

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO THE FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S ICE HOCKEY TEAM

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Ferris State University Men's Ice Hockey Team upon their runner up finish in the 2012 NCAA Frozen Four Men's Ice Hockey Championship.

This year's Bulldog team made the first showing in school history in an NCAA championship game and won the school's second-ever Central Collegiate Hockey Association regular-season championship as well as a Midwest region crown. Along the way, the Bulldogs saw significant moments of success, including an impressive 15-game unbeaten streak during the regular season. Accomplishments of this magnitude can only be achieved through teamwork and a shared determination amongst players, coaches, and staff.

Several individuals were recognized for their personal achievements throughout the 2011–2012 hockey season. Bulldog's head coach Bob Daniels received the 2012 Spencer Penrose Award as the Division I Men's Ice Hockey National Coach of the Year. Bob's leadership and guidance were crucial in developing skillful and dedicated players that could meet and surpass the season's challenges.

Ferris State's Tommy Hill, the team's senior co-captain, received the NCAA Elite 89 award. This award recognizes athletes that have reached the pinnacle of achievement by competing for a national championship as well as achieving the highest academic standard among peers. Teammates Kyle Bonis and Chad Billins were also recognized and named to the 2012 NCAA Frozen Four All-Tournament Team for their significant efforts during the Frozen Four games.

On behalf of the Fourth District of Michigan, I congratulate the 2011–2012 Ferris State Bulldog's Men's Ice Hockey Team on their monumental and record-setting season.

PIONEER FIRE COMPANY NO. 1

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Pioneer Fire Company No.1 of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, which will celebrate its 145th anniversary on April 21, 2012.

In 1867, merchants and citizens of Hazleton established the first volunteer fire company to protect the lives and property of their neighbors. Two years later, the borough council elected fifteen members and formally established the Pioneer Fire Company No. 1 of Hazleton. The company responded to their first

fire at the Bramer household on July 5, 1869 at 1:45 p.m.

Additionally, the pioneers have always been active within the community. After raising funds, the pioneers bought the first Hazleton community ambulance which began serving the community on July 2, 1952. They are also charter members of the Hazleton Little League and sponsor a team yearly.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 145 years, the Pioneer Fire Company No. 1 has proudly served the citizens of Hazleton, Pennsylvania. Therefore, I commend all those pioneers who have given so unselfishly and to all those who have gone on to their eternal rest.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRINCE WILLIAM FOREST PARK

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 75th Anniversary of Prince William Forest Park. Located in southern Prince William County, Virginia, Prince William Forest Park is a natural oasis just outside Washington D.C.

Established in 1936, Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area (RDA) was constructed as a Great Depression area federal relief program. Recreational Demonstration Areas were built across the country, largely near urban areas to combat unemployment and to provide recreational opportunities for poverty stricken urban poor. Work on the park also provided employment. Depression era job programs, including the Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration contributed the labor to build the parks roads, cabins, lakes and other facilities. For decades, Chopawamsic RDA provided outdoor recreational and education opportunities to the urban youth of our nation's capital.

Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, and the United States entrance into the war, Chopawamsic RDA served as training grounds for covert operatives of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). A precursor to today's Central Intelligence Service, OSS was a highly secretive wartime agency that waged covert activities behind enemy lines during World War II. Chopawamsic's forests and cabin infrastructure located in a rural area just an hour from Washington, D.C. provided an ideal location to train spies for the war effort.

After the War, the Park was renamed Prince William Forest Park in 1948. Today, the Park provides miles of hiking and biking trails, camping, picnic spots and many programs for school aged children. Prince William Forest Park is truly one of the special natural resources in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I encourage my colleagues to join with me in commemorating Prince William Forest Park's 75th Anniversary.

TO COMMEMORATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HADASSAH

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America.

Hadassah is a voluntary women's organization whose members dedicate their time to creating a stronger relationship with Israel, while ensuring Jewish continuity in the world. With over 300,000 members in total, they are one of the largest women's volunteer organizations in the world.

Hadassah was founded by Henrietta Szold in 1912, a woman whose life's work was shaped by the ignorance, injustice, and anti-semitism she faced every day. In founding Hadassah, Henrietta gave the Jewish people a means to unify and fight back against these trepidations and hatreds. Ultimately, she played an integral role in unifying Jewish people all over the world, something that was desperately needed in the midst of the Shoah (Holocaust).

From the time of its establishment, Hadassah has managed to accomplish many goals. In 1918, the organization sent medical units across the globe to provide American medical care to people of all races, creeds, and ethnicities. Hadassah was also instrumental in organizing the rescue of thousands of children during Germany's darkest years, bringing them to safety in the land of Palestine. This act, along with many others helped to further the development of the modern state of Israel.

The Hadassah Organization's humanitarian efforts have become a pivotal part of our society and should never be forgotten. I am honored to be speaking on the organization's behalf today, and on behalf of the thousands of people Hadassah managed to help over the last 100 years.

PROVIDING FOR AWARD OF GOLD MEDAL TO JACK NICKLAUS

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to a golf legend, devoted philanthropist, husband, father and grandfather, Jack Nicklaus. Known as "The Golden Bear," Jack Nicklaus has continually set an admirable example of excellence, not only emulated by generations of golf fans, but by those who value sharing their success by giving back to others. As someone who shares the experience of growing up in Central Ohio and attending The Ohio State

• 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.

University, I can attest to the pride held by both communities.

Dubbed the “Golfer of the Millennium,” Jack Nicklaus is world renowned for his winning record of 118 professional golf tournaments and an unsurpassed 18 professional major-championship titles. However, it is his accomplishments off the course that I recognize today. In 2005, Jack Nicklaus and his wife Barbara formed the Nicklaus Children’s Health Care Foundation, which provides support for activities that advance and enhance the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of childhood diseases and disorders. To date, Jack and Barbara have raised over \$15 million in support of pediatric health care programs through their foundation. In addition, as a trustee of The First Tee program, Jack provides positive life values and promotes healthy choices through the game of golf to young people who would normally not have access to the game.

I am thankful to have had the opportunity to attend the Legends Luncheon this week, which advances pediatric care through the Nationwide Children’s Hospital and the Nicklaus Children’s Health Care Foundation alliance. As a fellow Ohio State Buckeye, it is truly my honor to recognize such a great role model, Jack Nicklaus.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
BRITNEY WOLFORD ON HER
OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO AT-
TEND THE UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio’s Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Brittney Wolford of Woodville, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Brittney’s offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet Class of 2016. Attending one of our Nation’s military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Brittney brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2016. While attending Woodmore High School in Elmore, Ohio, Brittney was a member of the National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Teen Advisory Group. Brittney was also president of Woodmore’s chapter of the National Honor Society her senior year.

Throughout high school, Brittney was a member of her school’s soccer and basketball teams; earned varsity letters in both sports, as well as being nominated team captain in both sports her junior and senior years. In addition, Brittney volunteered her time to her community and brought pride to her country by singing the national anthem at sporting and local veteran events. I am confident that Brittney will carry the lessons of her student and athletic leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Brittney Wolford on the offer of her appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Brittney will excel during her career at the Air Force Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to the Nation.

PROTECTING AMERICAN BABIES
FROM THE SCOURGE OF THE RE-
PUBLICAN PLUTOCRACY

HON. SHELIA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening because this House Majority seeks to play Freddy Krueger with our social safety net, attacking the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, or food stamps, and ripping families to shreds, under the guise of budget cutting.

This program is our most important anti-hunger program, with over 46 million Americans in more than 21 million households relying on it to help feed themselves and their families.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP is the cornerstone of the Nation’s nutrition assistance safety net. SNAP touches the lives of over one in seven Americans. Indeed you could say that SNAP saves lives.

Everyone’s life is not as simple as some on the other side would have us believe—every person who is homeless cannot be fixed with magic dust and self-help policy prescriptions. Life is complicated and fraught with danger and uncertainty.

Lucky are many of us who go home to warm shelter, food, and family. There, but for the grace of God go I.

SNAP benefits are available to most people who meet the financial requirements, and the program serves a broad spectrum of low income people. In Fiscal Year 2010, SNAP provided about \$5.4 billion dollars in food benefits to a monthly average of over 3.6 million people in Texas.

The program served 55 percent of those eligible for benefits in Texas in 2008. SNAP also has an economic multiplier effect with every \$5 in new SNAP benefits generating as much as \$9 in total economic activity.

It is a proven fact Mr. Speaker that people who receive SNAP benefits put them to almost immediate use. SNAP beneficiaries are not converting their benefits into convertible bonds or stock options. They spend and help the economy along the way.

The Ryan Republican Budget would force SNAP into an inadequate State-by-State block program. Such a breakdown would make SNAP static and unable to react to a changing economy. This is not an example of a sensible ordering of the fiscal priorities.

When times are tough, SNAP expands to bring assistance where needed. And as the economy improves, SNAP shrinks in size as families are better able to provide for themselves. A static program would not be able to react to such economic changes and Americans would suffer.

The Republican Budget also is asking for SNAP recipients’ aid to be ‘contingent on work or job training.’ SNAP does help many people who are unemployed or underemployed to make ends meet. Let’s not make our fiscal and economic policies punitive towards the people who need us most.

But it also helps families with children, the elderly and the disabled. SNAP was created to respond to the economic climate and help the most vulnerable among us, including but not limited to those that have lost their job, avoid hunger.

In my district, the Texas 18th, more than 190,000 people live below the poverty line. Additionally, a study conducted in August 2011 by the Food Research and Action Center ranked the 18th Congressional District as having the 33rd highest rate of food hardship in households with children.

According to the Texas Food Bank Network and Baylor University’s Texas Hunger Initiative, 700,000 families in Harris County, Texas struggle to provide enough food for their families.

In 2010, there were 46.2 million Americans living in poverty nationwide. According to the 2010 Federal poverty threshold, determined by the U.S. Census, a family of four is considered impoverished if they are living on less than \$22,314 per year.

The Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that there are currently 5.6 million Texans living in poverty, 2.2 million of them children, and that 17.4 percent of households in the State struggle with food insecurity.

I am committed to preserving essential programs aimed at combating poverty, like the Supplemental Nutrition Access Program, SNAP, that fed 3.9 million residents of Texas in April 2011, or the Women, Infants, and Children, WIC, Program that provides nutritious food to more than 990,000 mothers and children in my home State.

SNAP kept more than 5 million people out of poverty in 2010 in addition to helping feed millions more who were already below the poverty line. About three-quarters of the families aided by the program have children. More than a quarter of the families include seniors or people with disabilities.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, provides benefits to low-income, eligible households on an electronic benefit transfer, EBT, card; benefits can then be exchanged for foods at authorized retailers. SNAP reaches a large share of low-income households. In November 2011, there were 46 million persons in 22 million households benefiting from SNAP.

Federal SNAP law provides two basic pathways for financial eligibility to the program:

(1) meeting federal eligibility requirements, or (2) being automatically or “categorically” eligible for SNAP based on being eligible for or receiving benefits from other specified low-income assistance programs. Categorical eligibility eliminated the requirement that households who already met financial eligibility rules in one specified low-income program go through another financial eligibility determination in SNAP.

In its traditional form, categorical eligibility conveys SNAP eligibility through the receipt of cash assistance from Supplemental Security Income, SSI, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, TANF, block grant, or State-run General Assistance, GA, programs.

However, since the 1996 welfare reform law, States have been able to expand categorical eligibility beyond its traditional bounds. That law created TANF to replace the Aid to Families with Dependent Children, AFDC, program, which was a traditional cash assistance program. TANF is a broad-purpose block grant that finances a wide range of social and human services.

TANF gives States flexibility in meeting its goals, resulting in a wide variation of benefits and services offered among the States. SNAP allows States to convey categorical eligibility based on receipt of a TANF "benefit," not just TANF cash welfare. This provides States with the ability to convey categorical eligibility based on a wide range of benefits and services. TANF benefits other than cash assistance typically are available to a broader range of households and at higher levels of income than are TANF cash assistance benefits.

In total, 43 jurisdictions have implemented what the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, has called "broad-based" categorical eligibility. These jurisdictions generally make all households with incomes below a State-determined income threshold eligible for SNAP. States do this by providing households with a low-cost TANF-funded benefit or service such as a brochure or referral to an "800" number telephone hotline.

There are varying income eligibility thresholds within States that convey "broad-based" categorical eligibility, though no State has a gross income limit above 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. In all but three of these jurisdictions, there is no asset test required for SNAP eligibility. Categorically eligible families bypass the regular SNAP asset limits.

However, their net incomes (income after deductions for expenses) must still be low enough to qualify for a SNAP benefit. That is, it is possible to be categorically eligible for SNAP but have net income too high to actually receive a benefit. The exception to this is one- or two-person households that would still receive the minimum benefit.

During the decade of the 2000s, there were a number of proposals to restrict categorical eligibility based on receipt of TANF benefits. These proposals would have limited TANF-based categorical assistance to households receiving TANF-funded cash assistance. The proposal was made by the Bush Administration in its farm bill proposals and several budget submissions. It passed the House in a budget reconciliation bill in 2005 but was not part of that year's final reconciliation package, the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-171).

Mr. Speaker, let's not punish those in need any longer! Help the poor—don't show the dark side of America.

RECOGNIZING EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Equal Pay Day and to stress my commitment to closing the wage gap between men and women once and for all. Women are critical to our Nation's eco-

nomical success and it is essential for us to redouble our efforts to end discriminatory practices in the workplace. Although many positive steps have been taken and much change has been effectuated, there is much more that can be and should be done.

On this day, let us give attention to how the wage gap affects women, families and the economy. Today, more than ever, women are equal, if not primary, income earners in most American families. Yet women in our economy and our work force are still earning just 77 cents on every dollar paid to men. Couple the gender gap with statistics on race and it is even worse. African American women earn a mere 64 cents on the dollar, while Hispanic women receive an appalling 56 cents on the dollar compared to men. In states across the country, women are collectively losing tens of billions of dollars annually—money that could alleviate the financial strain countless families are facing in this tough economy.

We must put an end to discriminatory practices in the workforce once and for all. Expanding economic opportunities for women is critical to building an economy that restores security for middle class families. We must promote such an economy by encouraging the advancement of women in the workforce and by rewarding their efforts equally. We must ensure that when a woman seeks higher employment she is able to attain it without being discriminated against based on her gender and more importantly that she receive equal pay for equal work. We must ensure that equal pay and equal opportunity go hand in hand with hard work in the twenty-first century.

In the 1950's a sole income earner, historically a man, could support an entire family. Those days are long past, not ever to return. We are living in an era where dual incomes are not a luxury, but rather the necessary condition to sustain a middle class status.

I applaud President Obama's commitment to ensuring that women are treated equally in the workforce and paid fairly for their work. From signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, to creating the National Equal Pay Task Force, President Obama has fought for equality for women in the workforce, and there is no reason why this Congress should not be equally committed to the cause of pay equality for women.

In a time where women's labor force participation has increased dramatically and where families are becoming increasingly reliant on women's incomes due to the rise of living costs, it makes no sense that pay disparities between men and women still persist. Women should not have to face greater risks for income insecurity than men. The reality is that over the course of her lifetime, these pay discrepancies can cost a woman and her family up to hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost wages, reduced pensions, and reduced Social Security benefits. I call this "gender theft." The Republican majority apparently believe this is an acceptable state of affairs.

The statistics are very clear; we cannot have a vibrant society if women are not doing well. The success of American women is critical for the success of American families and the American economy. Consequently, when women face barriers to participation in the workplace and marketplace, it affects all Americans.

Unfortunately, rather than concentrating on eliminating such discrepancies and ensuring

equality, the Republican majority has instead been fixated on limiting women's rights and freedoms. This war on women is hurtful and destructive, wastes time, and makes no economic sense. It makes America weaker, not stronger. It certainly does not reflect a kinder and gentler America.

Mr. Speaker, on this day—Equal Pay Day—let us resolve to honor women for the work they do to support and sustain their families. Let us start by paying women equally for the honorable work they do. It is through our hard work to ensure equal treatment of all women in the workforce, marketplace, and society as a whole that we can resoundingly voice our commitment to support American women and families.

SPORTSMEN'S HERITAGE ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4089) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing and shooting:

Mr. BOREN. Madam Chair, as a Congressman serving on the House Committee on Natural Resources and the past Co-Chairman of the bipartisan Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, I support America's sportsmen and the acclaimed activities of hunting and recreational fishing and shooting through the enactment of H.R. 4089.

H.R. 4089 is essential to recognizing the importance of and facilitating the expansion and enhancement of hunting and recreational fishing and shooting. It is a compilation of four different bills (H.R. 2834, H.R. 3440, H.R. 991 and H.R. 1558) that promote and advance these time-honored traditions. The Sportsmen's Heritage Act reaffirms that hunting and recreational fishing and shooting are important activities by providing a sound legislative foundation for the advancement of America's sporting heritage.

Seventy-five years ago, the conservation community, including hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and related industries, supported the use of funds from an excise tax on firearms and ammunition—along with the dedicated revenue from hunting and fishing licenses—to be used exclusively by state fish and wildlife agencies to professionally manage fish and wildlife populations and provide access for sportsmen and the larger public to enjoy the benefits of this management. This funding mechanism was eventually expanded to include the fishing and boating communities as well as the archery community. Accordingly, these groups produced the American System of Conservation Funding: a unique "user pays—public benefits" approach. This user-pays funding strategy has produced numerous public benefits including: abundant fish and wildlife populations, access to public lands and clean waters, improved fish and wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, wetland protection and associated water filtration and flood retention functions, improved soil and water conservation, shooting ranges and boating access facilities that are available for the

enjoyment of the entirety of the American public—hunters and non-hunters alike. In addition, sportsmen are an economic powerhouse. They directly support jobs, generate billions of dollars in Federal, State and local tax revenues, and invigorate the economies of local communities by spending their money on travel, lodging, food, sporting equipment, and so much more while participating in their sport.

