cary's company was given a permit by the city of Houston to drill near the banks of Lake Houston. However, when his crew began the project a city officer patrolling the area stopped the team, citing a city ordinance that prohibited drilling within 1,000 feet of the shore. The city revoked Maguire Oil's permit, and a lengthy court battle began.

The case was shuffled around for fourteen years as courts argued over jurisdiction and how to proceed. In 2009, a Harris County court-at-law awarded Maguire \$2 million in damages, plus \$2.2 million in interest. The City appealed this ruling before agreeing on a settlement, settling a lawsuit that spanned two trials, four appeals and the administrations of four mayors.

While acknowledging that the amount spent in legal fees exceeded the amount of the settlement, Cary stated that he continued the case because he thought it was important to defend the principle that while government has the right to take property for the public good, it does not have the right to do so without compensating the property owner.

Cary proceeded to donate the settlement money to found the Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility that bears his name at Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas, Texas, where he serves as Trustee Emeritus in recognition for his outstanding service to the University as a member of the Board of Trustees from 1976 to 2000.

In addition to his founding grant to create the Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility, Cary also endowed a university-wide professorship in ethics at SMU. He has provided additional funds for programs and facilities in SMU's Edwin L. Cox School of Business, including the Maguire Energy Institute, the Maguire Chair in oil and gas management, and the Maguire Building housing undergraduate programs in the Cox School.

In 1995 he and his wife, Ann, were among the first recipients of SMU's Mustang Award honoring individuals whose longtime service and philanthropy have had a lasting impact on the University.

His national leadership positions include service on The National Petroleum Council, the Executive Committee of Mid-Continental Oil and Gas Association, and membership of the Madison Council of the Library of Congress, where he funded the Maguire Chair in Ethics and American History.

Mr. Speaker, Cary Maguire's professional and philanthropic contributions will have a lasting value not only in the great State of Texas, but our nation. He embodies many outstanding qualities that define the American spirit. As we adjourn the House of Representatives today, let us do so in appreciation of this American leader, Mr. Cary Maguire.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 46, I did vote "yes" and checked the monitor—apparently the card or system malfunctioned.

RECOGNIZING DR. WILLIAM LLOYD BOOKER FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICES IN MISSISSIPPI HEALTH CARE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. William Lloyd Booker of Clarksdale, Mississippi, for his noteworthy health care contributions to the Clarksdale, Mississippi, community.

Dr. Booker's education began in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi, where he graduated from West Tallahatchie as High Salutatorian in 1973. He completed his undergraduate studies at Tougaloo College majoring in Chemistry where he graduated "Cum Laude" with a Bachelor of Science degree. He received his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Iowa in 1982 and residence training at Broadlawns Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa, where he served as a resident physician.

Dr. Booker has served as Medical Director and Staff Physician for Aaron E. Henry Health Service Center in Clarksdale, Mississippi, since 1985. He practices Family Medicine and was associated with the Northwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center, where he served as Chairman of the Department of Medicine from 2000 to 2002, Vice Chief of Staff from 2002 to 2004, Chief of Staff from 2004 to 2006, and now serves as Regional State Physician Leadership Council Representative.

Dr. Booker is a member of the National Association of Community Health Centers, Mississippi Primary Health Care Association, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and Swarowski Crystal Society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Dr. William Lloyd Booker for his contributions and services in health care to the Clarksdale, Mississippi, community.

HONORING CARL E. HEASTIE,
MEMBER OF THE NEW YORK
STATE ASSEMBLY AND CHAIRMAN
OF THE BRONX DEMOCRATIC
COUNTY COMMITTEE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month 2012, I rise today to recognize a lawmaker from the Bronx whom I admire greatly, the Honorable Carl E. Heastie.

Carl E. Heastie has been Assemblyman for the 83rd Assembly District in the Bronx since 2000. Since he became an Assemblyman, he has been recognized by his colleagues as being one of the most active members in Albany. He currently serves as Chairman of the New York State Assembly Committee on Cities, where he is responsible for addressing issues facing New York City and New York State's other urban areas. He has also earned the respect of local and state elected officials through his work as Chairman of the Bronx Democratic County Committee.

Assemblyman Heastie attended New York City public schools, and always had a love for math. This interest was developed and refined while at the State University of New York at Stony Brook where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Mathematics and Statistics and an MBA in Finance from the Bernard M. Baruch College, CUNY. Assemblyman Heastie has extensive experience in budgeting issues, and served as a budget analyst for the City of New York's Comptroller's Office prior to his election. Assemblyman Heastie's expertise in evaluating numbers has garnered the respect and admiration of his peers.

Since taking office, Assemblyman Heastie has been successful in securing much needed resources for his district in the areas of housing, health and human services and education. Among his many accomplishments, he was a lead negotiator for the construction of new schools in the Bronx. Aware of the needs of low-wage workers, Assemblyman Heastie was the author of the Wage Theft Prevention Act which provided stiffer penalties for employers who steal wages from employees. Additionally, because of concerns about potential barriers that victims of domestic violence may face when trying to leave their abuser, Assemblyman Heastie drafted a law to allow domestic violence victims to be released from their lease obligation if it is found that their remaining in their residence would keep them exposed to a dangerous situation.

Mr. Speaker, Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie has earned a much-deserved reputation as a hardworking, determined and exceptional public servant. He is part of a new wave of elected officials in this country whose qualities include fidelity to the best interests of one's constituents and honesty in public dealings. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing a gifted individual, and someone who carries with him the hopes of thousands of New Yorkers, including myself, The Honorable Carl E. Heastie.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LT.
COLONEL JOHN JOSEPH MURRAY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lieutenant Colonel John Joseph Murray, an American patriot, community leader, devoted father and grandfather, and a dear friend of mine for many years, who passed away on January 30, 2012 at the age of 90.

John was born in Brooklyn, New York on January 6, 1922 to Joseph Murray and Madeline Cassidy. After graduating from high school in 1939, he began his military career in 1942—a career that would span nearly a quarter of a century. John served as an officer in the United States Air Force before retiring in 1968 as a Lieutenant Colonel and Combat Rated Pilot with more than 5,000 flying hours. His military career earned him the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters and numerous other military service medals. He was a gifted pilot, qualifying in 20 different aircraft, and was a dedicated lifetime member of the Air Force Association.

John also recognized the value of higher education, and in 1957 he received a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from St. Joseph's College in Philadelphia, PA, where he served as an ROTC teacher. That same year, he graduated from the United States Air Force Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. John continued his education by earning his Master's of Business Administration at the University of Dallas in 1977 at the age of 55.

Service was part of John's character, so it came as no surprise that he took the initiative to mentor many young adults in their educational pursuits. John created a scholarship fund through his local Air Force Association chapter for college students struggling financially. He took an active role in encouraging these students and shared in their joy as they reached their goal of graduation.

Upon his retirement from the Air Force, John and his family moved to Greenville, Texas where he began a second distinguished career in the aerospace industry, serving thirty-one years and retiring in 1998 at the age of 76. For nineteen of those years, he was appointed to serve as Chairman of the Employees' Political Action Committee. As Chairman, John hosted informative political forums in Greenville, inviting many special guests over the years including then Governor Bill Clements; then Governor and former President George W. Bush; former U.S. Senators Lloyd Bentsen, Phil Gramm, John Tower, as well as our current U.S. Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON. I was also honored as his Congressman to attend several of John's forums.

John was a highly respected man known for his intelligence, honesty, and integrity, both in his own community and in Washington. Everyone who knew John was struck by his innate optimism, his positive attitude, and his genuine kindness. John was a natural leader, and I am fortunate to have counted him as my friend. He will be dearly missed by all those whose lives he touched.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this American patriot, Colonel John Joseph Murray.

