

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO GPO ACCESS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, March 16, 2012, the U.S. Government Printing Office, GPO, officially retired GPO Access, GPO's online repository of federal government documents since 1994. GPO has completed the transition from GPO Access to its successor, GPO's Federal Digital System, FDsys, which was first launched in 2009 and became GPO's official system of record in December 2010.

GPO Access was established pursuant to Public Law 103-40, Government Printing Office Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act of 1993. In President Clinton's statement upon signing the Act on June 8, 1993, he remarked:

It is with great pleasure that I sign into law S. 564, the "Government Printing Office Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act of 1993," which will enhance electronic access by the public to Federal information. Under this Act, the public will have on-line computer access to two of the major source documents that inform us about the laws and regulations that affect our daily lives: the Congressional Record and the Federal Register . . .

This important step forward in the electronic dissemination of Federal information will provide valuable insights into the most effective means of disseminating all public Government information . . .

Upon its release, GPO Access ushered in an era of unprecedented access to Federal government information. Never before had American citizens from one end of this great country to the other been able to access the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Federal Register, bills and resolutions, and a host of other Federal government publications literally hours after their release. GPO Access marked a quiet revolution in government transparency on the same scale as C-SPAN. With hundreds of thousands of Federal government titles posted online and millions of downloads every month, GPO truly embodied the spirit of the Thomas Jefferson quotation: "wherever the people are well informed they can be trusted with their own government" and the James Madison quotation: "A popular Government without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy, or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives." However, even our Founding Fathers could never have imagined the era of access to government information which we have come to enjoy since the advent of GPO Access, and the story only gets better.

GPO's FDsys, www.fdsys.gov, provides the American public with free online access to about 50 different collections of authenticated U.S. Government information ranging from

public and private laws to U.S. court opinions to the President's annual budget. It allows users to search easily across multiple government publications; perform advanced searches against robust metadata about each publication; construct complex search queries; refine and narrow searches; access metadata in standard XML formats; download content and metadata packaged together as a single ZIP file; and browse alphabetically by collection, by congressional committee, by date, and by government author.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in commending the hard-working men and women of GPO on their remarkable achievement with GPO Access. I look forward to GPO's continuing contribution to "Keeping America Informed" through its successor, FDsys.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JOHN V. SULLIVAN, HOUSE PARLIAMENTARIAN, UPON HIS RETIREMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker thanks to Mr. DREIER, Mr. LATOURETTE and Mr. DINGELL for organizing this special order in recognition of John Sullivan, the House's Parliamentarian since 2004, and Deputy or Assistant Parliamentarian since 1987.

For these 25 years, John has been a familiar face on the floor of the House of Representatives, helping presiding officers maintain order and the flow of business. He has done his work with reassuring steadiness and competence, impartiality and fairness, even when tempers were flaring and ingenious, sometimes disingenuous, arguments were flying all around him.

John and the parliamentary staff he oversees have also been invaluable sources of advice and counsel for this institution's members, officers, and committees. Their institutional memory—both in their personal capacity and in the reference and retrieval system they have developed—is beyond compare. John perfected his own skills under illustrious predecessors—Charles Johnson and Bill Brown—and has administered and advanced the office superbly. This institution is currently facing serious strains and challenges. But in the area of parliamentary experience and control, we are operating from a position of great strength, thanks to the work of John and his colleagues.

John Sullivan's work is enhanced by his historical and comparative parliamentary knowledge, and I want especially to commend him for his willingness to share that knowledge with our colleagues in parliaments with which we cooperate around the world. I particularly remember his participation with the House Democracy Partnership in a mission to two part-

ner legislatures, Liberia and Kenya, in 2010. He engaged enthusiastically and helpfully with these parliaments as they developed their own parliamentary rules and standards under trying conditions. John has done this repeatedly, meeting countless times with visiting parliamentary and staff delegations and generously extending his counsel and encouragement.

In short, John Sullivan has been an exemplary public servant and an invaluable resource for this institution and our sister institutions around the world. I am happy to join with colleagues in thanking him for his service and wishing him well in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO ELEANOR K. ANDREWS, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2012

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year during the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women.

Today I pay tribute to Eleanor K. Andrews, an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District. As a resident of the city of San Gabriel, California, for over 50 years, Eleanor has always strived to make the city a better place.

Earlier in her career, Eleanor served on the Board of Trustees of the San Gabriel School District for 10 years. In addition, she was very active with the San Gabriel Valley YMCA, where she served as Vice President.

Today, Eleanor continues to serve the community she calls home. Currently, Ms. Andrews, who is the San Gabriel City Clerk, tirelessly volunteers in many organizations. Eleanor is the Co-Chair of the Senior Christmas Basket Program, where she dedicates her time to doing all the grocery shopping, and knitting over 60 pairs of slippers to put in all the baskets every year. In addition, she is a member and Past President of the Women's Division of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce, member and Treasurer of the San Gabriel Community Coordinating Council, serves on the Executive Committee and as Research Chairwoman of the 2013 San Gabriel Centennial Committee, and serves on the Board of the San Gabriel Historical Association, where she was the Association's Past President, and now serves as the Recording Secretary.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of my district, Eleanor K. Andrews, for her exceptional service to the community.

• 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.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILY LITERACY'S TOYOTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDED TO SHARI BROWN

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Shari Brown for receiving the 2012 Toyota Teacher of the Year Award. This award, presented by the National Center for Family Literacy, annually recognizes an educator in a program that has a strong record of increasing meaningful parent engagement and family learning.

Shari is a family literacy coordinator and instructor at Caldwell Community College serving Lenoir and other cities and towns in my congressional district. The program, which serves approximately 50 families each year and has another 30 on the waiting list, has a strong record of success. Children in the program tend to enter school six to eighteen months more advanced than average, and children for whom English is a second language enter kindergarten at the same, if not at a higher level, than their non-ESL peers, requiring no accommodations. Furthermore, adult students have a 94% persistence rate, and numerous ESL students move from the lowest levels of ESL to graduation with a GED and enter college.

Shari will use the \$20,000 grant that comes with the award to create a local community garden project where families will learn to grow, harvest and preserve their own food. Families will also participate in local farmer's markets, preparing nutritious meals utilizing the food they grow, supplemented with surplus commodities. Furthermore, they will study good nutrition and how to combat obesity in their family members. Lastly, families will have the opportunity to learn about culinary and horticultural career choices. Both of these industries have been identified as high-growth employment areas in Caldwell County, North Carolina.

Shari's recognition through this award is to be commended. Ms. Brown works every day to help families become self-sufficient and better able to help their children learn and grow academically in school. Thank you to the National Center for Family Literacy for recognizing one of our great community assets in Caldwell County.

COMMENDATION OF INDIAN VILLAGE TENNIS CLUB

HON. HANSEN CLARKE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Indian Village Tennis Club's 100th anniversary on April 16, 2012. The Indian Village Tennis Club is a rich part of Detroit's history.

The Indian Village Tennis Club has owned its property since 1894, and began using the tennis courts and clubhouse on April 16, 1912. The Indian Village Tennis Club is located in Detroit's historic Indian Village neighborhood,

and is the oldest tennis club in the United States to remain at its original site.

Club members enjoy the clay tennis courts, clubhouse, and perennial garden from May to October. The club has hosted numerous tournaments, lessons with tennis professionals, and social events promoting healthy living and wellness. Club members are active in the community.

It is with honor that I recognize the Indian Village Tennis Club for being a valuable organization in the Metro Detroit community for 100 years.

I am proud to have such a distinguished club in my community and I look forward to its continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE MULTILATERAL BENEFITS OF GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, to ensure our nation's competitiveness in the global arena and spur business development and expansion, it is clearly in our nation's interest to ensure robust federal funding for global health research. We are an innovation economy, and the basic research that federal funding makes possible sews the seeds for the later stage and private sector discoveries that attract philanthropic and venture capital dollars. And global health research is a priority for the American people. According to a May 2011 poll commissioned by Research!America, 74% of Georgians say that global health research is important to the economy.

As we consider federal funding for medical research, it is important to keep in mind that investment in global health research brings a rich return to the United States.

Throughout the United States, investment in global health leads to industry. In my home state of Georgia, successful start-ups like Geovax are breaking new ground in global HIV/AIDS research. Funding from the National Institutes of Health helped Geovax get off the ground, and now it is an employer that contributes to Georgia's economy and to improving global health. With global health powerhouses including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The Task Force for Global Health, The Carter Center, and CARE all based in Georgia, along with the world class scientists within our university system, Georgia is positioned to become a world leader for global health.

In this age of globalization, when intercontinental travel is a daily occurrence for thousands of people worldwide, treating communicable diseases in other countries is a must for preventing their widespread occurrence here in the United States. We have witnessed several times this past decade how easily diseases travel, as evidenced by the quick spread of SARS, avian flu and pandemic H1N1 flu from other countries to the western world. The spread of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR TB) is also of great concern, as infected individuals can be asymptomatic for years and still transmit the disease. Currently, infectious diseases cost the U.S. \$120

billion a year. By funding global health research programs dedicated to the prevention and eradication of communicable diseases in emerging economies, the United States is investing in its own immediate and long-term health, and saving on health care costs for treatment.

The landmark government initiative PEPFAR (U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief), is showing strong returns. Publicly funded researchers have identified and designed a multitude of preventive measures that reduce the risk of HIV transmission. Recent clinical trials demonstrated that combination antiretroviral treatments (developed by U.S. based pharmaceutical companies) can reduce the risk of HIV transmission by up to 96%. Deploying preventive measures in some of the highest risk countries around the world will certainly help reduce the spread of HIV. These measures will also help reduce the spread of HIV in the United States, where approximately 40,000 people per year are diagnosed, costing the U.S. a projected \$12.1 billion in lifetime medical expenses.

Investment in global health research and development today will help produce a healthy, competitive and innovative economy tomorrow. At the same time, such research helps to protect Americans, reduce health care costs and meet our nation's foreign policy goals. And investing in global research is a means of saving lives and preventing disability in impoverished nations—it is an immensely powerful form of humanitarianism that can help millions of people throughout the world now and in the future. As we map out strategies for promoting the U.S. economy, we must not falter in our investment in medical research that surely includes research devoted to combating global illnesses. We must capitalize on opportunities for NIH, CDC, FDA, USAID and DOD to support global health research—for the benefit of Americans and the global community of which we are a part.

RECOGNIZING THE 450TH ANNIVERSARY OF FRENCH HUGUENOT CAPTAIN JEAN RIBAUT'S LANDING IN FLORIDA

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sesquicentennial, or 450th anniversary, of the French expedition commanded by Huguenot Captain Jean Ribault landing in Florida at what is now Jacksonville, my hometown. Seeking the right to worship freely and with the support of the French Crown, Ribault sailed toward the New World and dropped anchor along the North Florida coast. His arrival on April 30, 1562, marked the beginning of French history in Florida.

The next day, May 1, the crew sailed north and came to "a leaping and breking of the water, as a streme falling owt of the lande unto the sea." They had discovered the mouth of a majestic river that Ribault named the River of Maye. We now call that river the St. Johns River, but the Village of Mayport and Naval Station Mayport owe their names to the original River of May.

Greeted by indigenous, Mocama-speaking Timucua Indians, Ribault and his crew entered the river, rowed ashore, and planted a column in honor of their King, Charles IX, claiming the land for France and marking a spot for future settlement. This French landing predates the settling of Jamestown by 45 years and occurred 58 years before the Mayflower arrived in Plymouth.

Two years later on June 22, 1564, a second sailing expedition, under the command of Rene Goulaine de Laudonniere, established the first French colony in the present-day United States of America near the mouth of the river. It was named la Caroline for the French King Charles IX. A fort was built in the colony or land of Charles to protect settlers. While there undoubtedly will be continued debate as to where and who claimed the first celebration of thanksgiving, we do know that the French Huguenots of the la Caroline colony celebrated a day of thanksgiving on June 30, 1564, and shared a meal with the Timucua Indians. Today, this landmark is operated by the United States National Park Service as Fort Caroline National Memorial.

Beginning with this first settlement and continuing until today, France and Florida have built a long-lasting relationship through consular representations, trade, cultural and educational exchanges, and tourism, all of which benefit both the French people and the people of Florida.

Florida has a long, rich maritime history dating back at least 12,000 years, but the documented history of the French coming to this long, flat peninsula is also cause for celebration. Many exciting activities are planned including the rededication of the Ribault Monument at Ft. Caroline National Memorial and the French Navy mooring two goelettes, the Etoile and the Belle Poule, in downtown Jacksonville. Consul General of France in Miami, Gaël de Maisonneuve, and other French and American dignitaries will be on hand for this historic celebration.

It is my honor to bring this historic commemoration to the attention of the United States Congress and to invite Members to join in the celebration.

ANGELICA PRADO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Angelica Prado for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Angelica Prado is a 12th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Angelica Prado is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Angelica Prado for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedi-

cation and character in all her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, due to being unavoidably detained I was unable to cast the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall vote 132—I would have voted “yes,” rollcall vote 134—I would have voted “no,” rollcall vote 135—I would have voted “no,” rollcall vote 136—I would have voted “no,” rollcall vote 137—I would have voted “no,” rollcall vote 138—I would have voted “yes.”

WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. XXX, expressing support for “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans’ Day 2012.”

We do not have to walk far from the doors of this building to be reminded of the bravery that so many of our young men and women have shown in defense of this country over the last 236 years. Statues, monuments, and other symbols of American freedom color our horizon and tell the stories of the veterans who served, sacrificed, and gave so much for the country they loved.

As a nation, we honor those who defend us with memorials, holidays, and parades. But, as a people, we have not always fulfilled our duty to properly recognize those fellow citizens who put themselves in harm’s way to keep us safe and protect our freedoms.

Unfortunately, we failed in this duty to our Vietnam veterans. They came home to a time of civil unrest and social turmoil—a time when opposition to the war too easily turned into opposition against those young men and women who served in that war.

Too many service members returned from the brutality of war, not recognized for their courage, their honor, and their sacrifice.

The harsh greeting that met too many veterans in addition to the life changing trials of war, made an already difficult transition to civilian life even harder.

The communities that could have supported those who were reeling from the trauma of loss were not always available. When these veterans needed someone to lend an ear, or a helping hand, too many found a cold shoulder.

By encouraging Americans to observe “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day,” my resolution seeks to provide these heroes the welcome home that they always deserved, but too many never received.

“Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day” is the culmination of years of effort on the part of my constituent Jose Ramos, himself a Vietnam veteran.