Hunting and recreational fishing and shooting are the beating heart of conservation in the United States. This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program—a program supported and made possible by the dollars of our Nation's sportsmen. Given the current celebration of the success of this program, it seems timely to support our sportsmen by enacting legislation that will provide them with more opportunities to participate in their sport. We as a legislature must come together—overcoming partisanship and working collaboratively with our partners in the Senate—to promote, advance and protect our Nation's sporting heritage. I support our Nation's sportsmen and I urge you to join me in supporting H.R. 4089.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 158, I was detained while attempting to reach the House floor to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

IN HONOR OF THE RECIPIENTS OF THE PHILADELPHIA DIALOGUE FORUM AND PEACE ISLANDS INSTITUTE'S 8TH ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP AWARD

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor five awardees who are receiving the Philadelphia Dialogue Forum and Peace Islands Institute's 8th Annual Friendship Award. On behalf of the 8th District of Pennsylvania, I would like to congratulate Kail Ellis, Natosha Warner, Dennis O'Brien, Richard Negrin and Dan Gottlieb. Thank you all very much for your fortitude and perseverance in a mission worth striving to accomplish.

In today's society, it is especially important that we all do our best to work together. I greatly appreciate the efforts of the Philadelphia Dialogue Forum and Peace Islands Institute in working to create links of understanding, acceptance, hope and trust amongst different communities, especially the communities in Bucks County.

My Congressional District is very diverse, but it's the efforts of organizations like these that make our community unite. By bringing people together in conferences, lectures, festivals and community service projects, local residents are given the opportunity to interact with one another and work to promote common values. It is more of these efforts that our country really needs.

I am honored to be speaking on behalf of the Philadelphia Dialogue Forum and Peace Islands Institute today, as well as the five awardees who have dedicated their time to promoting peace and tranquility in our society. I look forward to hearing about what you all have accomplished in the future, and I am grateful to represent you in Congress.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MATTHEW SHOWMAN ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Matthew Showman of Willard, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Matthew's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet Class of 2016. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Matthew brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2016. He has served in a leadership capacity as a class officer, student council class representative, and he also tutored elementary students. Matthew volunteered in his community by participating in fundraisers for the Ronald McDonald House and Willard Mercy Hospital. While attending Willard High School in Willard, Ohio, Matthew consistently achieved high honors, with an exceptional grade point average.

Throughout high school, Matthew was a member of the football and wrestling teams and earned varsity letters in each. In addition, Matthew was captain of the wrestling team and was the recipient of the team's Captain Award and Coach's Award. I am confident that Matthew will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the United States Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Matthew on the acceptance of his appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Matthew will excel during his career at the Military Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

HONORING BRIDGET PHILLIPS

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary life of Bridget Phil-

lips and mourn her upon her passing at the age of 79.

Born on December 19, 1932, Bridget Phillips grew to be a woman loved and revered by all who knew her. Mrs. Phillips was the proud matriarch of a three generation Michigan based business. She was gifted with a gracious, thoughtful and philanthropic spirit, generously dedicated to local organizations, such as St. Mary's Hospital, Madonna University, Angela Hospice and The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund.

Regrettably, on April 17, 2012, Bridget Phillips passed from this earthly world to her eternal reward. She is survived by her beloved husband of 57 years, William and her cherished children Lynn, Donna, Lisa, Terry, Scott, Bob, Amy and Sean. She will be long remembered by her much-loved siblings Bill, Derm, Mary, Fran and Terry. She leaves a precious legacy in her grandchildren Sarah, Erin, Meghan, Ben, Lauren, Max, Caleb, Haley, Laine, Jarred, Molly, Amy, Andy, Matt, Alia, Zane, Jack, Will, Luke and Owen. An amiably benevolent woman, Bridget will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, Bridget Phillips is remembered as a devoted wife, loving mother, adored grandmother, treasured sister, compassionate neighbor, and a valued friend. Bridget was a true lady who deeply treasured her family, friends, community and her country. Today, as we bid Bridget farewell, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning her passing and honoring her dedicated commitment to her family, our community and country.

DESIGNATING THE SALT POND VISITOR CENTER AT CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE AS THE “TIP O'NEILL, JR. SALT POND VISITOR CENTER” STATEMENT OF INTRODUCTION

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill renaming the Salt Pond Visitor Center at Cape Cod National Seashore as the “Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Salt Pond Visitor Center.” I am proud to be joined by the entire Massachusetts delegation in the House of Representatives, who are original co-sponsors of this legislation, along with Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI, who has been the greatest Speaker of the House since the legendary Tip O'Neill. Senator JOHN KERRY (D-MA) has introduced companion legislation in the Senate.

This year, on December 9th, Tip would have celebrated his 100th birthday. Tip lived a life dedicated to public service and lifting up the disadvantaged in society, beginning with his election to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1936. In 1949, Tip became the first Democratic Speaker in the history of the Massachusetts State Legislature, serving as Speaker until 1952, when he ran successfully for the United States House of Representatives to fill the seat vacated by Senator-elect John F. Kennedy.

Many of us here who served with Tip remember his warmth, his magnetic personality, and his unyielding support for working families and the middle class. When I was elected to

the House, the very first vote I cast was the vote to elect Tip O'Neill Speaker of the House in 1977. I had the honor of serving with Tip for ten years—his entire tenure as Speaker, which was the longest continuous term of any Speaker since the first Congress met in 1789.

Tip served in public life for 50 years, including 34 years as a Member of Congress. As Speaker, Tip worked with both Democrats and Republicans as a champion of working families. He was a master legislator who dedicated his entire life to Massachusetts and our country. Tip found joy in rebuilding communities, restoring neighborhoods, and helping families get back on their feet. He never tired of helping the middle class, helping students with student loans, and protecting the hard-earned benefits of seniors. Tip was an incredibly insightful public servant with a spirit of service who truly enjoyed the work of the American people.

The squawking of politicians in Washington may have been Tip's weekday passion, but the squawking of birds on the Cape is what brought him weekend peace.

The sweeping arm of the Cape reminds me of Tip's outstretched hand, greeting everyone he met.

Tip was a giant of American politics. While he made famous his "All politics is local" approach to public service, Tip's influence also was felt on the international level. One of his greatest accomplishments was crafting a peace agreement between rival factions in Northern Ireland. He, along with our late friend Senator Ted Kennedy, worked together to develop the "St. Patrick's Day declaration" condemning violence in Northern Ireland.

A public service powerhouse at the state, federal and international level of American politics, Tip embodied the values we strive for as servants of the People's business. As an Irish-Catholic politician from Boston, I am proud of Tip's successful international negotiations that helped to pave the way for peace in Northern Ireland. As an American, I feel privileged to have served with such an historic guardian of America's working families and middle class. And as a citizen of Massachusetts, I am pleased to introduce this bill to forever recognize a great defender of the natural beauty of Cape Cod.

HONORING THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNION GOSPEL MISSION TWIN CITIES

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 110th anniversary of the Union Gospel Mission in the Twin Cities.

The Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities was founded in Saint Paul, Minnesota in 1902. After starting out as a refuge for the homeless and the downtrodden, they now serve as a beacon of hope for not just the homeless, but the jobless, lost, addicted, and battered.

Over the years, the Mission has expanded their operations from a small clinic off Jackson Street, to now include rescue homes for single mothers, opening learning centers, career development centers, child care centers, and medical clinics. As the community evolved, so

did the Union Gospel Mission to meet the needs of the community.

During the Second World War, Americans throughout the country were doing their part, and the men and woman at The Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities were no exception. In 1942, the Mission created a day nursery for mothers, not only allowing these women to make sure their children were cared for, but allowing these same women to work in their communities as well.

Today, Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities is helping many Minnesotans by giving them the tools to find jobs, especially to those who have to overcome barriers to do so. One example is the WorkNet Career Development Program in the Twin Cities, which has helped hundreds of Minnesotans by providing access to the training, guidance, and tools needed to find and keep a job in a market where it has been increasingly difficult for many to do so.

The Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities provides direct assistance to those in need, in addition to the many different volunteer opportunities that give people an opportunity to give back to their community.

IN HONOR OF THE 2012 MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY WINNERS

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to acknowledge the great work of the volunteers of Yardley, Pennsylvania, especially the students at Pennsbury High School who have been selected as one of the 2012 Make a Difference Day winners. Make a Difference Day is a celebration of the power of neighbors helping neighbors. Created by USA Weekend, this annual day of service mobilizes more than three million volunteers to create change in their community.

This group of outstanding volunteers from Yardley has made a substantial impact on their community by conducting a book drive and stocking the shelves of the library at the Feltonville Intermediate School. The leader of the project, Neha Gupta, founded Empower Orphans, a non-profit that has used \$325,000 in donations and grants to clothe and feed impoverished Indian children, create a sewing center, and set up libraries at four different schools.

But even within a few miles of her home in Bucks County, Neha, now 15, sees children in need. In the months leading up to Make a Difference Day, Neha and a group of volunteers gathered 3,000 titles and bought colorful furnishings for the library. Then, on Make a Difference Day, the team cleaned up the library, decorated it and stocked the shelves. Since October's project, Neha has started an Empower Orphans club at her high school and plans to hold a Make a Difference Day Project every year.

I want to congratulate Neha and the students of Pennsbury High School and thank them for their service and dedication to our community. I am honored to represent you in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MALCOLM PORTERA, CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SYSTEM

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Malcolm "Mack" Portera, who recently announced his well-deserved retirement after leading the University of Alabama System for more than a decade. He was the fifth chancellor and the longest serving in the System's history.

In March, Mack Portera officially retired as Chancellor of the University of Alabama System, which includes the school's three campuses in Birmingham, Huntsville and Tuscaloosa.

Dr. Portera has a long and distinguished association with the University of Alabama, also holding the title of Vice President of External Affairs as well as interim president of the Birmingham and Huntsville campuses.

Over the years, Mack Portera's contributions to the University, higher education and business development in Alabama have been considerable. Even before he assumed the top leadership post at the University, Dr. Portera was already involved in top-tier business recruitment efforts in the state of Alabama, including Mercedes Benz.

Under his leadership as Chancellor of the University of Alabama System, total enrollment expanded from 45,000 to 58,000 students. Over the same period, the total budget for the three campuses more than doubled—increasing from \$2.1 billion in 2001 to \$4.6 billion today.

Prior to becoming Chancellor, Dr. Portera was the 16th president of Mississippi State University, and in 1996, he launched a successful business development and strategic planning company.

In 2003, he was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor, a group of 100 living Alabamians elected on the basis of service to the state.

Dr. Portera's impact has been felt both within and beyond the University System. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Alabama Power Company and in leadership roles for the Birmingham Business Alliance, the Riley Foundation, Southern Research Institute, the University of Alabama at Birmingham Health System, the West Alabama Chamber of Commerce, the Bryant-Jordan Scholarship Foundation, Operation New Birmingham, the University of Alabama at Birmingham Research Foundation, and the University of Alabama at Huntsville Foundation. He is the former chair of the Council of Presidents of the Southeastern Universities Research Association and Vice Chair of the Alabama Research Alliance.

Dr. Portera received his undergraduate and master's degrees from Mississippi State University and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Alabama.

Not one to divert from his life-long devotion of giving to the community he loves so much, Dr. Portera plans to remain in Tuscaloosa offering his services as a part-time teacher.

I join the people of Alabama in extending to Dr. Portera our sincere gratitude for his tireless service to the University of Alabama System and to our state. His legacy is a strong

one and there are countless examples of where his service has benefitted the entire state and nation. May Mack and his lovely wife, Olivia, enjoy a happy and rewarding retirement with their children and grandchildren.

IN RECOGNITION OF DIANE LILLY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated and courageous citizen from my district in Massachusetts. Diane Lilly, a resident of Duxbury, will be retiring as a Trooper First Class from the Massachusetts State Police after 26 years of exemplary service.

Diane was born on December 13, 1956 in Dorchester, Massachusetts. She graduated from Cardinal Cushing High School in South Boston in 1974 and the University of Massachusetts, Boston, in 1980. Six years later, she graduated from the State Police Academy and began her long career of service to the state. Her work did not slow her passion for education or justice, however, as she graduated from Westfield State College with a Masters in Criminal Justice in 1990.

Diane comes from an extraordinary family of civil servants and community leaders, so it is no wonder she has chosen such an admirable career path. Her father, Leonard, was a Boston Police Officer and retired as Chief Court Officer in Boston Municipal Court. Her sister, Janet, also went to work at that court for many years and her brother, Michael, has been a corrections officer at Suffolk County House of Correction. Two of her other brothers, Lenny and Brian, have both worked as police officers in Massachusetts, while her brother, Kevin, runs the heart and lung machines during open heart surgery at Cape Cod Hospital.

Between 1987 and 2001, Diane worked out of the Norfolk County State Police Office. During this time she was instrumental in the Salvi and Sampson case that put a dangerous and prolific criminal behind bars for more than 30 years. She then began working with the Plymouth County Homicide Unit, where she was able to play an important role in the Matthew Cody cold case and the Magnarelli murder case. Since 2005, she has been a member of the Diversion Investigative Unit working on prescription drug abuse cases.

Bay Staters are safer because Diane—and her colleagues—have had the courage to take on the most dangerous issues facing our community.

As Diane retires after such a commendable life of public service, she will be able to spend some much deserved down time with her three dogs, Dermott, Maggie and Josephine.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Diane Lilly on this remarkable occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her a great retirement and many years of happiness with her family and dogs and thank her for making Massachusetts a safer place.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF TWITCHELL TECHNICAL PRODUCTS

REP. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the 90th anniversary of Twitchell Technical Products—a thriving business in Southeast Alabama.

Mr. E.W. Twitchell founded E.W. Twitchell, Inc. nine decades ago. First established in Unionville, Connecticut, the company later relocated in 1930 to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1945, the company came home to Dothan, Alabama, where its headquarters remain today. To date, Twitchell provides jobs that support nearly 300 families around Dothan. In our area, this company is a staple in the local economy and a cornerstone of the local community.

Mr. Speaker, without question, the number one issue that affects our nation and my home state of Alabama is the health of our economy and the ability to create new American jobs. I am especially aware of this fact from the many discussions I have had with small business owners and employers throughout the district. I was privileged to recently have such a discussion with representatives from Twitchell last month.

During a time when too many employers have been forced to shrink their workforce or even close their doors, I was encouraged to hear about Twitchell's achievements. Through innovation, Mr. Twitchell achieved success by changing and adapting to the needs of the market. Mr. Speaker, that is what the free market is all about. Free from government interference or unnecessary regulation, private companies adjust to the demands of the market and remain competitive. When that happens, both employees and consumers benefit.

For example, four decades ago the company acquired a local yarn extrusion venture that specialized in PVC coated yarns. The yarn weaves into a fabric used for everyday products, such as window shades, athletic goods, and outdoor furniture. The fabric continues to be Twitchell's best selling product, keeping the company in high-demand as it is one of only two manufacturers of PVC coated yarn and woven products in the U.S.

Here in Congress, we regularly discuss the many barriers that prevent job creation, such as costly federal regulations that stand in the way of private sector growth. My House colleagues and I are passing legislation to repeal these burdensome federal rules. We want to encourage small business owners who work hard to invest in their employees and their products, not discourage them. The House has passed nearly 30 pro-growth jobs-bills to reduce the mountain of federal regulations that limit an employer's ability to create jobs. We should never forget: government does not create jobs; the private sector creates jobs.

An economy built to succeed is an economy that is built on a foundation of small business entrepreneurship. Operating on the principles of persistence, innovations, and hard work, Twitchell is a model of American enterprise. It

is a privilege for me to stand here today to honor the legacy of Twitchell and to recognize the many dedicated employees who have made the company a success through the years. I congratulate Mr. Twitchell and his family for reaching this milestone, and look forward to the centennial celebration.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Twitchell on its 90th anniversary and in wishing the company many more decades of success.

A TRIBUTE TO DOCTOR JOHN BYRD

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Dr. John Byrd as the President of Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa.

This month, President Byrd announced that he will be retiring at the conclusion of the upcoming 2012–2013 academic year as Simpson's 22nd president. Dr. Byrd has been involved with higher education in numerous ways for more than 30 years and has been Simpson's president since 2005. Over his long career, Dr. Byrd has acquired valuable experience in academic services, planning and strategic services, institutional research, student affairs, financial aid and enrollment management. Dr. Byrd originally received his bachelors and masters degrees from the University of Missouri-Columbia, before earning his Ph.D. in health education from Southern Illinois University.

It goes without saying that President Byrd will certainly be missed on the Simpson campus. It was through Dr. Byrd's leadership that Simpson initiated a new strategic planning process to accompany new faculty initiatives. President Byrd's legacy will be felt for years to come through his work to increase diversity on campus as well as overseeing the college's plans for building renovation and construction. Dr. Byrd will leave Simpson next year with a completed Kent Campus Center, expanded Blank Performing Arts Center, updated Pfeiffer Dining Hall, as well as a new activities quad well under way.

Outside of Simpson, Dr. Byrd is known for his extensive involvement in the community, most notably the Indianola Rotary Club. Dr. Byrd also serves his community in his capacity as a member of the Village Advisory Council, Greater Des Moines Committee, as Secretary of the Board for the Iowa College Foundation Board of Governors, and as Chair of the Executive Committee for Iowa Campus Compact.

I want to thank President Byrd for his many years of service to the students and employees of Simpson College. It is an honor to represent all the great people of Indianola in the United States Congress, and I know that my colleagues in the House will join me in wishing Dr. Byrd, and his wife Nancy, happiness and good health as they enter this new chapter of their lives together.

IN RECOGNITION OF KELLY
KOLANDER

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Kelly Kolander, who has served Northern Calif. through the O.C. Jones & Sons, Inc. TLC for Kids Sports Program. As his colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate these accomplishments, we ask all of our colleagues to join us in saluting this outstanding and giving Company and this businessman.