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES
WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Colorado School of Mines Women's Softball Team, who last spring won a berth in the NCAA Women's Softball Tournament for the second time in school history. The Orediggers finished the year with a conference record of 28–11, and an overall record of 36–24, sharing the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Championship with Metropolitan State College of Denver. The School of Mines also hosted the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference softball championship last spring. The three day event was a success for the School of Mines and all the schools that participated. Two of the School of Mines players were named to the All Tournament Team, Kelly Ulkrich, and Macy Jones.

The women of the Orediggers softball team should be extremely proud of their 2011 season, and their efforts on the diamond and in the classroom. These women exemplify the idea of the collegiate student-athlete. The Colorado School of Mines specializes in hard sciences, and I commend these young women in their dedication to fields that have traditionally been male dominated. They are an inspiration to girls everywhere who want to study science and engineering.

I also want to congratulate pitcher Kelly Ulkrich who was named the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Women's Athlete of the Month for April 2011.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the women of the Colorado School of Mines Women's Softball Team. The lessons they are learning as student-athletes will make these women the science and technology leaders of tomorrow. I am proud to have this world class school in my district. I wish the team best of luck in the 2012 season I hope it is even more successful than 2011, again congratulations, and Go Orediggers!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 44 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN SUPPORT OF H. RES. 525: NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 525 and support the goals of "National School Counseling Week."

I introduced this resolution to recognize the tireless efforts of a group of professionals who

have dedicated themselves to our children and their education.

I wish to take this opportunity to recognize the diligent and hardworking school counselors throughout our country. Counselors like Sue Im, in my home district, at Gahr High School in Cerritos.

Every day counselors do exceptional work to help our students reach their highest potential. It is because of their unending dedication—children across our country succeed in becoming engineers, doctors, and even Members of Congress.

School counselors play a vital role in the development of our students on academic, social, and personal levels. Unfortunately, there aren't enough of them. Counselors often find themselves the casualty of budget cuts.

The average student-to-counselor ratio in America's public schools, 459-to-1, is almost double the 250-to-1 ratio recommended by the American School Counselor Association and the National Association for College Admission Counseling. Those numbers are even worse in California where the student to counselor ratio is a dismal 810 students to one counselor—one of the worst ratios in the country.

Our secondary school counselors work vigorously to increase graduation rates, identify problems in our schools and improve morale by inspiring students to challenge themselves and explore new opportunities.

Primary counselors often help identify students with health problems or disabilities that interfere with learning. They also help youngsters to cope with traumatic events, from moving to a new school to the death of a parent.

Our counselors do amazing work that often goes unrecognized. Our communities are strengthened by the students who are championed by their school counselors.

I urge my colleagues to support this effort to recognize the outstanding work that counselors do to ensure that our children's future is full of promise.

THE PASSING OF DR. STEPHEN
LEVIN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, it was with tremendous sadness that I learned today of the passing of Dr. Stephen Levin. Dr. Levin was one of our Nation's foremost experts in occupational and environmental medicine and in his career cared for thousands of Americans with work-related injuries and illnesses. But New Yorkers may know Dr. Levin best at the Director of the World Trade Center Worker and Volunteer Medical Screening Program, where he helped identify the emergence of 9/11-related illnesses and led the medical community's response to this unprecedented health crisis.

The Medical Screening Program was a precursor to the current World Trade Center Health Program, which was enshrined in law by the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, a bill I authored with Congressmen NADLER and KING and on which I worked with Dr. Levin to pass. Without Dr. Levin's pioneering research, service, and dedication to 9/11 responders, volunteers, and survivors, we may never have passed the Zadroga Act.

This is no doubt a terribly sad time for Dr. Levin's loved ones, but I hope they will be comforted by the fact that his life was so well-lived, and by the thoughts and prayers of thousands of Americans whose lives are immeasurably better because of his work.

WENDY GOINS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Wendy Goins of Golden Bodyworker for receiving the Ambassador of the Year Award from the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce.

This award is given each year to an individual who is a member of the Chamber Ambassadors. Wendy has been very active in promoting the Chamber in several ways, such as attending ribbon cuttings, grand openings, ground breakings, mentoring new Chamber members, attending Chamber functions, staffing the membership luncheon prize table, and many more.

With a full work schedule, Wendy finds time to promote the Chamber, attend functions and accepts challenges with a no defeat attitude. She is a real asset to the Golden community.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Wendy Goins for this well deserved recognition by the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING LONG-TIME COMMUNITY ACTIVIST & HONORARY FILIPINOTOWN MAYOR: DR. JACINTO "JAY" VALENCIA

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great loss to our community, Dr. Jacinto "Jay" Valencia, who passed away on January 31, 2012, at the age of 63. My heart goes out to his loving wife, Rosalie; his son, John; his daughter, Aileen V. Michel; his grandchildren Cello, Mycah and Naiya; and the rest of his family, friends and loved ones.

I was proud to have known Dr. Jay, as he was fondly called by his friends, for many years. He was a tireless advocate for his community and for working families, and rose to one of the highest positions in the Filipino American union movement.

Dr. Jay was vice president for administrative and legislative affairs of the National Union of Health Workers, based in California, where he worked hard to secure fair benefits and compensation for the organization's membership.

His most lasting legacy, however, was his selection as the first Mayor of Philippinatown, Inc. and his work in securing the designation of Filipinotown as a Historic District by the City of Los Angeles in 2002.

His passion for bettering the lives of his fellow community members was evident in his work for elected officials he believed in, such

as his stint as field representative for then California Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa in Sacramento in the 1990s, and his long-time work in organized labor. He joined SEIU 99 in Los Angeles in 2000 and remained with the organization until his selection as vice president of NUHW, which represents many Filipino and Filipina hospital workers.

Born in the Philippines on Sept. 11, 1949, Dr. Jay was very active in politics in his native country. A dedicated fighter for liberty and democratic rights, Dr. Jay was detained under martial law for being a staff member of the late Senator Benigno Aquino, Jr. in 1972. He also actively campaigned for Eddie Villanueva during the Philippines presidential elections in 2009 and was president of Bagong Pilipino.

He brought his passion for serving his community back to the United States, where he was a leader, advisor or member of many Filipino American organizations including Justice for Filipino American Veterans, through which he lobbied for full compensation of Filipino World War II veterans in Washington and Sacramento.

I urge my House colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Jacinto "Jay" Valencia for his record of civic leadership, indomitable spirit and remarkable service and contributions to his community and to our nation.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT
BENNIE F. BOWERS, JR.

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Bennie F. Bowers, Jr., a native of Benton Harbor, Michigan, who is retiring from the Michigan State Police after 25 years of impeccable service.

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Lieutenant Bowers on his impressive and inspiring service record to the state of Michigan. His 25 years of steadfast community involvement have helped keep Michigan safe, and have made all of us from Southwest Michigan extremely proud. Lieutenant Bowers' renowned career includes protecting Michigan's citizens while posted at Michigan State Police's Battle Creek Post, Paw Paw District Headquarters and Regional Dispatch, Detroit Post, and most recently, the Metro Post. His selfless actions have made a real difference to folks within and outside of my district for decades. Lt. Bowers used innovative methods to enforce law. He was never satisfied with the status quo, and always worked to improve the communities in which he worked. He was respected by his peers and known as one to "lead by example."

Lt. Bowers' leadership is exemplified in his founding of the Michigan Youth Leadership Academy. Lt. Bowers recognized the importance of fostering discipline, respect, leadership, and teamwork in our youth. His efforts assisted in the reduction of youth crime and ingrained skills which those youth will carry with them for their whole lives. Lt. Bowers was also instrumental in the Michigan State Police Explorer Program, a program that works with youth interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement. Part of Lt. Bowers' legacy will be the youth he influenced to serve as Michigan's next generation of law enforcement officers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Lt. Bowers' inspiring commitment to our great state and my constituents. I applaud Bennie on a fine career and wish him the best of luck in his retirement and future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MRS. BRIDGETT
CARPENTER FOR HER NOTABLE
SERVICES IN THE MISSISSIPPI
HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Bridgett Carpenter.

