

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING MSG CLARENCE O.
LYALL

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man who put his life in harm's way for our country as a member of the iconic 101st Airborne Division's Easy Company during World War II. MSG Clarence Odell Lyall, a longtime resident of Leonardtown, Maryland, passed away on March 19.

The 101st Airborne Division was created in 1942 to put American boots on the ground in some of the most treacherous enemy-held territory—in possibly the most dangerous way possible. Paratrooper tactics were still very new, and the risks of jumping out of an aircraft, let alone into a warzone, were enough to give even some of our bravest soldiers pause. But for the men who were formed into the Division's E Company, known as "Easy Company," landing safely on the ground was only the first obstacle.

On June 6, 1944, Clarence—"Clancy," to those of us who were fortunate to know him—jumped with Easy Company a few miles from Utah Beach in the opening hours of Operation Overlord, and he landed in a tree. He was so laden with heavy equipment that another soldier had to cut him down to safety. After the Normandy beachhead was secured, Clancy fought in France, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany in Operations Market Garden and the Battle of the Bulge. The exploits of Easy Company were highlighted in the book *Band of Brothers* and the television miniseries of the same name.

Clancy's service to our country continued long after the Second World War came to a close. After the war, Clancy was honorably discharged. But he re-enlisted and went on to a military career that took him from occupation duty in West Germany to service in the Korean War and even a stint as an observer at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu in Vietnam in 1954, escaping the besieged town just two weeks before the fall of its French garrison. Over the course of his career, Clancy made an astounding four combat jumps, earned twenty-five decorations and citations, and retired as a Master Sergeant.

Since leaving the Army, Clancy continued to serve his country and community as a VFW Commander, President of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, and President of the American Legion Vice Commander Lions Club. He served on the Southern Maryland Veterans Advisory Board and was a member of the Order of the Purple Heart in support of our wounded veterans.

I was proud to represent Clancy in Congress for so many years, and I continue to be in awe of what he and others in Easy Company and across the Armed Forces achieved during World War II. Their sacrifices, their courage, their bonds of brotherhood through

unspeakable difficulty have ensured the lasting triumph of democracy.

Clancy Lyall was my dear friend, and I join in thanking Clancy for his service to this nation and to our community in Southern Maryland, and I offer my condolences to his wife, Liz, their five children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

PROTECTING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 5, the so-called HEALTH Act. This misguided legislation undermines Medicare, raises deficits and restricts states' rights.

Last year, House Republicans voted to end the Medicare guarantee for seniors. Fortunately, Senate Democrats blocked this dangerous proposal from becoming law. Now, House Republicans are trying again to dismantle the program in their fiscal year 2013 budget proposal.

The Republican proposal would end the Medicare guarantee by pushing future seniors into the private insurance market with a voucher that fails to keep up with the rising costs of health care. According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the Republican voucher proposal could force future seniors to pay \$6,400 more for health care every year. Republicans claim that shifting rising health care costs onto future seniors will save billions of dollars. What do House Republicans proposed do with those savings? Reinvest in Medicare? Increase funding for education? Reduce the national debt? Remarkably, House Republicans are proposing to take Medicare dollars from future seniors to give a new \$150,000 tax cut to the wealthiest individuals and corporations in America today. House Republicans introduced H.R. 5 to distract attention from their radical plans to dismantle Medicare and give more handouts to billionaires.

H.R. 5 repeals the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) created by the Affordable Care Act. IPAB was established in the new health care law to protect Medicare's long-term sustainability. The Board will do this by keeping program costs at a manageable level and preventing special interests from delaying implementation of reforms that strengthen Medicare.

IPAB will be composed of fifteen non-political experts, including doctors, consumers and

senior advocates recommended by Congressional leaders, nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. If Medicare costs exceed certain targets, these experts will make recommendations to Congress on ways to stabilize Medicare by reforming payment and delivery systems. Congress retains the power to reject these recommendations and pass their own reforms to reduce Medicare spending. IPAB experts are prohibited by law from recommending changes to Medicare that ration care, increase seniors' costs, reduce benefits or restrict eligibility. IPAB does not harm Medicare or seniors, but eliminating IPAB would weaken Medicare and raise the deficit.

The Congressional Budget Office found that repealing IPAB will add \$3 billion to deficits over the next ten years. To offset this cost, House Republicans impose new federal rules to legal cases involving medical malpractice, product liability, health insurance and related issues. The broad provisions of this bill would offer new protections to drug companies, nursing homes, insurance companies and HMOs. These new restrictions would severely limit a patient's ability to recover damages suffered as a result of medical negligence, defective products or irresponsible insurance products. Every year, approximately 200,000 severe medical injuries are caused by negligence. Only seventeen percent of these patients ever file a malpractice claim. Patients who do seek legal recourse may not obtain full and just compensation for their injuries due to the caps on awards imposed by H.R. 5.

The National Conference of State Legislatures strongly opposes this federal mandate on states arguing that federal medical malpractice legislation is unnecessary. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office analysis of H.R. 5 noted the new medical malpractice caps "might cause providers to exercise less caution, resulting in an increase in the number of medical injuries attributable to negligence."

I urge my colleagues to reject these extreme and unprecedented changes mandated to state medical malpractice laws that will result in less justice for victims, less patient safety, and less flexibility for states to make their own laws.

Further, I urge my colleagues to stand up for seniors and protect Medicare by opposing H.R. 5.

HONORING CODY PAE

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Cody Pae of the Fulton High School Wrestling team for winning the Class 2 Missouri State Wrestling Championship in the 126-pound weight class.

Mr. Pae and his coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

regular season and for bringing home the state title in the Class 2 126-pound weight class to his school and community. This is his third state medal and first state title.

I ask that you join me in recognizing Mr. Pae for a job well done.

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH, FLORIDA CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Calvary Episcopal Church of Indian Rocks Beach, Florida, which I have the privilege to represent, will celebrate its 50th anniversary of service to our community next month and I would ask my colleagues to join me in saying congratulations to the members of this tremendous family oriented church.

The effort to establish this church began in 1954 and in April of 1962, this small church located on a beautiful piece of waterfront property opened its doors. With its mission statement expressing the congregation's belief that "God is calling us to make known His truth and to convey His love to all," Calvary Episcopal has become a key part of this beach community.

The church's energetic and beloved leader is Father Robert Wagenseil. Father Bob as he is affectionately called, traveled from New York 16 years ago to pay the church a visit, and never left. Together with the church's Deacon, The Reverend Melissa Sands, and Music Director and Parish Administrator Lynn Vera, Calvary Episcopal and Father Bob serve the church community in a combination of traditional and unique ways.

In addition to their wonderful music, Father Bob's inspirational messages, and the prayers they share together, the families of Calvary Episcopal reach out to help feed the hungry through an exceptional volunteer food bank. They teach our children through Sunday school programs and even a unique summer sailing school led by Father Bob. He tells me that one of his highlights every year is the graduation ceremony for his Intrepid Sailors.

They provide computer skills training in their church computer lab to help the unemployed and the underemployed. And Father Bob and the church have formed a special bond with the local fire fighting community and in particular Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue and the Indian Rocks Volunteer Firemen's Association.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege to worship at Calvary Episcopal with my family and I can tell you that Father Bob and the members of his church always find new ways to amaze me both spiritually and through the compassion they show their neighbors in need. Please join me in saying congratulations to the members of Calvary Episcopal on their first 50 years of ministry and service.

RECOGNIZING THE TOWN OF LURAY, VIRGINIA AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Town of Luray, Virginia as it celebrates its 200th anniversary.

The Town of Luray was founded in 1812 and is the county seat of Page County, Virginia. Tucked away in the rolling hills of the Shenandoah Valley, Luray boasts of breathtaking views and is steeped in rich history.

Perhaps best known for the Luray Caverns, Luray is home to the largest and most popular caverns in the East. Upon its discovery by Andrew Campbell on August 13th, 1878, the Smithsonian Institute sent nine scientists to examine the caverns and reported the following: ". . . it is safe to say that there is probably no other cave in the world more completely and profusely decorated with stalactite and stalagmite ornamentation than that of Luray." Even today, this sentiment remains the same. The Luray Caverns now attract more than 500,000 visitors each year from around the world. Luray is lucky to be home to such a historic and significant token of natural beauty.

There is no doubt why the Town of Luray is such a popular attraction for those just passing through or visiting from many states away. When not touring the caverns, you can find visitors of Luray enjoying the 106-mile scenic Skyline Drive, or nestled into a cozy bed and breakfast. The Appalachian Trail also passes through Luray, where hikers can climb through the peaks and valleys of the Shenandoah region and explore the area first-hand.

Luray residents will celebrate and honor the Town's rich history with events and activities throughout the year, which began with a "Celebrate Luray" event back in February.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the citizens of Luray as they celebrate the town's bicentennial, and wishing them all the best for their continued growth and success.

HONORING ANDREW RODRIGUEZ, WINNER OF THE 2011 JAMES E. SULLIVAN AWARD

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alexandria, Virginia resident Andrew Rodriguez, on his receipt of the highly-esteemed Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) 2011 James E. Sullivan Award. The award honors the nation's outstanding amateur athlete and has annually been presented since 1930. Finalists were selected from personal nominations following a review by the AAU Sullivan Award Executive Committee. Renowned recipients of the Award include: Mark Spitz, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Florence Joyner, Peyton Manning, Michael Phelps, J.J. Redick, Tim Tebow, and Shawn Johnson, just to name a few.

As you may know, the AAU is dedicated to promoting amateur athletics throughout this nation and is one of the largest non-profit volunteer sports organizations in the U.S. For over 100 years, AAU has remained committed to helping young people develop as both athletes and as valued citizens of their communities. The Sullivan Award, which is in its 82nd year, making it even older than the Heisman trophy, salutes amateur athletes who not only succeed in sports, but who also exhibit strong moral character in their daily lives.

In order to be considered, Sullivan Award nominees must demonstrate talent, excellent character, leadership and sportsmanship—all qualities that Andrew has certainly surpassed during his career at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He recently received the Army's first Campbell Trophy and the National Football Foundation National Scholar-Athlete award, which recognizes the nation's best in combined academic success, community leadership, and performance on the football field. Andrew currently carries a 4.14 GPA as a mechanical engineering major and ranks third academically in his class of 1,052 cadets.

In addition to his exemplar character and scholarly record, Andrew is a senior linebacker on Army's football team and delivered 140 career tackles in 23 career games. Andrew suffered what many thought was a career-ending injury and missed the entire 2010 football season, but through determination and hard work, recovered and returned for the 2011 season as team captain.

Andrew is an outstanding leader both on the field and in the classroom. He has been very active in giving back to his community and honoring our military by spending many hours visiting the injured at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He follows his father, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Forces Command David Rodriguez, and sister Amy, in a family tradition at West Point.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join AAU and myself in congratulating Andrew on his outstanding achievement. We can all see that he is an exceptional, strong leader, and I very much look forward to following his continued success. It is truly an honor to represent Andrew and his family in the United States Congress, and I sincerely thank them for their commitment to our nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF DR. J.O. "ROCKY" MAYNES JR. AND BEKI SIGWORTH-MAYNES

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Rocky and Beki Maynes on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary—a milestone reached January 19, 2012 and celebrated by the couple's ten children, thirty grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and other family and close friends. Verma and I have known and worked with this wonderful couple for many years and we sincerely wish them our heart-felt congratulations.

Rocky and Beki met at Arizona State College, (now ASU), where Beki was studying

music on a scholarship, and Rocky was pursuing a degree in education and language studies. In their eventual careers that followed, Rocky became the Director of Migrant Children Education for the State of Arizona, a position he held for many years until his retirement in 1990. Prior to being Director, he served as a dedicated teacher to countless Arizona high school and college students. Beki's leadership as president of the Glendale Women's Club and Glendale Historical Society helped advance both organizations' important missions, yet her most valued role remained as a mother to her and Rocky's large, ever-growing family.

Anyone who knows Rocky and Beki can attest to their great love for all of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren—a love deeply rooted first in their devotion to one another. Yet, this couple, time and time again, looked to the larger community and its needs, prompting Rocky and Beki to be proactive in serving others and furthering access to high-quality education for all children. Such efforts have proven to benefit numerous Arizona families, a testament to Rocky and Beki and especially their marriage, a source of continued strength and support for both of them.

In celebrating Rocky and Beki's 60th Anniversary, we reflect on the life they have built with one another, and join in congratulating them on what truly is an accomplishment of great significance.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Dr. and Mrs. Maynes on their 60th wedding anniversary and join with their family in wishing them many more years of continued happiness, health, and innumerable blessings.

HONORING MRS. PATRICIA ANDRADE

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History month, I rise today to honor Patricia Andrade, a remarkable leader in the South Florida community.

Mrs. Andrade was born in Venezuela and has been living in the United States for more than 20 years. She holds both a law degree from Universidad Santa Maria and an International Diploma in Human Rights from the United Nations Association in Venezuela. These academic achievements have directly contributed to her campaign against human rights abuses by Hugo Chavez, following his rise to power.

In 2004, Mrs. Andrade founded the Venezuela Awareness Foundation, an organization whose focus is denouncing and defending human rights in Venezuela. Her commitment to democracy and respect for human rights around the world is a daily battle, yet she perseveres and finds motivation in all the Venezuelans living under oppression today. Mrs. Andrade works to keep close contact with political prisoners' family members and goes to great lengths to alleviate their economic hardships. Once a year, she works to promote education in Venezuela by providing political prisoners' children with school supplies including uniforms, books, and registration expenses.

Mrs. Andrade is also a weekly columnist in Miami's newspaper El Nuevo Herald, along with other Venezuelan online news sites. To further promote awareness of Venezuela's current situation and the abuse of human rights, she participates in different forums and conferences throughout South Florida and Germany.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mrs. Patricia Andrade for her continued service to the South Florida community and to all Venezuelans who continue to be oppressed daily by Chavez' fist. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual and wish her continued success.

HONORING GREENVILLE INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an institution noted for its resounding leadership, the Greenville Industrial College of Greenville, Mississippi.

Greenville Industrial College was founded in 1904 by Greenville native, Reverend Dr. A.B. Bolden. Dr. Bolden, along with other community pioneers purchased the land for the Greenville Industrial College from Dr. E.P. Brown and his family in the early 20th century.

The two-story brick building was located in the African-American community of "Brown's Addition", named after Dr. E.P. Brown. It was under the leadership of Dr. Bolden that the first chapter of this dynamic organization's history began.

The mission of the Greenville Industrial College is to provide African-American students with the necessary skills to make a successful transition to post secondary education or work, and to prepare these students to successfully compete in a global market. Since the 1900s, the college has offered career and technology programs which include theology, masonry, carpentry and machinery.

The college has produced many prominent members of society which include the famous Bishop Clarence LaVaughn Franklin, Willie Richardson of the National Football League Baltimore Colts, and Walter Jake Turnbull, founder of the Harlem Boys Choir.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Greenville Industrial College for its remarkable work in developing our citizens, our economy, and the great state of Mississippi.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. MICHAEL L. FOWLER, SR.—MORTICIAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and honor to extend my personal and heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Michael L. Fowler, Sr., on being named Mortician of the Year for the 4th District of the Georgia Funeral Service Practitioners Association, Inc. A cele-

bration will be held in his honor on Saturday, March 31, 2012, at 7 p.m. at Albany Technical College in Albany, Georgia.

Mr. Fowler was born in Columbia, South Carolina, to Roland and Rosie Fowler. Following his birth, Mr. Fowler's family moved to Georgia where he was educated in the Dougherty County, Georgia Public School System and graduated from Dougherty Comprehensive High School. After graduating from high school, Mr. Fowler would go on to earn a degree in Mortuary Science from Gupton Jones College in Atlanta, Georgia.

A Certified Funeral Service Practitioner and a Licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer, Mr. Fowler performs Trade Embalming for many funeral homes in Georgia and Florida. He also founded and currently owns Fowler's Removal Service. As a retired Death Investigation Specialist for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, he holds numerous certifications in the fields of Medicolegal Death Investigation, Death Scene Reconstruction, and Grief Management.

A strong leader with an exceptional work ethic, Mr. Fowler is the current President of the Georgia Funeral Service Practitioners Association. He also serves on the Georgia State Board of Funeral Service and is an active member of the Academy of Graduate Embalmers, Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice, Albany Chamber of Commerce and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Of his many commendable qualities, one of the things I admire most about Mr. Fowler is his altruistic willingness to volunteer his time and lend his professional services to needy families who have lost loved ones to tragic accidents and natural disasters. As a member of the National Disaster Medical System's Disaster Mortuary Team (DMORT) and Kenyon International Service, Mr. Fowler has assisted in the morgue operations of mass fatalities associated with the Albany, Georgia floods of 1994 and 1998; the 1997 crash of Korean Airlines Flight 801 in Guam; the 9/11 World Trade Center terrorist attacks in 2001; the 2004 tsunami in Asia; Hurricane Katrina; Hurricane Rita; and the 2010 Haiti earthquake.

In conjunction with his professional accomplishments, Mr. Fowler lives a life of service and faith. He has been a member of Evangelical Faith Ministries, Inc. for 45 years and has served as a Deacon for the last 33 years. Additionally, he founded the S.O.L.A.C.E. (Stretching Out Loving Arms Creating Encouragement) Program for impoverished and at-risk youth in Southwest Georgia. Moreover, he co-facilitates the Let's Stay Together Marriage Enrichment Program; is Board Chair of Love and Mercy Outreach Programs, Inc.; and serves on the Community Development Council for the City of Albany.

Michael L. Fowler, Sr., has accomplished many things in his life but none of this would have been possible without the enduring love and support of his loving wife, Rosa, and wonderful children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Fowler for his outstanding professional achievements, dedicated community service and many good deeds on behalf of families all around the world who have lost loved ones to unforeseen tragedies.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF WRIGHT-HENNEPIN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 75th anniversary of the Wright-Hennepin Electric Cooperative in Rockford, Minnesota. Today, March 29, 2012, the annual membership meeting will take place in celebration of their fruitful beginning on March 29, 1937.

Wright-Hennepin Electric was formed at the height of the Great Depression to meet the electrical needs of rural central Minnesota. Today, they provide service for more than 46,000 homes and businesses and continue to provide groundbreaking services to their customers in Wright and the western Hennepin counties.

Wright-Hennepin Electric is an industry leader in helping home and business owners save money, reduce energy consumption, and determine when alternative energy resources might be a good fit for their needs. Additionally, Wright-Hennepin Electric has expanded into security monitoring for 50,000 homes in 32 states and three Canadian provinces. Innovative business expansions like this help keep this magnificent company a step ahead of the rest.

Also importantly, Wright-Hennepin Electric is an active member of the community. Annually, high school students may apply to receive college scholarships from them. Each year one lucky student also receives a trip to our Nation's capital. It is possible that many of our congressional Members have met with some of these students participating in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program which makes this opportunity possible.

Many local charities and non-profits are also supported by Wright-Hennepin Electric as recipients of thousands of dollars of donations. Lastly, Wright-Hennepin Electric has been recognized by chambers, local governments, and businesses as a responsible corporate citizen and valued member of the communities they serve.

Congratulations on this 75th milestone, members and staff of Wright-Hennepin Electric Cooperative.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to John Sullivan on his retirement from the post of Parliamentarian of the House.

John has served the House for 28 years, beginning as Counsel for the House Committee on Armed Services. In 1987, he joined the office of Parliamentarian where he rose from an Assistant Parliamentarian to Deputy Parliamentarian in 1994. He was named Par-

liamentarian by Speaker Dennis Hastert in 2004. He has served this body with dignity and professionalism.

I feel privileged to have worked with John, whom I consider a friend and a mentor. During the years when Democrats were in the majority, I enjoyed serving as Chair of the Committee of the Whole or as Speaker pro tem. When in the Chair I looked to John for wise guidance. He was a great teacher and I was eager to learn. He has a great command of and respect for the institutional history of the House, and its rules and precedents. John Sullivan was very supportive of Members who sought to learn more.

John is a kind man with a great intellect. We are all grateful for his service to the House and to the nation. I will miss him and wish him all of the very best in his future endeavors.

HONORING ILIANA CURRA

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month, I rise today to honor Ms. Iliana Curra, a Cuban patriot who is the epitome of a freedom fighter. Her life's story has been one of hardship but has also been one of valor.

Ms. Curra was born in 1959 in Regla, Havana during a year of great turmoil in Cuba. As a result, she was unable to complete High School and began working at the young age of seventeen as a secretary. At this time, her political problems also began. She was transferred from one job to the next and cast as "disloyal," commonly done to those who opposed the regime.

On July 16, 1992, she was arrested and detained for 84 days at the Headquarters of State Security, known as Villa Marista, for spreading "propaganda." Upon her release, Ms. Curra courageously joined the opposition, the National Agenda Movement. After several arbitrary arrests, she was sentenced to three years in the Women's Correctional Facility for her political beliefs and associations. During this time, Ms. Curra witnessed horrendous and inhumane treatment. After completing her sentence, Ms. Curra was exiled from Cuba and began a new life in Miami, Florida.

In 1998, a year after her release, Ms. Curra started working for the freedom of Cuba. She began sharing her firsthand experiences of human rights abuses in Cuba, and continued fighting against the tyrannical Castro regime. Her life's mission will not cease until the Cuban people are truly free.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Iliana Curra for her continued service to the South Florida community, and solidarity with the Cuban people. A true advocate for democracy and human rights, she dedicates every second of her life to freedom and justice. She is an inspiration not only to women, but to all of us. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual, and wish Ms. Curra continued success and happiness in the future.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DONALD HILL

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I celebrate the life of Donald E. Hill. A lifelong Christian who leaves behind a wife he married 42 years ago, Donald was an upstanding member of both his professional and personal communities, and worked as an attorney for 36 years. In his career he specialized in employment law, business law and estate planning.

Donald's personal life made a great impact on the lives of those around him. He and his wife Carol—along with their two sons—attended First Evangelical Free Church for over 30 years, and he served as a deacon, elder, chairman and regular Sunday school teacher. He was also involved with the Wichita Prayer Breakfast, Rotary, the Christian Legal Society and the Wichita Art Museum, and prided himself on being politically involved.

Donald, who was laid to rest on March 3, 2012, was a truly rare individual who put God, family and friends before himself time and time again. Whether it was at work, home or church, Donald saw to it that those around him received the full benefit of the blessings he himself had been given. We are all grateful to have known this wonderful man.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to have been part of Donald Hill's family for many years, and I am greatly saddened by his passing. I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating his life.

TRIBUTE TO WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Women's History Month and to recognize the many contributions women have made to our community.