Kelly Kolander's journey began soon after graduating from The California State University in Fresno where he earned a BS in Heavy Civil Construction. It was there that he began his career in Heavy Construction, working part time and summers for a local firm while going to school. Upon graduation, he continued his career for a few short years in the Central Valley before coming to O.C. Jones as an Estimator in 1987. In O.C. Jones, he found a firm with an outstanding reputation with tremendous experience and top quality people. Today he sits as the President and CEO of O.C. Jones & Sons Inc where he's served since 2006.

While heading O.C. Jones in 2009 the Company searched for a way that they could further their community outreach and support during the difficult recession. The Company's background in Heavy Civil Construction as well as Stadiums and Sports Facilities led Kolander to create the TLC for Kids Sports Program. The TLC for Kids Sports Program allows youth sports leagues to compete for renovations on their subpar facilities that would otherwise go to ruin. It is designed to improve the Community and Youth Sports . . . One field at a Time.

TLC for Kids Sports' Contributions to the community prove to be a great asset in Northern California in the fight to keep sports programs alive and well. Mr. Kolander's work is pivotal in the fight against childhood obesity and diabetes. The newly renovated little fields they have refurbished thus far will surely motivate and keep children interested in America's great pastime.

Kelly Kolander and the TLC for Kids Sports Program have already renovated three baseball and softball facilities in Northern California since 2009. The Tahoe Tallac, Eastridge and Antioch Little Leagues have all benefited from the efforts and charity of the TLC for Kids Program. The Eastridge Little League now has a girls division thanks to the new fields and can now proudly say young boys and girls are part of their organization. Most recently the program renovated the fields for the Antioch Little League in my own 10th district in California. Additionally, TLC for Kids Sports is continuing its efforts in the Community by constructing an Outdoor Classroom Memorial at Las Lomas High School in Walnut Creek to commemorate students Matt Miller and Gavin Powell, who died in February 2011 in a rafting accident. There are also plans to renovate another series of fields and playground area in West Sacramento. Mr. Kolander's contribution to my district is greatly appreciated and does not go without recognition. O.C. Jones and its 'TLC for Kids Sports program' work in the 10th Dis-

trict and throughout the Bay Area can only help create a better tomorrow through a more healthy and motivated youth.

The long lasting benefits of Kelly Kolander's TLC for Kids Sports Program not only benefit children now but will create healthy and more motivated adults in the future; they stand as a testament to what diligent work and true commitment to community can produce.

Mr. Speaker, We are truly honored to pay tribute to our friend and dedicated program founder and president Kelly Kolander. We ask our colleagues to join with us in thanking Mr. Kolander and O.C. Jones and Sons, Inc., for their dedicated service to the citizens of Northern California and wishing continued success in all his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING THE 1,000TH
GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE
U.S. BORDER PATROL ACADEMY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the 1,000th graduation ceremony of the U.S. Border Patrol Academy in Artesia, New Mexico, where members of this graduating class will be assigned to one of three Border Patrol sectors: Tucson, Arizona, Del Rio or in my Congressional district in Laredo, Texas.

As an active member of the Committee on Homeland Security in the U.S. House of Representatives, I understand the vital role that Border Patrol plays in securing our country, while facilitating trade and travel responsibilities and enforcing drug laws to protect our nation. Border patrol is a critical component for my Congressional district that sits along the nation's southwest border, as well. Their national presence along the border is necessary to ensure Americans' safety, protect our homeland and serve our nation and is greatly appreciated. The men and women of the Border Patrol make up the largest law enforcement organization; therefore this 1,000th graduating class is a milestone for the agency and enables the organization to foster increased security, trade and travel at the border.

Every day, the Border Patrol processes over 932,000 passengers and pedestrians and over 64,000 truck, rail and sea containers, based on fiscal year 2011 data. Nearly 14,000 pounds of drugs are seized on a typical day showing the product of their vigilance to law enforcement and protection. The intricate composition of the organization includes a range of professionals such as, trade specialists, intelligence analysts, agricultural scientists and more to run an efficient system. With 21,063 CBP officers, 21,137 border patrol agents and 1,220 air and marine agents, their service is unified to their sole mission—"securing America's borders while facilitating legitimate travel and trade" as their slogan states.

The graduation ceremony was held on April 12th and included the Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, Acting Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection, David V. Aguilar, and Chief of the United States Border Patrol, Michael J. Fisher.

I look forward to members of this graduating class being assigned to the three sectors, in-

cluding Laredo, Texas in my Congressional district. Congratulations and thank you for your vital work to secure the homeland.

SPORTSMEN'S HERITAGE ACT OF
2012

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 17, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4089) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing and shooting:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4089, the Sportsmen's Heritage Act. This bill is the latest attempt by House Republicans to use America's natural treasures for the benefit of a handful of private corporations who are eager to mine, drill and log.

Protecting and increasing hunters' access to public lands has been a bipartisan issue for decades, and is something I support. As a result, America's hunters have incredible access to our Federal lands. Today, 75 percent of all Federal lands are open to hunting and fishing. This includes approximately 67 percent of National Wildlife Refuge land and 70 percent of all the land managed by the National Park Service. The Bureau of Land Management allows hunting on 95 percent of the acres it manages. In Minnesota, we are fortunate to have large areas of public land open to hunting, including the Superior National Forest.

In the United States, hunting access on public lands is not a crisis requiring legislation; it is a success story that deserves to be celebrated. H.R. 4089 abandons and reverses this legacy. This bill changes Federal laws to prioritize development over conservation and put corporate interests ahead of hunters.

H.R. 4089 reduces the decision-making power of Park Rangers and other local land managers by centralizing authority in Washington, thousands of miles away. These highly trained professionals must be allowed to do their jobs, keeping land open to the public while protecting areas from disasters such as forest fires.

H.R. 4089 would encourage the destruction of millions of acres of wildlife habitat. Every hunter knows that less habitat leads to less wildlife, which means less hunting. It is obvious that the beneficiaries of H.R. 4089 would not be America's sportsmen and women but instead, the owners of large oil, gas and mining corporations.

This legislation repeals important provisions in the Wilderness Act that would open millions of acres of public land to development. H.R. 4089 allows the construction of new permanent road networks and authorizes permits for logging, mining and drilling in designated Wilderness areas.

As a strong supporter of conservation on America's public lands and our country's proud hunting heritage, I urge my colleagues to stand up for hunters and oppose H.R. 4089.

TRIBUTE TO RAY AND JUDY OBER A TRIBUTE TO KATIE STRICKLAND

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to two good friends of mine, Ray and Judy Ober. Ray and Judy passed away just 21 days apart from each other, a testament to their love for one another. Ray and Judy were a pillar of the community in Riverside, California and they will be deeply missed.

Judy was born in New York, and grew up in the San Fernando Valley, while Ray was born in Hollywood and raised in Van Nuys, California. They lived a blessed life in Riverside for 53 years and raised all four of their children there. Ray and Judy owned Ober Graphics, Inc. for many years, where Ray was the "premier graphic artist of Riverside," while Judy went back to school and eventually earned her bachelor's degree from Cal Poly Pomona at the age of 49. After graduating, she passed the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam and went to work at Macher and Clark, where she worked for over 20 years. Their chosen careers, Ray a talented artist and Judy a CPA, may have appeared to be in stark contrast, but were the perfect recipe for a loving, lasting marriage.

Ray and Judy were long time members of Canyon Crest Country Club during the 1970s and 1980s where they played tennis and socialized with many great friends. Ray and Judy enjoyed spending time at their beach house in Newport and trips to Las Vegas. They took their children on many family vacations, celebrating their love of life. Judy held officer positions in various clubs including treasurer of the Riverside County Republican Party and president of the Riverside Soroptomists. Ray's passions were genealogy and "playing the ponies." In their more recent years Judy enjoyed playing golf with her golf girlfriends, going on vacations with her high school girlfriends, spending time with her sisters and friends and playing games with her grandchildren. Ray more recently enjoyed photography, visits from his family and friends and trips to Pechanga. Judy and Ray were both amazing, multi-faceted, rare human beings who will be incredibly missed by all who knew them.

I am particularly thankful for the friendship I shared with both Ray and Judy. They were great supporters and, most importantly, dear friends. I will miss their generous spirit, kind nature and enduring friendship.

On April 15, 2012, there was a combined service celebrating the lives of Ray and Judy. They will always be remembered for their generosity, contributions to the community and love of family. Their dedication to their family and community are a testament to lives lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to Ray and Judy's family and friends; although they may be gone, the light and goodness they brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Katie Strickland of Ames for being awarded the Girl Scout Gold Award.

The Gold Award is the highest award that a high school-aged Girl Scout can earn. This is an extremely prestigious honor as less than six percent of all Girl Scouts will attain the Gold Award's rigorous requirements.

To earn a Gold Award, a Girl Scout must complete a minimum of 80 hours towards a community project that is both memorable and lasting. For her project, Katie worked with children in her community to teach them the value of donating their time and the positive effects that selfless volunteering has on others. The work ethic Katie has shown to earn her Gold Award speaks volumes of her commitment to serving a cause greater than herself and assisting her community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young woman and her supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Katie and her family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating her in obtaining the Gold Award, and will wish her continued success in her future education and career.

CONGRATULATING RICK AND
KELA ELLIS OF RHINELANDER,
WISCONSIN, ON BEING NAMED A
2012 NATIONAL "MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY" AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to acknowledge the great work of the volunteers of Rhinelander, Wisconsin, especially those who worked to benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Marshfield, Wisconsin. They have been selected as a one of the 2012 "Make A Difference Day" winners and I could not be more proud.

Make a Difference Day celebrates the power of neighbors helping neighbors. Created by USA Weekend, this annual day of service mobilizes more than three million volunteers to create change in their community.

This group of outstanding volunteers from Rhinelander has made a substantial impact on their community by collecting aluminum cans for the local Ronald McDonald House. Rick and Kela Ellis were heartbroken when they lost their 2-year-old daughter, Ashley, to brain cancer in 1989. But within a year they had found a way to honor her memory—by recycling aluminum cans to benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Marshfield, Wisconsin, their "home" while Ashley was hospitalized. Since giving their "Cans for Cancer" collection a huge boost by tying it to Make A Difference Day in 1998, the Ellises have recycled 6,000

pounds of aluminum, raising more than \$2,500.

Rick and Kela will be honored at the Make A Difference Day event presented by Points of Light here in Washington, DC, on April 19, 2012. I congratulate them for this great service in the midst of such loss.

IN RECOGNITION OF VINCENT
STURTEVANT

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Officer Vincent Sturtevant for his 30 years of service at the Daly City Police Department.

Mr. Sturtevant was appointed a police officer in 1981 and graduated from San Jose Criminal Justice Training Center Academy the following year.

Officer Sturtevant started his career as a patrol officer serving as a field training officer. In 1994, he was assigned as a detective. He has also served many times as an acting patrol sergeant.

Officer Sturtevant's enthusiasm and commitment to his job are exemplary and didn't go unnoticed by his fellow officers who voted him most valuable police officer for his shift in 1990 and 1992. He also received numerous letters of appreciation from citizens and departmental commendations. In 1993, he received a commendation for his assistance in apprehending a barricaded suspect who had fired a shotgun. In 1994, he was commended for his participation in the capture of three armed robbery suspects.

Vincent is a Daly City boy through and through, having graduated from Westmoor High School and earned his Bachelor degree in history from San Francisco State University.

He lives in Daly City with his wife of 20 years, Marianne.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor the heroic service of Officer Vincent Sturtevant to the residents of Daly City. For over three decades, he has made our community a safer and better place.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
CALEB LIPSCOMB ON HIS OFFER
OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND
THE UNITED STATES NAVAL
ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Caleb Lipscomb of Perrysburg, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.

Caleb's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming midshipmen Class of 2016. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-

class education, while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Caleb brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2016. While attending Perrysburg High School in Perrysburg, Ohio, Caleb was on the High Honor Roll and was a member of the National Honor Society.

Throughout high school, Caleb was a member of his school's wrestling and football teams and earned varsity letters in both sports. In addition, Caleb participated in several mission trips in Ohio and West Virginia and served as Master Counselor for Demolay International. I am confident that Caleb will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Caleb Lipscomb on the offer of his appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Caleb will excel during his career at the Naval Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

CONGRATULATING GIRL SCOUTS TROOP 333

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Girl Scouts Troop 333 from Madisonville, Kentucky on their selection as one of the 2012 Make A Difference Day honorees.

Make A Difference Day is a celebration of the power of neighbors helping neighbors. Created by USA Weekend, this annual day of service mobilizes more than three million volunteers to create change in their community.

Nine Junior and Cadet Girl Scouts of Madisonville Housing Authority Troop 333 dedicated a second Make A Difference Day to seniors. In 2010 the troop did chores for their older neighbors in public housing. This time around, they decided to bring cheer to nursing home residents.

The girls decorated 450 greeting cards and wrote special messages for the seniors. They distributed the cards to residents in three assisted living homes and spent time visiting with each resident who received a card.

I am pleased that Troop 333 will be honored for their efforts tonight during the Points of Light 2012 Make A Difference Day Awards Luncheon at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center here in Washington. Please join with me in celebrating their outstanding service.

HONORING JOURNEYMEN LINEMEN

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize this day, April 18, as a day of honor for Journeymen Linemen.

Accordingly, I have introduced H. Res. 561 to recognize April 18, 2012, as National Journeymen Linemen Day in order to honor these brave men and women for their contributions to protect public safety.

Journeymen Linemen are often the first responders during a storm or other catastrophic event, which means these brave men and women are often required to make the scene safe for other public safety heroes. Linemen work with thousands of volts of electricity high atop power lines every day of the year in order to protect the nation from dangerous electrical currents.

The profession of Journeymen Linemen is steeped in tradition and family, both professionally and personally. Generations ago, Linemen climbed poles using hooks and blocks, but as technology has grown through the years, innovative Linemen have pioneered advancements with innovative materials, altering the direction of line work for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the extraordinary commitment and courage demonstrated everyday by the nation's Journeymen Linemen.

CONGRATULATING THE SHAW UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM ON THEIR NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate this year's NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Champions, the Lady Bears of Shaw University!

As fans of the game know all too well, North Carolina schools have a tradition of excellence in collegiate basketball. That success became even more legendary in 2012. We have a new champion in our midst, the Lady Bears.

In some ways it's no surprise that the Lady Bears won the 2012 national title. They made the Final Four in 2011 and began the year in the top ten. But every season is different, and nothing in life or basketball is certain. I don't know what Coach Curtis did, but the season didn't finish as it began. After compiling a 4–5 record in the first 9 games, the Lady Bears found their groove. From that point on, the team went 25–1 and closed the season on a 15-game winning streak. The Lady Bears went 15–1 in CIAA conference play, were undefeated on their home court, and won the conference tournament.

Then came the quest for the national championship. The Lady Bears beat West Virginia Wesleyan 92–78, Gannon University 64–59, Edinboro University 70–53, Pittsburg State 61–58 and Rollins College 87–71. The final game was as exciting and hard fought as they come. Shaw battled back from a 43–32 half-time deficit to force overtime. When the buzzer sounded, the Lady Bears had won 88–82 over Ashland University. Guards Sequoyah Griffin and Brittney Spencer led the team in scoring with 24 and 16 points, respectively. Center Aslea Williams scored 14 points and pulled down 11 rebounds, and Forward Kyria Buford scored 10 points and grabbed 8 rebounds. Reserve Guard Brittany Ransom also scored 14, providing the team with a valuable lift. The

Lady Bears ended the season number one in the polls and with a National Championship in hand!

Coach Curtis deserves special mention for leading this team to victory. He was named the Division II Bulletin National Coach of the Year and the Minority Division II Coach of the Year. But he's done much more than coach. Every single player who has completed four years of eligibility under Coach Curtis has graduated. True collegiate champions pair winning on the court with strong character and academic dedication, and that's exactly what Shaw has done. As an educator, I admire the academic focus that Coach Curtis has made an integral part of the Lady Bears basketball culture.

Mr. Speaker, it was a tremendous season for the Lady Bears of Shaw. On behalf of my colleagues in this body, I congratulate this team for their perseverance, their will to win, and their success in becoming the 2012 champions.

No. 20 Shemieka Brown PG Sr. 5–8 Salisbury, NC; No. 21 Kyria Buford F Sr. 6–1 Charlotte, NC; No. 2 Isayra Diaz G Jr. 5–6 New York, NY; No. 10 Sequoyah Griffin G Jr. 5–9 Columbus, GA No. 30 Crystal Harris C So. 6–1 Jersey City, NJ; No. 32 Ariel Hatcher G Sr. 5–10 Detroit, MI; No. 15 Allyssa Lane PG Sr. 4–11 Winter Park, FL; No. 22 Jashaye Magnum C Fr. 6–1 Miami, FL; No. 33 Brittany Ransom G Sr. 5–10 Columbus, OH; No. 11 Brittney Spencer G Sr. 5–7 Norfolk, VA; No. 3 Enonge Stovall F Jr. 5–11 Philadelphia, PA; No. 41 Victoria Tanner F Sr. 5–10 Raleigh, NC; No. 5 Aslea Williams C Jr. 6–1 Akron, OH; Head Coach: Jacques Curtis; Associate Head Coach: Carl Hatchell; Assistant Coach: Ashante Timoli; Assistant Coach: Jonas Richard; and Athletic Trainer: Sean Burton.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAROL SLOANE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lieutenant Carol Sloane for her 21 years of service at the Daly City Police Department.

Ms. Sloane was appointed police officer in 1990 and graduated from the Basic Academy at Butte Community College in Oroville, California. As a patrol officer, she trained new recruits as field training officers and was well respected by her fellow officers. She served as acting patrol sergeant on several occasions.

In 1994, Officer Sloane was awarded a departmental commendation for the arrest of three graffiti suspects. Four years later she received the same recognition for apprehending a homicide suspect. Immediately after a stabbing incident, Officer Sloane identified a suspicious person and through her investigation determined that the person was indeed the homicide suspect.