Mrs. Carpenter is a Registered Nurse and Clinical Nurse Specialist at Saint Dominic Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from the University of Mississippi and a Master of Science degree in nursing from the University of Mississippi's Medical Center.

Mrs. Carpenter is a member of the Association of Pediatric Surgical Nurses, National Association of Neonatal Nurses, and Society of Pediatric Nurses. She is a certified Pediatric Advanced Life Support regional faculty member as well as a certified Advanced Burn Life Support Provider. Mrs. Carpenter has worked at Saint Dominic Hospital for the past 23 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Bridgett Carpenter for her notable services as a Registered Nurse in the Mississippi health care community.

BEN CORDOVA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ben Cordova for his service to our community and the veterans of Colorado.

Mr. Cordova is a U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran, Commerce City business leader, and a tireless advocate for veterans' rights. He created the Ben Cordova Foundation dedicated to help service members. The foundation helps families navigate the state and federal veterans' services bureaucracy including education, VA health care and employment.

Mr. Cordova recently completed a 344-mile walk across Colorado in 44 days to bring awareness and support for his foundation. Despite his diabetes and neuropathy ailments he is set to begin a 2,745 mile journey across the country next February to raise money for veterans' services organizations. It is his goal to ensure every veteran, young or old, is aware of the help available to them nationwide.

I congratulate Mr. Cordova on his efforts to bring awareness to veterans' issues and extend my deepest thanks to him for his courage and service to our country.

HONORING BRONX COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY ROBERT T. JOHNSON

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month 2012, I rise today to recognize an individual from the Bronx whom I admire greatly, the Honorable Robert T. Johnson.

Robert T. Johnson has been the District Attorney of Bronx County since January 1, 1989. His first election was a historic one, as he became the first African-American District Attorney in the history of New York State. He is now the longest serving District Attorney in Bronx history.

Mr. Johnson, a native New Yorker, was born in the Bronx. He is a product of some of the many great schools in our city, including James Monroe High School, the City College of New York, and New York University School of Law. He has dedicated much of his professional life to helping, protecting, and defending the residents of New York City, and has spent several years as both a criminal defense attorney for the Legal Aid Society, and eight years as a Bronx Assistant District Attorney. In August of 1986, he was appointed a Judge of the New York City Criminal Court, and was later promoted to Acting Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, where he served until 1988.

Although Mr. Johnson has emphasized the prosecution of serious crimes, he has shown a great understanding of the many other factors that impact the criminal justice system. He has worked to reduce recidivism, to improve community outreach, to support drug rehabilitation as well as alternatives to incarceration, and to better deploy crime prevention strategies. He deeply understands that being a District Attorney is about more than just conviction rates—it is about solving the underlying problems that cause crime in the first place. Towards that end, Mr. Johnson has also worked to educate young people in the Bronx in order to help prevent crime and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Two recent examples of these efforts are the Youth Trial Advocacy Program (Y-TAP) and the Students Together Avoiding Risk (STAR) Program. Y-TAP provides high school students with an opportunity to develop debating and advocacy skills by competing in a moot court program under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys. Through the STAR program, staff from the District Attorney's Office provide 5th and 6th graders, along with their parents, with guidance on the repercussions and impact of gang participation, gun violence and drugs.

Mr. Speaker, after so many years of working to protect the residents of the Bronx, Mr. Johnson has earned the gratitude of more people than he could possibly know. Mr. Johnson is not only a highly respected prosecutor who enforces the law justly and fairly, he is also revered by a wide variety of communities throughout the Bronx. This is a testament to his judicious manner and evenhandedness, qualities that are paramount for a district attorney. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to someone who

serves the residents of the Bronx with such distinction, The Honorable Robert T. Johnson.

HONORING CLYDE W. BOWLING

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Mr. GOODLATTE, would like to honor Clyde W. Bowling, a devoted public servant to the people of Bluefield and Tazewell County, on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Mr. Bowling was born on February 26, 1912. His family moved to Graham, now known as Bluefield, where he graduated from Graham High School in 1931. From 1933 to 1934, Mr. Bowling served as a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps, working at the Beltsville, Maryland, research center and in various forestry projects.

Mr. Bowling is a proud veteran of World War II. During the War, he served with the Combat Engineers, 99th Division, and the 743rd Railroad Battalion building railroads in Germany and Belgium.

His willingness to serve extended to the Tazewell County and Bluefield communities as well. Mr. Bowling served as the leader of Boy Scout Troop 144 for over 30 years. During this time he received several awards, including the Silver Beaver Award for distinguished service to young people. He was the Treasurer of the Town of Bluefield in 1962, a member of the Tazewell County Soil and Water Conservation Board in the 1960s, and held a position as a member of the Cumberland Plateau Planning District for 13 years. He worked closely with the Tazewell County Transportation Safety Commission for 40 years to increase highway safety and support improvements. He was actively involved with American Legion Post #122, the Masonic Lodge #122, the Graham High School Athletic Booster Club, the Bluefield Business and Professional Association, and was a charter member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9696. Mr. Bowling is also a longtime member of Virginia Avenue United Methodist Church.

Through hard work and dedication, Mr. Bowling established the Mountain Dominion Resource Conservation and Development Area, RC & D. He served as chairman of this organization as well as the New River-Highlands RC & D. In addition, he served in all offices of the State Association of RC & D Councils, as second vice president of the Southeast Association of RC & D Councils, and was named to the Virginia State Association of RC & D Hall of Fame. He was also a member of Earth Team.

Currently, Mr. Bowling resides in the Virginia Veterans Care Center next to the V.A. Hospital in Salem, VA. He is the oldest veteran in the Center.

Mr. Bowling's contributions to the community are to be commended. He has impacted many lives throughout his 100 years. As a member of America's greatest generation, the young people of today have much to learn from his service and dedication. We are honored to pay tribute to this great man and this very special birthday. Happy Birthday, Mr. Bowling. Thank you for all that you have done for Southwest Virginia.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LONG ISLAND VETERAN THOMAS H. WATKINS

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Thomas H. Watkins, an American veteran from Long Island. He passed away on January 31, 2012. Now, the entire community is mourning this tremendous loss.

Before becoming a fixture in the Long Island community, Thomas played a key role in World War II honorably serving the U.S. Army. In late 1942, he was drafted and assigned to the 92nd Infantry Division part of the legendary Buffalo Soldiers. Of the 909,000 African Americans selected for duty in the Army during World War II, the men of the 92nd division were among the only African Americans to see combat in Europe, putting their lives on the line in battle against the German troops in Italy. Despite the harsh reality of racial segregation, Thomas and the Buffalo Soldiers fought valiantly to defend the country they loved. It was their courage and bravery that earned the respect of their fellow servicemen and country. For the next 4 years Thomas went on to serve in Italy and Germany before being honorably discharged.

After serving on the battlefields, Thomas continued his commitment to his country at the Northport Veteran Affairs Medical Center. He went on to work on behalf of Long Island veterans for over 20 years before finishing his career with the Town of Huntington. Not only was Thomas a great resource for Long Island veterans, he was a deeply engaged civic leader and public servant in his community.

A member of the Bethel A.M.E. Church in Huntington, Thomas worked tirelessly for the congregation he loved as Trustee Emeritus. Also, aware of the vital need for racial equality in America, Thomas held a lifetime membership to the NAACP. His devotion to his community, faith and family should be commended.

There is no question that his fellow veterans, his family and Long Islanders will miss Thomas. In the wake of his passing, we should all remember the sacrifice our veterans make to keep us safe here at home. I am forever grateful for Thomas's contributions as a serviceman and leader on Long Island. I offer my sincerest thoughts and prayers to his family.

CITY OF GOLDEN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the City of Golden Parks and Recreation Department for receiving the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce Civic Award.