As an Army Combat Medic in Vietnam, Jose Ramos was victim to the indifferent and often hostile public reaction when he returned home. It was his personal experiences, and those of his fellow GIs, that motivated him to work toward establishing a national day of recognition. His work inspired many, including me, to help give Vietnam veterans their long overdue “welcome home.”

While today’s resolution may seem like a small gesture—and when compared to what our soldiers and their families sacrificed, it certainly is—it will serve to remind us of their service to our country.

Although there may be differing opinions on foreign policies and the popularity of certain military actions may vary, all American voices should rise in unison when it comes time to thank those who risk everything for the defense of the American people.

I urge my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, to join in honoring Vietnam veterans by participating in Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day events in their communities next year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of March 26, 2012, I unfortunately missed rollcall votes 127, 128, and 129.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 127, Representative STIVER’s (OH–15) bill, H.R. 2779.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 128, Representative GRIMM’s (NY–13) H.R. 2682.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 129, approval of the journal.

CANDIDATE VS. PRESIDENT ON OBAMACARE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, according to a recent CBS News article, when the President in 2008 was on the campaign trail, he blasted his primary opponent, Hillary Clinton, for supporting an individual mandate. Less than two years later, however, when the President lobbied the liberal-controlled Congress to pass the government healthcare takeover bill, he told legislators the individual mandate “was an essential part” of the takeover.

Almost every poll conducted across this country reveals the same result: an overwhelming number of Americans believe the individual mandate found in ObamaCare is unconstitutional and a chipping away of individual liberty. The Gadsden Flag of South Carolina is correct: Don’t Tread on Me.

The United States government should not require all of its citizens to buy insurance or push any other mandates that will limit freedoms. It is past the time for our nation to support legislation for real healthcare reform as

developed by Congressman TOM PRICE that will guarantee these rights every American deserves.

In conclusion, God Bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th in the global war on terrorism.

ANGEL HAZLETT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Angel Hazlett for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Angel Hazlett is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Angel Hazlett is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Angel Hazlett for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO GRETCHEN ROBINETTE, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2012

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year during the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women.

Today, I pay tribute to Gretchen Robinette, a tireless volunteer, advocate, and remarkable woman of California's 29th Congressional District. Born and raised in South Pasadena, California, Gretchen graduated from South Pasadena High School, attained a B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Master's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Gretchen served in the Peace Corps as an English language teacher in Malaysian Borneo for two years, along with her husband, Vic Robinette. Ms. Robinette was a teacher and librarian throughout most of her professional career for South Pasadena High School, Rio Hondo College in Whittier, and San Luis Obispo High School. Her commitment to education is also reflected through her willingness to be involved in school issues. She assisted in bringing the South Pasadena High School Library online, contributed her time to help design the school's library when it was constructed, and served in the Academic Senate at Rio Hondo College. Upon her retirement from teaching a decade ago, Gretchen joined

her husband's CPA firm, where she holds the position of Office Manager.

Ms. Robinette has also served the community beyond the realm of education; a fact that she attributes to her years of service in the Peace Corps. She serves on the Board of Directors for the South Pasadena Preservation Foundation, chairs the South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Legislative Affairs Committee, in addition to serving as a Chamber of Commerce Ambassador. A co-founder and former president, she currently serves as a Board Member for Women Involved in South Pasadena Political Action, WISPPA, an organization that works to improve integrity, accountability and transparency in the city government of South Pasadena. Past volunteer activities include serving on the South Pasadena Public Library's Board of Trustees and the Board of South Pasadena Beautiful.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an outstanding woman of the 29th Congressional District, Gretchen Robinette, for her extraordinary service to the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF WISCONSIN COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC. (WCS) 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor Wisconsin Community Services, Inc. for 100 years of service in the great State of Wisconsin. Wisconsin Community Services, Inc., or WCS, was founded in 1912 as the "Society for the Friendless" and is the largest and oldest non-profit criminal justice organization in the State of Wisconsin.

WCS' original mission has remained constant from its inception to present day: to assist people who were incarcerated; to assist the families left behind; and "to advocate for justice and community safety by providing innovative opportunities for individuals to overcome adversity." During its 100-year history, WCS has helped to increase public safety and strengthen communities by giving disenfranchised residents the tools and support they need to be healthy, law-abiding, and productive.

I applaud WCS for offering alternatives that have resulted in lower recidivism rates compared to incarceration, thereby providing significant savings to taxpayers. The organization takes every opportunity to provide both innovative and evidence-based programming in a variety of service areas including the following: residential re-entry and workforce development; court services; services to persons with alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA); services to those with mental health or co-occurring disorders; and services for youth. In 2011 alone, WCS has served more than 15,000 individuals.

Mr. Speaker, WCS agency has made a tremendous impact and left its imprint on the historic, cultural, and civic life of the people of Wisconsin. I am proud that WCS is located in the 4th Congressional District providing support services and tools to help people successfully reintegrate into the community. I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting WCS in

recognition of 100 years of advocating for justice and community safety by providing innovative opportunities for individuals to overcome adversity.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, women are just over 50 percent of the U.S. population, but we bear much more than half of the Nation's health care costs.

In so many ways, the American health care system has been geared toward men, men's bodies and men's needs. As women we've had to fight and struggle for parity, and finally the Affordable Care Act has given us that level playing field.

So naturally, my friends in the majority want to scrap this law that has helped so many women obtain life-saving preventive care services. They couldn't repeal it through the democratic process, so now they're trying to get the Supreme Court to do it.

We must say no. No, we will not tolerate discrimination in the health care system. No, being woman is not a pre-existing condition.

ANDREA BLANCAS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Andrea Blancas for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Andrea Blancas is a 12th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Andrea Blancas is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Andrea Blancas for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 134, 135, 136; had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT
BILLINGSLEA

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful corporate and community leader upon his retirement. Robert Billingslea is retiring on March 31, 2012 as the Corporate Director of Urban Affairs for the Walt Disney Company. His professional efforts have enhanced the strength and diversity of the Disney Company, and his civic endeavors have made a tremendous impact on the city of Orlando.

Robert Lee Billingslea was born on December 20, 1937, to Faye and Robert Billingslea. He was raised by his grandparents on the south side of Youngstown, Ohio. Growing up he attended local public schools, and found his passion in music. He began playing the drums at age 12, and at 16 he was playing professionally. In 1956 he graduated from South High School, and was voted "most musical" in his class. His love of music spurred him to move to California following graduation to pursue a career as a musician. He studied music at Vallejo Junior College, while performing with several West Coast bands.

In 1958, he returned to his hometown and continued to tour the country playing drums for various musical groups. Two years later, he enrolled in Kent State University to study sociology. In his senior year, he worked in juvenile court, and upon graduation became a probation officer in Akron, Ohio's juvenile court system. Mr. Billingslea went on to serve as a community organizer for the Office of Economic Opportunity. In 1966, an opportunity to become a wage and salary compensation analyst at Martin Marietta Corporation (now Lockheed Martin) took his life on a new trajectory in Orlando, Florida.

He joined the Walt Disney Company in 1969, and went to work at Disneyland in California as a senior personnel representative. But he quickly returned to Orlando where he was involved in the opening of the new Disney World facility in 1971. He has remained with Disney since that time, climbing the ladder to his current position as Corporate Director of Urban Affairs.

In addition to his position at Disney, Mr. Billingslea has been just as active in his community. When he returned to Orlando, he became chair of the Orlando Human Relations Board. Four governors also appointed him to serve on the Florida State Commission on Human Relations. It was during this time that our paths crossed and we became fast friends.

In 1985, his work at Disney brought him together with the NAACP, which was reviewing the company's employment practices for African Americans. Mr. Billingslea served as Disney's liaison to the NAACP, and a lasting relationship formed. He began working with the NAACP's Youth initiative, Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO). Through this program, he helped African American youth enhance their academic, artistic and scientific abilities. He served on the ACT-SO Industry Advisory Council, as a Special Contributions Fund Trustee, and on the NAACP Image Awards Committee.

His experiences working with youth in the juvenile court system ignited a lifelong passion. He serves as an ambassador to the Boys & Girls Club of Central Florida, as a trustee for Bethune-Cookman University, and as an advisor to the Central Florida Urban League. He is also a member of the board for the League of Black Women and the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation.

Bob has been honored with numerous awards include the National Service to Youth Award from the Boys & Girls Clubs of America for his 30 years of dedicated service and the Whitney M. Young Award from the Metropolitan Orlando Urban League in recognition of his help in founding and supporting the local Urban League chapter.

Mr. Billingslea and his wife Deidre (DeeDee) live in Orlando, and are the parents of one son. They are also the proud grandparents of two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me today in celebrating the extraordinary contributions of Robert Billingslea. This a man who came from humble beginnings who started out hoping to change the world with his music, but ended up beating a different drum. He has helped shape the Walt Disney Company into the beloved entertainment empire it is today and still found time to help build a better community in Central Florida. I wish him well in his retirement, and know that he will continue to share his time and talents with others.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. KAY
MOURADIAN, 29TH CONGRES-
SIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF
THE YEAR—2012

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year during the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women.

I stand today to pay tribute to Kay Mouradian, EdD, of South Pasadena, California, who has provided the Los Angeles Community Colleges with strong leadership and dedication for many years. Attaining a B.S. from Boston University, an M.S. from University of California, Los Angeles, and an Ed.D. from Nova Southeastern University, Dr. Mouradian served the Los Angeles Community Colleges as Professor of Health and Physical Education, and advocated in the California Teachers Association for the importance of physical education in California Community Colleges. In addition to her love of education and advocacy for health, Dr. Mouradian is also a very accomplished author.

Dr. Mouradian researched yoga in India for several months for her dissertation. She has published articles about yoga for magazines, with two much admired articles titled: Increasing Body Awareness through Yoga's Relaxation Technique and Developing a Competency-based Syllabus in Yoga for the Community College Curriculum. Kay's efforts did not stop there, as she also published a guide for yoga instructors who taught at the commu-

nity colleges. In addition, Dr. Mouradian is planning to write books tailored to help people who want to and are interested in retaining a quality body, primarily during their elder years.

After several health crises, Kay's mother asked her to write about her life. This opened a new chapter for Kay. Kay extensively researched the Armenian Genocide of 1915 by reading numerous books and traveling to Turkey. There, she visited the town where 25,000 Armenians, including her mother and her family, were ordered to leave their homes at the time of the Armenian Genocide. She journeyed through the deportation path, where over 2,000,000 Turkish Armenians had to march for countless miles through the desert. Her findings and experience led her to write *A Gift in the Sunlight, An Armenian Story*.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring a remarkable woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Dr. Kay Mouradian, for her exceptional service to the community.

ANASTASIA LAWRENCE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Anastasia Lawrence for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Anastasia Lawrence is an 11th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Anastasia Lawrence is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Anastasia Lawrence for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

STUDENT LOAN GRACE PERIOD
EXTENSION ACT

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, this recession has left virtually no one untouched. Students that are graduating from college are finding not only a hostile job market, but many carry with them an overwhelming amount of debt. If we are going to get our economy back on track, we need to make sure those young people are given a fighting chance.

The unemployment rate for new college graduates in many fields is higher than the national average and they currently have to begin repayment on their loans a short 6 months after they graduate. The class of 2010 faced an unemployment rate for new college graduates of 9.1 percent, the highest in recent years.

That is why I am introducing the “Student Loan Grace Period Extension Act” which will extend the grace period for Federal Subsidized and Federal Unsubsidized Student Loans from 6 months to 12 months after the student graduates. This bill will provide students with a necessary window after graduation where they can conduct their job search without the financial constraint of monthly student loan payments after 6 short months. Given the recent recession and our slow economic recovery, it only makes sense to give those young people just entering the work force a fighting chance to find a job and start earning before they begin repaying their loan obligations.

By passing this bill, we will ensure that our college graduates are not prematurely burdened with student loan payments before many of them may be able to find gainful employment in their field.

HONORING HELEN AGUIRRE
FERRÉ

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Women’s History Month, I rise to honor one of South Florida’s finest award-winning, bilingual journalists, Helen Aguirre Ferré. Having profound experience in journalism, she dominates various media platforms including, TV, radio, and print media.

Having more than two decades of experience, Mrs. Aguirre Ferré currently serves as the Opinion Page Editor for *El Diario Las America*. Her father, Horacio Aguirre, an exceptional leader in South Florida, founded *El Diario*, Florida’s oldest independent Spanish-language newspaper. For more than half a century, *El Diario* has maintained a high level of intellect, professionalism, and integrity. Mrs. Aguirre Ferré is also a political guest analyst for *Univision*, where she frequently appears on “*Despierta America*” and “*Al Punto*.” She also co-hosts *Univision*’s “*Prohibido Callarse*,” a highly rated daily political talk show, and moderates the weekly public-affairs series *Issues for WPBT2*, a South Florida PBS station.

Her accomplishments go beyond her professional career; Mrs. Aguirre Ferré co-founded *Operation Saving Lives*, a humanitarian effort responsible for sending money, medicines, food, and clothing to hurricane victims in Central America. She is the first woman to chair *Miami Dade College*’s Board of Trustees and she serves on the Board of Directors of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. Additionally, Mrs. Aguirre Ferré is a member of the International Women’s Forum, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Inter-American Institute for Democracy, the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, *Mercy Hospital*’s Angels of Mercy, the *Mater Center*, and the *American Nicaraguan Foundation*.

She has received numerous awards from various organizations, including the Cuban American National Council, *Barry University*, *Saint Anselm College*, the *American Red Cross*, the *American Cancer Society*, the *Women’s History Coalition*, the *American Nicaraguan Foundation*, the *Cuban Women’s Club*, the *Latin Chamber of Commerce* of the

United States (CAMACOL) and *Hispanic Media 100*, among many others.

Mrs. Aguirre Ferré has earned the respect and trust of our community in South Florida, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dear friend and accomplished individual. I wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

FLYERS KEEP NORTH CAROLINA
BASKETBALL IN THE SPOTLIGHT

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, North Carolina has a long and distinguished list of college basketball National Champions. This year, however, there is only one school from the Old North State that will earn the right to hoist a National Championship banner. No, I do not mean the North Carolina State University *Wolfpack*, nor the Duke University *Blue Devils* and not even the University of North Carolina *Tarheels*. Please join me, Mr. Speaker, in congratulating the *Sandhills Community College Flyers* upon their rise to the 2012 National Junior College Athletic Association Division III Championship.