In February of 2003, Ms. Sloane was promoted to the rank of police sergeant. She graduated from the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute and was then assigned to the Management Control and Audit Unit where she conducted internal affairs investigations, departmental audits and served as the public information officer. Sergeant

Sloane was the face of the Daly City Police Department on many local television news stories.

Carol Sloane broke the gender barrier by becoming the first woman to be promoted to police lieutenant at the Daly City Police Department in 2006. She earned the respect and admiration of her department by dedicating much time, attention and mentorship to new and young officers.

Carol Sloane graduated from Terra Nova High School in 1975. She attended City College of San Francisco and the College of San Mateo. In 1999 she completed her degree in management at St. Mary's College.

Lieutenant Sloan lives in Pacifica with her husband of 14 years, Daly City Firefighter Doug Blanckensee, and their seven-year-old son Bryce.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor the outstanding service of Lieutenant Carol Sloan to the residents of Daly City. She will be remembered for her dedication, her leadership and for making our community a safer and better place.

TRIBUTE TO OPERATION UNITE
FOR THE INAUGURAL NATIONAL
RX DRUG ABUSE SUMMIT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Operation UNITE, the non-profit anti-drug organization in southern and eastern Kentucky for organizing the inaugural National Rx Drug Abuse Summit in Orlando, FL April 10–12, 2012.

This small grassroots organization took on the enormous task of uniting federal, state and local officials on a national stage to discuss obstacles and solutions for the prescription drug epidemic plaguing our country. In its first year, the Summit garnered an outstanding audience of 750 attendees, along with national headlines including: the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Gil Kerlikowske; U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Regina Benjamin; the Principal Deputy Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, Dr. Ileana Arias; Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Office of Diversion Control with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, DEA, Joseph Rannazzisi; the Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, NIDA, Dr. Nora Volkow; the Appalachian Regional Commission, ARC; and four members of the Congressional Caucus on Prescription Drug Abuse, including myself, U.S. Rep. Mary Bono-Mack of California, U.S. Rep. Jack Kingston of Georgia, and U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall of West Virginia.

As a nation, we can no longer afford to sit quietly on the sidelines. The epidemic now claims more lives every year through drug overdoses than any other accidental death, according to the CDC. During the Summit, Director Kerlikowske called it a public health crisis, noting prescription drug abuse is the fastest growing drug problem in the country. In Kentucky, we are losing 82 people a month to drug abuse—more than car crashes. This Summit brought forth the realization that unsecure medicine cabinets are more dangerous than our cars.

President & CEO, Karen Kelly, highlighted the multi-pronged approach of the UNITE organization on the national stage as a model for the rest of the country. The Summit featured sessions on healthcare, advocacy and prevention, human resources, treatment and law enforcement. Together, leaders from each field shared resources and information at the Summit, crossing industry lines and state boundaries, for the first time in some areas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Operation UNITE on a successful inaugural National Rx Drug Abuse Summit. They tossed a pebble into a big pond and I believe the ripple effect will be tremendous in the years to come.

HONORING GLENDON ENGERT

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Glendon Engert, who was slain together with Deputy Bob Paris on April 12th in Modesto, California while serving an eviction notice. My thoughts go especially to his wife of 11 years, Irina. No words can lessen the grief that is felt by those close to him; but I hope they know that we share, in what measure we can, their sorrow.

Mr. Engert was a man who did not discourage easily. Like so many in the Valley, he lost his employment when the recession took hold. He didn't give up, though, and secured a new job as a locksmith—a job that gave him the ability to support his family and maintain an active role in his church and community.

It is a tragedy that his initiative, his strong work ethic, unwittingly placed him in harm's way on April 12. We are thankful for the life of Glendon Engert and if this act, this statement, seems small before the moment, be assured of the sincerity of our sympathy and the depth of our emotion. May God bless the family and friends of Mr. Engert and welcome him to his everlasting reward.

CONGRATULATING BRENDA V.
TRIPLETT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Brenda V. Triplett on her retirement from the Social Security Administration after thirty-four years of service to our government. As a member of the Federal Workforce Subcommittee in the House, we have had the honor of hosting many fellows from SSA that have advised us on the many complex issues of the agency.

Brenda has worked at various SSA offices in Illinois and Indiana. Her first position for SSA was at the Harvey, IL field office as a clerk and also as a clerk in the Markham, IL field office. Brenda's next position with SSA was at the Agency's Chicago Regional Office as a personnel staffing assistant in addition to the Gary, IN field office where she worked as an administrative aide; and later promoted to

the service representative position there. Brenda was then promoted again to the Title 16 claims representative position located at the Back of the Yards field office in Chicago, IL. Finally, in August 2008, she was promoted to the Chicago Teleservice Center, Chicago, IL as a supervisor where she remained until present.

During Brenda's retirement, she anticipates joining a bowling league. As an avid skater, there will be more opportunities for her to roller skate. In addition, she plans to act as primary caregiver for her parents and attend Bible study on regular basis.

I congratulate Brenda on all of her achievements and wish all best in her future endeavors. In the words of an old Irish saying, "May the sun always shine on your windowpane, May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain, May the hand of a friend always be near you, May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you!"

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
EXTENSION ACT OF 2012, PART II

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4348) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I support the Boustany amendment. I have been a long-time supporter of the RAMP Act. I represent the Port of Houston. We pay into the harbor maintenance trust fund, but we get far less out than we pay in. In fact, we get far less out than we need. We are facing a dredging crisis in upcoming years if we cannot get more harbor maintenance funding.

I am proud to represent the Port of Houston. The work that happens here and the commerce that is moved through here support the economy of the entire region. The Port is the largest foreign tonnage port and the largest petrochemical port in the country. In fact, it moves the second largest amount of cargo in the country. 8.5% of our nation's cargo moves through the Port of Houston. The commerce that occurs at our port is critical to our nation's energy and chemical sectors and to our country's ability to trade and move goods.

In 1998, the Federal Government invested \$700 million in deepening and widening the Houston Ship Channel. An investment we have benefitted from tremendously. However, as the years have passed silt has settled and reduced the draft in the channel significantly. Today, only .4% of the channel is dredged to its proper depth across the entire width of the channel. That is astounding. Our nation's investment is rapidly deteriorating. It is time that our government renews its commitment to maintaining the Port.

This is as important as ever as we face new business opportunities that are created by the expansion of the Panama Canal.

The Texas Transportation Institute performed a study and determined that a direct

economic impact of the loss of 1 foot of draft is \$373 million. The majority of this impact is lost business opportunities due to light loading of non-containerized vessels. If the dredging crisis at the port continues to worsen, this cost will quickly accelerate.

This amendment will help alleviate the crisis. The Port of Houston will get more desperately needed dredging funding. I strongly support this amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
MARSHALL KOBYLSKI ON HIS
OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO AT-
TEND THE UNITED STATES MILI-
TARY ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Marshall Kobylski of Bowling Green, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Marshall's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet Class of 2016. Attending one of our Nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Marshall brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2016. While attending Bowling Green Senior High School in Bowling Green, Ohio, Marshall was a member of the National Honor Society, participant in the Ohio Energy Project, President of the Chess Club, and a Buckeye Boys State delegate.

Throughout high school, Marshall was a member of his school's cross country and track teams and earned varsity letters in both sports. In addition, Marshall participated in various church based organizations, including the youth group. I am confident that Marshall will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Marshall Kobylski on the offer of his appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Marshall will excel during his career at the Military Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALLEN M.
PROWS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Officer Allen Prows for his 31 years of service at the Daly City Police Department.

Mr. Prows was appointed police officer in 1980 and graduated from the Northern California Criminal Justice Training Center Academy at College of the Redwoods in Eureka, California.

Upon completion of the field training program, Officer Prows began his extensive career as a patrol officer. Working all shifts, he rose quickly from rookie to seasoned veteran in the patrol division where he spent his entire career. He is highly respected by his fellow officers and citizens alike and has received numerous letters of appreciation from residents and recognition for good team work with unit commanders from the department.

Officer Prows was awarded several departmental commendations, including one in 1986 for his part in the capture of two suspects who had vandalized Jefferson High School with graffiti and broken windows. He received another one in 1991 for being part of a team that apprehended a bank robbery suspect.

Allen Prows graduated from Newark High School in 1975. He earned an Associate of Arts degree from Ohlone Community College.

He lives in South San Francisco and is the proud father of two sons, Kevin and Mathew.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor the service of Officer Allen Prows to the residents of Daly City. For over three decades, he has been dedicated to our community and made it a safer and better place.

H.R. 4335, THE POSTAL SERVICE
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, on March 29, I introduced H.R. 4335, the Postal Service Accountability Act.

My bill would empower the independent postal regulator, the Postal Regulatory Commission, PRC, to block postal closures where the Postal Service, USPS, does not give sufficient attention to the undue burden a closure would have on a community.

Under current law, when the Postal Service is considering closing a post office, the affected public must be notified. The Postal Service opens a 60-day comment period, which includes a public meeting to allow local citizens a chance to voice their concerns. Once the public comment period closes, should the Postal Service decide to close a post office, the public has 30 days to appeal the decision to the Postal Regulatory Commission.

According to the Congressional Research Service, the PRC may fault the USPS' decision to close a post office only if the PRC finds the decision to be arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with the law; without observance of procedure required by law; or unsupported by substantial evidence on the record. The PRC may require the USPS to reconsider its decision, but the ultimate authority to close a post office rests with the USPS.

My bill would give the PRC a binding authority to block a post office closure. It would require the Postal Service to consider the economic impact of a closure on a community, and empower the PRC to set aside a deter-

mination that is unsupported by substantial evidence regarding projected savings, mail delivery services, and community and worker impact. In addition, the Postal Service would be required to perform an after-the-fact review one year after a closure and make public its findings to ensure mail delivery services have been maintained.

My bill also would apply the revised appeals process to postal sorting facilities. Currently, there is no appeals process for mail processing facilities.

As well, my measure would prevent the Postal Service from proceeding with a closure without the written concurrence of three commissioners, halting the dubious practice of affirming closures by tie votes.

These are modest and practical changes designed to ensure that the Postal Service approaches these closures with an open mind and listens respectfully and attentively to community opinion. At issue is the basic right of citizens of a community to be heard. It will help to guard against the bureaucratic mentality, which too often takes root in executive agencies, that agency officials know best. We must ensure that the Postal Service's actions are grounded in the best interests of the people it was created to serve.

In July 2011, when the Postal Service announced its Retail Access Optimization Initiative and its intention to study nearly 3,700 post offices nationwide for closure, including 85 in southern West Virginia, the Postal Service was already pursuing a host of closure studies for separate post offices, as well as the consolidation of postal sorting facilities, including eighteen post offices and three processing facilities in southern West Virginia.

Under the law, the Postal Service is required to consider the impact of a post office closure on a community, on the affected postal workers, and on mail delivery services. Federal law requires the USPS to "provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to rural areas, communities, and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining."

And, yet, there have been serious doubts raised about the Postal Service's adherence to these requirements. In its advisory opinion on the Postal Service's RA01 proposal, the PRC found that the Postal Service was unable to provide the data necessary to confirm its cost savings projections associated with the post offices proposed for closure. The Commission also expressed concerns about ensuring that alternatives are available to meet the needs of affected communities prior to a postal facility closure decision.

In a concurring opinion, the PRC chairman strongly rebuked the Postal Service's closure process, noting: "The Commission has recently heard appeals on more than 60 individual post office closings. The records in these cases reveal a pattern of inaccurate and overly optimistic economic savings calculations and of careless disregard of community concerns. While the facts of those cases were not considered by the Commission in its Advisory Opinion, they nevertheless demonstrate an ongoing institutional bias within the Postal Service that presumes closing small post offices automatically provides cost savings and network efficiencies."

The PRC's findings echo what I am hearing anecdotally from my constituents—that the public comment process is a perfunctory exercise—just for show—as the Postal Service

bulldozes ahead closing valued postal facilities for very little, if any, economic savings. This sentiment has become so frequent that it prompted me to contact the Postmaster General last October to question whether the public comment process is truly accomplishing its purpose, which is to give the public an opportunity to convey its views to the Postal Service and to give the Postal Service the opportunity to adjust its actions accordingly.

Within a two-month period last fall, the USPS Appalachian District scheduled more than 40 public meetings in southern West Virginia, raising doubts that the Postal Service can appropriately manage the public feedback received from each meeting and prepare for continued mail delivery should a closure occur.

In one case, residents said that their post office was closed before rural delivery was fully established. In other instances, public meetings have been scheduled at inconvenient times, like Halloween night, limiting public participation.

In 2009, as part of a separate closure process, the Postal Service issued an emergency suspension of the Hacker Valley Post Office in Webster County, West Virginia. I said at the time that the action was unwarranted and I was later validated in my concerns by the Postal Regulatory Commission. In response, the Postal Service offered to solicit for a Contract Postal Unit, CPU, in Hacker Valley, which would be operated by a supplier under contract with the Postal Service to provide retail postal services. After soliciting bids in March 2011, postal officials abruptly ended the process, requiring me to contact the Postal Service to remedy the matter, which it did.

What happened in Hacker Valley underscores the need to keep a close eye on the Postal Service's proposed closures. I am convinced that legitimate safety and convenience concerns of residents and businesses are not being sufficiently addressed—that many post offices' fates are predetermined and that the public comment process, in too many instances, has become a perfunctory step in the closure process, instead of being used to truly assess legitimate safety and convenience issues, and to take steps to minimize the adverse impact on the community.

I also question the criteria used to select post offices for a closure study, noting the conflict with the Postal Service's statutory charter that requires the Postal Service to provide "a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services" to rural communities where post offices are not self-sustaining, explicitly prohibiting small post offices from being closed solely for operating at a deficit.

Despite this requirement, the Postal Service has utilized computer-driven criteria in identifying retail facilities for closure. Three of the four criteria are financially based and clearly target small facilities that are not heavy revenue producers. As such, it is not surprising that there is a concentration of closings in rural areas, where computer-driven criteria cannot fully reflect the importance of a post office.

Clearly, the Postal Service has a responsibility to ensure its long-term fiscal solvency, but that must not happen at the expense of its public service obligations in ensuring universal mail services.

The Postal Service is not FedEx or UPS, which can pick and choose between profitable

and unprofitable markets. Nowhere does the law waive the Postal Service's public service obligations if deficits run high. The Postal Service needs to look at other ways to become more profitable and competitive by improving and modernizing its services rather than cutting off rural customers.

Rural customers, more so than their urban counterparts, rely on the Postal Service for basic mail necessities—for sending bills and receiving checks, newspaper deliveries, and small businesses reaching customers—especially in areas where internet access is limited.

These closures will disrupt local economies and the lives of residents and businesses—from seniors who depend on the delivery of life-sustaining mail-order drugs, to the communities where the post office is the heart of the neighborhood—and there needs to be a better mechanism in place to ensure not only that public concerns are being addressed, but also that the public feels as though it is being heard. Some may want to view the Postal Service solely as a business, but it is still a public institution and it must remain responsive and accountable to the people.

The Congress must take action to reinforce the point, empowering an independent regulator to watch over the Postal Service to guard against overly optimistic savings projections and insufficient attention to community needs in the closure process.

I previously urged the Postmaster General to place a moratorium on postal closures until a practical and realistic plan for managing and responding to public concerns is provided to the American public. Subsequently, the Postal Service announced that it would delay any closings or consolidations until May 15, 2012. I recently wrote to the Postmaster General to ask that he extend the May 15 moratorium until the Congress has completed action on postal reform legislation.

In the coming weeks, the House is expected to consider such legislation. While I am opposed to the Committee reported bill in its current form, especially with regard to its eliminating six-day delivery and potentially expediting the closure process, I am hopeful that the House will consider and pass legislation that will help ensure that our small, rural postal facilities are not made to bear the brunt of the Postal Service's nationwide budgetary challenges. I urge the House leadership to act expeditiously.

SERGEI MAGNITSKY RULE OF LAW ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I first learned of the case of Sergei Magnitsky two years ago at a hearing of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. At that hearing, a witness described the brutal torture and vicious mistreatment by Russian authorities of Mr. Magnitsky, a courageous man of integrity who paid the ultimate price for speaking out publicly about massive corruption in Russia. Today, the Russian government has still held no one accountable for this outrageous crime.

The facts of the Magnitsky case are simply shocking. Mr. Magnitsky, a bright young tax

lawyer, uncovered evidence of a criminal conspiracy involving public officials who stole \$230 million from the Russian treasury. In August 2008, Mr. Magnitsky testified about this tax fraud scheme before Russian authorities and implicated high-level officials in the conspiracy.

This honesty and courage led Mr. Magnitsky to be arrested and, perversely, charged with the crimes he had helped to expose. He was kept in pretrial detention in inhuman conditions for almost a year, and was tortured by officials who pressured him to retract his damning testimony. He refused to do so, but his health badly broke down as a result of his abuse. As he developed serious medical problems, including pancreatitis and gallstones, Russian authorities refused to provide him with medical care. Eventually, he fell into critical condition, and when that happened, rather than treating him, prison guards chained him to a bed and beat him for one hour and eighteen minutes, resulting in his death.

The response of Russian authorities to these crimes has been as outrageous as the crimes themselves. After Mr. Magnitsky died, the Russian government said he had never complained about his health in prison, even though he had made more than 20 official requests for medical attention. Russian authorities have still not held anyone accountable for his arrest, abuse, and death. As if to spit on his grave, they even absurdly opened a new, groundless criminal case against him this year, marking the first posthumous prosecution in Russian history.

Since Russian authorities have not provided justice to Mr. Magnitsky and his family, the United States should do what it can to hold individuals accountable for these heinous crimes. The bill I am introducing today, the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012, would provide a measure of justice for this courageous man by imposing a visa ban and asset freeze on the people who participated in or covered up his detention, abuse, and death, as well as on those individuals who benefited financially from his mistreatment or participated in the criminal conspiracy that he uncovered.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is about much more than the Magnitsky case. In recognition of the many other severe human rights abuses that take place each year, the bill also imposes a visa ban and asset freeze on other individuals who have committed internationally recognized gross violations of human rights against people seeking to expose illegal activity by Russian officials or to exercise fundamental rights and freedoms.