Specifically, I want to recognize these remarkable women from South Florida for their dedication and commitment: Annie Baker, Bishop Catherine P. Baskin, School Board Member Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Mayor Daisy Black, Patricia Jennings Braynon, Baltena Brown, Rhea Brown, Queen Brown, Senator Larcenia Bullard, Vanessa Woodard Byers, Representative Daphne Campbell, Lillian Cooper, Emma Curry, Nancy Dawkins, Martha C. Day, Lucia Davis-Raiford, Patricia Daniels, Melodie Delancey, Barbara Dent, Earlene P. Dotson, Gail Ash Dotson, Dr. Barbara Edwards, Gussie J. Ervin, Commissioner Betty Ferguson, Dr. Dorothy Jenkins Fields, Susie W. Francis, Regina Jollivette Frazier, Kimberly Gaines, Patricia Garrett, Mayor Shirley Gibson, Emily Gunther, Elsie Hamler, Thomasina Hargrove, Alexis Harris, Debi Harris, Karen Hawkins, Bea Hines, Bertha Henry, Nicole Henry, Anne T. Herriott, Cheryl Holder, Janice Powell Hopton, Vikki Hoshing, Andrea Ivory, Sandra Jackson, Jeanne F. Jacobs, Juanita B. Johnson, Commissioner Barbara

Jordan, Yolanda Cash-Jackson, Pamela Jones, Renee S. Jones, Juliet King, Linda Kelly Kearson, Juanita A. Lane, Pamela Luckie Latimore, Betty Major, Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek, Sigilenda Miles, Yvette Miley, Tracey Mourning, Georgia McClean, Shirlyon McWhorter, Bobbie Mumford (Posthumously), Maud P. Newbold, Beverly E. Nixon, Adora Obi Nweze, Dr. Rozlyn Paschal, Enid C. Pinkney, Bernadette Poitier, Michele Paramore, Tammy Reed, Rachel Reeves, Zarifa Reynolds, Collette Hart Richardson, Donna Riley, Treska Rodgers, Akua Scott, Sherrilyn Scott, Claudia Slater, Rhoda Shirley, Commissioner Michelle Spence Jones, Representative Cynthia Stafford, Jessie A. Stinson, Kay M. Sullivan, Mayor Myra Taylor, Penelope Townsley, Dr. Andrea Trowers, Priscilla Thompson, Rosetta Vickers, Sandy Walker, Thelma Walker, Representative Barbara Watson, Dolores Washington, Eloise Washington, Patrenia Washington, Gwendolyn Welters, Rhonda Wimberley, Heather Woolery-Lloyd, Geneva Woodard, Jacquelyn White, Bobbie Jones Wilfork, Mattie Williams, Katrina Wilson-Davis, Ellen Wright, Commissioner Audrey Edmonson, Rhonda Vangates, Georgia Ayers, Kim McCray, Deborah Owens, Misty Brown, Vice-Mayor Felicia Brunson, Commissioner Barbara Sharief, Marlene Bastien, Renita Holmes, Debra Toomer, Lavern Ellie-Scott, Carline Paul, Lucy Tundra, Josie Portier, Dr. Mae Christian, Tangela Sears, Barbara Hardemon, Stephanie Bromfield, Retha Boone, Lottie Hines, Karen Cartwright, Jackie Bell, Elaine Black, Annie Neasman, Dr. Evalina Bestman, Roslyn Frazier, Chief Therese Homer, Thelma Gibson, Frankie Rolle, Corkie Dozier, Shemele Jenkins, Geraldine Washington, Thema Campbell, Kiani Nesbitt, Marjorie Spicer, Sonya Flowers, Rita Pierre, Velma Lawrence, Terri Rutherford, Julia Brown, Beatrice Louissaint, Woodie Lesesne, Dr. Brenda Snipes, Carmen Morris, Sandra St. Amand, Faye Davis, Cheryl Mizell, Penelopy Townsend, Bloneva Jones, Inez Johnson, Joanna Chestnut, Ann Foster, Sharon Anderson, Belinda Tucker, Mary Francisco, Sharette Hepburn, Virginia Hepburn, Lenora Miller, Catherine McFarland, Mamie Jenkins, Mary Robinson, Virla Barry, Mary McRae, Esther Roundtree-Johnson, Dr. Mary A. Tumpkin, Dr. Gloria Williams, Farrah Wilson, LaKasha Wilson-Rochelle, Prophetess Charlene Holts, Karen Andre, Farah Juste, Romanita Ford, Opal Jones, Willowstine Lawson, Bernadette Morris, Aletha Player, Sharon Pritchett, Diana Ragbeer, Councilwoman Lisa Davis, Councilwoman Felicia Robinson, Commissioner Rose Tydus, Commissioner Dorothy Johnson and Jennifer Adger Grant.

I am proud to stand and pay tribute to all of these dynamic women, and say thank you on behalf of all the constituents of Florida's 17th Congressional District.

HONORING MR. BILLY CLAY FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man of great valor

and integrity, Mr. Billy Clay. In October 2004, Mr. Clay founded The Greenwood Mentoring Group at the Jessie B. Henderson-Inez Beck Learning Center in the city of Greenwood, Mississippi. The Mentoring Group opens its doors five days a week to provide after school tutoring to neighborhood youth. The program has helped to increase the academic success and self-esteem of many youth in Greenwood, Mississippi and surrounding areas.

For more than 30 years, Mr. Clay has rendered countless hours of service to the young people throughout the Greenwood community. Not only is Mr. Clay a pillar within his community but is a little league baseball coach. As a role model, he plays a pivotal role in raising awareness on the various issues facing their community. He continues to be a strong voice for the community as he facilitates outreach in the community among sororities, fraternities, and other community organizations to make a positive and lasting impression in the lives of Greenwood community youth. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join in congratulating Mr. Billy Clay for his service to the Greenwood community.

HONORING STATE ATTORNEY KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Women's History Month, I rise to honor State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle, an outstanding individual serving the South Florida community.

Mrs. Fernandez Rundle was appointed to her position in 1993, and has subsequently been re-elected five times. Throughout her career, she has served South Florida admirably and has been a stalwart supporter of the community. Over the past two decades, she has served Miami-Dade County with distinction and has worked diligently to maintain the safety of our community. Her leadership has been critical in the creation of numerous programs dealing with issues that affect our area such as teen truancy, domestic violence, child support, and victim's rights.

Mrs. Fernandez Rundle served as the first and only Hispanic female on the State Constitutional Revision Council. Her passion and interest in public service is in large part due to the inspiration of her father, Dr. Carlos Benito Fernandez, one of Miami's first Hispanic Judges and a founding member of the Cuban American Bar Association, the largest Hispanic legal organization of which Mrs. Fernandez Rundle was elected its first female President in 1991.

Additionally, the State Attorney's office is the fourth largest district attorney's office in the nation with over 1,200 employees, 300 of them prosecutors also known as Assistant State Attorneys. Her office is the only prosecutor's office in the state that protects the rights of children with the creation and enforcement of a strict child support program. Other programs that have been established under her direction are the Juvenile Gun Offenders Program, the S.T.A.R.T. Program, and the Second chance Sealing and Expungement Program. Amongst her duties as State Attorney,

she is also a founding member and Vice-President of Women of Tomorrow, a mentoring program that looks to inspire and motivate young at-risk high school women. In addition, Mrs. Fernandez Rundle is also very active in other organizations including City Year Miami, Amigos for Kids, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle for her continued service to the South Florida community and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

HONORING J'DEN COX

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating J'den Cox of the Hickman High School Wrestling team for winning the Class 4 Missouri State Wrestling Championship in the 220-pound weight class.

Mr. Cox and his coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and for bringing home the state title in the 220-pound weight class to his school and community. This is his third state championship. He is the Tribune Wrestler of the Year with his unofficially compiled 526 takedowns.

I ask that you join me in recognizing Mr. Cox for a job well done.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 112) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2014 through 2022:

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Chair, the Republican budget reads like "The Hunger Games"—forcing American families to compete for survival against a plutonium plutocracy. The Republican budget cuts Medicare. It cuts Medicaid. It cuts Pell Grants.

Yet, at the same time, their budget calls for more spending on the weapons of last century's Cold War. More nuclear bomb-making plants. More nuclear missiles. More nuclear subs.

Their budget fails to address the needs of the elderly, the children, the sick, and the most vulnerable. It makes no sense. It is insane.

The CPC budget includes my legislation, the Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures Act—the SANE Act. SANE will save \$100 billion over the next 10 years by reducing nuclear weapons spending. The CPC and the SANE Act puts people ahead of plutonium.

I urge my colleagues to join me and vote for the CPC "Budget for All".

CONGRATULATING THE REELECTION OF PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on January 14, 2012, the Honorable Ma Ying-jeou was elected to a second term as the President of the Republic of China. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate President Ma and the people of Taiwan on the strength and vitality of their commitment to democracy.

For over a half century, Taiwan has been a strong, democratic ally to the United States in the Asia-Pacific region and across the world. Our peoples have enjoyed a close friendship forged by our political, economic, cultural, and strategic ties. Taiwan's sustained economic and sociopolitical development has set an admirable exemplar that many countries seek to emulate. Taiwan's global scope and leadership has transcended many sectors, particularly healthcare. Taiwan boasts one of the most innovative and efficient healthcare systems in the world. As an advocate for building mutual relationships, I am confident that the U.S.-Taiwan bond will only become stronger with Taiwan's inclusion in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program. Over 400,000 Taiwanese citizens visit the United States each year; this could increase by 20 to 30 percent once Taiwan gains admission into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program.

As Chair Emeritus of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I know firsthand the importance this partnership holds for our Taiwanese-American communities. According to the 2010 Census there are approximately 230,000 Taiwanese-Americans currently living here in the United States, many of whom live in my home district in Silicon Valley. Taiwanese-Americans are frequently highly educated contributors to the vibrancy of the U.S. economy, and this is reflected in their sectors of employment. The majority of Taiwanese-Americans work in management, business, finance, information technology, sciences and engineering. As a representative of ethnically diverse Silicon Valley, I proudly join Taiwanese-Americans and the technology industry in celebrating the growing, collaborative economic relationship between the United States and Taiwanese companies.

Many of these advances are attributed to President Ma's strong and visionary leadership during his first term as president. I commend President Ma and his Administration for their tremendous strides in working toward stability amidst international economic uncertainty and in strengthening cross-strait relations with the People's Republic of China. President Ma's reelection is a testament to the people of Taiwan supporting his efforts and leadership. In fact, Taiwan's presidential race elicited unprecedented grassroots organization, from everyday citizens to business executives, to rally support for President Ma's reelection. The Taiwanese people have truly spoken, and their approval of President Ma's rapprochement policy with the People's Republic of China is

an encouraging beacon from which we can all learn from.

Once again, I congratulate President Ma Ying-jeou and the people of the Republic of China for a highly celebrated election. I look forward to my upcoming visit to Taiwan and meeting with President Ma. It will be a pleasure to continue working with President Ma and his Administration to strengthen our U.S.-Taiwan partnership and ensure peace and stability for our peoples, the region, and the world.

HONORING MS. TINA MATTE

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History month I rise today to honor Ms. Tina McCain Matte, an outstanding individual and someone who has continuously supported the Southwest Florida community.

Ms. Matte is currently serving as President of Gravina, Smith, Matte & Arnold, an influential marketing and public relations firm located in Fort Myers. The firm specializes in developing long-term, results-oriented public relations programs for regional residential and commercial developments, resorts, governmental agencies, professional firms and non-profit organizations. She has excelled in her position as President and in 2008 was named a Top 50 Power Player by Gulfshore Business, in recognition of her influence and leadership in Southwest Florida. The Florida Public Relations Association has also awarded her numerous times for her excellent service.

Amongst her duties as president she has also finds the time to be active in her community. From 2002–2008 she was appointed by then Governor Jeb Bush to serve on the Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission, where she served as chair from 2006–2007. Currently, Ms. Matte serves on the Board of Directors for the Salvation Army, as well as Floridians for Better Transportation, a statewide business and transportation association committed to making transportation safer and more efficient in Florida. Throughout her career, Ms. Matte has served the community admirably and has been a stalwart leader in the state.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Tina McCain Matte for her continued service to the Miami community and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CRAFTON HILLS COLLEGE IN YUCAIPA, CALIFORNIA

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of one of the most dynamic centers of learning in my district: Crafton Hills College, in Yucaipa, California.

I have spoken to my colleagues before about this fine community college. It has grown from an initial 881 students in 1972 to more than 5,600 today. The faculty continues to expand, with more than 90 full-time teachers and administrators. More than 150,000 students have expanded their education and found new job skills at Crafton.

As many of my colleagues are aware, community colleges have become a haven for many of our fellow citizens who have lost jobs and are desperately seeking new skills to advance their place in our economy. Crafton Hills has certainly been one of those havens, offering more than 60 degrees and certificates ranging from Radiologic Technology to Internet Web Design. The college has maintained its high standards and student services despite facing its own budget cutbacks.

In just the past few years, the campus has seen a number of wonderful additions. Even as they faced tough economic times, voters in our area approved a bond measure that paid to build a 60,000-square-foot Learning Resource Center, which now houses the library, a computer center, an art gallery and a tiered auditorium. The bond also paid for installation of a fabulous new swim center, which incorporates the competitive pool used in the 2004 Olympic trials in Long Beach, California. I was pleased to help arrange moving the pool to the campus.

The campus will soon dedicate a seven-acre Solar Farm that will provide nearly all of the college's electrical needs, as well as taking a tremendous load off of the public electrical grid. All of these improvements are clear evidence that Crafton Hills College is laying the groundwork to be a top educational institution for decades to come.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to once again praise the college for its role in the San Bernardino Regional Emergency Training Center at the San Bernardino International Airport. Established with the support of the Federal Aviation Administration, the center has trained hundreds of firefighters from across the nation in how to handle commercial aircraft fires—with real-life scenarios set in the fuselage of a former jet-liner. I have no doubt that many lives will be saved in the future by firefighters who have learned their techniques here.

Mr. Speaker, Crafton Hills College is a top example of the kind of center for higher education that will train our future workers, researchers and academics. Please join me in congratulating the college's administration, faculty and students for their efforts, and wish them success for the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall No. 139 on March 28, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on ordering the previous question, so that the House could consider the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act.

A TRIBUTE TO TOM LEDERER

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Tom Lederer. A lifelong resident of Philadelphia who gave much to the community, Tom was called by his Creator on Thursday March 22nd.

Thomas John Lederer was born on September 29, 1934 in Philadelphia to a family that believed in the principles of democratic government and civil service. His father Miles served as both Chair of the Democratic Party in Philadelphia and as a state legislator. His brothers Raymond and Bill would also serve in the legislature, with Ray becoming a member of Congress. Tom's brother Miles headed the local Riggers Union, while his brother Fran was the Chief of the County Detectives. Tom spent a lifetime serving as an inspector with the Philadelphia Water Department and raising kids, first his own six and then sixteen grandchildren. He also served the community as Boy Scout leader, community organizer and educator.

He was an active member of his Church, St. Michael's Roman Catholic, and his community. He was a Board Member of the Roman Catholic Alumni Association, Past President of the St. Joseph Prep Father's Club, Chairman of Kensington South Neighborhood Advisory Committee, Boy Scout Master of Troop 488, Member of the Horticultural Society of Philadelphia and Penn State's Gardening Progress program, winner of a "Black Eye" community award, but most of all he was "Pop" to his sixteen grandchildren.

However, in his mind, his most proud association was being Rita Lavery's husband. Born two days apart, they were married for 56 years and friends for 70 of his 77 years. They started kindergarten at St. Michaels on the same day and were classmates and pals thereafter.

Together with Tom's wife, Rita, his six children, his sixteen grandchildren, and all his family and friends, I mourn his passing but celebrate his life.

HONORING MS. GERRY SMITH

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Women's History Month, I rise to honor one of South Florida's finest community leaders, Ms. Geraldine "Gerry" Smith.

Ms. Smith currently serves as President of the Women's Club of Hialeah. She was born and raised by in Hialeah and has dedicated her time and efforts to our community. She has a passion for helping others, and relishes her current role as president. Previously she worked on the School Board in Hialeah, a position she enjoyed and served admirably. More recently, she has found a way to combine her artistic ability and her passion for the community by providing an educational hobby for local senior citizens.

Every Saturday morning Ms. Smith teaches a group of senior citizens how to make jew-

elry, along with other activities. Her goal is to ensure that senior citizens have a great time and remain active after retirement. She also donates her time and money to Angel's Reach, an organization which helps children with autism. Together with the Women's Club of Hialeah, Ms. Smith actively supports the autistic community in South Florida.

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

HONORING TREY SMITH

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Trey Smith of the Moberly High School Wrestling team for his first Class 2 Missouri State Wrestling Championship. Mr. Smith won by decision in the 152-pound weight class.

Mr. Smith and his coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and for bringing home the state championship title in the Class 2 152-pound weight class to his school and community.

I ask that you join me in recognizing Mr. Smith for a job well done!

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

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize parliamentarian John V. Sullivan for his long and distinguished service to the House of Representatives. Tomorrow, after 25 years of service to the House, John is retiring.

John is one of only four Parliamentarians who have served the House of Representatives. In this rare company, John stands out. In many ways, the Parliamentarian is the keeper of order in a House increasing lacking in civility. That John is equally respected on both sides of the aisle is testament to his fair hand and steady demeanor.

Before coming to Congress, John served in the United States Air Force as a Judge Advocate General (JAG). In this capacity, John had to represent, in a legal capacity, many odd and unruly individuals: an experience that prepared him well for his current position.

I will miss John's steady presence as Parliamentarian. However, I know the House will be well served by the excellent staff John assembled during his tenure.

John, thank you for your lifetime of public service, and good luck in your future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE MOUNT VERNON GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the girls of the Mount Vernon Lady Mountaineers Basketball Team for winning the Missouri Class 3 State Championship.

Basketball is a sport that challenges the human spirit and tests the mental and physical abilities of the players. These girls, Amelia Bramer, Sally Cowherd, Danielle Goodman, Madison Hadlock, Jenna Kleine, Tamiya Henderson, Audrey LaSalle, Blair Tettenhorst, Shailyn Benbrook, Mackenzie Farmer, Kaylee Hood, Megan Pope, and Shea Vandergrift, faced those challenges and as a result became a team. They trained as one, they competed as one, and together through their hard work and dedication they won the Missouri Class 3 State Championship.

Of course, the basketball players aren't the only champions; they had an outstanding team of talented coaches supporting them and guiding them along the way. I commend Head Coach Doug Hepler and assistant coaches Bridgett Schmutz, and Tom Cox, on an amazing accomplishment and a job well done.

The Lady Mountaineers team had an edge against each and every one of their opponents; their friends, family, and fans attended the games, cheered them on throughout the basketball season and followed them to Columbia for the state championships. The Mount Vernon community is justifiably proud of their team, and the team is fortunate to have such strong support from their community.

As if winning a state championship isn't enough of an accomplishment, the Mount Vernon Lady Mountaineers Team has the distinct honor of winning it two of the last three years. This shows that our athletes and coaches in Mount Vernon are among the best in America and can stand proud in their accomplishments.

But even more important than that, the girls of the Mount Vernon Basketball team will have memories to last a lifetime. They've had that extraordinarily opportunity to live the dream of anyone who has ever dreamed of competing with the best and achieving victory.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Mount Vernon Lady Mountaineers Basketball Team, the Missouri Class 3 State Champions.

HONORING JOSEPH C. THOMAS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, former Mississippi State Senator Joseph C. Thomas. Senator Thomas is a lifelong resident of Yazoo City, Mississippi. He is a graduate of Jackson State University where he

received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and is a proud graduate of the University of Mississippi's School of Banking. After 30 years of service Senator Thomas retired as Vice President of AmSouth Bank.

In 1977, Senator Thomas received the Jackson State University Business Award and was selected by the Mississippi Economic Council as one of 50 outstanding young men under the age of 35 in the state of Mississippi. In that same year, he was also the recipient of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education Award in Washington D.C. A lover of history, Senator Thomas has served as Chairman of the Oakes African-American Culture Center since its start in 1992, earning him recognition as one of the most prominent Afro-American historians in the state of Mississippi.

Senator Thomas is a lifelong public servant. He served as National Treasurer and Executive Vice President of the Friends of Amistad, a national organization in support of the Amistad Research Center in New Orleans, Louisiana. He served on the Jackson State University National Development Foundation Board of Directors, served as Chairman of the Management Team of the Yazoo County Fair and Civic League, Inc., and was president of the League Management Team Corporation, whose purpose is to provide housing for the elderly and handicapped.

In 1984 Senator Thomas was appointed to the Yazoo City Public Service Commission, where he served as Vice Chairman from 1986 to 1995, and was elected Chairman in April 2000. He also headed the Policy Council and on the Board of Directors of the American Public Power Association, a national organization representing about 2,000 not-for-profit community owned electric utilities. Senator Thomas has also served as President of the Yazoo City Municipal School Board as well as Vice Chairman of the Mississippi Real Estate Appraisal Board.

In 2003, his lists of public service accomplishments were increased when he was elected as State Senator in Mississippi's 21st District. During his terms in office, he served on the Economic Development & Tourism, Education, Finance, Insurance, Judiciary, Division B and Public Health & Welfare Committees. In addition to his work in the State Legislature, Mr. Thomas has served on the National Conference of State Legislatures Health Committee and the Southern Conference of State Legislatures Education Committee.

Senator Thomas is married to the former Elizabeth Wilburn of Benton, Mississippi, and they are the parents of three children, Joseph, Jr., Kirk, and Whitney. They also have two grandchildren, Tytianna and Kameron.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing former State Senator Joseph C. Thomas for his unyielding dedication and service to Yazoo City, Mississippi and the entire state of Mississippi.

NATIONAL ESSENTIAL TREMOR
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, today, I express my support and recognize March as National

Essential Tremor Awareness Month. Essential Tremor, commonly known as ET, is a progressive neurological condition that impacts the lives of up to 10 million Americans. Every day those afflicted with this disorder face a rhythmic trembling of the hands, head, voice, legs or trunk. Daily activities that many of us take for granted, such as eating, drinking and writing, may become unbearable or even impossible.

Unfortunately, there is no medical test to easily diagnose this condition and it is often confused with Parkinson's disease and dystonia. In addition, due to stereotypes, embarrassment and a general lack of awareness, many people with ET never seek medical care or treatment. This can lead to more medical issues such as depression or isolation.

For these reasons, I appreciate the efforts of my predecessor, Rep. Dennis Moore, who recognized the importance of early awareness of this condition and in 2010 introduced legislation to declare the month of March as National Essential Tremor Awareness month.

Today, on the second anniversary of the passage of this legislation, I am happy to do my part to help increase awareness of this debilitating condition. I am honored to represent the home of the International Essential Tremor Foundation in Lenexa, Kansas. The IETF has served as an invaluable resource for thousands of its members since 1988, providing global educational information, services and support.

Most of all, the IETF provides hope. Staff, board members and volunteers work tirelessly to empower those with ET in Kansas and across the nation to regain control of their lives by providing educational opportunities, treatment options and coping skills necessary to minimize the impact of ET and improve the quality of life for those who suffer. I commend them for their outstanding efforts and look forward to working together to raise awareness and eventually, find a cure.

TRIBUTE TO MS. BERNIE WONG,
PRESIDENT OF THE CHINESE
AMERICAN SERVICE LEAGUE ON
HER RECEIPT OF PRESIDENT
OBAMA'S CHAMPION OF CHANGE
AWARD AT THE WHITE HOUSE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I consider Ms. Bernie Wong to be among the very best of Social Workers in the United States of America or any place else in the world today. Bernie is being cited by President Obama for her outstanding leadership and development of the Chinese American Service League in Chicago. The Champion of the "Change Award," recognizes a small select group of Americans who embody, innovate, educate and build. The Award ceremony is held at the White House to honor those who exemplify Cesar Chavez's core values including service to other, knowledge, innovation, acceptance of all people, and respect for life and the environment. Bernie Wong is being recognized for her tireless efforts on behalf of Chinese Chicagoans. Ms. Wong is one of ten individuals nationwide to receive this prestigious honor.

Bernie Wong was the youngest of seven children and grew up poor, but never realized it. A product of a catholic school upbringing, Bernie learned early in life the meaning of generosity and compassion for others. Bernie's mother was always available to help others in need and would take Bernie and her siblings to visit the sick every week and provide food for people. Experiences in Bernie early years set the stage for her mission driven approach to serving others with dignity and respect. At eighteen, Bernie left Hong Kong for Sioux City, Iowa where she earned a four year scholarship to pursue a Bachelors' Degree in Sociology from Briar Cliff College. She went on to earn a Masters' Degree in Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Bernie truly understand what poor new immigrants face when confronted by completely different culture and language. This realization gave her the courage to gather a few friends and begin the task of building the Chinese American Service League from the ground up.

Founded in 1978, with a desk and chairs, the Chinese American Service League is now the largest and most comprehensive social service agency in the Midwest dedicated to the needs of Asian Americans. Housed in the award winning Kam L. Liu Building, and supported by an annual budget of \$12 million, CASL's program reach over 17,000 clients each year. CASL services everyone in need, but primarily focuses on serving Chinese American immigrants in the metropolitan Chicago area. CASL's clients are low-income and a significant portion served is newly arrived immigrants. These individuals often have little formal education and possess a few transferable skills. Since 90% of CASL's clients speak little to no English, they find themselves unable to access needed social services. CASL provides a critical safety-net by employing over 400 multilingual professionals and support staff. CASL serves a vital niche in the community, often taking referrals from other social service agencies, neighborhood organizations, and government institutions in order to serve clients with specific language or other special needs. Bernie is a true she-roe and leader in her community. She is indeed a champion of change and I salute President Obama for recognizing it. She deserves every accolade that we can shower upon her.