Their 30–6 season ended with a commanding defeat of *Cedar Valley College*, from Dallas, Texas, by a score of 101–86. Outstanding play from Guard *Daquain Towns*, tournament MVP, and the tremendous coaching of *Mike Apple* led the *Flyers*, in only their third season, past teams in the play-offs from the Bronx, New York, *Brookdale*, New Jersey, and *Prince George’s County*, Maryland. On March 17, the *Sandhills Flyers* became the first team from North Carolina to win a Division III National Championship and our office is proud to represent this fine group of young men. Each member of the *Flyers* deserves recognition for this outstanding achievement and they are:

Michael Collins, TJ Gill, Raheem Jolliffe, Chris Morrison, *Daquain Towns*, Dre Huntley, Chris Vinson, Trevor Cole, Mike Dorsey, Raheem Washington, Michael Robinson, TJ Jones, Trammie Pride, Louis Craft, Kermeriaz Harrington, Erick Ewing, Markell Lotharp, Demontre Jones.

Coach: Mike Apple.

Athletic Director: Aaron Denton.

Congratulations also go out to Dr. John Dempsey and the *Sandhills Community College* family for putting together an organization that preserves North Carolina’s premier basketball tradition while adding a new National Champion to our history books.

ALYSIA MORA-PINA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud *Alysia Mora-Pina* for receiving the *Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth* award. *Alysia Mora-Pina* is an 11th grader at *Jefferson Senior High* and received this award because her

determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by *Alysia Mora-Pina* is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to *Alysia Mora-Pina* for winning the *Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth* award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO EVA ARRIGHI, 29TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2012

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of *Woman’s History Month*. Each year during the month of *March*, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our Nation’s most distinguished women.

Today, I stand to laud the tireless efforts of *Eva Arrighi*, a 22-year resident of *Temple City, California*, whose zealous approach to community service has benefited many people and organizations. Born in *Cologne, Germany* in 1931, *Eva* arrived in the United States in 1955 along with her husband *Ivo*, son *Dan*, and daughter *Frances*. After residing in *Pittsburg, Pennsylvania*, *Cleveland, Ohio*, and *Rosemead, California*, respectively, *Eva* and her family moved to *Temple City*.

Throughout the years, *Eva* has maintained an active spirit for all her passions in life, and is involved with the community as a member of many organizations as a dedicated volunteer. *Ms. Arrighi* has been a volunteer and member of the *Boy Scouts of America*, particularly with *Troop 169 Temple City*, where her grandson achieved the rank of *Eagle Scout*. *Eva* volunteers for church activities at *St. Peter’s* in *Los Angeles*, *St. Anthony Catholic Church* in *San Gabriel*, and *St. Luke Catholic Church* in *Temple City*, where she always lends a helping hand to assist at the *St. Luke’s Fiesta*. The *School of Fashion & Design* in *Alhambra* has also benefited from *Eva’s* devotion, as she contributes many hours working with physically and developmentally challenged students. Currently, *Ms. Arrighi* is an *Ambassador* for the *Temple City Chamber of Commerce*, where she assists in decorating for *Chamber* activities and provides food items and gifts for the *Chamber’s* social mixers. She is also a member of organizations such as the *Temple City Women’s Club*, *Friends of Foster Children* and the *Historical Society of Temple City*.

Ms. Arrighi is known for her generosity. She spends many hours knitting and crocheting countless items and selflessly gives everything away as gifts. Some of her creations include scarves, hats, baby blankets, slippers and socks. She donates to various fundraisers, community raffles, *Chamber* employees, *Methodist Hospital Foundation* and the *School of Fashion & Design*, to name a few.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Eva Arrighi, for her exceptional service to the community.

HONORING RICHARD LEE
LAWRENCE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Richard Lee Lawrence, a devoted servant to the Roanoke Valley and the legal community of western Virginia, who passed away unexpectedly on March 19, 2012.

Born and raised in Roanoke, Richard was an active member of Scout Troop 21, where he attained the rank of Eagle Scout. He was always proud of this achievement. He regularly spoke about how important his scouting skills were to his overall education.

A graduate of Jefferson High School, Roanoke College, and Washington and Lee School of Law, Richard also served in the United States Marine Corps. He was a passionate student of American history, particularly the American Civil War, and also greatly enjoyed immersing himself in the various cultures of the world.

Above all else, Richard was dedicated to his work. He took great pride in the fact that he worked each day since his first newspaper job as a young boy. Despite being a pillar of the legal bar in the Roanoke Valley, Richard was never too busy to mentor young lawyers, including myself and my wife. As a boy, Richard was unfortunately the target of many bullies. Thankfully, he turned that resentment into a desire to fight for the "little guy." Many contend he will be best remembered for his dedication to the people who did not have an advocate or a voice.

While I knew Richard as a lawyer and friend, I was unaware of his dedication to attending church on Sundays. The priest at Richard's funeral made note that over the last five years he could count the number of times Richard had missed church on one hand. Always open and candid about his shortcomings, Richard's faithful devotion is humbling.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Richard's family and friends. I am honored to pay tribute to his many contributions to the community. His legacy and influence will be long remembered across the Roanoke Valley and throughout Southwest Virginia.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC
SERVICE OF GERRY CASHIN

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, in any successful office, there is always one person you need to be able to trust to make sure that things are done in the right way and on time. From the beginning of my service in Congress, that person in my office was my executive assistant,

Geraldine "Gerry" Cashin. On the occasion of her retirement, I want to offer my personal thanks to Gerry for the dedicated and loyal service that she has given to me, the people of Alabama, and the citizens of our nation. Gerry was first with me in my law practice in Alabama and when I was elected to the House, I knew that I wanted her to come to Washington to help me with the challenge of setting up a new congressional office. Her organizational skills and personal concern for constituents helped our office to quickly establish a reputation for service and responsiveness. Gerry set a high standard with her dedication to her work and her attention to detail, and many of my staffers who have gone on to success in future endeavors have given credit to the lessons they learned from Gerry. Almost every day, the seemingly "impossible" was asked of Gerry and she unfailingly delivered, perfecting along the way such wry and legendary office phrases as "I'm sorry that happened" and "Never give a man something you haven't made a copy of." During the great challenges in Congress during recent years—from 9/11 to the financial crisis—Gerry stood as a rock of stability and a voice of calm and continuity. She has friends all over Capitol Hill and in Birmingham, and my wife Linda and I consider her to be part of our family for her many years of loyal service and heartfelt friendship. While the institutional knowledge that Gerry acquired cannot be replaced, my office's loss is the gain of her daughters Amanda and Diane and her grandsons John and Tom, with whom she will happily be spending much more time, and perhaps a gain for her tennis game as well. It is a pleasure for me to extend this public and well-deserved tribute to a servant of the people and a very dear friend, Gerry Cashin.

ELBRA WEDGEWORTH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Honorable Elbra Wedgeworth for receiving the Community Impact Award from Metro Volunteers.

As an East Denver native, Elbra Wedgeworth has been a leader in Denver City Government for the past twenty-six years. In addition to her government service, some of her volunteer activities include Host Committee Member of the 2022 Denver Winter Olympics, 2011 Denver Region Sustainable Communities Executive Committee and founder of the African American Cultural Consortium and several other Boards and Councils.

The Honorable Elbra Wedgeworth is a highly admired individual who deserves recognition from the community for her leadership and the example she sets for others through her selfless service to those in need.

I extend my deepest congratulations to my friend the Honorable Elbra Wedgeworth for this well deserved recognition by Metro Volunteers. Thank you for making our community a better place for all of us.

HONORING JENNIFER L. SMITH

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and I want to take a moment to recognize the retirement of Jennifer L. Smith, CBO's Associate General Counsel. Ms. Smith is retiring after more than 32 years of service to the Congress.

She began her career at the Senate in 1979. While working for the Secretary of the Senate, she attended law school at night and became one of the Senate's Assistant Parliamentarians. She served as an Assistant Counsel for the House Budget Committee, the General Counsel for the Senate Budget Committee, and the Deputy General Counsel for CBO. In 2006, she returned to the Senate Parliamentarian's Office as the Senate Precedents Editor, and in 2010 returned to CBO as the Associate General Counsel.

In each of her roles, Ms. Smith worked tirelessly to ensure that the decisions of each office were carefully researched, well reasoned, and fully documented.

As an attorney for CBO, Ms. Smith ensured that CBO's estimates of legislation were based on a solid understanding of the law. Her skills as an attorney have been highlighted in the diverse issues she has worked on while at CBO, ranging from immigration to social security to lease-purchase issues. Her knowledge of appropriations law, copyright law, and the ethics rules of the House of Representatives rivals those of the most acknowledged experts in those fields.

Ms. Smith's excellent work has been recognized throughout her career. In 2005, as CBO's Deputy General Counsel, she received a CBO Director's Award for outstanding performance. And she has received a number of other awards recognizing her outstanding contributions at CBO.

Ms. Smith has exemplified CBO's high standard of professionalism, objectivity, and nonpartisanship. She has been a wise counselor and a frequent mentor. As important as the quality of her work, Ms. Smith's value as a colleague is unmatched. Her unfailing sense of humor, dependability, loyalty and her prowess on the softball field will not be forgotten.

We thank Jennifer Smith and commend her for her many years of dedicated, faithful, and outstanding service to CBO, to Congress, and to the American people. We wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED
STATES COMMISSION ON AN
OPEN SOCIETY WITH SECURITY
ACT OF 2012

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as the cherry blossom season begins, bringing thousands of Americans here, I rise to reintroduce the United States Commission on an Open Society with Security Act of 2012. The bill expresses an idea I began working on when the

first signs of the closing of parts of our open society appeared after the Oklahoma City bombing, well before 9/11. This bill grows more urgent as an increasing variety of security measures proliferate throughout the country without any thought about the effects on common freedoms and ordinary public access, and without any guidance from the government or elsewhere. Take the example of government buildings. Federal building security has gotten so out of control that a tourist passing by a Federal building cannot even get in to use the restroom or enjoy the many restaurants located in areas otherwise devoid of such amenities. The security for Federal buildings has too long resided only in the hands of non-security experts, who do not take into account actual threats and, as a result, spend lavish amounts of taxpayer dollars on needless security procedures. For example, several years ago, Government Accountability Office investigators carried bomb-making materials into 10 high-security Federal buildings and then assembled them in the bathrooms. This scandal shines a light on the failure to use risk-based assessments in the allocation of resources.

The bill I reintroduce today would begin a systematic investigation that fully takes into account the importance of maintaining our democratic traditions while responding adequately to the real and substantial threat that terrorism poses. To accomplish its difficult mission, the bill authorizes a 21-member commission, with the President designating nine members and the House and Senate each designating six members, to investigate the balance of openness and security. The commission would be composed not only of military and security experts, but, for the first time, they would be at the same table with experts from such fields as business, architecture, technology, law, city planning, art, engineering, philosophy, history, sociology, and psychology. To date, questions of security most often have been left almost exclusively to security and military experts. They are indispensable participants, but these experts cannot alone resolve all the new and unprecedented issues raised by terrorism in an open society. In order to strike the security/access balance required by our democratic traditions, a diverse group of experts needs to be at the same table.

For years, parts of our open society have gradually been closed down because of terrorism and the fear of terrorism, from checkpoints on streets near the Capitol, even when there are no alerts, to applications of technology without regard to their effects on privacy.

Following the unprecedented terrorist attack on our country on 9/11, Americans expected additional and increased security adequate to protect citizens against this frightening threat. However, in our country, people also expect government to be committed and smart enough to undertake this awesome new responsibility without depriving them of their personal liberty. These times will long be remembered for the rise of terrorism in the world and in this country and the unprecedented challenges it has brought. We must provide ever-higher levels of security for our people and public spaces while maintaining a free and open democratic society. Yet this is no ordi-

nary threat that we expect to be over in a matter of years. The end point could be generations from now. The indeterminate nature of the threat adds to the necessity of putting aside ad hoc approaches to security developed in isolation from the goal of maintaining an open society.

When we have faced unprecedented and perplexing issues in the past, we have had the good sense to investigate them deeply before moving to resolve them. Examples include the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9/11 Commission), the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction (also known as the Silberman-Robb Commission), and the Kerner Commission, which investigated the riots that swept American cities in the 1960s and 1970s. The important difference in this bill is that the Commission seeks to act before a crisis-level erosion of basic freedoms takes hold and becomes entrenched. Because global terrorism is likely to be long lasting, we cannot afford to allow the proliferation of security measures that neither requires nor is subject to advanced civilian oversight, or analysis of alternatives and repercussions on freedom and commerce.

With no vehicles for leadership on issues of security and openness, we have been left to muddle through, using blunt 19th century approaches, such as crude blockades, unsightly barriers around beautiful monuments, and other signals that our society is closing down, all without appropriate exploration of possible alternatives. The threat of terrorism to an open society is too serious to be left to ad hoc problem-solving. Such approaches are often as inadequate as they are menacing.

We can do better, but only if we recognize and come to grips with the complexities associated with maintaining a society of free and open access in a world characterized by unprecedented terrorism. The place to begin is with a high-level commission of experts from a broad array of disciplines to help chart the new course that will be required to protect our people and our precious democratic institutions and traditions.

A TRIBUTE TO ELLEN
SNORTLAND, 29TH CONGRES-
SIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF
THE YEAR—2012

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year during the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women.

I stand today to pay tribute to Ellen Snortland of Altadena, California, who is an inspiring and extraordinary individual. Ellen has spent her life following a variety of passions ranging from human rights to journalism to self defense. Ms. Snortland received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Irvine in Theater and Film, and later a Juris Doctor, JD, from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles. After

graduating, Ellen decided that she could provide the most service to her community as an advocate for women and children, a teacher, performer and media professional.

Ms. Snortland is the author of *Beauty Bites Beast*, which has been translated in Portuguese and Spanish, featured on Dateline NBC, and sold around the world. Ellen has also performed "Now that She's Gone," a one-woman show, which is a touching piece about family and forgiveness, and in 2008, was nominated for a Pulitzer in Drama. She has performed this show in New York, Los Angeles, Kansas, and France among other cities, states and countries.

She is currently a Board Member and lead female instructor for IMPACT personal safety, and teaches young boys and girls how to defend themselves from predators, both physically and verbally. She provides valuable services to our youth which they can draw from for their entire lives.