In this way, the bill would hold accountable those individuals who have perpetrated grave abuses against other whistleblowers or government critics, such as Anna Politkovskaya, Natalia Estemirova, and others whose names are less well-known in the United States.

I am deeply grateful to the bipartisan group of members of Congress that supports this legislation and has helped to shape it. These members include Representatives FRANK WOLF, SANDER LEVIN, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, ALCEE HASTINGS, ED ROYCE, JIM McDERMOTT, DAN BURTON, GERRY CONNOLLY, CHRIS SMITH, EDOLPHUS TOWNS, PETER ROSKAM, MICHAEL MICHAUD, JOSEPH PITTS and CHARLES RANGEL.

I am also deeply grateful to my colleagues in the Senate for their leadership on this issue. Senator BEN CARDIN has introduced similar

legislation that has attracted over 30 bipartisan cosponsors, and he has spoken out eloquently about the legislation's vital importance.

I would also like to underscore that this effort is far from just a U.S. initiative. Similar legislation is being considered in nearly a dozen other legislatures around the world. My hope is that the United States Congress will be the first, but not the last, legislature to enact a Magnitsky human rights law.

Importantly, these legislative efforts have strong support from the Russian human rights community, including opposition leaders such as Garry Kasparov, Boris Nemtsov, and Alexei Navalny. As Mr. Navalny commented recently, "Such legislation is not anti-Russian. In fact I believe it is pro-Russian. It helps defend us from the criminals who kill our citizens, steal our money, and hide it abroad."

Enactment of the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act will provide the Administration with the tools it needs to hold accountable human rights violators and provide an important boost to human rights activists and defenders. It will also demonstrate that the protection of human rights is a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy. Our country has always been at its best when we stood firmly on the side of people seeking to exercise fundamental rights and against the actions of governments seeking to repress basic freedoms. This legislation is in keeping with that great tradition.

FACT SHEET ON SERGEI MAGNITSKY RULE OF LAW ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012

THE STORY OF SERGEI MAGNITSKY

After exposing the largest tax fraud in Russian history, tax lawyer Sergei Magnitsky was wrongly arrested and tortured in a Russian prison. Six months later he became seriously ill and was denied medical attention despite 20 formal requests. On the night of November 16, 2009, he went into critical condition, but instead of being treated in a hospital he was put in an isolation cell, chained to a bed, and beaten by eight prison guards for one hour and eighteen minutes, resulting in his death. Sergei Magnitsky was 37 years old and left behind a wife and two children. Those responsible for this crime have yet to be punished, and the Magnitsky story is emblematic of corruption, human rights abuses, and impunity in Russia.

THE MAGNITSKY BILL

The Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 would hold accountable Magnitsky's killers and other human rights violators by placing targeted sanctions on them. In particular, the draft bill imposes a visa ban and asset freeze on: 1) individuals responsible for participating in or covering up Magnitsky's detention, abuse, and death, and 2) individuals responsible for other gross violations of human rights against people seeking to expose illegal activity by Russian officials or to exercise fundamental rights and freedoms.

The bill requires the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, to publish a list of the people who should be subject to sanctions under its provisions, and requires the Secretary of State to respond within 120 days to requests from the chairperson and ranking member of key congressional committees to add an individual to that list. The bill provides the executive branch with the authority to waive the sanctions on national security grounds, and requires the executive to submit an annual report to Congress on actions taken to implement it.

The bill includes findings on the mistreatment of Magnitsky and other individuals, and on the extent of corruption and impunity in Russia.

The bill updates H.R. 1575, a bipartisan bill introduced by Rep. MCGOVERN in 2011. The new bill improves on H.R. 1575 by placing sanctions on a broader range of human rights violators (rather than only on people involved in Magnitsky-related abuses), by requiring the executive to publish the list of sanctioned individuals, and by giving key members of Congress the ability to request that people be added to the list. A similar bill, introduced as S. 1039 by Sen. CARDIN, has attracted over 30 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate.

PROJECT READY STEM ACT

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. FUDGE. Mr Speaker, I rise today to address the need to increase the number of minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, or STEM-related fields. Throughout the nation, employment in professional scientific and technical services is projected to grow by 29% by 2020. Currently, African-Americans and Hispanics occupy only 6% of the STEM workforce.

This week, I introduced the Project Ready STEM Act of 2012. This legislation addresses critical disparities in student achievement in math and science at the middle and high school levels.

Without the opportunity to develop skills necessary to compete for STEM-related jobs, many students of color may be confined to a lifetime of lower wages. I urge my colleagues to support the Project Ready STEM Act.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. PRINCE T. JONES

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to extend my personal congratulations and Happy Birthday wishes to Mr. Prince T. Jones, a beloved citizen of Albany, Georgia, who turned 100 years of age on Sunday, April 15, 2012. On Saturday, April 14, 2012 he was honored by his family and friends at a celebration at Morning Side Assisted Living Facility in Albany, Georgia in recognition of his 100th birthday.

Prince T. Jones, the youngest of six children, was born on April 15, 1912, to Daniel Jones and Julia Fields Jones. He grew up in the tiny town of Barboursville, Virginia and attended public school in Orange County, Virginia.

Following his academic training in the Orange County public school system, Mr. Jones embarked on a tenured and successful career as a farmer and later as a butler. He worked for several years at the prestigious Farmington Country Club in Charlottesville, Virginia. At the conclusion of his stint at the Farmington Coun-

try Club, he went on to work at Winholm Farms for 25 years before he retired in 1981.

Always pressing towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, in order to better improve the craft of Christian discipleship, he served for many years as a Sunday School Teacher; Chairman of the Trustee and Deacon Board; and Treasurer for the Ministers and Deacons Union at Blue Run Baptist Church in Somerset, Virginia. It is worth noting that Mr. Jones was a member of Blue Run Baptist Church for 88 years.

In 1933, he married the "woman of his dreams" Gertrude Mary Jones. They remained married for 66 years and they would go on to have three beautiful and loving children. Mr. Jones has achieved numerous successes in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his late wife and his children's devoted mother. Together their legacy set sterling examples of family and parenting for their sons, Dr. T. Marshall Jones and the late Arthur Lee Jones; daughter Gladys Jones Saddler; their nine grandchildren; their nine great-grandchildren; and their great-great-grandson.

George Washington Carver once said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Mr. Jones has advanced so far in life because he never forgot these lessons and always kept God first.

The race of life isn't given to the swift or to the strong, but to those who endure until the end. Mr. Jones has run the race of life with grace and dignity and God has blessed him over his lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Mr. Prince T. Jones. On a personal note, I would like to not only congratulate Mr. Jones on becoming a distinguished centenarian but also express my profound admiration for his outstanding Christian stewardship and dedication to his church and family.

Truly to God be the glory!

IN RECOGNITION OF NATALIE BERG

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Natalie Berg who today is receiving the 2011 Silver Spur Award from San Francisco Planning and Urban Research (SPUR). This award recognizes a lifetime of civic achievement of a San Franciscan.

Dr. Berg has had parallel careers in higher education and land use issues. She is a member of the Board of Trustees at City College of San Francisco and she is the President of NKB Strategies, a consulting company specializing in strategies for land use.

For twelve years, she was Senior Vice President of Forest City Development where she was responsible for obtaining the entitlements for the Westfield San Francisco Centre and now continues to be a consultant there. She also served as the president of the Yerba

Buena Alliance, the vice president of the Market Street Association and numerous community and neighborhood groups.

Dr. Berg has served City College for over 30 years as a professor, dean and an elected member of the Board of Trustees. In 1997, 2001 and 2006 she was President of the board.

She started in 1967 as an instructor in English, ESL, History and Civics. In 1976 she became administrative assistant to the President of the Community College Division. The following year she was appointed administrative assistant to the Vice Chancellor of Personnel. In 1980, she was named Coordinator of Personnel Relations and in 1984 became Director of Employee Relations.

Dr. Berg was originally elected to the San Francisco Community College District Board of Trustees in 1996 and re-elected every four years since then. She chairs the board's Community Relations Committee and is a member of the Policy Implementation Committee. Before her service on the board, Dr. Berg was the Dean of the John Adams Campus and the School of Health and Physical Education.

It is evident from Dr. Berg's career and service that she loves San Francisco and is committed to the highest quality of public policy and urban planning. Her outstanding leadership has earned her the title of one of "The Most 100 influential Women in the San Francisco Bay Area" from The San Francisco Business Times four times. The same paper chose her to be on the "Forever Honor Roll" of the most influential women in the Bay Area.

Dr. Berg received her Ed.D. in Community College Administration/Curriculum from Nova University in Fort Lauderdale in Florida, her MA in Educational Administration/College Finance from San Francisco State University and her BA in Economics from UC Berkeley.

She lives in San Francisco with her husband Peter Finnegan. They have three children, eleven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to acknowledge the many contributions of Natalie Berg, a great community leader and my friend.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
EXTENSION ACT OF 2012, PART II

SPEECH OF
HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4348) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs, and for other purposes:

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my opposition to the bill passed by this chamber last night, H.R. 4348, the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2012, Part II.

Each day that Congress fails to act on a long-term reauthorization of our nation's surface transportation programs is another day that our roads and bridges deteriorate. It's another day that our states and counties will be

unable to plan and budget for projects to improve our communities and facilitate commerce. And it's another day that workers in the hard hit construction industry will have to wait for a chance to get back on the job.

It would have been a tremendous victory for the American people if the House had come together as the Senate did last month. They passed a two year transportation bill on a strong, bipartisan vote of 74–22. It isn't a perfect bill, but it is a step forward for strengthening our economy and getting people back to work.

However, the Majority in the House has blocked every attempt to have a clean, up or down vote on the Senate's bipartisan bill. Instead, they have chosen to pursue controversial, ideologically driven proposals. In fact, the bill this chamber passed yesterday has already drawn a veto threat from the White House for its inclusion of provisions to unnecessarily expedite the Keystone pipeline project. It would also undermine environmental protection procedures that allow our constituents the opportunity to weigh in on projects that impact their communities and quality of life.

These are not small policy changes. The Keystone XL pipeline is a huge project that could have significant consequences for years to come. It deserves rigorous and objective analysis to determine whether it is in fact in the best interest of our nation's future to approve and construct such a project.

Changing our environmental protection procedures for infrastructure projects requires the same sort of thoughtful debate and careful analysis. Infrastructure projects are long-term—they fundamentally change communities. We need to make sure that the impacts of these projects, and the views of local residents and businesses, are taken into account before taxpayer funds are committed.

I do support the provisions of H.R. 4348 that will allow for full utilization of funds in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and provide for additional resources to continue restoring the Gulf Coast. I believe that these are important issues for the House and Senate to consider during their Conference.

However, I am still disappointed that the House has failed to come together on legislation that has historically been truly bipartisan. I hope that Conferees will get to work expeditiously and come up with a product that can receive bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House.

We owe it to our states, communities, and the families that depend on paychecks in the construction industry to move this forward quickly.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH CURTIS ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that

Joseph Curtis of New London, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.

Joseph's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming midshipmen Class of 2016. Attending one of our Nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Joseph brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2016. While attending New London High School in New London, Ohio, Joseph was a member of the National Honor Society, Model United Nations, Academic Challenge, and a Buckeye Boys State delegate.

Throughout high school, Joseph was a member of his school's cross country and track teams and earned varsity letters in both sports. In addition, Joseph participated in various fundraisers for community-based organizations, including the Salvation Army and Red Cross. I am confident that Joseph will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Joseph Curtis on the acceptance of his appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Joseph will excel during his career at the Naval Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

CONGRATULATING ALICE EASON BALLANCE ON THE OCCASION OF APRIL 20TH BEING DECLARED AS "ALICE EASON BALLANCE DAY" IN BERTIE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a constituent and friend, Mrs. Alice Eason Ballance, who has been the epitome of service to her community. For more than fifty years, Mrs. Ballance has advocated for better educational opportunities, voting rights, and racial equality for African American citizens. On April 20, 2012, the Bertie County, North Carolina Board of Commissioners will officially declare that day "Alice Eason Ballance Day" for the County. I can think of no finer individual to bestow such an honor than this great American.

Mrs. Ballance was born Alice Eason on July 8, 1919 in the small community of Cedar Landing in Bertie County, North Carolina. She was the youngest of three children following behind brother Willie and sister Mary, reared by parents George and Cynthia Eason. She grew up on a small farm where she learned very early the value and necessity of hard work; a trait she would go on to instill in everyone with whom she worked over the years.

After graduating from Bertie County's W.S. Etheridge High School, Ms. Alice married

Frank Winston Ballance, Sr. on August 14, 1938 and began to grow a family. Mr. and Mrs. Ballance reared five children: Frankie, George, Frank, Jr., James, and Vashti. She also pursued her passion of seeking to bring reforms to the system of public education that was clearly discriminating against African American children. She felt that it was unconscionable that African American children were required to attend inferior schools. She believed it was immoral and illegal that African American children were forced to walk to school while their white counterparts enjoyed bus transportation. And she found it unacceptable that the African American schools received their books, instructional materials, and other supplies as "hand-me-downs" from the white schools when they were no longer useful.

As former President of the local branch of the NAACP for nearly two decades, Mrs. Ballance used the political process to make the changes she sought. Over the better part of the 20th century, Mrs. Ballance registered thousands of voters across North Carolina and informed them on the importance of voting. Her efforts impacted local, state, and federal elections in North Carolina and she became a well-known political force throughout the State.

Mrs. Ballance's passion has always been ensuring that children—particularly those without privilege—are well cared for and receive a quality education. To that end, Mrs. Ballance in 1980 opened the non-profit Kiddie World Child Care Center, Inc. in Windsor, North Carolina. For more than 32 years, Mrs. Ballance has served as the Chief Executive Officer—a position this vibrant 93 year old still holds today. She tirelessly manages a staff of 20 that serve up to 50 children each day. She is extremely proud that Kiddie World has graduated more than 3,000 students since it opened more than three decades ago.

Mrs. Ballance is a deeply religious individual. She is a long standing member of Cedar Landing Missionary Baptist Church in Windsor, North Carolina. Over the years, she has held nearly every official Church position including Sunday School Teacher and Chair of the church's Kitchen Committee. The Church recently recognized Mrs. Ballance's dedication and longtime service to the Church and its members by honoring her with the title "Mother of the Church."

Mr. Speaker, Alice Eason Ballance has dedicated her life in service to friends, family, and all of humanity. I commend and congratulate Alice Eason Ballance on the great honor of having April 20th from this year forward known as "Alice Eason Ballance Day" in Bertie County, North Carolina.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
PENINSULA HILLS WOMENS' CLUB

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Peninsula Hills Women's Club of Redwood City, California on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Over the past 50 years the members of this group have touched the lives of people in their community, across the country and throughout the world.

In 1960, thirteen women founded the club in order to donate time and money to a variety of causes locally and worldwide. Today, the club has 36 members who continue that mission.

This Thanksgiving will be the 28th year that the members will serve dinner for lonely seniors. For 15 years, the club has provided fruit and cookies twice a month to low-income AIDS patients. For 13 years, children at migrant camps in Mexico have received hats, blankets, school supplies, sports equipment and toys. Club members sew post-op pillows for breast cancer patients, turtle pillows for seriously ill children, knit baby caps for African children and wool caps for our soldiers. They throw one birthday party a year for a low-income senior over 80 years of age. The club adopts a class and gives books to the students twice a year—on Dr. Seuss' Birthday and Christmas. It donates money to Pennies for Pines, a reforestation program, and to the Heifer Project which gives livestock to communities in developing countries in an effort to end hunger and poverty.

The Peninsula Hills Womens' Club has held numerous fundraisers for Haiti Relief, Shelter Network and the Redwood City Educational Foundation. At one of the most memorable fundraisers for the Police Youth Athletic League, sheriffs and police officers played baseball against each other—with a twist: all players were on donkeys!

As is obvious from this long and diverse list of activities, the women of the Peninsula Hills Women's Club are extraordinarily dedicated, passionate and creative. The club may be small, but it is mighty. It is currently under the leadership of its fourth president, Judy Yoakum; however, her three predecessors, Veva Wheaton, Judy Imperiale and Kit Fragulia, continue to serve on the state board.

Mr. Speaker, it is right to honor the Peninsula Hills Womens' Club on this day, October 20, 2011, for 50 years of outstanding community service and to wish the members the best for the next 50 years.

HONORING THE ARMY NATIONAL
GUARD AND AIR NATIONAL
GUARD OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to state for the record my gratitude to the members of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard of the State of Oklahoma and their families for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States since their deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom in July 2011.

The Army National Guard and Air National Guard of the State of Oklahoma are composed of several units, including the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. The 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team is made up of six subordinate Battalions. Additionally, the 146th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS), and Oklahoma Air National Guard unit were attached to the 45th IBCT for combat operations.

In July of 2011, the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team mobilized for Operation Endur-

ing Freedom to conduct full spectrum operations. Since July 2011, the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team deployed more than 3,000 soldiers to provide command and control and conduct security force and detainee operations and to provide training to Afghan Security Forces, representing the largest single deployment for the Oklahoma Army National Guard since the Korean War.

When the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team moved into theater, 1,200 soldiers from the 1-160th Field Artillery Battalion and the 1-180th Cavalry Squadron were detached from the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and redirected to Kuwait.

Upon arrival in Regional Command-East, the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, as Task Force Thunderbird, assumed responsibility for Panjshir and Laghman Provinces as well as the three western districts of Nuristan Province; Mandol, Do Ab and Nurguram. The combined operations area in Afghanistan consisted of over 10,000 square kilometers and an estimated population well over 600,000.

Through the exceptional performance of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team as Task Force Thunderbird, the Provinces where the 45th were operating are better prepared to run their government independently of Coalition Forces.

Sadly, these successes did not come without a price, as 14 soldiers from Task Force Thunderbird made the ultimate sacrifice, and many soldiers were wounded, to ensure the freedom and security of the United States and Afghan people.