HONORING CLAUDIA PUIG

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History month, I rise today to honor Ms. Claudia Puig, a highly recognized national broadcast executive with over 26 years of experience in the U.S. Hispanic media market.

Ms. Puig was born in Cuba but was forced into exile after her father, a Cuban hero, was taken from her side by the tyrannical Castro regime. Since that time, Ms. Puig has worked hard and established herself as one of Miami's premier broadcast executives. She began her career in advertising/sales at AT&T BellSouth; having a strong work ethic, she quickly achieved Elite Club status, making her one of

the company's top performers. A few years later, Ms. Puig accepted an opportunity in broadcasting and has held management positions in the country's top Radio Broadcasting companies ever since.

In 1997, Ms. Puig joined Univision Radio, formerly known as the Hispanic Broadcasting Corporation, as General Manager of their four radio properties. After years of continued success, she was promoted to her current position as Senior Vice President/Eastern Regional Manager. Ms. Puig's current responsibilities are extensive, from the overall supervision of operations, finances, sales to programming for Univision Radio in Miami, Puerto Rico, and New York's nine radio stations. During her tenure, her leadership has been remarkable and has resulted in high revenues and ratings, particularly for Univision Radio in Miami and Puerto Rico.

Ms. Puig's accomplishments go beyond her professional career; her commitment to community service has led to leadership roles in several Miami charitable and civic groups. She was appointed by Governor Jeb Bush to serve as a member of Florida International University's Board of Trustees, and was recently reappointed by Governor Rick Scott. Ms. Puig currently serves as the Chair of the Florida Association of Broadcasters.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ms. Claudia Puig for her outstanding professional career and dedication to our community in South Florida. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this accomplished individual, and wish her continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUR FEDERAL WORKFORCE

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, today, the House of Representatives will vote on a budget proposal that will begin to turn the tide away from Washington's habitual deficit spending. I applaud the House Budget Committee for making difficult choices to cut spending, for finding creative solutions to our country's fiscal challenges, and for taking vital action to stop planned cuts to our national defense—cuts that our military leaders have labeled as "catastrophic." Addressing our nation's fiscal problems is one of my top priorities; however, I believe this can be done in a responsible fashion that does not undercut our nation's federal workforce.

Federal employees have dedicated their lives to public service. They protect our nation's borders, defend our cities and communities from terrorism, provide critical assistance in the wake of natural disasters, and support and treat our nation's military personnel and veterans. At the same time, as our neighbors, they live, work, pay taxes, and spend the money that is helping to build economic growth in the private sector in Virginia.

I believe we must reduce the size of our federal government in order to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness, but as we do so, we must never lose sight of the fact that a capable federal workforce is vital to that goal and we must recognize the contributions of

our federal employees as we work to ensure our government is capable of meeting our country's future challenges.

IN HONOR OF JAMES J. SWEENEY

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor John Sweeney of Havertown, Pennsylvania. Mr. Sweeney entered the United States Navy after graduating from high school in 1943, and served aboard the USS *Hancock*. The *Hancock* took part in some of World War II's most pivotal battles, including the invasions of the Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Mr. Sweeney was honored for his heroic service and awarded the Philippines Liberation Medal, two Battle Stars and a Presidential Unit Commendation.

It was during his time in the Navy, that Mr. Sweeney befriended his shipmate, John Finn. Lt. Finn received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions at Pearl Harbor. During the Japanese surprise attack, Lt. Finn manned his machine gun and fought off the Japanese Zeroes for two and half hours even as he took an onslaught of bullets and shrapnel. And for the past nine years, John Sweeney has tirelessly worked to honor Lt. John Finn, who passed away in 2009.

On February 15th, 2011, those efforts proved successful as the Navy announced that a new guided missile destroyer will be named the USS *John Finn*. For these efforts Mr. Sweeney is being honored by American Legion Post 667 in Havertown. On behalf of a grateful nation, I congratulate Mr. Sweeney on his efforts to ensure that Lt. Finn's name and legacy lives on, and for his service during World War II, reflecting great credit upon himself and the United States Navy.

HONORING DR. TERRY CHRISTENSEN UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo and Congressman Mike Honda, to acknowledge and honor Dr. Terry Christensen upon his retirement from San Jose State University.

Terry has been a Professor of Political Science at San Jose State University (SJSU) since 1970. He received his B.A. at Stanford University and his PhD in Political Science at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is a specialist on state and local politics and the media frequently call on him for analysis of politics in California and Silicon Valley.

Having served on numerous civic committee and commissions, he created and currently directs the political science department's internship program. He is the SJSU Coordinator for the Sacramento Semester Intern Program, the Panetta Congressional Internship Program,

and the SJSU Poli Sci Congressional Internship Program. Terry works hard to give back to his students and stimulate interest in government.

In 1998, Terry was named San Jose State University's Outstanding Professor. The 2006 Political Science Class recognized him as Professor of the Year. He is a prolific writer and students regard him as a legend at SJSU.

He served for 2.5 years as founding Executive Director of CommUniverCity San Jose, which is a partnership among the City of San Jose, SJSU, and the Five Wounds and Brookwood Terrace neighborhoods. CommUniverCity San Jose seeks to empower students and residents and to build community by organizing service-learning projects that address education, community health and improvements to the neighborhood environment.

In order to preserve Terry's legacy, San Jose State University is creating a scholarship program in his name.

We hereby honor Terry Christensen, on the special occasion of his retirement and wish him all the best in the years to come. We commend Terry for his valuable service to our community and wish him the best in his future endeavors. We are very fortunate to have benefited from his compassion, expertise, and commitment. He has left his mark in San Jose State University and the larger community.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS MONTH

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the month of March as National Social Workers Month. Social workers serve a critical role in our society, one that is deserving of our attention, respect and commendation. Upon becoming a social worker, one embraces a very simple but essential mission: to enhance the well-being of others and to help meet the basic needs of all people, especially the most vulnerable. In working towards that goal, social workers work in adolescent and youth development; aging and family care giving; child protection and family services; health care navigation; mental and behavioral health treatment and military and veterans assistance. Social workers are key to holding our social safety net together. They work to prevent the vulnerable in our country from falling through the cracks.

The Social Work Department at the Clayton County Public School System is a shining example of the importance of social workers. The department works to foster student performance, school completion and success in the workplace by assisting students in attaining the maximum benefits from their education. These excellent social workers collaborate with families and communities to remove barriers that interfere with student performance. Please join me today in thanking the Clayton County Public School social workers, and social workers nationwide for their hard work and dedication. I have great expectations that they will continue to serve us with the same excellence that they have always displayed.

KEY ALLIANCES IMPROVE REGIONAL SECURITY AND PROTECT CRITICAL U.S. INTERESTS

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues of the critical importance of our strategic allies. While some in Congress say that the United States should focus our efforts to defend our nation on building walls and restricting entry at our borders, we must continue to address the global threat of terrorism through cooperation and coordination with our allies.

While I am sure that most everyone would agree with the general concept that nations should work together to fight terrorism, I wanted to mention two countries to give my colleagues concrete examples of the critical importance of our alliances and the need to cultivate these relationships.

Turkey has a key strategic position, controlling the Bosphorus Straits and sharing a border with Syria, Iran and Iraq. A member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Turkey has been a strong ally to the United States and to all of Europe. Turkey has proven to be an important partner as US forces have left Iraq and regional tensions have increased as the situation in Syria continues to devolve and Iran pursues nuclear technologies. Turkey's importance to the US and the world will continue to increase in the future, and Turkey will be critical to maintaining peace and stability.

At a time when the US and NATO continue to maintain a large military presence in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan is a valued partner. From providing critical access to Afghanistan to helping fight the flow of illegal drugs that fund Taliban insurgents, Azerbaijan has repeatedly proven their commitment to the fight against terrorism. As Azerbaijan continues to develop democratic institutions and a civil society, their contributions to regional and global security will increase even more. At a time when all of our alliances are being tested, the partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan remains strong.

The world is a safer place for all when we combine our efforts to fight those criminals who seek to use terror as a means to achieve their goals. When we work together, we become more than the sum of our parts. I urge my colleagues to support our nation's efforts along with those of our allies like Turkey and Azerbaijan to secure and protect our citizens

HONORING REGGIE COPELAND,
MOBILIAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mobile City Council President Reggie Copeland who was recently named "Mobilierian of the Year" by the Cottage Hill

Civitan Club. I cannot think of anyone in our community who is more deserving of this high honor than Reggie.

Over 70 years ago, Reggie and his family moved to Mobile. He attended Murphy High School, Spring Hill College and the University of Alabama-Mobile Campus. During his school years, Reggie was a star athlete in football, basketball and softball. And as a young man, he developed a passion for athletics that not only taught him the value of sportsmanship, but instilled in him the very best qualities of success through teamwork.

After answering his county's call in the Korean conflict, Reggie returned stateside to embark on a long journey that would take him from the basketball courts to public office. After serving as a nationally recognized collegiate basketball official for 25 years and taking the role of executive with Alabama Power Company for an equal amount of time, Reggie found even greater challenges in leading the City of Mobile.

In 1985, he was elected to the Mobile City Council and has been re-elected six times. Currently, Reggie is in his second term as President of the City Council.

Among his long and storied history of community involvement, Reggie is credited with helping establish Mobile's Junior Miss Program, known today as the Distinguished Young Woman of America, and also helped bring the Magnolia Grove Golf Course, of the world-renowned RSA/Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, to town.

He also led the construction, and later expansion, of the Copeland-Cox Tennis Center, which bears his name, and is generally considered one of the finest public municipal tennis complexes anywhere in the country.

Councilman Copeland also played a major role in helping reestablish minor league baseball in our city with the construction of Hank Aaron Stadium, home of the Mobile BayBears.

Reggie's considerable accomplishments and recognitions include former President, Mobile Jaycees; former Vice President of Alabama Jaycees; President of the TB Health Association of Mobile County; Chairman of the Mobile County Red Cross Blood Drive; Chairman, United Way Commercial Division; President of the Southeastern Conference Basketball Officials Association; President of the Port City Basketball Officials Association of Mobile; Member of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame Board; Inducted into the Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame, Mobile; Inducted into the Spring Hill College Hall of Fame; Chairman of the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference Basketball Tournament, 1995-97; Chairman of the Little Sisters of the Poor Golf Tournament, 1995-2000; Inducted into the Mobile Sports Hall of Fame, 1999; and member of the Board of Directors-Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce.

Reggie also assisted with the Mobile Mystics Hockey franchise and is currently working to develop a world-class soccer complex in Mobile. He also played a major role in development of the Riverfront Park and the Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center.

In short, it is safe to say that there are few individuals in Mobile's rich history, which has spanned more than three centuries, who have been a more positive force for change than Mobilian of the Year Reggie Copeland.

Although Reggie recently announced his intention to retire from elected office at the end of his present term, I know him far too well to believe that he is going to slow down for even a minute. Reggie Copeland is Mobile's own version of the Energizer Bunny, and our community, our region and our entire state are better places because of his tireless efforts and unselfish example.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for all Mobilians in expressing our gratitude for Reggie's enormous dedication to making Mobile second to none. We all wish him and his fine family, including his five children and 13 grandchildren, all the best. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor.

RECOGNIZING GENEVA A. BLACK OF PHILADELPHIA ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the tenacious spirit, remarkable expertise and admirable accomplishments of Geneva A. Black in providing high-quality and compassionate in-home, community and center-based services for elderly and vulnerable residents in West Philadelphia.

As Ms. Black begins a richly deserved retirement as Executive Director of Haddington Multi-Services for Older Adults, Inc., where she has served our senior citizens for 41 years, it is time to reflect upon and thank this outstanding leader. In 1970 Ms. Black joined the Haddington Leadership Organization as its housing coordinator and two years later became Executive Director. At the time, Haddington had three employees. Now the renamed and expanded Haddington Multi-Services for Older Adults, Inc. has a fulltime staff of 25 and a million-dollar-plus budget.

Along the way, under Ms. Black's leadership, the Haddington organization purchased the vacant firehouse at 5500 Haverford Avenue and converted the building to a showplace center for senior activities, serving over 30,000 West Philadelphia seniors since 1975. It is only fitting that Philadelphia City Council recently named the stretch of Haverford Avenue adjoining the firehouse as "Geneva Black Way." This is where Geneva Black's way on behalf of older Philadelphians has been making a difference for decades—and that service will be her legacy into retirement.

Having her "Way" is only one of the many tributes flowing toward this remarkable leader. The Board of Directors of Haddington Multi-Services, in recognition of her valued contributions, will honor Geneva A. Black with a celebration on Friday April 27, 2012, at First District Plaza in West Philadelphia.

I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in saluting and congratulating a great Philadelphian, Geneva A. Black, and to wish her good health and long life upon her retirement as Executive Director of Haddington Multi-Services for Older Adults Inc.

COMMEMORATING THE 33RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 33rd anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act.

Since the end of World War II, the United States and Taiwan have fostered a close relationship that has been of enormous strategic and economic benefit to both countries. When the United States shifted diplomatic relations from Taiwan to the People's Republic of China in January 1979, Congress moved quickly to pass the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) to ensure that the United States would continue its robust engagement with Taiwan in the areas of commerce, culture, and security cooperation. With President Carter's signature on April 10, 1979, this important and lasting piece of legislation became the Law of the Land and served as the statutory basis for U.S.-Taiwan relations going forward.

After 33 years, the TRA still stands as a model of congressional leadership in the history of our foreign relations and remains the cornerstone of a very mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and Taiwan. Through three decades marked by momentous social, economic, and political transformations, Taiwan has remained a trusted ally of the United States that now shares with us the ideals of freedom and democracy. The foresight of the TRA's drafters in providing that "the United States will make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services . . . to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability," and affirming "the preservation and enhancement of the human rights of all the people on Taiwan" as explicit objectives of the United States, has contributed in large measure to make Taiwan what it is today—a vibrant, open society governed by democratic institutions.

Though the people of Taiwan now enjoy fundamental human rights and civil liberties, they continue to live day after day under the ominous shadow cast by over 1400 short and medium-range ballistic missiles that the People's Republic of China (PRC) has aimed at them. The PRC persists in claiming Taiwan as a "renegade province," refusing to renounce the use of force to prevent formal de jure independence, even codifying its right to military action via passage of the so-called "Anti-Secession Law" on March 14, 2005. The United States Congress strongly condemned the "Anti-Secession Law" in House Concurrent Resolution 98, passed on March 16, 2005.

The TRA affirmed that the United States' decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China was based on the expectation that the future of Taiwan would be determined by peaceful means. Furthermore, it stipulates that it is the policy of the United States "to consider any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means . . . a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and of grave concern to the United States." The unambiguous and principled stance contained in these provisions has been instrumental to the maintenance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait for more than thirty years.

I therefore invite my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 33rd anniversary of the

TRA, to further underline our unwavering commitment to the TRA and our support for the strong and deepening relationship between the U.S. and Taiwan.

TO AMEND THE WAGNER-PEYSER ACT TO INCLUDE THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THAT ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILLI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a bill that will allow the Northern Mariana Islands to be eligible for Employment Service Programs by amending the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933, as amended by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

The Employment Service Programs provide funds to establish a nationwide system of public employment offices and One-Stop Career Centers across the United States. These centers have successfully connected millions of job seekers with employers throughout the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam. The legislation I am introducing today, in remedying the statutory absence of the Northern Mariana Islands from the definition of "State," will allow for the expansion of the federal Employment Service network to the NMI, thereby contributing to both the local and National economy by supporting the development of an experienced, motivated, and most importantly, employed American workforce.

Should the Commonwealth government choose to apply for this grant, the funds could be used to stand up One-Stop Centers in the NMI that would help those searching for work find jobs and help local employers find qualified workers. These Centers provide services that have a proven record of success in hundreds of locales throughout the United States.

Our national economy is still pulling itself out of the deepest recession since the 1930s. The economy in the NMI is in even worse condition, however, with declines in GDP every single year since 2004. This bill provides for the possible extension of a federal program that is helping address unemployment around our Nation to the one place, perhaps, that needs help the most, the Northern Marianas.

The employment services the Wagner-Peyser programs provide have proven effective in facilitating the connection between the employers' demand for employees and the labor market's abundant supply of a willing workforce. That is why I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

We have to do more in this Congress for U.S. workers. This is not a new program. This is not a fundamental amendment to the intent of the Act. This bill merely offers equal treatment to the Northern Marianas in giving them the chance to access funding to support our local businesses and workers in need.

TRIBUTE TO MARYK ELLIOTT-PARHAM

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize MaryK Elliott-Parham, who is retiring after more than two decades of service to Oregon's First Congressional District. For the past 27 years, MaryK has dedicated herself to the people of Northwest Oregon, ensuring that constituents always had a direct and meaningful connection to their government. Her tireless work and positive demeanor were a consistent inspiration to staff and citizens alike.

MaryK is a lifelong Oregonian, and graduated from Portland State University in 1978. She began her Congressional career as a caseworker for Representative Les AuCoin. Her efforts on behalf of constituents soon led to her promotion to lead caseworker. She built a staff that was renowned for its commitment to service.

During the 104th Congress, MaryK became district director for Representative Elizabeth Furse, a position she held up to the 112th Congress. She led the office, working day and night through the devastating storms and floods of 1996 and 2007, providing a critical access point to government assistance for constituents who had lost their homes and livelihoods. She was also known for her outstanding organizational efforts, helping members of Congress reach out to their constituents, developing detailed schedules and tracking every town hall and every visit to schools, businesses and community gatherings to be sure every community had access to its representative.

The loyalty and hard work of the staff and alumni of the First District are a testament to MaryK's management and leadership skills. Her first priority was always getting the job done for constituents, but her kindness and care for staff, especially in difficult times, created a network of people across the state, country, and globe who consider her part of their family.

On behalf of the constituents and staff of Oregon's First Congressional District, I want to congratulate MaryK on her retirement and wish her and her family all the best.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS FREDERIC NICHOLAS MOSES

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Sergeant First Class Frederic Nicholas Moses. A combat decorated veteran who deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan to serve his country, to protect those who could not protect themselves.

SFC Moses was born on 06 May 1985 in St. Charles, Missouri. He graduated from Duchesne High School in St. Charles, Missouri in 2003 and enlisted in the United States Army on 01 June 2004 as an 18X. He attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Upon

completion of the Special Forces Qualification Course in 2006, he was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky as a Special Forces Communications Sergeant. He deployed with the Battalion Signal Detachment to Taji, Iraq from October 2007 to May 2008 in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM V. He went on to join Special Forces Operational Detachment—Alpha 5326, and deployed with them to Baqubah, Iraq from January through July 2009 in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM VI, and conducted a Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET) exercise to Jordan from January through March 2010. SFC Moses then deployed to Baqubah, Iraq from August 2010 through March 2011 in support of Operation NEW DAWN. Following a short training cycle, he returned to Jordan for a second JCET exercise from October through November 2011.

Most recently, SFC Moses deployed to Baghlan-e-Jadid, Afghanistan from January through February 2012 in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM XVIII. SFC Moses' military education included Airborne School, Special Forces Assessment and Selection, Survival, Escape, Resistance and Evasion Course, Special Forces Qualification Course, Ranger School, Jumpmaster School, Basic Military Mountaineering Course, and the Advanced Special Operations Techniques Course. SFC Moses' awards and decorations included the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and Army Achievement Medal. His decorations included the Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, Combat Infantryman Badge, and Parachutist Badge.

Today, we pay our respects and honor the life of Frederic Nicolas "Nic" Moses. His dedication to his job and fellow soldiers was unquestionable and unwavering. A hero to many, the community of St. Charles, and all who have served with him, will miss him.

To his family, we offer our prayers and gratitude for providing the world a great young man who made a positive impact on not only his community, but communities around the world.

I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the life of Nicholas Moses.

HONORING THE TRINITY VALLEY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE LADY
CARDINALS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the outstanding achievement of the Trinity Valley Community College Lady Cardinals as the 2012 National Junior College Athletics Association (NJCAA) Division I Women's Basketball Champions. This marks the 6th NJCAA Championship for the Lady Cardinals.

In a 69 to 55 victory, the Lady Cards closed out their season with a perfect 36-0 record. That kind of differential is remarkable and a true testament to the great coaching staff of Co-Head Coaches Kenya and Michael Landers, Assistant Coach Courtney Simmons, and Coaching Assistant Jeremy Bonin. Trinity

Valley Community College President Dr. Glendon Forgey, faculty, staff, and students are to be commended for their continued contributions to success both on the court and in the classroom.

Team members include: ShaQuita Arnick, Jenea Barrett, Starr Breedlove, ShaKayla Caples, Taneshia Davis, Keuna Flax, Brittney Gill, Ashley Jones, Breanna Lewis, Alice Rob-inson, and Keiana Vines.

On behalf of the citizens of Athens and the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to be able to recognize the Lady Cardinals in the United States House of Representatives.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2013

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 112) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2014 through 2022:

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of the Congressional Black Caucus Alternative Budget for Fiscal Year 2013. The budget plan outlined by the CBC takes a direct and balanced approach to restoring America's promise, achieves fiscal responsibility and sets a priority to invest in our future.

The CBC Alternative Budget protects Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, Unemployment Insurance and other programs that are vital to the most vulnerable populations, which are in districts throughout this country.

Although our nation's economy is showing positive signs of growth, this Congress must continue to make critical investments in communities to accelerate—not stagger—our recovery.

To that end, the CBC Alternative Budget makes smart investments in education, workforce training, and transportation and infrastructure projects. These investments are necessary to ensure that America has a skilled and educated workforce that is prepared to tackle the challenges of the 21st Century and compete with attempts to take American jobs overseas.

Specifically, the CBC Budget will: invest an additional \$25 billion above the President's budget in Education and Job Training in FY 2013 alone;

provide an additional \$5 billion above the President's Budget request for housing programs, foreclosure assistance, and other important programs for community development;

invest an additional \$50 billion in job creating transportation and infrastructure projects in FY 2013 alone and provide \$155 billion above the President's budget over the next decade; and

increase the maximum Pell Grant award by nearly \$1,000 over the President's Fiscal Year 2013 budget request.

The CBC Budget acknowledges the deficit and pays for domestic priorities by enacting

tax reform measures to raise nearly \$4 trillion in new revenue over the next decade through the Buffet Rule to ensure that millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share in taxes, and closes corporate tax loopholes and preferences for corporations that ship American jobs overseas.

The \$4 trillion in revenue raised from millionaires paying their fair share will allow us to pay for an extension of tax cuts for hard working, middle class Americans—providing them with more money to feed their families, pay their bills, send their kids to school and fill up their gas tanks.

The budget would open an enormous hole in our country's social safety net by largely shifting healthcare costs to seniors on Medicare, while at the same time giving millionaires and billionaires a free pass by giving the rich an average tax cut of \$150,000.

In California alone, 5,252,371 seniors would be forced onto vouchers when they retire—a system that has been shown to be a sub-standard version of Medicare.

The GOP budget will force seniors to pay higher premiums in order to access the same benefits they would receive under the current system. For a typical 67 year-old senior, the Ryan budget could increase out-of-pocket health care costs by \$5,900.

The GOP budget would decimate our primary assistance to the poor by cutting \$3.3 trillion from needed programs like Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

In fact, a report conducted by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found that 62 percent of proposed cuts in the Ryan budget plan come from programs that assist low-income individuals. This is the Republican vision: to balance the budget on the backs of the seniors and the poor.

The Ryan budget once again fails the test of balance, fairness, and shared responsibility. It takes a slash and burn approach to the budget, rather than going line by line to carefully examine where cuts and new sources of revenue should be implemented.

The Ryan budget plan would weaken job growth. The Economic Policy Institute found that if we were to follow Chairman RYAN's proposal, 1.3 million jobs would be lost in 2013 and 2.8 million jobs would be lost in 2014.

Mr. Chair, the CBC Alternative Budget has a better way. We understand that our current economic situation calls for a balanced and responsible approach that protects our fragile recovery and invests in our future.

For these reasons, Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for the CBC Alternative Budget.

IN TRIBUTE TO ROBERT A.