Ellen's accomplishments and roles in our community are innumerable. She serves on the Board of 50/50 Leadership and Consumer Watchdog, and is the Past President of the United Nations Association, Pasadena/Foothills Chapter. Ellen attended the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, in the year of 2001, and the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women for many years as part of the U.N. Press Corps as well as a NGO delegate.

Today, Ms. Snortland is a columnist for the Pasadena Weekly and a blogger for Ms. Magazine and Huffington Post. Ellen's work has been exceptional, and has proven that one woman can truly achieve all she sets her mind to.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ellen Snortland, for her exceptional service to the community.

ANDREA HILL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Andrea Hill for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Andrea Hill is a 7th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Andrea Hill is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Andrea Hill for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

U.S. COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Nina Shea, Dr. Don Argue, Dr. Richard Land, Dr. Elizabeth H. Prodromou and Felice Gaer for their service on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). These commissioners have made significant contributions to USCIRF's work on behalf of the cherished right of freedom of religion or belief, including its deeper integration into U.S. foreign policy and national security. Since its inception, the commission has served as a voice for the voiceless, championing the plight of those whose most basic rights are threatened.

I would especially like to recognize the tireless efforts of Nina Shea, who has served on the commission since its creation. As a stalwart advocate, prolific writer and subject matter expert, Nina has played an invaluable role on the commission and her leadership will be sorely missed. She was at the forefront of much of the commission's work on Sudan and she took a prominent role in shining a bright light on extremist Wahhabi ideology coming out of Saudi Arabia. Early on, Nina recognized the precarious plight of religious minorities, notably Christians in the Middle East, and sought to develop policy recommendations that would ensure their continued existence and flourishing in the lands they have inhabited for centuries.

As director of the Center for Religious Freedom and a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, Nina will undoubtedly continue fighting the good fight on behalf of persecuted people worldwide.

TO HONOR AND CONGRATULATE LUMBERTON FIRE AND EMS ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Lumberton Fire and EMS on their 50th Anniversary.

Now 53 members strong, the proud ranks of the Lumberton Fire and EMS paid full and part-time EMS are preparing to grow again thanks to the leadership of Fire Chief James K. Philp and his team of operational officers and of course, organization President David Grass, Jr.

On Saturday, March 31, 2012, citizens from throughout Hardin County, Texas and Emergency Services District 2 will gather to celebrate the half century of service and safety that these brave first responders have provided for the people of this beautiful Southeast Texas community.

Serving some of the fastest growing communities in Texas like the City of Lumberton and its surrounding region, the Lumberton Fire and EMS serves 25,000 citizens and covers 122 square miles of territory. In 2011 alone, this Department responded to 2,102 calls for service.

Chartered on April 2, 1962 under the name Chance-Loeb Volunteer Fire Department, this department grew into the Lumberton Volunteer Fire Department just six years later.

In 1998, the name changed to Lumberton Fire/Rescue Services and then in 2003, the department began working in tandem with the EMS department in order to better serve the citizens of Lumberton and the surrounding community.

The two groups started the long process of merging both non-profit, tax exempt departments into one stronger, unified organization near the end of 2004.

In February of 2005, Lumberton Volunteer Fire-Rescue and Lumberton Emergency Medical Services were formally merged into the department we honor today—the Lumberton Fire & EMS.

This is a department that has been there throughout wildfires, hurricanes, tropical storms and so much more.

I am honored by their selfless service for these 50 golden years in the golden triangle. This is truly a significant milestone for this community and its dedicated firefighters, volunteers, and citizens who show their commitment every time someone calls 9-1-1 for help.

CDLS FOR VETERANS ACT

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, as our men and women return from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, we have a duty to honor their sacrifice and service. They are returning to an economy that has not yet fully recovered and, especially for those veterans under 35, they will face a higher rate of unemployment than the national average.

These servicemen and women come home with valuable experience and training, but often find that there is a disconnect between their service and requirements for employment in the civilian world. These men and women should not be forced to start over in their training for good-paying jobs like commercial truck driving.

The men and women who operated heavy machinery and combat vehicles come home with a wealth of knowledge and first hand experience. Our communities cannot afford to let this expertise go unused. Currently, if these professionals want to use their skills to become professional drivers, they need to go through training for a Commercial Driver's License as if they had no experience at all.

That is why I am introducing the "Commercial Drivers Licenses for Veterans Act." This legislation will provide grants to states to provide for the expedited training and licensing of veterans with prior experience operating heavy machinery and combat vehicles.

By passing this bill, we will not only ensure that our communities have the professional drivers they need, but we will show the men and women who have served our country that we value their experience and expertise.

ALICIA CHAVEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alicia Chavez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alicia Chavez is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alicia Chavez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alicia Chavez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING MS. MARY SCOTT RUSSELL

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History month I rise today to honor Ms. Mary Scott Russell, a dedicated and committed individual to the community of South Florida.

Ms. Russell, a native to Miami, is currently serving her fifth year as president of the Chamber of Commerce for Greater South Dade. She has served South Florida with distinction and admiration over the past two decades in various capacities. Ms. Russell served as the third female Mayor for the City of South Miami, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, and as chair of the City's Environmental Review and Preservation Board. During her tenure as Mayor, she created the Junior Commission for Women, allowing young women in the community to participate in an advisory group to the Mayor and City Commission on issues that affect their gender and age group.

Additionally, Ms. Russell was appointed President of the Miami Dade League of Cities, the fourth female leader of the organization in 50 years. Her dedication to issues concerning children and the environment is evident through her service on the Board of the Children's trust, and on the Fairchild Palms Board of Directors over the past 7 years.

Amongst her many roles and duties, she has found time to be a member of many organizations including, the General Obligation Bond Citizen Advisory Committee, Miami Dade College Center for Service Excellence Advisory Board, the College of Business and Technology Advisory Board, and the Informed Families South Miami Drug Free Coalition.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Mary Scott Russell. She is not only a great mother, friend, and servant to the community, but also a leader who dedicates countless hours to making a difference for those

around her. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

A TRIBUTE TO DEBRA SUH, 29TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2012

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year during the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women.

I stand today to pay tribute to Debra Suh of Glendale, California, an extraordinary woman who selflessly works to strengthen our community and provide valuable resources where they are needed most. Debra worked at the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles as an attorney, where she established the Asian Pacific Islander Legal Unit, geared towards increasing the low-income immigrant community's access to legal representation and services. Debra has continuously pushed to provide this population with opportunities and a voice that might be denied them otherwise.

Since 1999, Debra has been the Executive Director of the Center for the Pacific Asian Family, CPAF, which is nationally renowned for its inspiring work to support immigrant Asian and Pacific Islander survivors of sexual and domestic violence. CPAF offers programs, which are imperative to women and children survivors, such as the 24-Hour Crisis Hotline, Transitional Shelter, Emergency Shelter, and Community Outreach programs. These provide a safe haven to people in need, and allow survivors to feel supported by their community.

Debra is an accomplished leader and dedicated volunteer, and has always found time to volunteer for various vital organizations. She served on the Board of Directors of the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, and was Board Vice President from 2008 to 2010. She is Past President of the Women's Organization Reaching Koreans and Korean American Bar Association. Ms. Suh's efforts have not gone unrecognized. She has been awarded the Durfee Sabbatical Award and the KCET/Union Bank Local Hero Award. Currently, Debra serves as Co-Chair of the California Emergency Management Agency's Domestic Violence Advisory Council and is a member of the Los Angeles Emergency Food and Shelter Program Board, Blue Shield of California's Foundation's Strong Field Project Advisory Group, the Los Angeles County DPSS Welfare Advisory Council, and the Los Angeles City Mayor's Nonprofit Advisory Group. In addition, Debra is a tireless volunteer at the local public schools where her two children attend; she teaches art, helps raise funds, and helps in the classroom.

Debra and her husband, Robin Toma, have two children, Nina Suh-Toma and Julian Suh-Toma.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Debra Suh, for her outstanding service to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE RICHMOND POLICE
ACTIVITIES LEAGUE ON 30
YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize and congratulate the men and women of the Richmond Police Activities League as they celebrate 30 years of public service.

The Richmond Police Activities League was first established in 1982 to offer positive and proactive activities for local boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 18. Over the past three decades, Richmond PAL's programs have expanded to serve over 3,000 youth annually with excellent recreational, educational, social, and spiritual activities. Basketball, soccer, track, golf, baseball, football, and games like pool and ping-pong are great favorites at the PAL Center. They even have a state of the art recording studio which provides a unique opportunity for members to develop and showcase their talents.

Furthermore, Richmond PAL's after school programs have helped increase the number of Richmond students staying in school, and have encouraged students to strive for academic excellence. With the help of volunteer teachers and tutors, many of these students have dramatically improved their reading and writing skills.

In addition to the programs available at the Center, Richmond's Police Activities League offers field trips to local institutions such as the Lawrence Hall of Science, a ferry boat ride to San Francisco, or a visit to Fresno State University to explore the options of higher education. These field trips have encouraged many students to broaden their imaginations and have motivated them to achieve their goals.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Richmond Police Activities League and the dedicated men and women who have made it a success over the past thirty years. These programs have made a difference in the lives of countless children, and PAL continues to be a positive force in our community and a priceless benefit to all residents. I am pleased to congratulate the organization for its accomplishments in public service and wish them well with all their future endeavors.

ALEXANDER GALLEGOS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alexander Gallegos for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alexander Gallegos is an 11th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alexander Gallegos is exemplary of the type of achieve-

ment that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alexander Gallegos for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

SB 1070 AMICUS BRIEF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, on April 25, 2012, the United States Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in *United States v. Arizona*, a case that could determine whether, through the guise of immigration enforcement, states can once again legally sanction discriminatory practices. Sixty-eight Members of Congress, including myself, have filed a brief to inform the Supreme Court that we believe that Arizona, through SB 1070, has unconstitutionally stepped upon exclusively federal domain. I stand before you today to explain why many of the leading Members of this Chamber have decided to take a stand against this law.

Arizona's SB 1070, like other state laws inspired by SB 1070, opens the gates for legally sanctioned racial profiling. If allowed to go into effect, Arizonans who look or sound "foreign" could be asked for their papers at any given moment—and punished for failing to produce them. We don't want to become a country where an accent or a skin tone could make you a suspect.

Our Framers gave Congress exclusive domain over immigration policy. Immigration policy, like foreign policy, must remain in federal hands. They understood that the United States needed a single immigration policy, because a patchwork of 50 immigration laws would create a logistical nightmare for U.S. citizens and immigrants alike. A family from Brooklyn, for example, shouldn't have to bring passports to visit the Grand Canyon, but that's what would be needed if a law like SB 1070 were allowed to go into effect.

Our Constitution guarantees that all people—no matter where they were born or what color of skin—have the same basic rights. These rights cannot be allowed to be threatened by a law like SB 1070, which, if allowed to go into effect, would undoubtedly lead to irreparable violations of these constitutional rights for anyone who appears to be "foreign." These "show me your papers" laws allow extremist legislators like those in Arizona and Alabama to turn back the clock on some of our hardest won and most important civil rights.

State-based immigration policy won't fix our federal immigration system. I call upon my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to put aside partisan rhetoric and work together on creating a federal immigration policy that puts our family, economy, and country first. We must create an immigration system that reflects our values and moves us forward together.

It is up to the Supreme Court to ensure that all Americans, no matter their appearance, are

treated equally. Failing to preserve these constitutional protections would undermine our values of liberty and justice for all.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE
LIFE OF JAMES W. JARRETT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of James W. Jarrett, a successful businessman, a true gentleman, and a devoted husband and father. Jim died at the age of 67 on February 22, 2012, on a long planned climb on Mount Kilimanjaro with dear friends. Always an adventurer, he died doing what he loved.

I've known and worked with Jim and his family, and in particular his wonderful daughter Tracey. It was Tracey's Down Syndrome that inspired Jim to become a powerful advocate and prodigious supporter of those with developmental disabilities.

Jim Jarrett spent 28 years working at Intel Corporation. He began as the head of Investor Relations, was the company's first Internal Public Relations Manager, and served as President of Intel China and as Intel's first Vice-President of Global Public Policy. He retired in 2008.

Jim leaves his beloved wife of 43 years, Laurie, who was to join him in Africa at the end of his climb, for further travel in Africa. He also leaves his three daughters to whom he was incredibly devoted. He gave generously of himself to them and they valued the many gifts given to them in the times he spent with them. They were equally devoted to him, and the program from his memorial service listed "60 Reasons We Love Our Dad," from Jim's 60th birthday celebration. Hearing each of his daughters speak at the service convinced every person who heard them that they could have come up with one hundred reasons easily.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest and most sincere sympathy to Laurie, Tracey, Alison, Lindsay and her husband Justin, and to the entire Jarrett family. Our community and our country have suffered the loss of a great and good man.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,589,407,415,161.70. We've added \$4,962,530,366,248.62 to our debt in 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

A TRIBUTE TO NANCY E. GUILLEN,
29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2012

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year during the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our Nation's most distinguished women.

Today, I pay tribute to Nancy E. Guillen of Burbank, California. Born in Guatemala City, Guatemala, Nancy, who is the youngest of four children, immigrated to the United States in 1968 at the age of six, and became a U.S. citizen in the early 1980s. Upon graduating from John Marshall High School, Nancy attended Glendale Community College.

Ms. Guillen is the CEO of True Integrity Insurance & Payroll Services in Burbank. Prior to this career, Nancy worked in the medical field for over two decades. Aside from being a dedicated career woman, Nancy has always found time to volunteer and contribute many hours of service to a variety of organizations, including Kid's Community Dental Clinic, Glendale Noon Kiwanis, Family Service Agency of Burbank, The Salvation Army of Burbank, Ascencia, and Family Promise of East San Fernando Valley, where she also serves as a Board Member. Currently, Nancy is President of the Glendale Latino Association, and helps raise scholarship funds for Glendale Community College and Glendale High School students.

In addition to volunteering countless hours at homeless shelters, supporting families and children, and volunteering for nonprofit organizations, Nancy is also an avid supporter of breast cancer awareness. As a breast cancer survivor herself, Nancy participates in cancer walks, is involved with the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life in Burbank and Fiesta of the Spanish Horse to help raise funds to cure cancer. Ms. Guillen's commitment to help women who are battling breast cancer is admirable, and she always finds time to speak with them and support them in any possible way she can.

Nancy has two children, Juan and Cindy, and a granddaughter, Natalia, who she says are the greatest blessings in her life.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring a remarkable woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Nancy E. Guillen, for her exceptional service to the community.