The city's parks and recreation facilities, programs, activities, and services contribute greatly to the overall quality of life in Golden.

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for maintaining open spaces, for providing a quality system of parks and recreational facilities and for providing positive leisure opportunities for the community. Golden is home to many unique recreational amenities.

The American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration, in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), awarded the City of Golden the National Gold Medal Award at NRPA's Annual Congress and Exposition.

The Gold Medal Award honors communities throughout the United States that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition. Each agency is judged on its ability to address the needs of those it serves.

The Golden Parks and Recreation vision is "Golden will be recognized as a national leader in the provision of high quality parks, trails and recreation facilities."

Their mission is "to promote and provide safe and comprehensive community facilities, programs and services that will enrich the quality of life for all residents and visitors."

I extend my deepest congratulations to all the employees of the City of Golden Parks and Recreation Department for this well deserved recognition by the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce.

MEMORIAM FOR FRANK CUSHING, APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE STAFF DIRECTOR

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Frank Martin Cushing, who gave more than 30 years of service to the Nation as a congressional staffer, culminating as the staff director for the House Appropriations Committee. Frank passed away on Monday, Feb. 6, 2012 at the age of 59.

Frank was a fabulous person, a true leader and someone who you could always count on to get an extremely difficult job done right—while leaving everyone feeling good about it when it was finished. He was a mentor and friend to so many of the wonderful staff who work for the Appropriations Committee, and one of the best people I ever worked with in my career in public service.

I first came to know Frank well when he came to work for me as staff director of the House Appropriations Committee on Veterans Affairs, HUD and Independent Agencies in 1994. He immediately helped craft a bill that reduced spending by several billion dollars, but at the same time won over many agency heads and executive branch officials who found him tough but fair and extremely knowledgeable about their needs.

Frank was a giant of a man. Members on both sides of the aisle—in both the House and Senate—respected him for his integrity, compassion, pragmatism and mastery of the political process. When I became Appropriations Committee chairman in 2005, there was no doubt in my mind who should be staff director

of the full committee. I was extremely gratified when Frank agreed—and became just the 12th staff director of the House Appropriations Committee in U.S. history.

His legacy remains on the committee in the many excellent staff members he hired and trained. And he will be missed by the hundreds of members and staff throughout the House and Senate who came to know and admire him. I have no doubt that many will join me in reaching out to his wife, Amy and their four children, and express their sympathy at her loss and their gratitude for having known Frank Cushing.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide the obituary for Frank in order for my colleagues to understand what a truly remarkable person and public servant he was:

FRANK MARTIN CUSHING

APRIL 9, 1952–FEBRUARY 6, 2012

Frank Cushing, loving husband, son, father, grandfather, brother, and mentor died at his home in Falls Church on Monday, February 6, 2012. He was 59 years old.

Widely respected for his deep faith, integrity, and love of family and country, Cushing left an indelible mark in public policy through more than 30 years of public service in the House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, and Washington, DC business community. Cushing was widely regarded as one of the most knowledgeable individuals in Washington concerning the congressional appropriations and Federal budget processes.

Cushing graduated from the University of Idaho in 1974 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and completed graduate level work in public policy administration at the University of Idaho and Boise State University in 1974–75. He came to Washington, DC in 1977 to work as a legislative assistant for Senator James McClure of Idaho. Cushing served as clerk of the Senate Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee for Chairman McClure from 1981–84 under full committee Chairman Mark Hatfield of Oregon, and as staff director for the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee under Chairman McClure from 1984–91.

Following a three-year stint as Corporate Vice President of a Fortune 50 energy firm, Cushing returned to Capitol Hill in 1995 to serve as Clerk and Staff Director of the House Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development (VA-HUD) and Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee for then Subcommittee Chairman Jerry Lewis of California under full Committee Chairman Bob Livingston of Louisiana. He left the Hill in 2003 to become a partner at a firm specializing in appropriations consulting but returned to the House in 2005 as the Clerk and Staff Director of the full House Appropriations Committee under newly elected Chairman Lewis. Cushing was the twelfth Clerk and Staff Director of the House Appropriations Committee in U.S. history and today his portrait hangs in the U.S. Capitol with his predecessors dating back to 1865.

Cushing retired from the Hill in 2008 to become a partner in a D.C. law and consulting firm where he devoted his time and energy to public policy, particularly relating to funding for science and education. His integrity, compassion, pragmatism, and masterful political skills were admired by House Members, Senators, and staff on both sides of the aisle. Cushing also served as an At-Large Trustee of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership. He also served on the Advisory Board of the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival at the University of Idaho.

Cushing is survived by his wife, Amy Hamner of Falls Church, VA; his mother, Eliza-

beth Cushing of Arlington, VA; his brother, William P. Cushing, Jr. of Norristown, PA.; 4 children, Christina Abel of Caldwell, ID, Jennifer Dewing of Crandon, WI, Amy Catherine Cushing of Falls Church, VA, and Nathaniel Allen Cushing, of Falls Church, VA; and 12 grandchildren. Friends and family were blessed to join him at home over the last weeks of his life on earth for a time of reflection, confirmation, and joy.

A memorial service celebrating the life and memory of Frank Martin Cushing will be held on Monday, February 13 at 3 p.m. at Columbia Baptist Church, 103 West Columbia Street, Falls Church, VA, where Cushing served as a deacon.

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to be designated to the Frank Martin Cushing Public Policy Scholarship through the University of Idaho Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 443147, Moscow, ID 83844-3147, as a part of the James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research for which Cushing served on the Advisory Board. Contributions may also be directed to CrossLink International, 427 North Maple Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22046.

CONGRATULATING CHARLOTTE
HAWKINS FLOWERS ON HER
112TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing a happy 112th birthday to Ms. Charlotte Hawkins Flowers.

Ms. Flowers, or Gram as she is lovingly called by her family, was born on March 20, 1900 in Madison, Florida. Throughout her life, Gram has always taken care of others. Whether friends, families, neighbors or strangers, Gram always was ready to help others in any way she could. Her granddaughter, whom she has lived with in Riviera Beach since 2005, reflected that Gram lived her life in adherence to Ecclesiastes 9:10 which states that: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might."

With a special place in her heart for helping children, Gram had a in-home day care center in the 60's and 70's and has been a foster grandparent. As the oldest of three daughters and four sons born to Date Hawkins, she left school in the third grade to help care for her siblings. However, she still learned how to read and write and provided her grandchildren with help with their homework.

Gram also has a knack for cooking, working as a cook at Florida State University and also as a private home cook. Although she personally has a sweet tooth and loves Coca-Cola, sweet tea, and sweet potato pie, as a cook, one of her specialties was homemade biscuits. In addition to filling others up with delicious food, she also fills them with wisdom. One of her trademark sayings is "Be careful how you treat people. Because you're up today doesn't mean you won't be down tomorrow." This sentiment was something my grandmother used to also share with me and are words we should all live by every day in caring for others.

To that end, Gram always was active in her church, the Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church in Tallahassee. She believes that it is

her walk with Jesus that keeps her going strong. This strength allowed her until a few years ago to visit the sick and shut-in members of her church. Although she learned to drive, Gram never got her drivers' license or owned a car so she would often walk to make these visits. Even at 111, Gram still tries to help out in any way she can.

Mr. Speaker, on February 20, 2012, Ms. Charlotte Hawkins Flowers will be celebrating her 112th birthday with her son's family in Florida. Although she has survived her six siblings and nine children, she will be surrounded by a multitude of family: 5 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, 11 great-great-grandchildren, 16 great-great-great-grandchildren, and 4 great-great-great-great-grandchildren. It is my distinguished honor to wish her a very happy birthday and congratulate her on reaching this milestone and dedicating her life to caring for others.