BRINER

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Robert A. Briner, who is retiring this week as Chief of the Ventura County, California, District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation.

Chief Briner has more than 31 years of experience in law enforcement, 22 of them with

the District Attorney's Office. He began as a front-line investigator and was promoted through the ranks of the Bureau, culminating in his appointment as Chief of the Bureau of Investigation in February of 2007, where he manages 48 peace officers and 20 civilian employees.

As he rose through the Bureau, Chief Briner served as Supervising Senior District Attorney Investigator and Deputy Chief Investigator before his appointment as Chief of the Bureau of Investigation. During his tenure with the Bureau, he has served in the Sexual Assault/Family Protection Unit, Special Investigations/Criminal Intelligence Unit, Political Corruption Unit, Major Crimes Unit, Supervisor of the Welfare Fraud Unit, Supervisor of the Major Crimes Unit, and Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division.

Chief Briner is an active member of the FBI-Law Enforcement Executive Development Association. He also regularly attends meetings of the Ventura County Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee and chairs the Chiefs' Committee of the California District Attorney Investigators' Association. He holds an associate of science degree in administration of justice and a bachelor of arts degree in leadership. Chief Briner also has attended formal training from the State of California Department of Justice in supervision, management, and executive development.

Outside the office, Chief Briner enjoys lecturing on the topic of leadership, and most recently addressed the Young Leaders of Santa Maria. One of his greatest gifts is mentoring and encouraging young people, from little leaguers on the baseball field, to young college students at local universities, to newly hired investigators.

He also enjoys motorcycle riding, fishing, adventures in his motor home, playing golf with his son, Tyson, playing softball, and spending time with family and friends.

The Chief and his wife, Gail, will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary in July. Chief Briner is an avid Dodger baseball fan and he and Gail often follow the team to spring training and attend many season games. He also enjoys photography and taking in nature.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in thanking Chief Briner for his lifetime of public service and in wishing him good health and many years of continued happiness with his family.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. BYUNG WOOK YOON AND NATIONAL KOREAN AMERICAN DAY

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Korean American Day, I would like to recognize the 109th anniversary of the first Korean immigrants to arrive in the United States and the achievements of the Korean-American responsible for bringing both this day and the importance of the contributions of Korean-Americans to light, Dr. Byung Wook Yoon.

In 2003, Dr. Yoon, then President of the Southern California Centennial Committee of Korean Immigration to the United States,

began the campaign to establish a national Korean American Day. In 2004, when Dr. Yoon became president of the Korean-American Foundation, he formed the National Committee of Korean American Day. Under his leadership in 2005, the committee claimed victory when the U.S. Senate (S. 283) and U.S. House of Representatives (H.R. 487) passed resolutions supporting the goals and ideals of Korean American Day and establishing an annual celebration recognizing the many contributions of Americans of Korean descent to the life and cultural fabric of the United States.

Aside from spearheading the campaign to establish Korean American Day, Dr. Yoon has accomplished a great deal in his lifetime. He is the recipient of the Presidential Award from the Republic of Korea, the Grand Award for World Korean Day from the World Korean Interchange and Cooperation Association, and the Grand Award for Korean American Day from the Korean-American Foundation. Dr. Yoon was also selected as one of the one hundred honorable Korean immigrants to the United States by the Korean-American History Museum.

All his life, Dr. Yoon has demonstrated his leadership and dedication to the Korean-American community through his support of non-profit and service organizations. For example, he is responsible for community oriented service projects such as Korean-American Respect for the Environment, KARE, and has served as the Honorary National Chairman of the Korean-American Foundation USA. He has also served three times as Chairman of the Korean Institute of Southern California.

On behalf of all of my colleagues within the U.S. House of Representatives I would like to honor Dr. Byung Wook Yoon for his outstanding work in raising awareness to the many contributions Korean-Americans have made in every facet of American society. In honor of Dr. Yoon's work, I introduced H.Res. 599. The resolution honors him for his outstanding service on behalf of the Korean American community. The resolution reads:

Whereas on January 13, 2012, the Korean American community in the United States celebrated Korean American Day initiated by Dr. Yoon.

Whereas this year marks the 109th anniversary of the first Korean immigrants to arrive in the United States.

Whereas in 2003, Dr. Yoon, then President of the Southern California Centennial Committee of Korean Immigration to the United States, began the campaign to establish a national Korean American Day.

Whereas in 2003, the Korean American Foundation was founded as the successor of the Centennial Committee of Korean Immigration with the goals of fostering pride in Korean cultural heritage and traditions as well as establishing Korean American Day.

Whereas in 2004, Dr. Yoon became president of the Korean American Foundation, forming the National Committee of Korean American Day, successfully campaigning for the passage of legislation recognizing Korean American Day on the Federal, State, and local levels.

Whereas on October 20, 2005, the U.S. Senate passed S. Res. 283, "Recognizing the contributions of Korean Americans to the United States and encouraging the celebration of Korean American Day".

Whereas on December 13, 2005, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H. Res. 487 "Supporting the goals and ideals of Korean American Day", recognizing the many contributions of Americans of Korean descent to

the life and cultural fabric of the United States.

Whereas Dr. Yoon is the recipient of the Presidential Award from the Republic of Korea.

Whereas Dr. Yoon received the first Grand Award for World Korean Day from the World Korean Interchange and Cooperation Association.

Whereas Dr. Yoon was honored with the first Grand Award for Korean American Day from the Korean American Foundation.

Whereas Dr. Yoon was selected as one of a group of 100 honorable Korean immigrants to the United States by the Korean American History Museum.

Whereas Dr. Yoon obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Political and Diplomacy Science from Korea University and a Master of Arts in Journalism and Communication from Brigham Young University.

Whereas Dr. Yoon received honorary doctorates from Yulin University and the World Mission University.

Whereas Dr. Yoon's professional career has included serving as a correspondent to the United States for the Seoul Kyunghyang Daily Newspaper as well as a Founding Director of Business and Trade for Wilshire State Bank in Los Angeles, California, and has also served three times as Chairman of the Korean Institute of Southern California.

Whereas Dr. Yoon authored the "Korean American Legacies: Challenges and Responses", a source of inspiration for current and future generations of Korean Americans.

Whereas over many years, Dr. Yoon has demonstrated his leadership and dedication to the Korean American community through his work and support of numerous nonprofit and service organizations, including creating KARE (Korean American Respect for the Environment), and serving as the Honorary National Chairman of the Korean American Foundation USA.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the House of Representatives honors Byung Wook Yoon for his outstanding work raising awareness and recognition of the contributions Korean Americans have made in every facet of United States society.

HONORING TRAVIS LANG

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Travis Lang of the Kirksville High School Wrestling team for winning the Class 2 Missouri State Wrestling Championship in the 182-pound weight class.

Mr. Lang and his coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and for bringing home the state title in the Class 2 182-pound weight class to his school and community. This is his third state title.

I ask that you join me in recognizing Mr. Lang for a job well done!

RECOGNIZING THE DUNN'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Joe Bob and Rose Lynne

Dunn, who on March 23, 1962, were married in the Everton Christian Church in Everton, Missouri, and are now celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

Joe Bob and Rose Lynne were born and raised in rural Dade County, Missouri. They both grew up on farms and graduated from Everton R3 Public School, Joe Bob—Class of 1959, and Rose Lynne—Class of 1961. While in school they were high school sweethearts and I am proud to say that their love has stood the test of time.

After graduating, Joe Bob and Rose Lynne went to work in Springfield, Missouri. Joe Bob spent his career in the Producers Creamery plant, now known as Dairy Farmers of America, and retired in 1999. Rose worked as a secretary at Lily Tulip, Zenith Electronics, and retired Emeritus from Missouri State University in 2007.

Joe Bob and Rose Lynne have been blessed with a son, Scott, who lives in Springfield, Missouri. Scott and his wife Tobin have provided the light of Joe Bob and Rose Lynne's life, their grandsons Taylor and Jordan. They both actively enjoy cheering on their grandsons in their various team sports.

When they were not busy with their family, Joe Bob and Rose Lynne enjoy square dancing together. They were active members of the Frisco Square Dance Club and to date have attended 13 national conventions. They are currently members of the Christian Church and are loyal supporters of the Missouri State athletic teams. As a family they enjoy the great outdoors by traveling and camping.

These days, they relish their well-earned golden years in the retirement home, at the Island Green Golf Community in Republic, Missouri.

I am proud of Joe Bob and Rose Lynne and am honored to call them my neighbors in the 7th Congressional District of Missouri. I want to commemorate their 50th wedding anniversary and may God bless them with many more happy and loving years together.

HONORING SUNFLOWER-HUMPHREYS COUNTIES PROGRESS, INCORPORATED

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the community action agency, Sunflower-Humphreys Counties Progress, Incorporated. Sunflower-Humphreys Counties Progress, Inc. was founded in August 1965 and has locations throughout the Mississippi Delta. Sunflower-Humphreys Counties Progress, Inc. is dedicated to providing quality service to the community through diverse selections of programs that empower the community.

Sunflower-Humphreys Counties Progress, Inc. provides education and awareness about various educational and community development programs. As one of the organization's largest programs, the Sunflower Humphreys Head Start program promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through education, health, and nutritional services. Through the program's five Head Start sites and two school

districts, they serve 570 Head Start children. Their Early Head Start program is for low-income infants, toddlers, and pregnant women and their families. This program addresses children's physical, social, and emotional development as well as assists pregnant women in accessing comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care. In their four Early Head Start sites they serve 72 Early Head Start children and twelve pregnant women.

Since its inception in 1965 the Sunflower, Humphreys Counties Progress, Inc. has also worked to combat poverty for persons living below the poverty guidelines within Sunflower County, Mississippi. They have implemented a food pantry which distributes donated foods to those in need and a thrift shop that sells donated items for a very low price. They also have a Senior Companion Aging Program, which is a service initiative for people age 60 and older that provides not only meals, but also assistance and friendship to elderly individuals who are homebound.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing the Sunflower-Humphreys Counties Progress organization in its commitment to combating poverty by taking action in empowering the citizens of Sunflower and Humphreys Counties.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
HENRY MADGWICK

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to take a moment to honor the life of Mr. Henry Madgwick of Terrell, Texas. Henry, known to those closest to him as Harry, passed away on March 10, 2012.

Harry was born on May 16, 1923 in Hampshire, England to William Henry and Emma Mary Madgwick. At 16 years of age, Harry volunteered for Home Guard, which was a defense organization in the United Kingdom during World War II. Soon after joining the Home Guard, Harry was drafted into the Royal Air Force (RAF) as a cadet and at 17 years of age was made a squad leader in the Air Training Corps (ATC).

The Lend-Lease Act was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on March 11, 1941. The President described the Lend-Lease Act as "helping to put out the fire in your neighbor's house before your own house caught fire and burned down." During World War II, thousands of British pilots learned to fly at six civilian training schools in the United States. The first and largest of the schools, known as the No. 1 British Flying Training School (BFTS), was in Terrell, Texas, located in Kaufman County. After the United States entered the war, American Aviation Cadets also trained at the school. More than 2,000 Royal Air Force and American Army Air Force pilots earned their wings in the skies over North Texas between 1941 and 1945 to help our nation achieve victory—including Harry, who arrived in 1944.

Harry met his soon-to-be wife, Kate Weatherford, in Terrell while training. Once the war ended and Harry was discharged from the military, he returned to Terrell and lived there for the rest of his life. Kate and Harry were

married for 47 years until her passing in 1993. In 1995, he remarried to Kate Marriot Sanders, a widow of another RAF pilot who was trained at the No. 1 BFTS in Terrell. She passed away in 2001.

Harry was a fixture in Terrell, having served as Mayor, Chairman of the Baseball Committee, Director of Terrell Youth Council, the Terrell Park Board, and countless other boards and committees in the community. In 1974, he was named the Terrell Rotary Club Citizen of the Year. Most notably, though, Harry could always be found working as the President of the BFTS Museum. The BFTS Museum, located at the site of the No. 1 BFTS, was dear to Harry's heart. He had a wealth of knowledge and passion for the BFTS and has left a historic legacy for not only the city of Terrell, but for two grateful nations.

On behalf of the citizens of Terrell and the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize the life of Mr. Henry Madgwick and recognize the lasting impact he had on the Terrell community and this country.

HONORING LENORE GOODFRIEND
ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Lenore Goodfriend on the occasion of her retirement from federal service. This week, Lenore will retire from her position with my office after over 20 years of public service. She is truly a remarkable person, having dedicated two decades to addressing the concerns of the many constituents in the 3rd Congressional District who contact my office on a daily basis, and someone I can call a friend to myself and my family.

I have been honored to know Lenore for many years beyond my time in Congress. Lenore is a compassionate and selfless public servant who has been active in her community in Oak Lawn and serves on the Johnson-Phelps VFW Post 5220 women's auxiliary. During her time in my office, she has helped countless members of the military with everything from dealing with the VA to obtaining medals they earned but never received. More than one constituent has remarked that her last name is no accident: she is truly a "good friend" to those in need of assistance.

Between balancing personal obligations and serving the public, Lenore is a true inspiration for her family, friends, and colleagues. I admire her strength and determination, and will miss her presence on my staff. I know Lenore will not be far away, I am sure I will be seeing her in the community, and I look forward to hearing about the next stage in her life's journey with her husband Dave, a veteran who served our nation in the Army.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Lenore Goodfriend on her many years of dedicated public service. May she enjoy her retirement to the fullest.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO THE
GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to congratulate the Girl Scouts of the USA on their 100th Anniversary.

With a mission to build, "girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place" the Girl Scouts have served over 50 million women in the United States.

From the first ever Girl Scout troop created in 1912, the Girl Scouts have sought to instill girls and young women with the ability to be both self-reliant and resourceful and I believe very few organizations have shown the capacity to foster leadership in our nation's girls like the Girl Scouts of the USA.

The Girl Scouts have proven themselves to be an organization of action. With a goal of fostering leadership, the statistics alone speak to the overwhelming success of the Girl Scouts. Over half of my female colleagues in both the House and the Senate were Girl Scouts and over half of all female business owners in the United States were former Girl Scouts. I have no doubt that many of the 2.3 million girls currently involved with this dynamic organization will continue to live out their call to "make the world a better place" through their leadership, and I look forward to seeing what the next generation of dedicated Girl Scouts will accomplish.

I am proud to join my colleagues in cosponsoring H. Res. 460, Expressing support for designation of 2012 as the "Year of the Girl" and celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the USA.

RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RUFUS
THOMAS, JR.

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the legacy and accomplishments of Rufus Thomas, Jr., one of the most charismatic and beloved performers of rhythm & blues, funk and soul music. Mr. Thomas was born in the tiny hamlet of Cayce, Mississippi on March 27, 1917 and moved to Memphis when he was two years old. He passed away in 2001 and would have turned 95 years of age this year. Before his passing, he had contributed significantly to the Memphis music scene and his legacy lives on through his daughter, singer Carla Thomas, and his son, keyboardist Marvell Thomas. In 1961, Carla Thomas' "Gee Whiz (Look at His Eyes)" charted within the Top 10 on the pop chart and within the Top 5 on the R&B chart. Marvell Thomas was keyboardist and arranger for such greats as The Staple Singers, Etta James and Albert King, and co-produced Isaac Hayes' album, "Hot Buttered Soul."

Entertaining people came naturally for Rufus. In his youth, Rufus earned pocket change by tap dancing on Beale Street. In his

teenage years, he performed with the Rabbit Foot Minstrels, a traveling vaudeville show, as a tap dancer. He comprised one-half of the comedy team known as Rufus and Bones with Robert "Bones" Couch. Throughout the 1940s and 1950s he hosted Amateur Night at the Palace Theatre, where he introduced young performers such as B.B. King, Bobby "Blue" Bland and countless others.

In the late 1940s, Memphis radio station WDIA-AM emerged as the first radio station in the country to target black audiences with black DJs playing black-oriented programming. Rufus landed a job there in 1948 and soon became one of the station's most popular DJs. His 2-hour nighttime show, "Hoot and Holler" premiered and helped launch the careers of music icons such as Elvis Presley, Ike Turner, Isaac Hayes, Roscoe Gordon and Junior Parker. Rufus continued to be an on-air personality at WDIA, influencing musicians in the Memphis area for the next 40 years, while still creating and performing his own music.

Rufus played an indispensable role in the birth of Memphis' two great record companies, Sun Records and Stax Records. His 1953 single, "Bear Cat," an answer to Big Mama Thornton's then-popular record, "Hound Dog," became the first national hit for the upstart record label. In 1959, Rufus and his then-teenage daughter Carla became the first stars of the new Stax Records with their single, "Cause I Love You." Rufus would go on to release a string of popular songs for Stax, including favorites such as "Walking The Dog" (1964) and "Do The Funky Chicken" (1969). Throughout his career, Rufus appeared on the Billboard charts 29 times with the help of such singles as "Push and Pull" (1970) and "The Breakdown" (1971).

His life and seventy-year career were inextricably linked with the development of black entertainment in the 20th century and his work earned him an array of accolades. In January 1992, he was honored by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, named as an "Early Influence." That same year the Rhythm and Blues Foundation honored him with its prestigious Pioneer Award. In 1996, he was featured as a performer at the Olympic Games in Atlanta. For his 80th birthday in 1997, the city of Memphis renamed Hernando Street as Rufus Thomas Boulevard at the intersection of Beale Street where the Palace Theater once stood. In 1998, Rufus received an award from the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in recognition of his five decades of promoting black music on radio.

Off stage, Thomas was entirely serious about his work as an ambassador for Memphis and its music. In his characteristically forthright fashion, he told the journalist Richard Knight: "Memphis has made more of a contribution to music than any other one city in the whole world, and that includes New York." Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in remembering the life and legacy of Rufus Thomas, Jr.

CONGRATULATING DR. JOHN HITT
FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AS
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Dr. John Hitt on his tremendous record of accomplishment as President of the University of Central Florida (UCF). This month marks Dr. Hitt's 20th year of service to UCF, and it gives me great pleasure to recognize Dr. Hitt's contributions to UCF and the Central Florida community.

Under Dr. Hitt's leadership, UCF has planned and won approval for a new college of medicine, doubled enrollment while enhancing the quality of academic offerings, exponentially increased the number of doctoral degrees awarded each year, and expanded research funding from \$6.2 million to more than \$121 million per year.

Before coming to UCF, Dr. Hitt held numerous posts as both faculty and executive leadership at academic institutions, including Assistant Professor of Psychology at Tulane University, Vice President of Texas Christian University Research Foundation, and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Bradley University.

Dr. Hitt's passion for education led him to UCF, where he arrived in March 1992. Since that time, he has been honored with many awards and recognitions, including Junior Achievement's Spirit of Achievement Award in 2008, Orlando Business Journal's inaugural Legacy Award in 2006, Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission James B. Greene award in 2002, and the Greater Orlando Chamber of Commerce's John Young Award in 2008.

It was a personal honor to work with Dr. Hitt while serving as a member of the Board of Trustees for UCF. Dr. Hitt's attitude of servant leadership and his dedication to quality education for UCF's students has been a testimony to his personal modesty and humility. Dr. Hitt is not only a great president for UCF, but he is a model for the University's students.

On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I congratulate and applaud Dr. Hitt on his 20th year of service as the president of the University of Central Florida. May his character, life, and efforts inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2013

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 112) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2014 through 2022.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of the Congressional Progressive Caucus Alternative Budget for Fiscal Year 2013. The budget plan outlined by the CPC takes a calculated and balanced approach to restoring America's promise, and investing in our future.

Unlike the House GOP Budget Resolution, the CPC Alternative Budget protects Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, Unemployment Insurance and other programs that are vital to the most vulnerable populations in our society.

In my district, we suffer from rates of unemployment and home foreclosure that are significantly higher than the rest of the country. Although our nation's economy is showing positive signs of growth, we must continue to make critical investments in our communities to accelerate our recovery.

To that end, the CPC Alternative Budget makes smart investments in education, job creation measures, and transportation and infrastructure projects. These investments are necessary to ensure that America has a skilled and educated workforce that is prepared to tackle the challenges of the 21st Century. Without these investments, the United States will lose its competitive edge.

A \$556 billion surface transportation bill would help meet the overwhelming need for repair and construction of our roadways and aging infrastructure. Lastly, the Budget for All outlines a plan for nearly \$1.7 trillion in widespread domestic investment, getting badly needed funds to valuable programs that are scheduled for starvation under current law.

This budget outlines a plan to put over 2 million individuals back to work over the next 2 years by hiring them for work in areas critical to our quality of life. This would create the School Improvement Corps for public school rehabilitation projects, the Park Improvement Corps made of youth ages 16 to 25 for restoration on public lands, the Student Jobs Corps of college students for part-time work study positions, among others. Priority hiring is given to the unemployed and veterans.

Domestic investments create jobs and lay the foundation for exceptional American industries competing in the global economy. The creation of an infrastructure bank would attract private investment toward critical infrastructure projects and facilitate private-public partnerships with our states and localities. Some projections estimate that the iBank could mobilize up to \$625 billion in funding for infrastructure.

The revenue raised from tax reform measures in the CPC budget will allow us to pay for an extension of tax cuts for hard working, middle class Americans—providing them with more money to feed their families, pay their bills, and fill up their gas tanks.

Mr. Chair, the CPC Budget will do all of this while managing to be able to reduce the deficit by \$6.8 trillion.

Instead of working to strengthen Medicare, the Ryan budget would end Medicare as we know it, turning the guarantee of retirement security into a voucher that will shift higher and higher costs over time to over 45 million seniors.

In California alone, 5,252,371 seniors would be forced onto vouchers when they retire.

The GOP budget will force seniors to pay higher premiums in order to access the same benefits they would receive under the current system. For a typical 67 year-old senior, the

Ryan budget could increase out-of-pocket health care costs by \$5,900.

The GOP budget would decimate our primary assistance to the poor by cutting \$3.3 trillion from essential programs like Medicaid and SNAP.

In fact, a report conducted by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found that 62 percent of proposed cuts in the Ryan budget plan come from programs that assist low-income individuals. This is the Republican vision: to balance the budget on the backs of the seniors and the poor.

The Ryan budget plan would weaken job growth. The Economic Policy Institute found that if we were to follow Chairman Ryan's proposal, 1.3 million jobs would be lost in 2013 and 2.8 million jobs would be lost in 2014.

Mr. Chair, the CPC has a better way. We understand that our current economic situation calls for a balanced approach that protects our fragile recovery and invests in our future.

For these reasons, Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for the CPC Alternative Budget.

IN HONOR OF CÉSAR CHÁVEZ

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of César Chávez on the occasion of what would have been his 85th birthday.

César Chávez was born on March 31, 1927, near Yuma, Arizona. After losing their family farm, the members of the Chávez family became migrant workers, moving to California and following seasonal harvests around the state. Upon experiencing the exploitation of migrant workers and injustices committed against them, Mr. Chávez became a champion of workers' rights.

In 1962, Mr. Chávez and Dolores Huerta co-founded National Farm Workers Association, later known as the United Farm Workers, UFW. Mr. Chávez was inspired by leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and understood the power of non-violence as a tool for change. As a leader of UFW, he used non-violent tactics and strong organizing methods to protest poor working conditions. Mr. Chávez fought for basic improvements for farm workers such as access to drinking water, shade, and restrooms. He was also a tireless advocate for fair wages and decent living conditions.

César Chávez led the fight for the passage of the landmark California Agricultural Labor Relations Act in 1975. This law was the first in the nation to guarantee farm workers the right to organize and bargain collectively. Additionally, his understanding of human suffering led him to fight against the use of the short-handled hoe, which caused personal injury and pain to farm laborers. A California Supreme Court ruling in 1975 banned the use of this tool.

Mr. Chávez was known for his spirit as much as his accomplishments. Mr. Chávez and the UFW embraced an empowering and enduring rallying cry that exemplifies his optimism of the human spirit: "Sí se puede," or "Yes we can."

César Chávez is an inspirational figure in California and throughout our nation. I have no doubt that his efforts have made a positive impact on the lives of countless workers. It is for these reasons that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring César Chávez on the occasion of the 85th anniversary of his birth.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall vote numbers 107–110. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: rollcall No. 107, Amendment to H.R. 3606 by Rep. Peters, "no"; rollcall No. 108, Amendment to H.R. 3606 by Rep. Capps, "no"; rollcall No. 109, H.R. 3606, Motion to Recommit with Instructions, "no"; rollcall No. 110, H.R. 3606, the JOBS Act, "yes."