HONORING WOMEN'S RIGHTS
LEADER ELLIE SMEAL

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I honor Ellie Smeal, a true global leader for women and a national treasure on the Feminist Majority Foundation's 25th Anniversary. Since its founding in 1987, with Ellie's leadership, the Feminist Majority Foundation has advanced the legal, social and political equality of women, challenged the hos-

tility that women's advancement faces, and recruited and trained countless young feminists to foster future leadership of the feminist movement.

The Feminist Majority Foundation received its name after a Newsweek/Gallup public opinion poll revealed that the majority of women in the United States self-identified as feminists. With the belief that feminist men and women are the majority, the organization has been on the forefront of the women's movement, championing women's equality, reproductive health, and non-violence. The Feminist Majority Foundation has achieved many triumphs that benefit women in the United States at the local, state and federal level and abroad: ballot initiatives to repeal state-wide abortion bans, recruiting an unprecedented number of women to run for elected office, resulting in 1992 being the Year of the Woman, and amending the 1991 Civil Rights Act to award monetary damages to women who win sexual harassment lawsuits in court. The Feminist Majority Foundation is the sole publisher of Ms., a feminist publication dedicated to covering issues impacting women around the world.

For more than two decades, Ellie Smeal, the President and Founder of the Feminist Majority Foundation, has fought for equality for women. She has held pivotal roles in nationwide and state efforts to achieve women's rights legislation and key court cases to advance women's rights. A gifted strategist and organizer, Ellie was the first to identify and highlight the "gender gap" and the differences in the ways men and women vote.

While President of the National Organization for Women, Ellie led the fight to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment through the largest grassroots effort in the modern women's rights movement. She continues to work tirelessly towards ensuring that men and women are granted equal rights by the United States Constitution. Last week, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of Congress's passage of the ERA and Ellie was front and center, staunchly affirming the need for the ERA.

A tireless advocate of women's reproductive rights, she developed a program to train clinic defenders in nonviolent clinic defense and fought a 12 year battle to allow American women access to mifepristone. Her organizing abilities have brought together all segments of the women's movement, including young feminist leaders. Ellie has been critical in recruiting the next generation of female leaders through her creation of the Choices Campus Leadership Program, which has produced nationwide campus based feminist groups.

Under Ellie, the Feminist Majority has focused on increasing the ranks of feminists running for office and has achieved numerous key legislative victories for women: the Violence Against Women Act, Pregnancy Discrimination Act, Civil Rights Restoration Act and many state and federal campaigns. Through her global advocacy, Ellie and the Feminist Majority called worldwide attention to the Taliban's treatment of women and prevented the United States and the United Nations from officially recognizing the Taliban government.

Having worked with Ellie on the ERA and so many other initiatives, I can personally attest that there is no one more determined and dedicated to advancing women's equality than Ellie Smeal. In Ellie, the women's movement has a tireless advocate and through her leadership of the Feminist Majority, women are

closer to achieving political, social and economic equality. We are all fortunate to have witnessed and benefitted from Ellie's passionate commitment and determination. I am proud to have worked with Ellie and to call her my dear friend. In appreciation for her all she has accomplished, I am proud to congratulate her on the 25th Anniversary of the Feminist Majority Foundation and look forward to continuing our work to achieve equality for women.

INTRODUCING THE JUSTICE FOR
WARDS COVE WORKERS ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Justice for Wards Cove Workers Act" in order to correct a grave injustice against thousands of Asian American workers that took place over a quarter century ago. In the 1970s, workers of Filipino, Samoan, Chinese, Japanese and Native American descent traveled north during the summer to work in the fish canneries in Alaska. Management at the Wards Cove Packing Company treated these migrant workers differently from white workers. They were forced to eat in separate dining halls, sleep in separate bunkhouses, and were unable to rise to top-paying positions in the company.

In 1973, two Seattle Filipino labor activists named Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes led several class-action lawsuits on behalf of these Asian American and Native American cannery workers alleging discrimination in the workplace. In 1989, the Supreme Court ruled against the Wards Cove workers, in *Wards Cove Packing Co. v. Atonio*, which became a major impetus for the civil rights community to reverse the tide against employee rights. The result was the Civil Rights Act of 1991, which became the most comprehensive civil rights legislation signed into law since the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

However, what most civil rights communities forgot was that in the final hours before passage of the Civil Rights Act, a highly unusual and narrow amendment was inserted by two Senators from Alaska that exempted the Wards Cove workers from the expansive protections against workplace discrimination outlined in the Civil Rights Act. They feared that the Civil Rights Act could be applied retroactively to the workers.

The Senators' amendment was inserted in Section 402(b) of the Civil Rights Act, and its sole target was the Wards Cove workers. To date, the Wards Cove workers remain the only people who have been denied the rights promulgated by the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

Mr. Speaker, while my bill cannot retroactively alter the Supreme Court's ruling or grant retroactive rights for the Wards Cove workers, it does remove Section 402(b) of the Civil Rights Act of 1991 as a symbolic measure to right the wrong.

This is a legislative fight that I started in 1991, when I first introduced this bill. Every time I introduced this bill, it received bipartisan support but was never voted on the House floor. In 1993, then-President Bill Clinton wrote a letter of support for my bill, stating, "It is

contrary to all of our ideas to exclude any American from the protection of our civil-rights laws."

Too often, the struggles of Asian American and other ethnic minorities do not get the attention they deserve by policymakers and law enforcement officials. The savage beating and murder of Danny Vega, a Filipino-American resident of South Seattle, last November is one of many examples of the discrimination that minorities continue to face.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the Wards Cove workers by supporting this bill.

AARON CORMIER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Aaron Cormier for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Aaron Cormier is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Aaron Cormier is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Aaron Cormier for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

HONORING HOUSE PARLIAMEN-
TARIAN JOHN SULLIVAN UPON
HIS RETIREMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a man I have come to know and respect during my service in the Congress, the House Parliamentarian John V. Sullivan, on the occasion of his retirement.

John Sullivan has served the House for 25 years, starting at the House Armed Services Committee and then moving to the Office of the Parliamentarian. The last eight years he has held the position of House Parliamentarian.

Prior to his work in the House, Sullivan served in the Air Force. I would be remiss, Mr. Speaker, if I did not also mention that Sullivan is a Hoosier. He grew up in Northwest Indiana, graduating from Munster High School and after attending the Air Force Academy, returning home to earn his law degree from the Indiana University School of Law.

Indiana can take justifiable pride in John Sullivan and his service to the Congress and our nation.

The job of the House Parliamentarian requires integrity, intellect, good judgment and the ability to think quickly on your feet. The House Chamber can be a pressure-cooker at times, especially during votes on major pieces of legislation or at times of heated partisan rancor.

One of those times was the night of August 2, 2007, when a vote on the Republican motion to recommit the Agriculture Appropriations bill went awry. John Sullivan was on the House floor that night advising the Speaker pro tem, and he exhibited the type of courage and professionalism that the rest of us can only aspire to in such a difficult situation.

After that night, a select committee was appointed to investigate what happened during the vote, and I was appointed ranking member for the investigation. I got to know Sullivan very well during the course of the investigation, and I appreciated his honesty, candor and full participation in the investigation. From our many conversations and what we learned as a committee, it was clear to me that Sullivan could not be more dedicated to the House as an institution or his job as a non-partisan provider of carefully considered analysis and advice. The House was fortunate to have his professional judgment on that night and all of the many other days and nights he has spent on the rostrum advising Speakers pro tem and Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the House will miss John Sullivan. We wish him the best in his retirement and trust that he will enjoy spending more time with his wife, Nancy Sands Sullivan, and three children Michael, Margaret and Matthew. We thank them for sharing Sullivan with the House these many years, and again, Mr. Speaker, we thank John Sullivan for his service and wish him well in his retirement.

SUPPORTING GOVERNOR ED
RENDELL'S REMARKS REGARD-
ING CAMP LIBERTY

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I am disturbed by recent press reports attacking former Pennsylvania Governor, Ed Rendell for taking a stand in support of the residents of Camp Ashraf as well as Iran's main opposition movement, the MEK.

Mr. Rendell is not alone, and he is backed by several dozen senior former U.S. Government officials who have taken the same position because they feel that position actually serves the national security interests of our country. Some 21 senior officials from past administrations, whose job it was to keep this country safe, agreed with Mr. Rendell when they filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Court of Appeals-DC Circuit in February in support of delisting the MEK. Among the former officials were a CIA Director, a FBI Director, an Attorney General of the United States, a Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a State Department coordinator for counter-terrorism, and a Marine Corps Commandant.

Governor Rendell spoke at an event in the Cannon Caucus Room on February 3, 2012 and eloquently made the case for why the MEK should have been delisted long ago.

Governor Rendell's views are in line with almost 100 Members of Congress who co-sponsored H. Res. 60 "Urging the Secretary of State to remove the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran from the Department of State's list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations." I would like to submit Governor Rendell's comments for the RECORD.

REMARKS OF FORMER GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA ED RENDELL, U.S. CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, D.C.—FEBRUARY 3, 2012

Good afternoon. I want to start out by saying I have come to many of these things. I have come to too many. It's not that I don't like you. You are a wonderful people. As Alan Dershowitz said, this has a feel of a civil rights movement.

I have been told how much myself and our other officials have helped this cause. But I look at where we are and I'm not sure that all of our speaking out, all of our rallies in front of the White House, Geneva, Paris and Brussels, here in Washington and in the Cannon Building, I'm not sure we have accomplished much.

And it is terribly frustrating to me. I want to stop coming to these meetings. I want to see you all in Teheran someday. (Applause)

We talk about how difficult it is to be at the end of the row speakers. So much has been said that we want to say ourselves. And today it's been said in resoundingly good fashion. Senator D'Amato talked about the fact that what our country has done here is a disgrace. And I echo those sentiments. When I first got involved with this issue and started learning about Ashraf and learning about the fact the United States Government in general, United State's forces contracted with each and every one of the residents of Ashraf, if they relinquished their weapons, we promised them we would protect them.

Have we lived up to our promise? Absolutely not. Maybe until 2009 we did a pretty good job thanks to General Phillips and Colonel Martin, who is not with us today, we did a fine job of protecting them.

But all of a sudden in 2009, when we turned it over to the Iraqis, all responsibility for military action and police action was turned over to the Iraqis we essentially washed our hands on that promise. And yes, Senator D'Amato is right. In 2009 and in 2011, not only did this attack occur with the use of vehicles and weapons that had been given to the Iraqi police by the United States of America, but United States forces in both instances were withdrawn from the immediate area so they could not do anything to stop the carnage.

Is that what the promise was? Of course not. It's diametrically opposed to the promise we made. And that General was speaking for the United States of America and for all 300 million of our citizens.

Subsequent to that have we stood by the residents of Ashraf. Did we take a stand and say, wait. Why can't we do this right here in Ashraf? Why does it have to be a closure of the camp. To what purpose? Iraqi Government, tell me the purpose, legitimate purpose, Iraqi security or anything else that is going to be served by closing down Ashraf. Well, the only excuse we ever heard was the belief that there's intimidation in Ashraf and the individuals could not be free to speak their will about where they wanted to go.

Well, that would have been an easy problem to solve. Just set up, the General can tell me where, set up something outside the gates where individual residents one by one can talk freely right there.

There was no need to close Ashraf in the beginning. And the United States Govern-

ment should have stood by and residents, stood by our promise and said, no.

And then how are we going to ensure protection of the residents? Well, it's my belief that we should have done one of two things; one, we should have left a small number of United States Marines to protect the residents of Ashraf. (Applause)

We agreed to leave. Well, we agreed to leave South Korea. And, General, am I right, are there still U.S. military personnel in Korea. And how many years has that been? About 40. So we could have easily done that and lived up to our responsibilities. One of my proudest moments was when the President said, we aren't going to let the residents of Benghazi be subject to genocide.

And U.S. military power and NATO power is going to stop that from happening. And we did. We toppled one of the worst dictators. We never contracted with the people in Benghazi. We never promised them anything. But we as America, we believed it was our right to do so and we did. We signed a contract with these residents. They are much better position to expect our help and protection than the residents of Benghazi were. One of the things the director will tell you is we get on almost weekly calls with Ambassador Freeh that was handling this for the State Department. It is stunning to me that the United States Government wants to disengage here.

They didn't want to be part of signing of the MOU. They reluctantly agreed to, after pressure from us, to send the U.S. observers into so-called Camp Liberty, although it's not clear when they are coming.

They can't come unannounced. We have disengaged. We wiped our hands of an issue where we gave our word. So, yes, it's time for the U.S. to stand up. It's time for us to fulfill our responsibility. It's time to not only fulfill our obligation to the resident of Ashraf. It's time to fulfill our obligation to 4,000 plus United States soldiers who died in Iraq.

You have heard me say as Governor of Pennsylvania I was the commander in chief Pennsylvania National Guard. No national guard in the country lost more men and women in Iraq than Pennsylvania did.

I used to comfort the families, try to comfort the families, by telling them their sons or in one case their daughter, had died creating democracy and making Iraq a better place. I don't know what I will say to them now knowing what I know about what is happening here.

So it's time for us to act. What should that action be? First and foremost we should not let Camp Liberty be turned into a prison. We should not. That's Job 1 for the United States. Job 1 for the UN.

Freedom of movement was essential. Everyone says this is a refugee camp. It's meeting the standards of a refugee camp. What is the difference between the normal refugee camp and what is proposed in Camp Liberty?

The difference is the residents of the normal refugee camp can leave. They can go if they have the ability, if there's a park or river down the road, they can go to the river, and bathe, swim, they can go to the park, if they have money, they can go to the local market.

They have freedom of movement. That makes a huge difference when you are talking about what goes on in a camp. Here the Iraqis have made it clear, as long as their position holds, freedom of movement, the people are going to be inside the small area forever. We should insist that, the U.S. should insist there be freedom of movement. We should insist the MOU be enforced. There is not one resident of Ashraf over there yet and the MOU is being put aside. The MOU clearly says the residents can take personal property and vehicles. The Iraqis now say that's not the case.

It is time for us, the United States, to join the UN and be heard loud and clear, whatever the leverage is, I agree with Ambassador Ginsberg, we have got to have leverage, and we should enforce it. It's time to be heard. Time to say no one is going. No one is leaving. (Applause)

And next it is time to de-list. If you have been coming to these regularly, you have heard me say I think we should put de-listing on the back burner. And the most important thing is the safety of the residents.

