

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF REVEREND
AND MRS. R.T. MITCHELL

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere respect that I rise to congratulate Reverend R.T. Mitchell, Pastor of New Revelation Missionary Baptist Church in Gary, Indiana, and his wife, Mrs. Irene Robinson Mitchell, on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. The members of New Revelation will be honoring Reverend and Mrs. Mitchell with a celebration of their anniversary and the renewal of their marriage vows on Saturday, February 25, 2012, at The Chateau in Merrillville, Indiana.

Reverend Mitchell was born in Pittsview, Alabama, and graduated from Glenville High School. He continued his education at Moody Bible Institute and Indiana Christian Bible College, graduating with a degree in External Bible Study. The Pastor also holds a Bachelor of Theology degree and has pursued significant additional Evangelical studies.

Reverend Mitchell was called into the ministry in May 1975 before being ordained on April 6, 1977. On January 22, 1978, Reverend Mitchell became the Pastor of New Revelation Missionary Baptist Church and has served in that capacity for the past thirty-four years. During his time at New Revelation, Pastor Mitchell has taken on many responsibilities and had much success. He has served as President of the Baptist Ministers' Conference of Gary and Vicinity and as President of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Baptist State Convention of Indiana. Reverend Mitchell has also served on numerous boards and committees for organizations in Gary and throughout Northwest Indiana including: the Northwest Indiana Food Bank, the Thelma Marshall Children's Home, the Second Chance Foundation of Gary, and the Calumet Project. He currently serves on the City of Gary Zoning Board, and he has served as President of the Interfaith Federation Clergy Caucus and as a Chaplain of the Gary Police Department. Throughout the years, Reverend Mitchell has also been heavily involved with ministering to the incarcerated in his community. For his outstanding contributions to the community and his commitment to civil rights, in 2010, Reverend Mitchell was honored with the prestigious Drum Major Award by the Gary Frontiers Service Club at its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast.

Mrs. Irene Mitchell, was born and raised in East Chicago, Indiana. As the youngest child of Albert Ervin and Mary Jane Robinson, she was born into a family that loved the Lord and served Him with joy. As a young person, Irene was a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church, where she participated in various organizations. Later on, she went on to serve as the President of the Gospel Chorus and was involved in Sunday School and with the Nurses.

Education has always been important to Mrs. Mitchell. Following her graduation from East Chicago Roosevelt High School, Mrs. Mitchell later attended Indiana University through its extension located in East Chicago and has earned her Certificate of Completion from Moody Bible Institute. Additionally, Mrs. Mitchell's devout faith and eagerness to learn has since led her to participate in numerous seminars and religious classes.

Mrs. Mitchell has served as President of the Minister Wives Coterie of Gary and as Secretary of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Baptist State Convention of Indiana, Women's Department. At New Revelation, she has also served as President of the General Mission and as Chairperson of New Revelation Youth Ministry, and she has also been involved with the Men and Women Day Service and One Church One School. In addition to various ministries in the community, Mrs. Mitchell is currently the Sunday School teacher at New Revelation and is a member of Ruth Circle and Christian Education.

Reverend and Mrs. Mitchell are the proud parents of two daughters, Arlene and Artice, and six adoring grandchildren: Robert, Jerrel, Jeremy, Christian, Ashton, and Isaiah.

My colleagues, Pastor and Mrs. Mitchell have led lives dedicated to Our Lord, to each other, and to their family. They have tirelessly ministered to their congregation and have selflessly given of themselves, their time, and their talents to the greater community of Northwest Indiana. Few remain untouched by their generous natures and limitless devotion to be of service. I am very fortunate and proud to consider them friends.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to consider Reverend R.T. Mitchell and his wonderful life companion, Irene, as my friends. At this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Reverend and Mrs. Mitchell as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Their unselfish and lifelong dedication to their church, their community, and to each other, is worthy of our admiration, and I wish them many more happy years to come.

HONORING MR. ELROY ANTHONY
JAMES

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the continued achievements of Mr. Elroy Anthony James, a native and product of my hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana. Today, I wish to congratulate Mr. James as he is honored with the title of 97th King of Zulu, an organization that he has proudly served for nearly two decades. He has participated on various committees, including the Zulu Ensemble, Picnic, Souvenir Booklet, Public Relations, Anniversary, Budget and Finance and Lundi

Gras Committees. Mr. James has been a leader in Zulu due to a love of the tradition, merriment and ceremony of this historic organization. His newest honor is one that will forever remain among his many high accomplishments.

In addition his role as an active member and leader of the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club since 1992, Mr. James is a life-member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association and the New Orleans and Baton Rouge Bar Associations. Mr. James' honors and achievements are testaments to his value as a brother, a leader, and as an esteemed professional in the many organizations to which he devotes his time. Mr. James also volunteers with the Leona Tate Foundation for Change Inc., where he provides legal advice to individuals who have made the pursuit for social justice their lives' work.

Mr. James is the youngest child of Ms. Mary L. James of Kentwood, Louisiana. He is an alumnus of Southern University Agricultural and Mechanical College and the Southern University Law Center, where he received his Juris Doctorate and was associate editor of the Southern University Law Review. He is also an alumnus of Georgetown University Law Center, where he earned a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Taxation with a Certificate in Employee Benefits. I hold Mr. James in the highest regard for his dedication to family, friends, colleagues, and his community. An inspiration to all whose lives he touches, Mr. James represents the best of what New Orleans has to offer. His commitment to the city and the future of the city brings hope and promise to ensuring that New Orleans remains one of the most empowered and unique places in the world.

I wish to congratulate Mr. Elroy James on his coronation on February 17th, 2012 as the 97th King of Zulu.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF ANDREW W. CHAMBERS

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Andrew W. Chambers of Chester County, Pennsylvania on his retirement after 30 years of law enforcement service with the Tredyffrin Township Police Department.

Chief Chambers began his law enforcement career with Tredyffrin Township in 1982 as a police officer assigned to patrol. After 9 years, Chambers worked his way up the ranks as a sergeant, lieutenant and captain before being appointed Superintendent of Police in 2008.

Chief Chambers has also served as commander of a Regional Special Operations (SWAT) team, known as the Northeast Chester County Emergency Response Team, which

• 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.

serves nine municipalities in Chester County for police high risk incident response. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police, Chester County Chiefs of Police Association and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association.

Additionally, Chief Chambers has been a volunteer firefighter and EMT for over 30 years and is a certified Public Safety Diver. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Chester County Emergency Medical Services Council and serves as Vice President and co-founder of the Chester County Police and Fire Hero Fund, which was created to raise funds for police officers and emergency workers killed or disabled in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, in light of his years of exemplary service to his community and litany of sterling accomplishments too long to record, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Chief Andrew W. Chambers for his invaluable contributions to the quality of life of the citizens of Tredegar Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania and our entire nation.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, as the Co-Chairman of the House Azerbaijan Caucus, I rise today to bring attention to the tragedy that took place in Khojaly, Azerbaijan, a town and townspeople that were destroyed on February 26, 1992.

Sadly, today there is little attention or interest paid to the plight of Khojaly outside of Azerbaijan. However, one of our greatest strengths as elected officials is the opportunity to bring to light truths that are little known and command recognition. As a friend of Azerbaijan, I am proud to remind my colleagues that we must never forget the tragedy that took place at Khojaly.

At the time, the Khojaly tragedy was widely covered by the international media, including the Boston Globe, Washington Post, New York Times, Financial Times, and many other European and Russian news agencies.

Khojaly, a town in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, now under the control of Armenian forces, was the site of the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians. With a population of approximately 7,000, Khojaly was one of the largest urban settlements of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and was destroyed after the attack. Hundreds were killed or injured.

Twenty years later, the cause of this conflict has not yet been resolved. As the Presidents of the United States, Russia and France underlined in their statement at the Deauville Summit in May 26, 2011, the current status quo is unacceptable.

Azerbaijan has been a strong strategic partner and friend of the United States. The tragedy of Khojaly was a crime against humanity and I urge my colleagues to join me in standing with Azerbaijanis as they commemorate this tragedy.

FURTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CASTRO'S CUBA: THE CONTINUED ABUSE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I chaired a joint hearing of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights and the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere to focus on just one aspect—though a deeply troubling one—of the overall abysmal human rights record of the dictatorship in Cuba.

The hearing examined the ongoing violations of the human rights of Cuban political prisoners—from the arrest, prosecution, and persecution of political opponents of the Castro regime to the deplorable conditions of their imprisonment—to the terms under which they are released.

The announcement of the release of some prisoners in late December, in conjunction with the release over the past two years of more than three dozen political prisoners, has been described as a public relations move designed to portray a loosening of Cuba's political repression of opponents. Those of us who have had the privilege of knowing and working with Cuba's human rights champions for decades, and have heard first-hand of the brutality of the Castro government, are not so easily persuaded or deceived.