RECOGNIZING THE MILLBROOK HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Millbrook High School Girls Basketball team, on becoming the only Virginia high school team that has ever won three consecutive State championships in girls basketball.

Earlier this month, the Millbrook Pioneers broke the 61-year-old Virginia High School League record by winning an unprecedented third state title with a victory over the Courtland Cougars. I commend the team for their hard work and their passion for basketball. I would like to extend a special thank you to Coach Debby Sanders who has led the team on the path to success.

I submit the following piece from the Winchester Star on the Millbrook Pioneers' record-breaking victory.

[Mar. 12, 2012]

OUR VIEW: PERFECT PIONEERS—THIRD TITLE
"ICING ON THE CAKE!"

RICHMOND.—Thirty minutes before her girls basketball team took the floor in search of an unprecedented third straight state title Saturday night, Millbrook High Principal Carrie Butler was talking about cake.

No, Mrs. Butler was not hungry, at least not discernibly. The cake she was rather nervously describing to Frederick County School Board member Peggy Clark was purely figurative.

"I told Debby (Millbrook coach Sanders), 'The cake is sweet . . . with or without the icing,'" Mrs. Butler said to Mrs. Clark.

In other words, even if the Pioneers somehow came up short of their 80th consecutive victory on the Siegel Center floor, this "cake," baked with care and love over the last three winters, would not lose its "sweet" taste. Win or lose, what the Pioneers had accomplished up to then—a record 79 straight wins, two state championships—was simply amazing. Or, like the famous song or hit new TV drama, "unforgettable."

Nurturing principal that she is, Mrs. Butler was simply erecting, through metaphor, a firebreak (or “cakebreak”?) against letdown. Courtland, the Pioneers’ opponent, was also entering the contest undefeated. And anything can happen in sports, and often does—especially when two teams that have not played each other previously collide.

Then again, this is Millbrook we’re talking about. Which is another way of saying, “No need to worry. This is old hat. The situation’s well under control.”

And, indeed, it was.

The Pioneers spotted the Cougars the first four points of the game, and traded buckets on a brace of ensuing alternate possessions. But then it came, as predictable as the morning sun. With Courtland leading 8-4, the Pioneers ripped off one of their patented runs, this time to the tune of 20-4, to double the score at 24-12.

The Cougars crept back to within eight at the half, 29-21, and, after Millbrook stretched its lead to 37-23, they managed to cut the margin back to single digits, at 37-28, late in the third quarter. But then, as is their wont, the locals ran away and hid, dosing out the game on a 10-0 spurt to win 63-38.

The contest, though intensely played, had none of the drama of the Pioneers’ first two state titles, against Greenville County (2010) when star Courtnei Green hurt an ankle, or Robert E. Lee last year. So schooled, so measured and yet so relentless, these girls drain drama out of on-court proceedings by sheer talent and will.

In fitting style, the team’s trio of college-bound standouts—Miss Green, Alisha Mobley, and Sara Mead—dominated the stats sheet, all hitting double figures in points. As dominant as Miss Green has been over four years, amassing more than 2,600 points, on this night, it was the “paint” presence of Miss Mobley for whom the opposition had absolutely no answer. She was unstoppable.

But then, consider this: So, too, have been the Pioneers, with their seven seniors and an enviable bench used adroitly by Miss Sanders.

As such, they’ve earned the right to revel. That previously unblemished foe has been vanquished; the icing, too, has been whipped. Let them eat cake. And so let us all—as we’ve just witnessed something truly special, something worth celebrating.

REMARKS BY FORMER ATTORNEY
GENERAL MICHAEL MUKASEY

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, March 24, 2012, former Attorney General of the United States Michael Mukasey spoke at an event in Paris about Iran and the Iranian opposition.

Judge Mukasey’s comments warrant our consideration in light of the events which are currently taking place in Iran and their potential impact on the global community. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to submit them to this Body:

Thank you very much. Thank you to the sponsors of this wonderful conference. Thank you David Amess for your clear, penetrating comments on what is going on.

You know it seems as though we’ve come together many times before to talk about the plight of the residents of Ashraf, and now the plight of the residents of both Ashraf and the ironically named Camp Liberty. And we

were told on each of those occasions that these broadcasts, that these meetings were broadcast to Ashraf. And we haven’t been told it, but I wonder whether perhaps they’re being broadcast at Camp Liberty as well.

I would suggest to you, I would suggest to you that there’s someplace else that they should be broadcast. They should be broadcast to the United States State Department. Of course, based on what’s happened in the last couple of weeks, I can’t guarantee that the signal would get through. I mean it may very well be that at the State Department, just as in Cuba and North Korea and Iran, they jam broadcasts with which they disagree. I don’t know whether that’s true at the State Department or not. I sincerely hope so. But I would hope that a broadcast like this would get through, because then they would see. They would see Mrs. [Maryam] Rajavi open this session by extending her sympathy to the Jewish community of Toulouse. They would see and hear her discuss what her religion really means and what it has to do with terrorism, which is nothing. They would get a hint as to what kind of, quote, terrorist organization, unquote, this really is.

Of course this wasn’t the way it was supposed to be. In 2003 when coalition forces invaded Iraq and encountered the residents of Ashraf, the Ashraf residents peacefully surrendered their weapons, the weapons they had, the only thing they had to defend themselves, and received in return on a piece of paper a guarantee that they would be treated as protected persons under the fourth Geneva Conventions, a guarantee signed on behalf of all coalition forces by a United States general. And they received identity cards that carry the telephone number of the military police, commanded by another United States general who has appeared at these meetings before, General Phillips. As I’m sure you know, because we’ve told the story several times, the Clinton administration put the MEK on a list of foreign terrorist organizations really to appease the Iranians in the hope that that would invite a dialogue. Some dialogue. Some dialogue, with the regime that only a couple of months ago plotted to assassinate a Saudi diplomat in the United States. Those are the people they wanted to talk to.

The FBI went in 2003 and vetted each of the residents of Ashraf to make sure that none of them were a terrorist, and in each case it was certified that none were. The Iraqis, as we know, have been acting increasingly at the behest of the Iranian government, now that the United States has withdrawn. And Nouri al-Maliki himself is behind the pressure that is being brought and the persecution that is being brought against the residents of both Ashraf and Camp Liberty. This is how we get thanks for the sacrifices that were made by American troops and by the United States as a whole in freeing the people of Iraq.

The United Nations says transfer to Camp Liberty. We’ve had 1,200 people transfer to Camp Liberty. And we’re told each time, notwithstanding the completely inadequate conditions at Camp Liberty, that this is progress. We’re making progress. People are moving out of Ashraf into Camp Liberty and this is progress. You know, I had an uncle once who died of progress. He was—it’s true, he was in the hospital. And every day the doctor came and checked on him and said he was showing progress, until one day he was dead. And the family concluded he must have died of progress. Ambassador [Martin] Kobler reminds me of that doctor.

Of course, it’s even worse than that here because the potentially fatal disease that the residents of Ashraf have really comes from their designation as a foreign terrorist orga-

nization. The U.S. designation. And when I say the U.S. designation advisedly because we’re the only ones left in the civilized world who apply that designation. And it’s time to get rid of it.

So, how is this all going to end? Well, I suggest to you ladies and gentlemen that I’m very hopeful about how it’s going to end. I’m a lawyer, I deal in evidence. We have evidence. We have statements from anonymous sources that those of us who are here voicing our views are behaving illegally under U.S. law.

It’s a funny thing about anonymous sources, what are they afraid of? They must be afraid of something. They’re afraid to have their names used. Look at the timing. The MEK tells the State Department and the Justice Department, “You know, you’ve been dragging your feet long enough with this designation. We’re going to go into court.” They gave them not only advanced notice that they’re going to do it, they gave them an advanced copy of the papers they were going to file. And they disclosed the names of the people. Mayor Giuliani, Tom Ridge, others, many others, who would have also filed paper in court as friends of the court, telling them on the basis of our experience and our knowledge—many people on that brief directly involved in national security affairs—that there is no basis, no reason for that designation. They were told that in advance. And lo and behold a couple days later subpoenas get served on the speaker agencies that send those people out to express their views. I stopped believing in coincidences like that when I stopped believing in the Tooth Fairy, and that was a long time ago.

But how is it going to come out? Well, look at the behavior. The people who release information to the press are afraid to give their names. The State Department hears that papers are going to be filed on behalf of MEK, that papers are going to be filed by people who have spoken out in behalf of delisting, scurry to the Treasury Department, get them to serve subpoenas.

What are they afraid of? The people here aren’t afraid. Rudy Giuliani, John Bolton, Patrick Kennedy, Tom Ridge, they’re all sitting up there behind placards that have their names on them. We all use our names. The people who are not here, and who have been here before and who will be here again if necessary, Howard Dean, Ed Rendell, they used their names. They don’t get up as anonymous informants to speak at these meetings. They get up, they give their names and they express their views. So who’s going to prevail?

But can these people prevail in the face of the United States government? Let me repeat the words of a famous American industrialist, a man named Henry Kaiser who was once confronted by the U.S. government. And people asked him, “Do you think that you can prevail against the U.S. government in the view that you’ve expressed and the course of action that you want to follow?” And his response was, “You know what? There’s no such thing as the U.S. government. They’re just a bunch of people.” Some of them are smart and dedicated and some of them are stupid and lazy. And we know who’s on which side in the current dispute.

Ladies and gentlemen, I haven’t got any doubt about how this is going to come out. And the way this is going to come out is that eventually right will prevail in my country. And when right prevails in my country it is my sincere hope that it won’t be long before right prevails in your country and you restore Iran to the glorious civilization that it was and will be. Thank you very much.

HONORING SAM CRANE

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sam Crane of the Rock Bridge High School Bruins Wrestling team for winning the Class 4 Missouri State Wrestling Championship in the 132-pound weight class.

Mr. Crane and his coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and for bringing home the state title in the Class 4 132-pound weight class to his school and community. His win represents the school's first state champion in Class 4 since 1997.

I ask that you join me in recognizing Mr. Crane for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING THE GIRL SCOUTS
OF THE MISSOURI HEARTLANDS**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Girl Scouts of the Missouri Heartland, a council in the 7th District of Missouri, as Girl Scouts celebrates 100 years of leadership development for girls.

Girl Scouts of the Missouri Heartland is headquartered in Springfield, Missouri, and has a membership of approximately 17,000 girls living in southwest and central Missouri, southeast Kansas, and northeast Oklahoma. Last year, Girl Scouts of the Missouri Heartland experienced a more than 17 percent increase in its membership, ranking it third in the country for growth out of 112 Girl Scout councils.

March 12, 2012, marked the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA. Self-discovery and community service were core values that Girl Scouts founder Juliette Low sought to instill in girls from the earliest days. In 1912, many girls' paths in life were limited and Low's vision was for girls to be able to expand their personal horizons by having fun while exploring new interests and contributing to society.

Girl Scouts today benefit from tangible outcomes such as a strong sense of self, practical life skills, healthy relationships, and feeling empowered to make a difference. In southwest Missouri, Girl Scouts are participating in robotics teams, financial literacy activities, environmental stewardship campaigns, and numerous other initiatives that reflect the continued strength and relevance of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

They also give back to their community with thousands of hours of community service each year. During this year's Girl Scout Cookie Program, many Girl Scouts participated in the Cookie Share program, through which Girl Scout Cookies are shared with military organizations or food pantries. At summer camp and locally, girls will participate in Girl Scouts Forever Green projects to promote environmental stewardship. This year, girls have also helped to replenish food supplies at local pantries, provide comfort and supplies to families dis-

placed by tornadoes, bring joy to residents at nursing homes, thank veterans for their service, and much more.

Folks in Southwest Missouri should be proud to know that the Girl Scout program remains strong and provides a significant opportunity for girls today to learn and grow safely. I too am proud and honored to know that young girls in the 7th District of Missouri are demonstrating positive values and strong leadership skills—and will continue to do so for years to come.

CONGRATULATING PATTY
HARRELSON ON RECEIVING THE
2011-2012 PRINCIPAL ACHIEVE-
MENT AWARD FOR OUT-
STANDING LEADERSHIP**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Patty Harrelson on receiving the 2011–2012 Principal Achievement Award for Outstanding Leadership. I am honored to have the opportunity to offer my sincere appreciation for the hard work and dedication that went into this well-deserved award.

At Florida's Commissioner's Summit for Principals, Florida Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson awarded Ms. Harrelson the award, naming Ms. Harrelson the state's top principal for her leadership at Rosemont Elementary School. Under Ms. Harrelson's guidance and direction, the Orange County school improved its school accountability grade from a "D" to an "A" in a single year.

Taking on the responsibility of principal in 2010, Ms. Harrelson instituted reforms on every level, from curtailing truancy to bringing cutting edge technology into the classrooms. Because of her belief in Rosemont's students and her confidence in their ability to learn and meet academic standards, Ms. Harrelson worked tirelessly to raise expectations and reward achievement publicly.

Her spirit of dedication and commitment to her students is an example of the life-changing impact a dedicated educator can have on a community and on the individual lives of students. She is a shining example of the fruits of selflessness demonstrated by our teachers and administrators who devote themselves to Florida's future by investing in Florida's children.

On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I congratulate and applaud Ms. Harrelson for her hard work, dedication, and leadership. She is most deserving of the 2011–2012 Principal Achievement Award for Outstanding Leadership. May her investment in Florida's students and Florida's future inspire others to follow in her footsteps.

COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE B-1 U.S. NAVY
BAND**HON. MELVIN L. WATT**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make sure that we acknowledge in the CON-

GRESSIONAL RECORD the 70th Anniversary of a group of African-American World War II Navy Veterans known as the B-1 United States Navy Band.

The B-1 United States Navy Band was formed in 1942 and was comprised of talented African-American musicians, many of whom were from North Carolina, who were among the first African-Americans to serve in the modern U.S. Navy in roles other than kitchen staff positions. Most of the Band's approximately forty-four original members were affiliated with North Carolina A&T State University, which is located in Greensboro, North Carolina in my congressional district. The Band was stationed at the U.S. Navy's Pre-Flight Training School in Chapel Hill, North Carolina and provided musical entertainment to pilot trainees during World War II. In 1944 the Band was transferred to sea duty in Hawaii and continued to perform for military personnel and civilians for the duration of the war.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the members of the B-1 U.S. Navy Band for their service to our country and to join me in commemorating the Band's 70th Anniversary which will be celebrated on April 14, 2012 on the campus of North Carolina A&T State University.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR
OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT**HON. SANDY ADAMS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Max Christopher DiRocco for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Max has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

HONORING MRS. LOURDES LOZANO

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History month, I rise today to honor Mrs. Lourdes Lozano, a remarkable leader in the South Florida community.

Mrs. Lozano was born in Las Villas, Cuba and attended the Escuela Normal de Maestros in preparation for her teaching profession. After graduation she received a post graduate degree from the University of Martha Abreu, in Santa Clara. Once arriving in Miami, she received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from St. Thomas University.

Mrs. Lozano began her professional career working at ARSCO International, a company in the paint roller industry. While working for this company she became the first woman in the

industry to hold the position of Plant Manager. She later went on to become Vice President and General Manager of the company. Mrs. Lozano has also worked as a realtor for the past 28 years and as a supervisor for twelve social workers and one specialist for 22 years. In the past she has also been appointed to serve the community as a Commissioner for Hialeah's Housing Authority.

Mrs. Lozano's work does not stop there, as she has been a volunteer for Liga Contra el Cancer and for the Muscular Dystrophy Association for over 30 years. Along with her husband Richard Irizarry, Mrs. Lozano has made tremendous contributions to our community and both are highly admired for their hard work. In 2004 she was recognized as one of the eight public service employees in Miami-Dade who perform their professional duties with excellence. She has also received the "Most Humanitarian Award" from the Department of Children and Families. She has also been recognized by the Mayor of the City of Hialeah, for her leadership on a number of projects which help alleviate some of the burdens of needy families in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my dear friend Mrs. Lourdes Lozano for her continued service to the South Florida community. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual and wish her continued success.

HONORING MID-DELTA HOME
HEALTH AND HOSPICE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mid-Delta Home Health and Hospice Center. The Mid-Delta Home Health and Hospice Center was founded by Clara T. Reed in 1978 in Belzoni, Mississippi. For more than 30 years the Mid-Delta Home and Hospice has been dedicated to serving the needs of patients throughout the Mississippi Delta.

Mid-Delta Home Health and Hospice Center continues under the dynamic leadership of Chief Executive Officer Clara T. Reed. Mrs. Reed received her licensed practical nursing degree from Mississippi Valley State University in 1964. She later received her Registered Nursing degree in 1970 and a Bachelor's degree in Gerontology from Mississippi Valley State University in 1990.

Mrs. Reed's outstanding leadership and dedication has moved the organization on a progressive track and helped to expand its reach around and beyond the state of Mississippi. Mid-Delta Home Health and Hospice provides health and hospice care to individuals and their families in 32 of the 82 counties in the State of Mississippi. Mid-Delta operates 10 branches in Mississippi locations which include Batesville, Belzoni, Clarksdale, Cleveland, Canton, Greenwood, Greenville, Lexington, Madison, and Tunica. They also have offices in Bastrop and Vidalia, Louisiana. Currently, Mid-Delta has over 650 employees spread throughout the Mississippi Delta and treats over 3,500 patients annually. Mid-Delta prides itself on providing specialized services 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mid-Delta Home Health and Hospice for its unwavering commitment and continued home health care services it provides in the great state of Mississippi and surrounding areas.

TRIBUTE TO MAX MCINTOSH

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Max McIntosh, the director of the VA's Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics (SORCC) in White City, Oregon, who will retire tomorrow, March 30, after 39 years of service to the VA.

Since 2003, Max has run the SORCC, transitioning it from a domiciliary into a world class rehabilitation center and a system of clinics for veterans in southern Oregon. He came to the clinic two years earlier as Chief Operating Officer.

When he arrived, the SORCC served 7,000 outpatients in the region—no small feat. Today, through the good work of Max and his staff of over 500 employees and another 500 volunteers, the SORCC cares for 450 residential patients and 18,000 outpatients in Southern Oregon. These are men and women who have worn the nation's uniform to defend our freedom and cherished way of life, and they deserve the highest levels of care. Max made sure that they received it.

In his years as director of the SORCC, Max and the facility have adapted to serve our nation's heroes—from those who served in World War II to Iraq and Afghanistan. Vocational rehabilitation and employment services place veterans with community employers and partners. They have programs focused on post-traumatic stress disorder and suicide prevention, and clinics on chronic pain and diabetes. They recently instituted a system of home-based primary care, caring for veterans in their homes.

Perhaps the greatest challenge he faced in his tenure was among the first, when a proposal was floated to close or reduce services at the SORCC. Max stood arm-in-arm with me and the rest of the community as a fierce advocate for the facility. Today it stands as a nationally known veteran rehabilitation center, in no small part because of Max's leadership.

When I spent Veterans Day with Max and the veterans of southern Oregon at the SORCC this past November, I noted that "A nation is judged by the way it takes care of the people who protect its freedom." In his 39 years of service to our country, Max has made us proud. I understand that he's already signed up to do volunteer work at the SORCC.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful community, state, and nation, I thank Max for his service to this country's heroes, and wish him well as he moves on.

CONGRATULATING SHANA CHANDLER AND BRANDON WEST ON THE BIRTH OF HUDSON SCOTT WEST

HON ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to congratulate Shana Chandler and Brandon West on the birth of their son, Hudson Scott West. Hudson Scott was born this morning, March 29, 2012, at 1:32 a.m., in Washington, DC.

Weighing eight pounds and ten ounces, Hudson Scott measured twenty-one and one-quarter inches long. I understand that both he and his mother are doing very well.

I am excited by this blessing, and I am extremely happy for Shana, Brandon, and the West and Chandler families. I wish them all the very best.

FRUSTRATION WITH ABC NEWS
REPORTING ON BEEF PRODUCTS,
INC. (BPI)

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing my frustration with ABC News' muckraking "journalism" that has forced the closure of a plant employing more than 200 people in my district.

What we have before us is a perfect example of mainstream media completely disconnected from reality. In a quest for accolades and attention, reporters, talking heads, and morning talk show hosts at ABC have made it their intention to drive Beef Products, Inc. (BPI) out of business. And they may have succeeded. Despite developing a process that adds approximately \$15 of value to each head of cattle processed, and providing safe, healthy, lean meat for more than 300 billion meals, BPI is being forced to close the doors of its plant in Finney County, Kansas.

But while the reporters, producers, and executives at ABC move on to their next "public interest" story as questions of finely textured lean beef fade into the background, the same cannot be said of employees at BPI. It is ironic that a perfectly good "public interest" story for them to cover is the loss of hundreds of jobs for people in my district and from the three other BPI plants across the country. But doing so would bring too much attention to ABC's role in causing these people to lose their jobs.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker—finely textured lean beef is just that: beef. In terms of meat content, it is no different from the steak being served at Charlie Palmer's, or the hamburger at Five Guys. It's not scrap, filler, or substitute. It's beef.

And it's safe to eat. While much has been made of the use of ammonia to treat the meat once it is processed, it has not been, and should not be a safety concern. This process has been approved by the USDA on a whole host of food products, including meat, cheeses, chocolate, pudding, condiments, and beverages to prevent food-borne diseases.

Not once, in nearly 20 years of production, has there ever been a report of e.coli or other food-borne illness resulting from finely textured lean beef. It is safe, healthy and only being vilified because someone thought it might win them an award.

It is my hope that the American people will not be so easily fooled in the future, and will explore the facts for themselves, rather than allowing a news organization, on a crusade to win awards, take down a safe, successful company providing good jobs for hundreds of Americans.

HONORING MS. JENNIFER VALOPPI

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Women's History Month, I rise today to honor Ms. Jennifer Valoppi, an outstanding individual and leader in South Florida.

Ms. Valoppi is a multi-E Emmy Award winning TV journalist, award winning author and social entrepreneur. Ms. Valoppi is the President and Co-Founder of the Women of Tomorrow Mentor and Scholarship Program (WOT), a unique mentoring organization that helps young at-risk women live up to their full potential. She is currently engaged in expanding WOT nationally to inspire and motivate women across the nation. Through Ms. Valoppi's leadership, WOT has received national recognition and has been the focus of study by the Harvard Business School Community Partners Program.

As lead anchor at NBC 6 WTUV in Miami, Ms. Valoppi covered historic moments including the 2000 Presidential election, the Elian Gonzalez saga, the Versace Murder, the Olympics, and California's Northridge earthquake. She also took a leading role in driving the stations commitment to fair, accurate, and balanced journalism.

Both Ms. Valoppi and her husband, Christian Berdouare have made tremendous contributions to our community and are highly admired for their hard work. Ms. Valoppi is a recipient of Florida Jeb Bush's Points of Light Award, the highest honor in Florida. She was named a Heavy Hitter in Non-Profit by the South Florida Business Journal. She has also been awarded the "Inner Circle of 12 Distinction" from the American Cancer Society and the "Woman of Impact Award" from the Women's History Coalition, among many other awards and recognitions.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Jennifer Valoppi for her continued service to the South Florida community and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dear friend and an exemplary individual.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK
PALMERSHEIM

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Patrick

Palmersheim for being awarded the Medal of Honor from the Iowa State Daughters of the American Revolution.

Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1890 and incorporated by Congress in 1896 as a national volunteer organization committed to encouraging patriotism and promoting American ideals through better education for our nation's children. Nationwide, DAR boasts more than 170,000 members from 3,000 chapters across all 50 states in addition to various international chapters as well.

The most prestigious honor awarded by Daughters of the American Revolution is the DAR Medal of Honor. To receive this prestigious award, one must be a native born American who has shown an extraordinary commitment to the qualities of service, leadership, trustworthiness and, of course, patriotism. DAR Medal of Honor recipients are recognized for making lasting contributions to our American heritage through selfless service to their country, state, community and fellow man.