But I don't believe that anymore. Let me tell you why. I was sent the Forest News Agency release. The Iranian Ambassador, and let me read you a couple of quotes from this release. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq stress that the representatives in Iraq in meetings they have had repeatedly stressed that the UN considers the MEK a terrorist group and will not support it under any circumstances.

It goes on. Referred to U.S. officials support for the terrorist group. He referred to us and said, the terrorist MEK group in the past few years has been constantly supported by the U.S. and western elements. But it is interesting now that the U.S. Government has announced it's not prepared to accept even one member of this terrorist organization and under no circumstances will allow them onto its soil. It goes further. It said the members of the terrorist group by the Government of Iran will not include and the amnesty will include individuals whose hands are not tainted in blood. Meaning that this idea that we relocate all the residents of Ashraf to Liberty and there will be no rest. He's given fair warning here.

What was our response? We brought all this up for his response. His response was, oh, the Iranians they exaggerate all the time. They don't really tell the truth. You can't believe anything they say.

That's not engagement. That is not us living up to our responsibility. It is time to de-list just because of these statements. (Applause)

We have sent a message. We think it's time to act. It is time to stand up. If the State Department won't de-list as it should voluntarily, it's time to go back to court. It's time to say to the Court we want you to mandamus. That's a legal term in which the court requires an agency or an individual to do what they are statutorily required to do. The Court gave an order to the State Department to come back and show evidence why the MEK should not be de-listed. The Court can issue a mandamus to say to them come in here within 30 days and show us why the MEK should not be de-listed.

Now some people say, don't issue, don't go seek a mandamus. That means the State Department will say we are not de-listing them. If they say that, then the Court is asked to review the evidence. When they reviewed the evidence in 2008, when the Secretary Rice refused to de-list, they found there wasn't any evidence.

If they review the evidence in 2012—guess what? No evidence. So it's time to stand up and say, this is not a terrorist organization. No evidence to the contrary.

In the last decade no open source terrorist database, and they are all over the internet, has listed one single act by the MEK or any members of terrorism. And the statute says terrorist acts against the United States America. That hasn't happened. Never going to happen.

So let's de-list. Let's give all the Congressmen who came in here and they have spoken up, they have passed resolutions. Those are all good things. Those are all increased pressure. But it is time—Senator D'Amato was saying there would be a bill along lines of what Ambassador Ginsberg said, the only

way to hit them is to hit them where it counts.

No military planes or any other equipment to the Iraqi Government until boom, boom, boom. Don't say we are not a party to this. We were a party to stopping the slaughter in Benghazi. We never promised we would.

We are a party to this because, number one, we promised. And number two, because we are the United States of America.

HONORING KAREN KELLEY-ARIWOOLA FOR HER SERVICE TO THE MINNEAPOLIS FOUNDATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, after 18 years of outstanding service Karen Kelley-Ariwoola is leaving her position as Vice President of Community Philanthropy for The Minneapolis Foundation.

During her tenure, Karen has made a deep and lasting mark on both the Foundation and the metropolitan Minneapolis community. Her leadership in education, early childhood, and racial equity issues is renowned nationwide and her persistent, collaborative, and compassionate efforts have contributed to many of Minnesota's recent gains in each of these areas.

In the aftermath of the May 22, 2011 tornado that struck Minneapolis, Karen has played a critical role in raising and distributing well over \$1 million dollars in relief. She also has assisted many local agencies in creating a new model for collaboration and a new vision for North Minneapolis. She implemented the same collaborative leadership strategy after the I-35W Bridge collapsed and fell into the Mississippi River just over 4 years ago.

Karen's great work has helped The Minneapolis Foundation maintain its commitment to transforming education, promoting economic vitality, and building social capital. These efforts enable us to create a more equitable community and Minnesota's 5th Congressional District is grateful for her service.

As the U.S. Congressman representing Minnesota's 5th Congressional District, I honor Karen Kelley-Ariwoola for her accomplishments and wish her and her family health, happiness, and prosperity.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOAN AND ALAN WALNE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Joan and Alan Walne for their dedicated service to the city of Dallas and Fair Park. On April 3, 2012, the Friends of Fair Park will present the Walnes with the 2012 Spirit of the Centennial Award.

As long time residents of the Lake Highlands neighborhood in Dallas, Texas, the Walnes have worked hard over the years to actively improve their community through numerous civic and nonprofit organizations.

Joan, a graduate of Baylor University, has devoted much of her time and effort to improving the local school system. She has served as PTA President, on various Richardson Independent School District committees and local school councils. Additionally, she is active in the Junior League of Dallas, Equest, Children's Medical Center of Dallas and is currently serving as President of the Dallas Park and Recreation Board. Similarly, Alan, a graduate of Texas Tech University, has generously given of his time and spirit to various organizations and charitable causes, including the East Dallas Chamber, the Down Syndrome Guild of Texas, the Lake Highlands YMCA, and the Salesmanship Club of Dallas. His strong belief in service led him to run for Dallas City Council where he faithfully represented District 10 for seven years.

I am proud to count Joan and Alan among my good friends. Their dedication and service to the city of Dallas epitomizes community spirit and selflessness. Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating Joan and Alan as they receive this year's Spirit of the Centennial Award for their years of service and commitment to Fair Park.

COMMEMORATING ARMENIAN VICTIMS OF POGROMS AND ETHNIC CLEANSING

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the victims of pogroms against Armenians in Sumgait (1988), Kirovabad (1988), and Baku (1990), and the ethnic-cleansing of the Armenian population of Azerbaijan.

I hope that by speaking out publicly against these atrocities I will help reaffirm America's commitment to an enduring, peaceful and democratic resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

It is sickening that even during modern times, less than 25 years ago, brutal attacks on Armenians occurred in Azerbaijan.

Thomas de Waal, in his book *Black Garden*, described the massacres of Sumgait as:

"Gangs, ranging in size from about a dozen to more than fifty, roamed around, smashing windows, burning cars, but above all looking for Armenians to attack. The roving gangs committed acts of horrific savagery. Several victims were so badly mutilated by axes that their bodies could not be identified. Women were stripped naked and set on fire. Several were raped repeatedly."

But shockingly most of the Azeris who committed these horrific acts and their accomplices in government were not brought to justice.

The Sumgait Massacres are part of a long and disgraceful history of violence against the Armenian people that also includes successive massacres in Kirovabad and Baku.

It is past time for the United States to officially recognize the Armenian genocide and to support the security and self-determination of the independent Republic of Nagorno Karabakh.

This anniversary should serve as a reminder that we can stay silent no more.

Let's take this moment to remember all those who lost their lives at Sumgait,

Kirovabad, and Baku and pledge to prevent ethnic cleansing from occurring anywhere in the future.

RESOLUTION HONORING THE ANNIVERSARY OF CÉSAR CHÁVEZ'S 85TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of civil rights leader and labor organizer César Chávez. On the anniversary of what would have been his 85th birthday, I stand before you to pay tribute to a man who sacrificed and dedicated his life to championing the rights of farm workers and all working families.

A true pioneer and hero, César Chávez inspired a nation by organizing immigrant and minority farm workers to courageously fight for fair pay, fair benefits and fair working conditions. His legacy serves as a testament that every worker deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

As a child, I too learned about the significance of the movement he began. When my brothers and sisters begged our mother for grapes, she refused. It was her way of standing in solidarity with Americans across the country who were supporting the grape pickers' strike led by Chávez' United Farm Workers Union.

Almost 50 years after the creation of the United Farm Workers Union, Chávez' contributions to our country live on. Thanks to him, thousands of Latinos and farm workers can now work with the dignity and respect they deserve. He inspired a generation of labor leaders to use non-violent protest to accomplish powerful things.

As a proud union member myself, I am honored to commemorate and celebrate the memory and work of César Chávez.

THE SUPREME COURT OF ISRAEL AGAIN DEMONSTRATES ITS INTEGRITY

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important examples Israel gives to the world is how an independent judiciary, committed to the rule of law, can act even in a nation in which security considerations are paramount—as they have had to be in Israel since 1948, when it was attacked at the very moment of its birth.

Earlier this week, the Supreme Court of Israel issued a ruling that Migron, an illegal settlement established in the West Bank, must be dismantled and the occupants removed. While it is clear that some of the areas that are now reserved for Jewish citizens of Israel should remain in place after a two-state peace agreement is signed, these are the areas immediately adjacent to Israel, especially in and around Jerusalem. Those settlements far from that area should never have been allowed to

be established, and they should now be removed. Those of us who believe strongly in Israel's right to a continued existence as a secure, democratic, independent state have a particular responsibility to point out that those who create and defend these settlements may undermine the chances of achieving such a result.

There are strong public policy reasons for objecting to these unauthorized, illegal settlements, as we learned when the Obama administration was so successful in blocking a U.N. vote to recognize Palestinian statehood. The defeat of that effort, led by the Obama administration's aggressive diplomacy, was a far better result for Israel in the U.N. than we have seen in many years. And it is clear that it was because President Obama has expressed his disagreement with the existence of many of these settlements that he had the credibility to achieve that diplomatic victory.

But the Supreme Court of Israel is not motivated by these political considerations. Rather it is committed to the rule of law—a strong distinction between Israel and most of its neighbors. Given the pressures that are brought to bear against the Judiciary in the name of security, a phenomenon we have seen in our own country at various times, the decision by the Israeli Supreme Court to order the dismantlement of an illegal settlement deserves praise and it is important that the Netanyahu administration carry out this court order. It would be a gift to critics of Israel if there were to be any faltering in the Israeli Government's standing behind this decision of its Supreme Court.

Mr. Speaker, the New York Times, in an editorial on March 28, noted this, and because the example of a Supreme Court, in a nation that is engaged in a serious effort to protect itself against external enemies, is standing up for the rule of law in the face of pressures to the contrary is so important, I ask that the editorial from the New York Times, entitled "Israel's Top Court vs. Outposts" be printed here.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 25, 2012]

ISRAEL'S TOP COURT ORDERS SETTLERS TO LEAVE OUTPOST
(By Ethan Bronner)

JERUSALEM.—Israel's Supreme Court on Sunday ordered a West Bank settlers' outpost built on private Palestinian land to be dismantled by Aug. 1, rejecting a government compromise with the settlers that would have allowed them to stay put for another three years.

The decision was much anticipated, because the panel of three judges who decided the case included the court's conservative new chief justice, Asher Grunis, and because the case involved the politically explosive issue of moving settlers in the face of potentially violent resistance.

Whether the government will remove the 50 families living in the outpost before the deadline will also be closely monitored.

In their ruling, the judges chided the government for having failed to evacuate the outpost in accordance with an earlier high court decision.

"This is a necessary component of the rule of law to which all are subject as part of Israel's values as a Jewish and democratic state," the decision said.

The case concerns Migron, a settler outpost near the West Bank city of Ramallah. Migron is one of the largest of dozens of small enclaves that have a different status under Israeli law than the 120 full-blown settlements in the West Bank.

Although the larger settlements, home to about 330,000 Israeli Jews, are considered in violation of international law by a vast majority of foreign governments, Israel views them as legitimate; not so for the smaller outposts, which Israel views as illegal because they went up without its authorization. Despite that status, most of the outposts have been provided with basic infrastructure by the government.

Nearly a decade ago, Israel promised the United States that it would dismantle a number of the outposts in preparation for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Palestinians want to build a state on land that is now partly occupied by the settlers. But almost no outposts have actually come down, and Israeli-Palestinian negotiations are frozen.

Meanwhile, Migron stands out among the outposts because its land is not simply part of a theoretical future state of Palestine but also because it has been shown to belong to private Palestinian owners. The state did not dispute that finding, although the settlers say that no proof of ownership was provided.

Palestinians represented by an Israeli lawyer took the case to the Supreme Court, along with Peace Now, a left-wing Israeli group that opposes the settlements. The case dragged on for years, but last summer the court said the outpost had to be dismantled by the end of March 2012, a deadline the new ruling extends to Aug. 1.

The government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, which is a strong defender of the settlers and wanted to avoid a confrontation, suggested a compromise—let the residents of Migron remain until a new authorized community could be built nearby where they could relocate upon its completion in 2015.

The plaintiffs returned to the court last week and told the court that to accept such a deal would be to flout the rule of law.

One of the three justices who heard last week's arguments, Salim Joubran, indicated the court's leanings at the time: "You say the outpost will move in three years, but I know this type of behavior. Three years will inevitably turn into eight."

Right-wing legislators said Sunday that they would introduce legislation to legalize Migron and other outposts. Dani Dayan, a leader of Israel's settler movement, said that the court's ruling would empower the violent extremists in his community who have long argued that there was no point in seeking compromise.

Tzaly Reshef, a founder of Peace Now and a lawyer, said the decision would not change the fact that "supporters of the settlements remain in power." But he called it "very meaningful in terms of the constitutional system in Israel."

Mr. Reshef said that had the case been decided the other way, "it would have been almost the end of the existence of the courts as the protectors of the rule of law in this country, as well as the ultimate victory of the settlers."

He continued, "The government, threatened with violence if it tries to remove settlers, tried to convince the court that it should pull back from its decision, which is based on the basic right of ownership of private property."

The next test, Mr. Reshef said, would be whether the government is "able to change facts on the ground."

Mr. Netanyahu said the government would honor the court's decision and uphold the rule of law.

A TRIBUTE TO JOANNA VARGAS,
29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2012

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year during the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women.

Today, I pay tribute to Joanna Vargas of Alhambra, California, an accomplished woman who has brought multi-generations together and joy to the lives of many, through her extraordinary vision for the arts. Born and raised in Alhambra, Joanna is a graduate of Alhambra High School and opened her first dance studio at the age of 26.

Joanna's passion for the arts has been evident throughout her career. She is the creator of an astounding number of projects and has an exhaustive list of accomplishments. Joanna has launched various dance companies for adults and teens, created Alhambra's Monthly Mosaic Art Walk, Jayvee Dance Center, the Annual Maxt Out Dance Competition, "Streetease Fitness and Dance" classes and instructional DVDs, and the Alhambra Hot Spot, which is home to an annual art event that celebrates music, dance, art and fashion. She is also the Chief Executive Officer of Dance for Peace Charity, a non-profit she established two years ago.

In addition to her projects, it is noteworthy to mention Ms. Vargas's unparalleled service to the community. Joanna is a Board Member of the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, a member of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce, charter member of the Rotary International New Generation Club, and President of the City of Alhambra Downtown Business Association.