I wish to publicly recognize the citizen-soldiers and airmen of the Oklahoma National Guard as invaluable to the national security of the United States, vital to defending against threats both foreign and domestic, and I welcome these brave men and women home to a grateful nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN
KYLEANE HUNTER

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to recognize and pay tribute to Captain Kyleane Hunter, of the United States Marine Corps. I, and many other Members of this chamber, have had the great pleasure of working with Captain Hunter over the past year that she has served as part of Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs Liaison Office in the House of Representatives. She will soon be leaving the liaison office and looking toward new challenges ahead.

Captain Hunter diligently and professionally represented the Marine Corps on all matters in the House of Representatives from September 2009 to April 2012. Throughout this period, Captain Hunter advised and assisted in the execution of many of the Marine Corps' most difficult and challenging legislative initiatives and distinguished herself as a leader and standard bearer of Marine Corps values and skills. Through her direct and skillful interaction with numerous Members of Congress, she ensured that Marine Corps' concepts, programs, and requirements were widely understood; ensuring the greatest possible support

to the Marine Corps. Her initiative, leadership, and tireless efforts as a USMC Military Fellow and as the Operations Officer of the House Liaison Office have had a direct and lasting impact on improving the war fighting capabilities and the quality of life for Marines throughout the Marine Corps.

Throughout her time, Captain Hunter personally supervised and responded to hundreds of inquiries, many of which gained national level attention. Through her exceptional interpersonal skills and broad knowledge in a wide range of military affairs, she assisted the Director, Marine Corps Liaison Office, in gaining the Members' support and trust in critical issues. This served to provide the Marine Corps latitude and time to reach appropriate solutions in each case. Captain Hunter directly contributed to the Marine Corps' high degree of success in these matters that may not have been otherwise achieved.

Captain Hunter successfully planned, coordinated, and escorted an extensive number of international and domestic trips for high-level Congressional and Staff Delegations. These delegations often included senior leadership Representatives, such as the Chairman or Ranking Member of the major Defense Committees. These delegations visited heads of state, military commands, and deployed U.S. military personnel worldwide. Her attention to detail and anticipation of requirements allowed the Representatives and staff personnel to focus on fact-finding and learning new information to guide critical decisions to support the people of the United States. These trips led to an understanding of the successes and challenges facing our Marines that could only be gleaned from first-hand observation and face-to-face interaction.

Captain Hunter also assisted in the planning, coordination, and execution of countless events, receptions, and meetings on Capitol Hill. These events included New Member Orientation for the Freshman Congressional Class of the 112th Congress on Capitol Hill and in Williamsburg, Virginia; The House of Representative Marine Corps Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremonies, Multiple House Armed Services and House Democracy Partnership events, Promotion Ceremonies, Awards Ceremonies, and tours of the Capitol. She also scheduled and supported a great many office calls for the leadership of the Marine Corps to include Commandants of the Marine Corps, Assistant Commandants of the Marine Corps, and numerous other General Officers conducting business on Capitol Hill.

Through her exceptional personal efforts, Captain Hunter has contributed immeasurably to the Marine Corps' professional reputation throughout Capitol Hill. The rapport she developed with Members of the House of Representatives and the Professional Staff Members has in large part helped to ensure the strength and vitality of the Navy/Marine Corps team for years to come. Her exceptional performance as a USMC Congressional Fellow and Operations Officer of the House Liaison Office has made a lasting impact on the readiness and welfare of the Marine Corps, and as such, I thank her for her steadfast dedication to the Marines and our country.

From one Marine to another, I can unequivocally state that Captain Hunter is a testament to the Marine Corps' commitment to excellence. On behalf of my colleagues; we thank Captain Hunter and wish her the very best of luck in future endeavors.

URGING THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (FYROM) TO WORK WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROCESS WITH GREECE TO ACHIEVE LONGSTANDING UNITED STATES AND UNITED NATIONS POLICY GOALS OF RESOLVING THE NAME DISPUTE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation urging the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) to work within the framework of the United Nations process with Greece to achieve long-standing United States and United Nations policy goals of resolving the name dispute and encourages the United States to work with its NATO allies to uphold previous NATO Summits decisions, with regard to the enlargement issue.

Negotiations are ongoing between Greece and the FYROM to resolve the name dispute. Historical and archaeological evidence shows that the ancient Macedonians were Greek. Macedonia is a Greek name that has designated the northern area of Greece for 2,500 years. In 1944, the name of the Skopje region was changed to Macedonia as part of Tito's imperialist campaign to gain control of the Greek province of Macedonia.

NATO's Heads of State and Government unanimously agreed in Bucharest (April 3, 2008) that ". . . within the framework of the UN, many actors have worked hard to resolve the name issue, but the Alliance has noted with regret that these talks have not produced a successful outcome. Therefore we agreed that an invitation to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will be extended as soon as a mutually acceptable solution to the name issue has been reached. We encourage the negotiations to be resumed without delay and expect them to be concluded as soon as possible"—an agreement for which the heads of State and Government participating in the NATO Summit meetings in Strasbourg/Kehl (April 4, 2009), as well as in Lisbon (November 20, 2010) reiterated their support.

This resolution urges the FYROM to work within the framework of the United Nations process with Greece to achieve longstanding United States and United Nations policy goals of resolving the name dispute and encourages the United States to work with its NATO allies to uphold previous NATO Summits decisions, with regard to the enlargement issue and extend an invitation to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as soon as a mutually acceptable solution to the name issue has been reached.

IN RECOGNITION OF PATRICIA SIEGEL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Patricia Siegel, who has dedicated her life and

career to making child care accessible and affordable for all families. I have known Patty for over 25 years and have witnessed her passion and determination to have child care recognized as a vital component of community life. Patty was a ferocious advocate for children in the California Legislature. She was unstoppable and never hesitated to shame people into doing the right thing.

Drawing on her experience as a mother, teacher and parent-organizer, Patty began developing and delivering child care services 40 years ago. She organized the Yellow Garage Playgroup for families in the Inner Sunset District in San Francisco. In 1972, she founded Childcare Switchboard to help families elsewhere in the city find such services. Four years later she was instrumental in initiating and implementing alternative child care solutions through the passage of AB 3059 which provided funding for the Child Care Resource & Referral Programs and Alternative Payment Programs in all California counties.

In 1980, Patty was the Founding Director and Executive Director of the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, which has grown into the most established system of child care resource and referral services in the country.

As the Executive Director of the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, Patty shaped state and federal policy for children and families. Her work included the Child Care Initiative Project, a statewide public-private partnership to expand the supply of licensed quality child care by recruiting and training new family child care providers, with special emphasis on infants and toddlers and Spanish speaking communities. She also inspired and guided the development of Parent Voices, a grassroots parent-led effort to engage and empower parents to actively and successfully participate in the policy process.

Patty also played an essential role in the creation and implementation of TrustLine, California's registry of license-exempt caregivers.

Beyond her role at the Network, Patty served on the Governor's Advisory Committee on Child Care Development, was one of the original state commissioners for the California Children and Families First Commission (First 5), and represented California in the Children's Defense Fund state child care advocates network. She is the state advocate and liaison for the National Women's Law Center and volunteers her time and expertise with the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Patty was born in Oakland and received her B.A. in French and English from the University of California, Davis.

In 1965 she married her husband Sanford "Sandy" Siegel. They have three children, Toby, Tara and Kelsey, and three grandchildren, Declan, Caio and Oona.

In her well deserved retirement, I am certain that Patty will enjoy spending more time with her family, gardening, traveling, cooking, hiking, reading, dancing and being in the outdoors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to recognize my friend Patricia Siegel for her lasting contributions to families in California and the country and for always putting her community before herself.

HONORING LARRY GODWIN, A FRIEND, COMMUNITY LEADER AND TRUE PATRIOT

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Larry Godwin, a wonderful friend of nearly four decades.

Larry lost his most recent battle with cancer on Thursday, April 12, 2012. With his passing, his family lost someone they loved, our community lost a leader and our country lost a true patriot.

It was my good fortune to have met Larry when we were active in the Winter Park Jaycees and in other community activities nearly 40 years ago. When you met Larry Godwin, you knew you were talking to someone with purpose, determination and principle. Successful in real estate, he also made his mark in politics and never paused in his commitment to good government. As a successful entrepreneur, he was part of that special formula that allowed Larry and our nation to be successful and great.

During one of his early visits to Washington for cancer treatment, I still remember his determination to fight on and survive that most dreaded and cruel disease. I will remember his faith, his love of family and that impish grin that, if you knew Larry, was never to be forgotten. So today, along with, I know, dozens of former Winter Park Jaycee buddies, we all salute and say a fond farewell to a special friend.

Mr. Speaker, today, April 19, 2012, in honor of Larry Godwin's memory, service to our nation and final services, I have asked the Architect of the Capitol to fly an American Flag over the U.S. Capitol Building.

Finally, to his family and especially his son Robbie, I extend my very deepest sympathy. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and memory of Larry Godwin.

HONORING THE ELLIS FAMILY

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the great work of the Ellis family of Rhinelander, Wisconsin, who worked to benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Marshfield, Wisconsin and are the 2012 Make a Difference Day winners. Make a Difference Day is a celebration of the power of neighbors helping neighbors. Created by USA Weekend, this annual day of service mobilizes more than three million volunteers to create change in their community.

The Ellis family has made a substantial impact on their community by collecting aluminum cans for the local Ronald McDonald House. Rick and Kela Ellis were heartbroken when they lost 2-year-old daughter Ashley to brain cancer in 1989. But within a year they'd found a way to honor her memory: by recycling aluminum cans to benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Marshfield, Wisconsin, their "home" while Ashley was hospitalized.

Since giving their Cans for Cancer collection a "huge boost" by tying it to Make A Difference Day in 1998, the Ellises have recycled 6,000 pounds of aluminum, raising more than \$2,500.

I want to congratulate the Ellis family for this honor and thank them for their service to our community.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2012, PART II

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4348) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs, and for other purposes:

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, our Nation's ports are critical drivers for local economies and I am disturbed by the chronic underfunding of maintenance activities to allow for their maximum efficiency. The Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund was set up to address this growing concern and I continue to support the full expenditure of those funds for this purpose.

In my part of the country, thousand foot Lakers carry the iron ore, limestone, coal, and sand that support the manufacturing industries, which employ thousands of hard working Americans. Without efficient, reliable shipping through ports like Toledo, Cleveland, Sandusky, and Lorain, those plants could not afford to do business in the United States.

These ships are also carrying millions of tons of grain and other food commodities that make dinner affordable for our working families, and they are helping American farmers reach other countries, helping to balance our trade deficit. Thriving ports make this all possible.

And shipping itself directly supports nearly 50,000 jobs in the Great Lakes region alone. Nationally, that number is much higher.

Unfortunately, American shipping is at risk. Huge backlogs in dredging maintenance are causing ships to operate at reduced capacity or overlook some ports where navigation has become impossible.

Insufficient maintenance is undermining our national competitiveness. While the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund collects critical revenue to keep our ports and waterways open, only half those funds are currently spent. Those critical dollars should be fully expended for their intended purpose, keeping our ports open for business.

I am a cosponsor of the RAMP Act and rise in support of the Boustany Amendment. I hope to continue working with Representative BOUSTANY and other colleagues as we move towards a final bill to ensure that this critical issue of Harbor Maintenance is included.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL SERVICE AT FORT CHAMBLY

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the annual International Memorial Service at Fort Chamby.

This memorial serves as a tribute to our fallen heroes who fought bravely during the American Revolutionary War, particularly those who weathered disease and below freezing temperatures to fight off the British on the U.S. and Canadian border.

The annual memorial service honors the courageous efforts these individuals demonstrated in their struggle for America's independence. Their service inspired generations of Americans to sacrifice for their country, in order to preserve and protect many of the liberties we enjoy today.

With gratitude, we acknowledge the legacies of our fallen heroes with great reverence and appreciation. I commend the Saranac Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, along with various associated organizations and dignitaries for keeping the valiant struggle of these individuals in the memories of community members.

IN RECOGNITION OF PETER DOUGLAS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Peter Douglas on the occasion of his retirement on October 31, 2011 as Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission for 26 years.

Mr. Douglas' great legacy is the lack of something—the lack of development on the spectacular 1,100 miles of California coastline. For over four decades he has worked to guarantee public access to the coast and to keep coastal bluffs pristine.

Mr. Douglas is the third executive director, appointed in 1985 after having served as the Coastal Commission's Chief Deputy Director for seven years. Before joining the commission, he worked as a legislative aide to Assemblyman Alan Sieroty of Beverly Hills. In that capacity he co-authored Proposition 20 in 1972 which created the Coastal Commission. He went to work for the Assembly Natural Resource Committee and the Select Committee on Coastal Protection where he co-drafted the California Coastal Act which was made permanent by the legislature in 1976. The law gives priority to public recreation over private development and gives the commission authority to enforce the law. Mr. Douglas deserves credit for turning a start-up panel into one of the country's most powerful land-use authorities.

Thanks to his work, millions of Californians and visitors are able to enjoy one of the most beautiful coastlines in the world. Had it not been for Mr. Douglas, Hearst Ranch would be a golf resort, Monterey Bay would be lined by

condominiums and San Onofre State Park would be a paved toll road.

Mr. Douglas is one of the fiercest defenders of open space and he is not afraid to speak truth to power. For example, this year some landowners wanted to build “environmentally friendly” mansions along a bluff overlooking Malibu. Speculation persisted that the commission would approve the project until Peter Douglas stated he had “never seen a project as environmentally devastating as this.” The commission voted against it.

Mr. Douglas took on the Jonathan Club and the Olympic Club, private men’s clubs in Santa Monica and San Francisco respectively. He urged the commission to vote against their expansion arguing that it would be a travesty if a state agency gave it’s good housekeeping seal to a club on public land that discriminates against Jews, African Americans, Latinos, Asians and women. He ignored the advice of the Attorney General’s office, the case went all the way to the Supreme Court and the commission won. Mr. Douglas succeeded in righting a grievous constitutional wrong with the Coastal Act.

In 1987 he refused an order by Governor Deukmejian to close the commission offices in Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz. He argued the commission could not implement the Coastal Act without offices in those critical areas. The commission backed him on the basis that the Governor did not have authority over and independent commission and the offices remained open.

His upbringing gave him the tools and mindset to deal with adversity and conflict. Peter Douglas was born into a Jewish family in Berlin in 1942. They immigrated to the United States from Mexico in the early ’50s. He received both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from UCLA.

Among a long list of additional professional accomplishments, Mr. Douglas is one of the original members of the NOAA Science Advisory Board, was appointed by President Clinton of the U.S. Panel on Ocean Exploration, and is a Member of the National Academy of Sciences.

As Mr. Douglas is handing over his Coastal Commission responsibilities to Senior Deputy Director Charles Lester, he is looking forward to spending more time with his family and friends, especially his grandchildren, on his beloved coast. To quote him, “If we want it to be there for our children, we have to keep fighting to protect it. In that way, the coast is never saved, it’s always being saved.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor the life’s work of Peter Douglas who has preserved the natural beauty of the California coast and my belief that an individual can change the world.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize the Exchange Club of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, as it celebrates 75 years of serving the Fond du Lac

community. Established in 1937 by some of the city’s most prominent leaders, the Exchange Club was viewed by its founding members as a chance to develop an entirely new type of service organization in the area, with an emphasis on helping those less fortunate while working to make life better for all area citizens.

It is a commitment Fond du Lac Exchangites have been fulfilling for 75 years. In the process, they have made innumerable contributions to the quality of life in the Fond du Lac area.

For 75 years, members of the Fond du Lac organization have met to exchange ideas about how to better serve the community while working to advance the National Exchange Club goals of benefiting and developing youth, promoting crime prevention, recognizing military and public safety service providers, fostering Americanism and preventing child abuse.

In its early years, the Exchange Club of Fond du Lac underwrote Christmas parties for the community’s underprivileged children and held programs to recognize the area’s high school sports teams. In the late 1940s, the Exchange Club was instrumental in convincing city officials that an underutilized city-owned building designated as a community center could be converted to a gathering place for area youth, something many felt the city badly needed. Thus, the Hamilton Community Building near downtown Fond du Lac was extensively remodeled in 1947 and used for decades as the Fond du Lac Youth Center.

In 1957, the club achieved one of its proudest moments by raising the funds needed to purchase a cutting-edge piece of medical equipment, called a Flame Photometer, for Fond du Lac’s St. Agnes Hospital. At the time, only two other, much larger, medical facilities in Wisconsin had this particular life-saving equipment.

Another signature Exchange Club accomplishment was the furnishing of grounds supervision, maintenance and support for many years for Camp Tiwaushara, a large Girl Scout Camp located in Redgranite, Wisconsin, and operated by the former Wau-Bun Girl Scout Council. Members of the club went to Redgranite annually to clear brush and prepare the grounds for the camping season and to build structures needed for the camp.

More recently, Exchangites in Fond du Lac have been active in running a petting zoo for the community at Fond du Lac’s Lakeside Park, distributing flags to children during the annual Fond du Lac Memorial Day Parade, and erecting numerous Exchange Club Freedom Shrines, permanently mounted reproductions of the most important documents in American history. Also in recent years, club members have purchased a walk-in cooler for a local food pantry and have funded numerous public safety initiatives, as well as supporting countless other local causes and nonprofit organizations in the Fond du Lac area.

I am proud to join with the Fond du Lac community in recognizing the invaluable contributions and outstanding service of the Exchange Club of Fond du Lac, and in congratulating the club on its 75th anniversary. In addition, I extend my best wishes to all club members for continued success in the future.

IN HONOR OF NURSES FOR NEWBORNS

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Nurses For Newborns Organization, as they celebrate their 20th anniversary.