Cuba has been a totalitarian state with the Cuban Communist Party as the sole legal political party for more than half a century. Upon his seizure of power in Cuba in 1959, Fidel Castro promised a return to constitutional rule and democratic elections with social reforms. However, Castro's control over the military and government structures allowed his regime to crush dissent, marginalize resistance leaders and imprison or execute thousands of opponents. Between 1959 and 1962 alone, it is estimated that the Castro regime executed 3,200 people. Hundreds of thousands of Cubans fled an increasingly radical government. Those who remained in Cuba faced a repressive regime that denied basic human rights.

More than fifty years after Castro's assumption of power in Cuba, the U.S. Department of State human rights report on Cuba describes a government that still denies its citizens the right to change their government; threatens, harasses and beats its opponents through state security forces and government-organized mobs; sentences opponents to harsh and life-threatening prison conditions; arbitrarily detains human rights advocates and members of independent organizations, and selectively prosecutes perceived opponents and then denies them a fair trial.

Cuba's political prisoners are held, together with the rest of the prison population, in substandard and unhealthy conditions, where they face physical and sexual abuse. Most prisoners suffer from malnutrition and reside in overcrowded cells without appropriate medical attention. In fact, political prisoners face selective denial of medical care. Cuban prisons fail to segregate those held in pre-trial detention from long-term violent inmates, and minors are often mixed in with adults. Such are the conditions opponents of the Castro regime have

faced over the years—some of them for decades.

Armando Valladares, who unfortunately couldn't join us yesterday, but who will appear at a future hearing, was a Cuban Postal Bank employee who was arrested for refusing to display a sign on his desk that promoted communism. Mr. Valladares was imprisoned in 1960 at age 23, and spent 22 years in prison. Like many freed political prisoners, Mr. Valladares moved to the United States.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan appointed him to serve as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, a position in which he served for two years. I was with Ambassador Valladares in Geneva when he succeeded in bringing Cuba before the commission for human rights violations and authorizing a U.N. fact-finding trip to Cuba to investigate prison conditions.

I have read Mr. Valladares' memoir—*Against All Hope*—a book that chronicles his experiences and that of others in Cuba's gulags. Mr. Valladares systematically describes the torture, cruelty, and degrading treatment by Cuban prison guards. Yet, like so many other heroic Cuban dissidents, he persisted and overcame.

Our surprise witness yesterday was the brilliant, humanitarian Dr. Oscar Elías Biscet. A medical doctor and courageous human rights advocate, Dr. Biscet was one of more than two dozen dissidents who were arrested and detained by Cuban police in August 1999 for organizing meetings in Havana and Matanzas. He was released after five days but was re-arrested three more times. The second time he was arrested, later in 1999, he spent three years in prison. His third arrest in December 2002 resulted in a beating, but not imprisonment. Upon his fourth arrest in March 2003, he was sentenced to 25 years in prison. Along with more than 50 other dissidents, Dr. Biscet was released in March 2011 with the help of the Catholic Church. He has courageously remained in Cuba, where he continues to advocate for human rights. For his extraordinary bravery and commitment to freedom for the Cuban people, many of us have twice recommended Dr. Biscet for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Other political prisoners have not had the ability to choose where they live following their release. Normando Hernández González, an independent writer and journalist, was arrested in March 2003 along with 74 other dissidents in Camaguey and was sentenced to 25 years in prison. As a result of his serious abuse in prison, Mr. Hernández eventually was diagnosed with several diseases of the digestive system and later tuberculosis. Due to his deteriorating medical condition, Mr. Hernández was released from prison in July 2010 and taken to the Havana Airport, where he was briefly reunited with his wife and daughter before being forced to board an overnight flight to Spain. He later emigrated to Miami, where he currently resides.

I extend the gratitude of the subcommittee to our distinguished witnesses for joining us yesterday. My good friend and colleague Dan Burton, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe and Eurasia, testified about U.S. policy toward Cuba. In particular, we are deeply appreciative that Dr. Biscet took the serious risk that he will suffer retaliation for speaking with us publicly. The Castro regime should know

that there will be a price to pay if that should happen. It is our sincere hope that it does not, and that this hearing and the spotlight that it will shine on Cuban political prisoners will contribute to authentic freedom and respect for the human rights of all the people of Cuba.

REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN
VICTIMS OF THE SUMGAI,
KIROVABAD, AND BAKU PO-
GROMS

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the Armenian victims of the Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Baku pogroms who were killed in Azerbaijan in the late 1980s and early 1990s. As the United States stood as a beacon for freedom around the world, the Soviet Union suffered from ethnic strife and internal unrest. Communist ideology and a command economy could not hold together the Soviet republics and their diverse ethnic groups. The Soviet Union—despite its rhetoric—failed to protect and ensure the rights of its ethnic minorities, especially the ethnic Armenians who were targeted in pogroms in Azerbaijan.

In February 1988 hundreds of Armenians were singled out, driven from their homes, and murdered by Azerbaijani rioters. Despite Sumgait's proximity to security forces in the capital city, the riots and destruction continued for three days unabated. Credible sources report that hundreds of Armenians were killed or wounded; Soviet officials at the time acknowledged 30 deaths and 200 injured.

This tragedy did not go unrecognized at the time. Several U.S. Senators rose to speak out against this violence. They sent letters to the government of the Soviet Union. The Senate unanimously passed an amendment urging the Soviet government to respect the aspirations of the Armenian people and urging it to discontinue its serious violations of human rights.

In Kirovabad later that same year Armenians were once again targeted. My friend and colleague from Michigan, Representative SANDER LEVIN, joined 11 other members of the House and Senate to write to Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev in advance of his historic trip to the United States urging him to protect the Armenians living in Azerbaijan.

Unfortunately, in January 1990 in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku, Armenians were once again targeted in a weeklong pogrom. Civil society called upon the Azerbaijan government to respect the rights of, and prevent crimes against, its Armenian minority population.

Today, I rise to remember the victims and honor their memories. America has always stood for democratic freedom and human rights—whether then during the Cold War—or today during the historic transition in the Middle East. Democracies cannot flourish without respecting the rights of the minority. Twenty-four years later it is important that we not forget the victims of Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Baku. I call upon the countries in the region to respect the human rights of all residents—whether majority or minority—and to ensure that these events never happen again.

UNITED TECHNOLOGIES

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United Technologies on a monumental achievement—spending more than \$1 billion on education and training for their employees. Since its inception under the leadership of George David 15 years ago, the Employee Scholars Program has been a vital source of ongoing education for UTC employees to obtain a degree, advance their skill sets, or gain knowledge in any number of fields. It provides for the costs of tuition, books, and fees up-front and allows employees to pursue their education at any accredited institution of higher education.

Through promoting a culture of lifelong learning, UTC has set an example for the entire corporate community of how to provide a benefit that will have lasting results for their employees, the company, and I daresay the economy. Over 30,000 employees have earned a degree through the Employee Scholars Program, and many others have been able to access coursework to improve their skills. The unique, and in my opinion exemplary aspect of this program is that the company does not require that the employee pursue education directly related to their current position. This allows UTC employees the freedom to choose what they want to study, whether they think it will help them in their current position, a future position, or an entirely different field altogether. It is my belief that ongoing learning leads to more productive workers and a more productive society.

I applaud UTC again for their sustained commitment to lifelong learning and commend them on the milestone accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEMINOLE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the Seminole Vocational Education Center, SVEC, which I have the privilege to represent. This facility is truly an example of how one citizen's vision can be brought to life through the efforts of an entire community. Originally named the "Ag Farm" the facility first opened its doors in 1961. In the past 50 years, this facility has grown from one square acre of land managed by a few staff members and 60 students, to one that now spans 42 acres and provides training to over 450 students.

It all began with Seminole resident Bill Moore, who had a vision for an agricultural education center in Pinellas. After acquiring an acre of land he, the staff, and students cleared the land together and the facilities were built. Through partnerships with businesses in the community the center has grown to offer multiple courses in a wide variety of areas. Students can receive technical certificates in everything from carpentry to commercial art. The

center even offers math, English, and science courses as a part of a program that targets at risk youth in order to prevent students from dropping out of school.

The SVEC has been receiving recognition for decades. Their students have proven themselves as award winners at the state, regional, and national levels, not to mention the dozens of newspaper articles that track their growth and accomplishments throughout the years. The ambition of the staff and students at the SVEC has made it a facility that has not only lasted fifty years, but has gotten better each year.

In closing, I am honored to represent the teachers, students, and community members who have taken part in the SVEC. Their dedication has made an invaluable impact on our community and its residents. I ask my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing this important milestone and to wish the center continued success in the years to come.