Accordingly, Mr. Palmersheim has been serving Iowans his entire career. Patrick served nine years in our nation's Air Force before civically serving in his rural Iowa community through his roles on the city council, as a volunteer firefighter, and as mayor. In 2002, he was appointed Executive Director of the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs by then Governor Tom Vilsack. Patrick's leadership in his new role directly led to Iowa becoming the first state in the U.S. to pass legislation that allowed nursing homes the opportunity to report their residents for potential eligibility for federal benefits from the Veterans Administration. Mr. Palmersheim was also instrumental in establishing the long-desired Iowa Veterans Cemetery, which has provided a final resting place for 80,000 veterans since its groundbreaking in November of 2006.

Mr. Speaker, what Mr. Palmersheim has done for the state of Iowa and our veterans cannot be understated. He is truly the benchmark for which this prestigious award is bestowed. It is an honor to represent Patrick and all of Iowa's veterans in the United States Congress and I trust my colleagues in the House will rise to join me in congratulating Patrick for all he has done.

HONORING DONALD JONES, JASON
BOWMASTER, AND DANIEL
DIMATTEO

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor three Arkansas heroes.

Jacksonville Fire Department Captain Donald Jones and Engineer Jason Bowmaster along with Jacksonville Police Officer Daniel DiMatteo were struck by a van while responding to an accident on Monday, March 19th.

Engineer Bowmaster and Officer DiMatteo are in stable condition.

However, tragically, Captain Jones, a 31-year veteran of the department, passed away as a result of his injuries. He is the first member of the Jacksonville Fire Department to be killed in the line of duty.

Captain Jones served the last years of his career with Station F and is survived by his wife, Betty, his five children, three brothers, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Every day across the nation, our first responders put their lives on the line, sacrificing to keep us safe in our communities.

And, these three men were doing just that: serving and protecting their communities.

I honor them for their service to Jacksonville, and I keep them and their families in my prayers as they recover from this tragic accident.

HONORING MARCUS SCHMIDT

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Marcus Schmidt of the Centralia High School Wrestling team for winning the Class 1 Missouri State Wrestling Championship in the 120-pound weight class.

Mr. Schmidt and his coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and for bringing home the state title in the Class 1 120-pound weight class to his school and community. This is his fourth state medal and second consecutive Class 1 championship.

I ask that you join me in recognizing Mr. Schmidt for a job well done!

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF BRANSON, MISSOURI

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize world-famous Branson, Missouri. This year, Branson celebrates 100 years of heritage, harmony, and hospitality. Branson is a community of people, shaped and inspired by the lakes and hills that surround her, with a common mission, united in perseverance and service to others.

Over the past 100 years, millions of people from around the world have enjoyed and appreciated this special location in Ozark Mountain Country. However, it wasn't always this way, as Branson comes from humble beginnings.

In 1882, a community was founded when a young schoolteacher named Reuben Branson built a store and opened the first post office in a rural area of southwest Missouri. Branson continued to grow, helped by steamboats and the White River Railroad arriving in 1906, and Branson was officially incorporated on April 1, 1912.

In 1907, preacher Harold Bell Wright wrote a best-selling book, "Shepherd of the Hills," which led to an attraction still thriving today. Inspired entrepreneurs kept arriving and in 1949, Hugo Herschend signed a 99-year lease on a cave and went on to build Silver Dollar City. In 1959, Branson's distinction as a music destination began when the Mabe brothers opened the first music show. The Presley family opened the town's second music show on what eventually became Missouri Route 76.

Today, Branson entertains millions of visitors who embrace the city's heritage, harmony and hospitality. I am proud to have the city and the community of Branson in my district and I congratulate them on the past 100 years and I look forward to 100 more.

HONORING RIPLEY BLACKWELL
HEAD START CENTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ripley Blackwell Head Start Center, Inc. The center was named in honor of two civil rights pioneers, Mrs. Minnie Ripley, and Mrs. Unita Blackwell, the first African-American elected as the Mayor of Mayersville, Mississippi, in 1976. The center was originally known as the Friends of Children of Mississippi, until 1980 when they adopted the name of Ripley Blackwell Head Start Center. The center serves both Sharkey and Issaquena counties in the Mississippi Delta. The center's mission is to educate the children of Sharkey & Issaquena counties as well as serving their families.

The Ripley Blackwell Head Start became a valuable part of the community by addressing the barriers that hindered growth and development, and the nurturing of a community bond. The area director, Mr. Roger Robinson, was instrumental in convincing the school board to purchase an old high school for the growth and expansion and all the amenities needed to accommodate the center.

In the beginning the center served 180 children and their families with nine units. Currently, Ripley Blackwell Head Start serves 111 children and their families with six units. They have successfully transitioned over 5,558 children into the public schools of Sharkey and Issaquena counties.

For over 30 years the Ripley Blackwell Head Start Center has prepared children to enter kindergarten confidently with the social, physical, emotional, and cognitive skills and competencies necessary for continued school success. Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join in recognizing the Ripley Blackwell Head Start Center, Inc. for their commitment to educating the community.

TRIBUTE TO MARK HENRY
FARLINGER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mark Farlinger of Cresco for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the years.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as

well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Mark's project was to construct a kiosk and a welcome sign to assist the visitors of Vernon Springs Park in Howard County. The work ethic Mark has shown in this project, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Mark and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him in obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF STEPHEN
WHITE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Doylestown Township's Chief of Police, Mr. Stephen White, who on March 2nd 2012 retired after a 40-year career in law enforcement. For Chief White, public service runs in the family. Steve's grandfather was a prominent Philadelphia police officer for a number of years, which truly inspired him to pursue a career path in law enforcement. After earning a bachelor's degree in international relations from St. Joseph's University, White started his career by working for the Capitol Police in the Nation's Capital.

On February 16th 1974, Steve White settled in Bucks County and began what would be a distinguished career, first working as a patrolman for Doylestown Township. He quickly moved up in the ranks and was promoted to Sergeant the following year. After three years of hard work and dedication to the force, he became a lieutenant, and on January 12th 1988 Steve was promoted to Chief of Police, where he remained until this year. As Chief, he served as the Township's Emergency Management Coordinator, flawlessly supervising a staff of 21 officers and 3 civilians with a budget of just over \$3 million.

Over the course of his career, Chief White has received numerous honors and awards. He was inducted into the International Police Association's Hall of Fame in 1999, and was named an extraordinary Member in August 2007 by the FBI National Academy Associates. Previously, he served as President of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association.

Chief White has devoted his life to making his community a safer and better place to live. I am honored to speak on his behalf today, and I am proud to be his representative in Congress. I wish Steve many years of continued success.

COMMEMORATING THE INDUCTION
OF PHILIP P. SMITH INTO NOVA
SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY'S
2012 ENTREPRENEUR HALL OF
FAME

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional entrepreneur and my dear friend, Philip P. Smith. As the president and chief executive officer of Phil Smith Management, Inc., he is better known as the founder of Phil Smith Chevrolet, a successful General Motors (GM) dealership in my Congressional district that serves the greater South Florida area from Palm Beach to Broward and Miami-Dade Counties. On April 18, 2012, Phil will be inducted into the 2012 Entrepreneur Hall of Fame at the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship at Nova Southeastern University (NSU) for his longstanding business leadership and community involvement.

The NSU Entrepreneur Hall of Fame was established in 1990 to honor the lifetime achievements of outstanding entrepreneurs who contributed not only to the growth of a phenomenal entrepreneurial business, but have also demonstrated a willingness to contribute time, effort, and financial resources to programs and activities that enhance the quality of life in the communities in which they live. For more than 30 years, Phil has been serving the South Florida community as a business leader and philanthropist. His first equity venture was in a Toyota dealership in Homestead, Florida in 1980. With a direct hands-on sales and management approach, Phil has since built his organization from the ground up and now operates 14 auto dealerships throughout Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina.

Phil is responsible for the overall operations of Phil Smith Management, Inc., including working with the equity partners at all locations and orchestrating its acquisitions and growth strategies. Thanks to entrepreneurs like him, GM has again become the world's top-selling automaker. Phil Smith Chevrolet has consistently ranked as one of the top dealerships in Broward County in a variety of GM categories, including customer satisfaction, service, and vehicle fleet and GM parts sales. Furthermore, in recent years, Phil Smith Chevrolet has proven to be a true economic linchpin to distressed areas in Broward County. Phil takes great pride in the fact that most of his 104 employees have worked for the dealership for many years and live in and have strong relationships with the surrounding community.

The Phil Smith Automotive Group has received numerous awards, including the J.D. Powers Quality Dealer Award, Toyota President's Award, Ford Chairman's Award, and Acura Dealership of Distinction recognition. Phil is also past chairman of the Southeast Toyota Dealer Council, a past member of the National Toyota Dealer Council, past president of the South Florida Auto-Truck Dealers Association, and a past director of the Florida Automobile Dealers Association.

Raised in South Florida, Phil is well-known for his civic and charitable involvement. He is actively involved with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Humane Society of Broward County,

American Cancer Society, Make a Wish Foundation, and other organizations. In addition, Phil is Co-Chairman of the South Florida Super Bowl Host Committee and has board positions with the Orange Bowl Committee and the Broward Workshop, a nonprofit organization that represents the interests of 100 Broward businesses and professions.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and privilege to recognize Phil Smith on this special occasion. His business leadership and commitment to the South Florida community is a testament to American entrepreneurship, and I can think of no one more deserving than Phil to be admitted to Nova Southeastern University's Entrepreneur Hall of Fame. I am so pleased to pay tribute to my dear friend, and wish him great success for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING APRIL AS
PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Parkinson's Disease, I am proud to join my colleagues in recognizing April as Parkinson's Awareness Month. It is estimated that there are between 500,000 and 1.5 million Americans living with Parkinson's disease, a chronic, progressive neurological disease, for which there is no therapy or drug to slow or halt its progression, let alone a cure. I support the federal government's continued funding for research to find better treatments and a cure for Parkinson's. I also recognize the people living with Parkinson's who participate in vital clinical trials to advance knowledge of this disease, and commend the dedication of local and regional organizations, volunteers, and millions of Americans across the country working to improve quality of life for people living with Parkinson's disease and their families.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2013

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 112) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2014 through 2022:

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chair, the Republican budget proposal, very similar to their draconian proposal from last year, fails the middle class, undermines our Nation's values, and destroys the social safety net. It's been said that this year's Republican budget is "austerity on steroids." I would call that an understatement.

In the name of deficit reduction, Republicans would end the Medicare guarantee, put

Social Security on the fast track to benefit cuts, and slash critical job-creating investments in education, infrastructure and basic research. These deep cuts do not even go to reduce the deficit. Instead, they are used to pay for massive tax cuts for the wealthy and to continue our out of control defense spending. The Republican budget will provide an average tax cut of \$394,000 to people making over \$1 million and increases defense spending. This budget is just a grab bag of failed right-wing ideas and it's harmful to America's future.

Senior citizens and people with disabilities in Medicare get a particularly bad deal under the Republican proposal because their plan ends the guarantee of Medicare. Medicare beneficiaries would be given a voucher to try to obtain health care coverage from private insurers—there would be no guaranteed benefits and whether one could afford coverage would depend on what is available in the marketplace. What's more, the Republicans' voucher is designed to diminish in value over time, placing a growing cost burden on senior citizens and people with disabilities in the future. The Republican budget pays lip service to maintaining the traditional Medicare program, but those words amount to nothing. Traditional Medicare would become increasingly expensive as those with high health needs tried to stay there. Eventually, it would go into a death spiral with costs far exceeding the premiums it could realistically charge. Medicare as we know it would be gone—another Republican gift to the private insurance industry.

In contrast, the Congressional Progressive Caucus has offered a balanced budget, entitled the "Budget for All," which strengthens Medicare and Social Security, protects the middle class, makes job-promoting investments for America's future, reins in defense spending, and ensures everyone pays their fair share in taxes. It includes a number of my proposals, including closing tax loopholes that allow lobbyists and lawyers to avoid paying Medicare taxes and putting a price on carbon pollution to prevent catastrophic climate change.

My constituents deserve a budget that addresses our Nation's fiscal challenges, creates jobs, and protects Medicare and Social Security. The Congressional Progressive Caucus does just that. I urge my colleagues to support the Progressive Budget for All and reject the failed ideas in the Republicans' budget for the 1 percent.

SEIZURE SMART AND EPILEPSY
AWARENESS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the millions who live with seizures and deserve to be able to live, work, learn and play safely in their own communities. On April 3, representatives from around the country will be here on Capitol Hill meeting with our staff about epilepsy and what it's like to live with this condition, which is the 3rd most prevalent neurological condition and yet has no cure. While I hope that research will

one day result in a cure, we can do something very meaningful now—we can help school personnel know what to do when a child has a seizure in school. We can help employers know how to help an employee in the workforce when he or she has a seizure, and communities can learn to help keep both children and adults safe wherever they go by having trained first-responders. Many great programs have been developed and implemented over the years to help educate our communities and teach them how to be "Seizure Smart." Together, with the help of a united public awareness campaign, we can help everyone to become seizure smart. We need to educate everyone about epilepsy and help everyone to know what to do when someone has a seizure. When individuals from the Epilepsy Foundation come by to see your office on April 3, tell them that you are getting Seizure Smart and offer your support to House Resolution 298.

HONORING JUSTIN VANHOOSE

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Justin VanHoose of the Kirksville High School Wrestling team for winning the Class 2 Missouri State Wrestling Championship in the 138-pound weight class.

Mr. VanHoose and his coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and for bringing home the state title in the Class 2 138-pound weight class to his school and community. This win places him in a short, elite list of only 21 other Missouri wrestlers to have ever won four state titles.

I ask that you join me in recognizing Mr. VanHoose for a job well done!

RECOGNIZING THE BILLINGS
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the young gentlemen of the Billings Wildcats Boys Basketball Team for winning the Missouri Class 2 State Championship.

The Wildcats have a philosophy built around teamwork and a desire to be champions. These talented young men, Kaleb Harter, Connor Jenisch, Nathan Blades, Brady Chastain, Austin Essick, Chad Yeokum, Dawson Meyer, Lane Truman, Sawyer Hawkins, and Seth Haggerman are the true definition of a team. Through their hard work and dedication they won the Missouri Class 2 State Championship.

Coach Kendall Tilley and his talented coaching staff should be proud of their accomplishment in guiding such a phenomenal group of young men. I commend them all on a job well done.

The Wildcats had a wild final with their opponent rallying multiple times, but Billings held

fast and came out on top. In the end, the Wildcats refused to lose. They ended with a 29–3 record.

The Billings community is justifiably proud of the extraordinary group of young and talented future leaders on the Wildcats Basketball Team.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Billings Wildcats Basketball Team, the Missouri Class 2 State Champions.

HONORING ATTORNEY EDWARD BLACKMON, JR. FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Attorney Edward Blackmon, Jr. Attorney Blackmon was born and raised in Canton, Mississippi. He is a graduate of Tougaloo College, where he obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. He received his Juris Doctorate from the George Washington University Law Center in Washington, DC in 1973.

Shortly after completing George Washington University, Attorney Blackmon began practicing law in Mississippi at the North Mississippi Rural Legal Services in Greenwood, Mississippi. Attorney Blackmon remained with North Mississippi Rural Legal Services until 1974 when he entered into private practice in Canton, Mississippi with the Law Firm of Blackmon & Smith. In 1989, Attorney Blackmon and his wife, Attorney Barbara Blackmon, formed the Law Firm of Blackmon & Blackmon in Canton where he currently serves as the firm's Senior Partner.

Attorney Blackmon has extensive experience in personal injury, products liability and defense law. His clientele reads like a "Who's Who" among corporate America. Attorney Blackmon has defended some of the nation's top corporate companies in civil litigation, and obtained hundreds of millions of dollars in civil awards for damages on behalf of his clients.

Attorney Blackmon also has lengthy experience in criminal law defense as well. During a 20 year period involving more than 50 defense trials, Attorney Blackmon excelled without losing a single case.

He is a 24 year member of the Mississippi House of Representatives, where he previously served as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee. In other capacities, he has served as Chairman of the Legislative Black Mississippi State House of Representatives Caucus, President of the Magnolia Bar Association, and is currently serving as a member of the Tougaloo College Board of Trustees, in addition to the George Washington University School of Law Board of Advisors.

In 2002 Attorney Blackmon was named by the National Law Journal as one of the Nations Top 10 Litigators. Among his many achievements in his role as a public servant, Attorney Blackmon is most proud of his work as a State Legislator. He has led redistricting efforts that led to the reapportionment of legislative and judicial districts which increased the number of minority representation in each of those offices.

Attorney Blackmon and his wife, Attorney Barbara Blackmon, are celebrated for their philanthropic services in the area of education. They have made substantial financial contributions to their alma maters, Tougaloo College and Jackson State University, in addition to a number of other institutions and individual students seeking to advance themselves through higher education. Attorney Blackmon is a member of the Cade Chapel Missionary Baptist Church and is the father of four children, Janessa, Madison, Bradford and Stephen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Attorney Blackmon for his dedication and service to the state of Mississippi.

CELEBRATING GLADYS WILLIAMS' 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Ms. Gladys L. Williams of East Moline, Illinois on a momentous milestone, her 100th birthday, which will be on April 15, 2012.

Born in Kansas on April 15, 1912, the very day the Titanic sank, Gladys grew up to be tough, but a dedicated and wonderful mother whose kids always knew she had their backs. Along with her husband A.H. and her three children, Gladys moved around the country more than 30 times over the years due to her husband's job with the Rock Island Railroad. The family moved in and out of the Quad Cities nearly a dozen times until they finally made Moline home in 1954, around the time A.H. was named General Manager.

Gladys and her family have been active in Moline's First Baptist Church, and she worked in an area high school's cafeteria before eventually relocating to East Moline 16 years ago. Her family did the math recently, and determined that Gladys has been blessed with 17 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren, and 21 great-great-grandchildren.

East Moline Mayor John Thodos declared April 15th, 2012 "Gladys Williams Day" in honor of this remarkable woman. Mr. Speaker and my distinguished colleagues, I respectfully ask that you join me in wishing Gladys a very happy 100th birthday, and the best as she celebrates this joyous occasion with her friends and many members of her family.

COMMEMORATING BELARUSAN INDEPENDENCE DAY BY FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN BELARUS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, March 25, Belarusian-Americans commemorated Belarusian Independence Day. On that date in 1918, during World War I, the Belarusian National Republic was declared. Although independence was short-lived and Belarus forcibly subjected to Soviet rule, it did mark an historically significant milestone in the

aspirations of the Belarusian people for freedom and their own unique identity.

While Belarus became independent in 1991 with the dissolution of the Soviet Union, this independence today is under threat thanks to the dictatorial rule of Alexander Lukashenka, who has relentlessly squelched dissent, strangled democratic institutions and the rule of law, stifled human rights and political liberties, and refused to reform the Soviet-type state-dominated economy. This has made Belarus dangerously vulnerable to Russian influence and has greatly weakened its prospects for integration into the European family of nations.

The brutal crackdown that began 15 months ago with the fraudulent December 19, 2010 election persists. Its most recent manifestation is the barring of numerous opposition leaders, human rights activists and independent journalists from traveling abroad—yet another in a litany of violations of Belarus' OSCE commitments. Especially egregious is the continued imprisonment of democratic opposition leaders and activists, and human rights defenders Andrei Sannikau, Mikalai Statekevich, Zmitser Bandarenka, Ales Byalyatski, Syarhei Kavalenka, Zmitser Dashkevich, Pavel Seviarynets, and others, many of whom face inhumane conditions in detention. I'd like to add my voice to those of countless Belarusians and Belarusian-Americans calling for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners in Belarus.

Mr. Speaker, in January the President signed into law the Belarus Democracy and Human Rights Act of 2011, which I authored. This law strengthens, in view of Lukashenka's crackdown, two earlier laws I wrote promoting democracy and supporting the Belarusian people in their struggle to replace the Lukashenka dictatorship with a representative government that will respect human rights and democratic values. But Congress's efforts on behalf of the Belarusian people can't end there—I'd like to ask my colleagues to continue to raise Belarusian human rights issues with the administration, with foreign parliamentarians, and, whenever we encounter them, with officials of the Lukashenka dictatorship.

HONORING MAYOR RUDY GIULIANI

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I have great admiration for Mayor Rudy Giuliani. He is a courageous American leader who speaks with authority when it comes to the safety and security of the American people. On Saturday, March 24, 2012, on the occasion of the Iranian New Year, Nowrouz, Mayor Giuliani addressed a conference in Paris attended by nearly 1,000 people to discuss ways to counter the Iranian threat and standing with the people of Iran and their organized opposition.

His remarks are crucial since they were preceded just a few days before by a campaign by unidentified U.S. Government officials who wanted to silence him and other senior former U.S. Government officials who had called for regime change in Iran and support for the Iranian opposition. Mayor Giuliani was flanked by other former officials including Attorney General Michael Mukasey, Homeland Security

Secretary Tom Ridge, Ambassador John Bolton, Congressman Patrick Kennedy and others who called for the removal of the main Iranian opposition movement, the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), from the list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations.

They also called for the U.S. Government to uphold its written commitment to the safety and security of the 3,400 Iranian dissident residents of Camp Ashraf as well as those who relocated to Camp Liberty.

Mayor Giuliani and his colleagues have extensive support in the U.S. Congress who commend their work. In this respect, nearly 100 of my colleagues have co-sponsored H. Res. 60, which calls on the Secretary of State to remove the MEK from the terrorist list. I am pleased to submit Mayor Giuliani's remarks in Paris.

Mayor Rudy Giuliani: Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you. I want to begin by joining Madam Rajavi in expressing my deep sympathy and empathy and prayers for the families of the victims of excessive fundamentalism here in France. As mayor of a city that suffered that fate over ten years ago, I think I have particular understanding of how much pain and suffering that causes. I also want to join Madam Rajavi in her pointing out that this is an example not of Islam or the Islamic religion, but an example of how any religion or ideology can be taken to excess by people who misuse it. And I think the people of France understand that as the people of America did.

I also want to assure you, speaking for myself and so many of my colleagues, that anonymous, cowardly sources in the State Department or elsewhere who unknowingly are doing the bidding of the mullahs don't frighten me, won't stop me, won't stop any of us, ever.

It would seem—thank you. It would seem to me that the resources of my government could be better used to try to figure out who these anonymous leakers are in the State Department who seem to be doing the bidding of the Iranian regime, rather than fighting for freedom and democracy and decency in Iran. But if anything, this will just make us more determined. I also want to congratulate all my colleagues who have shown great courage in dealing with this, as I knew they would. And really, it doesn't take a great deal of courage. It just takes doing the right thing. We believe we are right. We are aware of the pressures. And I'm going to tell you what I believe and I'm also going to tell you how I think this can be easily resolved in sort of a common sense, sensible way.

First of all, I believe that, I believe that Camp Liberty is an inhumane and indecent place. I don't believe it's a detention facility at all. I think it's a prison camp. The amount of space that's being given to the people there is a couple of feet per person, well below the minimums for American prisons, significantly below what's given to accused terrorists at Guantanamo, for example. I believe it's a place in which there are prison guards and police that menace the people who now are at Camp Liberty.

I believe that they are in danger, the people of Camp Liberty are in danger of possibly having the same fate as the people at Ashraf, of whom some 47 have already been killed, 11 in 2009 and 36 in 2011. And I believe that there is no facility in Camp Liberty for processing these people the way you would process people if, in fact, in good faith, America and the UN were living up to their promise.

Now, I believe all these things in my heart. I've seen proof of it. I've seen indications of

it. I've seen evidence of it. But I guess I could be wrong. Here's the way to find out. If the anonymous sources in the State Department are so convinced of the validity of what they're saying, and I say this with greatest respect also for the Secretary of State, Mrs. Clinton, for whom I have a great deal of respect; send me there. Let me go there. Let me see it with my own eyes. I have eyes. I have a brain. I have senses. If you bring me back, you can put me under oath and ask me to tell the truth about it. I can bring a camera with me so that we don't have to dispute whether I'm right or you're right. Let's see how much space they have. Let's see how decent or indecent these facilities are. Let's see if there are provisions being made to relocate people or there are not. In other words, let's see if my country that I love, the United States of America, is living up to the promise that it made to the people of Ashraf to protect them and to treat them decently or it's breaking that promise. I promise you, I will tell the truth about it if you let me go there.