Joanna is a charitable woman who gives back to her community through her invaluable service. She has awarded scholarships to deserving underserved teens and children, and to people who have the desire to further their dance training.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring a remarkable woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Joanna Vargas, for her exceptional service to the community.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
JOHN L. COOMBS

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Lieutenant Colonel John L. Coombs who has served this great Nation in the U.S. Army since 1989, most recently as the Acting Director of Operational Contracting Support and Policy with the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Procurement.

John L. Coombs enlisted as a Private and began his Army career as a Light Infantryman with the 7th Infantry Division in Fort Ord, California. He was soon recommended for and

graduated from the Officer Candidate School where, in 1992, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Chemical Corps. As a Chemical Officer, he served as a Battalion and Brigade Chemical Officer in artillery, cavalry, and aviation battalions and brigades for the 1st Armored Division in Germany and the 1st Cavalry Division in Texas. In 1995, he deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina as the nuclear, biological and chemical reconnaissance platoon leader. There he developed tactics, techniques, and procedures to detect environmental hazards at industrial sites occupied by U.S. forces, leveraging the capabilities of the mobile mass spectrometers installed in the nuclear, biological and chemical reconnaissance vehicles.

In 2001, Captain Coombs was accessed into the Acquisition Corps, attended the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California and in 2002 graduated with a Master of Science in Business with an emphasis on federal contracting. From 2002 to 2005, as the Contracting Division Chief in the Wiesbaden Contracting Center for the U.S. Army Contracting Command, Europe, Captain Coombs supervised more than 30 contracting officers who awarded and administered more than \$400 million in annual contract awards. He deployed to Kosovo for six months as the Chief of a Joint Contracting Center, where he led a joint military staff, U.S. civilians and Kosovar nationals to procure \$5 million in annual contract awards. While in Kosovo, his work helped to improve multi-national relations when he negotiated a complex settlement for damages to a hotel occupied by NATO forces. The following two years, Major Coombs served as the Deputy Chief of Office in the Italy Regional Contracting Office for U.S. Army Contracting Command, Europe. He oversaw high visibility procurements including letter contracts to lease properties supporting the 2006 Winter Olympics security operations in Torino. He was named the Army Europe Contracting Officer of the year in 2005. An Army fellowship at the RAND Arroyo Center in Santa Monica, California brought this Hamilton, Ohio native back to the U.S. There he developed RAND's recommended acquisition strategy for Future Combat Systems to balance cost control for the Army and risk to the contractor. Since 2008, Lieutenant Colonel Coombs has been assigned to Army Headquarters at the Pentagon. He has served as the Executive Officer, Deputy Director and several senior positions in the office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Procurement. His expert knowledge of operational contracting policy for military operations, natural disasters and humanitarian relief has been invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, for more than two decades, Lieutenant Colonel John L. Coombs has faithfully served our Nation as a dedicated steward for American taxpayers. As he enters this next phase of his life with his beloved wife Kellie and their four children; Lyndsay, Adam, Emily and Jesse; I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Lieutenant Colonel John Coombs upon his retirement and thank him for his service in the U.S. Army.

CONGRATULATING THE LOUISVILLE BALLET ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, today I have the distinct privilege of recognizing and celebrating the Louisville Ballet on its 60th anniversary. As Kentucky's official ballet company, the Louisville Ballet has long been a source of pride and distinction for the people of our community and the Commonwealth.

Since its formation in 1952, the Louisville Ballet has transformed from a small, understaffed-yet-dedicated company, to one of the Southeast's premier artistic institutions—employing a world-class company of dancers and an equally talented staff of professionals that make each performance come to life.

Today, the company has a repertoire of more than 150 works, has been the recipient of numerous accolades, and maintains the distinction of being the only regional company to perform with the great Mikhail Baryshnikov. It also contributes to the artistic and cultural core of Louisville, which is one of only 11 U.S. cities with all five major arts institutions.

Under the leadership and vision of Artistic Director Bruce Simpson, the past 10 years have been among the Ballet's strongest, with the company commissioning 13 world premieres. Each performance offers the precision and grace witnessed among ballet's elite.

On behalf of the 3rd Congressional District, I wish the Louisville Ballet Company future success and look forward to another 60 years of excellence and awe-inspiring performances.

CELEBRATING THE 191ST ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 191st anniversary of Greek independence. It is an honor to recognize a nation whose rich and vibrant history not only laid the foundation for democracy, but whose immigrants and descendants have enriched the cultural landscape of our Nation.

The warm friendship that America shares with Greece is rooted in the indelible mark of democracy and self-determination that Hellenic culture has left on our country. We note that the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people. Our Founding Fathers of the United States, many of whom read Greek political philosophy in the original Greek, drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy.

And just as our founding fathers were guided by these principles in their fight for independence from the British Crown, so too were the founders of modern-day Greece, who declared their independence from the Ottoman Empire on March 25th, 191 years ago.

Since the birth of both Nations, we have shared the desire to uphold the values of freedom, equality, and justice championed by the Ancient Greeks. We have joined together to promote peace and stability in the world. Indeed, Greece is our ally and our partner, having supported the United States in every major international conflict throughout the 20th century. Though rooted in ancient ideals, our strong allegiance continues today through a shared belief that freedom and democracy are the building blocks of peace.

At home, we recognize the contributions of Greeks in the areas in culture, literature and architecture.

I trust that the bonds between our two Nations will remain strong for years to come.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Greece as they celebrate the 191st anniversary of their independence.

HONORING CESAR ESTRADA CHAVEZ

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the legacy of an American icon, Cesar Estrada Chavez, leader of the United Farm Workers, born on March 31, 1927. This Saturday, we celebrate the 85th anniversary of his birth.

Cesar Chavez was born in Yuma, Arizona, to a life filled with early hardships, poverty and racial and social injustice. These experiences were his first lessons in what our nation should not be for millions of Americans.

As a result of his family's losses during the Great Depression, Cesar Chavez's family, like so many others, migrated to California to work in the farm fields picking crops in hopes of economic stability. They eventually settled in San Jose where they lived in a barrio called Sal Si Puedes, "Get Out If You Can."

Cesar Chavez often recalled the early injustices he experienced in school, and later as a farmworker. He vividly remembered throughout his life the prohibition of Spanish in school and being punished for speaking it. . . or even the signs in his community that said "Whites Only."

His experience was universal for many in that era, whether they were Latino, African-American, Asian American or others facing discrimination. My own father encountered signs that read "No dogs and Mexicans Allowed" during this time.

It was on account of this type of blatant discrimination and racism that Cesar Chavez devoted his life to fighting for social and economic justice in our nation. Events around our nation remind us that the need for such a champion is still present today.

In 1962, alongside Dolores Huerta, Cesar Chavez founded the National Farm Workers Association, later to become the United Farm Workers, an organization that came to be known as the driving force of the organized labor movement for farmworkers in the U.S.

This movement, or "La Causa" as it was known in millions of homes including mine, taught us that solidarity, even in the face of brutal adversity can lead to victory. The "No

Grapes” campaign and boycott led by Cesar Chavez and UFW was an omnipresent part of my youth and of many of my colleagues serving here today.

We knew what it meant to not buy grapes and not eat them, to feel proud of being part of something bigger than ourselves, even if it meant going without something we loved, or answering curious questions from friends or classmates. And for me, when victory came, it was sweet—literally and figuratively—and my small sacrifice seemed like the most powerful thing in the world.

On the 85th anniversary of Cesar Chavez’s birth, we are reminded that his personal story is one of transformation and legacy. He transformed his early experiences from *Sal Si Puedes* into “*Si Se Puede*”, “Yes, we can.”

Those words still ring true today, and serve as a mantra of hope for millions of Americans who seek fairness and equal treatment. Just ask the President of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, today we reflect on Cesar Chavez’s lifetime of advocacy in the pursuit of social justice. Let us hope our legacy will be as enduring as that of our beloved leader and brother Cesar Chavez.

A TRIBUTE TO DENISE HOULEMARD JONES, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2012

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women’s History Month. Every year during the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation’s most distinguished women.

Today, I pay tribute to Denise Houlemard Jones of Pasadena, California. A brilliant businesswoman with many years of experience, Denise is a Management Consultant at DMJ Consulting Services, a business she started, where she provides advisory services to companies, colleges, agencies and individuals. She received a B.A. in Sociology and Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a MBA from the University of Southern California.

It is noteworthy to mention Denise’s unparalleled volunteer service to the community, which includes an impressive list of accomplishments. She has been a member of the Los Angeles Chapter National Black MBA Association, National Association of Female Executives, Pasadena Talks, Points of View Committee, Women At Work Young African American Women’s Conference, Black Women’s Forum, City of Pasadena Intergroup Relations Advisory Committee, and the City’s Recreation Commission, among others. Ms. Jones has also been involved with the Community Health Alliance of Pasadena, CHAP, serving as a founding member, acting as President several times, and currently serving on the Marketing Committee. Presently, Denise is a member of the National Council of Negro Women, Saint Andrew Catholic Church, YWCA Pasadena—Foothill Valley, American Association of University Women, City of Pasadena Northwest Commission, and the Pasadena Delta Foundation, Inc., where she is a founding member.

Along with being a successful career woman, Ms. Jones has devoted countless hours of her time volunteering for the Alkebulan Cultural Center, American Institute for Cancer Research, Foothill Unity Center Food Pantry, and the Latino History Parade and Jamaica. She is also an annual fiesta volunteer at Saint Andrew Catholic Church.

Some of the honors Ms. Jones has received include the National Merit Award, the William L. Blair Award for Service and Leadership, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Leadership Award, the YWCA Women of Excellence Award, and the Women In Action’s “Wind Beneath Wings” Award.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring a remarkable woman of California’s 29th Congressional District, Denise Houlemard Jones, for her outstanding service to the community.

THE HOMEOWNERS TAX FAIRNESS ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Homeowners Tax Fairness Act. In February of this year, the 49 state attorneys general announced that they had completed negotiations with the country’s five largest mortgage servicers to settle claims arising from mortgage fraud and wrongful foreclosures. The settlement, which amounts to over \$25 billion is the largest settlement this country has seen since the 1998 Master Tobacco Settlement.

This historic settlement will allow hundreds of thousands of distressed homeowners to stay in their homes through enhanced loan modifications and principal reduction, and it will also provide payments to victims of unfair foreclosure practices. Unfortunately, under current law, those settlement payments would subject the homeowners and servicemembers who receive them to additional tax burdens. For instance, homeowners receiving relief in the form of mortgage debt forgiveness and direct cash payments for wrongful foreclosure could be subject to federal income tax. Moreover, additional tax would be owed on the payments made to servicemembers who were wrongfully foreclosed on while deployed overseas.

To prevent that injustice, the Homeowners Tax Fairness Act would extend the exclusion for debt forgiveness on a primary residence throughout the term of the settlement agreement, and exclude the relief payments from income for homeowners and servicemembers. This bill also considers the particularly egregious actions taken by the five largest banks in violation of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. Over the past three years, the five largest servicers violated the law and wrongfully foreclosed or overcharged mortgage interest on servicemembers, many of whom were deployed overseas in combat zones. Accordingly, the Homeowners Tax Fairness Act not only excludes this relief from income to servicemembers, but denies these banks the ability to deduct these payments from their federal income taxes.

The estimated 1.7 million homeowners eligible to benefit from this settlement deserve to

receive the full benefit of this relief—relief that was negotiated in good faith by the states, the banks, and the federal government. Collecting federal income tax on relief for struggling homeowners is not only bad policy, but is simply the wrong thing to do.

As we move forward from one of the worst recessions in American history, we must be vigilant and provide as much help to the American people as possible. This bill will do just that, and will ensure that our homeowners and servicemembers get every bit of relief they deserve.

HONORING ANN KAPLAN’S SERVICE AS A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute an admirable public servant and a dear friend.

Ann Kaplan, a celebrated constituent from the great state of New York, has served selflessly and diligently as a member of the American Red Cross Board of Governors since 2003 and next week will complete her third and final term on the Board.

The American Red Cross depends upon experienced leadership that understands the significant operational challenges it faces in delivering a full range of services each and every day. From supporting the armed forces around the world to safely supplying nearly half the Nation’s blood supply to directly helping the American public and businesses prepare for and respond to over 70,000 disaster annually, the American Red Cross Board of Governors plays an integral role in developing effective strategy for the organization.

During Ann Kaplan’s service on the Board of Governors, the American Red Cross has gone through an unprecedented internal transformation including comprehensive governance reform resulting in bold changes that are a model of corporate governance, and internal restructuring in order to eliminate a significant operating deficit, streamline operations, and improve service delivery.

Ms. Kaplan has made significant contributions to the organization through her service on the Board including leading the Board-directed mandate to address the organization’s operational and financial issues and to restructure the oversight of investments. Her service on the Board includes the following leadership positions: Vice Chair, Finance Committee (2005–2006); Chair, Finance Committee (2006–2008); Vice Chair, Compensation and Management Development Committee (2009–2012); Chair, Investment Committee (2010–2012); and Vice Chairman of the Board (2007–2012).

While Red Cross Board members normally serve two terms, Ms. Kaplan served a third term at the unanimous request of the Board during a critical period because of her passionate and able leadership and financial expertise.

Ms. Kaplan has been a generous supporter of the American Red Cross and has served the organization in various other capacities including Co-Chair of the Chairman’s Council,

which recognizes individuals and families whose cumulative giving to the American Red Cross exceeds one million dollars. She also served as a disaster relief volunteer with the New York City Chapter, which serves my district.

I rise on behalf of my Congressional colleagues, the Hon. Bonnie McElveen-Hunter, the Chairman of the American Red Cross, and, the entire Board of Governors, Gail J. McGovern, President and CEO and all the staff and volunteers of the Red Cross to thank Ms. Kaplan for her extraordinary service as a member of the Board of Governors.

March might be American Red Cross Month in America. But the first week of April will be a week to honor and celebrate Ann Kaplan's contributions to strengthen the organization as it strives to better serve this great Nation.

HONORING MERCER MIDDLE
SCHOOL'S WINTER FOOD DRIVE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mercer Middle School in Aldie, Virginia, which recently finished a winter food drive.

As a result of this, Mercer students were able to donate 600 pounds of food to Loudoun Interfaith Relief, the largest food pantry in Loudoun County. I sincerely appreciate their efforts to address the serious challenge of hunger in our community.