PROTECTING INVESTMENT IN OIL
SHALE THE NEXT GENERATION
OF ENVIRONMENTAL, ENERGY,
AND RESOURCE SECURITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3408) to set clear rules for the development of United States oil shale resources, to promote shale technology research and development, and for other purposes:

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chair, in the aftermath of the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, President Obama, lawmakers from both sides of the aisle, a national commission, businesses and environmentalists reached consensus that 80% of the fines and penalties that BP is required to pay for violating the Clean Water Act be devoted to Gulf of Mexico recovery and research. All have urged Congress to act, but unfortunately, the Congress has not done so.

As Co-Chair of the bipartisan Gulf Coast Caucus, I ask my colleagues not to let the effort languish any longer. The House should act expeditiously to do so and devote 80% of the Deepwater Horizon fines and penalties to the Gulf of Mexico.

Unfortunately, the Scalise amendment could be interpreted as an endorsement of a particular piece of legislation, such as the RESTORE Act. While the RESTORE Act does devote 80% of the Clean Water Act fines to the Gulf States, it is flawed in its current form and does not achieve meaningful recovery of the Gulf of Mexico.

So while I urge my colleagues to defeat the amendment, the time is now for the Congress to pass an 80% bill and focus on the economic and environmental health of the Gulf of Mexico.

Extensive review of the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster and the historic degradation of the Gulf of Mexico was conducted by the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus Report, and the EPA Gulf Restoration

Task Force is appreciated. All recommended recovery and research strategies to be funded in large part by 80% of the fines and penalties under the Clean Water Act. Although the RESTORE Act purports to follow the recommended strategies, it does not and is flawed.

RESTORE SHOULD FOCUS ON A GULF-WIDE RESEARCH AND RECOVERY STRATEGY

As currently drafted, the RESTORE Act does not promote a Gulf-wide research and recovery strategy. Under the formulas contained in the bill that divide the 80% resources, Gulf-wide research and recovery efforts would be disjointed and receive short-shrift. The formulas currently contained in the bill appear to be based upon Senate dynamics rather than a Gulf-wide recovery and research strategy based upon sound science. The RESTORE Act fails to make a large enough investment in Gulf-wide solutions to the “dead zone,” red tide outbreaks that threaten tourism, and the health of the Gulf overall. Where is the overarching science advisory component that is necessary for such an important research and recovery strategy?

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to address critical systemic issues that have plagued the Gulf for decades. We must not waste it.

RESTORE SHOULD DEVOTE GREATER RESOURCES TO LONG TERM RESEARCH AND GULF MONITORING

RESTORE should be improved to ensure that adequate Gulf research and monitoring are conducted for decades to come. Many of the impacts from the catastrophic disaster are currently impossible to discern to the naked eye and in the short-term. The blowout wreaked havoc on fisheries, marshes, seagrasses, oyster beds, coasts, and aquatic life. In addition, over past decades, science gathering and sharing in the Gulf has been neglected. While RESTORE does carve out some dollars for long-term research and monitoring, the investments are inadequate to ensure a long-term, sustained research and recovery effort.

DO NOT DUPLICATE NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS \$ BILLIONS FLOWING TO IMPACTED AREAS

Any legislation that devotes 80% of the Clean Water Act fines and penalties to the Gulf of Mexico research and recovery effort should not duplicate the billions of dollars going to the impacted areas under the Oil Pollution Act and the Natural Resource Damage Assessment. One billion dollars already have been directed to oiled areas and states for cleanup and restoration.

JOBS AND ECONOMICS

The Gulf is rich in natural resources that support many jobs and economic stability for millions of families. The Gulf ecosystem produced thirty percent of the United States' gross domestic product in 2009. If our five Gulf States were one country it would rank seventh in global gross domestic product. Our abundance of natural resources is critical to our economic health, as those resources dwindle so do our livelihoods and our financial stability. Investing in long-term environmental restoration and addressing environmental issues present prior to the BP oil disaster is critical to achieving comprehensive economic restoration.

I am encouraged to see bipartisan support to direct 80% of the Clean Water Act fines to the Gulf of Mexico. However, the RESTORE

Act as currently drafted falls far short of the coordinated, long-term, science-based effort that is needed to protect such a valuable national resource. Therefore, I look forward to working with all Members on an improved national strategy for the Gulf of Mexico and its communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on rollcall No. 64, I inadvertently voted “no.” I would like to be recorded as “aye” for rollcall No. 64.

SUPPORTING TAIWAN'S REQUEST FOR PURCHASE OF F-16 C/Ds

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, as a long-time member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus and as a Member of Congress who has frequent interaction with the Taiwanese American constituents in my district, I rise today to bring an issue to your attention, which can no longer be delayed.

I would like to comment on how our relationship with Taiwan intermingles with the local economy of North Texas.

Taiwan seeks to procure more than five dozen F-16 C/Ds from the United States that are proudly built in North Texas. These negotiations have been underway since 2006. It is important that this deal not be further delayed. The Administration has resisted the sale and has rather suggested selling Taiwan upgrades for its older F-16 A/Bs. I find this to be a very inadequate position that jeopardizes Taiwan's future defensive capabilities and will result in a hit to the North Texas economy.

Taiwan seeks the F-16 C/Ds solely for defensive purposes. This is very apparent given the increasing number of short and medium-range ballistic missiles aimed at the island by its neighbor, the People's Republic of China. At current there are more than 1,400 missiles aimed at Taiwan from the other side of the Taiwan Strait. I am afraid that China continues to add to the number of missiles pointed at Taiwan and that this number is only expected to increase over time.

The 1979 Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), which has been the cornerstone of United States-Taiwan relations for decades, declares that it is the policy of the United States “to consider any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means, including by boycotts or embargoes, a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and of grave concern to the United States.” We need to abide by our TRA commitments and support the defensive capabilities of Taiwan.

I would like to call attention to legislation introduced by my colleague, Congresswoman KAY GRANGER, which seeks to remedy this situation. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me

in cosponsoring H.R. 2992, the Taiwan Airpower Modernization Act of 2011. Senator JOHN CORNYN has introduced a companion bill in the Senate. This bipartisan legislation will direct the President to authorize the sale of no fewer than 66 F-16 C/Ds to Taiwan. We cannot continue to delay on this issue, as the production line for F-16s will only remain open for a limited additional amount of time. Once the F-16 production line closes, then we will have missed this opportunity to increase the defensive capabilities of Taiwan and provide a significant economic boost to the North Texas economy.

I will continue to work towards increasing our already strong relations with the people of Taiwan. I believe that the best way forward for improving these relations and helping our North Texas economy is to approve the sale of the F-16 C/Ds to Taiwan.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. ROBERT C. MANTS, JR.—CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Robert C. Mants, Jr. of Lowndes County, Alabama. Mr. Mants will most notably be remembered as one of the four civil rights leaders of the “Bloody Sunday” march in Selma, Alabama on March 7, 1965. He was also a very well known and respected community organizer and activist.

Mr. Mants was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia in 1943. While in the 11th grade, at the age of 16, he was the youngest member of the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights, an Atlanta student movement. During this time, he also volunteered at the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee Headquarters (SNCC) in Atlanta. After graduating from high school in 1961, he briefly attended Morehouse College before deciding to dedicate one hundred percent of his time to the Civil Rights Movement.

By the summer of 1964, Mr. Mants was working for SNCC in Americus, Georgia. While working with the SNCC Southwest Georgia Project, he met his future wife, Joann Christian. In early 1965, he went to work in Lowndes County, Alabama, and was instrumental in the planning of the Selma-to-Montgomery March in March 1965. The march was organized at the request of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with the goal to lead protestors to Montgomery and ask Governor George Wallace for protection for black voter registrants. The march was led by Mr. Mants, Mr. JOHN LEWIS, Mr. Albert Turner, and Reverend Hosea Williams.

On “Bloody Sunday,” Mr. Mants was in the front ranks of an estimated 600 marchers as they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. Waiting for them on the other side of the bridge was a wall of Alabama state troopers. Subsequently, the demonstrators were brutally attacked with nightsticks and fired upon with tear gas. Seventeen marchers were hospitalized, and the day was nicknamed “Bloody Sunday.” Televised images of the

brutal attacks presented people with horrifying images of marchers left bloodied and severely injured, and roused support for the United States Civil Rights Movement. Two weeks later, Mr. Mants helped lead thousands of activists from around the country on a weeklong march from Selma to Montgomery to urge state officials to end practices aimed at keeping black Alabamians from voting.

Mr. Mants could have easily bypassed the growing civil rights movement of the 1960s by remaining at Morehouse College and pursuing "a well-worn path" to success. Instead, he became involved in the movement during its early stages and established a leadership reputation that put him on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma on March 7, 1965.

Shortly after the marches, Mr. Mants moved to nearby Lowndes County, Alabama to continue his work with the SNCC. Although the Lowndes County population was roughly 80 percent African-American, no black had successfully registered to vote in more than 60 years, as the county was controlled by 86 white families who owned 90 percent of the land. As a result, the SNCC created the Lowndes County Freedom Organization (LCFO) in 1965. The LCFO was a political party that formed to represent African-Americans in the central Alabama Black Belt (17 counties).