HONORING PRINCIPAL YVETTE
AGUIRRE

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a pillar of the Sunset Park community, an educator and an advocate for Brooklyn's children. Today, a wing of PS 169 is being dedicated to honor Mrs. Aguirre's years of service to the children of Sunset Park. As a teacher, Mrs. Aguirre saw firsthand the needs and potential of our children. She recognized that, when given the resources and opportunity to learn in the right environment, every child can become a successful member of the community. In that regard, she has been a steadfast champion for relieving overcrowding in our schools and neighborhoods. She successfully led a campaign that united the parents of Sunset Park and helped them coalesce behind a vision of better schools, smaller class sizes and a stronger community.

In 1997, Sunset Park opened Public School 24, an institution that has now served thousands of our community's children. Mrs. Aguirre became the school's first Principal. In that role she was always committed to ensuring students and classrooms were held to high expectations. That guiding philosophy, coupled with strong faculty development and mentoring, served as a recipe for success for all those who passed through PS 24's doors over the years.

While Mrs. Aguirre is now retired, Sunset Park's residents remember her many contributions. Naming a school wing after this prominent leader, woman, educator, principal and mentor is a fitting tribute to her legacy. The name of Principal Yvette Aguirre will remind students and the community of the work of a proud Latina, a positive role model and a champion for education.

Mr. Speaker, talented and passionate educators are a gift. They give of themselves tirelessly in an effort to improve our communities and ensure our children have access to opportunity. Mrs. Aguirre is one of those educators and, today, I would ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring her many achievements.

CITY OF GOLDEN USA PRO CYCLING CHALLENGE STAGE SIX TEAM

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the City of Golden USA Pro Cycling Challenge Stage Six Team for receiving the Chairman's Award from the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce.

The Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Award is a very special award and is not awarded every year. This award is at the discretion of the Chair. Nominees must contribute a great deal to the overall economic vitality of the Greater Golden Area.

For seven consecutive days, 135 of the world's top athletes raced across 518 miles through the majestic Rockies, reaching higher altitudes than they have ever had to endure, more than two miles in elevation. It featured the best of the best in professional cycling, competing on a challenging course through some of America's most beautiful scenery, including cities such as Aspen, Vail, Breckenridge, Steamboat Springs and Golden.

The USA Pro Cycling Challenge commissioned IFM, a global sports research firm with 20 plus years of cycling experience around the world, to conduct a quantitative research study to measure the overall economic impact of the inaugural cycling event. Their findings showed the economic impact to the State of Colorado was in excess of \$83.5 million. Golden received a great deal of this impact as the crowds in Golden and surrounding areas were enormous. Due to the Golden Team's excellent job in 2011, the City of Golden has been awarded the beginning of the fifth stage for 2012.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the City of Golden USA Pro Cycling Challenge Six Team for this well deserved recognition by the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce. I have no doubt they will excel in 2012.

FEDERAL RESEARCH PUBLIC ACCESS ACT

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity this morning to talk to you about bipartisan legislation I've just introduced: the Federal Research Public Access Act.

When a federally-funded researcher writes a paper, too often that paper gets locked away behind a "pay-wall" and anyone who wants to learn from that federally-funded research has to pay exorbitant subscription or one-time fees.

Our nation benefits when scientists are able to share their research and collaborate—sometimes across different fields of study.

The public benefits when it's able to learn about a rare disease whose only discussion is in a scientific paper. Or when science students are able to access and draw from a broad array of work by other scientists to enhance their research.

Other major funders of scientific research—especially in health—such as the U.K. government or private foundations are increasingly requiring the papers they fund to be available to the public.

Some universities such as Harvard, MIT, Stanford, Carnegie Mellon, and the University of Kansas require papers written by their professors to be made available to the public.

In 2008, the Appropriations Committee expanded the public access policy requirements of the National Institutes of Health. The NIH has since implemented an online public access system called PubMed, which has gotten tremendous support from the scientific community.

I believe we'd all benefit from greater access to cutting edge research, but several specific groups would probably benefit most: Scientists, whose research will be more broadly read; Scholars, who will have fewer barriers to obtaining the research they need and whose research will also be more broadly read; Funders, who will gain from accelerated discovery, facilitation of interdisciplinary research methodologies, preservation of vital research findings, and an improved capacity to manage their research portfolios; and Taxpayers, who will obtain economic and social benefits from the leveraging of their investment in scientific research through effects such as enhanced technology transfer, broader application of research to health care, and more informed policy development.

It's not hard to think of the high school student who wants to major in medicine or science digging around the database looking for ideas.

Nor is it hard to foresee investigators looking at research in other disciplines to get ideas they can apply to their own field.

Or a college student at an undergraduate institution getting access to a journal their college has never been able to purchase.

Or a researcher's publication getting cited more often in other studies because it's easier to find and its reach extended past its original journal's readers.

That's why I've introduced the Federal Research Public Access Act, which would require federal agencies with annual extramural research budgets of \$100 million or more to provide the public with online access to research manuscripts stemming from federally funded research no later than six months after publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

My legislation is a bipartisan effort, and I thank my colleagues, Congressman KEVIN YODER of Kansas and Congressman WM. LACY CLAY of Missouri for joining me to express their strong support for public access to federal research. I'm also pleased to note that my colleagues in the United States Senate have also introduced identical, bipartisan legislation.

I've been working on this issue since the 2006 debate on the reauthorization of the National Institutes of Health. I'm pleased to note that since 2006, the NIH has implemented a public access policy. But it still only applies to the NIH, while research funded by other federal agencies remains difficult or expensive to access.

In 2009, the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy, OSTP, expressed interest in public access policies and issued a request for public comment on mechanisms that would leverage federal invest-

ments in scientific research and increase access to information that promises to stimulate scientific and technological innovation and competitiveness. In recent months, the OSTP continued this process by collecting a second round of public comments to inform its development of public access policies for federal agencies.

My bill would give the OSTP Congressional direction to assist it in crafting public access policies. I want OSTP to write the strongest, best rule possible. But even they need help and this legislation will provide them with guidance.

I believe that this bipartisan bill strikes a good balance among the needs of scientists, the rights of taxpayers, and the financial interests of companies that have historically published this research in peer-reviewed, usually expensive subscription publications. The bill gives publishers an exclusive six-month period in which the information will be available to subscribers, and it allows them to continue to market the additional value they add to these manuscripts when they publish them.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can move this bill through Congress before the end of the year.

RECOGNIZING DR. GENE M. BAINES FOR HIS SERVICES IN THE MISSISSIPPI HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Gene M. Baines of Greenwood, Mississippi. Dr. Baines is the eldest of two children. He was educated in the parochial and public schools of Leflore County and graduated from Amanda Elzy High School in 1972. He received a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from Tougaloo College in 1976. He later attended dental school at the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry where he graduated with his doctor of dental medicine degree in 1980.

Dr. Baines has been a practicing dentist in Greenwood for over 23 years. Prior to establishing his Greenwood practice he was a well respected practicing dentist in Jackson, Mississippi for 8 years. He has extensive post-graduate training in all aspects of general dentistry including cosmetic procedures, endodontic therapy and postodontics. Dr. Baines keeps up with the new advancements in dentistry and chooses to offer enhanced state of comfort and improved oral health.

Dr. Braines serves on the Mississippi Action for Progress Health Advisory Committee and is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Academy of General Dentistry, National Dental Association, Mississippi Dental Society, American Dental Association—Give Kids A Smile, and Greenwood Leflore Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Baines and his wife reside in rural Greenwood where he enjoys traveling, woodworking, photography and is a self-proclaimed connoisseur of jazz music.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in expressing my appreciation to Dr. Gene M. Baines of Greenwood, Mississippi for his outstanding works in the field of dentistry.

HONORING DEIRDRE SCOTT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BRONX COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month 2012, I rise today to recognize a dedicated arts and cultural leader in the Bronx who has done wonderful work for the people of our borough, Ms. Deirdre Scott.