And if you don't want to send me, you can send Judge Mukasey or Tom Ridge or Patrick Kennedy or four or five of us and then you can put us before Congress and put us under oath and I assure you, we'll tell the truth about it and we'll get this resolved. Are we being misled or is the State Department breaking its promise to the people of Ashraf? Let's get an answer to it once and for all.

I hope they take us seriously. And I hope they want to get this resolved because this is truly a humanitarian issue of gravest importance, above and beyond all of the other political issues. Twelve hundred people have now been moved to Camp Liberty. We are aware of what happened to the people in Camp Ashraf in 2009 and in 2011, where Maliki, doing the bidding of the Iranian government, had them killed. We have grave fears that somehow that may happen again and we have grave fears that this is not a decent, legitimate attempt to relocate people.

This has to be resolved. This is beyond all of the other issues that are involved. Delisting, how to deal with the Iranian regime. This is just a matter of common decency and I am so disappointed. I can't express to you how disappointed I am in my government and the way they've acted here. They made a promise to protect these people and they are unwilling to live up to that promise. And we are going to fight very, very hard to make sure that they do.

The second point that I would like to make is that I fear that this is all part of a dangerous and misguided approach that will yield many, many more problems beyond this. I believe that my president and my country, at least with regard to this policy, has a serious and dangerous misconception that you can negotiate with the mullahs, that you can negotiate with Ahmadinejad.

I believe the President still is attempting to do that. He's still writing letters to the Ayatollah. I can't imagine what's in those letters. I don't even know how you begin a letter to an ayatollah. Dear Ayatollah, your eminence, your holiness, or I don't know what you call them, but in any event, President—Somehow I don't think letters are going to persuade him to become humane, decent, to embrace democracy, and to stop trying to develop nuclear weapons. I have a feeling that the only thing that will stop him and the only thing that will stop Ahmadinejad is if they see strength, if they see power, if they see determination, if they see an America that is willing to support the people that want to overthrow the regime of Iran.

We are for—America is and has participated and has been for regime change in

Egypt, regime change in Libya. We now talk of regime change in Syria. All of which is fine, particularly Syria. But much worse than all three combined is the regime in Iran for the last 20 or 30 years. So how can we possibly be for regime change in these three places, but we're not for regime change in the worst actor in the region, the biggest supporter of state sponsored terrorism in the world, and the biggest opponent of the United States of America, at least since 1980? So, how about we now are for regime change in Iran and we side with the people like you who hopefully can bring that about?

There are people that say that you have no influence inside Iran. The same anonymous sources from the State Department then say that you're responsible for identifying Iranian nuclear scientists that the Israeli agents are killing. Well, you deny that. The Israelis deny that. But somehow I can't figure out if these anonymous sources are talking to each other. Either you have no influence inside Iran, in which case you couldn't possibly be responsible for fingering and identifying these scientists, or you have a lot of influence inside Iran, which is something, you know, we should take into consideration. So, these sources are so contradictory that I don't know how anybody can rely on them.

Here's what I know. You, Madam Rajavi and all of you, stand for democracy. That's an American value. You stand for freedom of religion. That's an American value. You stand for a secular government. That's an American value. You stand for due process of law. You stand for a non-nuclear Iran. You stand for the rights of women. And these place that hates you the most is the Iranian government. The EU has delisted you. The United Kingdom has delisted you. I can't find any other place that lists you as a terrorist group but two. Iran, and they are executing people in Iran who they believe are members of the PMOI. One is up for execution right now. That shows how dangerous Iran thinks you are. I kind of get encouraged by groups that Iran finds dangerous.

So, I think it's about time that the Secretary of State make a decision. Almost a year ago, she was ordered to make that decision. It's supposed to be made in 180 days. Again, from what I see, from the facts that I see—I don't have possession of all the secret facts—but so far every single fact that I've seen is that this organization stands for everything that gives us hope of a decent life and a decent future in Iran. And if there are any facts to the contrary, then why is it taking so darn long to make this decision that should have been made eight or nine or ten months ago? If you have facts that are contrary to that, it's really easy to write them and it's really easy to put it out there and it's really easy to file the decision.

So, I hope that over the course of the next several months, we can accomplish two things. We can protect the people in Ashraf who are moving to Camp Liberty. We can get there. We can get to see it and we can allow them to make the changes that might be necessary to make it a decent and livable place. We can get them relocated to places where they can be safe.

And we can finally see a delisting of a decision that was the wrong decision in the first place. It was a decision that was intended to placate. It was a decision that was intended to appease. It was a decision that was intended to try to set up a dialogue years ago that never worked. And right now, the enemy, the enemy of stopping a nuclear Iran is appeasement. That's the enemy. That's the false notion that has made Iran bolder, stronger, and more determined to become nuclear. Let's stop the appeasement. Let's stop trying to negotiate. Let's stop writing

letters to the ayatollah. And let's stand up, united as Americans in saying we are for regime change in Iran and we will take any step necessary to stop Iran from becoming nuclear. Thank you.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MS. PAT JORDAN

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of a dynamic lady who has had a strong influence in promoting our community's cultural legacy. As we celebrate the artistic achievement of our high school artists at the annual Congressional Art Competition, it is appropriate to honor a patron of the arts, Ms. Pat Jordan. She knows Kansas City, Missouri, as this is where she grew up, attending Southeast High School in the heart of the City. She obtained a degree from the University of Missouri in Journalism, which gave her the tools to investigate, promote and educate what she loves most, the arts.

The rich cultural history of African Americans who lived in a segregated Kansas City during the 1920's, 30's and 40's can be traced to the area centered on 18th and Vine. This is where the black community lived, worked, worshipped, and cultivated a unique lifestyle preserved in the arts, education and sports of the time. More than most, Pat realizes the importance of preservation of an era that was indigenous to the area but with time has faded. She understands that a culture uniquely African American must not be allowed to fade. Through the arts and education, this culture will be revealed and celebrated along with today's artist who expresses their interest through artistic discovery.

While I served on the Kansas City, Missouri City Council and later as Mayor, my goal was to preserve the history of 18th and Vine by restoring the area. This is when I met the enthusiastic Pat Jordan, who I enlisted to spearhead the renovation of the Gem Theater. She worked on the Gem Theater bond fund that was essential in making the renovation of the Gem Theater a reality. She continues to promote the area with the Gem Cultural and Educational Center that promotes visual and performing artists.

Presently, Pat serves as Co-Chair of the Mayor's Task Force for the Arts; Chairman of The Light in the Other Room for Kansas City African American Artists; Member of the Arts Committee for the Mayor's Google Task Force and President of Cross-Lines Towers, Inc. She has an amazing record of public service and has served on many advisory boards. She has been a long time supporter and member of the Advisory Boards of the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey, the William Jewel Fine Arts Series and the Department of Architecture, Urban Planning & Design of the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

This summer, Kansas City will host the 2012 All-Star Baseball Game. Pat is instrumental in efforts that will bring out-of-town guests to the heart of 18th and Vine. There, visitors will enjoy an iconic culture uniquely Kansas City at the Gem Theater, the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, and the American Jazz Museum.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Ms. Pat Jordan for seeing beyond a concept, working to achieve a goal, and proudly promoting cultural enhancement through the arts. Through her outreach and events, local artists are introduced and Kansas City talent is exhibited. Her accomplishments are many as she is one of the gems for our community.

HONORING JAYDIN CLAYTON

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jaydin Clayton of the Father Tolton Catholic High School Wrestling team for winning the Class 1 Missouri State Wrestling Championship in the 113-pound weight class.

Mr. Clayton and his coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and for bringing home the state title in the Class 1 113-pound weight class to his school and community. His win represents the school's first state title in Class 1.

I ask that you join me in recognizing Mr. Clayton for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the young ladies of the Republic Lady Tigers Basketball Team for winning the Missouri Class 4 State Championship.

The Lady Tigers had some up and down moments in their championship run, but were able to rely upon each other to persevere. These talented young women, Brooke Dutton, Alice Heinzler, Alex Botkin, Alexis Edwards, Sarah Kreul, Kayla Bartelsmeyer, Baylee Rayl, Micah Mansker, Mercedes Doty, Taylor Wells, Kailey Mathis, Lindsey Carlson, and Tori Taylor are the true definition of a team. Through their hard work and dedication they won the Missouri Class 4 State Championship.

They were outstandingly guided by Coach Kris Flood and his talented coaching staff, Tori Mooneyham and Curt Plotter, whom I commend on an amazing accomplishment and a job well done.

The Republic Basketball team had tremendous support throughout their season; their friends, family, and fans attended the tournaments, cheered them on throughout the basketball season and followed them to Columbia for the state championships. Uniquely, many of the excited fans would dress up in costumes, like superheroes and whoopee cushions, for their title run.

The Republic community is justifiably proud of the extraordinary group of young future leaders on the Republic Lady Tigers Basketball Team, but even more important, the young ladies of the Republic Basketball team will have memories to last a lifetime. They've

had the extraordinarily opportunity to live the dream of defying the odds and achieving victory through greatness.

This is third time that the Republic Lady Tigers have won the state championship.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Republic Ladies Basketball Team, the Missouri Class 4 State Champions.

HONORING THE LATE MRS. JESSIE PENDLETON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a civil rights champion, the late Mrs. Jessie Pendleton. Mrs. Pendleton served Copiah County for years as a staunch civil rights activist.

She was born on April 29, 1924 to Allee and Pearlle Bowns in Crystal Springs, Mississippi. Jessie was the wife of Mr. J.C. Pendleton and mother to four children, James Cecil, Mattie, Helen and Eva.

Mrs. Pendleton joined Providence Missionary Baptist Church at an early age, where she continued her walk in faith as a dedicated member. She was the organizer of the first Providence Missionary Baptist Church Family & Friends day, which continues as a time honored tradition today. Mrs. Pendleton later became a member of St. Mary's United Methodist Church where she held many leadership positions.

Mrs. Pendleton's love for God and humanity was instrumental in her endeavors to ensure that all men were treated fairly, a passion that ultimately led to her Human Rights activism. On her list of many accolades, is the redistricting lawsuit she filed in Copiah County, Mississippi which resulted in the creation of two predominantly Black districts in Copiah County, Mississippi which were both represented by black Supervisors. Mrs. Pendleton also filed a complaint against Harmony Ridge Water Association, which prior to that restricted water from being provided to citizens in the rural areas of the County.

Mrs. Pendleton founded the Citizens for Progress Club in 1987, whose primary focus was to assist the economically deprived in the Copiah County and surrounding areas. She also had the privilege of serving as President of the Crystal Springs branch of the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People. Mrs. Pendleton's tireless efforts in increasing civic participation led to her receiving the mother of the year award for Copiah County in 1986.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Mrs. Jessie Pendleton for her dedication and service to Copiah County, Mississippi.

HONORING VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR

HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to our Veterans of the

Vietnam War and to reflect upon their courage, strength, and love for the United States of America.

March 29, 2012 has been proclaimed Vietnam Veterans' Day in the State of New York, but it is important that we recognize our Veterans of the Vietnam War not only today but every day.

During the Vietnam War, of the more than 3.4 million Americans that were deployed, over 58,000 were killed, 153,000 were wounded, and over 2,000 remain missing in action.

It is important that we remind our Vietnam Veterans and their families that we are a grateful nation. Our country recognizes and appreciates the bravery and steadfastness of every American soldier. These are the men and women who risked their lives so our country remains free. It is because of their service that the United States of America remains the greatest nation in the history of the world.

The men and woman who served our country in the Vietnam War are shining examples of patriotism, strength, courage, and decency. It is with great pride and honor that I pause and reflect upon their sacrifice and thank our Vietnam Veterans for their dedicated service to the United States of America.

GRAND OPENING OF PLANNED
PARENTHOOD HEALTH FACILITY
IN OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark the occasion of the grand opening of a new Oakland County, Michigan facility for Planned Parenthood, an organization that I stand with proudly in spirit, purpose and commitment.

Never before in recent history have we witnessed such feverish and brazen attacks on the reproductive and health care rights of women. Planned Parenthood, in particular, has been unfairly targeted in this war on women.

More than ever, our communities and families need organizations like Planned Parenthood. In fact, 97 percent of Planned Parenthood's services are basic, preventive health care, like annual exams, testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, HIV testing and counseling, and procedures to address pre-cancerous conditions of the cervix. Seventy-five percent of Planned Parenthood Mid- and South-Michigan patients are women between the ages of 20 and 40, many of whom struggle without health insurance. Planned Parenthood is there for them.

I especially applaud the opening of this facility because for more than five years there has been no Title X family planning provider in Oakland County that serves everyone, regardless of ability to pay. In 2010, Planned Parenthood served 5,420 Oakland County patients who had to travel to other counties to receive basic and preventive health care. This means critical federal dollars were not being spent in Oakland County, an area of significant need. It is time for Oakland County to get its fair share of federal dollars, and for its citizens to receive much-needed reproductive health services in their own community.

In conclusion, we need to stop playing politics with women's health care. We need to get

our struggling families the services they need. This facility is a first step in the right direction for women and families in our region.

A TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE
JACKSON WASHINGTON

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Mrs. Christine Jackson Washington, who died last week. She was the wife of the deceased Father Paul Washington, the long time, much revered rector of the Episcopal Church of the Advocate, and an internationally recognized peace and rights activist.

But, Mrs. Washington was also a community change agent. She founded the non-profit Advocate Community Development Corporation, a neighborhood-based community development corporation that provided affordable housing and social services to the residents of North Philadelphia. The bedrock of her family, Mrs. Washington sang on the choir, taught Sunday school, and helped out at the church's food kitchen that fed more for more than 350 people daily.

However, beyond all of these responsibilities and accomplishments Mrs. Washington is remembered for his kindness, gentleness, and graciousness. We were all blessed to have known her and we cherish her memory.

HONORING UTE AND PATRICK
GOGGINS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Ute and Patrick Goggins, longtime friends and constituents in Mill Valley, California. Ute and Patrick have been dedicated and conscientious members of our community since the late 1960s, and their joint passion for social justice and community service has made their active presence in the San Francisco Bay Area a true blessing.

Ute and Patrick were married March 27, 1962, in a lunchtime civil ceremony at San Francisco City Hall. The setting was appropriate for a couple who have always had a natural partnership. In the years since, Ute and Patrick have become important voices in the peace movement not only in the Bay Area, but worldwide. The Gogginses were at the forefront of opposition to the war in Vietnam, and eventually they were joined by their children in more recent demonstrations against war in Iraq.

Ute and Patrick have also contributed to a richer cultural environment, and to the idea that a stronger sense of community is a precursor to peace and justice. Patrick has spearheaded a number of local Irish cultural and historical associations, including the Irish-Mexican Association and the Irish Forum. Ute has long been a recognized local artist, and taught art at San Domenico School for over three decades.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the 50th anniversary of Ute and Patrick Goggins. We wish them many more years of happiness, collaboration, and companionship.

IN HONOR OF FRANCINE BLOCK

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Francine Block, who is receiving the Bucks County Women's History Month Award today. Since 1982, the award has been presented every year to a woman in the county who "has made the biggest difference." Candidates are active volunteers, role models and social advocates.

For 25 years Francine has worked eagerly in the fields of education and college admissions. Currently, she is the President of the American College Admissions Consultants. Formerly, Francine served as President of the Pennsylvania Association for College Admissions Counseling. Previously a high school English teacher in the United States and the United Kingdom, Francine has gone on to work with college applicants from all over the world. She has contributed to numerous books and has been interviewed by CNN, CNBC, NBC, the Wall Street Journal and Time Magazine.

Francine Block has also held many other critical posts in the field of education throughout her lifetime. She is the National Assembly Delegate to the National Association for College Admission Counseling, and previously was a member of the Admissions Advisory Board of Penn State University. Locally, she serves on the Board of Directors of the United Way of Bucks County and the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce. I had the honor to serve as Francine's Solicitor while she served as Chairman of the Board of the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce.

Francine Block has devoted her life to promoting higher education and making certain that parents and students have the best available resources to apply to colleges and universities. She is an inspiration to all of us, and it is my pleasure to honor her today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

THE DISABLED MILITARY CHILD
PROTECTION ACT OF 2012

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Disabled Military Child Protection Act of 2012. To put it simply, this bill will permit military retirees the ability to place their self funded Survivor Benefit Plan into a Special Needs Trust to ensure their surviving dependent child's future.

This is an equity and fairness issue. Civilians are allowed to create a Special Needs Trust for their permanently disabled children to ensure they receive care beyond the guardian's death but under current law, military personnel with severely disabled children are legally prohibited from establishing a Special

Needs Trust to ensure their surviving dependent child's future care.

This bill will provide veterans with the ability to direct their Survivor Benefit Plan annuity payments to a Special Needs Trust. The creation of an SNT will ensure that a dependent, disabled child will continue to qualify for means-tested benefits, such as Social Security Disability Insurance and Medicaid. Assets placed into a Special Needs Trust are not generally counted as income or assets, allowing dependent children to remain eligible for these benefits throughout their lifetime.

This bill would impact approximately 1,065 military dependents who are incapacitated beneficiaries under Survivor Benefit Plan and with individual care costs for a disabled child exceeding \$100,000 a year, this additional benefit will increase their quality of life significantly.

For those who believe this bill may contribute to abuse, it must be noted that a Special Needs Trust is administered under both federal and state law. Appointed fiduciaries are subject to auditing and are responsible for managing a benefit for a specific group. Annuities are also placed in Special Needs Trusts that are subject to income tax. Therefore, beneficiaries are shielded from abuse considering each trust has significant oversight.

Finally, I am proud that this bill has 4 esteemed public servants as original co-sponsors: Congressmen CAPPs, POLIS, RANGEL, and ROTHMAN. This bill is also supported by the Military Officers Association of America.

TRIBUTE TO VERNON
VALENZUELA

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and service of longtime Kern County veterans' advocate and Vietnam veteran, Vernon Valenzuela, who recently passed away due to cancer at the age of 63.

Vernon began his career in service to our country during the Vietnam war where he was wounded in 1968. Upon returning home, he attended Bakersfield College and became president of the Associated Veterans Student Club, where he developed his passion for helping his fellow veterans and their families in Bakersfield and around Kern County.

Vernon cared deeply about the well being of veterans, and he eventually became a Marriage and Family Therapist specializing in helping veterans with Post Traumatic Stress transition into civilian life after experiencing combat. In 2008, after advocating for a Vet Center to be built in Kern County, Vernon was hired as the Team Leader for the Bakersfield Vet Center where he was further able to help veterans transition and re-enter civilian life.

His most recent legacy is the establishment of the Veterans Justice Program in Kern County, which helps provide veterans—some of whom may have mental or other combat-related illnesses—who get in trouble with the law a second chance by ensuring they receive access to mental health and substance abuse programs provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. While many doubted such a jus-

tice program could be formed and much less work, Vernon made it happen by bringing everyone together on behalf of all the local veterans returning from war and in need of help.

Vernon's work has touched the lives and benefited thousands of local veterans and their families. The loss of Vernon will surely be felt in our communities, and we express our deepest condolences to his wife Lise, his son Robert, and his daughters Alison and Katherine. His selflessness, perseverance, and service-minded dedication will continue to serve as an inspiration in our community and remain a constant reminder we must all continue to have of our commitment to the men and women in the Armed Forces who bravely serve our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REV.
BONIFACE HARDIN

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to honor the life of Reverend Boniface Hardin, a luminary of the civil rights movement and a pioneer in higher education from Indiana's Seventh Congressional District who passed away this past Saturday.

Reverend Hardin became a Benedictine monk in 1953 at the young age of twenty, was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1959, and received a master of divinity degree in 1960. While serving as an associate pastor at the Holy Angels Catholic Church in Indianapolis, he became a vocal advocate for racial and socio-economic equality during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

His spiritual commitment and dedication to self-improvement led him to found the Martin Center in 1969 and later the Indianapolis Sickle Cell Center in 1977. Under his leadership, the Martin Center College became Martin University, a fully accredited institution offering undergraduate and graduate degrees to low-income and minority adult learners.

Recognizing his limitless compassion and unceasing commitment to education, Reverend Hardin was named a "Living Legend" in 2002 by the Indiana Historical Society for the indelible mark he made on the City of Indianapolis and the State of Indiana.

It is with a heavy heart and profound sense of sadness that I express my condolences to the family and friends of Reverend Hardin. But it is with gratitude and admiration that I remember his life and contributions to our community. We were all truly lucky to have had such a caring, giving servant in our midst.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 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 \$15,580,211,803,539.46. We've added \$4,953,334,754,626.38 to our debt in 3

years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF
LISA REED

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the work of Lisa Reed for her accomplished career in public service to the State of New Jersey. Lisa began her career in law enforcement with the Plainfield Police Department. She later joined the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office where she specialized in sexual assault and child abuse investigations.

Her distinguished work prompted her promotion to Detective Sergeant and supervisor of the Sex Crimes and Child Abuse Unit. She was a tremendous asset and valued member of the Prosecutor's Office and her portfolio expanded to homicides and narcotics. Lisa was later assigned to the Somerset County Police Academy as the Continuing Education Coordinator. There she shared her expertise with young officers until her retirement in 2005.

Lisa developed a small business with her talents, Lisa S. Reed Investigations of Flemington, New Jersey. Lisa's most noted accomplishment is her vital role in the arrest of Roger Day, a fugitive who led an international conspiracy to defraud the military. This criminal was named a member of "America's Most Wanted" and Lisa's work was part of a three-year effort that brought Roger Day to justice.

Lisa Reed is an outstanding public servant who has continually demonstrated bravery in the critical area of public safety. I congratulate her on this long and distinguished career.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL (RADM)
HEWITT FOR HIS SERVICE IN
THE U.S. COAST GUARD

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a fellow Oregonian and leader for his extraordinary service in United States Coast Guard. Rear Admiral (RADM) Ronald T. Hewitt served his country for 34 years in the Coast Guard and on April 6th, RADM Hewitt will retire as the Assistant Commandant for Human Resources at Coast Guard Headquarters, a position he has held since May 2009. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his commitment to service and to our country.

His efforts were pivotal to improving the Service's readiness while providing advancement, professional development and quality of life enhancements for all Coast Guard personnel. He established a comprehensive strategy to enhance diversity within the Coast Guard, developing and leveraging important partnerships with Congress, the Administration, academic institutions, and key outreach and affinity organizations, setting new heights

for the number of women and minorities accessed into and retained in the Coast Guard.

Demonstrating exemplary stewardship, RADM Hewitt implemented rigorous internal controls over financial reporting, enabling the Service to accurately value and track over \$7 billion in pay and medical accounts. In response to the 2010 Haiti Earthquake and Deepwater Horizon Oil spill disasters, he guided the strategic resourcing of Coast Guard personnel, including Reserve forces, for these herculean first responder events, expertly balancing immediate needs with long-term workforce sustainment. His unwavering advocacy and commitment to Coast Guard personnel and their families was evidenced through expanded child care services and subsidies, initiatives improving government owned housing, and enhancements to work-life programs. These accomplishments are remarkably significant and representative of RADM Hewitt's distinguished 34-year career in the service of his country.

A native of Sandy, Oregon, in my Congressional district, RADM Hewitt is a 1978 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering. In 1982, he earned a Master of Science degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University. In 2000, he received a Master's Certificate in Information Technology Project Management from George Washington University and is a certified Project Management Professional.

RADM Hewitt and his wife Ann married in 1979, and they currently reside in Arlington, Virginia with their son Michael, a high school sophomore who was born during their assignment in Boston. Their daughter Laura, a recent college graduate, was born while they were stationed in Virginia during an earlier tour of duty. RADM Hewitt's parents are Wallace and Irene Hewitt of Sandy, Oregon.