The LCFO was also known as the "Black Panther Party." The Party's goal was to promote and place its own candidates in political offices throughout the Alabama Black Belt. In 1966, while their attempts were unsuccessful, they continued to fight and their goal and motto of "black power" spread outside of Alabama. The movement spread all over the Nation. Two black Californians, Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale, asked for permission to use the Black Panther emblem that the LCFO had adopted for their newly formed Black Panther Party. The Oakland-based Black Panther Party became a much more prominent organization than the LCFO. Thus few people remember the origins of this powerful symbol with impoverished African-Americans in a rural Alabama County.

Mr. Mants continued to live and work in Lowndes County until his untimely death in December 2011. Although he was known more as a civil rights leader and community organizer, Mr. Mants also served as a Lowndes County Commissioner for many years, and was Chairman of the nonprofit "Lowndes County Friends of the Historic Trail." Mr. Mants is survived by his wife of 45 years, Joann Christian Mants, and three children—Kadisha, Kumasi, and Katanga.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that our colleagues join me in honoring the life and legacy of Mr. Robert C. Mants, Jr., a global citizen and activist for civil rights.

HONORING SERVICE MEMBERS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, it is to the honor of our service members that when they wear the uniform, they do so with the full knowledge that their engagement for our Nation will take them on long, sometimes dan-

gerous missions far from home. Each one is conscious of these dangers but chooses to confront them in the defense of our values. As a veteran I understand that this choice to serve is not just personal, it is shared with their families who must also accept the risks, the absences and in the ultimate circumstance—the loss of the one they love. It is to you the families that I now turn my thoughts to express with humility, my gratitude and respect.

It is fitting that the symbol chosen to mark this shared sacrifice is a Gold Star—fitting because we do not remember simply to mourn but rather to hold high the example of their courage, their willing abnegation. A star, fixed always in the firmament of heroes that we have been blessed to know.

Outside my office door, unique to the halls of Congress is a flag displaying one such star. It stands in tribute to the son of a staff member of mine who gave the fullest proof of his love for our Nation. That flag reminds me of my duty as a Congressman to ensure that those who fight for our country and their families receive the support and care that they earned through their service.

As the original author of the California Gold Star License Plate Bill, these families have a very special place in my heart and I am humbled to continue my support and commitment in their premium sacrifice being recognized.

Allow me once again to express my respect and fervent prayer that the strength we witness in you affirms in each of us the courage to serve our country in all ways we are able.

KHOJALY, AZERBAIJAN TRAGEDY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as the Co-Chairman of the House Azerbaijan Caucus, I rise today to bring attention to the tragedy that took place in Khojaly, Azerbaijan, a town and townspeople that were destroyed on February 26, 1992.

This month we will mark the 20th anniversary of that devastating and heartbreaking day. Sadly, today there is little attention or interest paid to the plight of Khojaly outside of Azerbaijan. However, one of our greatest strengths as elected officials is the opportunity to bring to light truths that are little known and command recognition. As a friend of Azerbaijan, I am proud to remind my colleagues that we must never forget the tragedy that took place at Khojaly.

At the time, the Khojaly tragedy was widely covered by the international media, including the Boston Globe, Washington Post, New York Times, Financial Times, and many other European and Russian news agencies.

Khojaly, a town in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, now under the control of Armenian forces, was the site of the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians. With a population of approximately 7,000, Khojaly was one of the largest urban settlements of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

According to Human Rights Watch and other international observers the massacre was committed by the ethnic Armenian armed forces, reportedly with the help of the Russian

366th Motor Rifle Regiment. Human Rights Watch described the Khojaly Massacre as "the largest massacre to date in the conflict" over Nagorno-Karabakh. In a 1993 report, the watchdog group stated "there are no exact figures for the number of Azeri civilians killed because Karabakh Armenian forces gained control of the area after the massacre" and "while it is widely accepted that 200 Azeris were murdered, as many as 500—1,000 may have died."

Azerbaijan has been a strong strategic partner and friend of the United States. The tragedy of Khojaly was a crime against humanity and I urge my colleagues to join me in standing with Azerbaijanis as they commemorate this tragedy.

HONORING LEON C. JOHNSON, SR.

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the life of Mr. Leon C. Johnson, Sr.

Mr. Johnson was born in Columbia, South Carolina, on August 13, 1936, to Maceo P. and Ella L. Johnson, and passed on January 17, 2012. As a young man he was tagged with the nickname of "Lion," denoting strength of character, leadership, determination and pride. This mantle he wore with pride and resolve, which he ably demonstrated as head of the family after the passing of his father and following his tour of duty during the Korean Conflict. Leon Johnson served from that point forward as the father figure and big brother for his younger siblings, Josephine, David, Theodore and Kenneth, as well as the co-leader of the Johnson family with his elder brother Maceo. Together, they instilled the virtues of family unity, sibling pride, honor, respect and drive to succeed. And each member held true to those life learning tenets and did achieve to those professional heights of success and service. All accomplished under the loving and watchful gaze of their mother, Ella Johnson and aunt, Annie Baisden, two women of strength, courage and determination, who vowed to raise the finest "gentlemen and lady" in the Johnson family tradition, both of whom preceded Leon in death, but left an indelible mark on everyone.

Leon graduated from Stanton High School in 1954 and attended Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, was a proud veteran who served his country in the Army during the Korean Conflict and began his professional career with the United States Postal System where he served in a variety of managerial positions until his retirement. He continued his service to the postal system and its many employees as a long time member of the Postal Credit Union Board of Directors. Leon is survived by his loving and caring wife of 52 years, Barbara Green Johnson; his son, Leon C. Johnson, Jr., and daughter Michelle, 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren, and a host of aunts, nephews, nieces and special friends.

His passing marks a very special moment, which is reflected in the depth of loss felt and hope renewed. Leon was a loving, caring family man and a dear friend to so many. It is said

that his was an infectious personality touching all whom he met. His legendary sense of humor was a joy and a comfort, adeptly conveying his care, concern and passion for others and it was limitless in its reach into the heart, soul and mind of those who bore witness to this wonderful and selfless man. His love of family and friends formed an unbreakable bond which withstood and weathered all manner of life's success and challenges, those of his own and of his loved ones and friends. This pure and deep love influenced his pledge to each of them to love, support, help and guide them through life, to celebrate their achievements and embrace their challenges. He stood proudly by his family and gave his best so that each would achieve and in so doing, give unto others the best of themselves in service to mankind. He gave so much, yet every sacrifice was meant to empower those whom he loved and in so doing he gained immeasurably in pride, stature and humility. His service to and love of family was a willing sacrifice willingly undertaken and richly rewarded as evidenced by his unabridged pride in all of his family's accomplishments and their resultant service to their communities. Never at a loss for words was Leon, through his humor, his compassion, his leadership, his fierce and determined support and his sheer love of family. This was a man of genuine love and compassion, and in his passing, a true celebration of life was held to remember and hold in highest esteem this man, this father, this husband, this brother and this friend.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask that you join me in honoring the life of a man who leaves behind a record of service that speaks volumes about his life.

HONORING MUHAMMAD ALI ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS 70TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Muhammad Ali on the occasion of his 70th birthday, being celebrated by the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, Keep Memory Alive, and the Muhammad Ali Center at the 2012 Power of Love Gala as they all join together to help alleviate memory, brain and movement disorders.

As a boxer, Muhammad Ali is renowned as the first three-time Heavy Weight Champion of the World with 56 wins, 5 losses, and 37 knockouts. Leading up to his world championships, Mr. Ali won an Olympic Gold Medal, Golden Gloves, and an Amateur Athletic Union Championship. Among the hundreds of accolades, Mr. Ali has received over the years, he has been recognized by Sports Illustrated as "Sportsman of the Century," GQ Magazine as "Athlete of the Century," the BBC as "Sports Personality of the Century," and the World Sports Award for "World Sportsman of the Century."

More than 50 years after winning the Gold Medal at the 1960 Rome Olympics, Muhammad Ali remains an endearing figure of both strength and compassion, known and beloved throughout the world.

Internationally, championing the issues of the developing world has become a major focus of Muhammad's life. For this, he has received many awards and accolades, including Messenger of Peace by the United Nations 1998–2008 for his work with developing nations, Amnesty International's Lifetime Achievement Award, Germany's 2005 Otto Hahn Peace Medal for his involvement in the United Nations and the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, and he was named International Ambassador of Jubilee 2000, a global organization dedicated to relieving debt in developing nations. Muhammad has also been instrumental in providing over 232 million meals to the world's hungry.