Ms. Scott is a lifelong resident of New York and has been a resident and leader in the Bronx for more than 20 years. She attended Temple University School of Architecture and Engineering Technology, before enrolling in Hunter College, CUNY where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Art History/Fine Arts. She also earned a Business Development Certificate from Columbia University School of Business in 1994. She has been the Executive Director of the Bronx Council on the Arts, BCA, since 2009, and served on the board prior to that. Ms. Scott has extensive experience at art institutions throughout New York City, and prior to her time at BCA, she was the Director of Technology at the Studio Museum in Harlem for seven years. She has also worked at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Bronx Museum of the Arts and Cooper-Hewitt—The Smithsonian's National Design Museum. She also co-founded the Aquamarine Sculpture Park in Manhattan, which was the first waterfront sculpture park in the borough. Among other roles, she has worked as a curator, educator, exhibition and multimedia designer, and instructor.

Ms. Scott has also been involved in an amazing number of civic efforts. She is a member of the Board of Directors at the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, is a member of the New York City Workforce Investment Board, the Juxtopia Informatics' Virtual Instructors Pilot Research Group, and the Bronx Initiative for Energy and the Environment.

The BCA is one of the Bronx's premier organizations, and this year will celebrate its 50th Anniversary. In her role as Executive Director, Ms. Scott has helped numerous artists, art organizations, and community groups through the BCA's programming and grants. In addition, she has played an important role in securing BCA's future by leading an effort that resulted in the donation of a new building to serve as the headquarters for the BCA.

Mr. Speaker, the Bronx has a long and rich history in the arts. I am proud to say that Ms. Scott is not just a part of that past, but is also developing the future of arts and culture in our borough. She is very well respected by leaders in the arts community and her talents have not gone unnoticed by her peers. I am proud to join them in recognizing and thanking her for her contributions to the Bronx and to New York City. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing a gifted and talented woman, Ms. Deirdre Scott.

EDS WASTE SOLUTIONS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud EDS Waste Solutions for receiving the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award.

This award is given to an outstanding Chamber of Commerce business member that has contributed substantially to the Chamber of Commerce and the community.

The original trash company began in 1896 with a horse and wagon. Today, EDS Waste Solutions proudly operates a fleet of over 30 trucks.

EDS Waste Solutions is a full service company that offers residential, commercial, industrial, and recycle hauling services. They are committed to offering the most innovative waste solutions of the 21st century.

In the 26 years that EDS has been located in Golden they have supported the City of Golden, Golden Chamber of Commerce, Buffalo Bill Days, Golden Fine Arts Festival, Golden Christmas Parades, Golden Car Shows, Golden Clean Up Days and the list goes on. EDS saves the city, citizens and organizations nearly \$20,000.00 each year.

Their Mission Statement is truly who they are. EDS is an environmentally responsible company committed to exceeding the expectations of their customers, employees, and community with integrity, teamwork, innovation, and their desire to serve. Because, "It's not just trash, it's our future".

I extend my deepest congratulations to all the employees of EDS Waste Solutions for this well deserved recognition by the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce. Thank you for making our community a better place to live.

H.R. 3582—PRO-GROWTH BUDGETING ACT AND H.R. 3578—BASELINE REFORM ACT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to both H.R. 3582 and H.R. 3578. These misguided bills make it easier for Congress to pass budgets that give wealthy individuals unaffordable tax breaks while devastating America's communities with cuts to schools, hospitals and road and bridge repairs.

H.R. 3582, the Pro Growth Budgeting Act, requires the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, to use "dynamic scoring" as part of a macroeconomic impact analysis of tax provisions. This new method is based on the false premise that tax cuts pay for themselves, which would hide the true costs of passing even more tax cuts for America's wealthiest individuals.

H.R. 3578, the Baseline Reform Act, mandates a fundamental change in how CBO forecasts future discretionary spending in its baseline, requiring CBO to unrealistically assume that spending in the future will stay the same

and not keep pace with inflation. Over the long-term, this could result in a substantial decrease in vital government services that millions of Americans rely on.

Both of these bills present a distorted picture of the federal budget outlook. H.R. 3582 and H.R. 3578 will fail to create jobs, reduce the national deficit, or put the country on a fiscally sustainable path. By bringing these bills to the floor, the House Republican Majority is once again failing to focus on the most pressing need of our constituents: growing the economy and creating jobs.

It is time to leave behind the failed Republican economic policies of the last decade. The Great Recession proved that deregulation and tax cuts for the wealthy at a time when America is fighting two wars destroys jobs and produces enormous deficits. Republicans and Democrats need to come together around a new agenda that makes strategic investments in our country. We can start with President Obama's American Jobs Act, which would put more than 1 million Americans back to work, according to independent economists. By working together, we can build a stronger, more competitive economy for the 21st century.

I urge my colleagues to oppose them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was out of town due to a death in my family and was not present for rollcall votes numbered 13–20 on Wednesday, February 1, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted in this manner:

Rollcall Vote #13—Jackson Lee (TX) Amendment (#2): "yes;"

Rollcall Vote #14—Jackson Lee (TX) Amendment (#1): "yes;"

Rollcall Vote #15—Deutch (FL) Amendment (#4): "yes;"

Rollcall Vote #16—Deutch (FL) Amendment (#5): "yes;"

Rollcall Vote #17—Democratic Motion to Recommit: "yes;"

Rollcall Vote #18—Final Passage of H.R. 1173: "no;"

Rollcall Vote #19—H.R. 3835: "no;" and

Rollcall Vote #20—H.R. 3567: "yes."

GAUGING AMERICAN PORT SECURITY

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, the lessons of 9/11 have taught us that we must continuously be vigilant in proactively seeking out and preventing our country's most pressing threats. That is why after 9/11, Congress began to shine a spotlight on previously ignored issues such as border security, airport security and strengthening identification procedures. However, an area that continues to be ignored is port security.

In the U.S., tens of thousands of ships each year make over 50,000 calls on U.S. ports. These ships carry the bulk of the approximately two billion tons of freight, three billion tons of oil transports, and 134 million passengers by ferry each year.

The volume of traffic gives terrorists opportunities to smuggle themselves or their weapons into the United States with little risk of detection. According to a report by the Council on Foreign Relations, in May 2002 there were reports that twenty-five Islamist extremists entered the United States by hiding in shipping containers.

This highlights the need for an immediate legislative solution to counter this problem. However, it is difficult to come up with an effective solution without first knowing all of the potential dangers.

That is why I am introducing the Gauging American Port Security (GAPS) Act. The GAPS Act addresses these problems by requiring that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) report to Congress on the current weaknesses and vulnerabilities of U.S. ports and ensures that DHS develops a comprehensive plan for addressing them. Only by focusing on the specific dangers that threaten our port security, can we develop effective solutions to ensure our nation is prepared for any and all types of attacks.

KEN KRANZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ken Kranz for receiving the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce Charlie O'Brien Award.

This award goes to a member who is well respected within his or her organization and is motivated by an unselfish desire to contribute to the community for the betterment of greater Golden.

Ken Kranz fell in love with Golden while conducting a bank transaction with Wells Fargo. After moving to Golden, Ken met with the Greater Golden Chamber to find out where his talents were needed. His talents were put to use that very day and has continued to today.

Ken has been President of Leadership Golden Alumni Association, Chairman and current member of Citizens Budget Advisory Committee for the City of Golden, President of the Golden Visitors Center Board of Trustees, member of the Golden Fine Arts Festival Committee and responsible for logistics coordination. Ken is also a member of the Board of Directors, current member of the Rotary Club of Golden and volunteer at the National Western Stock Show.

Ken retired from banking after 30 years of service to the Wells Fargo Corporation and Wells Fargo Bank.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ken Kranz for this well deserved recognition by the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce. Thank you for your dedication to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF MAYOR GREGORIO ACOSTA
CALVO

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Gregorio Acosta Calvo, the former Mayor of Tamuning-Tumon, Guam. Mayor Calvo passed away on February 2, 2012 at the age of 87.