As hard as it may be for some to believe, families are going hungry in Fairfax and Loudoun counties in northern Virginia. I have been meeting with the local food banks and pantries on a regular basis for the past several years and they all tell me demand is at an all-time high. In fact, families who used to regularly donate to some food pantries are now coming to receive food. One local pantry actually closed for several days last fall because its shelves were bare.

On March 23, I attended a wonderful event at Mercer where the students presented the food donations to Loudoun Interfaith Relief. I was impressed by their hard work and their service to their community. This service project could not have been possible without the support of Principal John Duellman and PTA President Karen Goodwin.

I congratulate all the students, teachers and parents who participated in Mercer Middle School's winter food drive.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC
SERVICE OF LARRY LAVENDAR

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress are only as effective as the loyal staff members who serve them. Our staff professionals are public servants every bit as much as those of us who have been elected. Motivated to work for the common good, they perform their jobs without fanfare and frequently stay on the job late nights and week-

ends to help develop solutions to the challenges facing our people and country. This House could not function without these highly talented and dedicated individuals, and it has been my privilege to have had one of the best at my side in Larry Lavender. As he departs from my office after many years of loyal service, I want to publicly recognize and thank Larry for his wise counsel, frank advice, and friendship. When Larry agreed to be my Chief of Staff when I was first elected to the House, he brought experience as a businessman and top administrator in the city government of my native Birmingham, Alabama. He shared my ethic that the purpose of our office was to provide the people of Alabama with the highest level of representation. From the start, Larry demonstrated a unique talent to assemble the best staff team to achieve goals. When I was selected to serve as Ranking Member and then Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, there would be no one better suited to serve as my staff director. Larry's policy, management, and leadership skills helped us to navigate the challenges of the deepest financial crisis to occur in the United States since the Great Depression. During those historic times, his sole intent was to work to find the right answers to solve the unprecedented issues facing our financial sector and nation. Under highly uncertain and stressful conditions, he consistently supplied wise and reasoned counsel. Everyone who has met Larry has been impressed by management ability, policy and political acumen, strong belief in principle, and above all his modesty and integrity. Just as important to Larry, he is a devoted husband, father, and Marine. His children Rachel and Jacob are rightfully proud of him, and we know that his lovely wife Kathryn and young son Harrison Clay have brought a special new joy to his life at home. For being a trusted and valued adviser to both experienced and new House Members, a mentor to countless staffers, and a loyal friend to me, it is with appreciation and gratitude that I take this opportunity to permanently commemorate Larry Lavender's service to the people of Alabama and America.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in 1987, Congress declared March to serve as "Women's History Month," in efforts to acknowledge the important role women have played in shaping America. In honor of this occasion, I would like to recognize the leadership of County Councilwoman Joyce Dickerson, my good friend, who has proudly been serving the constituents of the Second District in Richland County, South Carolina, since January 2005. Councilwoman Dickerson is committed to creating economic development opportunities and growing relationships between constituents and elected leaders in South Carolina. As President-elect of the National Foundation for Women Legislators and the incoming Chair, I commend Joyce Dickerson for her efforts to empower elected women in South Carolina and across this great Nation.

A TRIBUTE TO DIANE GIN, 29TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2012

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year during the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our Nation's most distinguished women.

I stand today to pay tribute to Diane Gin of Monterey Park, California. Not only has Diane raised an incredible and successful extended family, she has also dedicated her life to improving the lives of the families around her. Diane grew up in Los Angeles, and attended California State University, Los Angeles, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Child Development. Since then, she has amassed an astounding thirty-five years of experience in the classroom, and is currently a 4th grade teacher in the City of South Gate at State Street Elementary School.

Ms. Gin has proven herself to be a leader outside of her own classroom, exemplifying a true dedication to improving the lives of our youth. She has served as President of the Mark Keppel High School PTSA, and President of the Alhambra PTA Council for the Alhambra Unified School District, and continues to serve the PTA Council as chair of the scholarship committee, although she has no children presently attending school. In addition, Diane has served as the parent coordinator for the Orange County Dance Association.

Today, Ms. Gin serves as President of the United Methodist Women at the Monterey Park Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church. She has chaired the Staff Parish Relations Committee and educational program, and currently teaches a Friday night youth group and Sunday school. Diane is also the Past President of the United Methodist Women of the Pasadena District, and has served on the Staff Parish Relations Committee for the District Superintendent of the Pasadena District.

Diane continues to reach out to our youth, serving as a Girl Scout troop leader for 25 years, where she currently sits on the Gold Award Review Committee, which interviews applicants for the Gold Award.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Diane Gin, for her exceptional service to the community and to our Nation's children.

TO EXPAND THE DEFINITION OF
HOMELESS FOR VETERANS

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, no veteran should ever experience homelessness. I don't have to tell anyone in this body that this, unfortunately, is not the case. According to a point-in-time

study, on one January night in 2009 an estimated 75,609 veterans experienced homelessness and veterans are vastly over-represented in the homeless population in America. The Department of Veterans Affairs has developed a number of programs to assist homeless veterans and, while more can be done, it's important to make sure that all homeless veterans can access the programs designed to help them.

In order to qualify for benefits available to homeless veterans through the VA, an individual must meet the definition of "homeless" codified as part of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. In 2009, the HEARTH Act expanded the definition of homeless to reflect our present reality and include individuals in transitional housing, persons living in motels and persons who would imminently lose their housing. A change was also made to the McKinney-Vetno Act to expand the definition of homeless to include individuals fleeing a situation of domestic violence or some other life-threatening condition. This change, however, is not currently reflected in the definition of "homeless veteran."

That is why I am introducing this legislation, which will correct and expand the definition of "homeless veteran" to include veterans who are fleeing situations of domestic violence. This small change will allow those veterans who find the courage and the means to leave their abusers the chance to access the benefits that should be available to all homeless veterans.

By passing this bill, we will ensure that this especially vulnerable population of veterans has the chance to access benefits the Department of Veterans Affairs already provides. This bill is one small step to ensuring every homeless veteran can access the benefits they deserve.

HONORING MS. MARIA TRAVIERSO

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History month I rise today to honor Ms. Maria Traverso, a professional bilingual journalist serving the South Florida community.

Ms. Traverso graduated from the University of Costa Rica with a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and Public Relations. She furthered her education by learning English at Florida National College and Miami-Dade Community College. Ms. Traverso began her journalism career as a reporter for La Republica newspaper in Costa Rica in 1980. However, her talents were truly recognized when she became Editor-in-Chief of El Diario, a community newspaper based in Miami. Her passion and commitment to journalism is clearly evident, and admirable.

Ms. Traverso most recently served as Senior Editor and Copy Editor of the Sun-Sentinel, a position she held for many years. Her thorough reports on various topics ranging from immigration policy to Hispanic culture have informed countless English and Spanish speaking individuals in South Florida. During her tenure, she received various awards and recognitions including first place in Community

Story Writing for the Spanish Language Division in the Florida Society of News Editors 2010 Competition.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Maria Traverso for her continued service to the South Florida community and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JOHN V. SULLIVAN, HOUSE PARLIAMENTARIAN, UPON HIS RETIREMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate House Parliamentarian John V. Sullivan on his retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives. John, who was appointed House Parliamentarian by former Speaker Dennis Hastert on May 31, 2004, will retire at the end of this month after serving 25 years in the parliamentarian's office. John became only the fourth parliamentarian to serve in the House since the office was established in 1928.

John Sullivan is one of the most exceptional parliamentarians I have had the pleasure to serve with during my 35 years in Congress. John has always handled himself with the utmost professionalism and has always held himself to the highest standard. There is no sharper mind or greater expert on parliamentary procedure than John Sullivan. Members on both sides of the aisle have relied on his expertise and extensive knowledge of the legislative process. I echo the Speaker and Minority Leader's comments that his retirement is "a loss for the people's House."

Over the years, I have seen a steady and disturbing decline in the civility and comity in the House of Representatives. There have been more heated exchanges and political bickering on the House floor in recent years than I care to remember. However, through it all, John has been able to navigate the House through some difficult times and has reminded all of us that we should respect our colleagues and the rules of this great institution. His steady leadership, intellect and nonpartisan decision making has made it possible for this body to continue to function despite the political rancor.

Throughout my life, I've tried to emulate those for whom I have great respect. John Sullivan is one of those people that I will always admire and respect. Not only am I a better legislator, but I am also a better person for having known John Sullivan. I wish John the best in his retirement and thank him for his years of service to this great body and to our Nation.

IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 2779 AND H.R. 2682

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to discuss two bills that this Chamber passed earlier

this week, H.R. 2779, a bill to exempt inter-affiliate swaps from certain regulatory requirements put in place by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, and H.R. 2682, the Business Risk Mitigation and Price Stabilization Act.

The stated intent of these bills seems simple enough—to make supposedly necessary exemptions and clarifications to the Dodd-Frank Act. However, Americans for Financial Reform, a coalition of over 250 unions, consumer groups, think-tanks, and others have raised some serious concerns about the negative consequences these changes could have on the implementation of the law, and also question whether these changes are even necessary.

Certainly it is appropriate for Congress to revisit laws that have been passed, and to conduct oversight of the work of regulators. However, Congress has asked the Commodities Futures Trading Commission and Securities and Exchange Commission to do a complicated job monitoring a big and complex market.

How big and how complex? According to The Economist, the world's gross domestic product totals approximately \$65 trillion. The total value of the global trade in derivatives is estimated to be 10 times larger than that—over \$600 billion. Warren Buffett has even stated that derivatives are "financial weapons of mass destruction, carrying dangers that, while now latent, are potentially lethal." Unfortunately, as the spectacular collapse of AIG made clear, we know that he was right.

The Dodd-Frank Act was passed to reign in the abuses that caused the financial crisis, and to establish clear rules of the road to help prevent another crisis from ever happening. I believe, as Americans for Financial Reform point out, that the law provides regulators with the flexibility to address the issues that H.R. 2779 and H.R. 2682 seek to address without changing the statute. We need to let them get on with the job they've been asked to do.

Therefore, I opposed passage of these measures.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LEADERSHIP OF LEWISVILLE FIRE CAPTAIN TERRY WILCOX

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a brave and dedicated leader, Lewisville Fire Department Captain Terry Wilcox. Captain Wilcox has spent his entire career of almost 38 years serving in the Lewisville Fire Department, protecting and promoting the safety of the citizens of the City of Lewisville.

Captain Wilcox is a highly respected member of both the community and the Fire Department. A lifelong resident of Lewisville, he graduated high school in May 1974 and joined the Fire Department in September of the same year to give back to the community that raised him. As a testament to his hard work and leadership, on May 1, 1985 he was promoted to Captain, a rank he has held for almost 27 years.

Captain Wilcox is married to Charlotte Wilcox, who also gives back to the community

by serving on the Highland Village, Texas City Council. Together they have two children, Tiffany and Travis, as well as two grandchildren. In what little spare time is available, Captain Wilcox is an avid fisherman and hunter, hobbies he enjoys together with his son.

On March 31, 2012, Captain Wilcox will retire from the Lewisville Fire Department as the most senior officer ever in the history of the department. After almost four decades of public service, his leadership, professionalism and dedication will not be forgotten by the City of Lewisville. His devotion to his career, his fellow firefighters and the citizens of Lewisville are absolute and will be deeply missed by all those that he has had the opportunity to assist and influence.

It is my great privilege to recognize Lewisville Fire Department Captain Terry Wilcox for his service, and I am privileged to represent the City of Lewisville in the U.S. House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO RIVERSIDE CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE CITIZEN OF THE
YEAR GORDON BOURNS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Gordon Bourns is one of these individuals. On March 28, 2012, Gordon will receive a prestigious honor when the Riverside Chamber of Commerce names him the 2011 Citizen of the Year at the organization's annual awards and installation dinner.

Gordon Bourns joined Bourns, Inc. in 1973 and has managed various business units and operations within the company since that time. He was elected Chairman of the Board in December 1988 by the company's Board of Directors, and was also elected President in 1990.

Mr. Bourns now serves as the company's Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Bourns heads a worldwide electronics corporation, which manufactures more than 3,000 different products at 12 domestic and international facilities, with over 4,000 employees worldwide. Mr. Bourns is the son of the cofounders of Bourns, Inc., Marian and Rosemary Bourns.

Mr. Bourns represented Bourns, Inc. in 1994 when the Corporation received the prestigious Entrepreneur of the Year Award from Inc[®] Magazine. Mr. Bourns currently focuses much of his attention on strategic planning to accomplish the company's strategic plans, which will double the sales and profits of Bourns

over a five-year period. Mr. Bourns has led the Bourns commitment through the Six Sigma and Bourns Production System quality process to assure the company meets or exceeds customer requirements and specifications, while anticipating future needs through the continuous improvement of people, processes, products and services.

Mr. Bourns has been an active participant in community affairs. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the UCR Foundation and is the past chairman of that board. He serves as Chairman of the Board of Advisors for the Marlan and Rosemary Bourns College of Engineering at UC Riverside and as Chairman of the Board of Visitors at California Baptist University. He is also Chief Financial Officer of the School Board for the Woodcrest Christian School System. Mr. Bourns, an Eagle Scout, is a past recipient of the Inland Empire Boy Scouts Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award.

In light of all Gordon Bourns has done for the community of Riverside, the Riverside Chamber of Commerce named Gordon their Citizen of the Year. Gordon's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. He has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives this prestigious award.

HONORING THIS YEAR'S CREDIT
UNION CHERRY BLOSSOM TEN
MILE RUN AND 5K WALK

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be one of the many Members of Congress who serve as Honorary Race Chair for this year's Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run and 5K Walk.

I'm even prouder that my daughter, Patricia Lehtinen, will be taking part in the ten mile race, which will be held this Sunday, April 1 at 7:30 a.m.

Beginning and ending at the grounds of the Washington Monument, this race raises awareness for the Children's Miracle Network and has helped millions of children in hospitals who might not otherwise be able to afford treatment.

Children's Miracle Network is a network of 170 affiliate hospitals across the United States, including Miami Children's Hospital in my South Florida community.

Miami Children's is a world leader in pediatric healthcare and South Florida's only free-standing hospital dedicated exclusively to children.

I thank the nearly 200 of my congressional colleagues who are also Honorary Race Chairs for this year's event.

Our congressional community can get involved and make a difference together, without fanfare, or votes, or debate and just do the right thing and help.

I encourage everyone do their part and help in this worthy cause.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 29, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 18

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine financial management and business transformation at the Department of Defense.

SD-G50

APRIL 25

2 p.m.

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

To resume hearings to examine the Active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-106

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine current readiness of U.S. forces in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A