In 2005, Muhammad Ali was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our country's highest civilian award, for his life's work. Along with his charitable work around the globe, Muhammad has been dedicated to helping charities at home as well, including the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky, founded by Muhammad and his wife, Lonnie. The Muhammad Ali Center is a cultural and international education center that is inspired by his ideals. The Center serves as the global hub for championing the six prevailing core values of his life: respect, confidence, conviction, dedication, giving and spirituality. Much more than a place to tell the story of one man's incredible 70-year journey, the Muhammad Ali Center reaches beyond its physical walls to fulfill its mission—in 2012, the Center's activities will ensure that future generations understand and actively adopt Muhammad's core values to create a powerful new movement: Generation Ali.

In addition to his many philanthropic endeavors, Muhammad Ali is also celebrated for the awareness he has brought to Parkinson's disease through his own personal battle with the disease. His aim is to dramatically accelerate the understanding of Parkinson's disease and the pursuit of effective treatments.

As the Representative for Nevada's First Congressional district, it gives me immense pride to celebrate the 70th birthday of Muhammad Ali, the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, Keep Memory Alive, and the Muhammad Ali Center, as they fight to put memory, brain and movement disorders down for a final 10-count.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I was absent from the House on Tuesday, February 14th, Wednesday, February 15th, and part of Thursday, February 16th due to a death in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes 49, 52–61, 63, 64, 65, 67, and 68, and I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 50, 51, 62, 66, 69.

HONORING DR. PAUL STANTON

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career and work of Dr. Paul Stanton, president of East Tennessee State University for the past fifteen years. Dr. Stanton first came to ETSU in 1985, as director of the Division of Peripheral Vascular Surgery for the Veterans Administration Medical Center and ETSU's James H. Quillen College of Medicine. Over the next twelve years he devoted himself to ETSU, and for his dedication and hard work, he was named president in 1997. Under Dr. Stanton's leadership, ETSU markedly increased its percentage of residential students, built two large new dorms, and celebrated its centennial anniversary. Under his stewardship Princeton Review has named ETSE as one of America's best value colleges, and one of the top schools in the Southeast. Speaking as a physician, his most important achievement may have been the construction and completion of the Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy. During Dr. Stanton's tenure, the Quillen College of Medicine has consistently been named as one of the top rural medical schools in the country, educating the next generation of physicians who more often than not stay and practice in East Tennessee, in addition to serving similar rural communities around the country.

Through his sound leadership, Dr. Stanton, has strengthened the foundation of an important educational institution in East Tennessee. My daughter Whitney is a proud alumna of this distinguished public university.

Along with providing transformative leadership for one of East Tennessee's most important academic institutions, Dr. Paul Stanton has long been a devoted and caring physician, family man, grandfather, teacher, scientist, mentor, true gentleman and a fellow Methodist. Throughout it all his beautiful and terrific wife Nancy has supported him and undertaken a great deal of community involvement herself. Though I know he will miss ETSU, I am sure Dr. Stanton will find a way to keep himself busy between golf, grandchildren, and continued service to the community.

I thank Dr. Stanton for his service and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 50, Wednesday afternoon, I was participating in an important subcommittee meeting and was unable to make the first vote of the series. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PASSING OF NEW YORK TIMES
CORRESPONDENT ANTHONY
SHADID

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Anthony Shadid, a New York Times correspondent who died yesterday while reporting from Syria.

As a foreign correspondent for many different papers over the years, Anthony informed our world view, gave us insights no other journalist could, and bore witness to history being made in the Middle East.

We learned of world events from his dispatches from the other side of the globe—from the fall of Sadaam Hussein, to the Arab Spring, and most recently the turmoil rankling Syria and Libya. There were always other stories, but his were the gold standard.

But what I admired most about Anthony Shadid was his persistence, even in the face of mortal peril. He exemplified what a free press should strive to be. During his assignments in the Middle East, Anthony was shot, harassed, hounded, arrested . . . abused. But those acts of violence could not deter him, and he continued to report on the events shaping our world.

Jill Abramson, the Executive Director of the New York Times, put it best—"his empathy for its citizens' struggles and his deep understanding of their culture and history set his writing apart. He was their poet and their champion."

Anthony's intrepid spirit and story-telling ability is irreplaceable, and will live on. My heart goes out to his wife, son and daughter, and parents.

U.S. COAST GUARD PORT SECURITY UNIT 307 HONORED WITH 2011 DOD RESERVE FAMILY READINESS AWARD

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the men and women of U.S. Coast Guard Port Security Unit 307 who are being honored this morning at the Pentagon with the 2011 Department of Defense Reserve Family Readiness Award.

This award recognizes that the readiness of our military units to deploy anywhere in the world is only as good as the support they receive from and the support they provide to the families they leave behind. Port Security Unit 307, from Clearwater, Florida which I proudly represent, has excelled at taking care of its families. Commissioned in May 1999, Port Security Unit 307 knows the meaning of readiness. They are charged with being ready to deploy anywhere in the world within 96 hours and they are the only Port Security Unit to meet this standard in the international arena.

They also know about deployments as they have been deployed repeatedly to help secure

our domestic ports following 9–11, to support the ports we operate from abroad, and even to provide port security operations for humanitarian operations such as those in Haiti after the devastating earthquake in 2010. In fact, Port Security Unit 307, under the leadership of its commanding officer Commander James Wallace, just returned last month from a six-month deployment to the Middle East in support of Operations New Dawn and Enduring Freedom. There they provided security for port locations around the North Arabian Gulf to ensure the free flow of personnel, equipment and commerce in the region. The unit worked side-by-side with the Navy and its Maritime Expeditionary Squadron Three to provide strategic support in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

It takes months of training and preparation for a unit to ready itself for a deployment of this magnitude. Most important though to Commander Wallace and his unit is the preparation they provide to ready the families for their deployment. Port Security Unit 307 has been a key participant in the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. This is a Department of Defense-wide effort to help the members of National Guard and Reserve units and their families to locate resources available to them and their families before, during and after deployments. In addition to these services, the families of Port Security Unit 307 also participated in a mid-deployment Yellow Ribbon event to assist families.

The unit's leadership stayed in touch with the families throughout the deployment by producing regular newsletters outlining its missions and responsibilities. They also host an annual Family Day and Open House each summer so the families can interact with each other. Commander Wallace says the most important part of that weekend is the opportunity for him and his leaders to say thank you to the families and their friends for the invaluable support they provide their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, we can never fully repay the men and women who serve our nation in uniform and the families they leave behind as they go into harm's way. We can, however, salute the units that have excelled at taking care of their loved ones during their deployments and no unit does it better than U.S. Coast Guard Port Security Unit 307. I commend their record of service to my colleagues here in the House and I hope you will join me in saying thank you to each one of them for a job well done.

RINGHAUSEN FAMILY WINS 23RD ANNUAL ILLINOIS CIDER AND NATIONAL CIDER CONTEST

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Joe Ringhausen Orchard and Apple House of Fieldon, Illinois in winning the 23rd Annual Illinois Cider and National Cider Contests on January 12–13, 2012. Joe and his wife Sina, along with son Dennis and other family members, exemplify excellence in their business and contribute to the

overall economic success of their community. The orchard makes between 500 and 700 gallons per week during peak season. The Ringhausen Orchard is well known for their award-winning ciders. Joe's experience in cider-making spans forty years.

It should be noted that the judges conducted blind evaluations to eliminate bias and the Ringhausen Orchard beat out other ciders from apple-producing states like Michigan and Washington.

I want to also thank the Illinois State Horticultural Society for sponsoring the event in conjunction with Illinois Specialty Crop, Agritourism and Organic Conference, Illinois Department of Agriculture, and the University of Illinois Extension Service. Each provides an invaluable service to farmers in Illinois for guidance, resources, and a clearinghouse of information.

I want to congratulate the Ringhausen family and join the Illinois House members in wishing them continued success at their orchard.

THE TELEGRAPH.COM

Ringhausen, who has been making cider for approximately 40 years, has won awards before but never the "triple crown" of Illinois cider.

National awards are open to all U.S. producers, and Illinois awards are open to all Illinois producers. "I'm so surprised by this," he said.

Ringhausen's son, Dennis, was in Springfield to accept the awards on behalf of the orchard. The Ringhausen cider beat out about 25 other varieties to win the Illinois title and growers from both Washington and Michigan to win the national title.

The orchard entered its signature sweet cider, which is blended from equal amounts of tart apples, such as Jonathans, and sweet apples, like Fujis.

The sweet cider is a mainstay at the Apple House from September until Christmas time, routinely selling out by the first of the year.

"I think we'll put the trophies and plaques in the market," said Ringhausen, whose family purchased the extensive orchards in 1929.

Unlike sweet cider, hard cider has an alcoholic content; sugar is added to the sweet cider to initiate fermentation. Joe's wife, Sina, supervises this process. They don't have a license to sell the hard cider, so they gift it to family and friends for their personal enjoyment.

The annual Hard Cider Contest, in its 10th year, awards points based on characteristics including clarity, color, bouquet, balance of alcohol, acidity, sweetness, body and flavor, among other criteria. Judges evaluated the entries using a 25-point rating scale for cider quality characteristics, awarding the top scores to Ringhausen's entries.