Gregorio Acosta Calvo was born on November 9, 1924 in Hagåtña, Guam and is the son of Gregorio Leon Guerrero Calvo and Maria Acosta Calvo. In 1960, he was elected Assistant Commissioner of Tamuning-Tumon and served in that role until 1965. In 1965, the Government of Guam changed the title of the position from Commissioner to Mayor. In 1965, Mr. Calvo was elected Mayor of Tamuning-Tumon and served in this capacity until his retirement on January 14, 1985.

Mayor Calvo began working for the Government of Guam in 1952, where he served as Chairman for Parks and Recreation within the Department of Public Works. During his time at Public Works, Mr. Calvo was instrumental in organizing summer programs for teens. He continued this passion for helping the island's youth during his term as Mayor, where he organized sporting events for baseball and basketball.

Mayor Calvo was strongly involved in the introduction of Little League baseball on Guam. From the early 1950s to the official national chartering of the Little League in 1967, Mayor Calvo was a leading supporter for the development of the sport for our island's youth. In 1983, he proposed to split the Little League Far East region into the Asia region and the Pacific region, in order to give the smaller Pacific nations an opportunity to compete in the Little League World Series. In 2000, the proposal was passed and since then Guam has sent teams to compete in the Little League World Series.

Mayor Calvo was also a strong advocate for the preservation of the Chamorro culture. In 1992, he became a member of the board of the Chamorro Heritage Foundation, a non-profit organization with the mission of preserving, developing, and enhancing the Chamorro culture and heritage of the people of Guam. Mayor Calvo is also a survivor of the Japanese occupation of Guam during World War II. As a teen, he endured forced labor at the hands of Japanese forces and was tasked with digging caves in the northern village of Yigo.

Mayor Calvo married Felisidad Salas Calvo in 1946 and together they raised 13 children, and have been blessed with numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I join our community in mourning the loss of Mayor Gregorio Acosta Calvo. His contributions to our community, especially our island's youth, will be remembered by the many citizens he helped throughout his life. On behalf of the people of Guam, I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and loved ones. God bless Mayor Calvo. He will be missed.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISH-
MENTS OF UNITED WAY OF
MCLEAN COUNTY ILLINOIS

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievement of the United Way of McLean County. The United Way provides funding for 27 agencies that operate a total of 45 local programs to help assist the homeless, people with developmental disabilities, and families in crisis.

The United Way, with the help of citizens and businesses throughout McLean County, raised over \$4.3 million during its latest fundraising period.

This money was raised in part by a community that has always valued self reliance and over the years has come together in times of hardship to meet common goals and to assist its own citizens. The great people of McLean County are proof that we do not need to rely on the government to take care of every problem.

I would like to also thank State Farm and all of their employees. Together, they donated a total of \$1.9 million to the cause of the United Way. This includes \$99,000 that State Farm donated before the close of fundraising to make sure the United Way exceeded its goal of \$4.3 million. State Farm's continued relationship with the McLean County community is another illustration of the benefits that accompany accepting and promoting private businesses in your local area.

The United Way is an asset to McLean county, and I pray for their continued success and assistance in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JAN SANDERS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent, Jan Sanders, a longtime activist, community leader, and cherished friend who is being honored by the League of Women Voters of Dallas Education Fund as the 2012 recipient of the Susan B. Anthony Award on February 10, 2012. I can think of no one more appropriate to receive this award. Throughout her life, Jan has exhibited tireless activism and a relentless pursuit of justice, equality and peace.

Jan has served numerous organizations that provide community development and services for local congregations, schools, and community organizations. Jan Sanders is a longtime member of the League of Women Voters, and is dedicated to outreach initiatives on voter registrations, especially those that involve high school students and new citizens. Jan taught 5th grade in the DISD, and also spent a year teaching government at SMU. She has taught many workshops to improve the public's understanding of the role of government and the responsibilities of citizenship. She has served many years as an Election Judge and created a training curriculum for poll workers, poll

watchers, and others. Jan is especially proud of her work with the 'Dismantling Racism Team' of the Greater Dallas Community of Churches.

Not only do her social justice interests know no bounds, but her combination of skills and approaches to the pursuit of justice make her a relentless champion. She has built local, national, and international coalitions against injustice.

Finally, Jan demonstrates seemingly limitless personal commitment. She brings care and compassion to every struggle. Through her coalition building, she has crafted a peace movement that focuses on the humanity of everyone, including policymakers and the peace leaders.

I am indebted to Jan for her expertise, her friendship, and the example of her leadership, and I am honored to have this opportunity to thank her for her lifelong commitment to equality and peace.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Jan Sanders on her recognition. I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending her for service and dedication.

LECH WALESA DAY IN ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to announce that the Illinois General Assembly passed a resolution which declares February 9th to be Lech Walesa Day in Illinois. I have been honored to meet this great patriot during both of my trips to Poland, and fully support this tribute to a man who spent his life fighting for liberty and democracy.

Lech Walesa is a freedom fighter. He fought for the rights of the worker as a trade union activist in the Gdansk shipyards. He is a man who fought to lift the yoke of communism and oppression off of the Polish people and as President of Poland led them into a new age of democracy. President Walesa helped fight for the rights and freedoms of Poles past, present, and future.

President Walesa has always followed his moral compass, which led him towards freedom and democracy. Representing a district which has more than 110,000 people of Polish and Polish-American descent, it is my honor to salute a truly great world leader of the 20th century, President Lech Walesa.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 34, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 35, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO DR. HENRY LEWIS III

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Henry Lewis III. After conducting a year-long, nation-wide search, The Florida Memorial University Board of Trustees chose Dr. Lewis to serve as the university's 12th president in 2011. I congratulate him on thirty-five plus years of leadership and service to the Florida community.

Dr. Lewis is recognized for his passion through his motto of transforming educational outlets from Good to Great. This educational passion pushed him to increase FAMU College of Pharmacy's endowment from \$1 million to more than \$22 million. Dr. Lewis is responsible for educating and training 25 percent of the nation's African-American pharmacists. In addition to his legacy as an educator, he raised over \$95 million in biomedical research training grants.

Dr. Lewis has also transitioned his exceptional leadership skills in the community serving as the first African-American elected to the Leon County Board of County Commissioners in Tallahassee, Florida. While a Commissioner, he established the county's Minority Business Enterprise program, developed the branch health clinic network, successfully advocated legislative funding for a \$2.5 million clinic building and strategically placed a \$20 million public library downtown adjacent to the C.K. Steele bus terminal, making it reachable to all Tallahassee citizens.

Dr. Lewis is frequently lauded as a leader amongst leaders. He has been the recipient of the Outstanding Educator Award, Dr. Martin Luther King Leadership Award, Outstanding Tallahassee Award and Pharmacist of the Year. Colleagues, please join me in saluting Dr. Henry Lewis III, whose future educational investments will continue to create the nation's future global leaders.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAYOR MARCUS CLARK, PIPER CITY, ILLINOIS

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Mr. Marcus Clark, former Mayor of Piper City, Illinois, and a veteran of the U.S. Army. Mr. Clark passed away on Thursday, February 2nd at the age of 82 at his home in Piper City.

Mr. Clark was born September 23, 1929, in Latona, Illinois and spent his childhood in Piper City, graduating from Piper City High School. He married Phyllis June Read in 1952 and together they had six children. Following his service to our country in the Army, Mr. Clark was an active member of the Gibb Post 588 of the American Legion, as well as Rotary and Eastern Star. He was the Plant Manager for Louis Melind in Onarga and announced football games in Piper City for 22 years.

Mr. Clark served as the Mayor of Piper City for twelve years and was also a Board mem-

ber. He was an avid hunter and enjoyed golfing. His rich legacy lives on through his family of five children, eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and three siblings.