Since 1992, Nurses For Newborns has served our most vulnerable citizens—newborn babies. As a nurse home visiting agency, volunteers help provide a safety net for families most at risk to help prevent infant mortality, child abuse, and neglect through home based programs that provide education, healthcare, and positive parenting skills. Services also include programs for teen moms and moms that are mentally and physically challenged, as well as referrals to medical, social or government services.

Nurses visiting new mothers for whom poverty is the primary risk factor provide maternal depression, risk for domestic violence and child abuse and neglect screenings in the home. “Medically fragile” babies—those born prematurely, diagnosed with Down Syndrome or other genetic disorders, or who have been exposed to drugs or alcohol are afforded extra special care by volunteer nurses.

Moms with intellectual or physical disabilities who need assistance with routine tasks like formula preparation and feeding; administration of medications or managing appointment schedules will receive support from Nurses For Newborns with more frequent home visits.

Our citizens have rallied around this worthy organization. Churches, school groups, and businesses, and community members routinely donate clothes, toys, diapers, blankets, car seats, baby beds, and formula to the Nurses For Newborns organization, for families in need.

Evidence based outcomes of the hard work of Nurses For Newborns staff and volunteers are impressive. Ninety-nine percent of babies whose parents are enrolled in the program do not suffer from abuse or neglect; 89 percent are current with immunization schedule; 99 percent have established a medical home for their babies, and 99 percent are not unnecessarily hospitalized.

I thank Chief Executive Officer Melinda Ohlemiller, her staff, and all of the volunteers who have made Nurses For Newborns the effective and vitally important organization that it is today. Because of their compassion and hard work, all St. Louis area babies can have the best possible start and the brightest possible future.

HONORING H. MICHAEL WEITZMAN

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor the memory of H. Michael Weitzman, who passed away on April 16, 2012 and whose absence is felt deeply in his community and in the hearts of all who knew him.

Born August 19, 1929, H. Michael Weitzman was an alumni of Case Western University

and the Ohio State University's School of Optometry. He served his country as a line officer in the Navy and continued to work as an optometrist until just over a year before his death.

Dr. Weitzman was an immensely caring person with a poignant and selfless dedication to serving his fellow man. A deeply spiritual person, he lived out the Jewish ethic of loving-kindness until his dying day. As an established Optometrist in the San Pedro community, Dr. Weitzman was known for his attention to his patients, often seeing people at no charge.

Not only was Michael Weitzman generous in his own practice, his philanthropy extended to several charities and non-profits including the Lions Club Vision Programs, fINdings Art Center, and the California Vision Foundation which provides free eye care for the needy.

I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, his two sons, Gregg and Dan, his daughter, Dr. Debra Gierut, and his seven grandchildren. Though Dr. Weitzman is no longer with us, his legacy lives on in the lives of the loved ones he has left behind and in the community he served tirelessly throughout his life.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 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 \$15,661,574,232,598.82. We've added \$5,034,697,183,685.74 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF GRETCHEN VANNATTER

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to rise and pay tribute to Gretchen VanNatter, a dedicated civil servant, a loving mother and truly great Hoosier. Gretchen is being honored this week for her 37 years of public service with the Social Security Administration. Gretchen is a second generation Social Security Administration employee, as her mother is a retired Claims Representative for the Administration. Gretchen began her career with the Social Security Administration in 1975 as an Administrative Aide to the District Manager. From there she worked her way up the Social Security Administration's ladder, attaining positions as Claims Representative, Management Support Specialist, Operations Supervisor and finally in her current position as District Manager of the Marion, Indiana office. Gretchen has been a tireless supporter and ambassador of the Social Security Administration, and has been a valuable resource not only to countless numbers of Hoosiers throughout the Marion area,

but as a resource to members of my staff in Marion as well. Throughout her career Gretchen has delivered countless speeches to local organizations, attended fairs to educate the community on administration services, and has worked tirelessly with senior citizens' organizations to ensure that they are properly receiving their Social Security benefits.

The pride in public service Gretchen has exhibited during her career is only eclipsed by her dedication to her family. Gretchen is a loving and devoted wife to her husband Bob VanNatter. The VanNatters are proud parents of 3, along with 3 wonderful grandchildren.

It is my distinct honor to congratulate Gretchen VanNatter for her dedicated public service to the Social Security Administration. She will always have a special place in the hearts of all those who have had the opportunity to work with her over the years, and especially the countless lives she has touched through her unwavering commitment to the Social Security Administration and the citizens of the great state of Indiana.

Congratulations Gretchen!

IN RECOGNITION OF RANDY ROYCE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Randy Royce, a member of the San Carlos City Council for four years and a resident of this wonderful community for over 30 years. Randy has served San Carlos with distinction both on the council and before becoming a member.

When people think of Randy they think of community and even global service. As a member of the Sister Cities Association, Randy has strengthened the ties between San Carlos and its sister cities around the world. In 2007, Randy travelled to Pass Christian Mississippi, a town adopted by San Carlos after the 2005 devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Both through his on-site effort to reconstruct that city and through his encouragement of donations to the community, Randy helped to raise structures and the spirits of his fellow Americans.

In his earliest years in San Carlos, Randy could be found coaching soccer, and urging the development of the hearts, bodies and minds of the youth of San Carlos. As a man of many talents, he has also boosted the love of local history by serving as a volunteer with the San Carlos History Museum, and he volunteered for many years to organize the Summer Concert Series in Burton Park. On behalf of the less fortunate within our Peninsula Community, Randy has served on the Board of Directors of the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust (HEART). He served on the San Carlos Arts and Culture Commission, the city's Economic Development Advisory Committee, the Planning Commission and the Residential Design Review Committee. He has also served as Mayor of San Carlos.

Of course, if you really want to see Randy hustle for two days non-stop, you can spot him helping from dawn until dusk during the annual Hometown Days celebration, a charming small-town event that celebrates family,

community and country. In short, Mr. Speaker, from his own backyard in San Carlos to places around the globe, Randy has extended his heart and his talents in service to the health, safety and welfare of tens of thousands of human beings.

It should therefore not be surprising that Randy has also helped to build our local community college district's curriculum and programs as a member of the Cañada College Presidential Advisory Committee. His service in senior management positions at Hewlett Packard, Agilent and three Silicon Valley startups demonstrated to him that talented employees are first molded through education, then invited to be further educated in the enterprises of our nation. Our community was fortunate to have his insights available to its students.

Through his own education in finance, and his life's experiences, Randy was able to offer steady counsel to his colleagues on the City Council of San Carlos. He was often a voice of reason amidst a passionate outcry, a role that is difficult for any public servant, but an essential role within any democracy.

Of course, no public servant is capable of such great accomplishments without the support of family members. Randy has been supported at all times by his talented wife, Yvette, and his two sons Roger and Todd.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor Randy Royce for a life and career dedicated to public service on the occasion of his retirement on December 12, 2011. Randy Royce is an American who thinks reflexively about the well-being of us all. As a result, his contributions to San Carlos and to our nation over these many decades are legion, and will surely last for generations yet to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY MARJORIE K. UNTERBERG SCHOOL OF NURSING & HEALTH STUDIES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Monmouth University's Marjorie K. Unterberg School of Nursing & Health Studies' 30th Anniversary. The School of Nursing continues to provide its students, from the Baccalaureate through the Doctoral level, with an exceptional education. Throughout its tenure, the School of Nursing has demonstrated tremendous growth and is worthy of this body's recognition.

Monmouth University's Department of Nursing and Health Studies began in April 1981 with the expansion of the Upper-Division of the Bachelor of Science Nursing program by Dr. Marilyn Lauria. The inaugural class began with 72 students. The successes of this program lead to the launch of the Masters of Science in Nursing program. The curriculum met the demands for students seeking advanced degrees in specializations including Adult Nurse and Family Nurse Practitioners, Adult Psychiatric & Mental Health Advanced Practice Nursing, Nursing Administration, Nursing Education as well as School Nursing and Forensic Nursing. In 1998, Monmouth

University and the Department of Nursing and Health Studies were proud to recognize its first class of graduates from the Masters of Science in Nursing. Later that year, the Department of Nursing and Health Studies was renamed the Marjorie K. Unterberg School of Nursing and Health Studies. Marjorie K. Unterberg was a long-time advocate for the field of nursing and was active in the nursing scholarship program at the University. She also served as former President of the School of Nursing and Vice President of the Board of Governors at Monmouth Medical Center, where she established the Center for Nursing Excellence.

The Marjorie K. Unterberg School of Nursing proudly received its accreditation by the New Jersey State Board of Nursing and the Commission of College Nursing Education in February 2000 and in the Spring of 2000, respectively. Monmouth University is the first institution in New Jersey to offer the forensic nursing concentration. The success of the Nursing school lead to the expansion of various programs, including the addition of the forensic nursing at the Masters level and the health studies major for students pursuing their Bachelors degree. Most recently, the University was proud to announce the addition of their Doctor of Nursing Practice and began holding classes for matriculating students in June 2011. Today, over 600 students are enrolled in various nursing and health studies programs at the Marjorie K. Unterberg School of Nursing and Health Studies. They also proudly boasts over 900 alumni.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in recognizing Monmouth University's Marjorie K. Unterberg School of Nursing & Health Studies for their thirty years of service. Their continued efforts to provide a well-rounded education remain a valued and important entity to the students and the Monmouth University community.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2012, PART II

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4348) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chair, the transportation infrastructure needs of our nation are urgent and unprecedentedly large. Addressing those needs must be at the center of our economic recovery. This transportation bill does not address those needs. Instead, it forces approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline, which will undermine the recovery by driving up gas prices across the U.S., with the largest increases in Midwestern states like Ohio.

This is not just my conclusion. That is what TransCanada, the company that wants to build the Keystone XL Pipeline, told the Canadian government in its permit application. Canadian oil companies will be able to use the Keystone

XL pipeline to increase America's fuel bill by up to 4 billion dollars per year, by reducing the supply of Canadian crude to Midwest refineries and by re-routing that crude around its current delivery point in Cushing, Oklahoma and on to Gulf Coast refineries.

Through manipulation of U.S. oil markets, the Keystone XL Pipeline will increase U.S. gas prices by 10 to 20 cents per gallon across the U.S., according to energy economist Philip Verleger. The greatest price increase will occur in 15 Midwest states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Wisconsin). Adding insult to financial injury, oil from the pipeline will be sold overseas instead of being used to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

The bill's \$4 billion gift to the oil industry, which already gets tens of billions of dollars every year in subsidies, comes only one day after the President announced efforts to try to rein in gas prices and the excesses of the oil industry.

We should be considering either an unencumbered motion to go to conference or the Senate's transportation package, which passed with an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 74–22.

HONORING ROBERT LANTHORN

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the public service career of Robert Lanthorn. Robert is a teacher of American History, American Government, Economics, and Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics. Robert has served as an educator at Hamilton Township High School for the past five years.

Robert is being honored as The Educator of the Year by Kids Voting USA. The Educator of the Year award is a national award presented to a teacher who motivates their students to be civically active both through teaching and example.

Robert has used innovative teaching methods and gained the trust of his students keeping them engaged and interested in learning. His outstanding teaching methods have earned him many awards throughout his teaching career. Robert has been named Kids Voting Educator of the Month, Ohio Lottery's Teacher of the Month, and Ohio's Outstanding Teacher of American History by Ohio State Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Robert's desire to motivate his students to not only learn but also engage in civics has had a positive effect on his students and the community alike. His students have participated in the political process and an amazing 83 percent of students participated in Hamilton Township High School's mock election.

Robert has inspired many students to become involved in their community and instilled life lessons of civic responsibility. I thank Robert for all that he has done to serve our community and educate our youth and congratulate him on being named Educator of the Year.

HONORING JEWELL FRANCES
WELLS GOLDEN ON HER 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor and pleasure to wish a very happy birthday to Mrs. Jewell Frances Wells Golden of Bagdad, Florida on the occasion of her 100th Birthday and to congratulate her on her many achievements. Mrs. Golden reached the century mark, an incredible milestone, on April 16 of this year.

Jewell Golden is no stranger to the Northwest Florida community. Alongside her husband, the late Albert Golden, they shared many successes and business ventures, which have made a lasting impact along the Gulf Coast. One factor that always remained constant was their love for each other, their family, and their strong faith in God. In fact, in 1977, Mr. and Mrs. Golden helped establish the Church of the Living God, now known as Heritage Chapel.

Mrs. Golden is beloved and cherished by all—her family, including her three children, eleven grandchildren, twenty great-grandchildren, and a grateful community. Her greatest joys, which she shares in her autobiography, are spending time with her family and “making memories.” Those who have the pleasure of knowing Mrs. Golden have been blessed by her charisma and presence. Her life serves as an inspiration to many and demonstrates that hard work and strong morals will lead to much success and happiness.

My wife Vicki joins me in wishing Mrs. Jewell Frances Wells Golden a joyous birthday. May God continue to bless her, her family and friends with wonderful memories for many years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICK LAUBSCHER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rick Laubscher who today is receiving the 2011 Silver Spur Award from San Francisco Planning and Urban Research (SPUR). This award recognizes a lifetime of civic achievement of a San Franciscan.

Cable cars and streetcars are quintessential symbols of San Francisco. If you have ridden in one of the historic cars of the famous F-Market & Wharves streetcar lines on Market Street and The Embarcadero, you owe a big thanks to Rick Laubscher, President of Market Street Railway, a volunteer, non-profit organization founded in 1976 by three transit preservationists who wanted to save a vintage Municipal Railway trolley bus that was about to be scrapped.

Today Market Street Railway has 1,200 members from San Francisco, the Bay Area, and throughout the world. The organization has helped Muni acquire 20 historic transit vehicles, including streetcars, cable cars, trolley coaches, and motor coaches and the volunteers have actively restored fifteen of them.

Mr. Laubscher's passion for historic treasures and his advocacy have transformed the city's public transportation system.

Mr. Laubscher's roots run deep in San Francisco. His family has lived here for four generations. Mr. Laubscher fell in love with streetcars as a little boy when they were not historic. He was washing dishes and helping his father in the delicatessen on Market Street that his grandfather had opened. He calls Market Street a true urban main street.

When the streetcars were planned to be dismantled in the early 80's, he set out on a quest to preserve them. He was not the first to think of the idea, but he was the first to do it; he put history to work and preserved our urban fabric, as he likes to say. Today thousands of people each day ride the historic cars.

Mr. Laubscher also served as founding board chair of The City Club of San Francisco, a landmark of world renowned art and architecture and a promoter of active engagement and influence in civic, social and business areas. He also served on SPUR's board and transportation committee. He is currently a board member of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

Accompanying his love of San Francisco and history, Mr. Laubscher has a passion for communication. He runs Messagesmith, a strategic communications consulting company specializing in such areas as environmental sustainability and corporate social responsibility.

Mr. Laubscher holds an M.S. from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and worked as a radio and television news reporter for many years.

He lives in Woodside with his wife of sixteen years, Nicole. They are the proud parents of three daughters. Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to acknowledge the outstanding achievements and lasting contributions of Rick Laubscher to San Francisco and the rest of the world.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
RABBI ALAN B. LETTOFSKY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Rabbi Alan B. Lettovsky who is retiring from Beth Israel—The West Temple in Cleveland in Ohio's 10th Congressional District.

Affiliated with Judaism's Reform Movement, Beth Israel serves the Jewish Community of Cleveland's west side and western suburbs and is the only synagogue geographically located in the City of Cleveland. Beth Israel's roots go back to 1910 when the West Side Jewish Center was founded on Cleveland's Near West Side. It merged with Beth Israel in 1957 to form Beth Israel—The West Temple.

Born and bred in Cleveland, Alan Lettovsky was educated at Brandeis University, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and Yale University. He serves Beth Israel—The West Temple as their part-time rabbi while also teaching Modern Hebrew and Jewish History at Kent State University. He was Associate

Professor at the Siegal College of Judaic Studies and at Case Western Reserve University for several years. He has taught in the Religion Department at John Carroll University.

Rabbi Lettovsky started his career as Visiting Professor at the Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and then taught for three years in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia. Throughout most of his professional career, Rabbi Lettovsky worked for Hillel, the Jewish campus ministry—for ten years as the director of Hillel at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and for 13 years as the Regional Director of Hillel in Northeastern Ohio. Dedicated to egalitarianism and self-empowerment in Jewish communal prayer and fellowship, Rabbi Lettovsky co-founded and actively participated in the Library Minyan which met in the library of Congregation Beth Am in Cleveland Heights in the 1980s and 90s.

In recent years, Rabbi Lettovsky has been a member of a small committee of the Rabbinical Assembly that is preparing a new High Holy Day prayerbook for Judaism's Conservative Movement. In the early 1990s, Rabbi Lettovsky was one of 12 rabbis who served on the Commission on Human Sexuality of the Rabbinical Assembly. That Commission issued a Rabbinic Letter on Intimate Relations, entitled "This Is My Beloved, This Is My Friend."

I was pleased to know Rabbi Lettovsky in 2000 when other civic leaders and I worked to stop the shutdown of several hospitals in the greater Cleveland area. Rabbi Lettovsky spoke out with religious leaders of a wide diversity of faiths to stress the spiritual importance of healing the sick and making health care available to all. Rabbi Lettovsky continues to serve as part-time chaplain at Hillcrest Hospital in Mayfield Heights on behalf of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I am pleased to honor Rabbi Lettovsky and thank him for his many years of dedication and service to the community. I wish him, his wife of more than 40 years, Jean Loeb Lettovsky, and their three children and five grandchildren, many happy and healthy years to enjoy his retirement and for continued service to the people.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
PETER M. DOUGLAS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Representatives BACA, BERMAN, CAPPAS, CHU, COSTA, S. DAVIS, ESHOO, FARR, FILNER, GARAMENDI, HAHN, HONDA, LEE, LOFGREN, MATSUI, MCNERNEY, MILLER, NAPOLITANO, PELOSI, RICHARDSON, ROYBAL-ALLARD, LORETTA SANCHEZ, SCHIFF, SPEIER, STARK, WATERS, WAXMAN, and WOOLSEY to pay tribute to the life of Peter M. Douglas, who recently passed away at the age of 69. Peter was best known as the long-time director of the California Coastal Commission, serving more than 25 years to protect the incredible California coastline. Peter's devotion to the conservation of this finite and precious resource will benefit generations to come.