The Illinois State Horticultural Society sponsors the event in conjunction with the Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism and Organic Conference held in Springfield.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture and the University of Illinois Extension Service also participate. Edwardsville Extension Center Specialist Elizabeth Wahle served as cider contest coordinator. The Illinois State Horticultural Society was formed in 1857 for the purpose of representing fruit tree producers, sharing research findings and promoting the industry to consumers. The Society is one of the oldest continuously operating membership organizations in the state of Illinois.

RECOGNIZING JIM MAXEY—RECIPIENT OF THE E. FLOYD FORBES AWARD

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Maxey for receiving the E. Floyd Forbes Award, which is the National Meat Association's highest honor. Established in 1946, the National Meat Association has been instrumental to the success of the meat industry by providing a number of services to its members, including one-on-one regulatory assistance and legislative representation.

The National Meat Association's E. Floyd Forbes Award is named after the predecessor organization, the Western States Meat Packers Association. Each year, the E. Floyd Forbes Award is given to an individual of exemplary moral character, who has provided impressive and unrelenting service to the National Meat Association, as well as the meat and poultry industry.

Jim Maxey's advocacy and passion for agricultural issues, specifically the meat and poultry industry has made him a distinguished community and industry leader. A native son of California's agriculturally rich San Joaquin Valley, Jim understands firsthand the value of hard work and has a deep understanding of what it means to build and run a successful business.

Jim grew up on a small family cattle ranch in Fresno, California. It was at this time that he was able to gain an intimate grasp of the inner workings of the meat industry—both the live and processing sides of the business. Upon graduating from California State University, Fresno, Jim became an invaluable part of the family business, and was involved in all aspects, including: beef packing, beef processing, and cattle feeding. His love of agriculture led to a fulfilling career, one where he was able to serve his community and colleagues at the same time.

Jim has served as President and Board Chairman of the National Meat Association. Currently, he is serving as a member of the Cattlemen Beef Board. Jim's breadth of experience gives him a unique combination of intellect an enthusiasm, which has allowed him to serve the National Meat Association admirably.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jim Maxey for being the recipient of the National Meat Association's E. Floyd Forbes Award. His consistent devotion to providing quality products and exceptional service should be commended. His is truly a source of pride for our community and our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, due to a previously scheduled doctor's appointment, I was absent from votes in the House last Thursday

(February 9th) and missed rollcall votes 47 and 48. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both rollcall votes—47 (the House Amendment to S. 2038—the STOCK Act) and 48 (motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 3630—the Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act).

IN HONOR OF ANN PORTER FOR
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Ann R. Porter and to acknowledge her contributions to education, social progress, and the Tampa Bay community.

Mrs. Porter, a product of Hillsborough County Public Schools, attended Tampa's Middleton and Blake Senior High Schools and graduated from the University of South Florida. After graduating from USF with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science, Mrs. Porter continued her studies at Nova Southeastern earning a Master of Science in Human Services and a Master's certification in Business and Entrepreneurship.

After returning to Tampa Mrs. Porter began her career as an administrative secretary of the Tampa Urban League. During the War on Poverty years, Mrs. Porter started her career as one of Hillsborough County's first Social Service Planners at the Tampa Economic Opportunity Council, which became the Community Action Agency of Hillsborough County. As a Social Service Planner, Mrs. Porter was responsible for writing federal and state programs favorable to the Tampa Bay community. She was also the first Head Start director under the Board of Hillsborough County Commissioners. On January 1, 2000, after 32 years of holding a variety of positions under the Hillsborough County Administrator's Office, Mrs. Porter retired.

Since retirement Mrs. Porter has kept busy by volunteering throughout Tampa Bay. She served as President of the Tampa Urban League Guild and coordinated its first youth group. Shortly after, she was appointed as a Commissioner of the Tampa Housing Authority by the Mayor of Tampa. However, a majority of Mrs. Porter's volunteer time has been with the NAACP. During Mrs. Porter's time with the NAACP's Tampa branch she served in every official capacity, including the president. After working to merge Hillsborough County's Tampa and Plant City branches, Mrs. Porter became the first president of the NAACP's combined Hillsborough County branch. Proudly, she is a founder of the Hillsborough County Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund and the Robert W. Saunders Library Foundation Board, Inc.

Currently, Mrs. Porter, a mother of four children, one son, three daughters and six grandchildren, serves in several capacities including membership on the City of Tampa's Community Development Corporation, Head Start Community Foundation Board, and the Commission on the Status of Women. Mrs. Porter is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and serves as AKA Connection Chairman in the Gamma Theta Omega Chapter.

Moreover, Mrs. Porter was a member of the Greater New Salem Primitive Baptist Church for more than 60 years and served in various capacities. She is a member of Beulah Baptist Institutional Church where she serves in several capacities including the Chairlady of the Mother's Board Ministry.

Ann Porter is a tremendous role model for our youth and an inspiration to our community. She selflessly devoted her life to others and not only helped numerous individuals, she helped an entire community. That is why I rise today to honor Ann Porter.

IN HONOR OF ALBERT PHILLIPS
REICHERT

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I come to the House Floor today to pay tribute to one of Macon, Georgia's most renowned attorneys and respected community leaders, the late Albert Phillips Reichert. Mr. Reichert passed away on Thursday, February 16, 2012 at the age of 98 years old. A memorial service will be held in his honor at Vineville United Methodist Church at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, February 21, 2012, with Dr. Marcus Tripp and Reverend James Duke officiating.

A Georgia native, Mr. Reichert was born on January 25, 1914, in Columbus, Georgia, the son of Jacob and Ann Phillips Reichert. He graduated from Lanier High School in Macon and enrolled at Emory University in 1932, where he worked various jobs to help pay his way through college. After finishing his undergraduate studies, he attended Duke University and on December 22, 1936, married Elizabeth Walton Bowen from Macon, who was then also a student at Duke. Mr. Reichert received his Master's Degree in Philosophy from Duke in 1937.

Following his marriage and his graduation from Duke University, Mr. Reichert served as an officer in the United States Navy during World War II in the Atlantic and Pacific Theaters. After the war, he worked for the Central of Georgia Railway in Macon while attending Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law, where he graduated cum laude in 1948.

After graduating from law school, Mr. Reichert embarked on what would be a tenured and highly successfully legal career. He began his professional legal career as an attorney with the firm of Anderson, Anderson & Walker, which later became Anderson, Walker & Reichert.

Over the course of his distinguished legal career, Mr. Reichert received several awards and recognitions for his many notable legal achievements. The General Practice and Trial Section of the State Bar of Georgia awarded him the Tradition of Excellence Award. Mercer University awarded him the Algernon Sidney Sullivan Award and the Outstanding Alumnus Award. It is also worth noting that Mr. Reichert handled many pro bono cases throughout his career and he was listed in Best Lawyers in America.

Mr. Reichert also played a very pro-active role in several community service initiatives

throughout the State of Georgia, including serving as president and as campaign chair for the United Givers Fund (now United Way). As a youth, he was a Boy Scout and reached the rank of Eagle Scout. As an adult, he was Scoutmaster of Troop 19 in Macon and served as chair of the Central Georgia Council, and received the Silver Beaver Award.

He is survived by his wife of 75 years, Elizabeth Walton Bowen Reichert; his son, Albert Phillips Reichert, Jr. and Albert's wife, Burnam "Bebe" Walker Reichert; his son, Stephen Allan Reichert; his son, Robert Adger Bowen Reichert and Robert's wife, Adele Dunwoody Reichert; his grandchildren, Albert Phillips Reichert, III and Albert's wife, Dr. Gillian Tracy Braulik, John Walker Reichert, Elizabeth Bowen Reichert, and Thomas Dunwoody Reichert; and his great-grandchildren, Eden Pape Reichert, Luna Walker Reichert, and Sarana Burnam Reichert; his sister, Mary Louise Reichert Earnhardt, and his sister, Beverly Reichert Kennon.

I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in paying homage to Albert Phillips Reichert. He lived a full life and the people of Middle Georgia will always be indebted to him for his high legal acumen and years of dedicated community service. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and the Macon, Georgia community at this time of great loss.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS' JAMES COLEMAN ELECTED TO NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, James J. Coleman, professor of materials science and engineering at the University of Illinois, was one of 66 to be elected into the National Academy of Engineering. A pioneer of photonics and semiconductor lasers, Coleman will join the 2254-member, 206 foreign associates Academy. He was elected for his contributions to the fields of technology and engineering.

Coleman, who earned his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois, is a researcher in the Micro and Nanotechnology Lab and the Coordinated Science Lab.

"Dr Coleman's research has added considerable knowledge to the field of semiconductor lasers and photonic devices, and his many successful patents and contributions to the engineering literature remain a testament of those achievements," comments Ilesanmi Adesida, dean of the College of Engineering. "He is also an Illinois alumnus, so we are doubly proud of his achievements."