Mr. Clark was a tremendous ambassador for Piper City, and he will be missed. Thank you, Mr. Clark, for your service to your country and your support of your community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, February 6, 2012, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 34 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 537) and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 35 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1162, as amended).

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD PHILLIPS

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to a true American hero. Harold Phillips of Moorestown, New Jersey, will soon be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his service in the United States Marine Corps during World War II. Harold was a member of our Nation's first African American combat unit, the 51st Defense Battalion, at a time when discrimination pervaded our society. Harold has lived a life of patriotism and service to his community, his State and his country. He is a pioneer who forged a path for future generations of African-American men and women to serve their country in the Armed Services. I am proud to call Harold Phillips my constituent and I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his service.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 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 \$15,335,666,215,381.09. We've added \$10,534,261,040,086.81 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING REVEREND CARLTON GARRETT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Reverend Carlton Garrett, a lifelong Dallas resident and founding pastor of The Lord's Missionary Baptist Church on Bexar Street. Reverend Garrett was a devoted pastor for more than 37 years before he passed away at the age of 82.

Reverend Garrett was highly respected and well known throughout the South Dallas community. His selfless contributions to those around him and his unwavering dedication to his faith and congregation empowered him to become a dynamic community leader. Even before his passing, people of South Dallas reflected on his seemingly limitless passion for helping others.

Reverend Garrett loved all and served all in his community. Through the Church, he created programs to help the homeless and feed the hungry, provided financial assistance to the poor, funded scholarships for underprivileged youth, and spearheaded initiatives to care for the elderly and the disabled. During Hurricane Katrina, Reverend Garrett assisted with relocating thousands of evacuees, extending his contributions far beyond the Dallas area.

In recognition of his years of service, the community came together last year to petition for the renaming of Bexar Street in Reverend Garrett's honor. With overwhelming support from the community and the Dallas City Council, the street will be named in honor of Reverend Carlton Garrett. It is a fitting tribute to someone who served the South Dallas community and beyond for so many years.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to lose such an integral member of the Dallas community. Reverend Garrett is part of a distinguished group of people who have always put the needs of others ahead of their own, and made invaluable contributions to the world. While the Dallas community will surely miss Reverend Garrett, his memory will live on in the hearts and minds of all whom he has inspired throughout his life, and through the good deeds and service that touched so many lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was out of town due to a death in my family and was not present for rollcall votes numbered 21–30 on Thursday, February 2, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted in this manner: rollcall vote No. 21—Previous Question on H. Res. 534: “no,” rollcall vote No. 22—On Agreeing to H. Res. 534: “no,” rollcall vote No. 23—Motion to Instruct Conferees—Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act: “yes,” rollcall vote No. 24—Peters (MI) Amendment: “yes,” rollcall vote No. 25—Connolly (VA) Amendment: “yes,” rollcall vote No.

26—Fudge (OH) Amendment: “yes,” rollcall vote No. 27—Jackson Lee (TX) Amendment: “yes,” rollcall vote No. 28—Cicilline (RI) Amendment: “yes,” rollcall vote No. 29—Motion to Recommit H.R. 3582: “yes,” rollcall vote No. 30—Final Passage of H.R. 3582: “no.”

CONDEMNING THE ONGOING VIOLENCE IN SYRIA

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the unspeakable violence that the Government of Syria has committed—and continues to commit—against its own citizens. For the past eleven months, the Syrian people have engaged in peaceful demonstrations to demand their basic, universal human rights. These demonstrations have been met with unrelenting bloodshed and torture. Thousands of Syrian men, women, and children have been slaughtered. There can be no question: President Bashar al-Assad must step down, or be removed from power.

Last week, the United States, the Arab League, and a growing international coalition together called for a United Nations Security Council resolution that would end the crisis and begin a transition to democracy in Syria. I am appalled that Russia and China have chosen to veto this measure, and stand with a brutal dictator rather than the Syrian people. This veto is an outrage, and serves only to endorse President Assad's ongoing massacre. On February 4th, the day of the U.N. Security Council vote, the Syrian military launched a devastating attack on the city of Homs that continues today. Hundreds of unarmed civilians have been killed.

I strongly support President Obama's efforts to work with America's western and Arab allies to stop the bloodshed. Though China and Russia have chosen to stand with Assad, the world will not. Already, nations across the Middle East and throughout the world are expelling Syrian diplomats, tightening sanctions, and ratcheting up pressure on the Syrian government. The time has come for President Assad to step down, and for the Syrian people to determine their own future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, an unavoidable conflict required that I miss rollcall No. 46, which was final passage of H.R. 3521, the Expedited Legislative Line-Item Veto and Rescissions Act of 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted in support of this bill.

RECOGNIZING MRS. LINDA WILLIAMS FOR HER SERVICE AND COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a longtime Mississippi resident, dedicated health care professional and a remarkable woman, Mrs. Linda Williams. Mrs. Williams has been a nurse practitioner in my district since 1991. She is a very valued member of the Lee County, Mississippi, community and serves on several of the local area boards. She is married to Frederick Williams and to that union they have two children, James and Samantha.

She is a graduate of the Holmes Community College School of Nursing in Goodman, Mississippi. After graduating, she served as a registered nurse at the University of Mississippi Medical Center hospital assisting on the general medical and surgical floors. While there, she aided patients through high risk pregnancies and post partum pregnancy recoveries as well as normal labor and delivery birth. In 1991, Mrs. Williams began specializing in endocrinology and infertility nursing with Women's Health Care and Reproductive services. Currently, she is a Physician Assistant specialist in reproductive medicine and surgery.

Mrs. Williams is a very active member of the Lee County, Mississippi, community. She serves on the Lee County Alliance of Legal professionals and the Lee County Medical Society Alliance. Mrs. Williams has also been very active in trying to minimize adolescent driving while under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Linda Williams for her commitment to the healthcare services of women and children as well as advocacy against impaired teenage driving.

HONORING LONG-TIME COMMUNITY ACTIVIST AND UNION ADVOCATE: MRS. LEORA HILL

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great loss to our community, Mrs. Leora Hill, who passed away on New Year's Day, 2012, at the young age of 60. My heart goes out to her husband, Wayne Hill; her daughter, Tonii Nichole Brady; her six grandchildren and great-grandchild; and the rest of her family, friends and loved ones.

Leora was an extraordinary citizen, an activist for working families, a dedicated public servant and a tireless advocate for her community in the Crenshaw District of Los Angeles. A fighter for her fellow California residents, Leora spent hundreds of hours attending community meetings, lobbying elected officials and volunteering on dozens of political and public service campaigns.

Leora's dedication to her fellow Californians led her to a 23-year career as a tax technician

for the State Board of Equalization, where she helped thousands of entrepreneurs and small business owners navigate the state tax process, file the necessary paperwork to start their businesses and helping entrepreneurs to create jobs and become viable and productive members of the business community.

Her passion for ensuring fair rights and decent wages for California's working families kicked off a longtime tenure as an activist in her union, SEIU Local 1000, where she became chair of the Committee on Political Education, COPE, for Southern California. She

also served as President of Local 1000's District Labor Council 723, where she was the labor leader for state employees in south Los Angeles County.

Leora was a true fighter for the underdog. When state employees were threatened with major reductions in wages and furloughed by the governor, she made numerous media appearances, speaking out forcefully in favor of working families.

Leora's tireless efforts on behalf of working families were recognized by then-SEIU International President Andy Stern with a special recognition in 2008.

Leora was also dedicated to increasing political awareness and civic involvement among her fellow residents. Her recruitment of friends, neighbors, and co-workers for political campaigns and other efforts to improve her community truly made a difference in the lives of countless Californians.

I urge my House colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Leora Hill for her record of civic leadership, her indomitable spirit and her remarkable service and contributions to her community and to our Nation.