RADM Hewitt's other Flag Officer assignments include Commander, Coast Guard Maintenance and Logistics Command Atlantic in Portsmouth, Virginia, and Assistant Commandant for Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Information Technology in Washington, DC, where he was detailed to the Department of Homeland Security as their acting Chief Information Officer. Earlier assignments included serving as Project Manager for the "Rescue 21" and the Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement systems; serving as Commanding Officer, Electronics Support Unit Boston; serving as Executive Officer, Communications Area Master Station Pacific; serving as Project Engineer at the Omega Navigation Systems Center and at the Electronics Engineering Center in Wildwood, New Jersey, and in his first assignment out of the Coast Guard Academy, serving as Operations Officer on the USCGC *Bittersweet*.

Rear Admiral Hewitt's personal military decorations include multiple awards of the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, and the Commandant's Letter of Commendation.

HONORING ANTHONY SILVEIRA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mann County dairy rancher Anthony (Tony) Silveira who passed away March 9, 2012, at the age of 90. Mr. Silveira spent most of his life working on the family ranches and was known for his proud defense of the family's property rights as the County became increasingly urbanized.

Mr. Silveira's father, like many of Mann County's early dairy ranchers, emigrated from the Azores. He founded the ranching business in 1900, and in 1920 helped found Mann-Dell Dairy (sold in 1954).

Born in 1921 on the Miller Ranch (now Marinwood), Tony Silveira was committed to the family business; after his father died when he was only 15, he and his siblings helped his mother Mary run two ranches. With Marinwood ranch and the Burdell Ranch north of Novato along Highway 101, drivers could enjoy the sight of some of the family's 1500 cows grazing on prime Mann County grasslands.

After graduating from local schools, Mr. Silveira attended UC Davis before returning to Mann ranching. The "Home" ranch in Marinwood, where his father had acquired land around St. Vincent's School for Boys, is centrally located and soon became the focus for possible housing growth. Others argued that the land should be preserved as buffer zone, with minimum development. Mr. Silveira fought passionately for the right not to have the property down-zoned, speaking out often at meetings and in press.

Mr. Silveira was involved in agricultural organizations such as the Mann County Farm Bureau and the Western United Dairyman as well as the University of California Alumni Association, Native Sons of the Golden West, and the IDESST Portuguese Hall in Sausalito.

He is survived by Lorraine, his wife of 65 years; daughter, Renee; siblings George and Jean; and three grandchildren. His son, Ronald Anthony Silveira, predeceased him in 2000.

Mr. Speaker, Anthony Silveira's proud ranching background is an important part of the fabric of Mann County history and his battles for property rights reflect the pressures and conflicts that are an ongoing dialogue of life in the County. I am honored to salute his long life and career.

TO HONOR THE LEADERSHIP OF
JOEL JACOB AS CHAIRMAN OF
THE BOARD OF MAZON: A JEW-
ISH RESPONSE TO HUNGER

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Mr. Joel E. Jacob, as he steps down as Chairman of the Board of MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger and for his lifetime of advocacy in the realm of hunger and food insecurity.

For years, Joel has been a champion for those facing the challenges of food insecurity. His advocacy to eradicate hunger has earned him international accolades and allowed him to develop close relationships with leaders across the globe. As the Chairman and Founder of The Bottle Crew, a business based in West Bloomfield, Michigan, Joel has instilled the importance of community service at his office because it is a value central to his life.

As a teenager bussing tables at weddings and Bar Mitzvahs, Joel grew frustrated as he saw the amount of food going to waste after the meals were served. These images of lost food helped motivate Joel to be an activist for the hungry. Now, as the official shofar blower for Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield, Michigan, Joel blasts the clarion call for justice. Joel has made the fight against hunger central to his pursuit of justice in the world.

Joel was first elected to the MAZON Board of Directors in 2003 and was elected Chair of the Board of Directors in 2009. He has served on MAZON's Finance Committee, Strategic Planning Committee and Executive Committee and also served as Co-Chair of the Development and Communications Committee. During his time on the Board, Joel has traveled to several continents to help the malnourished and raise awareness for food insecurity. For nearly three decades, MAZON has been a leading national nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing and alleviating hunger among people of all faiths and backgrounds. MAZON, which means "food" or "sustenance" in Hebrew, was the first national organization to rally the American Jewish community around the issue of hunger. MAZON provides for people who are hungry and advocates for ways to alleviate hunger. Thanks to the efforts of Joel, the concept in the Passover Haggadah of "Letting All Who Are Hungry, Come and Eat" is now a core theme at synagogues and Jewish organizations across the nation. Joel has successfully brought this message far beyond the Jewish community and has developed relationships worldwide to pool resources to feed those most in need including shaping legislation in the Israeli Knesset and the United States Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Joel's years of service on behalf of countless people around the world facing challenges such as food insecurity and hunger. His leadership as Chairman of the Board at MAZON has profoundly improved the lives of countless people in need around the world and was deeply felt by those who have benefitted from his commitment, passion and advocacy. As a personal friend of Joel, I know that this will in no way affect his dedication to the issue of hunger and that he will continue to be a champion for fighting hunger and repairing the world.

CONGRATULATING THE LEADER
ON 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Leader newspaper on its twenty-five years of excellence.

In 1987, Garrick Feldman and his wife, Eileen, published the first edition of *The Leader*, a community-oriented weekly newspaper that strove to serve all of its readers “without fear or favor.”

Today, the Feldmans, with the help of their dedicated staff, bring Arkansans in Pulaski, Lonoke, White, and Prairie counties the important news that affects their lives.

The *Leader's* coverage of our local schools' academic and athletic accomplishments serves as a reminder of the talent throughout the community and the promise of the future.

Over the past quarter-century, *The Leader* has experienced tremendous growth, earning the title, “the best large weekly in Arkansas” for the past four years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating *The Leader* on their accomplishments during their twenty-five years in business and in wishing them continued success.

Mr. Speaker, *The Leader* recently published an article highlighting this milestone, and I submit it in the RECORD.

[From the *Leader*, Mar. 17., 2012]
 NEWSPAPER CELEBRATES 25 YEARS
 (By Eileen Feldman)

In the first issue of *The Leader* on March 4, 1987, publisher Garrick Feldman said, “The North Pulaski *Leader* intends to be a mirror to the community—to report all that is newsworthy in Jacksonville, Sherwood, the air base and surrounding areas . . . We want to chronicle the events, both small and large, that are taking place here . . . The newspaper also promises to serve its advertisers well.”

He continued, “This newspaper will be about you and your neighbors, so let us hear from you if you have news to share with others.”

Twenty-five years later, *The Leader* is keeping its promise of delivering community news for an affordable subscription price and delivering consistent results for advertisers through a combination of mail (with its free edition, *The Extra*) and home delivery to subscribers in an expanded local area which now includes Pulaski County from Sherwood and Gravel Ridge to Jacksonville to Little Rock Air Force Base. *The Leader* is also serving all of Cabot and most of Lonoke County including Lonoke, Austin, Ward and Carlisle and the surrounding rural confines. In White County, *The Leader* serves Beebe, McRae, El Paso, Garner and Butlerville and to a lesser extent Searcy including many White County rural routes. *The Leader's* reach also extends into Prairie County giving our advertisers an even bigger bonus for their buck.

By all accounts, *The Leader* has grown by leaps and bounds and we want to thank you, dear readers and also our advertisers for your steadfast loyalty to *The Leader* and to the American dream.

Some of our advertisers have been with us since the beginning, and to you we extend our gratitude and our wishes for your continued success in business. May we continue to grow together.

What publisher Feldman said then still holds true today, “Share with us our joys and sorrows—your proud moments and your sad ones. The news that ordinary people make is just as important to us as what their leaders do on city councils and school boards.”

And it still holds true today that “if you have an engagement or wedding announcement, send us the announcement and also a photo. If there is a birth in your family, send us a picture also.”

Of course, times have changed in 25 years so we now accept all this by e-mail at leadernewsarkansasleader.com or at editor@arkansasleader.com. But we still do some things the old-fashioned way—mailed submissions are still accepted and cards of thanks and obituaries are still free.

We love to cover our local schools and encourage teachers to let us know of their students' accomplishments and awards as well as their own.

We still consider covering significant birthdays, centenarians in particular, and submitted photos are always welcome. Letters to the editor are always welcome. We want to hear the voice of the community.

We also pride ourselves on our local sports coverage including football, basketball, baseball, volleyball and soccer and also local news which impacts sports. Coaches comments and local submissions of news tips and photos help to give flavor to those pages.

As we said back in 1987, “This newspaper will try to serve all of its readers without fear or favor. *The Leader* intends to open its pages to everyone.”

We also want to extend a big thank you to the many on our staff including our son Jonathan, who joined our staff as an editor and who will help us continue to produce a strong family-owned and community-oriented newspaper.

We wish to thank our veteran reporters, Rick Kron, Joan McCoy and John Hofheimer, who rejoined the staff after a brief hiatus and a visit to Greece. All journalism award winners, they've helped make *The Leader* what it is today.

Also Christy Hendricks, our creative designer, as well as Jeffrey Smith, who has come a long way since his first days at *The Leader* and who's made many friends with his Cabot and Beebe coverage. Sarah Campbell, an ASU-Jonesboro grad, has local roots in the area, which have helped her ferret out some outstanding local stories.

Sports editor Ray Benton's attention to local sports is outstanding and caters to our greater local area with the help of veteran sportswriter Jason King.

We also wish to thank our advertising staff led by General Manager John Henderson and our Publications Manager Matt Robinson. Also invaluable members of the sales staff are Linda Hostetler and Susan Swift. You've stuck with us through thick and thin, through the idiosyncracies of the economy, its ups and downs.

We couldn't have done it without you. You've all helped us get to where we are today.

There are many other staff members—designers, artists and photographers—who should be singled out for their loyalty and outstanding work ethic. And there are many more starting at the front office and on to the pressroom and mailroom, where the final product is prepared which arrives at your front door or in your mailbox. (We'll introduce them all to you in a later edition.)

Readers, advertisers and staff, you have helped *The Leader* become what it is today. Continue to grow and thrive with us.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
 STATE REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT L. TURNER

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and achievements of State

Representative Robert L. Turner. Representative Turner was first elected in 1990 and has served in the Wisconsin State Assembly for eleven consecutive terms. While representing the eastern half of the City of Racine, he has utilized his booming voice to become an advocate for issues such as criminal justice, urban affairs, racial equality, and veterans affairs.

Public service has always been a cornerstone of Representative Turner's life. After graduating high school in Mississippi and moving to Wisconsin, he was soon drafted into the United States Air Force. He bravely answered his country's call and completed tours of duty in both Vietnam, where he received a Medal of Commendation for meritorious service, and Korea during the *Pueblo* incident. Representative Turner turned his experience in the armed forces into a lifelong promise to support and encourage local veterans groups. During his first term in the Assembly, Representative Turner earned a perfect rating on veterans issues and was named to the All Star Team by the State Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). Additionally, his legislative work earned him the Vietnam Veterans of America Distinguished Achievement Award in 1992 and he received life membership from the Vietnam Veterans of America in 1999.

Representative Turner has served on numerous committees during his time in the Wisconsin State Assembly, lending his expertise to everything from the Highways and Transportation Committee to the Judiciary Committee. His overwhelmingly friendly demeanor gives Representative Turner a unique ability to build close working relationships that extend far beyond party affiliations. While representing an area hit especially hard by the recent economic downturn, Representative Turner has consistently supported new economic development projects, increases in unemployment benefits, and affordable, quality health care for his constituency.

In addition to his tenure in the Assembly, Representative Turner also served on the Racine City Council for 28 years from 1976 to 2004. As both a State Representative and an Alder, he developed close relationships with many local organizations such as the NAACP, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Urban League of Racine and Kenosha, and the Racine Raider Football team.

I had the honor of serving with Representative Turner in the Assembly for three terms and I am proud to continue to call him a close friend today. His service to his constituents and the City of Racine has always been a source of inspiration for me. To understand who Representative Turner truly is, one only needs to know that he considers one of his biggest accomplishments being able to serve, listen to, and assist his constituents for so long. Without fail, every time I see Bob, the only thing bigger than the smile on his face is the warm embrace I receive from him.

It is nearly impossible to mention everything Representative Turner has accomplished; it is even harder to overstate the positive impact he has had on our community. It is without a doubt that his work has bettered the lives of the people of Racine, Wisconsin, and our great nation. Today, I rise to honor and thank State Representative Robert L. Turner for his more than two decades of leadership in the Wisconsin State Assembly. May Bob's unwavering dedication, vision, and never-ending smile serve as an inspiration for all of us.

TRIBUTE TO CENTRAL OREGON
VETERANS OUTREACH

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to Central Oregon Veterans Outreach (COVO) for their tireless efforts on behalf of homeless veterans in Oregon's Second District. Since its founding in 2005 by members of the Bend/La Pine Vietnam Veterans of America, COVO has grown from a handful of concerned veterans reaching out to other veterans in the homeless camps around the area to a full-fledged non-profit organization with countless volunteers, a dedicated staff, and a truly professional board of directors.

In the early years of this organization, a small group of Vietnam veterans took it upon themselves to visit homeless camps on the High Desert, providing much needed supplies and support to those veterans who fell upon hard times and were in desperate need of a hand up. Today, COVO has a full time staff that coordinates continuing volunteer efforts to deliver food, water, tents, sleeping bags, clothing, and propane to the region's homeless camps. In addition to making weekly trips with supplies, COVO has transformed a van into a mobile medical clinic that is staffed by volunteer doctors, nurses, and medical staff who provide free care to the homeless population each week. This is an invaluable service to those in need.

COVO continues to provide free assistance to veterans in the form of benefits claim-filing, bus passes, medical shuttle reservations, and assistance with accessing resources like the HUD-VASH housing voucher program and transitional housing at their 6-bed "Home of the Brave" facility. COVO continues to advocate for those veterans who are most in need of assistance and who are unable to be their own voice in times of need.

Mr. Speaker, we like to say, "We will never forget what our veterans have done for our way of life." They put their lives on the line for this country, and we cannot turn our backs on them. Any of them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my fellow colleagues join me in recognizing COVO for their staunch and invaluable advocacy on behalf of our most vulnerable veterans: President Linda Heatley; Secretary/Treasurer Rob Bryce; Directors Susan Steves, Craig Jorgensen, Rickie Gunn, Jerry Chinn, Dan Lauderback, Lauri Imholt, and Dr. Elizabeth Leeburg; Executive Director Chuck Hemingway; Counselors Alex Weiss and Allen Wilson; Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program staff Steve Wilkes, Ruth Clark, and Yvonne Devine; Outreach Coordinator Lisa Miller; Volunteer Coordinator Kim Darling; Office Administrator and DAV Shuttle Coordinator Chuck Man; Housing Manager Steve Haupt, and; Veteran Service Officer Patricia White and VSO Intern Kim Burger.

Mr. Speaker, the staff, board, and volunteers who comprise COVO deserve the thanks of a grateful nation for all they have done and continue to do for the veterans of Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson Counties.

IN HONOR OF CORRINE CODY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Corrine Cody, who passed away on Saturday March 3, 2012. Mrs. Cody was originally from Queens, New York, but she moved to Bucks County Pennsylvania with her husband and children in 1966 and remained in Doylestown for 45 years. Corrine worked for the Central Bucks School District for almost 30 years, where she taught elementary students for 15 years, served as principal for several years, and finished her career as a teacher in the gifted program.

Mrs. Cody was incredibly passionate about teaching. One of her greatest accomplishments was creating the Central Bucks School District's program for gifted students. At one point in her career, Corrine actually decided to leave her job as principal at Paul W. Kutz Elementary School because she believed she could do even more to help children reach their full potential. She would go on to become the coordinator of the social studies and science curriculum for all C.B. elementary schools.

Her teaching and activism went beyond the classroom too. Corrine worked closely with the Peace Valley Nature Center to start a program that would teach fifth and sixth graders about clean water, storm water runoff, and other aspects of the Bucks County environment. As a member of the Bucks County League of Women Voters, she was instrumental in the formation of the Kids Voting program in Central Bucks. Corrine also played a huge role in the development of the Doylestown bike and hike trail, which many of my constituents take advantage of today.

Mrs. Cody leaves behind an inspirational legacy on generations of Bucks County children. I am proud and pleased to speak on her behalf today, and am grateful for all that she did for our area.

ROBY ANNOUNCES

CONGRESSIONAL PEANUT CAUCUS

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the newly formed bipartisan Congressional Peanut Caucus that I have co-founded with Representative SAMFORD BISHOP. The caucus will serve as an informal group of Members of Congress dedicated to all issues related to peanuts and the role they play in our Nation's agriculture industry.

Representative BISHOP and I formed this caucus to promote and support peanut production—a crucial part of the agriculture industry in the Southern States we represent. Representative BISHOP has been a strong force in shaping Federal policies to advance the U.S. peanut industry and ensure it remains competitive. I am grateful for the opportunity to work on this initiative with such a strong advocate.

Agriculture remains the number one industry in my State of Alabama, and has been a top

priority for me since taking office. The peanut industry—specifically—is an essential and recognizable commodity for Alabama. Seven States account for approximately 99% of all peanuts grown in the U.S. Alabama is among the top few States, along with Georgia, Florida, and Mississippi that produces a major share of our Nation's peanut crop.

Our country's reliance on domestic agricultural production is rising with continuous population growth. Peanuts are the 12th most valuable cash crop grown in the United States with a farm value of over one billion dollars. The World Bank and the U.S. Agency for International Development are both looking at peanuts and peanut producers as vital components in fighting global malnutrition. In addition, the spectrum of new and emerging research related to peanuts and health is broadening quickly. The application of this research may lead to a better understanding of ways to reduce the risk of certain diseases, including Type Two diabetes and some cancers. Therefore, we must ensure that our farmers across the Nation have the resources necessary to maintain successful peanut crops from year to year.

Congressional Caucuses are an important way to increase awareness of principal issues and identify legislative priorities. As Representatives, it is our responsibility to bring the voices of farmers from all over the country to the forefront of the discussion and to ensure that all of their interests are fairly represented. Members of the Peanut Caucus will have the ability to collectively advocate in Congress for peanut farmers and producers of this important crop.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues and I begin to prepare for the next Farm Bill, we believe it must contain provisions that are beneficial to American farmers, while also maintaining fiscal restraint. With that in mind, it is my hope that this Caucus will serve as a working group for members from our Nation's peanut States and will help streamline communication between Congressional offices. I urge any interested colleague to join us on the Peanut Caucus, and I look forward to working with Chairman LUCAS and the House Agriculture Committee on the next Farm Bill as we consider legislative issues that affect our Nation's peanut farmers.

HEAVY TRUCK TAX FAIRNESS ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, nothing is more essential to restoring the economy, revitalizing our communities, and protecting our environment than the effort to rebuild and renew America. The U.S. faces steep infrastructure challenges. Our infrastructure inventory is in poor repair and much of it is outdated—not just decades, but often centuries old. Our effort to rebuild and renew that infrastructure is stalled because of a funding impasse. The Highway Trust Fund nearly exhausted its funding several times recently and it is clear that our existing funding mechanisms are insufficient to meet our current, much less future, needs. Congress must consider new revenue sources to meet our infra-

structure challenges and must work with transportation users to find the most efficient means of raising this revenue.

I rise today to reintroduce the Heavy Truck Tax Fairness Act, bipartisan legislation to ease barriers to investment in new, heavy trucks. The funding sources for the Highway Trust Fund can be volatile, depending on the health of the economy. Current law places a 12% tax on the sale of new heavy trucks, trailers, and certain tractors. This tax is an important source of Highway Trust Fund revenues. In times of economic stress, these sales fall dramatically, badly limiting Trust Fund resources. These lost sales have several important effects. By reducing revenue to the Trust Fund, the decline hinders economic productivity by imposing costs from poor infrastructure. It also reflects an increase in the average age of the trucking fleet. New trucks have significant environmental and safety advantages, and Congress should reduce the barriers to new truck acquisition. To meet the demand for new trucks, most truck manufacturers will add employees, as most have significant engine and final assembly operations in the U.S.

The Heavy Truck Tax Fairness Act would replace the 12% excise tax currently levied on new truck, trailer, and certain tractor sales with an off-setting increase in the diesel fuel excise tax of \$0.064 per gallon. This modest change will ensure that the aggregate tax burden stays roughly equivalent over 10 years; it will also have the effect of smoothing the resources available to the Highway Trust Fund and ensure the U.S. can continue investing in our vital transportation infrastructure. I also note that this legislation does not affect all transportation stakeholders equally. In particular, smaller companies and owner-operators could see fewer benefits. I pledge to work with affected groups as this legislation advances to ensure that the legislation, as enacted, is as carefully tailored and broadly beneficial as possible.

HONORING AUSTIN ROPER

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Austin Roper of the Krisksville High School Wrestling team for winning the Class 2 Missouri State Wrestling Championship in the 132-pound weight class.

Mr. Roper and his coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and for bringing home the State title in the Class 2 132-pound weight class to his school and community. This is his third State title.

I ask that you join me in recognizing Mr. Roper for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING GEORGE DEAN
CARDEN'S 60TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th birthday of George Dean Carden, a man from southwest Missouri who went from humble beginnings to becoming the largest producer of Shrine Circuses in the country.

George Carden was born on March 19, 1952 in Springfield, Missouri. It was in Springfield he was raised, staying with his grandparents as his parents traveled the country working in a circus. After a few years his parents bought a circus of their own, but this time George came along. It wasn't too long before George started his own circus company—George Carden Circus International—in 1981. Eventually, he bought out his father's circus, combined the two, and after years of hard work became one of the largest circus producers in North America. In fact, George and his father have produced the Abou Ben Adhem Shrine Circus for almost fifty years.

The circus is usually a family affair and the Cardens are no different. George's wife, Alexandra, is also involved with the circus, as are his two sons, Larry and Brett Carden. George also has a daughter, Michelle, and two grandsons, George Brett and Cash Carden. Working in the circus means a life on the road, but when it comes time to relax, George and his family spend their time on their 800-acre ranch in Hickory County, Missouri, enjoying deer hunting and fishing.

Giving back to the community is also important to George. He is a lifetime member of Abou Ben Adhem Shriners and is very active in the Shriner community, even financially supporting renovations to the Shrine Mosque. George also has a soft spot for children and has taken care of over 100,000 special and needy children over the past thirty years. For his service, George has become honorary member of many Shrine Temples.

Mr. Speaker, George is a great man and I am privileged to honor him on his 60th birthday.

HONORING BOLIVAR COUNTY
HEAD START

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bolivar County Head Start Program (BCHSP) which began as

an affiliate program under the umbrella of the Bolivar County Community Action Agency, Inc. The program was chartered on June 16, 1965 by the State of Mississippi under Governor Paul B. Johnson. Bolivar County Head Start Program is a non-profit corporation organized for the purpose of eliminating poverty and the causes thereof in Bolivar County, Mississippi.

The Association of Communities of Bolivar County began its operations the summer of 1965 and enrolled 1,308 children in seventeen centers. At its inception, the Bolivar County Head Start Program was housed in multiple buildings and churches. It began its operations the summer of 1966 with an enrollment of 1,550 children served in eight centers located throughout the county. Unfortunately, they have had to reduce the number of sites over the years due to inadequate funding.

Most recently, Bolivar County Head Start Program has made tremendous strides in its development. After years of record growth the Bolivar County Head Start Program was able to transition out of make shift facilities such as churches and old homes to mobile units stationed throughout the county. Thanks to funding from several sources they were able to build three state of the art head start centers in the communities of Rosedale, Shaw and Mound Bayou. In 2012 they added the Early Head Start Program for children 0-3 years of age and expectant mothers, increasing their total enrollment to 890 children.

It has been through strong leadership that the agency has been recognized not only throughout the State of Mississippi, but also nationwide for its performance and service provided to children, families and communities. Mr. Amzie Moore was the first Head Start Director under the Association of Communities of Bolivar County; Mr. Dick Gurnie, the first Executive Director and later Mr. Billy J. McCain was both Head Start Director and Executive Director. After Mr. McCain's untimely departure in 2009, the charge was passed on to Mr. Adolph Hilliard to continue the agency legacy. Shortly afterwards, Mr. Hilliard retired, Mrs. Elnora Littleton was appointed the interim Executive Director. Mrs. Littleton is currently serving as the first African American female to head the Bolivar County Head Start Program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Bolivar County Head Start for its outstanding commitment to improving the lives of children and families throughout Bolivar County, Mississippi.