[From SemiconductorToday.com]

Photonics and semiconductor laser pioneer James J. Coleman (the Intel Alumni Endowed Chair in Electrical and Computer Engineering and a professor of materials science and engineering at the University of Illinois) is one of 66 people newly elected to membership of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering (NAE), along with new 10 foreign associates (joining the existing 2254 members and 206 foreign associates, distinguished by outstanding contributions to the fields of technology and engineering).

Coleman, a researcher in the Micro and Nanotechnology Lab and the Coordinated Science Lab, was cited for his work in semiconductor lasers and photonic materials. His research focuses on materials for optoelectronics. Having helped to develop metal-organic chemical vapor deposition (MOCVD), as the director of the Semiconductor Laser Laboratory at Illinois he oversees research using MOCVD growth of III-V semiconductors to explore applications in lasers, quantum dots and other optical structures.

"Dr Coleman's research has added considerable knowledge to the field of semiconductor lasers and photonic devices, and his many successful patents and contributions to the engineering literature remain a testament of those achievements," comments Ilesanmi Adesida, dean of the College of Engineering. "He is also an Illinois alumnus, so we are doubly proud of his achievements."

Coleman earned his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois. He worked at Bell Laboratories and Rockwell International before joining the faculty in 1982. He has published more than 400 journal articles and holds seven patents. Coleman is a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the Optical Society of America (OSA), SPIE (the international society for optics and photonics), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and the American Physical Society (APS).

Also among the new members and foreign associates announced by the NAE was Illinois engineering alumnus Supriyo Datta (MS 1977, PhD 1979, Electrical Engineering), who is the Thomas Duncan Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana (cited for "quantum transport modeling in nanoscale electronic devices").

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, February 19, 2012 marks the seventieth anniversary of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order (EO) 9066, authorizing the relocation of 120,000 men, women, and children of Japanese descent living in the United States—my family included—to internment camps. As I look back on the past seventy years, I cannot help but reflect on the bravery and courage of three men whose intertwined stories shaped my inherent values and life's work: Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, and my own father, Giichi "Byron" Honda.

At the outbreak of World War II, Gordon was studying at the University of Washington. Fred tried to enlist in the U.S. National Guard and U.S. Coast Guard to serve his country but was turned away because of his Japanese ancestry. My father was pursuing his dream of becoming a doctor by working as a truck driver in order to pay his way through community college.

All three men's lives and dreams were shattered when President Roosevelt signed EO 9066. Once the West Coast was declared as a military zone, my family and I were hauled to the Merced Assembly Center and then incarcerated at the Amache internment camp in

southeast Colorado. While my family lived behind barbed wire, my father was recruited into the U.S. Military Intelligence Service at the University of Colorado Boulder, where he taught Japanese.

Although this gross injustice propelled my family into years of separation, it would also unknowingly propel both Fred and Gordon—two ordinary men—to become preeminent Asian American and Pacific Islander civil rights leaders. Believing that the executive order violated the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, Fred refused to comply with it, was subsequently arrested, convicted and sent to an internment camp in Utah. Gordon was also arrested, convicted and sent to an Arizona prison.

In the face of these challenges, Fred and Gordon still maintained their core belief in the American justice system and equality. With the help of the American Civil Liberties Union, both appealed their cases all the way to the Supreme Court. The Court, however, ruled unfavorably to both, declaring the incarceration a "military necessity," justified by the Army's claims.

Although Fred and Gordon's fights to overturn their convictions took more than four decades, American justice and equality did ultimately prevail. Fred's conviction was overturned in 1983, and Gordon's in 1987. Fred and Gordon's resistance paved the way for the eventual passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which granted reparations to Japanese Americans and was a fundamental step in acknowledging the injustices of the government's actions.

Mr. Speaker, on today's Day of Remembrance, exactly seventy years after the signing of EO 9066, it is important to remember and share the lessons of those who bravely stood their ground against discrimination. Fred and Gordon's stories remind us that all individuals have the potential to do extraordinary deeds in extraordinary times by simply standing up for what is right, even if it feels like all forces are against us. Although life in Amache taught me that being Japanese in America was bad, my father reminded me that I should never feel ashamed of my heritage and that I should continue to work hard in order to be recognized.

It is important to revisit the lessons that Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, my father, and other civil rights heroes have taught us because their stories are ones that transcend race, class and politics. They taught us that we must face discrimination and xenophobia with strong resolution or else we are vulnerable to repeating the egregious mistakes of the past.

Discrimination is always lurking just below the surface and often reveals itself in trying times, but as all three men showed, ordinary Americans are capable of achieving extraordinary feats for themselves, their families, and their country. In the end, I learned that the highest respect and honor we can bestow upon those who struggled for a more perfect union is to continue their legacies, apply their unwavering principles, and make sure history, as in the case of EO 9066, does not repeat itself.

RECOGNIZING JEREMY HILTON FOR HIS ADVOCACY OF MILITARY FAMILIES AFFECTED BY DISABILITIES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jeremy Hilton, of Burke, a U.S. Air Force finalist for the 2012 Military Spouse of the Year. Mr. Hilton is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy and a Navy veteran. In 2002, Mr. Hilton was stationed in Navy Yard Washington, D.C. when his daughter, Kate, was born with significant medical issues. Given the longer deployments required of naval officers, Mr. Hilton chose to separate in order to care for Kate, his two-year-old son, Jack, and support his wife, Renae, who is stationed at Andrews AFB.

Mr. Hilton has made it his mission to advocate for military families impacted by a disability, and he has taken on several leadership roles to help military and non-military families on issues including medical care, long-term care, Medicaid, and special education. He spends much of his free time speaking and advocating for legislation. Mr. Hilton has become a respected authority on issues involving military families with special needs and disabilities. He has briefed the White House, the Congressional Military Family Caucus, and the staff for several Congressional committees.

Mr. Hilton was instrumental in bringing attention to major inadequacies in the U.S. Air Force Exceptional Family Member Program. He and fifteen other Air Force families organized support for a Department of Defense Inspector General report that played a major role in reforming the program. Mr. Hilton also worked with Congressional staff on provisions in the 2011 National Defense Authorization Act to institute feedback from disability-impacted military families to the Department of Defense, establishing the Military Exceptional Family Member Panel. Currently, Mr. Hilton is working to gather support on H.R. 2288, the "Caring for Military Kids with Autism Act."

When not caring for his family or working to improve the lives of other families, Mr. Hilton spends the remaining hours of the day working toward a graduate degree at the George Washington University and producing a video series titled *Creating Access for All*, which encourages churches to start disability ministries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jeremy Hilton and his sacrifice, service and passionate advocacy for both military and non-military families impacted by disabilities. I believe there to be few others more deserving of the 2012 Military Spouse of the Year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 65, I missed rollcall 65 on February 16, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT M. O'NEIL

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life's work of Robert M. O'Neil, a lifelong resident of Pittsfield, Massachusetts who has served his community in many capacities, including service Pittsfield residents as a teacher at Taconic High School since 1996. He and his beloved wife, Betty O'Neil, raised one daughter, Angela, and enjoyed the company of 22 nephews and nieces.

Mr. O'Neil started a long career as a girls' basketball coach at the Catholic Youth Center, Pittsfield Boys and Girls Club and with AAU teams. He also refereed countless games since 1987 and was Assistant Girls Basketball Coach at Pittsfield High School from 1995 until 2005. At various times his Pittsfield teams won the City Championship, League Championship, Berkshire County Championship, Western Massachusetts Championship, and appeared in the Massachusetts State Championship Final. He then became Head Girls Basketball Coach at Taconic High School in 2005 and served in that capacity until 2011. During his career, he was named the recipient of the Berkshire County Sportsman of the Year and radio station WBEC's Girls Coach of the Year, and on two different occasions was named Girls Basketball Coach of the Year by his peers.

Robert M. O'Neil has unselfishly devoted his life to improving the lives of students and basketball players and their families. On February 21, 2012, his life will be celebrated, and he will be given a Certificate of Recognition and the Key to the City of Pittsfield in deep appreciation for his distinguished service, and that date will be known forever as Robert M. O'Neil Day in Pittsfield. Mr. Speaker, I join my friends, colleagues and neighbors in commemorating his life and wonderful accomplishments.

RED TAIL PILOTS TRIBUTE EVENT HOSTED BY THE YMCA OF CENTRAL FLORIDA AND LOCKHEED MARTIN

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Central Florida YMCA for their "Red Tail Pilots Tribute" event to congratulate the Tuskegee Airmen.

I am very pleased to talk about the pioneers who laid the groundwork for what we as African Americans have been able to accomplish over the last 70 years. In fact, when President Roosevelt began training African American troops, the Tuskegee Airmen excelled in protecting the bombers attacking enemy positions better than any other units in the United States Army Air Force.