Peter was born in Berlin, Germany on Aug. 22, 1942. His family's home was destroyed by Allied bombers in 1944. He immigrated by sea to the United States in 1950, and it was on this trip that he began a lifelong love of the ocean. Peter grew up in Southern California, and in 1965 earned a bachelor's degree in psychology, and later a law degree from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Peter worked for former Democratic Assemblyman Alan Sieroty from Los Angeles, and he was tasked with writing coastal protection legislation. In response to oil spills and heavy coastal development, the public passed Proposition 20 in 1972, which formed the California Coastal Commission. Peter also helped craft the bipartisan Coastal Act in 1976, and the next year joined the commission as deputy director. In 1985, Peter was appointed executive director and served in that role until his recent death.

Peter was instrumental in blocking offshore oil drilling and leasing, preventing unchecked development along California's 1,100-mile coast line, and ensuring public access to beaches. His efforts were often controversial, and members of both parties at times tried to remove him from his post. However, he never swayed from his commitment and passion to protect California coasts.

There is no doubt that California's incredible coastline bears Peter's mark. His influence on coastal issues has been profound, and has set standards for how such a valuable resource can be both used and protected.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in paying tribute to the life of Peter M. Douglas, a steadfast protector of the California coast and a true environmental steward.

HONORING RAFAEL CHRISTOPHER
TURNER FOR MORE THAN 10
YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring my Deputy District Director, Rafael Christopher Turner, for his 10 years of exemplary and dedicated service on behalf of my constituents in Michigan. Rafael is leaving this month to continue working on behalf of Michigan residents for U.S. Senator CARL LEVIN and it is fitting that we celebrate and recognize his continued service to the public.

I had the opportunity to recruit Rafael for an internship in my Washington, DC office in February 2002 and was immediately impressed with his commitment to public service and extraordinary talent and skills. I have known Rafael's family for years and Rafael was continuing their legacy of making a difference in people's lives as a public servant, community leader and a trusted and valued advisor to me and many others, especially our youth.

After accepting a full-time position as a legislative assistant in May 2002, Rafael worked on vitally important and complex public policy issues, applying his knowledge and dedication to a wide range of legislation important to my constituents. Rafael was eager to return to his hometown of Flint to make a difference in his community and in September 2005 he joined

my District Office staff where he rose to become Deputy District Director. Rafael has used his vast experience and extraordinary skills to help make the federal government work for the people in my congressional district. Whether the issue is veterans' benefits, Social Security, education, consumer protection, health care or myriad other federal concerns and responsibilities, Rafael has devoted himself to promoting, protecting and defending human dignity.

Rafael also serves his community on the Mott Community College Board of Trustees, as an executive board member of the Flint Branch of the NAACP and he was awarded the Distinguished Emerging Alumni honor at the University of Michigan-Flint where he earned a Masters of Public Administration. He was also selected to participate in the prestigious Rotary International Group Study Exchange Program and traveled to Brazil to advance the Rotary's mission.

Mr. Speaker please join me in honoring Rafael Christopher Turner, a dear friend and accomplished public servant as he moves on to continue making a difference in people's lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss how I would have voted on the amendments and final passage of H.R. 4089, the Sportsmen's Heritage Act of 2012.

If I had I been here to vote I would have voted in the following way:

Holt (NJ): I would have voted "no."

Grijalva (AZ): I would have voted "no."

Peters (MI): I would have voted "no."

Heinrich (NM): I would have voted "no."

Foxx (NC): I would have voted "yes."

Democrat Motion to Recommit: I would have voted "no."

Final Passage: I would have voted "yes."

As an avid hunter, a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association, and a member of the Congressional Sportsman's caucus I understand the value of sportsmen's rights and cherish the opportunity to pass on my love for hunting to my children.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I was detained from voting on Monday, April 16, 2012 and the afternoon of Tuesday, April 17, 2012. If present, I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall Nos. 152, 153, and 157.

If present, I would have voted "nay" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall Nos. 154, 155, and 156.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS (SAVAC) OF OSWEGO

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th anniversary of the Student Association Volunteer Ambulance Corps, SAVAC, of Oswego. The SAVAC is the first fully student funded, staffed, trained, and operated volunteer ambulance corps on a college campus in the nation, according to the American College Health Association.

Originally founded in 1971 by a small group of SUNY Oswego undergraduate students, the program had humble beginnings, initially receiving \$8500 in funding from the SUNY Oswego Student Association, which continues to fund the program today.

Today, the SAVAC is now the primary Emergency Medical Services, EMS, provider for SUNY Oswego. Additionally, the SAVAC is certified in Basic Life Support by the New York State Department of Health, providing mutual aid support to the Oswego City Fire Department and the Oswego Town Volunteer Fire Department.

The SAVAC has become a gateway to the EMS world, sending many of its members on to professional positions within Emergency Medical Services and Fire Departments across New York State and the country. I applaud the commendable and valuable work of the SAVAC and honor their rich history of community service.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, held every April, Equal Pay Day signifies the point in the year that a woman must work to earn what a man made in the previous year. Only in April will a woman finally earn what a man has made.

In my own state of New York, women make 83 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. According to a report by the National Partnership for Women & Families, full-time working women in New York lose approximately \$24,257,741,976 each year due to the wage gap. The national average is even worse: on average, women in the United States earn 77 cents for every dollar earned by male coworkers.

Though the Equal Pay Act was signed into law in 1963, when women earned 59 cents for every dollar earned by men, it is nearly 50 years later and women STILL aren't being paid equally.

The work women do matters—women make up nearly half of the labor force and mothers are the primary earners or co-earners in two-thirds of all families. Equal pay isn't merely a women's issue—when women don't earn fair pay, the families that rely on their wages struggle. Families increasingly rely on wom-

en's wages to make ends meet. In typical married households, women's incomes accounted for 36 percent of total family income in 2008, up from 29 percent in 1983.

This Equal Pay Day, I recognize the many achievements and contributions of women across the country to our economy and pledge to work towards economic equality for women, to a time when women can finally receive the wages they have worked for and rightfully earned.

HONORING DEPUTY ROBERT PARIS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and memory of Deputy Robert Paris, who was slain in the line of duty this past week in Modesto. Deputy Paris is the third sworn officer to be killed while serving with the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department, and on behalf of the community and this Congress, I want to offer condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

Deputy Paris has a long career of service, first being certified as a Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic in 1980. In 1993, he graduated from the Ray Simon Regional Criminal Justice Training Center, and three years later started his 16-year career with the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office. There, he served in many capacities before volunteering for the dangerous but necessary work of the civil division. In all assignments, Deputy Paris earned the confidence of his superiors and the respect of his fellow officers. His end of watch came on April 12, 2012, while serving an eviction notice, accompanied by local locksmith Glendon Engert.

Deputy Paris is survived by his parents, Robert Sr. and Jane, sister Krista, brother Eric, and two adult children, a son and daughter.

May the example of Deputy Paris renew in each of us the determination to live by the watchwords of honor and duty, values he defended at the price of his life. It is also my fervent prayer that those close to Robert Paris receive the only solace afforded in the face of such tragedy, the certain knowledge that whatever honors we express here, they pale before the peace awaiting him and all who lay down their life for others.

IN RECOGNITION OF VERA PETERSON

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Records Clerk II Vera Peterson for her 23 years of service at the Daly City Police Department.

Ms. Peterson served as assistant trainee for the department from 1980–1981. She started her career in the records division in 1988. She excelled in all categories handled by that division: transcription, subpoenas, citations and impounds, classification, and restraining orders. Her extensive experience and wealth of

knowledge put her in the perfect position to train new employees of the records division.

Ms. Peterson's meticulous attention to detail and hard work have earned her the respect and admiration of her co-workers. Her passion for baking also made her a very popular member of the department; she frequently shared broccoli quiche and cupcakes with her colleagues.

Vera Peterson graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in San Francisco and received her Associate Degree in criminology from City College of San Francisco.

She and her husband of 28 years, John, live in Montara. They have one daughter, Tiffany.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor the devoted service of Vera Peterson to the residents of Daly City. Her high standards and exemplary commitment to the community will be a difficult act to follow for any future records clerk.

TRIBUTE TO MARIESSA FLYNN

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dedicated employee of the House of Representatives, Mrs. Mariessa Flynn, upon her retirement from my Somerset district office following three decades of service.

"Resa" has been my right hand on many issues impacting constituents of Kentucky's Fifth Congressional District over the last 30 years. However, she found the greatest joy in serving thousands of veterans of our U.S. Armed Forces, assisting them with everything from financial struggles to replacing lost war medals. Countless veterans visit my Somerset District Office each year, because they know they have a friend in Resa Flynn, who will go to every length to help them in their time of need. Resa's loyalty, passion and persistence will be missed as she enters retirement.

Outside my Congressional office, Resa has served as a long-time leader for the Pulaski County Republican Party and the Pulaski County Lincoln Club. She has always led with a strong voice, stout convictions, and has been a tireless advocate for many worthy community projects across the region.

Resa is also a talented crafter and uses her spare time to crochet the most beautiful afghans for families and friends in the Somerset area. She is also a loving wife, mother and grandmother.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated employee of the U.S. House of Representatives, Mrs. Mariessa Flynn, upon her retirement from my Somerset district office following three decades of service.

Please join me in congratulating Mrs. Resa Flynn on her retirement, as we also commend her for 30 years of service to the people of southern and eastern Kentucky.

MARQUIS ALEXANDER, FUTURE
COMMANDER OF TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY'S CORPS OF CADETS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a milestone reached by Marquis Alexander. He is the first African American to become commander of Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets. Currently Marquis is a Corporal in the U.S. Marine Reserves and a rising senior majoring in International Studies.

HISTORY OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS AT TAMU

The history of African-Americans at Texas A&M University dates back to the founding of the institution. African-Americans in the Texas Legislature advocated for and supported the passage of the Morrill Land-Grant Act in 1866, which established the A&M College of Texas between 1876 and 1963. African-Americans worked at A&M as laborers, maids, custodians and various other support staff; however they were prohibited from attending as students and faculty.

The history of African-Americans at A&M has been shaped by decades of racial segregation, quiet desegregation, and attempts to redress historical wrongs. It has been filled with lifelong struggles and determination to fulfill a dream which was accomplished when A&M opened the doors in 1963 to African Americans. The past 37 years have been a continuing struggle by African-Americans and A&M to ensure that the dream is kept alive.

The first African-Americans joined the corps in 1964. The first female cadets came a decade later. In A&M's centennial year, Fred McClure won election as body president, making him the first to be equal to that of Corps Commander and Aggie Yell Leader.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Civil rights is a subject that cannot be ignored or taken lightly, even in this day of progressive movement toward tolerance. We must not lose sight of the continued need for civil rights. We must not relax our initiatives which build greater racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance. While I believe that there is still work to be done on the issue of civil rights and hurdles to overcome, we cannot ignore the progress that has been made as the result of decades of hard work, diligence, the sweat and tears of many of our country's civil rights trailblazers. This is evidenced by an increase in the numbers of minorities attaining leadership positions in the private and public sectors for example: Ken Chenault, an African American who currently serves as the CEO of American Express; Ursula Burns, who became the first African American woman to serve as Chairman and CEO of Xerox a Fortune 500 Company; and Antonio Perez, the first Latino American to serve as CEO of Eastman Kodak Corporation to name a few.

BACKGROUND ON MARQUIS ALEXANDER

He is the oldest of 10 children and the first in his family to go to college. He is said to be an admirable and mature young man. Mr. Alexander is currently a Corporal in the Marine reserves. He has become the first person with military experience to head the Corps. Texas A&M University has the proud distinction of

having the most graduates to enlist in our nation's armed forces when compared to other nonmilitary academies.

Marquis Alexander grew up in my home city of Houston! And our city is proud of his achievements. Marquis has always wanted to attend Texas A&M. He was so "gung-ho" military that he participated in Texas A&M's Junior Cadet Accessions Program while still in high school. A week after enlisting in the Marine Corps, he received his letter of acceptance to Texas A&M University.

Yet, true to his word and commitment, Alexander attended boot camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego and spent a year and a half on active duty. He subsequently reverted from active duty status and is serving the remainder of his enlistment commitment in the Marine Corps Reserves. He re-applied for admission to Texas A&M in 2009 and was promptly accepted.

He was selected following a rigorous review process in which a host of cadets are considered when leadership selections are made each year. Soon he will assume duties as cadet colonel of the corps, the 2,100 member organization's top leadership position, also known as corps commander, and one of the three top positions on campus, along with that of student body President and Yell Leader.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Alexander for aiming high and continuing to strive above and beyond his primary goals of joining the military. He is a mentor and guiding light to those who know him. I congratulate Mr. Marquis Alexander on his achievement.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
GOLF DAY

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 18 as National Golf Day. This is a day where the leaders of the golf industry are able to meet with members of Congress and discuss the continued growth and importance of the sport.

Of course golf is not just a sport. The golf industry generates over \$76 billion annually in economic activity, and sustains over 2 million jobs. The golf industry has a direct and substantial impact on the economy, jobs and tax revenues in communities across this country. Through this growth, golf is no longer the exclusive sport of the privileged, the wealthy, and the upper class. The industry has become more democratized, and people of all ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds are able to participate.

I applaud the golf industry for its commitment to environmental sustainability. As technology advances, golf course architects and landscape engineers are able to design and maintain courses that are economically viable and environmentally friendly. For example, technological advances have made it possible to employ more efficient irrigation techniques using recycled water.

In my home state of California there are over 900 golf courses, generating an average annual revenue of \$15.1 billion. California's gorgeous courses are huge tourist magnets and provide 160,000 jobs for Californians. I

am also proud that my state of California is home to some of the most storied golf courses in the nation, including the legendary Pebble Beach and Torrey Pines.

Mr. Speaker, as an avid golfer myself, each year I look forward to participating in the Annual Mervyn L. Jones and Stephanie Tubbs Jones Memorial Golf & Tennis Classic. This worthy event raises funds to provide young people an opportunity to further their education and reach their potential. Golf has the ability to bring people together to support such a cause.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing National Golf Day and commending an industry that brings so much joy and pleasure to millions of Americans and contributes greatly to this nation's economy.

RECOGNIZING THE MISSISSIPPI
POULTRY ASSOCIATION IN OB-
SERVANCE OF THEIR 75TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Mississippi Poultry Association as they celebrate their 75th Anniversary. Poultry is Mississippi's largest agricultural commodity. To date, the poultry industry has more than a \$6 billion impact on the state's economy. With 20 processing facilities and approximately 2,000 growers, the Mississippi poultry industry employs roughly, 56,000 people both directly and indirectly.

The Mississippi Poultry Association was formed in 1937 as the Mississippi Poultry Improvement Association to help battle poultry diseases and promote the development of the industry in the State of Mississippi. The Mississippi's poultry industry is comprised of growers, feed mills, hatcheries, processing plants, laboratories, and company headquarters.

Mississippi ranks fifth in the nation in poultry production. Mississippi companies process about 757 million birds per year, 250 times the human population of the state, and 400 million table eggs per year. The industry has grown from a few family-owned feed and seed stores who sold chickens and farmers who raised chickens, mostly into an integrated global industry with about 12 percent of broiler production exported around the globe.

Mississippi poultry companies support their communities. The Mississippi Poultry Association helped initiate the Emerging Crops Loan program passed by the legislature that has made it easier for many more farmers to enter

the poultry industry and has worked closely with institutions of higher learning and government agencies such as Mississippi State University, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the Board of Animal Health and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, Mississippi poultry companies donate thousands of pounds of their products annually to fight hunger and to aid and develop their communities. I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing the Mississippi Poultry Association in observance of their 75th Anniversary.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF HOUS-
TON ON BECOMING AN HISPANIC-
SERVING INSTITUTION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the University of Houston for being designated an Hispanic-Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Education. The University is now one of only three Tier One public research universities in the nation with this designation and the only institution in Texas.

UH has received the Tier One research university distinction from the Carnegie Foundation; making it one of only three Carnegie-designated Tier One public research universities in Texas.

Designation as an Hispanic-Serving Institution requires enrollment of full-time undergraduates at a university to be at least 25-percent Hispanic. The designation will allow UH to compete for grants that support or expand educational opportunities of Hispanic students.

UH is known as a 1st generation school, for many of the students are the first in their families to attend college. Undergraduates may choose from 120 majors and minors. The University also offers 139 master's degrees, 54 doctoral, and 3 professional degree programs. Many of the academic programs rank among the nation's best.

As the second most ethnically diverse major research university in the US, students come from more than 137 nations and from across the nation. UH consistently ranks among the top colleges and universities in the nation for conferring bachelor degrees and doctorates to Hispanic students, further affirming UH's commitment to prepare students for competition in the global marketplace.

As a proud Alumnus of UH, I salute the successes of the past and present administration, faculty, staff, and students of the University of Houston for all of their hard work and dedication to education.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF AN-
DREW MILLER ON HIS OFFER OF
APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES MILITARY
ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Andrew Miller of Perrysburg, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Andrew's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet Class of 2016. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Andrew brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2016. While attending St. John's Jesuit High School in Toledo, Ohio, Joseph was a SJJ School Ambassador, an Eagle Scout, a member of Gliding Stars, and of the SJJ chapter of Model United Nations. His senior year, Andrew was vice president of SJJ chapter of Model United Nations.

Throughout high school, Andrew was a member of his school's wrestling and lacrosse teams, earning varsity letters in both. His excellence in wrestling was noted by being awarded Rookie of the Year in 2011 and being named captain of his team his senior year. In addition, Andrew continues to practice his faith through Christian service opportunities at school as well as volunteering at his church as an altar server. I am confident that Andrew will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Andrew Miller on the acceptance of his appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Andrew will excel during his career at the Military Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.