And every single one of the first class of pilots of what became known as the Tuskegee Airmen had a college degree. One of them was Benjamin O. Davis, a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point,

who became the first African American to earn 3 stars in the United States Air Force.

In 1940, the Selective Service and Training Service Act, enacting the first peace-time draft in the United States' history was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Under the Act, all American males between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-five years had to register for the draft . . . and it went on to say "there shall be no discrimination against any person on account of race or color."

Following this, the first aviation class at the Tuskegee Institute with 13 cadets began in 1941. In March 1942, five of the 13 cadets in the first class completed the Army Air Corps pilot training program and earned their silver wings and became the nation's first black military pilots.

Soon afterwards, the newly formed United States Air Force began plans to integrate its units as early as 1947, and in 1948, President Harry Truman enacted Executive Order Number 9981, which directed equality of treatment and opportunity to all in the United States Armed Forces. This order, in time, led to the end of racial segregation in the military forces. This was also the first step toward racial integration in the United States of America.

Beyond a doubt, the positive experience, the outstanding record of accomplishments and the superb behavior of the black airmen during World War II, and after, were important factors leading up to the historical social change that led to racial equality in America.

The Tuskegee Airmen will live on forever in the pages of history because they accepted the challenge proudly, and succeeded in proving to the world that blacks could fly. These men fought two wars—one against a military enemy force overseas and another one against racism at home.

I am reminded of the words of the first President of the United States, George Washington, whose words are worth repeating at this time:

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their country."

Thank you for your service for your country and your continued service for your fellow veteran in these difficult times we all endure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, due to a commitment in my district, I had to miss votes on H.R. 3408. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Amendment 13, "aye" on Amendment 15, "no" on Amendment 16, "aye" on Amendment 17, "aye" on Amendment 18, "no" on Amendment 19, "aye" on the Motion to Recommit, and "no" on Final Passage.

PROCLAIMING THE STATE OF NEVADA RECOGNIZE DR. HEATH MORRISON'S ACCOMPLISHMENT AS THE 2012 NATIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR, AS AWARDED BY THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ON FEBRUARY 16, 2012

HON. MARK E. AMODEI

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Heath Morrison as the 2012 National Superintendent of the Year award winner at the American Association of School Administrator's National Conference on Education on February 16, 2012, in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Morrison came to the Washoe County School District in 2009 after serving as a community superintendent in Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland. Prior to serving as superintendent, he served as a middle and high school principal and a teacher in Charles County, Maryland. Dr. Morrison holds a Ph.D. in Educational Policy and Planning, a Masters of Educational Administration from the University of Maryland, and a Bachelor of Arts in Government from the College of William and Mary.

The American Association of School Administrators bases its selection of Superintendent of the Year on four criteria: leadership in learning, communication, professionalism, and community involvement. Dr. Morrison led the development and implementation of the District's five-year strategic plan to enhance the quality of education for the District's 63,000 students and to reduce the dropout rate. With his leadership, between 2009 and 2011, the Washoe County School District's graduation rate jumped from 56 percent to 70 percent across all student groups. This was due in no small part to Dr. Morrison's commitment to go door-to-door, finding children who have dropped out of school or are regularly truant and working with them to return. He has also established a Parent University to engage parents in their children's education and created the Community Compact, a program that involves the local community in the success of its students. Washoe County has also achieved significant test score gains, has narrowed the achievement gap in many subject areas, and has made great strides to ensure all students graduate ready to pursue college and highly skilled careers during his tenure. Dr. Morrison truly lives out the school district's motto of "Every child, by name and face, to graduation."

Other awards and honors received by Dr. Morrison include the 2012 Leadership through Communication Award from the American Association of School Administrators, the National School Public Relations Association, and Blackboard Connect, as well as the Distinguished Educational Leader Award from the Washington Post.

I know that my fellow Nevadans and I believe the selection of Dr. Heath Morrison as the American Association of School Administrators 2012 National Superintendent of the

Year is a fitting recognition of his many accomplishments as the Superintendent of Washoe County School District. Educators significantly and permanently influence the lives of our children. Dr. Morrison's vision and leadership in the Washoe County Schools illustrates that when parents, teachers, and the local community all work together, there is nothing they cannot accomplish. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in praising the accomplishments of Dr. Heath Morrison and recognizing his actions to be an exemplary model for all those teaching America's youth today.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MICRON TECHNOLOGY CEO STEVE APPLETON

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and accomplishments of Micron Technology Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Steve Appleton, who died in an aircraft accident on February 3, 2012.

Mr. Appleton, 51, began his career at Micron Technology in 1983 working the nightshift on the company's chip fabrication line. As was the case with many of Mr. Appleton's pursuits, his work for Micron Technology was tireless and done with a steadfast devotion to the highest levels of performance. Mr. Appleton quickly climbed through the ranks of a highly competitive corporate structure at Micron Technology. He was named chairman, CEO and president at age 34, making him the third youngest CEO of a Fortune 500 company at the time.

Under his leadership, Micron Technology grew to over 23,000 employees in 20 countries, producing annual revenues of \$8.9 billion. The company employs more than 1,800 Virginians, and the work performed at its Prince William County facility has helped make semiconductors the Commonwealth's largest manufactured export. His efforts earned him the recognition of his industry colleagues. In 2011, Mr. Appleton received the Robert N. Noyce Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Semiconductor Industry Association.

Mr. Appleton is described by friends and family as a fierce competitor who valued personal relationships. For a CEO of a Fortune 500 company who remained on a first name basis with many of his employees, this balance was second nature to Mr. Appleton. In his limited spare time, he became an accomplished pilot and motocross racer. He is survived by his wife and four children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in extending our condolences to Steve Appleton's friends, family and colleagues at Micron Technology Inc. They have lost an incredibly talented and devoted leader. Mr. Appleton's achievements cannot be overstated. He always strived to be the best.

PROTECTING INVESTMENT IN OIL SHALE THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL, ENERGY, AND RESOURCE SECURITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3408) to set clear rules for the development of United States oil shale resources, to promote shale technology research and development, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chair, like a broken, outdated record player, with this legislation the Republican Majority in the House shows itself to be out of touch with America's energy needs and energy future. The Congress should be encouraging innovation in our energy sector and natural resource preservation. Instead, H.R. 3408 shirks environmental stewardship and ignores all lessons from past drilling and spill related disasters. Almost two years after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster there are still no new safety measures or reforms in place to prevent and mitigate a future catastrophe. Rather than meaningful efforts to prevent loss of life and loss of habitat, the Republican Majority chooses to open up nearly every coastline of the U.S. for development of oil and gas drilling.

This bill threatens our nation's most pristine wilderness, the beautiful Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Opening this area to oil and gas drilling is not projected to lower gas prices in the near future or by any significant amount—less than two cents per gallon 20 years from now. But this is not the only area that would be opened up for offshore drilling under this bill. The Majority wants to mandate that broad swaths of the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts be made available for drilling leases. I thank my colleague in the New York Delegation, Mr. BISHOP, for his amendment that would prevent oil and gas leases in the Northeast region. If I had been present, I would have voted "aye" on the Amendment 12 offered by Mr. DEUTCH.

The grievances continue. The Majority repeats itself by again attempting to force approval of the Keystone XL pipeline. Throughout the 112th Congress they have refused to allow for a thorough review and study by the State Department. Seeking to direct the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to approve the pipeline within 30 days without conditions is wholly irresponsible and does nothing to ensure the safety and security of workers, residents, and communities impacted by the pipeline.

The Republican Majority has tried to say opening up these lands to drillings will pay for a transportation package but that is false. This legislation would cover less than one percent of the overall cost of their transportation proposal.

For reasons listed above, I oppose this misguided and dangerous legislation.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

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

Today, it is \$15,413,030,984,842.14. We've added \$10,611,625,809,547.86 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, on this afternoon of February 14, 2012, I unfortunately missed rollcall vote 49. If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 49, on approving the Journal.

HONORING ELIZABETH JOANNE SHUPE

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring recognition to a special lady

who hails from the same section of Appalachia as I do. Elizabeth Joanne Shupe was born February 11, 1932, in Russell County, Virginia, just across the border from northeast Tennessee. Through her life she has observed the transformation of this beautiful area we call home.

The proud mother of four children, Mrs. Shupe worked remarkably hard to support her family after the death of her second husband. Later in her career she found her calling as a nurse, putting herself through school while raising a son on her own. She kept nursing until just a few years ago at the age of 75.

Since retirement she has kept active, campaigning for her son (and city alderman) Jantry Shupe, teaching ceramic painting at an assisted living community, or pursuing her hobby of taking photographs with celebrities. Mrs. Shupe's vibrant spirit continues to shine as it has her entire life.

As of February 11, Mrs. Shupe is now 80 years young, and I am proud to honor her on the occasion of this milestone birthday.